

THE CAUSE OF THE WIDOW.
THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Margaret Bondfield's New Appointments.

Although we still regret Miss Bondfield's exclusion from the Cabinet, we are delighted at a very good second best, and we welcome Miss Bondfield as the first woman Member of the Government, and rejoice that at her post, that of Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, she will have an opportunity to show her unique experience with regard to problems of unemployment, especially as they affect women. We also most warmly welcome Miss Bondfield's appointment as British Government Representative to the 21st Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at Geneva, which opened on Tuesday last. Miss Bondfield will be the first woman to represent Great Britain to the Governing Body, although the lead in this direction had already been given by Canada, whose Government delegate some time past has been Mrs. Carruthers (Miss Violet Arkham). The British Empire can thus claim the credit of being the only members of the International Labour Organization to have entrusted these duties to women. Among the subjects to be discussed at the coming meeting will be the questions to be placed before the seventh annual session of the Conference to be held at Geneva next year, and in particular the aspects of insurance as provision against unemployment, sickness, accident, and old age.

An Intellectual Partnership.

Mr. J. L. Garvin, writing in the *Observer* of Sunday last, shares the very general regret regarding the omission of Miss Bondfield from the Cabinet. In commenting upon the appointment of Mr. Sidney Webb to the Board of Trade, he suggests that there is "something lacking." It is a pity, he says, that the appointment could not have been made in these terms: "To be President of the Board of Trade, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb." These two, he adds, "have been inseparable in their labours, and we doubt whether there has ever been a more remarkable intellectual partnership between man and woman." We are grateful to Mr. Garvin for this suggestion, but we believe that, in spite of the omission to which he calls attention, the constructive work of the Board of Trade will be carried forward under the direction of two heads and four hands. It is impossible that the first person singular can ever place the first person plural in the vocabulary either of Mr. or Mrs. Webb. They will continue to speak the language of editors and kings.

Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd.

No doubt many of our readers will feel a direct personal interest in the activities of the Public Utility Society (Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd.), whose forthcoming public dinner on 5th February is announced in our advertisement columns. As its prospectus points out: "Owing to shortage of housing accommodation, life has become increasingly difficult for self-supporting women. Flats once within their reach are now inhabited by married couples, who can no longer maintain their pre-war standard of living. Housing schemes under local authorities must provide for families, and private enterprise, naturally, is chiefly interested in 'High Class Flats' at high rents." Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd., aims, therefore, at providing for professional women "suitable housing at reasonable rents," and this it does by the conversion of large houses into "conveniently fitted flats of one, two, or three rooms, with their own kitchens, etc., at rents varying from £25 to £35 a room per annum." It is interesting to note that nine such conversions have already taken place, yielding among them fifty separate habitations. Converted West End mansions do not, in our opinion, make ideal dwelling places, but there they are—and the sooner they are made available for persons whose needs would otherwise go unsatisfied, the better for all concerned.

Women Barristers.

Four women barristers were among the students called to the Bar at the four Inns of Court on Monday night, 28th January. These were:—Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc., M.A. (Edinburgh); Rita Reuben, LL.B. (Honours, London), L.R.A.M.; Sydney Alice Malone, B.Sc., the National University of Ireland; Mary R. Stevens, Undergraduate, the University of London, holder of a Certificate of Honour, Council of Legal Education, Hillary, 1924. We offer them our heartiest congratulations.

The Ministry of Women.

On Thursday of last week Miss M. G. Collins was ordained as minister of the North Bow Congregational Church. It is interesting to note that Miss Collins is the first woman to take full advantage of the opportunities extended by the Congregational churches, and assume sole official charge of a church. Hitherto, women have acted in the capacity of assistants, or in association with their husbands. We venture, in congratulating Miss Collins on her appointment, to recall Principal Garvie's words, quoted in *The Vote* of 18th January:—"... as matters stand at present, and in view of the sex-prejudice which still exists, a woman will need to be exceptional in every way to receive a call to a congregation."

Women who are Bought and Sold.

A correspondent has sent us the following information regarding the position of women in Kenya Colony:—
"The education of the African men and women, so that the practice of polygamy and the buying of wives may be abolished without decreasing the value and importance of the women, is, indeed, a difficult problem. The African does value his women. The birth of a daughter is a matter for congratulation; the birth of a son is a matter of indifference. This is an improvement on some Mohammedan countries, where the arrival of a daughter is a cause for lamentation. A father sees in his daughters a source of wealth and provision for his old age—therefore he takes good

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care of them. If there be a famine, or the cattle or goats have died, and there is no money for the hut tax, the little boys are sent out to work, sometimes at the age of six, but the girls stay at home, and although they will work with their mothers in the 'Shamba' (e.g. allotment), they will receive the lion's share of the family stew. For who will want to buy a thin wife? A young man has to work and save before he can give his prospective father-in-law the requisite number of cows, goats, and blankets. This makes him value his wife. He will see that she does all the work of the hut, fetches the water, makes and tends the fire, plants, gathers, and grinds the grain for the family. If there be any surplus grain to be sold, she will carry it to market in a huge bag on her back, kept in place by a strap round her forehead, while her lord and master will stalk in front, free and unfettered. The report of the East African Educational Commission, which left London on 15th January, should prove interesting reading, particularly their proposals for the improvement of the status and education of women. One would have liked to see a woman's name on the Commission." We heartily endorse this last comment.

A Prospective Woman Candidate.

• Lady (John) Henry has been invited to come forward as Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Central Hackney, and has promised to give a decision early next month. Central Hackney has been persistently Liberal or Labour during recent years, but its sitting Liberal member enjoys the comparatively narrow majority of 1,317, which offers a sporting chance to Lady Henry should she decide to contest the seat.

An Interesting Business Appointment.

We offer our congratulations to Mrs. F. M. Sharpe, of Birmingham, on her appointment as a director of Southall Brothers & Barclay, Ltd. Mrs. Sharpe has had a remarkable business career. As a working-class girl, she started as a wrapper-up, on a few shillings a week. Later she was given charge of a department containing some hundreds of employees, and her activities include the initiation and management of a sick club for the firm.

A Woman Councillor for Shipley.

A by-election for a vacancy on the Shipley District Council last week resulted in the election of a Labour woman,

Mrs. Georgina Alice Cooper who defeated her Conservative opponent by 50 votes.

A Notable Scotswoman.

A Scottish correspondent sends us a cutting from the *Glasgow Herald* of 21st January, recording the death of Mrs. James O'Neil, a remarkable personality of the burgh of Stranraer. In her early days Mrs. O'Neil was noted as an expert cheese-maker. After her marriage to a small working ship owner, however, she turned her attention to other directions, taking an active part in her husband's work of navigating two schooners off the Ayrshire coast. On a number of occasions she took full charge of these vessels, on one occasion piloting what was regarded as an exceptional feat of navigation in very heavy weather.

The Stansfeld Lecture

The Stansfeld Lecture on "The Economic Position of Married Women under the Law" will be given at Bedford College, Regent's Park, by Mrs. H. L. Fisher, at 5.15 p.m. on Thursday, 7th February. The chair will be taken by G. W. Johnson, Esq., C.M.G., M.A. This lecture is open to the public. Admission free by ticket from the Secretary, Bedford College for Women.

A Woman Magistrate for Tynemouth.

The Borough of Tynemouth is to be congratulated upon the appointment of its second woman magistrate, Mrs. A. A. Mitcalfe, a strenuous social worker in the Borough and a co-opted member of its Education Committee.

A Literary Achievement.

We shall be shortly viewing *Shelley and the Unromantics*, by Olwen Ward Campbell. Mrs. Campbell is a daughter of Mrs. James Ward, Present for many years of the Cambridge National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and her book is a shining example of what can be accomplished by a married woman with small children and bad health.

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.

AN ANNIVERSARY.

On the late afternoon of 6th February, 1918, an unimpressive, brief, and formal ceremony was enacted in the House of Lords. A miscellaneous parcel of Bills received the Royal Assent in Commission. Only the presence of a handful of ladies, waiting at the far end of that oppressive and dimly lighted chamber, suggested that something of import was on foot. And such was indeed the case; for among the Bills whose cumbersome titles were so indistinguishably intoned was the Representation of the People Bill, whose fourth clause conferred the parliamentary franchise upon certain qualified women of more than thirty years of age. This fact was duly recorded in the later editions of the evening papers—without poster display, for posters were, if our memory serves, at that time prohibited. For the rest, the evening drew to its close without demonstration or fireworks of any kind. The last real battle had been fought out in the House of Lords nearly a month earlier; certain opportunities for delay there had been, of course, in the interval, but the incident of 6th February came as a foregone conclusion—a pure formality. And yet how many of us went to sleep that night with an extraordinary and unforgettable sense of peace? The war which surged all round us, and over our heads, the formidable German offensive which loomed ahead of us, became for the moment strangely remote. The fifty years of suffrage struggle with its culminating victory took possession of our memories and our imaginations, obscuring as it did so the four years of European turmoil with its still uncertain issue. Neither the preoccupations of that time, nor the ups and downs of intervening years, nor any blows of fortune that the future may have in store, can take from those of us who fought in the suffrage campaign the glow of happiness which came to us on the night of February 6th. It is a memory which we will cherish to the end of our lives in undimmed freshness: one which we will hold in common, pitying, as we contemplate it, those who came too late for a share. And still, such are the strange workings of the human mind, there are moments when our six years of enfranchisement seem more remote than the long fight which preceded them—when the victory of 1918 seems "too good to be true," and we can recapture

the old incredulous joy of triumph by telling ourselves again that the thing has really happened and our dream come true. Those of our readers who are newcomers in the women's movement will no doubt mock at these reflections. The others will recognize in them a perfectly familiar mental experience.

But we did not sing *in Nunc dimittis* as enfranchised citizens, for a reason which is familiar to all readers of this paper. Clause 4 of the Representation of the People Act brought us a larger total of woman voters than we should have achieved by any of our pre-war Woman Suffrage Bills; but it did not bring us the vote "on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men." And the *Nunc dimittis* which sprang spontaneously out of our hearts (because after all we had grown a little weary of the suffrage agitation and hungered after a diverse multitude of other jobs) was stifled at our lips because we were in honour bound to go on agitating. We were in honour bound to the women under the sky who had expended themselves in our ranks, as well as to the women under thirty outside our ranks—the war workers, whose achievements had provided us with one of our most effective war cries. Incidentally, we were in honour bound to those of our colleagues who, as Labour women and Left-wing Liberals, had found this "half-loaf" a peculiarly bitter pill, but had, nevertheless, worked manfully on its behalf in co-operation with their more conservative fellow suffragists.

And so from that day to this no breath of the *Nunc dimittis* has escaped our lip. We have agitated implacably for the "vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men," as contemporary M.L.s know to their cost. But now, at last, when a Labour Government sits in office, pledged to the hilt for equal franchise, we feel that the Labour women owe a debt of honour to all the rest of us in return for the debt which all the rest of us have been discharging to the best of our ability since 1918. They, among us all, are best qualified to put pressure on the Government, reminding it both forcibly and immediately that the representation of the People Act must be perfected. Then, indeed, shall we be able to "depart in peace" from a suffrage agitation which has grown tedious.

RECORD OF LABOUR MINISTRY ON WOMEN'S QUESTIONS.

To turn over the records on legislation specially affecting women of Members of the present Cabinet is a very pleasant task, as we find ourselves dealing with friend after friend of the Woman's Movement in the old days as well as in its more recent developments. Unfortunately the records which we have been able to obtain (by kind permission of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) do not go back further than 1908, except in the case of Lord Haldane, who appears as a supporter of the Woman's Suffrage Movement in 1892, when in his Election Address to East Lothian he advocated "the extension of the franchise to every adult not mentally or morally disqualified." From that day to this Lord Haldane has been not only a stalwart supporter of Women's Franchise, but has helped the Women's Movement in every phase. He played a leading part in trying to open the ranks of the legal profession to women, and only last summer spoke in favour of the admission of women to membership of Cambridge University. His present position should be of great assistance in helping Bills specially affecting women to pass successfully through all their stages in the House of Lords.

The Prime Minister, the Right Hon. A. Henderson, Col. Wedgwood, the Right Hon. J. H. Thomas, the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, the Right Hon. W. Adamson, and Mr. Noel Buxton all figure in division lists in favour of Equal Franchise from 1910, and some of them from 1908 onwards, and many of them, including the Prime Minister, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Clynes, and Mr. Thomas, took an active part in helping the Representation of the People Bill in 1917. Since that time, each one of these Ministers has lost few opportunities not only of voting on special matters such as the various Equal Franchise Measures, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Matrimonial Causes Act,

the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the amendment relating to the Admission of Women to Membership of Cambridge University, the Bastardy Act, and resolutions in favour of Widows' Pensions, but have in certain cases, such as that of Mr. Clynes and Mr. Wedgwood, played a considerable part in debates and in putting questions with regard to the treatment of unemployed women, and the dismissal of Married Women Teachers.

Of the more recently elected members practically everyone who has now been promoted to a Government post has played a considerable part in helping on the kind of legislation to which we are referring, if only by going consistently into the right lobby during divisions on the subjects.

We have records, for example, of Mr. Roberts, Mr. Spoor, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Ponsonby, Major Atlee, Mr. Shinwell, Mr. Ammon, and Mr. Greenwood, who have one and all made a point of being present when these points have been discussed and of doing whatever was possible either by means of questions or, in many cases, by speeches to bring about the desired end.

We should especially like to remind our readers of the tremendous help given by Mr. William Graham with respect to the admission of women to membership of Cambridge University, and how Mr. Ben Spoor introduced and piloted successfully through its stages in the House of Commons the Women's Emancipation Bill, 1919.

Of those who have not been Members of Parliament before, Sir Sydney Olivier and Mr. Slesser have both given help in different ways to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and are known advocates for the cause for which it stands. Further particulars with regard to members of the Cabinet can be obtained from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

"THE CAUSE OF THE WIDOW."

(Psalm 68.)

It would be a mistake to form premature conclusions as to the intentions of the new Government. It must necessarily take its own time to formulate the programme, not of the reforms it wishes to carry, but of those which are practically possible in the time and with the resources at its command. But there are disquieting symptoms that the usual thing is going to happen. By "the usual thing" I mean lip service to the reforms which specially affect women, but their practical postponement till all the reforms which specially affect men have been dealt with. Newspaper forecasts suggest the removal of the thrift disqualification on Old Age Pensions and the case of the pre-war pensioner as probable subjects for immediate legislation, but I have seen no mention of Widows' Pensions since Mr. Ramsay MacDonald became Prime Minister, though the subject was touched on in his Albert Hall speech. Perhaps it is only the ingrained suspiciousness of an old suffragist that finds cause for apprehension in this.

However that may be, let us review the reasons which seem to give "the cause of the widow" the right to a priority certificate over that of nearly if not quite every other social reform. First, it is a reform so long overdue. If there were any sort of real relation between actual practice and the accepted principles of Christianity, chivalry, natural justice, and social expediency, about the very first use that working men would have made of their vote, some fifty years ago, would have been to insist that their prospective widows and orphans should be no longer left to the mercy of a patronizing charity or of a deterrent Poor Law, but should be treated—the orphans as wards of the State, their mothers as State servants engaged in the onerous and honourable work of caring for those wards. Of all forms of poverty, the poverty of the widowed mother with young children is, in the normal case, most completely not her own fault. No amount of thrift on the part of the wage-earner will make it possible for him to provide sufficiently by insurance for the contingency of his own premature death. No amount of industry on the part of the widow will make it possible for the average woman simultaneously to perform, adequately and well, the work of both parents. Yet all other forms of undeserved poverty—old age, sickness, and unemployment—have long ago had provided for them their special machinery of State aid, carrying with it neither civil disabilities nor social stigma, while for the widow the Poor Law is still thought good enough.

Secondly, the social effects of the delay are so serious. Space forbids me to enlarge fully on this theme. Those who wish to study the subject should read the documents for themselves—

the report of the Poor Law Commission of 1909, with its two appendix volumes on Out-Relief to Widows, and the much more recent report of the Ministry of Health in 1919. The latter was issued at what was probably the peak point of treatment of widows at the time when the rosy dreams of a reconstructed Poor Law had not been overcast with the dark shadow of the economy campaign. It sheds a flood of light on the actual conditions found by the inspectors of the Ministry in their survey of the administration of Boards of Guardians all over the country. Each official responsible for a certain group of counties describes with many illustrative examples the scales and methods of relief of the various Boards. Many are humane and even generous in their treatment of widows; others are incredibly penurious. Extreme cases are those of a Yorkshire Board whose scale for a widow with one child was 23s.; with six children 63s. Another Midland Board allowed 10s. for a widow with seven children. Between these extremes lies every imaginable variation, not only of scale but of strictness or laxity in the conditions exacted and supervision exercised. No one can think it right that the claims of the widow and her children should be at the mercy of the caprices and prejudices of the not specially brilliant examples of local administration to be found among the Guardians up and down the country.

But the effect of the system must be judged as much from those who do not, as from those who do apply for Poor Relief. Its success in being "deterrent" is shown by the fact that only about 28 per cent. of widows with children under 14 apply for or receive its aid. The rest "manage somehow," in many cases with disastrous effects on the health of both mothers and children. The exact numbers of the whole class have only just been revealed by the Registrar-General's office. In 1921 there were in Great Britain 244,734 civilian widows with 463,832 children under 16; also roughly 50,000 civilian orphans. To provide these with a pension on the lowest service widows' pension scale of 16s. per widow, 6s. 6d. per child, and 11s. 6d. per orphan, would cost, after deducting the sum of £3,000,000 now spent on Poor Relief, £16,519,695; or if the children's age limit were 14, roughly £14,500,000. A cheaper scheme could be devised grading the amounts on the assumption that a widow with, say, one or two children of school-going age, could contribute to her own support. But from this should be deducted the unestimated and inestimable saving on health and penal administration and through increased productivity that would ultimately result from giving this half-million of the nation's children a fair chance of developing into efficient citizens.
ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXI.

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

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1874 AND 1880.

My husband had been defeated in Brighton at the 1874 General Election. This was the election so suddenly announced by Mr. Gladstone in February, prior to which both he and Disraeli had promised, if returned to power, to abolish the income tax, leaving, needless to say, loopholes, through which they could escape if they found it inconvenient to "deliver the goods." The election completely swept away the big Liberal majority returned in 1868, and Disraeli became Prime Minister with a working majority in the House of Commons for the first time. My husband was not long out of Parliament. An old friend, Sir Charles Reade, for reasons of health and advancing years, resigned his seat for the borough of Hackney, and my husband was elected in his place by a large majority, in April 1874, and continued to represent the immense borough then undivided and some twelve miles round, until the end of his life in 1884. It was generally recognized that his successful opposition to Mr. Gladstone's Irish University Bill had been one of the main causes of the Liberal defeat in 1874. But the existence of a Conservative Government emphasized his points of agreement with the Liberal leaders and their relations to him consequently became less strained. He concentrated once again on his work for India and on the maintenance of Free Trade. When the Liberals were returned by a large majority in the General Election of 1880 and Mr. Gladstone was once more Prime Minister, he offered my husband a place in his Government as Postmaster-General, but without a seat in his Cabinet.

After my husband had become a member of the Government, it was pointed out to me that it would be fitting that I should be presented at Court; I therefore made my curtsy to Queen Victoria in 1881. In the autumn we were invited (my husband for the fishing) by Sir J. Mackenzie of Glenmuick to visit him in Scotland. He was quite a near neighbour of the Prince and Princess of Wales who were then at Abergeldie; and we were twice invited there, once to dinner, quite a small family party, and once to a dance: the Prince and Princess were all that Royal hosts ought to be. He was particularly vigilant in looking after the comfort of his guests. He took me into dinner, and I maintained the propriety and value of women being trained as doctors. H.R.H. at that time had only gone as far as wishing them to be efficient nurses. The children, the little girls only, came in at dessert, and the Prince talked to them all in turn in either English, French, or German, with equal ease and gaiety. He had the *joie de vivre* and the art of imparting it to others. At the dance Queen Victoria was present, very stately and dignified. It was a pleasure to see her dancing a reel and doing all her steps very carefully and conscientiously.

My husband threw himself into his new work at the Post Office with enthusiasm and determined within a very short time to concentrate on five important postal reforms. He worked steadily to establish (1) the parcels post, (2) postal orders, (3) sixpenny telegrams, (4) the banking of small sums by means of postage stamps, (5) giving increased facilities for life insurance and annuities. He also very considerably developed and extended the employment of women. The new Postal Order branch was placed entirely in women's hands. I remember being taken over this branch and seeing the women clerks there, and also in the Savings Bank department doing their additions of each day's transactions as quickly as they could turn the file of small pieces of thin paper containing the records. This to me was miraculous, for it was dependent on a gift in which I had not the smallest share. The Postal official who took me round showed me his huge ledgers in which the accounts were entered day by day, and said to me solemnly, "there was a time, Mrs. Fawcett, when we did not think that females were capable of making figures like these." He also told me of an ingenious plan for lessening the physical labour of moving these very weighty volumes by inserting them in their stands upside down; they could then be drawn down on to the desks without actually lifting them at all. This is an example of what I believe are many cases where male employees benefit by the devices introduced mainly on behalf of women to minimise the physical exertion needed in the daily routine of work: men are just as human as women and it is undesirable to overtax their strength when it can be easily avoided.

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several months.

My husband soon developed cordial and even affectionate relations with those officers, whether high or low in the G.P.O., who were most in contact with him, from the messengers to the permanent secretaries, engineers, electricians, and solicitors, for he had the same power of sympathy with their point of view and appreciation of work well done. He had, moreover, the open mind on questions relating to any suggested reform, always ready to give all the arguments, pro and con, full consideration. He never allowed anyone to be dismissed without careful personal investigation: he was particularly careful in filling up vacancies, such as occur in the postmaster-ships in towns whether small or great, never to allow political considerations to influence the appointments. He had almost a quarrel with a vehement and masterful politician because he had insisted when filling a postal appointment in a town, of which the politician was an uncrowned king, to consider nothing but the professional record of the applicants. When his death took place after a brief illness in 1884, there was a remarkable demonstration of grief and affection from the whole of the great staff. One of them wrote "the humblest servant within the dominion of his authority was not left uncared for. During his history as Postmaster-General a greatly improved state of feeling has been introduced among the officers in their general tone towards each other and towards those beneath them, and the whole service has been greatly and wonderfully improved" (*Life of Henry Fawcett*, by Leslie Stephens, p. 446). A little while after his death the officials who had been most closely associated with him combined in sending me a present of 18th century silver candlesticks and an inkstand as a token of "affectionate remembrance of a beloved chief." I need not say that I treasured them very much and of course never should have parted with them if it had not been that in April, 1916, during the darkest time of the Great War, there was an appeal, which I felt to be irresistible, from the British Red Cross to the whole country, and everyone was urged, even if he or she could not give cash, to give other possessions; and a great sale was held at Christie's to dispose of these. This is where I sent my candlesticks and inkstand, and I felt sure my husband would have approved of this disposal of them.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

CITIZENSHIP. By W. H. Hadow, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University. (Milford, 6s.)

This volume contains a series of lectures delivered at Glasgow by Sir Henry Hadow in 1922. His deep learning and wide sympathy is brought within the reach of the general reader by an easy and colloquial style.

WHEEL TRACKS. By E. G. Somerville and Martin Ross. (Longmans, 12s. 6d.)

Records of sport and friendship in a now vanished Ireland, by the unerring pen of the creators of the Irish R.M.

THE SAYINGS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH. By Frederick Chamberlin. (John Lane, 16s.)

A further study of the great Queen by the author of *The Private Life of Queen Elizabeth* (now deservedly in its 4th edition), in which the Queen's authenticated words and their occasion are set forth.

MANIN AND THE VENETIAN REVOLUTION OF 1848. By G. M. Trevelyan. (Longmans, 12s. 6d.)

The fourth of Mr. Trevelyan's Studies of the Risorgimento.

JANE—OUR STRANGER. By Mary Borden. (W. Heinemann, 7s. 6d.)

The story of an American woman married to a Frenchman, and living—an alien in mind and heart—in a typically French family circle.

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.

Our issue next week will contain an article by Miss Macadam on the position and prospects of Equal Franchise; also Ann Pope's article on "The Consumer's Responsibilities," unavoidably held over from this week. Sir Robert Newman, M.P., will contribute an article on the progress of women's work in the House of Commons. We regret that last week Miss Musson's name was inaccurately given as Miss Munn in our Correspondence columns.

THE FAMILY WAGE.

We reprint the following from the January issue of the Ministry of Labour Gazette:—

(a) France.

Three Presidential Decrees, dated 13th July, 1923, have been issued, containing regulations for applying the Act of 19th December, 1922 (which made *permissible* the insertion, in the forms of tender for public works, of a clause requiring the contractors to pay family allowances to those employed on the works). The first of these decrees applies to Government works, and here the insertion of the clause referred to is made compulsory. The other two decrees apply to works carried out for the Departments and the Communes, and the insertion of the "family allowance" clause, in the case of such works, is still *permissive*—i.e., it is left to the local authorities to decide whether the clause shall be inserted in the forms of tender or not. Both for local Government and local authority works (when, in the latter case, the "family allowance" clause has been adopted) the regulations are identical. The contractor must pay family allowances to persons engaged on public works, and, unless he employs at least 2,000 persons and has his own approved family allowance scheme, he must belong to a compensation fund which satisfies certain conditions and has been approved by the Minister of Labour. These conditions have been embodied in a Decree of the Minister of Labour dated 28th August, 1923, regarding the establishment of compensation funds among contractors for public works in the Department of the Seine. Subsequent decrees of the Minister of Labour for the other Departments of France closely follow this model, the main difference, in each case being in the rates of family allowance laid down. The commonest scale appears to be 15 francs (one child), 35 francs (two children), 60 francs (three children) a month, plus 30 francs a month for each succeeding child. The earlier decrees fixed the allowances either on a monthly or a daily basis; all the later decrees give both monthly and daily rates.

(b) Belgium.

The family allowance system made rapid strides in Belgium during the latter part of 1923. Early in the year a central committee for the study of the subject (*Comité d'Etudes des Allocations familiales*) was established by the industrial groups that had instituted the system. From a report of the secretary of this committee, presented at a meeting held on 14th November, it appears that, on that date, there were 9 compensation funds in existence, embracing 541 firms, with a total staff of over 96,000 and a monthly disbursement in family allowances of about 657,000 francs. In addition the system had been adopted throughout the coal-mining industry, covering over 150,000 workers, and by the plate glass industry, with some 6,000 workers. The total number of workers employed by firms paying family allowances was thus over 250,000.

(c) Austria.

The Austrian Act of 21st December, 1921, on the Abolition of State Food Subsidies, provided that employers should pay to workers an allowance of 1,155 kronen a week in respect of each dependent child under 14, pending the passage of a Children's Insurance Act. Changes in the value of money have rendered this flat rate inadequate; and the varied conditions in the different industries have made it impossible to increase the allowance uniformly for all industries. In order to meet these difficulties the Government have introduced a Children's Bonus Bill, based on the principle that a system of children's allowances, if it is to have a normal development in conformity with the economic capacity of each industry, must be regarded as a pure wage question, and left to be regulated by agreement between employers and workers. The Bill, therefore, provides that workers whose wages are regulated by collective agreement, with the exception of those employed in agriculture and forestry, must receive, in respect of each dependent child under 14, a children's allowance at rates to be laid down in the agreement. If the collective agreement has been concluded by a number of employers or by an employer's association, it must contain provisions for the establishment of a compensation fund, which is to be controlled by a committee composed of equal numbers of representatives of the employers and workers. The Bill also contains provisions for the settlement of disputes over the rates of allowances, etc., by means of the Conciliation Offices, which will decide the dispute by an Award, having binding force, if agreement is not reached. The date of the coming into force of the Bill, if passed, is given as 1st January, 1924, and from which date all previous legislation still in force concerning the payment of children's allowances was to stand repealed.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

THE NEW SPIRIT IN IRELAND.

"The Society of United Irishwomen" was founded fourteen years ago with the object of enlisting the brains and hands of the country women in a campaign for vitalizing and brightening the countryside. Its teachings were based on Sir Horace Plunket's famous motto, "Better farming, better business, better living," and soon it had some forty branches and a membership of more than 400 subscribers. During recent troubled years, the Society still managed to carry on in a few centres. Its founders think now that in the Free State, with its recovered peace, and its new impulse towards progress, the work can be taken up again and extended. As the Countess of Fingall said in her presidential address at the annual meeting of the Society on 17th January: "The new struggle in Ireland will be fought, not with guns, but with agricultural machinery on the farmers' fields, in the dairy and in the hen-run; and not with these alone, for they could accomplish little without a broad, directing, organizing intellect behind them." This paragraph, quoted from the *Irish Times*, is evidence of the new spirit in Ireland.

A BRIGHTER COUNTRYSIDE.

The dullness of Irish country towns, noted by Mrs. Fawcett in a recent article in the *WOMAN'S LEADER*, has long been deplored. To quote the *Irish Times* again: "Political liberty will not keep our young men (I may add, our young women either) at home if we have no lightening of the dullness of life on the farm, and on this matter the Farmer's Party, in or out of Dail, seems without a policy." At the annual meeting, Mr. Lennox Robinson, well known in connection with the Abbey Theatre, gave it as his opinion that rural Ireland is desperately anxious to get and to read books, and the possibilities of organizing rural libraries was considered. If the Society undertook this work, and that of organizing village entertainments, its hands will be full. In other directions its work is thriving. The goat farms, started to supplement the meagre supply of milk in country districts, are doing well: rabbit-breeding for fur has received an impetus through the establishment of a small farm in Dublin. Sixty-eight pounds was paid recently in Grafton Street for one lot of rabbit skins prepared in Dublin, from Dublin reared rabbits, and at the last Spring show a fur coat was shown, made in Dublin from such Dublin prepared skins. The Society also organizes cheese-making, milk depôts, basket-making, home glove-making, and in some places, school supplies of hot cocoa, needed sorely in districts where children walk miles to school, and have a school day of five hours, without dinner. Village nursing was started in 1913, when there was no registration of midwives in Ireland and no Central Midwives' Board. Pressure was brought upon the Government in vain for a long time, and it was only in 1920 that the Registration of Midwives' Act came into force. Those interested in the old Suffrage controversies will note the date with interest. During these years, the United Irishwomen trained nurses and sent them to country districts. The whole problem will have to be dealt with when reorganization of Local Government comes up next year. Meanwhile, the United Irishwomen have done their best to lessen the burden of suffering which rests on the mother living in those cabins described by Mrs. Fawcett. They have organized flower shows, needlework, and lace competitions, bee-keeping, and many other activities tending to humanize and brighten rural life. If more support had been forthcoming, there might not have been as many young men and women driven into revolutionary movements through sheer absence of any other excitement.

MEN AND WOMEN TOGETHER.

At the annual meeting Lady Fingall said weighty words as to the need "for men and women to march together in the Co-operative movement; women could help Ireland now to build up a rural life worthy of her." A well known member of the Agricultural Organization Society referred to the very difficult period experienced by the Society, and congratulated them on the continuance of their activities with sufficient impetus, energy, and idealism to carry them through the most difficult period that the country had known during their memory. He urged the need for the help of women in the organization of a clean milk supply, good poultry management, and in the effort to establish Co-operative marketing. These are matters, which depend on the woman of the house, and cannot be dealt with by men alone. The Countess of Fingall said that those who had done their best in the past to keep the movement alive and active were conscious that the time had come when other women, young and energetic, should take their share in guiding the destinies of the Society. If these younger women will respond to the call, the Co-operation desired should be easily brought about.

DORA MELLONE.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK. Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

PARLIAMENTARY—THE GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS' BILL.

Mrs. Wintringham, who won a place in the ballot for this Bill, has put it down for its second reading on 4th April. It comes second on the Order Paper, but Mrs. Wintringham has been informed by Mr. Barnes, whose Bill on Industrial and Provident Societies will be taken before hers, that his Bill is non-contentious, and that he will do what he can to shorten the debate in order that there may be time for the second reading of the Guardianship of Infants Bill. Should, however, the latter be either not dealt with at all or talked out, Lord Askwith will introduce it into the House of Lords.

CITY OF LONDON BYE-ELECTION.

On Wednesday, the 30th inst., the Liberal candidate for the City of London received a deputation of women voters of all parties in the City, led by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who put to him our Parliamentary Questionnaire. We go to press too early to receive a report of this deputation for publication this week. Sir Vansittart Bowater has refused to receive a deputation, and has merely stated in answer to the Questionnaire that he can give no pledges, but "will do his best in the House."

MATINEE IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE N.U.S.E.C., 5th February.

We must remind readers that the Matinee arranged for 5th February, at 2.30, will be held at 25 Park Lane, by kind permission of Sir Philip Sassoon. The house is at the corner of Park Lane and Great Stanhope Street. Sybil, Lady Brassey will act as hostess on this occasion. Our gratitude is especially due to Miss Athene Seyler for her help at the entertainment, as she is to give a first night performance in the evening. She and Mrs. Nicholas Hannen are giving "The Artist," by A. A. Milne; and Miss Gertrude Kingston, who has been recently acting in "The Lilies of the Field," and Miss Clare Greet from "Outward Bound," are joining in a duologue entitled "Canvassing a Constituent." Miss Joan Garrett, great-niece of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, one of Miss Sylvia Hobday's little pupils, is to give a solo dance, and Miss Hobday and her pupil, Lady Elizabeth Townshend, will give a short dancing scene with an accompaniment of song by Miss Feodora Turnbull. Dame May Webster, D.B.E., and Mr. Ben Webster have promised their help, and their daughter, Miss Peggy Webster, is to recite.

Tickets are sold in order of application. The suggestion has been made that Societies in or near London should co-operate to buy one or more tickets and ballot them among their members. Orders should be sent immediately to the Ticket Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

A CENTRAL BUILDING FOR WOMEN.

On 29th January, at Morley Hall, representatives from a large number of women's organizations met together to discuss plans for a new venture by the Y.W.C.A. in London. Miss Picton-Turbervill, presiding, explained that the need for a large building in central London was increasingly felt to provide education, rest, and recreation for numbers of girls and women in large offices, firms, and shops, and also domestic servants for whom at present no adequate provision was made. It was hoped to raise £70,000 towards this building, which would include a conference hall, chapel, library, and clubrooms, and also a health centre, information bureau, and swimming-bath, etc. Lady Frances Balfour remarked that it was far easier to raise funds for the Red Triangle than for the Blue Triangle, but she believed that women's needs were gaining increased support. Among many other influential women, Lady Terrington and Lady Astor have promised their support to the scheme.

CLASSES OF FIFTY CHILDREN.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons the President of the Board of Education stated that in 1922 the number of classes of over fifty children was reduced to 33,031 as compared to 38,174 in 1920. He further stated that the Board had consented to sanction the provision of new schools with class-rooms which would accommodate forty pupils on the condition that it may prove necessary for a time that the classes using them should be somewhat larger.

BREWSTER SESSIONS, 1924.

Within the next few weeks the Licensing Justices in London will once again consider the closing hour for the sale of intoxicating liquors in public houses. At present the closing hour is 10 p.m. in fourteen out of the twenty-one London divisions (in two of these 10.30 in Summer). In two others the closing hour both summer and winter is 10.30, and in the remaining five Holborn, Hanover Square, St. James, St. Margarets, and Strand, Westminster, 11 p.m. There can be no doubt that a difference of hours in adjoining districts is most unsatisfactory, but the question is, will the uniform hour be 10 or 11? and as last year the Drink Trade will make a determined effort to raise the hour to 11 universally. This is clearly a matter which concerns the women citizens of London and expressions of opinion from residents in the different divisions in the form of letters or petitions should be addressed to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices in the division, and interest should be shown by attending the Court. The following is a list of the dates and hours of the different Licensing Sessions so far as known to us at present. Further inquiries sent to the office of this paper will be forwarded to the right quarter:—

Table with columns: Location, Date, and Time. Rows include Blackheath, Edmonton, Finsbury, Hampstead, Hanover Square, Highgate, Holborn, Kensington, Kingston (County), Mortlake, Newington, Paddington, St. James, St. Margaret's, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Stoke Newington, Strand, Spelthorne, Tower, Wandsworth.

CONFERENCE ON THE RETURN OF MORE WOMEN TO PARLIAMENT AND RECEPTION TO WOMEN MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES.

A very successful Conference was held at Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, on Wednesday, 23rd January, organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Miss Rathbone, C.C., J.P., President of the National Union, was in the Chair, and the following women Members of Parliament were present and spoke:—Lady Astor, Miss Jewson, Miss Lawrence, Lady Terrington.

Miss Picton-Turbervill, who opened the discussion, spoke on the help which could be given by non-party organizations to candidates at Elections. She said that if the agent would consent to work harmoniously with them she considered that non-party helpers could be most valuable, especially for speaking. Lady Terrington gave an interesting account of her own experiences of electioneering, and Miss Susan Lawrence in a vigorous speech declared that it was now no more difficult for a woman than for a man to get into Parliament. Her determination to abolish the Franchise inequalities between men and women echoed the enthusiasm of the old Suffrage days.

Lady Astor, who was introduced to the meeting as "The Mother of the House," was given an enthusiastic reception. She extended a welcome to the new women Members who had joined her in the House, and said she would never have been able to do all she had done had she not known that she had behind her the majority of right-thinking women. She declared that sex-prejudice, even when half unconscious, was common to men of all political parties, and in proof of this instanced the fact that Miss Bondfield had not been included in the new Cabinet—a fact which Lady Astor deprecated most strongly. The action of their party was defended by the women Labour Members present.

Miss Jewson, one of the two members for Norwich, stated that in her opinion a woman standing with a man of the same party helped that man, as he helped her. She had found that her former Franchise work was a great help to her with her constituents. The discussion closed with an excellent speech by Mrs. Corbett Ashby on the choice of candidates, and the qualifications which made a woman acceptable for nomination by local Party Organizations.

Apologies for absence were received from the Duchess of Atholl, Miss Bondfield, Mrs. Phillipson, Mrs. Wintringham, and Mrs. Fawcett, and several of the Candidates.

The Conference was followed by a Reception.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

(British Section: 55, Gower Street, W.C.1.)

HOW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS CAN HELP.

The Women's International League has many ways of working. Wherever possible it forms a branch so that members may meet and get inspiration from each other. But in those places where this is not practicable at present, keen individuals help in forming that public opinion, which is our indispensable weapon, by every means in their power. The last General Election provided an opportunity for bringing the International question home to large audiences, who were perhaps more interested in Tariffs or Free Trade than in Foreign Affairs. One of our members would attend the meetings of each candidate, and at question-time ask him whether he would, if elected, be prepared to press for the immediate summoning of a conference of the Powers to settle the whole question of Reparations. The candidate's reply was often most enlightening.

There are numerous ways in which members, if well-informed themselves, can help others to realize the immense importance of working for peace while war is not actually proceeding. Each member should use these opportunities.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

On 20th January, by kind permission of Miss Forbes Robertson, a meeting was held at Bayswater to form an "Under 30" section of the Alliance. A committee was formed and officers elected, and the following resolution was carried unanimously and sent to the Prime Minister:—"This meeting of unenfranchised women under 30, members of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, calls upon the Government to grant, without delay, the Parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, given to men." All Catholic women under 30 who are anxious to be enfranchised should write to the hon. secretary, Miss Bumpstead, S.J.S.P.A., 55, Berners Street, W. 1, and join the "Under 30" section of the Alliance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RE ANNE ASKEW.

MADAM,—It is, I think, quite obvious that Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck offers no doctrinal criticisms. Miss Wallis, unintentionally of course, misquotes her when she reports her as saying that Anne accepted Protestant doctrines because she was a woman of intelligence. What she does say is, that being a woman of intelligence, she became interested in the Reformation. A movement that led to the burning of reputable people like Bishops certainly merited the attention of intelligent people, whether Roman Catholic or not, just as intelligent persons nowadays, whether Imperialistic or Communitistic in sympathy, should be interested in Russian developments.

I have noticed that members of the Roman communion are sometimes curiously susceptible to what can be construed as criticism, considering the size and prestige of the body. It is a trait one more often associates with small and despised sects. I myself, for instance, shall not feel at all aggrieved as an Anglican, if you publish some article dealing with our persecution of some splendid Quaker woman. I should merely feel

thankful that the days of the cruel school men are over here. Look, too, how Anglican women revere Joan of Arc. The trait is possibly due to the fact that in less enlightened countries somewhat similar occurrences may take place. For instance, there was a case quoted in *The Times* the other day of a man being burnt alive in Italy, because he had committed sacrilege. Much as most Anglicans dislike Kenist, I cannot imagine an Anglican mob behaving thus! However, whatever the cause, the trait remains, and for that reason I regretted the insertion of the article and considered it ill-judged and likely to arouse ill-feeling. I was just about to write and say so when luckily I read the rest of the paper, when I found that with your inimitable sense of fair-play you had inserted in the same issue an article by a Roman Catholic.

Surely then, one article on ancient history—written with what might be considered an anti-Roman bias—is amply counterbalanced by another written avowedly from the Roman standpoint, especially as a non-Roman might well ask, why should a neutral paper deal with these (rather large) claims predicated for the Papal See.

MADAM,—Allow me, in the light of this week's letters, to express the interest that I know many of your readers felt in the article on a brave woman in the clutches of superstitious cruelty. Protestants realize that such happenings were not confined to any particular Church, and surely Roman Catholics are at one with them in their horror of these outrages on humanity, let alone religion.

[This interesting correspondence must now cease, owing to pressure on our space. Opportunity will, however, be given to Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck to wind up the discussion with a reply to critics.—Ed.]

AFTER THOUGHTS ON LOCAL VETO.

MADAM,—If any of your readers who are interested will take the trouble to read "After Thoughts on Local Veto," along with the letter from H. W. Thomas, I think they will realize what was said and what was not.

I expressed no disapproval of America and Prohibition being discussed, but on the contrary, said: "The discussion of American affairs is both interesting and instructive so long as they are not confused with the politics of our own country." "The Trade," by fighting the sham antagonist, Prohibition, diverted the eyes of the public from the real contest—the closing of the public-house and the withdrawal of the grocer's licence in the elector's particular area for a period of three years.

The "thin end of the wedge" argument has been used, no doubt, ever since wedges were invented, to paralyse any attempt at freedom or progress, and women especially have been the sufferers from the unreasoning use of it.

SIX POINT GROUP.

The Committee of the Six Point Group will resume their fortnightly "At Homes" at 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, on Monday, 4th February, at 5 p.m. There will be discussions on current topics connected with the protection of children and the legal position and status of women, and all interested in these subjects are cordially invited. The list of speakers for this series is an interesting one, and on 4th February Sir James Greig will speak on "Equal Guardianship for Married Parents," a subject with which he is closely associated since he first introduced the Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill in the House of Commons in 1921.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD OF EMPIRE

A COURSE OF LECTURES ON ECONOMICS for EVERYBODY

WILL BE GIVEN IN THE CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, ON MONDAYS DURING FEBRUARY At 3 p.m.

- February 4th—JOHN MURRAY, Esq. "Insecurity, the Worker's Bane." (Late M.P. for West Leeds; Christ Church, Oxford).
February 11th—Miss CONSTANCE SMITH, O.B.E. "Women as Wage Earners." (Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories).
February 18th—Prof. WINIFRED CULLIS, O.B.E., D.Sc. "Men, Women and Machines." (National Institute of Industrial Psychology).
February 25th—Prof. BOWIE. "Industrial Peace and the Coal Ageement." (Manchester School of Technology).

ADMISSION FREE BY TICKET.—To be obtained from the Secretary, The Women's Guild of Empire, 24 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE

RED WHITE & BLUE For Breakfast & after Dinner

In making, use LESS QUANTITY it being much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE

VOTES FOR WOMEN! THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE ANNOUNCE A PUBLIC MEETING AT ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND.

on Wednesday, 6th February, at 8 p.m. To demand Votes for Women at the same age as men on a short residential qualification for men and women. Admission Free. Collection. Speakers: Miss SUSAN LAWRENCE, M.P., Miss DOROTHY JEWSON, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE on their way to the WASHINGTON PEACE CONGRESS

Frl. GERTRUD BAER, Madame DUCHENE, Frl. LIDA GUSTAVA HEYMANN, Madame RAMONDT-HIRSCHMANN, and Frl. ANITA AUGSBURG. ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, W.C. 2. ON MONDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, AT 8 P.M. ADMISSION FREE. RESERVED SEATS, 1-, of the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

A HOUSING SCHEME FOR WOMEN

WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING LIMITED ANNOUNCES A

PUBLIC DINNER

On 5th FEBRUARY, 1924, at the HOTEL CECIL.

Reception: 7 for 7.30 o'clock.

AMONG THOSE TO BE PRESENT AND TO SPEAK WILL BE The VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P. Mrs. HILTON PHILIPSON, M.P. Mrs. FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D. Mrs. C. S. PEEL, O.B.E. And Captain REISS.

Tickets 12/6 from the Secretary, Women's Pioneer Housing Limited, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

FEB. 4. 3 to 4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Cinematograph Lecture on the World's Children, Mrs. Downer ("Save the Children Fund"); Mrs. Hitchcock will sing Folk Songs.

INDUSTRIAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

FEB. 7. 8.30 p.m. Conference at Fellowship House, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster. "Post-Medieval Economics." Speaker: Mr. R. H. Tawney. Chairman: Miss Constance Smith, O.B.E.

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

FEB. 7. 8 p.m. Roumanian Folk-lore and an Exhibition of Peasant Craft. Miss Estelle Canziani and Dr. Cyriax.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEB. 5. 2.30 p.m. 25 Park Lane, S.W. Matinée entertainment in aid of funds of N.U.S.E.C.

EDINBURGH W.C.A. FEB. 13. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. Discussion: "Venereal Disease: Voluntary versus Compulsory Methods." Speakers: Dr. Aimee Gibbs and Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D.

LEEDS S.E.C. FEB. 4. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. Rev. H. Bowman (Vicar of St. Mark's, Woodhouse).

MALVERN S.E.C. FEB. 11. "Widows' Pensions." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

WESLEYAN METHODIST EDUCATIONAL TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

FEB. 5. 7.30 p.m. Otley, Wesleyan Church. Meeting on the Gambling Problem: "A Thousand Pounds for a Shilling—is it Wrong?" Speaker: The Rev. E. Benson Perkins.

FEB. 8. 5.30 p.m. Committee Room B, 1 Central Buildings, Westminster. "The Action of Alcohol on Man." Lecturer: Mr. Eric Pearce Gould.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

FEB. 6. 8 p.m. Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. Public Meeting to Demand Votes for Women at the same age as Men. Speakers: Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., and Miss Jewson, M.P.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPEWRITERS.—4 Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

WHERE TO LIVE.

ISIS CLUB, 79 Fitzjohn's Avenue; two minutes Hampstead Tube Station. Magnificent reception rooms, central heating, sunny bedrooms; sandy soil; lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 286.

TO LET.

UNFURNISHED BED-SITTING-ROOM, suitable for gentleman; electric light; gas laid on; bath; some attendance; £7 1s. weekly, inclusive.—14 Norland Square, Holland Park. Tel: Park 4,120.

LARGE sunny BEDROOM, with partial board, offered to lady engaged during day; gas-fire; near Swiss Cottage.—Box 1,045, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

GOOD OFFICE (lift, telephone, etc.).—Apply, Secretary, P.U.T.N., 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908.

LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Mauresa Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post.

URGENT.—Lady, teaching profession, needs small loan on own security to complete musical training. No relatives left; genuine. Full particulars (has good furniture and piano).—Box 1044, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

DAMASK TABLECLOTHS.—Special offer of 800 white Irish damask tablecloths at almost half-price; good useful quality, for breakfast and supper cloths, in handsome floral and conventional designs.—We can recommend these cloths for everyday use. Size 58 x 58, 68, each; 58 x 70, 78; 70 x 70, 98; 66 x 82, 108; 70 x 86, 118; 70 x 106, 148. 6d. Special lot of extra strong durable all-linen Irish damask tablecloths, floral and conventional designs, slightly imperfect, size 2 x 2 yards, 188; 2 x 2½ yards, 228. 6d.; 2 x 3 yards, 268. 6d. Write for Bargain List—TODAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,017, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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).

POST WANTED.

POST wanted as Assistant HOUSEKEEPER or MATRON in Hotel, Club or School. Domesticated. Would accept small salary to gain experience. Good personal references.—Box 1,046, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

DRESS.

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

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, 9 Lower Regent Street, W. 1, 4th floor (Lift). Tel. Gerrard 908. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.—4 p.m., or by appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The Stansfeld Lecture, entitled "The Economic Position of Married Women under the Law," will be given by Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, at Bedford College (Regent's Park, Entrance York Gate), on Thursday, 7th February, 1924, at 5.15 p.m. The chair will be taken by G. W. Johnson, Esq., C.M.G., M.A. Admission Free by ticket, to be obtained from the Secretary, Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.—Edwin Deller, Academic Registrar.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. For information about employment and vocational training, write or call. Interviews 10-1 (Saturdays excepted).—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, Westminster.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 ss.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in aliyance (*pro tem.*).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 3rd February, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Labour in Office."

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. 7th February, Roumanian Folk-lore and an Exhibition of Peasant Craft. Miss Estelle Canziani and Dr. Cyriax.

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.)

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