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Pamphlet

SOCIETY FOR THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

(INTERDENOMINATIONAL)

President : Miss A. MAUDE ROYDEN, C.H.

Vice-Presidents :

- REV. STANCE COLTMAN, M.A., B.D.
- REV. HENRY GOW, D.D.
- REV. A. H. GRAY, M.A., D.D.
- REV. W. RUSSELL MALTBY, D.D.
- REV. CANON C. E. RAVEN, D.D.
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- MISS JEAN J. ARTHUR, M.A.

Hon. Treasurer :

Miss D. M. GOTCH,
13 Napier Avenue,
S.W.6

Hon. Registrar :

Miss E. H. POFFLEY,
24 Dollis Hill Avenue,
N.W.2

Hon. Secretary :

Miss IVY L. PRYKE,
1 Catherine Street,
S.W.1

Hon. Secretary's Report to Annual General Meeting, May 9th, 1931.

It is a great happiness in sending out the Second Annual Report of the Society to be able to record a very encouraging step forward on the lines of the fundamental principles for which the Society stands. As most people already know, the University of Glasgow has offered to Miss Maude Royden the honorary degree of a Doctor of Divinity, and this will be conferred upon her on June 17th. So far as we are able to ascertain, this degree does not appear to have been offered to a woman before ; indeed, it is rarely offered to laymen, the degree being usually conferred upon ordained ministers. As the *Guildhouse Monthly* for April observes :—"It is particularly significant that the honour should have been conferred upon a woman when the National Church bars women from ordination. The conferring of an honour on Miss Royden is an event which makes history." We offer our joyful congratulations to our President, and congratulate also the University of Glasgow on its progressive and enlightened action.

Two years ago, Miss Royden was made a Companion of Honour for services rendered to the religious life of the nation," and we

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430
942
802

rejoice exceedingly in these outward signs of recognition of her work.

It will be remembered that Miss Royden was ordered in January, 1930, to take a year's complete rest. It is a great joy and inspiration to have her with us again, restored to health and strength.

THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP.

Since the issue of the First Report, the Society's membership has almost doubled, and it is encouraging to note that many of the new members have been secured by members themselves. Our Overseas membership has slightly increased, and the Society now has members in Australia, South Africa, India, United States, China, and other countries, including a member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Denmark.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND PUBLIC MEETING, MAY 23RD, 1930.

The Annual General Meeting in 1930 was held on Friday, May 23rd, at 6 p.m., the Chair being taken by the Rev. Constance Coltman, B.D. In addition to the formal business, preliminary consideration was given to the question of issuing a news sheet. It was also agreed that, where possible, Local Correspondents should be appointed to look after the Society's interests in their districts.

The same evening a Public Meeting arranged by the Society drew a considerable audience to Denison House. The Rev. B. C. Hopson (Vicar of Cockfosters) was in the Chair, and the speakers were Prof. Dame Louise McIlroy, D.B.E., M.D., D.Sc. (Anglican); Rev. A. Herbert Gray, D.D. (Presbyterian); and Miss Monica Whately (Roman Catholic). It will be seen that the platform represented the interdenominational character of the Society. It must have been the first time that a meeting in support of the priesthood and ministry of women has had a Roman Catholic speaker, another Roman Catholic distributing handbills before the meeting, and members of that Church in the audience.

LAMBETH CONFERENCE, 1930.

As stated in the previous Report, a Memorandum, signed by the Anglican members of the Committee, was sent on behalf of the Anglican members of the Society to the Lambeth Conference. Sufficient copies were enclosed for circulation to all the members attending the Conference, and we understood that a copy was

duly supplied to each member. (Copies of the Memorandum, price 4d. post free, are still available.)

The Report of the Lambeth Conference was issued on August 15th, 1930, and there is no disguising the fact that, as regards the ministry of women, the Report was a great disappointment to many people who had expected a real advance on the Report of 1920. While it is true that a Deaconess may now baptise in Church "by virtue of her office," the Report made no attempt to place Deaconesses on the same footing as men deacons. The Conference "would not question the action" of a Bishop in authorising Readers—men not in Holy Orders—to administer the chalice at the Holy Communion, and yet no such authorisation is to be given even to Deaconesses, who (as was admitted at the Lambeth Conference in 1920) are, in fact, in Holy Orders. Neither may Deaconesses "instruct or preach" at the service of Holy Communion. Further, as Miss Royden observed in the *Guildhouse Monthly* for September, 1930, ". . . what makes the position worse is the acceptance by the Bishops of the proposal to ordain 'voluntary' or 'auxiliary' clergy. This proposal has been made to meet the alarming shortage of male candidates for ordination. It provides that men following a secular profession—or none—should be ordained priests in order that they may celebrate the Sacraments where there are not 'professional' clergy—or not enough—to meet the needs of the people. In other words, men who definitely *have not* any vocation are, nevertheless, to be ordained, in order that they may exercise the holiest of priestly offices; while women who believe they have a vocation are not even to have their claim considered, nor—if already ordained Deaconesses—to be allowed to administer the chalice at Holy Communion." The Report offers no intelligible reason for the refusal to recognise a vocation to the priesthood when it is found in a woman; it merely states that "a majority of the Sub-Committee believe that there are theological principles which constitute an insuperable obstacle to the admission of women to the Priesthood" (*vide* Report, page 180), but no explanation of the phrase "theological principles" is given.

On the issue of the Lambeth Report, your Committee corresponded with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and later with the Bishop of Blackburn (Chairman of Sub-Committee II on The Ministry of the Church) in an endeavour to discover what exactly were the theological principles referred to. The Archbishop of

Canterbury replied that as he was not a member of the Committee which dealt with the question it was impossible for him to say what exactly the "theological principles" were. The Bishop of Blackburn replied that, as discussions of Committees of the Lambeth Conference are confidential, he had no power to state the views of the members of his Sub-Committee.

The Report of the Sub-Committee (page 180 of the Lambeth Report) expresses a desire for a fuller answer on the theological side, and your Committee are pressing for steps to be taken to carry this desire into effect.

Immediately the Lambeth Report was published, the Society was besieged with telephone inquiries from the press, and a statement was therefore sent out on August 16th to over fifty newspapers and several press agencies. The Lambeth Memorandum had been circulated a few days earlier to the same newspapers, *i.e.* the leading daily and weekly papers and others published in different parts of the country, including Scotland and Ireland, which had referred in some way to the ministry of women. The large number of press cuttings received later showed that the Memorandum had been widely noticed and that the statement above referred to had been printed in full in several papers. *The Manchester Guardian* printed substantial extracts from the Memorandum; and other papers, including *The Times*, gave short extracts from it. *The News Chronicle* devoted a large portion of the front page of their issue of July 29th to one aspect of the Memorandum, giving names of some of the signatories, and the same issue contained a very sympathetic leader on the subject. In this connection it may be mentioned that *The Church of England Newspaper* has given continuous and valuable support to the cause of the ministry of women.

One result of the issue of the Lambeth Report has been that several people wrote to the Society at once saying that they had decided, as a direct consequence of the Lambeth Report, to join the Society. In addition, an article by Dr. Sybil Pratt in *The Women's Leader*, dealing mainly with the Lambeth Conference, brought a number of new members to the Society and orders for literature.

INTERCESSION SERVICE AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING,
SEPTEMBER 6TH, 1930.

An Intercession Service was held on Saturday afternoon, Sep-

tember 6th, 1930, at Chelsea Congregational Church, Markham Square. The service, conducted by the Rev. J. B. Binns, was very greatly appreciated by everyone.

Dr. Sybil Pratt took the Chair at the Special General Meeting which followed the service, and which was called to consider the Report of the Committee which had been appointed to go into the question of the publication of a quarterly news sheet. It was decided to try the experiment for one year, after which the whole matter should come up again for consideration at a Members' Meeting. The suggested title, *The Coming Ministry*, was agreed to.

"THE COMING MINISTRY."

The first issue of *The Coming Ministry*, under the joint editorship of Rev. Claud M. Coltman, B.Litt. (Free Church Editor), and Miss Carol Morrison, M.A. (Anglican Editor); appeared at Christmas, 1930. It contains, besides the Society's news, a valuable article by Rev. Canon Raven, D.D., on the Report of the Lambeth Conference. The current issue includes a verbatim copy of the correspondence with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Blackburn referred to above.

CHURCH CONGRESS, NEWPORT, OCTOBER, 1930.

The Society's publications were on sale at one of the bookstalls in the Exhibition Hall at the Church Congress, through the kind offices of a member, who afterwards reported that he had had several interesting conversations on the subject of the ministry of women with people attending the Congress.

Mrs. Ceiron Jones and Mrs. Albert Rees, of Cardiff, most kindly undertook the arrangements for distribution of literature at the meetings.

THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

In addition to the Lambeth Memorandum (price 4d. post free) and *The Coming Ministry* (price 3d. post free), the Society has published a leaflet by Miss Royden, price ½d., and a little pamphlet entitled "Spiritual Equality—the Fundamental Principle," price 2d.

CONFERENCE ON LAMBETH REPORT, MARCH 7TH, 1931.

On March 7th, 1931, a Conference for members and friends was held at Denison House, on The Lambeth Report as it affects the Ministry of Women. Miss Maude Royden was in the Chair, and the speakers were Rev. A. E. N. Simms, B.D. (Rector of St. Mary's,

Bryanston Square), and the Rev. Claud M. Coltman, B.Litt. (Joint Minister with Rev. Constance Coltman, B.D., of Cowley Road Congregational Church, Oxford), the latter giving "A Free Church View of the Lambeth Report on the Ministry of Women."

A large gathering of members and friends assembled for the Conference, and listened attentively to the interesting and illuminating speeches. Many useful contributions were made in the course of the discussions which followed each speech, and there was a general atmosphere of friendly understanding and sympathy with different view points. Mr. Simms, while suspecting that the "theological principles" were "reasons but not the reason," pleaded that a real effort should be made to understand our opponents; and Mr. Coltman, although pointing out that the Lambeth Report had given to Anglican women almost all that women in some of the Free Churches had secured, showed a sympathetic understanding of the Anglican members' point of view. There was a general agreement that women should take advantage of the opportunities for service available, but, on the other hand, it was clearly shown by Miss Royden and others that a woman who felt a vocation to the Priesthood could not fulfil that vocation by entering the Order for Deaconesses as at present constituted.

The Conference was a stimulating and enlightening one, and several communications were received from members afterwards expressing appreciation of the speeches and their conviction of the value of such gatherings.

MEETINGS AND PUBLICITY.

Some 200 to 300 circulars were despatched during the past year offering to send speakers, and other efforts have been made to secure meetings. The meetings addressed by our speakers since the issue of the last Annual Report are as follows:—

- Bedford College, London (Dr. Sybil Pratt).
- Battersea B.W.T.A.U. (Mrs. Pollard).
- Nottingham University S.C.M. (Dr. Sybil Pratt).
- Acton W.C.A. (Dr. Sybil Pratt).
- Coventry N.C.W. (Rev. Barbara Thomas).
- Bebington (Cheshire) W.C.A. (Rev. Edith Pickles).
- Chingford W.C.A. (Mrs. Pollard).
- Derbyshire N.C.W. (Rev. Margaret Barr).
- Waterloo (Liverpool) Public Meeting (Rev. Canon Raven, D.D., Rev. Edith Pickles).
- Golders Green W.F.L. (Mrs. Pollard).

The following future meetings have been booked:—

Tolworth, Townswomen's Guild (Mrs. Acres).

London N.C.W. (Mrs. Pollard).

Other meetings on the ministry of women, not arranged with the Society, but to which the Society was invited to send literature, were:—

Edinburgh E.C.S. (Miss Francis Melville, B.D., LL.D.; and Rev. Vera Findlay, B.D. Chairman; Prof. J. Y. Simpson).

Cheltenham S.E.C. (Mrs. Matthews).

Hampstead, Modern Churchmen's Union (Mrs. Roberts).

If the foregoing list of meetings seems very small as compared with the previous year, it must be remembered that the first year was largely devoted to getting the Society known, and our propaganda work last year has taken other forms, a great deal of work being attempted through the press, as mentioned above. This has resulted in a certain amount of correspondence with the Hon. Secretary both in the press and privately, and has secured some new members.

The Society has also advertised from time to time, with some slight result.

The Editors of *The Women's Leader* and *The Vote* are always most kindly ready to allow space in their respective publications for communications from the Society. The Society was asked to suggest writers for *The Women's Leader* for January 2nd, 1931 (a special number giving the Retrospect for the year), on Women in the Free Churches and Women in the Church of England. The articles, written respectively by Rev. Rosalind Lee, M.A., and Dr. Sybil Pratt, were a useful contribution to the Society's work.

PRESS SECRETARY.

The Society subscribes to a press cutting agency, and as a large number of cuttings are received, the Committee decided in June last year to appoint a Press Secretary to distribute press cuttings of letters, articles, &c., which might be usefully followed up, to members who had expressed their willingness to help in this way by rejoinders or further "witness," as the case required. Miss Carol Morrison agreed to act as Press Secretary, and is in need of many more names of members who would be ready to undertake to write to the press at short notice if and when called upon.

HON. ORGANISER.

Mrs. Joyce Pollard has kindly offered to give some time as an Hon. Organiser. The Committee has gratefully accepted this offer, and Mrs. Pollard has made preliminary arrangements for short tours in the east and west of England, in Scotland, and in the Liverpool district. She hopes to fit in further engagements while travelling about the country on other lecturing work. It is hoped that members will carefully review the possibilities in their districts and write to Mrs. Pollard, if any arrangement for a visit from her seems at all feasible.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS.

The following Local Correspondents have so far been appointed:—

Worcester, Gloucester, and Cheltenham Districts—

Mrs. Beatrice Powell, St. John's Vicarage, Worcester.

Liverpool District—

Miss Mary Hackey, J.P., 26 Litherland Park, Litherland, Liverpool.

Ireland—

Rev. Purefoy Poe, Ballymahon, Mullingar, Ireland.

Miss Hackey arranged a Public Meeting at the Town Hall, Waterloo, Liverpool, on January 21st, 1931, the speakers being Rev. Canon Raven, D.D., and Rev. Edith Pickles. Good reports of this meeting appeared in *The Liverpool Post*, the *Guildhouse Monthly*, and in other papers. Miss Hackey very kindly paid the charge for hiring the hall, and Mrs. Stewart Brown, J.P., who was prevented at the last moment by illness from presiding over the meeting, sent a generous donation towards the other expenses. The late Miss Margaret Beaven, formerly Lord Mayor of Liverpool, who had shown sympathetic interest in the meeting, was prevented from attending by her sudden and fatal illness. Our warm thanks are due to Miss Hackey for the immense amount of work she undertook.

THE WORK OF MEMBERS.

The previous Report referred to the valuable help which members can give in their own districts by seizing opportunities as they arise and carrying on work which cannot be done at headquarters. During the past year very encouraging news has come,

from time to time, of quiet work of various kinds which is going on—the securing of invitations to women to preach in Churches; an arrangement that, at an important conference of one of the Free Churches, a woman minister should serve at the Communion Service; useful conversations, sometimes with people in authority, &c. One member concluded a long and interesting letter with apologies, but it is needless to say that your Committee never wearies of communications of this kind.

OUR SPEAKERS AND HELPERS.

Our very warm thanks are due to the speakers at our Public Meeting and Conference for so readily giving the time to come and help us, and for their interesting addresses. We are also indebted to the speakers on our panel for their enthusiastic help during the past year. Our thanks are no less due to the following, who have given willing and invaluable assistance with the increasing office work:—Miss M. Shotter (particularly for help during the Hon. Secretary's absence on holiday), Miss Dulcie de Butts (help with press cuttings, card index, &c.), Mrs. Carter Bell, Miss Catherine Shore, Miss C. T. Jones (addressing envelopes); Miss Margaret Gordon (cyclostyling); to all those who have acted as stewards at meetings; and to a member, who desires to remain anonymous, for the loan of a very useful large cupboard for the storage of papers.

CONCLUSION.

The previous Report ended on a note of hope and confidence, and, because everywhere there are signs of awakening interest in the question of the ministry of women, we look forward to our third year also with renewed confidence and courage. There has been real advance since the issue of the previous Report—the United Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) decided last year that women should be eligible for ordination and induction as ministers; and in the Wesleyan and Methodist Churches the question of the admission of women to the ministry has been discussed, and will come up again as soon as the Union of those Churches has been effected. The Lambeth Report was admittedly disappointing, but we believe the leaven is working both in the Anglican and Free Churches, and, in the assurance that our cause is right, are enabled to work and "hope till hope creates from its own wreck the thing it contemplates."

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN
(INTERDENOMINATIONAL).**

Dr. Receipts and Payments Account from 1st January, 1930, to 31st March, 1931. Cr.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.										
				£	s.	d.								
To Cash at Bank	20	11	6	By Stationery	...	...	...	...	28	5	4
„ Cash in Hand:							„ Printing	...	...	...	...	10	7	0
Treasurer	7	6		„ Advertising	...	...	...	...	10	14	0
Secretary	3	4		„ Special Printing:							
Registrar	3	2	8	“Coming Ministry,”							
				6	14	2	Lambeth Memorandum, &c.	...	...	...	...	22	19	8
„ Donations and Subscriptions:							„ Hire of Halls for Meetings	...	...	...	...	6	6	0
Received by Registrar	71	2	8	„ Postage	...	...	...	...	18	8	5
Received by Treasurer	1	11	0	„ Sundry Expenses	...	...	...	...	2	2	1
				72	13	8	„ Bank Charges and Cheque Book	...	...	...	...	10	3	
„ Donations and Subscriptions							„ Cash at Bank	...	...	...	...	25	14	10
for “Coming Ministry,” &c.				15	0	6	„ Cash in Hand:				£ s. d.			
„ Sale of Pamphlets	5	12	0	Treasurer	...	...	...	8	6		
„ Receipts at Annual Meeting							Secretary	...	...	...	3	19	9	
and Conference	9	19	2	Registrar	...	...	...	15	2		
				£130	11	0					5	3	5	
				£130	11	0					£130	11	0	

Examined with Books and Vouchers, and found correct.

Monkridge,
Sidecup.
April, 1931.

KENNETH HEPBURN,
Chartered Accountant.

Society for the Ministry of Women

(Interdenominational)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

(a) PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS, AND OFFICERS.

(b) DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

(Representing members of the Society who are members of the respective denominations.)

Anglican:

Mrs. Beatrice Powell. Miss Margaret Taylor, M.A.

Baptist:

Miss Jessie March. Miss Mary Phillips.

Congregational:

Mrs. J. Binns, M.A.

Methodist:

Miss Dorothy Browning.

Presbyterian:

Miss Phyllis Prestige.

Unitarian:

(Vacant.)

(c) ELECTED MEMBERS.

Miss Cecil Barker, M.A.

Rev. James Binns, M.A.

Miss Lucy Hammick.

Miss Carol Morrison, M.A.

Dr. Eva Morton.

Mrs. Joyce Pollard.

Dr. Sybil Pratt.

Miss Monica Whately.

(d) CO-OPTED MEMBERS.

Rev. Rosalind Lee, M.A.

Miss Margaret Gordon.

Society for the Ministry of Women

(Incorporated)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



President: Mrs. Elizabeth G. ...

Vice-President: Mrs. ...

Secretary: Mrs. ...

Treasurer: Mrs. ...

Editor: Mrs. ...

Miss Jessie ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

(Name)

(Name)

Miss ...

Rev. James ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

Dr. ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

Miss ...

(Name)

Rev. ...

Miss ...

