

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Women's Bills in Parliament.

We are glad that after all the Labour Party has justified our hopes expressed last week, and that the Resolution on Widows' Pensions tabled for Wednesday, 1st April, has taken the following form:—"To call attention to the question of Mothers' Pensions; and to move, that in view of the urgent necessity that, wholly apart from the Poor Law, pensions adequate for the proper upbringing and maintenance of children should be provided by the State for all widows with children, or mothers whose family breadwinner has become incapacitated, this House calls for the introduction this Session of the required legislation." We go to Press too early to print a report of the debate. Also too late for report will come the debate in the House of Lords on Thursday, 2nd April, on the reform of the Second Chamber, during which it is hoped that the admission of women to the reformed House of Lords on the same terms as men will at any rate have been ventilated. On the same day the Legitimacy Bill is down to come up for its Committee Stage in the House of Lords. Owing to the pressure of Parliamentary time before the Easter Recess it seems improbable that the Report Stages of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill and the Guardianship of Infants Bill will be taken until the House re-assembles.

Pensions for Widows—Late News.

As we go to press we learn that Sir Henry Curtis Bennett is moving an amendment which, while approving the principle of a scheme of State-aided pensions for widowed mothers, expresses the opinion that this should form part of a general extension of the insurance system upon a contributory basis, and asks that legislation for this purpose should be introduced during the life of the present Parliament. It is abundantly clear that this will be carried, and once again we shall have to protest at the case of the widows being thrust into the background and the help it is proposed to offer being so limited in extent. We return to this subject next week.

Teachers' Salaries—the Burnham Award.

To understand the Burnham award would seem to require several years' solid training. The original Burnham Scale was difficult enough, the voluntary cut of 5 per cent added

puzzling arithmetical calculations, and now the new adjustment makes matters more confusing still. In the large, however, it is easy to perceive that the award is ingenious; that it does not seriously inflame any old grievances, and in the main leaves things more or less as they were. The dropping out of the first increment for young teachers makes a considerable saving for the Local Authorities, without really upsetting the prospects of teachers, and the other small adjustments seem to be based on generally accepted principles. The women teachers have, in the large, slightly lost and the men teachers slightly gained by the award, but over the whole field the general custom of this profession that women's salaries and increments should be just about four-fifths those of men is maintained. It is, of course, profoundly unsatisfactory to all of us who believe in equal pay that Lord Burnham did not take this opportunity of fundamentally correcting the basis of salaries in this profession. But short of this the maintenance of the *status quo* seems to be the course of least resistance.

Women and the Lodger Vote.

Two interesting cases showing how difficult it is for women to get on the register as lodgers occurred recently at Dundee. The first applicant was a woman living with her sister; the room was her own, and part of the furniture was hers. The claim was disallowed by the registration officer on the ground that as the claimant's sister had no power to sublet the room to her she could not therefore be regarded as a lodger; the two sisters simply lived together. The other case was that of a woman living in an unfurnished room with her own furniture. She was held to be a licensee and not a lodger as there was no written document to show that the tenant had a legal right to sublet the room to her, though it was certainly in keeping with the consent of the landlord. In this case the claimant by getting the landlord to certify in writing that he accepted her as a tenant would be able to rectify the position, but the difficulty shows how hedged round with legal complications the woman's lodger vote is. It really needs legal knowledge before a woman can be sure she has taken the necessary steps to secure the lodger vote.

Married Women as Cotton Spinners.

The recent controversy in the Press *re* employment of married women in spinning rooms in Lancashire mills proves on inquiry to be but a storm in a tea-cup. It arose from a paragraph in the annual report of the Operative Cotton Spinners' Insurance Section, which stated that there had been an excessive incidence of sickness among their women members, particularly the married ones, due chiefly to pregnancy, and went on to say that the spinning room is not suitable for the employment of women, and that in the interests of the future generation it would be wise to discontinue the employment of married women. An analysis of sickness benefit in the said report does not appear to support this view, neither is it endorsed by a leading official in the Operative Cotton Spinners' Association. In his opinion any undue sickness has been caused by privations due to short time in some sections of the cotton trade. With regard to the work itself, the fingers of girls and women are much more pliable for the job of sidepiecing and little piecing than are boys' and men's, and the wages 16s. and £1 6s. respectively for a full week's work are not sufficient to attract the latter to any great extent. There is no immediate danger that the employment of women in the spinning rooms will be discontinued from the

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point of view of an adequate supply of labour; but in the cotton as in many other trades the employment of married women is a matter of convenience to the trade, and when it no longer serves that convenience it will be thrown aside like a worn-out garment.

Deputation to the Home Secretary on the Factories Bill.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, supported by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the Women's Freedom League and the Women's Engineering Society, are asking the Home Secretary to receive a Deputation in order to lay before him the policy of the N.U.S.E.C. that all restrictive legislation in industry should be based on the type of the work, and not on the sex of the worker.

Women on the Land.

There is at present an increasing demand in the British Isles for women workers on the land, and, according to the newly issued *Report and Journal of the Women's Farm and Garden Association*, 1924 has proved the best year since the war with regard to agricultural and horticultural positions for women employees. Most of the posts filled by this Association during the past year have been on small farms where efficiency in milking and butter-making in the worker has been found an asset, but vacancies have also occurred on small holdings owned by women and on those farms where a woman is preferred for the tending of pedigree herds. Temporary women workers during the summer months last year were in great request. A register of skilled workers—whether agricultural or horticultural—is kept by the Association at its headquarters (23 Park Road, Upper Baker Street, London, N.W. 11).

Women in Texas.

The *Times* Texas Supplement, issued on Tuesday, gives an interesting account of the appointment of Mrs. Miriam Ferguson as Governor of Texas, and a message from her inviting readers of *The Times* to attend the International Convention of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, which is to meet in Texas next May. "We want you to know the romance of our past, the accomplishments of our present, and the opportunities of our future. We want a chance to say to you as Texans say to all newcomers, 'Howdy, stranger! Turn your horse into the corral and draw up to the table.'" Mrs. Ferguson's first act as Governor was to appoint Mrs. Meharg Secretary of State. A valuable article on women in politics, which is contributed by Mrs. J. T. Macallam, should be read by all interested in the women's movement, as it gives a most spirited account of the activity of women in State affairs. Mrs. Macallam says that the uninformed public imagine that the direction of the affairs of state is in the hands of "big strong gun-carrying men who shoot first and ask questions afterwards," whereas as a matter of fact the men of Texas have been quick to realize the worth of their women helpmates. "It is probable that in no State of the Union are men and women found working together shoulder to shoulder in the common cause in a greater degree of amity and co-operation than in the Lone Star State."

Women and Cancer Research.

The London Association of the Medical Women's Federation have recently formed a Cancer Research Committee; they feel that with the exceptional opportunities they have for the study and treatment of cancer in women, they should be able to give their special contribution to the investigation of this dire disease. The Committee includes the senior members of the honorary staffs of the five largest hospitals staffed entirely or partly by women, and will work in co-operation with the Medical Research Council, so as to co-ordinate their investigations with those being carried out elsewhere. The Medical Research Council have offered the Committee a loan of a quantity of radium worth about £2,000, but all the necessary funds will have to be collected by the Committee. An appeal from Dr. Maud Chadburn for £30,000, which it is estimated will be needed for the scheme, appeared in *The Times* and other papers on Saturday, 28th March.

The Bastardy Bill.

The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child have issued a leaflet on the new Bastardy Bill, explaining its provisions and dealing with some of the objections that are raised against it. Anyone who wishes information on the subject will find it clearly set out in this leaflet.

International Council of Women.

The Final Agenda of the Washington Conference of the International Council of Women is now available. A notice of the preliminary agenda appeared in our issue of 16th January.

Exclusion of Women from the Courts.

The Vote has, in its issue of 27th March, an open letter to Women Magistrates protesting against the request made to a woman magistrate at Southport not to take her place on the bench when a case of assault on two young girls by an elderly man was being heard. The Women's Freedom League has asked the Home Secretary to receive a deputation on the exclusion of women from the Courts of Justice. We, of course, entirely agree with the point of view of the Women's Freedom League, and have repeatedly emphasized the point. Any of our readers who could let us have accounts of similar instances which have come to their own knowledge are asked to communicate with us as soon as possible.

Some Resolutions of Women's Societies.

The St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance held its annual meeting on 14th March. The resolutions dealt with most of the specifically feminist questions at present before the country and were, with two exceptions, very similar to those recently passed at the Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. The resolution on Equal Guardianship, however, expressed only regret that the Government Bill does not specifically give mothers complete equality with the fathers in the guardianship of the children; it extended no welcome to a Bill that, though it admittedly does not go as far as the feminists would like, nevertheless does confer very real benefits. On the subject of Birth Control, the Alliance being definitely a Roman Catholic body, naturally takes the point of view of its Church and is resolutely opposed to any teaching on the subject which would be given at public expense and under the Government aegis. The agenda for the Council Meeting of the Women's National Liberal Federation, which has just been issued, includes certain subjects of interest to the readers of this paper. It urges all Liberal women to study the question of Family Endowment as "an issue of great national importance," and pledges its support to Equal Franchise and Widows' Pensions.

Women Conservatives and Equal Franchise.

A meeting took place recently in Bolton, when Mr. J. W. Cunliffe, K.C., met members of the Women's Conservative Association. Mr. Cunliffe gave an address on Parliamentary affairs of peculiar interest to women, including Equal Guardianship, Nationality of Married Women and Equal Franchise. Mr. Cunliffe was one of the small group of Conservatives who voted against the Government on the private member's Bill for Equal Franchise recently introduced by Mr. Whiteley, and he declared himself quite impenitent at having obeyed the dictates of his conscience.

Questions in Parliament.

Factories Bill.—In reply to questions from Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke, Sir W. Joynson Hicks stated that the proposed Factories Bill will bring all workshops into the category of factories, and that it will be both a consolidating of the existing law and an advance as regards amendments of the law.

Women Prisoners.—Mr. Cecil Wilson, in a question, drew attention to the fact that 2,886 women who were convicted during the year had all previously been convicted more than 20 times, and asked whether, as a number of them are feeble-minded, some other method of dealing with them could not be devised. In reply, Sir W. Joynson Hicks said that those who came within the Mental Deficiency Act were dealt with accordingly. The only alternative for the others would be the introduction of some prolonged form of detention which would be costly and might prove highly controversial.

Bastardy Bill.—In reply to questions from Capt. Bowyer, the Prime Minister stated that the Government did not propose to give facilities for the second reading of the Bastardy Bill. The question might be reconsidered later, but in the present state of public business there was no prospect of making time for a Private Member's Bill.

Equal Pay in the Civil Service.—In reply to a question from Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Guinness stated that there were a few medical posts in the Civil Service in which men and women doctors received the same rate of pay. In these cases special circumstances existed, and no general principle has been applied.

OVERBOARD WITH THE WOMEN.

The Burnham arbitration award on teachers' salaries has come at last, and since all appearances point to its acceptance for a period of six years by Local Authorities and teachers' organizations, its terms are worth a little critical examination. It is, in some ways, not as bad as it might be. The whole demand of the local authorities for a 5 per cent. reduction in teachers' salaries is not met. It is ingeniously compromised by a system of regrading which conduces on the whole to the advantage of higher qualifications and long service. And it contains some beneficent recommendations for the coercion of the more penurious education authorities and for the housing of elementary school teachers in the neighbourhood of their schools. So far so good. *But, as usual, the women have been thrown overboard to lighten the ship.* If the cry "women first" sounds a hundred times from the bridge of a sinking ship, it sounds a thousand times from the lips of those who have economic hardships to dispense or economic opportunities to withdraw. Thus, according to the terms of the new award, while there is a perceptible decrease in the earning power of the main body of teachers, that decrease is more marked in the case of the women. In elementary schools, where the new maxima and minima show everywhere a slight increase for men, for women the minima of scales 1 and 2 and the maximum of scale 1 shows an absolute decrease. Again, while the annual increment in the men's scale is £12, in the case of women it has been reduced to £9. A proportionate sex discrimination is shown in the case of graduate teachers in secondary schools. That the organized women teachers are profoundly dissatisfied with this arrangement we are not surprised. They themselves (we quote from a resolution passed by the National Union of Women Teachers), though profoundly dissatisfied, are not surprised at the result "considering that the Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries consisted of forty-seven men and only three women, although the majority of teachers are women teachers." Indeed, there is no room for surprise in a situation which is wholly familiar. Yet that does not render the situation any more tolerable. It is frankly intolerable that under a fluttering feestoon of paper political declaration in favour of economic and legal equality the women teachers should be moving inexorably down the hill of unequal pay for equal work.

Meanwhile, since apparently we shall have six solid years in which to meditate upon this deplorable injustice, let us at the outset consider a few of its larger implications. Taking the new scale as a whole it appears that over the forty-four years of a teacher's normal professional life the aggregate salary of a woman will amount to something like 81 or 82 per cent. of the aggregate salary of a man. What, we may ask, is the economic or social fact which accounts for the presence of this 18 to 19 per cent.

GUARDIANS OF THE POOR—NEW AND OLD.

The Poor Law is unquestionably the Cinderella of Local Government. Very few people outside its own circles are in the least interested. Only a small minority of voters take the trouble to vote. Ratepayers seldom use their right to attend meetings of Boards of Guardians and but scanty reports appear in the local Press. Perhaps the strongest evidence of the lack of interest is the recent tendency to regard it as "woman's work." We hear that some men have recently refused to stand as candidates on those grounds, and we read in the *Municipal Journal* that the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Edmonton Board of Guardians has expressed the view that men members are less diligent than formerly and that the control is passing more and more into the hands of women. There are many reasons for the indifference to Poor Law administration and in them we find one of the strongest arguments for long overdue reform which has been promised. The operations of the Poor Law, though closely concerned with other aspects of local government, are too much segregated, and it is not wholly unnatural that the public should be more interested in the more constructive and preventive activities of public authorities such as education, housing, etc., than in those which are largely remedial in their nature. If the functions of the Poor Law were transferred to the Municipal authorities as has been suggested public assistance would fit into its right place in local government; its operations would be co-ordinated with other departments of the public services and its present unsatisfactory isolation and excessive concentration on the cure rather than the prevention of poverty could be removed. It is impossible, however, to join those who fail to appreciate the immense range covered by the Poor Law as it stands at present,

discrepancy? That it represents the margin of relative efficiency in the quality or quantity of work done we may dismiss as absurd. If ever there were a clear case of equality of efficiency, equality of training, and equality of strain as between the work of men and women, that case is to be found in the teaching profession. As a matter of fact we know very well that the discrepancy reflects the relative value of men's and women's labour "as a commodity" (to use the phrase of our Communist contemporaries) in a competitive market where women's opportunities are arbitrarily restricted. In such a market the local authorities can, if they choose, get women cheap. But that our public representatives should take advantage of such conditions to get women cheap, irrespective of abstract justice, irrespective of the permanent contentment of their staff, and irrespective of the exigencies of varying human needs, appears to us inadmissible. But there is another specious explanation of this 18 to 19 per cent., one beloved of the organized male teacher and suggested by the phrase "exigencies of varying human needs." This 18 to 19 per cent. margin represents, it is sometimes said, a social recognition of the cost of that family which most men teachers either have or expect some day to have dependent upon their salary. Rough justice this—to give an 18 or 19 per cent. margin to the man who has no family in order that he who has may receive a wholly insufficient recognition of his greater need. It is rough justice on the woman teacher condemned to yield pride of place to a childless male colleague engaged upon precisely the same work. It is rougher justice still on the mother of the male teacher's children, condemned to carry on her job with resources which might defray the annual cost of a small motor-car or a vacation's travel, but is altogether inadequate to meet the exacting and varying requirements of a middle-class family. And it is rough justice on the electors of this country, in whose name the thing is done, and who, blind as they are to the implications of their faith, nevertheless do believe that the family's emergence and well-being are a condition of national survival. Rough justice it is, and rough justice it will remain, until the woman teacher and the male teacher's wife make common cause and, recognizing the value of one another's work, demand equal pay for the work of the school and adequate provision by the payment of family allowances for the no less important work of the home.

Meanwhile, the childless male teacher with his parrot-like cry for an inadequate universal surplus to cover the costs of children which don't exist, cuts a sorry figure in the controversy. Indeed, he has a certain kinship with the professional beggar on the kerbstone who has borrowed a friend's starving baby in order to appeal the more forcibly to the sympathies of the alms-giving public.¹

¹ We have received a communication on the subject of the Burnham Award too late for this issue which we will print next week.

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.¹

By **MILlicent GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.**

CHAPTER XIX.—DAMASCUS (*continued*)

Another ancient building in Damascus which greatly interested and delighted us was an immense Khan. The days of its glory have probably departed for ever, since the making of the railway; but formerly, when all the trade between Damascus and the rest of the world was carried by caravan, this was probably its focus and centre. It seems to have combined the functions of a bourse, of a storehouse, of an inn, and of stables. It is on an immense scale comparable in size and dignity with a fine cathedral, and is without interior divisions from floor to roof. The whole interior is in black and white, in broad bands, reminding me of Siena Cathedral. Here and there we saw places which might be compared with the chapels of a cathedral, into which merchants could withdraw and conduct their negotiations; other places were almost like bankers' offices, others where their bales and merchandise could be stored, and in other parts were large spaces where camels could be stabled, loaded and unloaded. It was the most unique and the most suggestive of the former commercial greatness of Damascus of all the sights we saw within the city.

Of course, we visited the famous bazaars. We were conducted to one of them by our dragoman. Outside it looked simply like an ordinary shop, but within there seemed no end to the variety and richness of its wares; silks of all kinds in endless profusion, carpets which in number and value would put Cardinal and Harford to the blush, besides Roman and other antique glass, Greek coins of Alexander and earlier, statuary of marble and ivory, all kinds of antique treasures, not only good in quality but in immense quantity. Our travelling companion was a collector of beautiful things, and especially of antique glass, and she bought several specimens in this bazaar. They were quickly packed in a box and carried by our dragoman back to our hotel. When we were at dinner that evening a messenger from the bazaar arrived to say that his employer had accidentally discovered that his packer had injured one of Miss J. F.'s glass vessels when he was putting it up, and he therefore was sending her another in perfect condition to take its place. Investigation of the original package showed that this was correct. We thought this was a delightful specimen of commercial honesty and oriental politeness.

One of the first things every Christian asks for in Damascus is the street called Straight and here it is to this day still bearing the same name, a very long street from one end of the city to the other, from west to east, not too straight, and a good English mile in length. It and many other streets in Damascus are marked in English eyes by being covered in overhead with sheets of matting, no doubt to protect wayfarers from sun and rain, but it is not cheerful to be in a perpetual tunnel, and in narrow streets, with fairly high houses, it is always easy to find shade and shelter.

On the road between Jerusalem and Damascus I am told that the exact spot of Paul's conversion is shown and where he was stricken with blindness; in Damascus itself is the house of Ananias, who in a vision was instructed by God "to go into the street called Straight and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold he prayeth." Ananias recalled the evil Saul had done in Jerusalem. "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way, for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. . . . And Ananias went his way and entered into the house and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared to thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost; and immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales and he received sight forthwith and arose and was baptized. And when he had received meat he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were in Damascus." (Acts ix, 5, 11, 19.) All this was vividly brought before us in the ancient city, and how the Jews took counsel to kill Paul and watched at the gates day and night so that he should not escape, but how he was let down from the wall in a basket and got free, and his great missionary journeys with Barnabas began.

Not long after our return home I was reading one of Dean Inge's *Outspoken Essays*. The subject was St. Paul, and the Dean said that he had little doubt that the actual conversion of St. Paul really dated not from the vision on the road to Damascus but outside the gate of Jerusalem where he had witnessed a few weeks

¹ This is one of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of several months.

earlier the martyrdom of Stephen. It will be remembered that the men who stoned Stephen to death "laid down their clothes at a young man's feet whose name was Saul." So he must have been quite near Stephen and must have seen his face "as it had been the face of an angel" and heard his last words, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit" and "Lord lay not this sin to their charge." Dean Inge's argument is that no one of Paul's character, education, and temperament could have heard and seen these things without being deeply moved by them. He could not but ask himself what new power had come into the world which was capable of changing ordinary men not only into heroes but into saints. He did not, we may be sure, entertain these new thoughts without a struggle against them. Saul was consenting to Stephen's death; he could not at first bring himself to acknowledge he had been wrong and for a time he went on "making havock of the church." But on the lonely desert journey from Jerusalem to Damascus the vision came to him; he was blinded physically, but his eyes were opened spiritually. He could no longer pursue his old evil way, and he had the strength given to him to confess himself wrong and to dedicate himself to spread the light he had formerly derided. I think it is Dean Inge too who remarks that even now visions not infrequently are vouchsafed to men in the desert.

SECURITY, PACT AND PROTOCOL.¹

Speaking last week at the Memorial Hall on Security, the Pact and Protocol, Mrs. Swanwick said that because the Peace Treaties brought insecurity, it did not follow that a frontal attack on them now would bring security. The way to get revision was to get rid of the state of panic in Europe. It was hoped that the Protocol would do this, and create the necessary state of mind. The League of Nations should lay the plans for carrying out Article XIX of the Covenant. It was not especially necessary to have a permanent Commission appointed for dealing with minority questions. It was also essential that future proposals brought before the League should be discussed fully beforehand: both the Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance and the Protocol had been turned down in a summary manner under the Labour and Conservative Governments respectively in this country. This method of procedure had made an unfortunate impression.

Regarding the recent German offer, she looked upon it as an epoch-making event. It provided a basis for future agreement on security and from a moral point of view it re-enforced the demand that Germany should be in the League. Her offer to accept the Western Frontier was not only wise, but showed a really great spirit. She was glad to see how Mr. Chamberlain had received it. Considering the questions arising from the Eastern boundaries, the unofficial statement that Germany would support peaceful settlement and never attempt to alter them by force, went further than anything she had heard of from any State. Although the idea of a five-power Pact was preferable to the Tripartite Agreement, there would be considerable danger while Russia was excluded. The idea might, however, be extended till it included all the States within the League and even beyond.

Whatever defensive agreements were made should be subject to arbitral decisions, and the definition of the aggressor—otherwise the old difficulties would crop up. This would carry us far towards the principles of the Protocol.

Consent to submit to Arbitration by some impartial body would be an enormous gain, even if the nation that did so had to suffer by it. It would doubtless involve faith and courage. Was not this high patriotism?

REVIEWS.

"MRS. HARTER."²

Miss Delafield never disappoints us—though sometimes she surprises us. And if it were not for the overture played out in *Messalina of the Suburbs*, her present plunge into the tragedy of *grande passion* would have surprised us very much indeed. Whatever else may be said about Miss Delafield's later work, in relation to her first cheerful masterpiece, *The War Workers*, there is no doubt that she is drawing year by year upon a wider and deeper field of human experience; and now at last, for better or for worse, she has touched ambitiously one of those unplumbed depths which are apt to leave the reader all too conscious of the leadman's limitations. Nevertheless, Miss Delafield is shrewdly conscious of her problem's mountainous

¹ Contributed by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.
² *Mrs. Harter*, by E. M. Delafield. (Hutchinson and Co., 7s. 6d.)

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

BY DORA MELLONE.

TAKING STOCK.

The Annual Meeting of the Belfast Women Citizens' Union was of unusual interest this year. This may have been due to the fact that for the first time in the history of the Society the chair was taken by a member of the Cabinet of Northern Ireland. Perhaps this also accounted for the mood of cheerful reminiscence which dominated the meeting. One speaker, the Hon. Secretary of the Londonderry Women Citizens' Association, dwelt on the work of two outstanding women—Mrs. Humphrey Ward and Dame Millicent Fawcett. The speaker pointed out that one reason for the ineffectiveness of Mrs. Ward's work had been her failure to recognize that the differences between men and women, on which she laid so much stress, were the justification for the claim of equal opportunity for service. Dame Millicent Fawcett, on the other hand, has laid the foundations for that equal citizenship which will in time be achieved, in spite of all delays and apparent setbacks.

The legislative record during the past six years of enfranchisement was reviewed; the familiar story of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act retold; the need for more Women Police, more Women Magistrates, more Women in the Local Councils, and more Women in Parliament, emphasized. Various points in the 1918 programme of the Society, now embodied in legislation, were enumerated. These included measures of first-class importance, such as the Education Act, establishing for the first time in Northern Ireland real compulsory education and the Licensing Act. The latter provides for the abolition of spirit groceries and complete Sunday closing. It is satisfactory to note a decrease of 32 per cent. in the number of convictions for drunkenness as a result of Sunday closing. Other measures were the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act and the Illegitimacy Act (the latter a better title than that of the new Bill in the Imperial Parliament).

FUTURE WORK.

The debate on Equal Franchise was followed here, as in Great Britain, with the closest interest. The local Press evidently considered it a live question, as ample space was given for the usual jokes. One local paper regarded the introduction of the measure as "a Socialist manoeuvre." The same paper, however, inserted the significant letter from the young men's group, and sadly admitted that the change was bound to come. The situation in Northern Ireland is entirely changed by the sudden news of the General Election. The new Parliament will have the power to change the franchise. Hence the electoral programme of the Women's Advisory Council places Equal Citizenship in the forefront. A deputation will wait on the Prime Minister for Northern Ireland to ask for a definite pledge on this subject. The deputation will consist mainly of the "dangerous young woman" under thirty. University graduates and working women will put the case. The electoral manifesto of the Prime Minister contained no reference to the question, hence the importance of this deputation.

The same demand will be put before candidates of every party. So far no candidate has made any reference to the matter, but the election will happily be conducted under P.R.—possibly for the last time, as the principle of minority representation is not popular in Northern Ireland—and therefore no candidate can ignore the demands of even a comparatively small group.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

Meanwhile, administration is being closely watched by the women's organizations both in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Free State. At present no women are included among the visiting magistrates of the prisons. The women's organizations in Northern Ireland are in communication with the Minister of Home Affairs with regard to the appointment of a woman visiting magistrate for Armagh Gaol. In the Free State the Irish Women Citizens' Association is urging the Minister of Justice to appoint one-half of the Visiting Committees under the Prison Bill, the County Councils appointing the other half, and to include at least two women in these visiting committees. Women voters in the Free State are being asked through the Press, in the constituencies where bye-elections are at present taking place, to support only those candidates who will undertake to promote the rights of women as citizens and oppose any legislation or administrative action which would tend to restrict those rights.

difficulties. So conscious that she is content to stand outside her tragedy, herself among the onlookers, describing its reactions upon its external environment, and surmising, but no more than surmising, in company with the onlookers, the nature of the tie which binds the two central figures to one another. Her story is simplicity itself: its hero and heroine, the eternal Tristan and Isolde. An unhappily married woman, and a younger man of widely different traditions and social antecedents, meet by chance in the same narrow circle of village community life. Providence, in its infinite perversity, administers the love potion. Thereafter, through the mesh of gossip and merriment, concerts, picnics, and theatricals of their small social group, the two move forward to their inevitable doom. Round the charmed circle of their high tragedy Miss Delafield's humour dances with all its accustomed impishness, but on the tragedy itself she lays delicate and tentative hands—an achievement which carries her yet a step nearer to the front rank of British novelists.

M. D. S.

A MOTHER OF KINGS.¹

Those of us who went to school in the days when history was ground into the young by means of wearisome lists of dates of battles and kings and queens have vivid memories of the romantic incidents which from time to time relieved the monotony. In particular the battle of Bosworth Field, which ended the confusion of the Wars of the Roses, stands out as a landmark in our imagination. The wicked King Richard III, the villain of the murder of the little Princes in the Tower, was slain in the fight, and at the end of the day his crown, which he had worn over his helmet, was found in a hawthorn bush and placed on the head of his rival, Henry of Richmond! Thus, after fourteen years' exile in Brittany Henry VII ascended the throne and England entered into a new era of her history. But we learnt nothing in our schooldays of the part his mother played in winning the crown for him and his descendants. In a memoir of Lady Margaret Beaufort, by Miss E. M. G. Routh, issued on behalf of the Appeal Fund for Lady Margaret Hall, the story is told with much charm and sympathy. Students of the fifteenth century are well acquainted with the life and character of Margaret Beaufort through the records left by her friend, Bishop Fisher. Her generosity in the cause of education is gratefully remembered by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The present sketch, the author tells us, contains little information that is new; but we venture to think that it will be welcomed alike by the scholar with a detailed knowledge of the period and by the ordinary reader to whom the older biographies which are now out of print may not be readily accessible.

D. L.

AN INDISPENSABLE HANDBOOK.²

The National Council of Social Service has issued a new edition of its invaluable handbook on the public social services. The Speaker of the House of Commons, who is President of the Council, contributes a preface in which he says that the book should be on the desk of every important officer engaged in National or Local Government and in the hands of every elected public servant and every voluntary social worker. "Its possession will save time and worry without end to everyone who feels himself to be, in whatever degree, his brother's keeper." The headings of the table of contents give some idea of the wide ground covered in the little volume: Public Health, including Housing, National Health Insurance, Poor Law, Old Age Pensions, Education, Industry and Employment, Administration of Police, War Pensions. An excellent index enables the inquirer to lay his finger on the fact he wants without delay. Two shillings expended in this way will be money well spent.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We have received a copy of *Bournville, 1925*, dealing with transport in connexion with the Bournville factory. Though sent in the way of advertisement, we think that anyone who is giving citizenship classes at schools, girls' clubs, or similar organizations would find it of real value in illustrating how many and what various parts of the world contribute to the making of an article as familiar as Cadbury's chocolate, and how widespread is the distribution of British goods, for the paper is illustrated with photos of Africa, South America, Persia, Shanghai, Sicily, and Spain, to name only a few.

¹ *Lady Margaret: A Memoir of Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby, mother of Henry VII.* By E. M. G. Routh. (Humphrey Milford, 6s. 6d.)

² *Public Social Services*, published by the National Council of Social Service, Stapley House, 33 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. 1.

THE LAW AT WORK.¹ THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL.

This Bill, which was recently introduced into the House of Commons by the Home Secretary, is with one or two additions the same Bill as passed through the House of Lords during the session of 1924. It is of particular interest to women magistrates, who have repeatedly pressed for many of the reforms contained in it. The most important of the proposals are the following.

A Probation System is for the first time to be established. Instead of the existing practice by which many courts have no probation officer at all, and there is no standard either of pay or of qualifications for the officers that there are, we are to have a probation officer appointed compulsorily for every area or group of areas, his or her salary is to be approved by the Secretary of State, who may also arrange for superannuation allowances, and a certain percentage (50 per cent. is the amount generally expected, though this is not mentioned in the Bill) of the salary will be paid by the Secretary of State from State funds. It is also provided that Probation Committees shall be appointed from the justices in each area or combined area, and that these Committees shall among other duties supervise the work of and receive reports from the Probation Officers.

Another provision which meets a long-felt want is that the local authority is to be allowed to contribute to the expense of maintaining persons who have been released on probation under a condition as to residence. This will enable the cost of a probationer to be paid while he is resident in a home or hostel or is boarded out. The part of the Bill which deals with Probation is quite uncontroversial; it is long overdue, and should be passed into law speedily and unchanged.

An attempt is made in the Bill to expedite the course of justice by shortening the time between the preliminary hearing by the justices and the trial at quarter sessions or assizes. This has been strongly urged from many quarters. A large number of persons spend this period of waiting in gaol under conditions which are penal in character, and if they are in the end acquitted an injustice has been done by imposing upon them a long period of detention. Even if the defendant is on bail, the suspense may be a very great hardship. At present this waiting time may be as much as five months, if a person is committed directly after the Assizes have been held and has to wait to be tried at the next Assizes. It is proposed in the Bill that if the waiting time is as much as two months till the local Assizes or six weeks till the local Quarter Sessions, the justices shall have power to order the defendant to be tried at the next Assizes or Quarter Sessions wherever they may be, unless he can satisfy them that this course would inflict undue hardship upon him. If the justices choose to exercise this new power the most glaring cases of delay will be eliminated.

It is also with a view to getting rid of the need of awaiting trial that certain offences are made triable at Quarter Sessions instead of only at Assizes, so that a case can be sent to Quarter Sessions if these take place sooner than Assizes. And with the same object the justices are to have power with the consent of the accused to deal with certain offences which they are at present compelled to commit to a higher court. Among these latter are included attempted suicide and the publishing or selling of indecent books and writings.

Various miscellaneous matters are dealt with in the Bill, such as the prohibition of taking photographs or making pictures of persons engaged in a trial, and also the abolition of the presumption that if a wife commits an offence in the presence of her husband, she is acting under his coercion.

Clause 30 is a clause which has been introduced into this Bill and was not in the Bill of 1924. It needs careful scrutiny. It gives the police power (on a warrant which may be issued by one justice) to enter any place, if need be by force, to search the place and any persons there, and to seize any articles or documents found therein. This is in cases where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that an indictable offence has been committed. We are not reassured as to this clause by reading that it is based on a suggestion contained in the report of Mr. Justice Talbot's Committee appointed to review the provisions of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, 1920.

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

AN OUNCE OF RECORDED FACT.

An ounce of recorded fact is worth a bushel of theory where the hot controversy of Birth Control is concerned. And Dr. Marie Stopes' first report¹ of her Holloway "Mothers' Clinic" gives us in highly concentrated form a great mass of carefully sifted information—the records, in fact, of the first 5,000 cases treated at her own clinic. Here are the broad results: Of the 5,000 cases dealt with, 4,834 desired contraceptive information in order to space the births of their children. The remaining 166 were childless and desired information with a view to becoming pregnant. Quite a large number of these last, we are told, were effectively dealt with, and secured the babies desired. An alternative classification of the 5,000 shows 4,946 married mothers, two unmarried, and 52 betrothed couples about to be married. In the case of this last group it is recorded that in each case "good reasons" were given for the desired information: immediate departure for some remote quarter of the globe, or, in the case of some very poor applicants, the impossibility of finding immediately adequate housing accommodation.

In the case of the 4,834 cases who sought contraceptive knowledge, 4,235 had borne at least one child before visiting the centre. Where this was not the case the reason given was either insanity in the family of one of the parents, tuberculosis, abnormality of physical structure, or unemployment. After some months' experience, however, owing to pressure of demands, advice was restricted to mothers who had borne at least one child. In connexion with this group a detailed table is given showing the total number of pregnancies, live children, deaths, and miscarriages recorded before the first visit to the centre. The table shows a significant increase in the percentages of deaths and miscarriages coincident with the increase in the number of pregnancies. This tendency leads Dr. Stopes to the conclusion that "repeated pregnancies are in themselves a cause of infant mortality, which no environmental conditions can counteract completely." We are ready to believe that this is so. Nevertheless, the increasing inadequacy of economic resources in a growing family, plus the increasing incentive to bring about miscarriage by violent physical activities or other more deliberate methods, would, in our opinion, go a long way to account for the coincidence to which Dr. Stopes draws attention.

Lack of space forbids us to quote further from this interesting record. Suffice to say that it contains also a detailed account of the methods used at the Holloway centre, together with its author's reasons for preferring them to other methods recommended by other centres. On these points we are not, of course, competent to criticize or support the conclusions of Dr. Stopes. With her main conclusion we are, however, in hearty agreement. "Although my husband and I," she writes, "were the founders of the first British birth control clinic, nevertheless, I do not consider that more birth control clinics as independent institutions should be necessary. The obvious and proper place for the poorer classes to obtain contraceptive information are the Ante-natal Clinics, and the Infant Welfare Centres, and the Hospitals which they may be attending." We support this conclusion without prejudice to the contention that so long as the Ministry of Health pursues its present policy in the matter such independent centres are necessary. But, we are convinced with Dr. Stopes that they ought not to be necessary, and we shall use our best endeavour to render them unnecessary. M. D. S.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD WOMEN CITIZEN ASSOCIATION.

We have received a copy of the eleventh annual report of the above association, which shows an interesting record of work. The association has dealt with questions connected with Open Air Education, the School Leaving Age, Housing, and the Women Police. The last of these matters is the one which will doubtless raise most interest amongst our readers. A determined effort is being made to induce the Manchester Watch Committee to reverse its decision and take on Women Police. The local branch of the National Council of Women has shown what can be done even by a small band of voluntary patrols, and the women of Manchester and Salford are determined to convince the local police authorities that women, rightly selected and trained, would be an asset to the force.

¹ The First Five Thousand, being the First Report of the First Birth Control Clinic in the British Empire; by Dr. Marie Stopes. John Bale Sons & Danielson, Ltd., pp. 67.

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CHAIRMEN, DATES, ETC., OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee Mrs. Stocks was elected Chairman, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Courtney Vice-Chairmen. It was agreed that the meetings of the Committee should take place on the fourth Wednesday in the month, at 11.30 a.m.

The General Purposes Committee will be held on the second Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

NEW SUB-COMMITTEES.

Two new sub-committees are being appointed this year to investigate and make recommendations with regard to the position of women in the Medical and Health Services, and in Trade and Commerce. Outside experts will be appointed on both these committees. The position of women in industry is being dealt with direct by the Executive Committee.

EASTER HOLIDAY.

The Office will be closed for Easter from Thursday, noon, 9th April, to Tuesday morning, 14th April.

N.U.S.E.C. SPEAKERS.

A new list of speakers is now being compiled, and it is hoped that speakers from different parts of the country who are willing to speak at meetings in their own neighbourhood, will send in their names for this most important work. Regular Speakers' Meetings on the lines of those held at Headquarters will be held in different centres if a sufficient number of names are sent in.

SUMMER SCHOOL.—St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, 25th August to 8th September.

The following have already consented to give lectures: Mr. J. L. Cohen, on "Social Insurance"; Miss Margery Fry, on "The Abolition of Capital Punishment"; Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, on "The Parliamentary Ideals of the Conservative Party"; Mrs. Le Mesurier, on "The After-care of Prisoners"; Miss Eleanor Rathbone, on "Separation and Maintenance"; Dr. Hamblin Smith, on "Psychology and the Criminal"; Mrs. Stocks, on "Birth Control." In addition to the groups already announced one is to be added—on "The League of Nations and International Affairs."

VOLUNTARY WORKER WANTED.

Will anyone volunteer for a mechanical, but very valuable piece of work, in connexion with the Summer School, which will take about two days? To be done in the Lord Chancellor's Office.

MONTHLY LETTER.

Owing to the holidays supervening, no Monthly Letter will be sent out before Easter. The next letter will be sent the last week in April, after the meeting of the Executive Committee.

MORE ECHOES OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council had a fairly good though, except in the case of one or two papers, not a very intelligent Press. Some of the cuttings have given us much amusement at headquarters. It is difficult to recognize the President as a leader of the High Church Party and a distinguished preacher. "Mrs. Mott Chester," "Mrs. Chester," and "Miss Picton" are much quoted as attacking the marriage service, but almost never is it stated which points in the marriage service Mrs. Mott and Miss Picton Turbervill described as calling for revision. A pleasing cutting reaches us from Bolton, where the impressions of a youthful delegate to the Council are given. Her impressions must encourage us to feel that it is not true to say it is impossible to attract the young. An observer in the gallery remarked that there was a larger sprinkling of young delegates than usual, and at least two junior associations and one women's college were represented.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The report of the Council Meeting can now be had on application to 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1, price 4d., and it is hoped that the Annual Report will be completed before the end of the month.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MENACE ON THE RHINE.

MADAM,—I am glad that your correspondent Euphemia M. Lancaster concedes the principle of liberty, though apparently she desires that it should be exercised only in a direction of which she approves! Personally, I prefer the teaching of the philosopher who said: "I will work to give you liberty, even though you use it against me."

Up to the present I have seen no reason to alter the opinions expressed in my letter of 13th February in commendation of your article "The Menace on the Rhine" in the previous week's issue.

Your correspondent refers to the cruelties practised by the Germans during the war, and to the lies circulated concerning their enemies. True, and very shameful, but these sins were not confined to any one of the countries at war. The "Jingo" section of the British Press was well "in the running" for abuse of the opposite side; and though we may not have been guilty of exactly the same kind of cruelties as the Germans yet we condoned others, equally bad. What about the continuance of blockade for months after the Armistice was signed? These things belong to War as such; and any nation which engages in war may be forced to practise them, however reluctantly. Therefore, let us seek earnestly and constantly the "more excellent way." "War fails; try Peace. Put up the useless sword."

ENGLISHWOMAN AND INTERNATIONALIST.

WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY.

MADAM,—It was a very pleasant surprise to find so substantial a majority of the delegates at the N.U.S.E.C. Council voting in favour of the resolution on the Ministry of Women in the Churches.

May I claim the hospitality of your columns to ask all delegates and others interested who are members of the Church of England to communicate with me? We are anxious to get information as to the status and condition of women's work in all the dioceses of England—information which can only be given by those knowing local conditions, and it would be a great help to get into touch with forward-thinking women in every diocese.

E. LOUIE ACRES,
Chairman, League of the Church Militant.

STEEL—AND OTHER—HOUSES.

MADAM,—In appealing for space in your paper regarding the above subject I may state that I am entirely free from partisan feeling in the matter, but it seems to me that the way in which the steel houses are being boomed in the Press, and the publicity given to the trade controversy concerning them are likely to submerge the issues that really matter. The claim that steel houses are only intended for a temporary housing of the people would be quite satisfactory if one were assured that all "temporary" houses are to be provided with the essential sanitary and domestic equipment as in the more durable types of houses; and that other houses for workers will be ready to supersede the "temporary" when needed.

Estimates of the life of a steel house vary from thirty to forty years. Is it likely that within thirty years the private builder will be ready with new and better accommodation at a rent within the means of the workers, or that the State will be prepared to rehouse them? Thus we may create another slum problem for the next generation to face. I may be wrong, but it appears to me that due consideration is not being given to concrete methods, and I beg to be allowed to suggest through your columns that a national organization of capable (and preferably non-party) women be formed to investigate at once the relative merits of the different house construction methods; to approve those of the greatest durability which can be erected with sufficient speed, and by unskilled labour of a nature least likely to cause trade disputes and delay. Having agreed upon a line of action, the committee might then by means of publicity campaigns, and bringing constant pressure to bear upon local and national authorities, make for such a speedy and non-stop erection of houses of durable nature and satisfactory equipment as will not be likely to bring about new slum conditions.

A national movement of women for housing action, would, I suggest, be a fitting sequence to their social and political emancipation. Equal citizenship should surely include equal opportunity in adequate housing for an equal standard of morality. In this the women would be placing first things first.

M. S. B.

SERVANTS AND DOMESTIC SERVICE?

MADAM,—The life of the middle classes to-day is often almost unbearable owing to a shortage of servants in good sized houses, and with a family. I propose the hated terms "Servant" and "Domestic Service" be abolished, and that servants shall be called "housekeepers," which they are. "Housekeepers" can be called "Managers," which they are. There is much in a name. Call a dog a bad name and hang him. Also all young women in all classes should be compelled by Law to study social and domestic science, whether princesses or peasants, duchesses or dancers, marchionesses or middle class.

M. DALE.

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APRIL 4. 2.30 p.m. Anniversary and Thanksgiving Service at Kingsway Hall. Addresses will be given by The Lord Bishop of Manchester and the Right Hon. Lord Eustace Percy, M.P. The service will be conducted by the Rev. Canon Raven, D.D. Tickets (free) from the Copeck Office, 92 St. George's Square, S.W. 1.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

APRIL 6. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Miss Margaret McMillan on "Nursery Schools and Outdoor Life for Children."

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

Bucknall, APRIL 15. "The Position of Women To-day." Speaker: Miss Auld.

Stoke, APRIL 16. "The Position of Women To-day." Speaker: Miss Auld.

Hanley, APRIL 20. "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30 (not Saturdays).

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 5th April. 3.30, Music; Viscountess Astor, M.P. 6.30, Maudie Royden. "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be."

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