

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS                      IN INDUSTRY                      IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE HOME                      IN LITERATURE AND ART                      IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Widows' Votes.**

Sir Walter de Frece drew attention in the House last week to the fact that on the death of a voter his wife is disqualified as a householder, and is left off the register until she has re-qualified as occupier. Sir Walter suggested that a new clause might be added to the Representation of the People Act in order to remove the disqualification. Mr. Shortt replied that the question of such disqualification has not yet been authoritatively decided. There is, apparently, some difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the Statute, but Mr. Shortt said that the question is one to be determined by the Courts in the first instance and he did not propose to introduce legislation on the subject.

**Women and the League of Nations.**

We congratulate the Government of Uruguay on its excellent judgment in appointing Dr. Paulina Luisi as its official representative on the League of Nations Advisory Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children. She is well known as leader of the movement in Latin-America for the suppression of State regulation of prostitution and we can all appreciate her self-sacrifice in giving up her professional work and her home in order to give her specialized knowledge to a wider sphere. The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations has received information from the Medical Director of the Health Committee of the League of Nations, that that Committee has recommended to the Council of the League the appointment of Dr. Josephine Baker to the Health Committee. Dr. Baker, who is Director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene, Department of Health, New York, has accepted the nomination, and her appointment will be made during the next session of the Council in July.

**Coercion of Wives.**

The Lord Chancellor, in the House of Lords last week, said that the Government had not yet considered the report of Mr. Justice Avory's Committee on the question of the coercion of wives. He himself had examined the report with some care, and his advice to the Government would undoubtedly be to legislate on the lines recommended in the Committee's report. If only the Lord Chancellor was as anxious for sex-equality when it was

a case of women's right to enjoy what have hitherto been regarded as men's privileges, how splendid he would be!

**Peeresses and the House of Lords Reform.**

Mrs. Wintringham last week asked whether the Government proposes to introduce at an early date and pass through all its stages, a Bill amending the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which will enable peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Mr. Chamberlain replied that "The question whether peeresses in their own right should sit and vote in the House of Lords was fully debated during the passage through Parliament of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, and the House of Lords on more than one occasion declined to accept proposals that the Bill should enable them to sit. I have every reason to suppose that the House of Lords would, if a Bill were presented to them, adhere to the opinion which they then held, and I should not think myself justified in the present state of Parliamentary business in introducing legislation which would, in my opinion, have no chance of passing into law." Mr. Chamberlain would not give any promise, when further questioned, that the admission of women into the House of Lords would be included in the proposals for the reform of that House. He added, however, that obviously the question of their eligibility would be raised.

**"Overpaid" Women.**

The Select Committee on Estimates has issued its second report on the Board of Education estimates. The salary, including bonus, of the higher staff, consisting of 99 persons, has increased from £62,972 in 1913-14 to £101,459. The executive and clerical staff in the Administrative Department has increased by 234 officials, and by £212,230, the total salary and bonus now amounting to £338,418. Other grades, consisting both in 1913-14 and to-day of 160 persons, have a total salary of £25,492 to-day as against £11,535 in 1913-14. The Board "hopes to effect some saving" in the higher posts, but it is on the women's salaries that they hope to save the most. The staff of women inspectors has been increased by nine during the last year, and their salaries in the same period have increased from £25,911 to £29,765. The Chief Woman Inspector receives

a salary of £950 rising to £1,000, with a bonus of £300. The women staff inspectors get £900, including bonus. In 1913-14 the Chief Woman Inspector got £650, and the others received £200, rising to £400. The Committee are of the opinion that these salaries are greatly in advance of the general run of salaries received by women in the educational world, and that they could be reduced without injuring work. The salaries paid to men inspectors were not commented on, nor was great stress laid upon the increased salaries paid in the higher executive and clerical grades, and we hope that one of our friends will draw the attention of the House of Commons to the proposed economy at the expense of women, and remind members of the Government's pledge on 5th August last to give equality of treatment to men and women in the Civil Service.

#### Women Establishment Officers.

In reply to a question of Lord Robert Cecil's about the appointment of women establishment officers, Sir John Baird said that one or two permanent appointments have been made, but the majority (including such posts as are filled temporarily) have been held up pending the results of the competition for the appointment of women to the junior grade of the administrative class and to other grades superior to the clerical class. It is contemplated, he added, that there will be women establishment officers in the Treasury, and in all Departments employing a considerable number of women, namely, the Ministry of Pensions, General Post Office, Inland Revenue, Board of Education, Ministry of Labour, Admiralty, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Scottish Board of Health, and Public Trustee. The rank will vary according to the extent and responsibility of the duties to be discharged. In answer to Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland's question as to what grades hitherto closed to women in the Civil Service have been thrown open as a result of the promise of 5th August last, Sir John Baird said that all grades of the general administrative, executive, and clerical classes, set up by the Report of the Reorganization Committee of the Civil Service National Whitley Council of 17th February, 1920, which was adopted by the Government, are now open to women. The superseded general classes (First Division, Intermediate, Second Division, and Assistant Clerks) had been closed to women.

#### Nursing Training in California.

We have heard of an exceptionally nice opening for a Nursing Training in a Cottage Hospital in California. This hospital is in a pleasantly situated town on the Californian coast, and the climate, surroundings, and general conditions would be unusually good. It is possible that assistance might be obtained for the travelling expenses of one or two really suitable candidates. Student nurses are expected to have had a good secondary education, and should be from about 22 to 27 years of age. During training they will be expected to furnish their own uniforms (indoor only); to be in the nurses' home by 10 o'clock at night, excepting one night a week when they may be out until 12 o'clock; to work four hours a day in the hospital, but no scrubbing or cleaning is required; to work four hours a day in classes; and to remain in training 28 months. The Hospital will furnish food, lodging, laundry, textbooks, and 10.00 dollars per month; and at the end of 28 months the graduating nurse will receive a certificate enabling her to secure employment in the hospital or outside. The average rate of wages for that work is 6.00 dollars per day. Anyone interested should write to, or call at the office of the London Society for Women's Service, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1, for further information.

#### Prison Nurses.

There is an opening for nurses of an exceptionally interesting, though rather exacting kind, in the new Prison Nursing Service. The necessary qualifications are the certificate of three years general training in a recognized hospital, with preference to those holding either the C.M.B. or Medico-Psychological Society Certificate in addition, candidates to be between the ages of 24 and 35. The scale of salaries amounts to 59s. a week, including a war bonus, which is periodically reviewed. Free quarters, including a messroom where meals are provided at a fixed fee, separate bedroom, fuel, light, uniform, laundry, etc., are provided, and the service is pensionable after ten years. In many ways the work is a great deal more interesting than other forms of nursing, since it offers a wide scope for the exercise of tact and mental treatment in order to effect a physical and moral readjustment.

But women who only care for acute nursing will not find much of it in this service, and all who enter it should bear in mind that they will be in continual contact with the criminal, unmoral, and diseased mind. If they are prepared to face difficulties and overcome them they should find that the Prison Nursing Service offers them a life full of interest.

#### The Probation of Offenders.

The Home Secretary has appointed an Advisory Committee to assist in the development of the probation system in England and Wales, and to give advice on the administration of the Probation of Offenders Act. Mrs. George Cadbury, of Birmingham, is one of the members, which is a thoroughly wise appointment, and Sir John Baird, M.P., Under-Secretary to the Home Office, is chairman of the Committee.

#### Women and the Bar.

Three more women have passed their finals in the Bar examination; Charlotte Mary Young being placed third in class II, with Alice Horsman not far behind, and Winifred Nellie Cocks in class III. We are delighted to see that Dr. Cornelia Sorabji passed first class in Criminal Law and Procedure, together with Edith Mary Price, while Violet Mary Hume, Cicely Leadley-Brown, and Fanny Isabel Taylor passed in Class II and Ida May Duncan and Anne Elizabeth Smith were placed in Class III. Emily F. Phipps and Venetia J. M. Stephenson passed Roman Law, Class III; and Margaret Alice Wailles was placed in the same class in Constitutional Law and Legal History. In Real Property and Conveyancing Evelyn Priscilla Hope and Mary Robina Stevens passed first class, and Mary S. S. Jones passed second class.

#### Woman Barrister joins a Circuit.

Miss Frances C. Kyle, of Belfast, the first woman barrister in the United Kingdom, is now also the first woman member of a circuit, for at a meeting of the Circuit of Northern Ireland in Belfast last week she was elected a member of the circuit.

#### Women and Science.

This is the second year in succession in which a woman has obtained a first class in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos, one of the most difficult and technical of the Cambridge tripos. Miss O.M.H. Foxwell, of Girton is this year's winner; last year it was Miss L. Chitty, of Newnham. Miss W. Ackworth, of Newnham, and Miss E. A. Little, of Girton, are in the third class.

#### Woman Wrangler.

Miss Alice May Coote, the woman Wrangler, began her education at the Council School at Walthamstow and won a scholarship at the Walthamstow Girls' County High School. Before she was seventeen she won the Essex County Council Scholarship for four years at Cambridge for being the first girl in Essex in the Senior Cambridge Local Examination. In her last school year she passed the Cambridge Higher Local Examination with first class honours in mathematics and second class in French and Latin. She has already had a brilliant career and we shall watch her in the future with the greatest interest.

#### Teachers' Superannuation.

Mr. Lloyd George, replying to a question in the House last week, said that after considering the report of the Select Committee, the Government have decided to proceed with the School Teachers' Superannuation Bill, and the debate on the second reading of the Bill will be resumed shortly.

#### Women Deacons.

For the first time women elders have been attending the South Wales Calvinistic Methodist Association as delegates. The two ladies, Miss Thomas, of Clydach, and Mrs. Kate Williams, of Ammanford, were warmly welcomed by the Moderator, the Rev. W. D. Rowlands, of Carmarthen.

**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.

## WOMEN, POLITICS AND EDUCATION

Last week a deputation of representatives of Girton and Newnham Colleges, and of the Parliamentary Committee for securing membership of women in Cambridge University, waited upon Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, to urge him to include this question in the forthcoming Government Bill, which will give effect to the findings of the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities. This Bill will take the form of appointing Statutory Commissioners to draft the necessary detailed regulations and alterations of Statute, and any special point which it is desired to secure beyond possibility of alteration can be named in the Bill as an instruction to the Commissioners. The Deputation asked Mr. Fisher to include the granting of full membership to women among the points so named, and laid before him the practical difficulties which result from the present state of affairs, the injustice of spending public money upon an institution not open to the public, and the strong feeling which exists among all sorts of women on this point.

Mr. Fisher, in reply, said that the Government hoped to introduce and pass a Bill this session, but he could give no assurance as yet as to what it would contain.

The point with which this deputation deals directly affects only the few thousands of women graduates of Cambridge University. Compared with the old struggle to secure higher education at all, or the other great struggle to secure political enfranchisement, it seems a small thing. And yet it is, in its way, a very important matter, both directly and indirectly. If the present position is maintained, and if Parliament does not intervene to remedy it, the women's colleges at Cambridge must inevitably decline and cease to be of educational importance. Enterprise, scholarship, and enthusiasm will naturally go elsewhere, and they will become of purely secondary importance. This in itself, though disagreeable to their own graduates, would not be really serious. Colleges rise and fall from time to time, and as some decline others advance, and so long as education itself does not really suffer all is well. It does not matter where the best education is given or the best research done, so long as it still exists: but to separate the good education of women from the good education of men—to leave Cambridge itself at or near the top of the world of learning, and to drive away from it the women of the same calibre is to continue a foolish obstacle to the development of thought and learning in this country.

That is one educational aspect of the question, but there is another, no less important. Cambridge has turned out in the past, and will turn out in the future, many of the men who guide and direct the course of public affairs in this country. If this absurd and fantastic anomaly continues they will still have spent their youth under a system which the rest of the world has now discarded. They will come handicapped because they will still fail to understand that women share the world with them. Cambridge will preserve the old fantastic arrogance of the youthful male; it will cherish that pernicious notion of sex superiority which has poisoned so much of our public and private life. The young men who emerge from the exceptional "monastic" Cambridge of the type dreamt of by our opponents, will not be fit for high positions in the real world until they have unlearned the lessons of their Alma Mater. The women can go elsewhere, and be no more than annoyed and inconvenienced. The men will be miseducated in all that touches upon the relations of men and women to each other to education and to public life.

For these reasons—over and above the indignation which we feel at such unjust treatment, and the annoyance it is to have to turn back to such an old and outworn controversy—for these reasons we appeal to the Government now that it has the opportunity, to put an end to this tiresome anomaly. It is within the right and even within the duty of Parliament to legislate for University affairs this session. The Council of the Senate has, we understand, appealed for legislation on matters of University reform. They want, and, indeed, they must have, public financial assistance. They accept with it the inevitable public control. Why should they try to exclude this matter of the women from the other points of University reform? The answer is all too clear. They were brought up under the pernicious old system themselves, and they have never really realized that women share the world with them. They must be made to realize it, and we look to a Government which promised to remove all existing inequalities between men and women, and which has been elected by them both to think more clearly upon the matter.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The situation in Ireland, which has been the standing anxiety of Parliament for a long time past, shows slight signs of improving. People could hardly believe that Mr. Winston Churchill could pull through to an agreement on the Constitution, but he has done so, and the ship of the Irish Free State has started upon its journey. Whether it will sail or whether its crew will mutiny if it does, or whether there will even be a strike in the docks before it starts at all, no one knows. It has many storms to weather in any case, but this much can now be said, that the vessel is launched. Up to the date of writing the Irish elections seem to show a slight pro-treaty majority, which is so much to the good.

The House of Commons has been going through a week of steady average business. On Tuesday, the 13th, there was a discussion upon the Cabinet secretariat, which took place in a very empty House. It is idle to deny that Members had gone to Ascot—cold and unpromising as the weather was. Meanwhile, though neither they nor the general public appear to notice it, a serious revolution in the conduct of public business has taken place. The old fashion of Cabinet meetings, to which none but Cabinet ministers were admitted, and where no notes at all were taken, were meetings of the Heads of the Departments of State. Nowadays the Cabinet has itself become a Department of State, with its staff, its experts (and its 14 charwomen). As the power of the centralizing Department grows the power of the others declines, and it is no exaggeration at all to say that the present procedure marks a real constitutional revolution. The debate upon it, however, was languid. It was attacked by Lord Robert Cecil, Col. W. Guinness, and Lord Eustace Percy; the Labour Party rather welcome the change, for, of course, they do not like the influence of the Departments to be too strong. And the Government had an easy task in carrying their vote.

On the same day, Sir Alfred Mond made an able review of the present housing situation, which is decidedly improving, though still very far from good. The House was as empty for Housing as it was for the Cabinet secretariat. By that time Members had presumably caught cold upon the racecourse and were in bed.

On Wednesday was the report stage of the Law of Property Bill, which finally passed the Commons on Friday. This immense Bill effects a great change in our customs and habits, and is of very far-reaching legal importance. It went through practically without amendment, but that is because it was itself the result of years of previous discussion and consultation.

The Summer Time Bill, which was discussed the same day was subjected to a violent and noisy attack from the Members for Agricultural Scotland, to whose vociferations Mr. Shortt most unwisely gave way to the extent of promising a reduction of three weeks of summer time at each end. Three weeks in April and in October are the most valuable weeks of all—since they are the marginal periods, and the Government in giving way to an opposition which in the division only mustered twenty-six votes, is laying up trouble for itself.

In consequence of the time taken up by both these Bills the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which was down for Wednesday night, was not reached. A private conference, in which both the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Austin Chamberlain took part, was held, however, and it is reported that the decision was to carry the Bill as it stands. The opposition to it is said to have greatly diminished,—and it was never very far-reaching—so that the prospects ought to be brighter than ever before.

On Thursday Lord Winterton made his first important speech as a Minister on the vote for the India Office. As a speech it was successful, but it seemed, to the unofficial Member, to be altogether too optimistic. The best speech of the debate was that of Mr. Spoor—although, of course, the majority of the House did not agree with a word he said.

In the evening the London County Council carried its Tramways Bill without a division. Sir Frederick Banbury, whose fame as the man who delayed the tramways over the river has never yet died away, did his best to obstruct. But even he cannot win for ever. It is a comforting reflection.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

## LIBRARY WORK AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN.

What is library work? The ideas of the generality of folk on this question are of an extremely vague order. The term "library work" conveys little more to them than the lending of books from a collection, to the community in general, or to a section of the community in need of them. This is indeed the end in view—in more senses than one—for it is the only part of library work which is "in view", as far as the outsider is concerned. It is in the *means* to this end that the interest in the work lies—in the intricate network of methodical labour pursued behind the scenes, and leading up to the comparatively simple task of actually issuing the books to would-be borrowers of them.

Let us, then, enter this mysterious territory, and see what we find. Our discoveries will differ according to the type of library we are examining. Perhaps the most widely known type is the municipal or public library. One of the most important duties of the public librarian is the selection of books. For this a wide knowledge of literature, a realization of the special needs of the community to be served, and a due sense of proportion are necessary, in order that the volumes provided may be of a high standard, and that they may be chosen with a view to the formation of a useful and well-balanced collection.

Once within the library walls, the work of preparing the books for their users begins. They are examined for imperfections, the leaves are cut, they are labelled and stamped with the library stamp; a record is made of all details concerning them, and a running number is given to each one for purposes of identification.

Then comes one of the most fascinating parts of library work, the classification and cataloguing of the books. Practical classification consists in the placing of a book in its class according to the subject with which it deals, and this task presupposes, in modern practice, a knowledge of the most important schemes of library classification. An expert classifier will be able, by means of a quick glance through a book, to ascertain its main subject and scope, and to give it its classification number or letter accordingly. A lover of books will find this a most interesting occupation, and one giving considerable scope for the exercise of judgment and individuality; for some books there are which it tasks the ingenuity of even the qualified worker to "place" satisfactorily, so interwoven are their themes.

Cataloguing implies the ordered description of books. An entry is made for each book, giving certain details of its contents and of its physical characteristics. These entries are then arranged to form a catalogue of the contents of the library. Library cataloguing is done by rule, and woe to the novice who attempts it before she has attained a mastery of at least the main principles of the science, since it is full of pitfalls for the unwary.

The book is now ready for the shelves, where it finds its place according to its classification number or letter.

Dealing with the public needs both tact and patience often, but the exercise of these qualities is well rewarded, for that public is, on the whole, very good-natured and very appreciative of trouble taken to find the desired book or piece of information. Now that in many modern library systems borrowers are admitted to the shelves, the work of issuing books for home reading is pleasanter than when the books had to be carried from shelf to borrower by the library staff; but the aspiring assistant may sometimes use the lending department as a stepping-stone to the reference library, where she will deal with students and inquirers on any and every subject. Endless interest and, indeed, amusement, may be derived from this work, for the reference room of a public library is, among other things, a happy hunting-ground for folk with bees in their bonnets, and some of them, are amazingly learned in the realm of their own pet subject.

Yet another department of the public library which should appeal especially to women interested in children and able to

manage them, is the children's room. Work with children, though it has developed into a large and important branch of library practice in America, is as yet in the early stages in many British libraries. There are signs, however, that the children's librarian will be in increasing demand, and the possibilities of the work are great. The children's librarian, as well as knowing the usual books, must make acquaintance with all the best children's books, so that she may be able to guide their reading wisely and sympathetically. She will conduct story-hours, when the children will sit round her, while she fascinates them with a story, maybe from one of the masterpieces of literature, seeking to lead them by this means to *read* further. She will make picture bulletins or painted placards setting forth in pictorial form the attractions of books she wishes the children to read. Many are the means by which she will endeavour to bring the right child and the right book together, and so prepare the way for the realization of the public library ideal—that it should be a centre of intellectual activity.

Of other libraries, the most important types are those attached to universities and to learned institutions. In some respects the work is similar to that of public libraries, but from a purely *library* point of view there is not always the same scope. This is because public libraries exist as an end in themselves, whereas university and institution libraries are appendages to the institutions which they represent, and their working as libraries is naturally defined by the special needs of their users. For instance, it is sometimes not possible to classify the books in a university or institution library into the minute subdivisions of one of the authorized library schemes, because their users prefer their arrangement to conform to the requirements of their study courses or research work rather than to *library* rules; moreover, it is sometimes necessary to alter this arrangement from time to time to meet such needs. There are, however, compensations in other directions, the chief one perhaps being the possibility of coming into frequent contact with present and future leaders in thought and research.

The above brief account will serve to indicate that special training is necessary for any woman who wishes to rise above a junior position in the profession. Since 1905 the Library Association of the United Kingdom (Stapley House, 33 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.) has held annual examinations in library and literary subjects, full particulars of which are given in its syllabus. Correspondence classes are held to aid students in preparing for these examinations, and to those who pass them successfully the Association grants a diploma in librarianship.

In 1919, a School of Librarianship was established at University College, London, for the training of student librarians. Both day and evening courses are provided, and the University likewise grants a Diploma in Librarianship. In addition to the lectures set out in the School syllabus, visits are made to libraries and other institutions which illustrate points in library practice. Provision is made also for a certain amount of practical work.

Having very briefly surveyed library work itself, the question arises as to what prospects it holds for women. At the present moment, they cannot be said to be rosy, owing to a scarcity of openings, and to the fact that women are often either openly or tacitly debarred from the highest appointments in the library world. Woman, however, now she has begun her march forward, is not going to let the grass grow under her feet; she will gradually break down such obstacles, for she has already triumphed over not a few. When library work, too, has recovered from the set-back from which it, in common with all educational movements, has suffered, and is allowed to develop freely, posts will increase, and it may be well for the woman who thinks of adopting this as a life-work to become trained, and, if possible, to gain some practical experience as a preparation for future opportunities. For the work itself is pre-eminently suited to women of good education and intellectual proclivities. The right type of woman can do yeoman service to the community, either in a public library by helping those who most need her help in the pursuit of knowledge, or of healthful mental recreation; or in a university or institution library by working to make the path of the research student as smooth as may be. In either case, she cannot fail in the carrying out of her duties to glean something of the best that life offers.

GWENDOLEN REES.

## HOUSING AND ANTI-WASTE. THE "FOYER DE L'ÉTUDIANTE."

"I am informed that the immediate need of working-class houses for England and Wales alone is estimated at approximately 500,000. To meet this need the same untiring energy and enthusiasm will be required as that which enabled the country to meet the demand for munitions of war. . . It is not too much to say that an adequate solution of the housing question is the foundation of all social progress. Health and housing are indissolubly connected. If this country is to be the country which we desire to see it become, a great offensive against disease and crime must be undertaken, and the first point at which the attack must be delivered is the unhealthy, ugly, overcrowded house in the mean street, which we all of us know too well." These are extracts from the speech on Housing delivered by the King on 11th April, 1919.

On 21st July, 1921, the Prime Minister spoke of "liquidating this gigantic obligation we have got upon us of 176,000 houses." Now the Geddes Committee have recommended that the houses should be sold, and claim that the amount saved would be a yearly sum of £3,600,000.

It is a descending scale, resolving into the minor key. Instead of "liquidating this gigantic obligation", we are to cut our losses and go into liquidation. We talked of homes for heroes and put up recruiting posters showing the soldier leaving the dear little home he was gladly going to defend. What about the men who gave their lives for a slum, into which the sun never shone nor the clean air blew? Did they fight for their homes or for the ideal country which we all desire?

The King spoke of the overcrowded house, "which we all of us know too well." The sad part of it is that we *don't* know. It is almost impossible for well-housed people really to understand what overcrowding means; we know the facts, but our imagination is blunted. Most of us must experience a thing before we can feel it.

There are eight million tenements in Great Britain. A tenement is a house or *part of a house* let to a separate family unit; in fact, it is a home. Of these homes, two millions consist of three rooms or less, which means that a quarter of our population lives crowded together in three rooms. Some of these unfortunates are even less fortunate than the rest; about a million of them live, eat, sleep, are born and die in a one-roomed home. If there were a mark expressive of irony it should follow that word "home."

This being the present state of affairs, what will happen if the Geddes Committee recommendations come into effect and the new houses are sold? The tenants who can afford it, a negligible number, will buy their houses. The rest, some half million, will be turned out, and not only will go back to live again under overcrowded conditions, but will intensify the overcrowded conditions from which others already suffer. The new owners will be drawn from the middle-classes, among whom there is a big demand for a servantless house. They will leave large, old-fashioned houses owned by landlords who will refuse to re-let to those who are evicted. Consequently these houses will be left untenanted, and will pay no rates.

The Geddes Committee states that the taxpayer at present contributes £55 per annum towards the deficit upon each new house, and that by selling at half the cost price a saving will be effected of £21 10s. per annum. *The taxpayer will still be obliged for the next 60 years to pay £33 10s. yearly on each house.* The total estimated saving will amount to £3,600,000 only; the taxpayer will still have to pay £6,400,000 annually in housing subsidies.

At a recent meeting of the Consultative Committee a resolution was passed protesting against the Geddes recommendations on the ground that about half a million people who do not need it would be subsidized. The community will not benefit in the slightest degree because these people will have left their present houses, the expenditure on public health will not on their account be diminished, decency and morality among them will be just the same, there will be no decrease in crime.

If, however, to this £6,400,000 which it is proposed to throw away we add an annual £3,600,000 for building, we are certain of a return. Expenditure on public health will be reduced; crime will decrease; decency and morality will become possible, and happiness, to half a million human beings who had almost forgotten it, will be something more than a myth. It is a big return for an expenditure of £3,600,000. Surely it is worth while.

SYDNEY M. BUSHELL.

In these days when friendly intercourse between nations is especially valuable, a modest establishment at Grenoble is doing good work. Every year girls from some dozen European nations spend several months at the "Foyer de l'Étudiante", a college or hostel for French and for foreign girl students.

Girl graduates from all allied and neutral nations are welcomed at the "Foyer". English, American, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish girls come to the "Foyer" to work up their French at Grenoble University. Serbian, Russian, and Ukrainian girls come to the "Foyer" to compete with French girls for the Medical Degree, since they have no chance of qualifying as doctors in their own country.

The fees for food and lodging at the "Foyer" are very moderate, two hundred and fifty francs a month in all—roughly five pounds a month at the present rate of exchange.

The University fees are equally moderate. In exchange for a hundred and twenty francs the student receives a "Carte d'Étudiante", which enables her to attend the special course for foreign students—consisting of some dozen lectures a week on Composition, Translation, French History, French Literature, Phonetics, Historic French Grammar, Modern French Grammar, French Philology, etc.—for one semester or four months. It also enables her to follow any of the lectures for French students on History, Geography, Science, Philosophy, French Literature, and Old French, which may interest her.

The two winter semesters extend from the beginning of November to the end of February, and from the beginning of March to the end of June respectively. Special examinations for foreign students, the "Certificat des Études Françaises" and the "Diplôme des Hautes Études"—are held at the end of each winter semester.

A course of lectures for foreign students is also given during the four summer months from the beginning of July to the end of October. The University fees in this case are higher—a hundred and five francs for one month, a hundred and fifty francs for six weeks, and so on. The "Certificat" examination is held at the end of August and at the end of October.

The "Foyer de l'Étudiante" is open all the year round. It must not be confused with the "Maison de l'Étudiante", which is only open in the summer, and which is not half such an attractive place as the "Foyer". The French girls at the "Foyer" depart during the long vacation, but their place is filled by foreign students, who come for the summer months only.

The "Foyer" is run partly on college, partly on pension lines. There are, of course, no resident dons or lecturers, since all the Professorial Chairs in Grenoble University are held by men. There is much less social life than in an English college. There are no organized games, societies, or debates; there is no organized hospitality in the form of "coffees", "cocoas", or "jugs".

Life at the "Foyer" is, nevertheless, very pleasant. There is a great deal of "cameraderie" in the "Foyer", and one has a real chance of getting to know the girls of other nationalities, and of learning their point of view.

Girl graduates wishing to apply for a room at the "Foyer" should write to "Madame la Directrice", enclosing testimonials from the dons of their respective universities stating that they wish to go to the "Foyer" for the purpose of studying French, and that they will make good use of their time there.

Accommodation at the "Foyer" is very limited. There are some forty vacancies each November. Only English girls who have a special object in working up their French should apply, since girls of other nationalities, who have no universities in their own country, have a prior claim to rooms in the "Foyer".

L. C.

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29 Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1.

This well-known Training offers an excellent opportunity to well-educated girls who, on leaving school or college, wish to prepare themselves for a professional career. Pupils can start at any time provided there is a vacancy. Part of the Course can be taken by correspondence. References: The Countess of Mayo; The Countess (Dowager) of Desart; The Viscountess St. Cyres; The Lady Pirie; Claude Montefiore, Esq.; Messrs. Wainwright, Pollock and Co., Solicitors; Messrs. Lewis & Vylesias, and many others. All communications to be addressed to:—Mrs. Hoster, St. Stephen's Chambers, Telegraph Street, E.C. 2.

## WOMEN IN PRISON.\*

## POLICE CELLS.

The following instance illustrates painfully the need for better accommodation for prisoners under detention in police cells. Though it occurred some months ago the conditions of detention still remain unaltered.

On 19th May, 1920, Mrs. M— was arrested on a charge of murder in connexion with the death of her son, who was afterwards proved to have been accidentally shot by his little brother. On 1st June she was taken to the Alton Police Station. She was not taken back to prison until 6th June. She was thus detained in the police cell at Alton from Tuesday till the following Sunday, although the examination before the magistrate for which she appears to have been brought to Alton did not take place till the Friday. Mrs. M— was confined in a cell with no furniture or utensils except a wooden shelf, which served as bed, and a bucket. She had some blankets, but neither mattress nor pillow. During the day a sergeant's wife brought her meals, and upon being rung for took her to the lavatory, but at night she was in sole charge of the constable who, from time to time, looked through the spy-hole of the door. Although allowed to wash once a day, she was unable to undress during the whole time, owing to the lack of any privacy.

In this connection it is interesting to note that there appears to be no machinery for any democratic control of the arrange-

ments made for the detention of prisoners on arrest in the Metropolis. In other districts all police matters are under the jurisdiction of the Standing Joint Committee of Justices and County Councillors in counties, or under the City or Borough Council in towns; in London the Home Office is supreme.

This is a matter which closely affects women prisoners, and as such we commend it to the notice of (among others) the London Women Justices.

## THE MOTHER IN GAOL.

We wish to call the attention of magistrates and police authorities to the cruelty, no doubt unintentional, of sending women to prison without first ascertaining whether they have made arrangements for their children's care. To give a recent instance, a widow was fined on account of the verminous condition of her children, and given seven days in which to pay. She failed to find the money, was given more time on several occasions, and on finally appearing before the magistrates, was sentenced to five days' imprisonment. She was not allowed to return home before being sent to prison, being told she should have made proper arrangements when she received the warrant.

She was thus separated from the baby which she was nursing, and the other children were left to get on as best they could. This is a strange way to enforce a law whose whole *raison d'être* is the welfare of little children!

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

Telephone: Museum 6910.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS DAY DEMONSTRATION.

It is hoped that a large number of our members will have responded to the request that they should join us in the Park at No. 10 platform (Hyde Park Corner end) at 5 o'clock, on 24th June, and that they should walk under our banners in the procession which will form up at 4.45 on the Embankment near Charing Cross Station (not at Westminster Bridge, as formerly announced). We hope that with the help of our members we shall be able to bring a really fine contingent. Speakers will be: Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Rathbone, Lady Astor, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Miss Macadam, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Rackham, and Miss Ward.

## WOMEN POLICE.

Efforts are still to be made in the House for the retention of a certain number of the Metropolitan Policewomen Patrols. Our Societies are therefore urged again to send in immediate resolutions to the Home Office and the Prime Minister protesting against their dissolution in the hope that, even at this late hour, something may be done.

## SUMMER SCHOOL ST. HILDA'S, OXFORD.

19th August to 2nd September.

Arrangements are now almost complete for the Summer School. Apart from our own programme the outstanding features of the first week will be the lectures and discussions on the League of Nations and International Relations. So many of our members are also working in connection with the League of Nations Union in different parts of the country that we hope many who cannot spare the time or the money for the fortnight will try to arrange to come for the first half of the School at least. The speakers include Mr. W. Arnold Forster, Mr. Walter Layton, C.B., Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., Miss Ruth Fry, Miss Helen Ward, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Other attractions for the first week are the lectures on modern problems of Local Government and the economic position of the woman in the Home and in the Labour market. The main feature of the second week will be the Conference of Women Magistrates.

Intending students are advised to enter for the whole fortnight, but the syllabus for each week has been so arranged that those unable to come for more than one week will be at no disadvantage.

\* Reprinted, by kind permission, from the *Howard Journal*.

## GLASGOW SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

To introduce members and friends to their new office, at 196 St. Vincent Street, the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship held a "Bring and Buy" sale in the office on Wednesday, 14th June. The sale was opened at 3 p.m. by Miss Melville, B.D., J.P., Vice-President; Miss M. J. Buchanan, chairman of Executive Committee presiding, and at 7.30 p.m. by Mrs. Robert Latta, Vice-President, Mrs. Jas. Taylor, Vice-Chairman of Executive Committee, presiding. The Sale was very successful, and as it was a "Bring and Buy" there was no accumulation of goods left on the hands of the Committee; beyond a little necessary advertising there were no expenses incurred and the money raised was all available for removal expenses and future work. During the past year, in addition to an autumn week-end school, the Society has held three public meetings, six "At Homes", and twelve meetings in different constituencies. The 1922-23 programme is now being arranged, and, in view of the ever-increasing interest of women in public affairs, it is expected that during next autumn and winter the important work of the N.U.S.E.C. will be carried on with added vigour by the Glasgow Society.

## DURHAM S.E.C.

The Annual Meeting of the Durham City branch of the N.U.S.E.C. was held on Wednesday of last week, with Miss Christopher, Principal of St. Hilda's College and President of the Society, in the chair. The Honorary Secretary, Mrs. K. H. Potts, in her report referred to the gratification of the Society at the election of Major Hills, M.P. for Durham, to the Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C., and on the fact that Miss Christopher, their President, was to receive an honorary degree from Durham University.

## BEBINGTON AND DISTRICT W.C.A. (N.U.S.E.C.)

The Bebington Society has just issued its Annual Report, which records a year of steady work in different directions, Parliamentary, Local, and Educational. At the Annual Meeting a special note of thanks was accorded to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Simister, for her keen interest and "persistent attention to detail by which she has brought the Association to its present condition of active interest in local and national affairs." The following special secretaries have been appointed: Press, Study Circle, Election, Junior Branch, and District.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

## INCOME TAX RELIEF.

MADAM.—Married women who have separate means are reminded that if they wish to share with their husbands in the usual income tax rebates for the current year (1922-23) they must sign and lodge form "No. 11 S" with the authorities by 5th July without fail.

After that day any application to share the rebates is useless and will be ignored, and the husband will automatically receive the whole of the relief from Income Tax for the year.

When lodging her application (i.e. form "No. 11 S") the applicant should demand and obtain the official receipt (form "No. 16") for the same. This point, being of vital importance, must not be overlooked. (Mrs.) E. AYRES PURDIE.

## FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

The second meeting of the series of discussion classes which are being held at the office of the Family Endowment Committee, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1, took place on 15th June, when Mrs. F. W. Hubback put forward suggestions for schemes of children's allowances among those employed in the various industries of the country and under public authorities. Mrs. Hubback gave a brief account of schemes which were already successfully at work in other European countries—France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and Austria, and described the proposals which had been for some time before the Federal Parliament of Australia, by which the minimum wage should be fixed for a man and wife and an allowance given to the mother for each dependent child, paid out of a wages pool, towards which each employer of industry would contribute. She advocated a system for industrial workers resembling the Australian scheme but on more general lines. Her view was that the money for allowances should be raised partly from a wages pool and partly from a State fund. Under such a system the independent workers would benefit as well as those employed in factories, etc. She also suggested that an effort should be made for having children's allowances paid in the civil service and to employees of local authorities, and stated that allowances were already being paid in these services in Belgium and Australia, etc., with very satisfactory results.

## THE WOMEN LAUNDERER'S SOCIAL CLUB.

On Monday, 12th June, I was invited to attend a meeting of a Club which was new to me. The name "The Women Launderer's Social Club" roused my interest, and I arrived at Stewarts, Old Bond Street, and was welcomed by a gathering of ladies, given some good refreshments, and introduced to the President and Hon. Secretary of this original Club. It has been in existence for about eighteen months and was formed by some of the leading women in the Laundry Trade for the purpose of creating a meeting ground for the discussion of subjects connected with the Trade.

The Trade is well-known as being one of the largest employers of women's labour; it occupies an important position in the life of the Nation as a preserver of health and cleanliness. The women who have formed this Club are out to improve the status of the service; they have all made good either as owners or manageresses, and find that the Club has more than justified its foundation.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month, except August and September, and the last one was addressed by Mr. Wilson, M.A., the Secretary of the Committee of Research on Industrial Fatigue.

The lecture was illustrated by slides which gave material for questions and discussion afterwards, and was followed by a short business meeting which gave the members an opportunity to hear what their executive had been doing and to discuss future arrangements; in this manner all members are able to partake in the management of the Club affairs. E. P.

## WOMEN AND WAR.

Women's organizations of every kind were represented at a conference held at the Fabian Hall, Westminster, on Friday, 15th June, when methods to mobilize women against war were considered. Delegates were present from the Women's Section of the Labour Party, the Women's National Liberal Federation, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the National British Women's Temperance Association, the National Women's Free Church Council, the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, the Women's International League, the Women's Section of the General Workers' Union, and the Tailors and Garment Workers' Trade Union, etc., etc.

Miss Somers (Labour Party), who presided, described how there had spontaneously sprung up throughout the world a desire to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of the war by a great united demonstration in favour of No More War. Arrangements were now being made to hold vast processions and mass gatherings in fourteen countries during the last week-end in July. She hoped that women's organizations would co-operate whole-heartedly in the No More War demonstrations. Miss Jewson (General Workers' Union) said that many branches of women's Trade Unions were taking up the demonstrations enthusiastically. Women workers had often earned good wages during the war, but she had never heard them defend war on that account. They were too conscious of its horrors. The previous day she had spoken about the forthcoming demonstrations to a gathering of unemployed women, and they had each promised to give a halfpenny a week towards it.

It was announced that the following, among other women, were supporting the No More War demonstrations: Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Llewelyn Davies, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Picton-Turbervill, Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., and Lady Parmoor.

Full particulars of the London Demonstration (to be held in Hyde Park on 29th July) can be had from John Beckett, Norway House, Norway Place, E. 14, and of the demonstrations in the provinces from Runham Brown, Enfield, Middlesex.

## AN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is holding a Summer School at Varèse from 18th August to 2nd September. The subject-matter of the lectures and discussions will be "The Role of the International Idea in Civilization", and world-famous lecturers will speak in English, Italian, French, and German. The League has hired a big boys' school with about 220 beds. All applications for tickets should be addressed to Miss Balch, 6 Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva, Switzerland. Fuller information can be obtained from the Secretary, International House, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

## VOLUNTARY WORK IN FRANCE.

The Secretary of "Le Jardin de la France dévastée" is appealing for volunteers to help in the work of the League. The work is interesting and varied, and ranges from the typing of letters (English and French) to the writing of articles and the organizing of all kinds of publicity. There are occasional opportunities for going into the devastated regions, and in connection with the "Adoption Scheme" workers are wanted to undertake the correspondence between English schools who act as "God-mothers" to school gardens in the devastated areas. The qualifications required are (1) knowledge of French; (2) typewriting; (3) aptitude for figures in order to undertake reports and records. The object of the League is to reconstruct and help gardens for food-production attached to schools, and several British schools have adopted school gardens in France. The League is endeavouring to extend its efforts towards the help of private and of semi-public gardens attached to the Horticultural Societies of France. Intending volunteers should apply to the London Society for Women's Service, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1, or direct to the Secretary of the League, Bastion 55 Boulevard Lannes, Paris.

## COMING EVENTS.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

JUNE 23. East Sheen, The Vicarage, 8.15 p.m. Speaker: Oswald Mosley, Esq., M.P. Eton College. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.

JUNE 24. Hyde Park Rally. 5 p.m.

Bradford, Ferndcliffe, Calverley Garden Meeting. Local Speakers.

Newcastle, Town Moor, demonstration. Speaker: Capt. P. G. Thompson.

Bristol, Durham Downs. 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Rev. J. C. Patterson Morgan, Lt.-Col. G.N. Wyatt, D.S.O.

JUNE 25. Birmingham, Cotteridge Park. 3 p.m. Speakers: Maj. Gen. Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C., M.G., Sir Gilbert Baring, C.B.E., Major W. E. Gladstone Murray, D.F.C., M.C.

## N.U.S.E.C.

JUNE 27. Royal Holloway College, S.E.C. Speaker: Miss Deakin.

Irkley S.E.C. In the garden of Summerfield. Annual Meeting, 3.20 p.m. American Tea, 3.45 p.m. Address, 5 p.m., Miss Reynard.

JUNE 28. Barnsley S.E.C. "Bills before Parliament affecting Women and Children." Speaker: Miss Beaumont.

JUNE 29. Exeter S.E.C. "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C." Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

## COLLEGE OF AMBULANCE.

JUNE 29. 56 Queen Anne Street, W. 1. 8 p.m. "Nutritional Disorders of Children." Speaker: Dr. W. J. Pearson, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.

## NATIONAL BABY WEEK CELEBRATIONS.

JULY 3, 4, 5. At Carnegie House, 117 Piccadilly, W. 1. Series of Conferences on Infant Welfare from 10.30-1 and from 2.30-4.30 each day.

## YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

JUNE 23-27. Week-end school at the White Hart Hotel, Harrogate. Application should be made at 18 Park Row, Leeds. Speakers: Miss Helen Fraser, Dr. Stanley Boyd, Miss Sybil Campbell.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

JUNE 28. Public Meeting in the Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 5.30 p.m. Mrs. Kate E. Frounson will report on her Suffrage Tour in America. Chair: Miss L. de Alberte.

## CONFERENCE ON MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

JULY 26 and 27. At Caxton Hall, Westminster, under the auspices of the Central Association for Mental Welfare. First day: Discussions on "Mental Deficiency in Relation to Crime", and Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Atkin will give a concluding address. Second day: "Educational Matters". Address by Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher. Particulars from 24 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

## WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

JUNE 28. South Hackney Women's Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

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**WHERE TO LIVE.**

**15 TREBOVIR ROAD.**—Attractive Residential Club for professional women workers; two minutes from Earl's Court Tube Station; cheerful sitting-rooms, unlimited hot water; including partial board, single rooms from 34s. weekly; double rooms from 38s. weekly; two references required; holiday and week-end vacancies.—Apply, Miss Day, 15 Trevovir Road, Earl's Court.

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**THE PIONEER CLUB** has re-opened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members, £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*).

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**THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES,** Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W.; Sunday, 25th June, 3.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture: Dr. Percy Dearmer, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden, "The Fear of Freedom."

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY,** 55 Berners Street, London, W.1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 21s. monthly.

**ANTI-SLAVERY and ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.**—Will you help to abolish slavery by joining this Society? Subscription 10s. 6d.—Denison House, 206 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

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**LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE,** 58 Victoria Street, S.W.1.—Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Department for advice about Women's Work and Training, by letter or interview.

**HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM.**—Annual meeting, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., on Friday, 30th June, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mr. T. Mot Osborne, formerly governor of Sing Sing Prison, U.S.A. Admission free by ticket only from Hon. Sec., 7 Dalmeny Avenue, N.7.

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**TO LET,** unfurnished, in house in Belgrave Road, S.W.1, FLAT, consisting two rooms and bath-room, electric light, gas fires; restaurant in house; service available; telephone; rent £96 per annum. Also two small rooms £66 per annum; single rooms, 18s. 6d. and 22s. 6d. weekly.—Telephone Victoria 2750, or write, Box 916, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W.1.

**TO LET** in small Kensington house, two UNFURNISHED ROOMS; full board and attendance; suit professional woman.—Write, Miss Mildred Statham, 10 King Street, Kensington.

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