

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Imperial Responsibilities at Singapore.

The Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene, appointed last year to advise the Colonial Secretary on questions connected with venereal disease and social morality, has presented this week a report on the draft ordinance with regard to venereal disease at Singapore, which has at various times been the subject of unfavourable comment in these columns. Our readers may remember that it recommended a peculiarly obnoxious system of State-regulated vice. The Advisory Committee appears to dislike its suggestions as much as we do. It calls attention to the fact that such methods have already been condemned as useless, and recommends a number of alternative lines of action which appear to us, at first sight, to bear the stamp of constructive social thought. They include the improvement of educational, housing, and recreative conditions at Singapore, the regulation of immigration, free diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease for the whole population, increased protection for women and girls, and the adoption of a legislative policy having in view the suppression at the earliest practicable date, of all brothels. We hope to comment in greater detail upon the terms of this report in a later issue. Meanwhile it is as well that citizens of this country, whose Government has recently committed it to the maintenance of a large naval establishment in this quarter of the globe, should be alive to the social implications of the policy undertaken on their behalf. A large naval base in a tropical region involves the presence of large numbers of men, living under unfamiliar social and climatic conditions, without the possibility of any healthy domestic background. We are all well aware of the social, physical, and moral dangers which such conditions generate. It is no part of our policy to pronounce for or against the strategic necessity for the existence of this particular type of naval base at Singapore. But we venture to remind our readers that its cost has not been wholly defrayed when we have raised the necessary pounds, shillings, and pence for the National Exchequer.

#### What is Slavery?

The League Temporary Committee on Slavery will present at the forthcoming Council in Geneva its completed report on Slavery as it exists in various parts of the world to-day. We understand that the report is an exhaustive presentation of the

problem, and that those who framed it have drawn on very varied sources of information, both official and unofficial. It recommends States in whose territories slavery exists in one form or another to adopt a series of practical measures for its extermination, and the majority of the committee urge the adoption of an international convention on the matter. We shall be interested to see what effect such discussions will have upon the policy at present being pursued with the acquiescence of the British Colonial Office in Kenya, in respect to the commandeering of native labour for public work and the acquisition of native labour supplies for private employers. What precise degree of slavery is here involved? By what specious argumentation will our representatives be able to criticise the slave institutions of foreign powers so long as such arrangements persist under the British flag? We await further developments with very great interest.

#### The British Association.

As we go to press the British Association is assembling at Southampton for its annual meeting. We are delighted to see that the president for the Economic and Statistical Section (F) is, and we believe for the first time in its history, a woman: Miss Lynda Grier, formerly of Newnham College, Cambridge, and now Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Miss Grier will deliver her presidential address on Friday morning, and its subject will be "The Meaning of Wages." During the following week Section F will have under consideration the theoretical background of Family Endowment. There can, of course, at the present time, be no adequate or practical discussion of wages without reference to it.

#### A New Sphere for Women Workers.

The new Contributory Pensions Act has already created a considerable demand for additional administrative workers in the Government service. Of these about half will be men and half women. We understand that the men, some forty or fifty, have already been recruited from within the Civil Service. A corresponding number of women are, however, being drawn from outside. Their work will involve moving about over a large area, and will be concerned mainly with the detailed investigation of applications for insurance benefits. No specific professional qualifications appear to be demanded, and no written examination is imposed on candidates. Personal suitability for a job requiring tact and patience will be the main consideration in the business of selection. Knowing the present deplorable state of the market for professional women's work we are not surprised to hear that the applications for these posts already run into hundreds! But our welcome to this new area of opportunity in the public service is blackened by one obnoxious condition attaching to the appointments in question. The new officials will be required to resign their office on marriage. The progress of this inequitable and anti-social campaign against the personal freedom of the married woman grows exasperating. Nor, when it occurs in the Government service, does its presence wholly accord with Government protestations concerning the political, social, and economic equality of women.

#### Public Health: Work of Local Authorities.

In his annual report on the state of the Public Health, Sir George Newman states that progress in national health halts, partly "because of lack of knowledge and willingness to practise what is known," and partly "because of the apathy and lack of interest in public health of many of the smaller Local



Authorities upon whom Parliament has imposed the duty of public administration." The result is that in many districts public health is either neglected or misdirected. "It must," Sir George says, "be stated quite plainly that in the majority of the smallest areas there is very much to be done before a reasonable minimum medical standard is reached." "This," he says, "is not primarily a question of money, but of forethought and design, of understanding and management, of apprehension as to the constituent elements of a health policy." This is a serious warning, and demands, as Sir George strongly urges, that every Local Authority in the country should carefully decide upon its policy and put that policy into practice with knowledge, thoroughness, and persistence.

#### Council v. Watch Committee.

We have several times had occasion to record in these columns hot disputes between City Councils and their Watch Committees concerning the appointment of women police. First it was Oxford which was the scene of such an encounter, then Manchester. A month ago it was Sheffield. Always it is the Watch Committee, under the sway of a Chief Constable, which stands for the reaction, the Council which attempts to force the pace. Thus it was in Sheffield. A woman Councillor, Mrs. Longden, had, as reported in our issue of 17th July, succeeded in carrying a motion in favour of the appointment of four police-women; whereupon the Watch Committee rose in revolt, strong in the assertion of its statutory independence. Now, after some weeks of mutual defiance both parties appear to have compromised. It is reported that two policewomen are to be appointed. We are left wishing that Mrs. Longden's original motion had involved the appointment of eight!

#### Blind Alleys.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, discussing in the issue of 20th August, the places obtained by women in the various Oxford University examination lists, remarks upon the scant attention bestowed by them upon the subject of Theology. In the Honour School of Theology, she reports, "only one woman figures as a third"—a fact which contrasts strangely with the fact that an analysis of active Church membership in all—or almost all—denominations, would reflect a relative superiority of interest in religious matters on the part of women. But the causes of their theological inactivity in the academic world are, we fear, not far to seek. The Churches have only a grudging welcome and a cramped sphere to offer to the trained woman theologian. There is something to be said, in this connection, for a popular campaign whose object shall be to bring to the notice of the Churches—the Parable of the Talents.

#### Juvenile Unemployment.

Sir George Newman, in his report on the state of the public health, draws attention to an interesting experiment initiated by a Board of Guardians in regard to juveniles which is worthy of attention: "To avoid the undesirable consequence of the attendance in large numbers of boys and girls at the relief office, it was arranged that relief should be paid to them at the Juvenile Unemployment Centres by the officers of the Local Education Committees in charge of the centres, a deduction of 2s. from the relief being made for every failure to attend classes at the centres. In the Union concerned about 800 juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 attend the centres for five half-days weekly."

#### The Ambiguous Turk.

Recently from Turkey has come the news that the President, Mustapha Kemal, has divorced his enterprising and energetic wife—owing, it is said, "to her desire to mix in matters outside her sphere." Meanwhile, almost simultaneously, it is reported that all sumptuary dress regulations have been removed, the police being no longer authorized to interfere with the dress worn in public by Turkish women. We do not know whether to congratulate Mme. Kemal on both points, but we are certainly in a position to congratulate her on the second, for she has herself played a prominent part in the movement of Turkish women towards freedom in dress design. And no English woman whose memory goes back to the days of trailing skirts, puffed-out hair, crownless hats, and tightly laced stays will underrate the importance of dress reform upon the day to day energy and

physical capacity of the emancipated victim. But to the old-fashioned veil, which is at last disappearing from Turkish social life, there attaches something more than physical inconvenience. It is symbolical of a hideous degradation of personal status. Its usage suggests that its wearer is the server of a single function: and that function, not one which involves the free and abundant expression of her whole personality.

#### Schools for Social Workers.

A recent issue of Industrial and Labour Information, published by the International Labour Office at Geneva, devotes a useful section to social conditions. Particulars are given of the first Municipal "Labour School" recently started in Tokyo by the Social Education Department of the city "in order to give a social discipline by means of citizenship education." A list of Schools for Social Workers throughout the world, supplied by Dr. René Sand, of the League of Red Cross Societies, is also given. In this connection the following paragraph from *The Times Educational Supplement* of 22nd August will also be of interest to our readers:—

"The first detailed account of a movement which has hitherto attracted little attention in this country, though it has become an integral part of the university system both in England and America, will be published by Messrs. Allen & Unwin next week under the title *The Equipment of the Social Worker*, by Elizabeth Macadam. The author, who is now honorary secretary of the Joint University Council for Social Studies, not only describes what has actually been accomplished in the advancement of social study inside and outside the universities, but also endeavours to indicate future lines of development. Professor J. H. Muirhead has contributed a foreword to the book."

#### Mrs. Mercer, of Birkenhead.

Last week at the Birkenhead Town Hall Mrs. Mercer, the first woman mayor of the Borough, was presented with an oil painting of herself. The presentation focuses much warm feeling in the locality and a very general appreciation on the part of members of all political parties, of the manner in which Mrs. Mercer has carried through her year of office. Especially, perhaps, on the part of the organized Women Citizens of Birkenhead; for Mrs. Mercer is a sturdy feminist—a quick-witted, understanding, fighting feminist. And the painter of the portrait herself, Mrs. Hall-Neale, must have got some pleasure out of the business too. In the public mind a faint aroma of ponderousness seems to cling to the word mayor, which is not altogether dissipated by recollections of many civic oil paintings. But Mrs. Mercer is, in addition to her really important qualities, such an unusually elegant mayor!

#### The Voice of Christabel.

Among a number of old gramophone records which have recently been released for public consumption (and which include a reading by Tolstoi, a song by Patti, and a music hall sketch by Dan Leno) is one which reproduces a suffrage speech by Christabel Pankhurst. We have not heard it, but we confess to a desire to do so, which many of our readers will doubtless share. It would be a heart-breaking experience to listen again to the dead voice of the incomparable Dan Leno. The funnier his jokes the more acute would be our revival of distress at the loss of his unique and unforgettable personality. The voice of Christabel, too, would bring with it an element of regret for she, in a sense, is dead to our world: the world of feminist politics. There was a time when one might have prophesied that Christabel Pankhurst, with her youth, her shrewd wit, her fearless partizanship, and her fiery energy would have contributed something to that post-suffrage phase of feminism which she did so much to bring into being. And it was one of the tragedies of the movement when she moved off on other lines. Nevertheless, in hearing again that familiar voice, and visualizing imaginatively those familiar gestures, how vividly should we be reminded of the magnitude of our stride in 1918; and how comforting are recollections of the kind in days when we seem to be moving forward with such painful slowness, on so unmanageably wide a front!

*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.

#### RUSSIAN SCANDAL.

Very soon after the coming of the Great Slump in 1921, when the unemployment problem assumed in this country a magnitude and persistency which had not hitherto been known, a group of expert social investigators, economists, and statisticians set to work to examine the causes and treatment of the evil in its existing acute phase. The outcome of their labours was the publication early in 1923 of *The Third Winter of Unemployment*, a volume which, once read and reviewed in these columns, we slipped into its rightful resting place alongside of Beveridge's great book on "Unemployment" as one of the essential instruments for intelligent study of the question. Since then the group has given us *Is Unemployment Inevitable?* a balanced but on the whole optimistic forecast of economic probabilities, and now, during the past few weeks, *Unemployment Insurance in Great Britain*.<sup>1</sup>

This latest publication is on a more modest scale than its predecessors. It is clothed in paper, and it is only sixty-eight pages long. But it stands in the names of J. J. Astor, A. L. Bowley, J. H. Jones, W. T. Layton, P. J. Pybus, D. Spring Rice, B. S. Rowntree, F. C. Stern, and F. G. Stuart, and it represents the concentrated and sifted result of a mass of first hand information no less intricate and widespread than that which went to the composition of the two earlier publications. We venture, therefore, to suggest that our readers should straightway disarm themselves of the suspicion that the results of the inquiry represent any short-circuited prejudice or political axe-grinding on the part of interested parties in a controversial case. And now for the subject-matter of the report.

Its authors set themselves the following task: "To ascertain the economic effects of the Unemployment Insurance system, and in particular to discover: (1) Whether the system diminishes the incentive to find work; (2) whether it affects the willingness of the worker to change his occupation or to move from place to place; (3) whether it affects the desire of those in employment to retain their jobs and thus increases or lessens the efficiency of labour; (4) whether it affects the rate of wages for which the worker is willing to work; (5) whether it affects the readiness of men to undertake temporary or intermittent jobs by which earnings might be supplemented." These were the "terms of reference" handed to a band of eight expert investigators in eight representative industrial areas of Great Britain. Their eight reports, together with a preliminary detailed account of the machinery and administration of unemployment insurance, comprise the bulk of the book. The conclusions of the authors, distilled from the accumulated information, account for the last eight pages. We venture, because of their decision and authority, to quote verbatim their final summing up:—

#### HUMANITY IN INDUSTRY.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER has for some years past devoted space to this Annual Report<sup>2</sup> remembering no doubt that great army of women workers who bear so important a part—if often a silent one—in our great industrial machine. Interest in the Report may, however, be greater than usual this year for the share of women in industry has been lately demonstrated in a new and striking way.

The Women's Engineering Society lately took the bold step of rallying round it to a great conference at Wembley all women working in the industrial world. The Conference Hall held members of almost every grade to be found in a factory, including representatives of the technical staffs, engineering, scientific and that dealing with personnel.

Thus the Conference was not only a great demonstration of the oneness of women, in that they found it worth while to come to a women's conference, but it was also a great demonstration of the oneness of industry.

The blue-book before us is also such a demonstration and this makes it almost impossible to pick out from it the things "of interest to women." Women are, alas, just as prone to serious accident as are men though the numbers of those injured are smaller owing to the fact that fewer women are customarily employed on dangerous machinery. Women's health is injured no less than men's by lack of heating and ventilation, insanitary workrooms, dusty processes; and their comfort is equally increased by proper washing accommodation, cloakrooms and

<sup>1</sup> *Unemployment Insurance in Great Britain: a Critical Examination.* By the authors of *The Third Winter of Unemployment.* (Macmillan and Co., Ltd. Price 1s.)

"1. The alleged evil effect of unemployment insurance benefit on the willingness of the worker to accept employment has been greatly exaggerated. (2) The administration of the scheme is efficient enough to check any possibility of substantial or widespread abuse. (3) The application of the word 'dole' to 'standard' benefit is wholly misleading, and even 'extended' benefit is very different from Poor Law Relief. (4) The success of the safeguards against abuse which the scheme provides depends largely on the extent to which employers are willing to co-operate. (5) It is often peculiarly difficult in the case of married women to ascertain whether they are genuine seekers after work. (6) The benefit paid to youths between 18 and 21 should be revised. (7) The respective functions of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme and the Poor Law, which at present are apt to be confused, should be more closely distinguished and more wisely co-ordinated."

Thus we are told something that we knew already: that the Poor Law and the Unemployment Insurance tread on one another's toes. And something that we strongly suspected: that all is not well with the treatment of the young people, untrained, uneducated, and undisciplined. And something which somehow we had not up to now realized: the peculiar difficulties connected with the application of an Unemployment Insurance Scheme to married women who are not wholly dependent on their earnings but who have secured by the payment of premiums in an insured trade the legal right to be treated like other insured persons. And something else which we are extraordinarily glad to know—just as we were glad to know that soldiers' wives could be relied on to spend their separation allowances wisely and to the maximum benefit of their children—because such knowledge confounds the cynic and makes easier the path of the social reformer by justifying his faith in human nature. We are, therefore, extraordinarily glad to know that "the alleged evil effect of unemployment insurance on the willingness of the worker to accept employment has been greatly exaggerated." And we are grateful to the special investigator in the Cardiff district for his somewhat stronger presentation of the case: "Critics who complain that 'the dole' is exploited are frequently expressing some bias of their own or repeating what they have heard. As a rule, when asked to specify a case they cannot give one." So it appears that the unemployed malingering, battenning on 'the dole' to his own demoralization and at other people's expense is a bit of a myth. He may exist as an individual—here and there. But he is not a typical figure, part of a menacing and growing army called into being by our more humane modern method of handling unemployment. He is one in phantomhood with the drunken soldier's wife of 1914. We consign him to her arms. May they comfort one another in their common limbo.

messrooms. So that all that can be done by the present writer is to offer to readers certain samples of common human interest in the hope that they will go to the report itself for more.

Housewives who have to grapple with domestic dust can sympathize with the workers in the cardrooms of cotton mills where the fine cotton dust liberated during the process forms a serious problem. We rejoice that the labour-saving vacuum cleaner is finding its way into cotton mills. In the same way all who have to look over and mend the linen from the wash can feel for those whose work tries their eyes. The report stresses the unscientific nature of our knowledge about lighting, and explains what the Department has been doing to correct this by the taking of photometer readings to determine the precise amount of illumination in use for different processes.

Sir Thomas Legge's chapter on the work of the medical branch of the inspectorate contains much of interest. He is able to compare with satisfaction the position now as to lead poisoning in the enamelling-of signs, with that of 30 years ago; though the reported cases of lead poisoning generally for the year shows an increase on the figure for 1923: this is due to cases in ship-breaking and the manufacture of electric accumulators, both men's trades. One remark made by Dr. Legge recalls a widespread but mistaken notion and explains its probable growth. "While milk cannot be regarded as an antidote for lead absorbed in the form of fume, its nutritive value is such that it makes good the deficiencies in other foodstuffs consumed."

Members of Societies affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. will turn

<sup>2</sup> Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops, 1924 (H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 6d. net).



with interest to the review of the Employment of Women on the Two Shift System. It will be remembered that evidence asking that the war-time use of the system should not be dropped was given by the National Union in 1920, before a Departmental Committee which finally advised the permissive use of the system (under definite safeguards) for five years. The Report states that the depression in trade makes it difficult to judge whether the demand for the system is likely to be extensive in normal times: very little advantage has been taken of it during the four years under review, but a limited number of women have by its means been able to obtain employment which would not otherwise have been legal for them.

We are sorry to end this survey on a note of regret but we cannot forbear expressing surprise and dissatisfaction that the important Departmental Committee (referred to in the Chief Inspector's covering statement) appointed to consider modifications of existing statutory regulations governing the use of artificial humidity in cotton cloth factories does not include a woman among its members. We realize that this Committee is largely composed of experts, but we feel that room should have been made upon it for a woman either in an expert capacity or as representing the large number of women weavers affected by its deliberations.

H. C. E.

### THE PRESERVATION OF THE COUNTRY-SIDE.

We draw the attention of members of local authorities to the letter from Sir Albert Gray which appeared in *The Times* of 15th August, in which the writer points out that the Advertisements Regulation Act of 1907, which first gave to local authorities power to protect rural scenery from disfigurement, has now been amended, and the Bill of this Session which has been so untiringly promoted by Lord Newton, has received the Royal Assent. "In order that the charm of country scenery may no longer be destroyed by the ruthless advertiser," says Sir Albert Gray, who is the chairman of the Scapa Society, which for years has been working to secure the amendment of the 1907 Act, "it now remains for the local authorities to use their powers to their full extent, for country residents and wayfarers to stimulate callous authorities to action, and for the Home Office to give effect, without pedantic scrupulosity, to the intentions of Parliament and the demands of public opinion."

One of the difficulties—indeed, the main difficulty in framing by-laws under the 1907 Act—has been overcome. That Act provided for the protection of "a landscape," and local authorities have not found it easy to find a definition of "a landscape." "At first," says Sir Albert Gray, "selected landscapes were defined by metes and bounds, but this did not meet the greater need, which is to protect from disfigurement the roadsides and the railway sides in all rural places. For a time the Home Office approved by-laws covering large parts of districts, without definition of particular landscapes." This did not meet the case. The new Act provides that by-laws may now be made for the whole or any part of a district, and there the exhibition of advertisements may be forbidden when they disfigure "the view of rural scenery from a highway or railway, or from any public place or water," or injuriously affect the amenities of villages in rural districts, or of historic buildings, monuments, etc. On conviction for breach of by-laws, the Act gives power to the Court to order the removal, not only of the advertisement, but also of any structure erected or intended only for advertisement purposes. This is an important provision, for the structure obviously may be as objectionable, more so in some cases, as the advertisement itself.

As Sir Albert Gray points out, under the 1907 Act the local authorities competent to make by-laws were the Councils of Counties and Boroughs, and Urban District Councils with a population of 10,000. The new Act provides that County Councils can by arrangement delegate to other urban district councils power to make by-laws, and to rural councils power to enforce the county by-laws under certain conditions of a limiting nature.

Briefly this is the Act. We would urge all members of local authorities to obtain at once copies and make careful study of the new powers now conferred on them. The Act will be welcomed by all who honestly long for the beauty of the countryside to be preserved from disfigurement. The local authorities now possess further powers of preservation, and it is for the public to ensure that the powers are adequately enforced.

BERTHA MASON.

### MISS HELEN GLADSTONE.

Every one connected with Newnham College, and especially those who knew it in its earlier years, will have heard with deep regret of the death of Miss Helen Gladstone. She was from the first a strong and good influence in the College. Her social position and experience gave her a special power which she always used for good. She set herself against clique-ism and what might be called snobbish exclusiveness among the students. Everyone knows how easily such things grow up and how useful it is that they should be effectively and tactfully discouraged. She was of a very loyal nature and gave herself heart and soul to the welfare of Newnham, and she earned in return a deep and lasting regard from all who were brought in contact with her.

M. G. FAWCETT.

### THE ANIMAL CIRCLE.

(With acknowledgments to the "Alfredian.")

I was one of those very inconspicuous guests at Mrs. Rant-Smeeth's "artistic" tea-party. She had asked a great many famous people of the "Artistic Circle." Marian Ecani ("Such a charming poetess, my dear," said the ladies in the circle to each other) lounged on a couch, talking to the "lion" of the party, Mercurindon Tatarentor, the famous modern artist ("So gifted," said the chorus of ladies). Anton Karita, the author, was chatting to Michael Pomen, the sculptor, in the corner ("Such brilliant men!" the charming ones remarked). There were various other famous people there, praising the products of other people's brains, but mostly discreetly praising the product of their own. And then there were the inconspicuous ones like myself, humbly sipping weak tea and eating thin bread-and-butter, sitting on the edges of our chairs, and sometimes daring to make a silly remark. And round us all, bustling about, introducing, laughing and talking, was our hostess, Mrs. Rant-Smeeth ("A dear woman," said the ladies). The conversation went like this: "Yes, poems are just little flowers growing from the poet's brains," said Miss Ecani. "Ah, how sweetly you put it, Miss Ecani," said our hostess gushingly: "and now, please, do recite one of your charming little poems." ("Do, Miss Ecani," echoed the chorus of ladies.) She began:—

"I see a bird:  
Its starry voice  
Rose  
Like a spouting hose;  
It trembled with its  
Song  
Like a petal in the  
Rain.  
Ah! The moon!  
And yet, and yet . . .  
The tiles are falling off the  
Roof—  
Clit—Clat."

"Marvellous!" breathed the superior guests.

"And what an inspiring ending," said our hostess.

"But," one humble individual murmured, "what on earth is a starry voice?" "And," said another, "what is the connection between a bird, the moon, and tiles?" "Oh," someone ventured, "perhaps the bird was sitting on the tiles, and singing to the moon."

"Now, Mr. Karita, will you give us an extract from your famous book, *The Blue Tam-o'-Shanter*?" "Delighted," said Mr. Karita, and began: "Her eyes glistened like red-hot coals, her face turned as black as soot, and the purple light shone on her orange hair, showing its diamond lights. She crouched down—struggling for control of her sub-conscious mind—and screamed in a wooden voice, 'The Blue Tam-o'-Shanter!' " "Ah," said Mercurindon Tatarentor, "it shows the close relation between art and literature." "If the company would like it, I will play one of my own sonatas," said Mrs. Rant-Smeeth coyly. There were cries of "Hear, hear," and loud applause. Mrs. Rant-Smeeth, blushing, sat down at the piano. Crash! A cheeping of sparrows, Crash! Crash!! Cats yowling. Three crashes! A badly played scale-crash, a few silly little trills, and a final crash.

"How beautiful!" said the chorus, "and what do you call the masterpiece?" "The scent of lilies on a moonlit lake," said Mrs. Rant-Smeeth. "How can a sonata smell like anything?" asked someone. "I don't know," said the little man next to me,

gloomily. "Now," said our hostess—and so they went on, the fickle ones . . .

Suddenly the whole scene changed. At first I thought I was in a cage in the Zoo, in which all the animals and birds had been mixed up. The place was swarming with birds and animals. What on earth—somehow that hissing snake reminded me of someone—ah, I know, it's like Anton Karita, and that's just where he was standing. Good Lord!—that screeching parrot by the snake reminds me of—why it's just like Marian Ecani, the poetess; it is just where she was sitting. Then it dawned on me that all these birds and animals characterized and showed the real souls of people who had just been in the room. Where was the supposed "lion" of the party, Mercurindon Tatarentor? There he was—not the lion of the Animal Circle, but a cuckoo, because his art was false. Where was Anton Karita? There he was—a monkey, chattering nonsense the like of which was in his books. And there was his companion, Michael Pomen, a grizzly bear, as clumsy and ugly as his own statues. Then there was Mrs. Rant-Smeeth, turned into a donkey, braying and kicking among all the other animals. And then there was the chorus and the inconspicuous guests. Among these I saw the real lion; it was a kind-looking old gentleman who had never spoken a word. There were also rabbits, robins, mice, squirrels, and all sorts of other animals. Suddenly I felt a curious change come over myself. My eyes grew queer and small. I dropped on my arms and legs, which shortened. Brown fur began to come all over me. I looked again at myself, and I saw to my horror—ye gods!—I had become a—ferret!

D. H.

[We have asked the Author of the foregoing story to allow us to reprint it from her school magazine. It is not our habit to disclose the ages of our contributors, but we venture to make an exception in this case. D. H. is 12 years old.—Ed.]

### WAGES AND THE FAMILY.

Professor Paul Douglas, of Chicago University, has done for the United States of America what Miss Eleanor Rathbone has done for Great Britain: he has provided it with a comprehensive and systematic treatise on Family Allowances.<sup>1</sup> Thus, year by year, the literature of the subject grows; and Mr. Paul Douglas' contribution to it is a solid and a valuable one. His main thesis is doubtless familiar to most readers of this paper, in whose pages it has frequently been presented from one angle or another. He first examines the financial capacity of industry to pay a living wage on the assumed "five member family" basis—and finds it wanting. Next he examines the reality of the "five member family" assumption, and finds that wanting too. That done, he draws the inevitable conclusion: if industry is unable now and in the foreseeable future to pay a really adequate family wage to all adult workers, it must, in the name of efficiency and humanity, be enabled to pay a family wage where families exist and in proportion to their size, without having to pay precisely the same wage to childless workers. Thus in Part I he develops his plea for Family Allowances.

In Part II he examines in great detail the working of the system on the Continent of Europe, and the development of thought regarding it, in those countries, Great Britain included, where it has been discussed but not adopted. His survey carries events well up-to-date, and contains some very interesting information concerning the swing of Continental trade unionism in favour of a system which it has come to regard, as a result of practical experience, as indispensable.

In Part III he indicates the kind of scheme he himself favours for application to his own country, estimates its probable cost, and dissects a number of popular objections. Finally he reaches the practical and, we believe, sound conclusion, that the proper time to introduce family allowances is a time of rising prices when "the necessary increases in wages can be largely given in the form of allowances to those with dependents instead of being added indiscriminately to the wages of all. The single man will not object as strenuously to such a procedure as he would to a direct cut in wages."

A book of this kind inevitably challenges comparison with Miss Rathbone's *Disinherited Family*. The two are, however, complementary. Miss Rathbone approaches her subject from the social and feminist angle, developing her statistical and industrial thesis as part and parcel of her swinging attack on the treatment accorded to the family by economists. And her analysis

<sup>1</sup> *Wages and the Family*. By Paul H. Douglas. (University of Chicago Press. \$3.)

of the economic and social implications of Family Endowment is more profound. Professor Douglas, on the other hand, stresses the statistical aspect of the question, and makes it the keynote of his book, relegating to the background the social aspect. As a professional economist, he is less severe with the omission of his colleagues, and as a man he is naturally less inquisitive into the shrouded motives which tend to delay serious attempts to limit the economic dependency of women. But his treatment of the financial capacity of modern industry and of the statistics of economic dependency add wide tracts of arable land to the area available for students of the subject. Professor Douglas has, in fact, accumulated a mass of new raw material bearing on the subject, and has handled it with a skill and a lucidity which calls for very much gratitude and admiration from all interested in the advancement of this most significant phase of modern applied economics. He has even done something more. He has stepped forward, out of the ruts of his subject, to join the small select company of those who think and argue a league or so ahead of the crowd.

M. D. S.

### POLITE SOCIETY.

Ellen Countess of Desart has written, in collaboration with Mrs. Hoster, a useful little book on the subject of "social forms of address."<sup>1</sup> She tells us, to begin with, how to address the Queen—and how not to. You must not for instance (oh! reader take careful note of this!) call her "Moddam" as though you were a dressmaker; or "Madam" as though you were a servant. You must say "Ma'am." And should the conversation be "sufficiently protracted," it is the correct thing to bring in once, or possibly twice, the words "Your Majesty" or "Your Royal Highness." Well, well—"Ma'am" will probably serve the needs of most of us, though it is comforting to know what to do should the conversation be "sufficiently protracted." But there is more useful knowledge than this in the book. Are you perfectly certain, oh reader, that you know how to address a Bishop on all occasions, or an earl, or a widowed Peeress? There are some nasty snags in connexion with widowed Peeresses, and it is as well to face up to them. And are you quite sure that you know how to address the Duke of Marlborough's younger son without causing him to think that "you have mistaken him for his kinsman, Viscount Churchill, a totally different person?" If not, then once more we repeat that all this, and much more besides, you will learn from this useful little book.

Only—and here we challenge the *Morning Post's* description of it as "A Model of Absolute Accuracy"—there is one little difficulty which its ingenious and well-informed authors never satisfactorily clear up. Suppose you are a business firm addressing a Peer? So far so good. You begin: "My Lord." Suppose, however, you are a composite firm: Baker & Baker. Can you substitute "Our" for "My"? No, say our authors. No—we echo, ten thousand thousand times no! How then are you to steer between the Scylla of a terminological inaccuracy and the Charybdis of a loathsome blasphemy? The authors offer a way out. Begin your letter "My Lord" and end it "I am, my Lord, your obedient servant, p.p. Baker & Baker, A. Baker." But this won't do either. Our authors have confused the agent with the persons represented. It is A. Baker who is p.p. and not Baker & Baker. Thus we are back on our old difficulty again. The authors must think of something else; meanwhile we offer the following proposal for their consideration: Let Baker & Baker begin their letter "My Lord" and end it "We are, your obedient servants . . ." But let them render its intervening contents so striking that his Lordship, by the time he comes to the end, will have completely forgotten the beginning.

But let not our readers for a moment suppose that by such hypercriticism we challenge the usefulness of the book. Already it has eaten its way into the daily life of our office and the offices of our neighbours, as part of life's indispensable furniture. It is more useful to us than the Oxford English Dictionary. It is almost as useful as the telephone directory. And if some day we should move into more commodious quarters, and if her Gracious Majesty should come to open them for us, and if "the conversation should be sufficiently prolonged" . . . then to Ellen Countess of Desart and Mrs. Hoster we shall owe our deliverance from a deplorable *faux pas*.

M. D. S.

<sup>1</sup> *Style and Title*. By Ellen Countess of Desart and Constance Hoster. (Christophers. 2s. net.)



## THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

By W. G. RINDER.

Lord Reading's statement at Simla that the moment for an inquiry into the working of the Reforms has not yet arrived will disappoint a large body of Indians, including many Moderates and Liberals, and there is considerable danger of a return to the non-co-operation policy. But whether the consequences of this delay be good or bad it is clearly the duty of the people of this country to make up their minds on the fundamental issues which underlie the present crisis. The inquiry, which is bound to take place in 1929 at the latest, is certain to raise the whole question of Dominion Home Rule for India, and we shall be responsible, through our elected representatives in the House of Commons, for the decisions which will then have to be made.

The British Government did not assume complete control in India until 1857, when the powers wielded by the East India Company and the Parliamentary Board of Control passed to the Secretary of State. The Council was at first confined to Englishmen, but in 1862 the Government said "we had better hear what a few Indians of our own choosing have to say about our laws," and by 1889 they declared "our laws have positively benefited by Indian advice and criticism, let us have more of it." The Government "refused to recognize the principle of election, but in practice the nominees of professional, commercial, and territorial bodies were as a rule adopted."

The demand for self-government grew slowly but surely, and in 1909 came the Morley-Minto Reforms, in which "the Government hoped to blend the principle of autocracy derived from Mogul Emperors and Hindu Kings with the principle of Constitutional autocracy, but they were not aiming at responsible Government." It is a long step from such a statement to the declaration in the Montague Chelmsford Report of 1918, from which the above quotations have been taken, that "no further development is possible unless we are going to give the people of India some responsibility for their own Government . . . the inevitable result of education in the history and thought of Europe is the desire for self-determination, and the demand which now meets us . . . is no more than the right and natural outcome of 100 years of work." This desire was stimulated by the self-esteem which India gained through her efforts in the war.

The Montague Chelmsford Reforms widened the basis of representation and established diarchy, the system under which there are now two Governing bodies in the Provinces, one appointed by the Governor and the other by the Legislative Assembly, the first of which can on occasion override the second. The power of the British Government is still absolute, and except on questions of expenditure the Viceroy can overrule the decision of the supreme body, the Council. But the chances of these reforms were greatly prejudiced by the slaughter at Amritsar, "a crucial historic event," as Lord Olivier described it, because it struck the imagination of Indians as cruel and barbarous and made them more than ever critical of our moral right to rule over them.

As early as 1921 the Liberals and Moderates, who undertook to give the Reforms a fair trial, pointed out their defects, the Swarajists adopted a policy of non-co-operation, and during 1922, 1923, and 1924 there was general unrest. Some indication of the strength of the present demand for Dominion Home Rule is provided by the support which the Commonwealth of India Bill has received. The Bill is the rough draft of an Indian Constitution drawn up by Indians, and forty leading politicians have signed a manifesto in its favour.

The Aga Khan recently stated in *The Times* that it was "impossible for India to be content with a junior partnership in a world of cultural and racial jealousies and exclusive sympathies." Some of us may dislike this view, but the fact that it is shared by the whole Eastern world must be faced. Great Britain has a great responsibility and a great opportunity. India may become a second Ireland—a terrible danger to the British Empire—or it may become the first coloured Dominion within the Empire, in which case the danger of a struggle between the white and the coloured races will be greatly lessened.

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Telephone: Victoria 6188.

## SUMMER SCHOOL, St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford.

The Summer School has opened with well over 100 students in residence at St. Hilda's. An Inaugural Meeting was held on Tuesday evening at which the students were able to make one another's acquaintance. Miss Rathbone gave an Inaugural Address in which she pointed out the task which still lies in front of feminism and showed the need for the experience and the point of view of women in all aspects of public work. Miss Margery Fry spoke on the Function of the Woman Magistrate. She emphasized the fact that the woman magistrate must consider herself as a magistrate and not regard matters from the point of view of her sex only, although the quick perception of many women was a most valuable contribution to their work. Short speeches were made by Mrs. Soddy and Mrs. Hubback.

## EDINBURGH W.C.A.

The Seventh Annual Report of this Association shows a magnificent record of work done during the past year.

The attention of the Association has been concentrated on the activities involved in co-operating in the National Scheme to raise funds to assist in establishing in Scotland an Industrial Farm Colony for the Permanent Care of the Feeble-minded. At the same time the work of the Association is stimulating a demand for more knowledge on all questions relating to Citizenship—and many requests from all parts of the City and District have been received for speakers for meetings.

Six Public Meetings were held for the consideration and discussion of present-day Municipal and National Problems, all of outstanding interest. The organization of women on non-party lines has developed speakers who can be trusted to treat these subjects with knowledge and understanding from a non-partisan point of view.

Very successful study circles were held on "International Citizenship" and "Some Aspects of Scottish Law as it affects Women and Children."

Also a Temperance Study Circle was held with special reference to the Liquor "Popular Control" Bill.

A questionnaire was submitted to all candidates at the Municipal Elections on (1) Humane Slaughtering of Animals, (2) Smoke Abatement, (3) Women Rent Collectors, (4) The Need for more Women Police.

A questionnaire was also submitted to all candidates at the Education Authority Elections—which included questions on the Separation of Physical and Mental Deficients in Special Schools, Equality of Treatment between Men and Women Teachers, and the Use of School Buildings outside School Hours.

Many other activities are recorded, and, last but not least, regulations excluding women at certain hours from the Braid Hill Golf Course have been rescinded.

## THE OXFORD WOMEN'S COLLEGES.

We have received the preliminary announcement of a dance to be organized on behalf of the four Oxford Women's Colleges, at the Hyde Park Hotel, on Monday, 7th December. Our readers will remember that the launching of a big appeal for financial support by these colleges followed immediately upon the admission of women to the full privileges of University membership in 1920. They are, of course, out in search of an endowment fund, without which they stand at a grave disadvantage as compared with the men's colleges, which depend in a large degree upon the revenues from vast accumulations of wealth—much of it in the form of landed property, which tends progressively to appreciate in value. The net result is that the cost of educating a woman at an Oxford college is almost, though not quite, as great as that of educating a man. The fees of the women's colleges reflect only in a negligible degree the very much lower cost of their upkeep as compared with that of the men's colleges.

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## WOMEN AND THE LAW.

There is only one woman advocate practising in Scotland at present, but according to recent reports in the *Aberdeen Press* that one woman, Miss Margaret Kidd, is making a shining success of her pioneer job. We are told that in a recent appearance before the Paisley Sheriff Court she "created an excellent impression by her unaffected manner and her clean and crisp manner of cross-examination." We wish her the very best of success and a large host of imitators.

## WIDOWS' PENSIONS: A CORRECTION.

The contributor of the summary of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act has asked us to give some corrections, to which we call the special attention of our readers. As the intricacies of the Act are difficult to master, we urge our readers, especially those in touch with women's organizations, to keep the summary by them, remembering, however, that it only purports to give the main provisions, and that anyone desiring to know how a particular applicant is affected should study the Act itself or seek expert advice. Section I (4). For "An insured man or woman who becomes 65 after 2nd January, 1926," substitute "An insured man or woman who has attained the age of 65 before 2nd January, 1928, or who becomes 65 after that date." Section IV (2) "exempt and exempted" should read "exempt and excepted," and in (2) (b) "exempted" should read "excepted." Our reply to the inquirer who asked whether a certain woman of 65 would be eligible for a pension ought to have made it clear that she not only must have been insured up to 65, but must continue in insurance, as an employed or a voluntary contributor, till January, 1928.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE LAW AT WORK.

MADAM,—I have before me a copy of the Home Office Report of the Children's Branch, which was reviewed in your issue of 14th August, and I would venture to point out two discrepancies in the statistics quoted.

The actual increase in the numbers committed to Industrial Schools in 1924 stands at 63 instead of 31, which is the figure given in your columns. The numbers appearing in the Table, Appendix II, page 112 being:—

1923	463
1924	526

With regard to the numbers sent to Reformatories, the decrease should appear as 100, instead of 112. The figures being as follows:—

1923	629
1924	529

Once again, I feel impelled to express a point of view, shared, I believe by the majority of those who are directly responsible for the administration of the Schools, and one which differs fundamentally from that held by Mrs. Rackham. But before putting it before you, I must confess to feeling some difficulty in the matter of reconciling her two statements on the subject of committal.

In her first paragraph dealing with the Schools, Mrs. Rackham pays a generous tribute to the progressive improvement they have exhibited, and to the advance that has taken place in matters of freedom, education, and general tone, and also to the regard paid by the Home Office towards the amenities of life as they affect children and young people.

She proceeds to deal with the attitude of those magistrates who make the sending of a child away to a school a last resort, and considers their action to be the right one. Personally, I believe the correctness of this view still remains to be proved, and the proof will be difficult to obtain. Obviously, the schools will have to bear the brunt of any failures, and the risk of failure is increased many times by making a change of influence and environment a last measure instead of adopting what might be regarded as the wiser course of action, and directing a change, when the circumstances of a case point to a change being desirable.

My difficulty, however, arises when Mrs. Rackham remarks that one of the reasons why many magistrates refrain from sending children to schools without grave cause is, that they are obliged to commit them for a long period, and she proceeds to say that when a boy or girl can be sent to a school for six months, or for any longer period within the existing limits, the schools will serve a far more useful purpose than they do now, and magistrates will be able and willing to make better use of the advantages they offer.

How can these two points of view be reconciled?

1. That the magistrate is right in making the sending away of a child a last resort (which means, I assume, that a grave cause must exist) with
2. The fixing in advance of six months or a definite period for the removal of the cause.

What, I would ask, would be thought of a doctor who, deeming it necessary that his patient should receive hospital treatment, should inform the authorities of the hospital that the patient must return home on a given date?

The suggestion, absurd as it appears, does not differ essentially from the one made in your columns, for it seems to be conceded that the management of the schools is not without some knowledge of its responsibilities and duties. Would it not therefore be reasonable to assume that the

Headmaster or Headmistress as the case may be, and Managers of the school in whose care the child has been placed, and who keep in touch with the home, would be more competent to judge the term of residence necessary away from the home rather than the magistrate, who more often than not is in ignorance of what is transpiring either in the school or in the home?

The fact that the Home Office has cause to remark that in too few Schools does licence depend mainly on merit or the whole circumstances of the child, but on the approach of the termination of the period of committal, has not, in my opinion any bearings on the question of fixing the term of committal in advance. The Schools will no doubt give serious consideration to this criticism, and will respond to the recommendations made, as they have to others coming from the Children's Branch. The schools, in common with other human institutions, take time to change, and they have had many difficulties to contend with in the past. The real point at issue is, however, the following:—

Assuming that the change advocated by Mrs. Rackham were to come into being, what would be the effect?

The schools that have striven painfully and patiently to throw off the stigma of being regarded as penal institutions would once again earn that reputation. The boy or girl, committed to a school for a fixed period would be sent as a punishment. That any other interpretation can be read into such an action is not to be imagined. Magistrates are not endowed with the spirit of prophecy any more than other ordinary human beings, and who can foretell that at the end of a given period the child concerned would be re-educated, or a home so changed from bad to good, that the child may safely be returned to it? I venture to think that the change advocated by Mrs. Rackham will be uniformly opposed by the schools, not in any spirit of obstinacy or self-complacency, but from a desire to fulfil what they in all honesty and sincerity believe to be their mission.

They are not agencies for punishment, but for redemption, and they will not readily forfeit the confidence of the parents which they have succeeded in gaining in a very large measure, together with that of the children and young people placed under their care.

As an alternative, I would suggest a measure that would, I believe, conduce to the extension of that confidence into the Juvenile Courts—namely that the magistrate who has the welfare of the child at heart should pay periodical visits to the school and discuss the child's progress and future with the Headmaster or Headmistress and, if he so desires, with a representative of the managers. Such visits, I have little doubt, would be warmly welcomed, and would prove of much value; they would lead to a better understanding on all sides, with consequent lasting benefit to the unfortunate children of the community, who, it cannot be stated too often, are the first consideration, not only with those associated with the Juvenile Courts, but also with all those connected with the Home Office Schools.

MILDRED PYKE,

Corresponding Manager to Montefiore House School.

## DISMISSAL OF MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

MADAM,—Will you permit a word or two of qualification upon the case of *Short v. Poole Borough*, appearing in your issue of 21st August?

I have not had the advantage of seeing the letters you referred to in the *Morning Post* and *Catholic Herald*, both of whom seemed to think that Education Authorities could still dismiss married women from the public educational service upon some such ground "that it is in the interests of local education that no married woman shall be employed"—as "that would involve an educational ground for dismissal."

But would it? "Involve" is an enormously vague word. The statutory authority to which the learned judge directed the attention of the Borough of Poole as being the full extent of their power would not, I think, be satisfied by any vague social views and prejudices which obscurantist authorities might hold. It would (it seems to me) be necessary for them to prove that married women were less satisfactory as teachers than single women—and that upon purely educational grounds.

Let us suppose a concrete case. Say that the next authority which has Poole in its heart and a vision of Mrs. Short in its head dismisses one or more of its married teachers as being less efficient workers. Will it not be open for the latter to bring actions for wrongful dismissal and to adduce evidence that each was a good teacher? There will presumably be the usual reports after inspection for them to adduce, and other relevant evidence. I may be wrong—no one but a fool is ever too positive about legal matters—but the effect of the recent case seems to me to drive anti-marriage committees away from the irrelevant and back to the strictly relevant reasons for a dismissal. To my mind the consequence of this case will be:—

- (1) Future engagements of single women only.
- (2) A tacit block to promotion of those who do marry.

And possibly:—

- (3) Regulations which will act harshly upon women teachers before and after maternity, so as to make resignation the most comfortable course. Speaking, of course, of the unenlightened authorities.

I am not in any attitude of dissent towards the conclusion of your note wherein you stress the necessity of awakening public opinion. Do not think me discourteous if I say its only fault is that it is hardly concrete enough.

It is not only a question of a "woman's right to invest her own talents." It is that the presence of even one married woman upon a staff brings in a reservoir of homely common sense which is invaluable. It is by no means an unknown thing for a child terribly wronged in street or home, as by outrage or incest, to turn naturally to a loved teacher as a natural *confidante*. I have known such cases handled wisely and unwisely. Within my own experience it has happened that much greater common sense has been shown where there has been a married woman available upon the staff. We ought not merely to say that a married woman has a right to work. We ought to press for a proportion of married women in every sphere—I would suggest in particular that of education, police, medicine, and law. The public should be educated to demand a proportion of married women, not to tolerate them.

HELENA NORMANTON.



## COMING EVENTS.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN BIRMINGHAM.

SEPTEMBER 19-25. Annual Meeting.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 8. Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford. For particulars, apply Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## CROYDON W.C.A. (NORTH WARD).

SEPTEMBER 25. 3 p.m., Miss Evelyn Deakin, "Widows' Pensions."

## NORTHWICH W.C.A.

SEPTEMBER 24. 7.30 p.m., Congregational Hall. Inaugural Meeting. Speaker: Miss E. Rathbone.

## REPTON W.C.A.

SEPTEMBER 29. 8 p.m. at the Schools. Discussion on N.U.S.E.C. Annual Report. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

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