

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

Murder or Manslaughter ?

The Magistrates' Association has adopted a resolution, and the Labour Party has drafted a Bill, proposing to amend the present law with regard to child murder. Both the Magistrates' Association and the Labour Party demand that where a woman is charged with the murder of her infant child, and where at the trial evidence is given that at the time the offence was committed the woman had not fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to the child, the jury may acquit the prisoner on the charge of murder and convict her of manslaughter. Although the death sentence is seldom carried out, but is commuted to penal servitude for life, the ordeal for the girl convicted of murder is a terrible one. Even though she may be released at an earlier date, the girl has been through the most fearful nerve shattering experience possible, and it is to protect her from this that a similar Bill was introduced by the Lord Chancellor in 1909 in the House of Lords, and passed. It was then introduced in the Commons and starred by the Government, but time was not found for it, and nothing has been altered since then. During the seventeen years ended March 31st, 1921, sixty women were sentenced to death on this charge, of whom only one was executed.

A Women Jurors' Bill.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship hopes to introduce, as a private Member's Bill, a proposal to amend the basis upon which women are qualified for jury service, so that a married woman shall be liable to serve as a juror if her husband is liable to serve. The Bill also proposes that no one before whom a case is heard may make an order excluding women jurors in cases in which a woman or child is concerned, and that no one may raise an objection to a woman juror on account of her sex, so that where a woman is challenged, she shall be replaced by another woman.

Lunacy Laws.

In connection with the Conference summoned by the Board of Control on January 19th, to discuss the administration of the Lunacy Laws, it is interesting to read the Mental Hospitals

Association's pamphlet just issued. The main attack is upon the lack of early treatment for incipient cases of mental illness. "One of the objects of this association has been and is, to obtain an amendment of the Lunacy Laws in order that incipient cases of mental illness may be treated before the malady has reached such an advanced stage as to compel the certification and detention of the patient in an asylum. It is the opinion of medical experts that a great number of patients in our public asylums who are now regarded as irrecoverable might have been useful and healthy citizens had they had the advantage of skilled treatment in the early stages of their illness." The association suggests that early treatment should be given in general hospitals or in institutions linked to general hospitals, so as to avoid the much dreaded asylum, and the stigma of certification. We are much behind other countries in this matter, although, in the asylums themselves, the patients enjoy on the whole good food, warm clothes, and ample recreation, and are under the care of able and conscientious medical men and nurses. The Committee appointed by the Government consists of Sir Cyril Cobb, K.B.E., M.V.O., R. P. Smith, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Bedford Pierce, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P. They are to investigate and report on the charges made by Dr. Lomax in his book, "The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor." As a rule they will hear evidence in public, and the time and place of meetings will be announced in the Press. The Committee will, however, reserve the right to hear evidence in private in any case where they consider such a course desirable. They will make recommendations as to any medical or administrative improvements which may be necessary and practicable in respect of the matters referred to by Dr. Lomax, but they cannot undertake to hear evidence in regard to the amendment of the existing Lunacy Laws. It is deplorable that no woman should have been appointed a member of this Committee, which will doubtless consider questions relating to women patients and women nurses and attendants.

The Labour Party and Women's Questions.

The Executive Committee of the Labour Party has asked the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations to appoint a sub-committee to report on the question of married

women's employment. The Labour Party is also circularising all affiliated organisations, urging them to send resolutions immediately to the Prime Minister demanding that the Government should introduce a Bill early next session to enfranchise women under thirty.

Women Teachers.

The National Union of Women Teachers, at their Conference at Manchester, passed unanimously a resolution declaring that national economy is most truly to be secured by the fullest possible development of the educational service of the country. In her address the new President, Miss A. M. Bale, of Cardiff, said:—"We can afford to teach men how to kill, but it is not so clear to these so-called economists that we cannot afford not to teach them how to live." Equal pay for men and women, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Legitimacy Bill, and free opportunity in the Civil Service were all demanded of the Government, and a resolution was passed recommending resistance to any projected cut in teachers' salaries. The question of the dismissal of married women aroused much feeling, and Miss A. S. Byett moved a resolution that "in view of the fact that the marriage of women teachers is still regarded as a disability for appointment and retention in the permanent service of many local education authorities . . . this Conference calls upon the Government to insist that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act . . . be immediately put into force in every branch of public service." The women teachers realise that their business is not merely academic, but civic as well, and they are quite right.

The Protection of Adolescence.

The Birth-rate Commission is turning its attention this year to the subject of the social protection of adolescence. Committees have been set up for the whole country, and the Commission includes, amongst others, Dr. C. W. Kimmins, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell, Lady Leslie Mackenzie, Dr. A. K. Chalmers, Dr. Saleeby, and Mrs. Burgwin. The inquiry is to include the human development from the physiological and psychological standpoint, and the influences which affect the welfare of our young citizens as potential parents, the effect of diet, the dual functions of the sex glands, methods of providing sex education, the influence of recreation and the influence of industrial occupations on fertility, and the preparation of adolescents for worthy citizenship. The subjects are wide and important, and the report, when it is issued, is sure to be both interesting and suggestive.

Mme. Curie.

There is likely to be a fierce battle over the coming elections to the vacant seats at the French Academy of Medicine. The opposition to a woman's admission to the Academy is strong in some reactionary quarters but Mme. Curie's friends are determined to secure her election in spite of everything. There is nothing in the constitution of the Academy to prevent Mme. Curie's election, and we hope she will win her battle, both for her own sake and for the sake of France, whose great men should be above such pettiness.

Waitresses.

We have often drawn the attention of our readers to the scandalous conditions of service which obtain in the catering trades, and to the urgent need for a Trade Board. Now that the re-opening of Parliament is near at hand we would appeal once more for the pressure of public opinion on Members. Owing to the fact that waitresses are mostly scattered a few at a time over large numbers of restaurants, trade unionism is not at present the best way of improving their position. Long hours and very low pay are often excused by the claim that certain meals are provided, and tips are often received in addition to wages. It is well known, however, that in some of the smaller restaurants the tips amount to little or nothing, and the meals are of a very indifferent quality. The following cases speak for themselves:—Eating-house bar, with branches all over London, 11s. 11d. per week, hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. In these restaurants tips are pooled; no waitress has ever received more than 5s. per month as her share. Restaurant with several branches, kitchen worker 16s. per week, hours 7 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. West-End dining room, 30s. per week, no food. Hours, ordinary week 69½, alternate weeks 72, one hour per day allowed for meals. These workers work on Sunday. Three central London restaurants, wages from 5s. to 4s. 6d., hours, in two cases, 9 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m. Woolwich dining room, 11s. per week, hours 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day in the week and alternate Sundays. Wool-

wich dining room B, kitchen workers 10s., waitresses 12s. 6d., hours 7.15 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., no set time for meals, now open on Sundays. For two years now the Government has promised to deal with the matter, but the bad conditions remain, and the general unemployment tends to depress the standard still further. The Government must be forced to do something, and at once.

Mrs. Haslam.

We regret to have to record the death, at Kensington, of Mrs. William Haslam, who was one of the pioneers of work by women in Local Government. For seventeen years she served on the Bolton Board of Guardians, leading a group of women members; she was one of the founders of the Women's Local Government Association in the borough. For many years before the granting of woman's suffrage Mrs. Haslam was one of the leaders of the constitutional women's suffrage movement in the Manchester district, and under her presidency the Bolton Women's Suffrage Association (now merged in the Women Citizens' Association) was a strong and active body.

Prize for English Literature.

The Rose Mary Crawshay Prize for English Literature has been awarded by the Council of the British Academy to Miss M. E. Seaton, M.A., of Girton College, Cambridge, and Bedford College, London. The subject was "A Study of the relations between England and the Scandinavian countries in the seventeenth century, based upon the evidence of acquaintance in English writers with Scandinavian languages, literature, and myths." Miss Seaton took a double first in the Modern Language Tripos, and before the war was assistant lecturer in English at Girton.

Teaching by Film.

Another Education Authority is to test the place of the film in teaching. Denton Education Committee has received permission from the Lancashire County Council to proceed with its experiment, the County Council agreeing to pay a certain sum towards the cost, and allowing the films to be shown in school time. After the films have been shown and explained to the children, they are to write essays, and it is hoped that the experiment will prove successful enough to warrant its permanent inclusion in the school curriculum.

Infant Mortality Rates.

Christiania, according to the latest figures issued by the Registrar General, has the lowest death-rate of any city in the world for babies under one year old. The rate is 33 per 1,000 births; Amsterdam is next with 42, Stockholm 47, and Copenhagen 48. London's rate is 93. We must take steps to bring London more in line with Christiania.

Ourselves.

We have to thank our friends for the very welcome gifts included in this fifth list, and also for the new readers whose subscriptions have been coming in. We do not always know who to thank for these; but we do know that we have a very attentive and friendly body of readers, and (while still wanting more) we feel inclined to thank them all. In these days when trade channels and advertisement are difficult, it is by personal interest that a paper like this makes its way. Our readers, if they like what they get from us, can easily say to their friends that we are worth patronising. We beg everyone to bear this in mind. We make a special appeal for ear-marked sums for the Book Supplement, on page four.

FIFTH LIST.		£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	...	116	1	10
Miss Susan Clough	...	8	0	0
Mrs. Foster	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Fletcher	...	2	0	0
Miss K. F. Jones	...	0	10	0
		£127	11	10

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 PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES AND THEIR HELPERS.

It is generally admitted that women have, to a great extent, become politically awakened during the four years which have followed their enfranchisement, and it is certain that they will play a very large part, not only as voters, but as workers, in the next general election. This political consciousness will probably be most evident in those constituencies in which women candidates are standing, in view of the fact that it is in such constituencies that the most direct appeal to women voters will naturally arise. A long list of prospective women candidates was published in our columns some weeks ago, and the question which will immediately arise in the minds of our readers is, what chances are these women likely to have of actually taking their places at Westminster?

To a great extent the fortunes of these women will depend on the relative strength of the parties to which they belong, but some can find themselves in agreement with no Party, and, generally speaking, thanks to the innate conservatism of the average Britisher, a woman will find herself at a disadvantage as compared with her men colleagues. At the same time, women candidates will gain the suffrage of many voters—for the most part women—who are either not attached as yet to any party, or who place their desire to have more women returned to Parliament above any feeling of Party interest.

Voters can, in fact, from the point of view of a woman candidate, be divided into at least three classes. Firstly, those who will vote strictly according to Party; secondly, those of any or no Party who will vote for a woman because she is a woman, and thirdly, those of any or no Party who will vote against a woman for the same reason.

This analysis enables us to see at a glance the functions in the forthcoming election campaigns which can be filled, and can only be filled, by the non-party women's organisations. These leave party organisations to do their own work among their own members or many possible converts; they do not waste much time on the implacable "antis," but concentrate on stimulating the interest and mobilising (1) those voters who have not yet joined any party, (2) the supporters of a woman as such, and (3) those who up to the present have shown complete indifference to political matters.

Of such organisations the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, whose work for Mrs. Wintringham at Louth has received a considerable amount of recognition, has planned the most complete scheme of work, parts of which are already in operation. Each woman candidate, whatever her party, has been approached, and has been asked if she supports the Programme of the N.U. and will add its planks to her own. If her answers are satisfactory, and in almost every case they have been satisfactory, and if she wishes the help of the N.U. every effort will be made to give her some practical support in the form of a preliminary campaign to bring home to the voter, and more especially to the woman voter, the need for more women Members of Parliament, and the responsibility of the vote. It is obvious, however, that the N.U. cannot undertake intensive work for all women standing for Parliament, and that as a general election draws near, a certain measure of concentration will be necessary.

The N.U.S.E.C. does not confine its attention to women candidates only. In every constituency candidates will be approached with regard to the placing of Equal Franchise in their election address, and their attitude on various other points in the N.U. Programme will also be canvassed and made known to the women voters in their division, either by means of a deputation, by a meeting, by the Press, by leaflets, or by a combination of these and other methods. The history of most of the recent by-elections has shown that the influence of the N.U. is considered important and candidates are paying considerable attention to its requests. Promises gained from candidates at election time vary, of course, considerably in value; some are the promises of real friends, others are more like pie-crust, but, in any case, the causes for which the Union stands are very definitely strengthened by having a large body of Members in the next House pledged explicitly to this Programme. No one can claim that the Programme has achieved any considerable measure of success during the last Parliament. Many of these reforms can no longer be delayed, and a change of heart must be brought about among the Members of the next Parliament. The presence of more women Members in the next House would considerably accelerate this process, so that both directly and indirectly the N.U. feels that its election policy will, until such time as the election is over, be the corner-stone of its work.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The preparations for the General Election are going on apace, and the game of musical chairs which is dignified by the name of a political contest has undoubtedly begun.

The official return of Lord Grey to public life is the best thing which has happened in this sphere for a long time. Whatever one may think of his actual views and opinions, no one can deny that his integrity and his reputation will give back to politics some of that prestige which has been diminishing so sadly of late. And if, as is so confidently rumoured, he is prepared to accept a leading position in the Liberal Party, there may be considerable developments in the near future. As always, however, Mr. Lloyd George is an uncertain quantity. His genius is for quick surprises, and for the brilliant volte-face, and we shall see what we shall see. Meanwhile, the hubbub among the Conservatives has died down, but the developments of the next few days are anxiously awaited. It is in the constituencies that the fate of parties will finally be settled; but nothing much has as yet come from them to show how the cat is going to jump.

At Cannes, meanwhile, great decisions are being taken in a casual sort of way. The calling into conference of the Germans passes almost unnoticed in the shadow of the bigger Genoa conference at which Lenin himself is expected. What a world it is! The political stage has grown from a domestic Punch and Judy box to a real circus ring, and a regular giant circus at that, where a hundred clowns compete for public notice, and dozens of trapeze artistes are perpetually flying through the air. The resemblance to a circus ends, unfortunately, with the constant confusion and perpetual noise. The jokes of the clowns cannot make us laugh; the trapeze artistes always fall into the net; the horses always refuse their jumps. It is a circus we would rather not pay 6s. in the £ to attend!

The question of reparations, which is, of course, the real business of the Cannes Conference, is one upon which it is difficult for the non-expert to speak, and upon which the expert usually speaks quite incomprehensibly. We most of us can and do understand the outlines of the situation, but outlines are not what is wanted just now, but rather hard cash. However, if France can be pacified by a defensive agreement with us (which incidentally would leave her free to disarm), and if Belgium can be "squared," it may be that by the time the Genoa gathering begins the ground may be more or less clear. That this is Mr. Lloyd George's hope is obvious. If he succeeds he will have done a great deal to patch up the rents caused by the Peace Treaty. (This view which I express is, by the way, not original. It is to be found in the new book just issued by Mr. Maynard Keynes, which I heartily recommend to anyone who is interested in politico-economic thought.)

The Irish Treaty has been accepted, after a long drawn-out, and yet intensely dramatic, discussion in the Dáil. The narrowness of the majorities in the two votes taken indicates the great danger that the Irish will find self-government fully as difficult as any other form of the business. But, on the other hand, the attitude of the people of the country is much more solid than the debate would show, and the red hot Republican revolutionaries may find they have not enough backing to make a war with. And if it is nothing but talk, it will not be so bad. The Irish can bear with that a good deal better than we can. In any case, however, everyone here wishes well to Mr. Griffith and Mr. Collins. We do not want to see difficulties in Ireland, even for the pleasure of showing to the world how intractable a people they are. We would rather, in this instance, say anything than "I told you so," because we do really wish for a settlement of the troubles of that land.

With the renewed discussion of the House of Lords Reform, which has come on with election talk, there has been a renewal of the claims of women to sit in the second chamber. I understand, also, that the Women Civil Servants have arranged an influential deputation which has asked to see Sir Robert Horne, and that the Labour Party is putting forward a claim for equal franchise. All these signs of pre-election activity are good. It is the moment for pressing things upon public attention.

[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.]

WORKING WOMEN AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.

By EDITH DEVERELL MARVIN, M.A.

The present time, when hospitals are anxiously considering how to maintain their incomes, offers, perhaps, a specially favourable opportunity for women subscribers to do a great service to poorer women by pressing for the appointment of working women upon the Executive Committees of all hospitals that deal with women and children.

I write with great diffidence upon this subject, having no part in hospital administration. But the matter is one of great importance to the patients, and I feel a responsibility to try to express the views of some representative groups of working women, with whom I was formerly associated, in an attempt to get a working woman representative on to the Executive Committee of a large General Hospital in a provincial city. Our experience at that time clearly demonstrated that the administration of the hospital would have been facilitated and improved by having one or two working women, in intimate touch with the patients' lives and difficulties, on the Executive body. I will illustrate this point, trying, however, to avoid as far as possible any airing of grievances which might be harmful at the present time.

After an attempt, undertaken at the request of working women colleagues, and extending over nearly two years, to make myself acquainted with the aid available for working people in illness in our locality, I came to the conclusion that there was much preventable suffering, especially in connection with the Out-patient Department of the Hospital, and that this needed only to be known to be remedied. The obvious first step was to try to bring someone who could speak for the patients into close touch with the hospital authorities, and the Women's Co-operative Guilds of the district, with the Labour Leagues and Women's Trade Unions, representing altogether several thousands of women, joined in petitioning the hospital authorities for a working woman representative on the Executive Committee. Their petition was refused. Yet, that the Governors needed just such help as a wise and public-spirited working woman could give, that they were ignorant of some of the most pressing troubles of the patients, and would have been able and anxious to remove these troubles if only they had known where the shoe pinched, the following facts will show:—

One of the great troubles of the women was connected with the long hours of waiting in the out-patient department; and not only the women, but their doctors who sent them to the hospital complained of this. But so convinced were we that so obvious a hardship would never have been allowed to continue if it had not been extremely difficult to avoid, that we did not at first mention it as one of our grievances, being most anxious to make only reasonable and practicable suggestions. But at length, the chairman of the Executive Committee, meeting one of our number, asked if there were still other causes of complaint, and the long waiting was mentioned. To her surprise, he asked why the women waited; he had often wondered, he said, why they sat there all the morning, and had supposed it must be because they liked to sit there. When it was mentioned to him that patients received a ticket telling them to be there at an early morning hour—speaking from memory, I think the hour was 9.30—he said that tickets printed many years ago, when the doctors were in the habit of going to the out-patient department in the mornings, must still be in use, though—as he told us—for a number of years past the doctors had never gone there till the afternoon, except for one or two special cases. It was a surprising revelation to us, and no doubt equally so to him. The women had imagined their own cases exceptionally hard, and had not discovered that the morning turn each hoped for never came to any-

one. Here was an instance of a great burden of inconvenience and suffering, weighing upon thousands of patients every year, simply from want of touch between patients and executive, for mothers of families, living at a distance from the hospital, had to leave home very early, leaving children without proper care. These women were either themselves ill, or had to take—often to carry—a sick child. They waited during long hours in an uncomfortable building with no chance to obtain food—for they were too fearful of missing the doctor to go away to seek refreshment. They returned home at last—often late in the afternoon—exhausted. And this was often not a solitary occurrence, for they might have to go during many weeks, sometimes more than once a week. Only contact between patients and executive was needed to end this. If there had been a capable working woman on the executive, such an oversight must have been discovered in a week, for she would have been accessible to the patients. Yet it had continued for years.

Another proof of the value of contact between governors and patients was afforded us by the fact that when we made public certain of the lesser hardships connected with the arrangements incidental to the operation for removal of adenoids and tonsils, these were immediately remedied. It is always a dreaded and terrifying experience for mother and child to go to the hospital for this operation. The child waits its turn and comes back from the anaesthetic in close contact with twenty or thirty other children. The scene is one calculated to unnerve the calmest parent, and one, too, which any well-to-do mother would hold to be an improper ordeal for her own child. The unfortunate pair are on their way home again, not in a cab, but on foot or in a public conveyance, within an hour or two of the operation, while the child is still feeling exceedingly ill and liable to a recurrence of vomiting, and the mother shaken and faint. But it seemed sad to us that suggestions which, in some small degree, would mitigate the hardship—and which were admittedly reasonable since they were adopted—could only be conveyed by means of agitation, harmful to the hospital, from want of a channel through which they could flow naturally into the governors' reservoir of knowledge.

We were surely justified in concluding from such facts that representatives from the patients' own environment, particularly women representatives, could give immense help to executive committees of hospitals. Able working women, with some experience of public work, are now everywhere to be found. And, obviously, they should be appointed by those whom they are to represent, and whose confidence is a condition of their success. The appointment of better-to-do women, however able, though they can doubtless do a great deal for the patients, does not meet the needs of the situation.

It may also be pointed out that the appointment of more representatives of the classes from which the patients are drawn would undoubtedly render the hospitals more popular and result in an increased flow of subscriptions. We heard of one provincial hospital which we were assured had increased greatly in popularity and in prosperity in consequence of the management being put upon a more popular basis.

Sir Kingsley Wood, as reported in *The Times* of November 29th, said that "the solvent hospitals to-day were the hospitals which had secured the support of the working classes." The large amount subscribed from working class sources already is a very striking fact; large workshops, mines, co-operative societies, and so on, send their big annual subscriptions, and almost every sort of working men's or women's club or society, down to the little village groups, makes its effort to raise money for the hospitals. But there can, I think, be no doubt that the interest and enthusiasm would be greatly stimulated, and subscriptions from such sources increased in number and in amount, if there were adequate representation of the classes from which the great majority of the patients are drawn.

FROM SWORDS TO PLOUGHSHARES.

While the man in the street feels profound relief at the prospect of even a slight limitation of armaments, it is inevitable that the Armaments trades must regard the proposals with mixed feelings. To make guns, or armour plate, or torpedoes is their job, their daily bread. There are very large numbers of skilled workmen, engineers, boiler-makers, foundry men, instrument makers, carpenters—anyone can add to the list easily enough—plain quiet people who supply bread to their families by their labours in and about warships, and we must be prepared to transfer their energies at once to other ends as the scrapping process comes into play. It must be remembered that this is mainly skilled labour: these men cannot be put on to make roads and drain land without very serious waste of their capabilities.

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks."

Compared with the elaboration and finish of the weapons of war, life inside the home is still singularly primitive, and in an age of electricity and wireless and chemical research, the life of the mass of housewives is still one of almost barbaric toil. We may ask why it is, when we possess all this elaborate control of natural forces that we still find the household in the grip of elementary grinding work. Even in the towns the mother in the home is still left almost unaided by our later-day scientific power, while in the villages she is nearly in the position of a housewife of mediæval England. All the multitudinous wheels that turn do not save her from the constant laying of fires and lifting of scuttles, the cleansing of filthy pots and pans, the struggle with dust and dirt, the effort to get so simple a thing as hot water.

The great body of highly skilled labour in the dockyards and armament factories must be directed to other uses: for what better end can it be used than for the home where help is so vitally needed and so long overdue? The women who are feeling the fatal backwardness of our domestic organisation are daily extending in numbers; the middle-class women, owing partly to the unpopularity of domestic service, and partly to depreciation of incomes, are largely doing their own work. I do not think

that many of them enjoy the struggle with elementary and preventable hardships, and they are more articulate than the working-class woman, whose toil they now share. Individually, each penned up within her own house, they are helpless—it is probably because of this that the home is so far behind the organisation of the rest of industry—but, collectively, the women's societies can make themselves heard, if they demand that the schemes for electric power shall be put in hand at once, and that the power shall be harnessed to the direct use of the home. Let any housewife consider the difference to her life that would be made, if electric power were at her command to supply the house with light, with warmth for rooms, and heat for ironing, with unlimited hot water, with power for vacuum cleaning, and to cook without soiling pots and pans, and all at the touch of a button, clean and silent—and she will be more than ready to urge such a transference of energy. There are other reforms we can think out, but for the moment this is urgent, for skilled labour will soon be ready, and will be demanding employment. Only it is imperative that the demand comes, and comes powerfully, at the crucial moment. And do not let it be said that such plans are detrimental to the idealism of the world's effort towards peace—they are, on the contrary, an outcome of it. It was in pondering on the needs of this army of skilled labour, and reflecting on the duty of the community to utilize and not waste it, that I was led to consider where the need for such labour was most pressing and would give the greatest and best return. The lifting of the crushing burden from women that ages so many of them, while they should be in the prime of life and strength, the setting free of their energies from drudgery for the higher things of the mind, this is a worthy matter. They will have leisure to bring the thought and the spirit of women into public life, into plans for the better education of our race, into study of our foreign friends and their needs and desires, so that with more knowledge sympathy may grow. They will bring up their children to be like them, and the ever widening circles of knowledge and sympathy will make the peace of the peoples a secure and unshakeable thing.

G. A. C.

BACK TO CIVILISATION: QUARANTINE AT TERIJOKI (concluded.)

By CARMEL HADEN GUEST.

It was the perfect air and glowing sunshine that saved us from any ill effects from our insanitary quarters. We spent the days lying on the beach, gazing across the unbroken white stretches of the frozen Baltic. We weren't given any instructions as to how far we were permitted to wander, but we discovered our rightful frontiers one day, when a sentry fired some shots at a party of students who had wandered out of bounds. Forbidden rendezvous were held on the beach with friends from the outside world, and the sentries were conveniently unobservant.

The second night of my stay at the quarantine I was moved from my room into the inner room, which was very small and overcrowded with four beds in it. My room-mates were a Russian doctor's wife, a servant girl, and a widow. The widow had been fourteen days in the quarantine and was leaving shortly, the doctor's wife a week, and the servant girl four days.

"It's absurd to pretend it's a quarantine," said the doctor's wife. "If you were infectious you might infect the ones who are leaving, and they would spread the infection outside."

"And how is it," I asked, "if we are supposed to be isolated that streams of tradespeople from the town are allowed to come to our door and sell us food at exorbitant prices?"

The doctor's wife threw me a French novel. "Our money isn't considered infectious," she said laughing. "Sont des barbares.—Mon mari serait dégouté. I left him in Russia, but he will be here soon." She dropped her voice confidentially. "The Crown Prince of Siam—is giving him a fine appointment. I'm of French origin," she said sleepily, "but I like the East. Mon Dieu! give me a life of ease and luxury—a little intrigue—n'importe."

The little servant girl was tying a bow coquettishly on her hair. She had a disconcerting way of staring and passing unintelligible remarks. She came from Little Russia, and had fled from there when the Poles invaded her village. She was now attempting to return.

The widow was a very untidy creature, and had a habit of leaving pieces of false hair on other people's beds. The little

servant girl collected them and dropped them noiselessly out of the window, and they disappeared into the soft snow.

The one washing basin in the house leaked so badly, and there was so much competition for it, that it required an almost superhuman perseverance to obtain it. The only time and place for washing seemed under the tap in the kitchen in the middle of the night. Twice I was successful, but the third time I disturbed a flirtation between the little servant girl and a student. They were sitting side by side on a table. The moon was shining into the room on to her pretty little uplifted face. When she saw me she dashed away like a frightened rabbit. I felt embarrassed, but the student was quite unabashed.

"It's no use trying to wash," he said, looking at my sponge. "I don't think the authorities want us to. Why not try a dip in the snow?"

The next morning the Danish lady paced up and down the kitchen like a furious tigress.

"They put two men in my bedroom last night," she cried. "We were four in a room the size of a cupboard. At any rate the Soviets don't—"

"Hullo!" chimed in her husband, "who'd ever have thought you'd stick up for the Soviets?"

"At any rate the Soviet authorities aren't such pigs," she cried hotly, "they don't mix—"

The Russian student touched my arm.

"The sentry brought a letter for you," he said, handing it to me. I tore open the envelope. It was permission to leave from the Commandantur. We had only been interned four days. I dashed into the garden to find my colleague. There he was—lying under the trees on a spot where the snow had melted and the ground was hard.

"Frank, we're free, we're free," I cried.

He hardly moved—intoxicated by the air, the sunshine, the Baltic, and the laughter of the pretty little Russian servant sounding through the trees.

"I'm sorry," he said ungratefully. "I was just getting used to the place."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

Telephone: Museum 6910.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The rumour of an early Election made the first week of the New Year exceptionally active at Headquarters. We are glad to know that some societies are reviving in order to be in readiness for the contest. We are also glad to hear that some existing societies are undertaking responsibility for adjoining Parliamentary Divisions in which we are not represented, and we have already had offers of voluntary help for women candidates should an election be announced. This page may be read by former friends and members of the National Union who are not now connected with us; if so, we would like to appeal to them for help to make the best of the great opportunity offered by the Election, whether it comes now or later. We offer the following suggestions as to how such help can best be given:—

The "Flying Column."—It is not too soon for us to compile a complete list of names of those willing to help women candidates in different parts of the country for any preliminary work before the Election is announced, or during the actual contest. Volunteers will, of course, be able to select the candidates for whom they prefer to work. Full particulars as to the plan of campaign may be had on application to Headquarters.

Election Work in the Constituencies.—We very gladly welcome offers of help in constituencies in which we are not already represented, either in the forming of local societies or groups, or as local correspondents. If, as we are tempted to hope, there is no February Election we shall have all the more time to strengthen our position throughout the country. Our Parliamentary map is very sparsely flagged in some sections. Surely there is no constituency in Great Britain in which at least ten persons cannot be found sufficiently keen on our work to form themselves into an active group?

BY-ELECTION IN TAMWORTH DIVISION OF WARWICKSHIRE.

An interesting example of the strides that the movement towards Equal Franchise is making is that both candidates in this contest, Sir Percy Newson, Bart., O.B.E. (C.U.), and Mr. Jones (Labour), had decided to place Equal Franchise and Equal Opportunities for men and women in their Election Addresses, even before they were approached by the N.U. The candidates are being approached on other points in our Programme by our Affiliated Society in Sutton Coldfield.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NEW YORK BUSINESS GIRL.

MADAM,—I was very interested in your article on the "New York Business Girl," and it appears to have been written by someone who has seen things at first hand. However, it would not be right, I think, to allow the statement to pass that there is no washing accommodation in bedrooms in the United States. Practically, without exception, hotels have in each room what is called "running water," that is, a basin with hot and cold water supply, similar to that found in some bedrooms in England. The majority of private houses of any pretensions whatever in New York have these same basins fitted in the bedrooms. Of course, there are, perhaps, a number of very old houses where there is no washing accommodation in the bedrooms.

In one hotel for working women, which almost deserves an article to itself, although there is no washing accommodation in the small bedrooms, yet each floor has eight bathrooms and two washrooms with six basins in each, and although there are fifty women on each floor there basins in little congestion, as the women get up at varying times. Of course, this is a thoroughly modern building, but the prices for accommodation are extremely cheap.

As previously stated, the article, in my opinion, is an excellent one, reflecting very fairly the condition of affairs for an office girl in New York.

VERITAS.

"SMALL CHILDREN."

MADAM,—I shall be glad to know the meaning of these words from your leading article of January 6th. "... the Bolshevik State appears to be the only one in which the importance of small children is accepted as an axiom of government."

If the Directors hold the perverted view that the present Russian Government is doing better for small children than the Government of the United Kingdom, and if this is the policy of the paper, I, for one, shall withdraw my support in future from THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

I am fully aware of the difficulties of being truly "non-party," but THE WOMAN'S LEADER is extraordinarily unsuccessful in its efforts in this direction, and I am not sure that it would not be better for it to come out frankly as the organ of some advanced political group.

ROSAMOND SMITH.

MOTHERS AND THE POOR LAW.

MADAM,—I cannot help regretting that Miss Agnes Mott's article, "Mothers and the Poor Law," should have been given such a prominent position in the last number of THE WOMAN'S LEADER. As an appeal to the ignorant and the sentimental it may perhaps meet with appreciation, but how are the accusations in the article borne out by fact? Miss Mott

LABOUR PARTY AND EQUAL FRANCHISE.

We have been informed that, at the request of the N.U.S.E.C., the Labour Party has circularised all its affiliated societies asking them to pass resolutions calling upon the Government to introduce an Equal Franchise measure next Session. It has also asked all its candidates to place Equal Franchise in their Election Addresses. Equal Franchise will also be included in any statement that the party issues as to its general policy.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

A printed appeal for funds, giving particulars of the most pressing aspects of our work, will be issued on Friday of this week. As we are revising our lists of generous friends and supporters at Headquarters, it will be a great help to receive names of those likely to be interested to whom copies of the appeal could be sent.

OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL, 1922.

The preliminary syllabus is now ready, and may be had on application to the Head Office.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

UNEMPLOYMENT SCHEMES FOR WOMEN.

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh recently received a deputation from the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship and the Church of Scotland Women's Labour Bureau. The deputation, which was introduced by Miss Rosaline Masson, laid before the Lord Provost, at his request, various schemes for the alleviation of unemployment among women in Edinburgh. These included proposals of an emergency nature for immediate relief, spoken to by Mrs. Bruce (E.S.E.C.) and Mrs. C. D. Murray and the Rev. G. Christie (Church of Scotland Women's Labour Bureau). A constructive scheme for hostels for training and providing household workers was proposed by Miss Rosaline Masson (E.S.E.C.), and a suggestion for the introduction of certain new industries providing employment was put forward by Mrs. Winram, O.B.E. (E.S.E.C.). The Lord Provost, who was accompanied by Mrs. Winram, O.B.E. (E.S.E.C.), gave the deputation a sympathetic hearing, and made helpful suggestions. He stated that he regarded the hostels training scheme as practical and promising, and that he would give it his further consideration and communicate his suggestions with regard to it. Mrs. Maxtone Graham (E.S.E.C.) thanked the Lord Provost for his kind reception of the deputation.

cites six hard cases; for five of these she gives no authority whatever, but for the sixth she quotes "a paragraph" which appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* in September, 1920. No one with any knowledge of life or the Press can attach much value to newspaper reports of proceedings in a police court; they must obviously be very much abbreviated in any case, and frequently printed in the interests of romance rather than of fact; but, granting it to be true that the magistrate postponed this case for inquiry, Miss Mott's comment—"but apparently had no power to reverse the decision"—is quite contrary to the truth. And with regard to the remaining five cases, we are left in doubt whether the magistrate was ever applied to, or, if he was, what his reasons were for refusing to reverse the Guardians' decision.

Guardians have very wide powers for the protection of children maintained by them, whether in an institution or under a system of boarding-out. In either case they may "adopt" where the neglect, cruelty, or viciousness of the parents makes this course proper, and when they adopt they stand *in loco parentis*.

Of course, it sometimes happens that they make mistakes, and they may sometimes act unreasonably. But the decision to adopt is subject, on the appeal of the aggrieved parents, or either of them, to review by a court of summary jurisdiction, whose order the Guardians must obey.

I have good reason for believing that relieving officers and Poor Law officials generally very much dislike being over-ruled by the magistrates, and are consequently slow to recommend "adoption" unless there is an overwhelming case for it. For one case where a child is adopted without cause there are probably ten in which the power is not used when it ought to be.

The cases cited prove nothing. They are all *ex parte* documents, none of which can be taken at its face value—and the face value of most of them is very small. Any decision can be made to appear hard if all the facts supporting it are suppressed. Miss Mott writes as though the Poor Law Act passed in 1889 "to amend the law respecting the control of Poor Law children, &c." had been framed in order to punish well-intentioned although possibly foolish parents. This is not so—it was framed for the protection of ill-used children already in the hands of the Guardians; "parents who are in an influential or well-to-do position," therefore, are not likely to come within its scope.

As to the last paragraph of this article, it is distressing to witness so much misapplied sympathy. Are "we women, in whom are implanted the instincts of motherhood, to turn a deaf ear" to the cry of children in distress? Does Miss Mott, for instance, deliberately mean to suggest, on the strength of a silly epigram of Bernard Shaw, that it is better to leave a girl to be brought up by her mother to a life of prostitution than send her to a Poor Law school? I cannot believe it. The fact is that, as she herself observes, "in these days everyone is pressing the claims of motherhood," and unfortunately some of the advocates are more enthusiastic than judicious.

E. RENDEL.

OBITUARY.

HASLAM.—On January 6th, at 4, Kensington Palace Gardens, London, Mary, wife of the late William Haslam, of White Bank, Bolton.

THE HELENA RESIDENTIAL CLUBS.

It was stated in our last issue that for a sum of 30s. (or only 2s. 6d. more than the average cost of a dingy back bedroom and breakfast in lodgings) a girl in a Helena Residential Club "could obtain a cubicle and the use of dining, drawing, and reading rooms, and her dinner and full board on Sundays." Breakfast is, of course, also included for this sum.

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

Where there is an arming it is against an enemy. A very active new departure has sprung up during the last few months in the organised Licensed Trade camp—a "Women's Movement." In all the important provincial centres women's branches of the Licensed Trade Defence Association are coming into existence. They have their chairman, their committee, their speech days. The membership is open to "lady licensees" and wives and daughters of retailers. The London Movement, called "The Women's Auxiliary League," and formed under the auspices of the Licensed Victuallers' Central Protection Society, mustered a large gathering at the Connaught Rooms a short time ago, and it is interesting to note some points from what was described in trade papers as "A Woman's Appeal to Women." The Chairman, Mrs. Marshall, commented on the phrase "temporary and transitional," as applied to the new Licensing Act by the Attorney-General. That was a direct invitation, she said, to the teetotal party to continue their agitation. She knew that their hostility to the Trade was shared by the Prime Minister, and, though he perhaps did not voice his opinion, Mrs. Lloyd George was most energetic in exhorting the teetotal party to organise. "We women in the Trade may, I think, learn something from her activity. . . .

. . . We have the vote and we must use it, not only in Parliamentary elections, but in every local contest for the selection of representative bodies. I have read that during the polls in Scotland No-licence or Limiting resolutions were carried in some places owing to the neglect of members of the Trade to vote. We must not be guilty of negligence of that kind, and we must remember that women's organisations ought to be invaluable agencies for inducing electors to recognise that it is a public duty to exercise the franchise. . . . When it is known that we mean to use our vote and influence against those who assail the Trade, you will find that not only are we encouraging our friends, but that we are steadying the wobblers among the politicians, and bringing down on our side of the fence those who have been sitting undecided on the rail. . . . But, above all things, we must let it be known that we women connected with the Trade are not less earnest, not less resolute, and not less active in the defence of the industry with which we are associated than the women on the side of the teetotalers are in their propaganda. . . ."

So the "women on the side of the teetotalers" have now to recognise a rapidly growing organised body of women whose aims and objects run exactly counter to theirs; and who will certainly not omit to take the field at forthcoming elections. Cannot women "on the side of the teetotalers" sink their differences and become united in a common aim? Surely there is a common aim—to reduce intemperance and to lessen the temptations in the way of the drinker? If some women incline to the view that public-houses would be safer institutions on the lines of a continental café and under disinterested management they would certainly not oppose a local option measure where there was an opportunity of veto for those who wished to close the public-houses. At the same time, they would claim their own right to vote "disinterested management." This opportunity of uniting different shades of opinion is provided in the Bishop of Oxford's Bill. Let all other women unite in supporting that, and so provide an answer to the ladies of the Trade.

For copies of the Bishop of Oxford's Bill and literature on State Purchase apply: Miss Cotterell, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

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COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

JAN. 13. Aberdeen Grammar School. Speaker: A. A. Cormack, Esq.
JAN. 16. Devonshire House, 120 p.m. Speaker: J. E. Herbert, Esq.
JAN. 17. King's Hall. Speaker: Sir George Paish.
JAN. 17. Northwich, Cheshire. Speakers: Lt.-Col. D. Borden Turner, Mrs. Strachey.
JAN. 18. Berkhamsted School, 8 p.m. Speaker: F. S. Marvin, Esq.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

JAN. 16. Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, 8 p.m. "How to Reduce Prices without Reducing Wages." Speaker: Miss Ida Hyett. Chair: Mrs. Northcroft.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

JAN. 19. New Gallery, 12, Shandwick Place, 8 p.m. Readings from Bernard Shaw, by Miss Isobel Pagan. Admission, 2s. and 1s.

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

JAN. 18. Public meeting at Carlton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m., to promote the return of women to the L.C.C. Speakers: Miss N. Adler, L.C.C., J.P., Mrs. Hudson Lyall, C.B.E., L.C.C., J.P., Miss Margaret McMillan, C.B.E., L.C.C., J.P., &c. Chair: Miss Bertha Mason. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d. Office, 19, Tothill Street, S.W.

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FAMILY ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE.

JAN. 20. Ealing, Women Citizens' Association, 3 o'clock. Speaker: Mrs. Barbara Drake.

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

JAN. 16. Marylebone, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7 p.m. "The Carlisle Experiment in Public Ownership." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.
JAN. 17. Derby, Women's Co-operative Guild, 2.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.
Dalston, Mixed Adult School, 8.15 p.m. "State Purchase a Solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.
JAN. 18. Heywood, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Lantern Lecture: Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.
Hampstead, Women's Liberal Association, 4.30 p.m. "State Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.
JAN. 19. Farnham, Women's Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "State Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.
JAN. 20. Mothers' Union, St. Anne's, Soho, 3 p.m. "State Purchase a New Solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

JAN. 18. 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. Subject: "Can Civilisation yet be Saved?" Speaker: Mr. H. Hamilton Fyfe. Chairman: Mrs. Mansell-Moulton.

LADY TEACHER requires s.c. flat, or unfurnished rooms might suit; Streatham, West or South-West London preferred.—Box 870, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62, Oxford-street, W.1.

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TO LET, UNFURNISHED, two rooms in Belgrave Road, S.W.1; bathroom same floor; telephone; electric light; restaurant, meals and service, very moderate prices; rent, 36s. weekly.—Apply Mrs. Durand, 34, St. George's Square, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 4331.

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THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston-square, S.W. Sunday, Jan. 15, 6.30, Miss Maudie Royden. Prayer—VI. To whom do we pray?

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.).

VENEREAL DISEASES and DISINFECTION. Is this question coming before your Local Council?—Write for details to the Secretary, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Gt. Smith-street, S.W.1.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover Street, W.1. "Monthly News," January, Mr. Harold Hodge, L.C.C., on "Case for Continuation Schools."

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 59, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Vic. 9542. Secretary, Miss E. Strachey. Now available, Secretaries, Short-hand Typists, Book-keepers, Clerical Workers, Commercial Travellers, Demonstrators, Social Workers.

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER BOOK SUPPLEMENT.

No. 3.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1922.

MONTHLY.

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FOREIGN POLITICS.

Life of Robert, Marquis of Salisbury. Vols. I. and II. By his Daughter, Lady Gwendolen Cecil. Hodder & Stoughton. £2 2s.

The Life of Lord Salisbury is, as all its reviewers have said, a very remarkable book. It is readable, which political biographies seldom are; it gives a very vivid and convincing picture of the man himself, who stands out as a real human being from its pages; and, above all, it gives us an insight into the state of that European world in which Lord Salisbury played so important a part.

The book is a good biography and pleasantly written, but it is essentially a political and not a literary work. It is not a work of art, nor is it intended to be one. Though it portrays its central figure as a living character it is not primarily a study in human nature; from either of these aspects it is a good but not an outstanding book. But what it does do remarkably well is to give a picture of the foreign affairs of the years 1868 to 1880, as seen from England through the eyes of her ruling classes.

The story, read, as we cannot but read it, in the light of modern events, is curiously far away. We see the old diplomacy from the inside, and perhaps at its best. We see the stage peopled with great people whose actions are fraught with great consequences, and we see wise and noble impulses directing our foreign affairs. And yet it is not all on the grand scale. The irresolution of Count Andrassy, the optimism of Sir Henry Elliott, even the gout of Bismarck, rank, on that stage, as factors of prime importance, and the fate of nations seems to hang upon the characters of individuals.

With all our talk of self-determination and democratic control we are, of course, not so very far from this same thing to-day. In point of fact, the character of Lloyd George and the health of President Wilson have been determining factors of great events in this generation also, and it still remains impossible for the human element to be absent from human affairs. But for all the similarity there is a vast difference between the conduct of foreign affairs by Lord Salisbury and the manner in which they might to-day be controlled by his son. There is a difference in theory as well as in manner, and the habit of mind of the last century has an appearance which is almost patriarchal to those who have survived the great war.

In Dizzy's day the foreign relations of England in Europe were a matter of nice adjustment, and the important thing was to prevent any rash or undue outburst of popular opinion from upsetting the delicate balance. To-day our foreign relations are still a matter of nice adjustment and balance, but the aim of statesmen is not to conceal from their people the difficulties and complexities of the case, but rather to inform them, as fully as may be, and thus to receive their help. Public opinion, in these

days, is the final deciding factor: to Lord Salisbury it was the thing to be feared; and the difference of these points of view is the measure of what a modern war has taught to a modern democracy.

Lord Salisbury's desire for secret diplomacy did not spring from an innate wish to conceal. He had nothing to be ashamed of, and his plotting was for the great good of everyone. His dealings were honest, and his plans were far-sighted and often brilliant. But in his view matters of high policy were the concern of the rulers or, at the most, of the ruling classes of England, and the "people," blundering, ignorant, and hot-headed, did not enter into it at all.

It is not only in relation to publicity that the foreign policy methods of Dizzy's Cabinet differed from those of to-day. The whole theory upon which the world proceeded seems to have been different. To-day we talk and think everlastingly of the interdependence of nations. We think in terms of the world as a whole, and we are trying, through the League of Nations and through the apparently unending series of conferences, to lock and interlock the policies of all the great nations of the world together. We go forward haltingly enough, but the merest schoolgirl knows that this is where we are going. In 1880, however, we were not going there at all. We were very properly looking after our own safety; we were watching the rivalries and alliances of other European Powers, we were keeping that curiously British watch over the maladministration of the Turks which we have never been able to resist; but we were not thinking of any world order, and the policy so fully described in these pages gives no hint of any such aim. We were keeping open our road to India; we were seeking to prevent an upsetting of the balance of power; we were anxious to smooth out the tangles of Austria and the Near East, and we were striving to be just to the peoples of India; but we were not—and could not have been—world-conscious as we are world-conscious to-day.

Apart from foreign politics there is much to be found in this book which throws an interesting light on the domestic politics of that time. There, too, the controversies and the interests seem curiously distant and dim. The to's and fro's of the Reform Bill of 1867 are almost unbelievably obscure to the understandings of those who enjoy the Representation of the People Act of 1918, and the whole thing has a flavour much more remote than the actual passing of the years would warrant. This is not for any lack of vividness in the story, nor in its telling. We recognise in these pages a great man of our own race; we find a character of strength and charm, an intellect subtle and honest, and a record of work we cannot but admire. And yet, as we close this book, we realise that we live not only in another generation but almost in another world. The war has passed over us, and the ruling classes rule no more.

R. S.

MISS ROYDEN ON SEX.

Sex and Common Sense. By A. Maude Royden. (Hurst & Blackett. 4s. 6d.)

No generation was ever more pre-occupied with sex than ours. It is to the men and women of the twentieth century what religious dogma was to those of the sixteenth century; a subject of conscious and subconscious perplexity, not to a small group of "specialists," but to almost everybody who ever thinks at all. We are breaking loose from old repressions and seeking our own standards of life about this as our forefathers of the Reformation period did about the relations of man to God. No one who wishes to be a teacher, or even a private thinker, can avoid the subject for long; yet the very fact that so many people are taken up with it makes it more difficult to discuss. In the mental chaos which is the first result of beginning to think about it, some people cling tightly to the old ideas and feelings for protection. They think, or feel, that it is wicked even to question traditional morality, and they invoke Christianity in support not so much of what Christ taught, as of what Christians have actually done. Other equally sincere and unreasonable fanatics regard the whole of our traditional morality as so palpably absurd and disgusting that no one of any intelligence can possibly waste time in discussing it; as if ideas which have been accepted by many generations as part of the basis of their lives could be thus easily thrown aside.

In face of the shocked and the contemptuous, Miss Royden has attacked her subject with her usual courage, and has shrunk neither from references to the gospels nor from references to Freud. Many, both amongst those who heard her addresses at Kensington Town Hall and those who did not, will be glad to have them in book form. They will find the questions which have been in their own minds put into words, and whether they agree with Miss Royden's answers or not, they will at least be encouraged to further thought. She seeks to find a real basis for our morality; a law that is in accordance with our own natures, so that in carrying it out we are satisfied in body, mind, and spirit. Tried by this standard the traditional morality fails. It does not satisfy the body or the mind, for at this time, at any rate, it means that many thousands of women must lead the unnatural life of celibacy, with all the serious physical and mental results which modern psychology is teaching us to understand; and who can say that it satisfies the soul when it is maintained, as it has always been, on the basis of prostitution? Miss Royden quotes the terrible passage from Lecky's "History of European Morals," in which he describes the prostitute as "the most efficient guardian of virtue" and the protector of pure and happy homes, and says that when she considers how this institution has been accepted and defended by Christian people, she is not only not surprised at what is called "the breakdown of morality among the young," but is prepared to regard it as a step in advance.

But that promiscuity is vile, Miss Royden strongly maintains. It is a transgression of the law of our nature which demands that we should use the whole of our powers and faculties in our relations with other human beings; it is a "waste of spirit" more fatal, though often as little realised, as the waste of body in enforced celibacy. Those who practise it are losing the possibility of a really full and natural life for themselves and making it more difficult for other people. Enduring love, expressed in indissoluble marriage, is the ideal for the race, and therefore individuals should strive for it, even if they themselves perish by the way.

As concerns the attitude of religion and the State towards morality, Miss Royden holds that, in this as in other things, it is impossible to enforce a literal interpretation of Christ's teaching by moral censure or penal legislation. To try to do so is to transgress against the Teacher who enjoined compassion on human beings as their chief duty, and reserved His strongest censure for those who bind on others heavy burdens and grievous to be borne. Let Church and State bless the highest kind of sex relation without penalising others, and let individuals seek to advance by spreading knowledge and by facing facts in their own lives, but not by compulsion or rash judgments on other people.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

THE EVOLUTION OF RELIGION.

Epilegomena to the Study of Creek Religion. By Jane Ellen Harrison, Hon. D.Litt. (Cambridge: University Press. 3s. 6d.)

It is interesting to find Miss Jane Harrison, the confirmed, the almost militant atheist, turning apologist for theology; and yet such a change, coming from her, is not wholly unexpected. The charm about all her thinking is her openness to fresh ideas and the way in which she seizes upon each new discovery of contemporary thought, digests it, and finds the universe, and more particularly her own special field of research, transformed in its light. If Miss Harrison had happened to be born in and confined to the Middle West of America, it is possible that Salt Lake City or the Purple Mother might have captured her hungry imagination. Being highly educated and English, it was Durkheim, Bergson, Herd Instinct, Unanimism, Russian Literature, and now the New Psychology.

In this book the author sketches briefly a theory of the evolution of religion, illustrating her points by much interesting material drawn from the practices of a number of primitive cults. At first there are Rites, but no God; later, the God is projected from the group who perform the Rite.

No doubt the writer was meditating these theories for some time before reading Jung and Freud, but it was they who suggested to her an answer to the question which profoundly interests her. What is the value of it all? The answer she gives is that "the function of religion is to prevent, to render needless, the suppression . . . of the conflict in which man inevitably finds himself with some, often many, of the elements of his environment. . . . The function of theology is to keep the conflict that would be submerged in the sphere of the conscious, and prevent its developing into a mischievous subliminary complex. Theology thus is seen to have a high biological value. Probably but for its aid, man, long before he developed sufficient reason to adapt himself to his environment, must have gone under." Man's desires, cheated of satisfaction in the real world, find an outlet in the phantasy world of religion, which the stress of his inner conflict has driven him first to create and then to project outside of himself. What a man worships is the projection of his own deepest desires: "the gods are libido," she quotes from Jung, agreeing, if she may substitute for the word *libido* the less offensive term, *vital impulse*. "Conceive of it in this new light," she says, "and theology becomes a subject of passionate and absorbing interest. It is the science of the images of human desire, impulse, aspiration."

So far Miss Harrison's theory of the origins of religion would be accepted by modern psychologists. They would say that religion is one of the many possible ways by which we sublimate desires and impulses which are too severely repressed to obtain direct satisfaction. When sublimation is successful, the conflict between desire and repression is resolved. And to that extent theology may have, as Miss Harrison says, "a high biological function."

But when she comes, in her last chapter, to the praise of Asceticism as "the setting out of the soul towards higher values," I doubt if she would carry Freud and Jung with her. Asceticism and self-denial, in which she believes, are to the modern psycho-analyst suspect, as savouring too much of self-punishment, which may easily grow to a vice as dangerous as cruelty. Miss Harrison believes that the highest life demands the setting aside of the direct satisfaction of instinct and personal emotion in favour of the remote impersonal ideals—science and art. It may be true that all values arise out of the sublimation of desire which leads to seeking satisfaction obliquely in the impersonal, but it is very doubtful whether asceticism and self-discipline are for most people the way to bring this consummation about. To discover how sublimation takes place is now becoming the fundamental problem for Ethics, how from infantile interest in our own bodies and their functions, the impersonal passion which underlies Science and Art is generated. It is doubtful whether the answer will be found in Asceticism.

K. S.

SOME NOVELS.

In Chostly Company. By Amyas Northcote. John Lane. 7s. 6d.

The Crimson Blotter. By I. Ostrander. Hurst & Blackett. 8s. 6d.

The Man in the Jury Box. By Robert Chipperfield. Hurst & Blackett. 8s. 6d.

The Thing from the Lake. By E. Ingram. Lippincott. 7s. 6d.

The La Chance Mine Mystery. By S. Carleton. Duckworth. 7s. 6d.

The Mysterious Mr. Pickering. By Philip Curtiss. Thornton Butterworth. 8s.

Marjorie Conyers. By G. I. Whitham. John Lane. 7s. 6d.

A Christmas Mystery. By W. J. Locke. John Lane. 6s.

Thirteen All Told. By Beatrice Harraden. Methuen. 7s. 6d.

The Law Inevitable. By Louis Couperus. Thornton Butterworth. 8s.

To Let. By John Galsworthy. Heinemann. 7s.

These winter days, when darkness comes on in the early afternoon (if, indeed, it has not remained with us all the morning), and when many people are shut up with colds, make novels an even more necessary adjunct of life than they are in summer. Luckily a good supply of them has been published in the last few months. I shall make no apology for dealing with mystery stories first; to many of us they are one of the chief consolations in sickness and bad weather, and almost as essential on a happy holiday. Tastes vary, of course, even among the lovers of mysteries. I like best those which have a certain element of the commonplace, or, at any rate, of the familiar, in their details. From this point of view I thoroughly enjoyed the only book of ghost stories that has come to me this Christmas. It is called "In Chostly Company," and is by Amyas Northcote. There is a strong element of reminiscence in many of the stories; if the three series of "Ghost Stories of an Antiquary" had not appeared, these might never have been written, but I am glad they were; they do not make one feel really "creepy," but they serve to wile away an idle hour.

All the other mystery stories I have read lately come from America, and the familiar scenes they present to my mind are those of the cinema, rather than of real life. Still, I feel really grateful to the Americans for producing so many detective stories, as well as so many films. Miss Isabel Ostrander is one of the best purveyors of this kind of fiction. "The Crimson Blotter" is quite a well worked out mystery; the people who might have murdered the millionaire are sketched in with some distinctness, and the millionaire himself has a certain flavour of originality, as he was not only a millionaire but also a philanthropist, and one whom reasonable people could not reasonably wish to murder. Moreover, he was murdered twice, which is original even for a millionaire. "The Man in the Jury Box" is also about an American millionaire who was murdered, but he was less amiable, and the clues are not so well worked out.

Three other American mystery stories deal, not with endeavours of detectives to trace the assassins of the wealthy, but with the adventures of young men from towns in wild and overwhelmingly unpleasant surroundings—a lake is important in all three. In "The Thing from the Lake" it is indeed the origin of the trouble. The beginning of this book makes one suspect the author of wishing to emulate Edgar Allan Poe's brooding horrors, but the horror is, after all, susceptible of quite a commonplace explanation, and the interest of the story increases when one begins to suspect that this is so.

An unpleasant lake also plays an important part in the "La Chance Mine Mystery." It is situated somewhere in the wild North-West, is covered with floatig ice, and surrounded with mountains and wolves, wickedness and desolation. The adventures of the daring but sentimental hero are related in quite a spirited manner, but the mystery could hardly have remained a mystery to anyone less stupid than himself; the intelligent reader penetrates it while he is perusing the first few pages.

The lake in "The Mysterious Mr. Pickering" is also amongst forest clad hills, but it has a better climate, or the story takes place at a pleasanter season of the year. The mystery is little more than a mystification.

"Marjorie Conyers" is an English novel, which is also full of unnecessary and uninteresting mystifications. It would seem that the author has been encouraged by the success of her first book, "Mr. Manley," to go on writing stories of the same kind, but if we are to judge from this one, I think the vein is exhausted, and that she had better try something different.

Mr. Locke's "Christmas Mystery" is a short, fantastic tale of three very learned, powerful, and inhuman men, who found themselves by a series of providential accidents obliged to assist

Patchwork. By Beverley Nichols. Chatto & Windus. 7s. 6d.

Compensation. By Mrs. Henry Head. Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.

The Hidden Whirlpool. By David R. O'Neil. Daniel. 7s.

Coquette. By Frank Swinnerton. Methuen. 7s. 6d.

The Confession of Ursula Trent. By W. L. George. Chapman & Hall. 8s. 6d. net.

Torquil's Success. By Muriel Hine. John Lane. 7s. 6d.

Within the Gates. By D. C. F. Harding. Chelsea Publishing Co. 4s. 6d.

Helen of the Old House. By H. B. Wright. D. Appleton. 8s. 6d.

The Headswoman. By Kenneth Grahame. John Lane. 6s.

East is East. By T. D. Pilcher. John Lane. 7s. 6d.

The Hour before the Dawn. By J. Knipe. John Lane. 8s. 6d.

at the birth of a child, on Christmas night, in a lonely Cornish cottage. The mother died, but the child lived, and we are given to understand that it became the centre of the three men's lives and redeemed them to humanity. The story is illustrated by Mr. W. W. Lendon; it will, no doubt, appeal to the many admirers of Mr. Locke.

There is an element of mystery in many of the graceful and fanciful stories that Miss Harraden has collected under the title of "Thirteen All Told." It is a mystery without horror, but full of gentle sentiment and rather wilful pathos. Here again the author's admirers know what to expect, and they will find themselves fully gratified by her last book.

Among novels that are not, and do not profess to be, mysteries, the best I have read lately is "The Law Inevitable," translated from the Dutch of Louis Couperus. I do not know whether the English title is an exact rendering of that given to the original book. From the arrangement of the words it might seem to be a literal translation. It is, in any case, a misfortune, as it seems to suggest a moral which was perhaps not in the author's mind—namely, that when a man has once had physical and legal possession of a woman she belongs to him for the rest of her life, and cannot escape when he calls her back. This can, at the very most, only be true of women of a certain temperament. As a study of temperament "The Law Inevitable" is very clever indeed, though I am not convinced that even Cornélie de Retz would have deserted the man to whom all her affections were given in order to obey the call of her divorced husband. To suggest that her doing so was the result of any general law is, of course, nonsense. Though not attractive, Cornélie is well described, and so is her life in the pension at Rome.

Mr. Galsworthy's last book, "To Let," is the concluding volume in what the author himself calls "The Forsyte Saga." The reader's interest in it depends a good deal on how closely he has followed the earlier fortunes of that remarkable family. This last book has the same intellectual distinction and rather cold emotional atmosphere that characterises the others. "Jon" is an attractive representation of a certain type of modern boy.

In "Patchwork" Mr. Beverley Nichols, whose first novel, "Prelude," created some stir, describes Oxford after the war, seen through the eyes of an undergraduate who would fain have gone back to the Oxford of "Sinister Street." It is a clever picture; whether it is exact only those who are at Oxford now, or have been up in the last few years, can say. If the politically "advanced" undergraduates are, as described in this book, mostly Liberals, it would seem that Oxford has not utterly forgotten her past attitude towards lost causes. There is no allusion to the difference made to the University by having women members.

The Oxford of the past comes into "Compensation," by Mrs. Henry Head, but it is "Oxford-on-a-visit," not the Oxford to which one went "up." The book is a long and fairly interesting story about two girls of contrasting characters. It strikes one as old-fashioned, partly because it deals with Victorian days, but still more because it belongs to a class of novel which was more popular ten or fifteen years ago than it is now.

If one feels this about "Compensation," what can one say about "The Hidden Whirlpool," by Daniel R. O'Neil, a novel about "The White Slave Traffic" and the Militant Suffrage Movement? Although it deals with a past that is not really very far off, it seems to have been written in another era. One can only regret that it was not published then, for it is ingeniously worked out, the kind of novel through which people might quite conceivably have drunk in propaganda while reading for the story alone. At present it can hardly do much good, except that it may remind Suffragists of one of the chief reasons why they

strove so hard for the vote. It will be well if they remember that though the particular social conditions described in it have changed, they have not all changed for the better, and the white slave traffic itself is unfortunately far from being out of date.

I have not space to do more than allude to the other novels on my table. "Coquette," "The Confession of Ursula Trent," and "Torquil's Success," are novels of modern life, each with a certain degree of cleverness, a certain degree of disagreeableness, and a good deal of tedium. "Within the Gates" is an emotional story of "a misunderstanding" and "a girl's heart." "Helen of the Old House" is a terribly sentimental and breezy American novel, not without interest for the English reader in its picture of labour conditions on the other side of the Atlantic. "The Headswoman" is a pseudo-mediæval fantasia by the well-known author of "The Golden Age." "East is East" contains three clever stories of Indian life by General Pilcher, who has evidently seen and observed during his military life. "The Hour before the Dawn," the only historical novel that has come my way lately, is a lively tale of Scotland in the times of the Early Reformation.

It will be seen that there are new novels for every taste, though I cannot, alas, feel that the standard of achievement in any walk of fiction is at present a very high one.

MORE BOOKS TO READ.

- Essays and Addresses.** By Gilbert Murray, LL.D., D.Litt., F.B.A. Allen & Unwin. 10s. 6d.
- Physic and Fiction.** By Sir Squire Sprigge. Hodder & Stoughton. 12s. 6d.
- A Traveller in Little Things.** By W. H. Hudson. Dent. 10s. 6d.
- The Pleasures of Ignorance.** By R. Lynd. Grant Richards. 7s. 6d.
- The Private Character of Queen Elizabeth.** By Frederick Chamberlin, LL.B., M.R.I., F.R.H.S. John Lane. 18s.
- The Days That Are No More.** By Princess Pauline Metternich. Nash & Grayson. 10s. 6d.
- In Whig Society.** By Mabell, Countess of Airlie. Hodder & Stoughton. 15s.
- The Autobiography of an Indian Princess.** By Sunity Deveen, Maharani of Cooch Behar. Murray. 12s.
- The Life of Florence Barclay.** By One of Her Daughters. Putnam. 8s. 6d.

There are some very delightful books this autumn for those who read for pleasure and yet are not content with novels only. The two we have enjoyed most are the work of specialists, who are, at the same time, men of letters in the widest sense of the words. From whom, indeed, should we expect "humane letters" if not from the Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford? In the first essay of the volume before us, he gives us what might be called the religion of humane letters—he himself calls it "Religio Grammatici"—and reading it even the humblest and most ignorant amongst us may grow to understand something of what this kind of knowledge means. It will, we think, be hard for any intelligent reader to turn over the pages of this book without beginning to long to acquire more of that attitude of mind which connects the words "where Orpheus harped of old" with the problems of our twentieth-century existence.

In the papers which he has collected under the unambitious title of "Physic and Fiction," the editor of *The Lancet* has also done something to awaken our sense of the inter-relations of human life. This fascinating book is, we think, calculated to make any young person wish to be a doctor, since it gives one the feeling that medicine is not only the most useful, but the most interesting, of all the professions. Those of us who are too old to begin medical studies will enjoy these essays for their humane outlook, their literary polish, and their curious information; and some will perhaps enjoy most the one called "Comfortable Words About Poisoning."

In "A Traveller in Little Things" Mr. W. H. Hudson gives us more of those delicate little studies of nature and human beings which are such a delight to many of us. The book is full of word-pictures. It should be read in the country and at a time of leisure.

Mr. Robert Lynd has also published another volume of short essays, mostly reprinted from *The New Statesman*. They are full of sympathy, humour, and wit. We have specially appreciated the essay on Cats, a subject which, as Mr. Lynd truly remarks, arouses human egoism more than any other—even children. We, of course, possess "the Cat"!

"The Private Character of Queen Elizabeth" is more in the nature of a book for specialists than any of the above. Its subject is, however, one which will appeal to any woman who cares about history. Queen Elizabeth is one of the great statesmen who has never received justice, largely because of her sex. It is perhaps true that Lingard, England's chief Catholic historian, hated and misrepresented her, not so much because she was a woman as because she was the mightiest defender of the Protestant faith in Europe; but the Protestant Agnostic, Froude, hated her partly, perhaps, because she was hardly a Protestant herself, but most of all because, being a woman, she contrived to be as powerful and as effective as any man. To his naturally anti-feminist mind it was intolerable that she should have been so, and six volumes of his great history are devoted to proving that all she accomplished was really accomplished by Cecil. Curiously enough, however, while denying her political greatness, he does not accept the slanders on her personal character, which were put forward by her enemies in her own day and accepted by Lingard. Perhaps unchastity was too virile a characteristic for Froude to be willing to attribute it to her. Be this as it may, her character as a woman and a statesman has been doubly blasted by the two chief nineteenth-century historians who wrote about her, and only the thoughts of the great men of her own day, echoing through the greatest period of our literature, have to some extent preserved her image. Mr. Chamberlin makes a valiant attempt to reinstate it. Unfortunately, as we think, he does it, not by a sustained narrative showing what she really was, but by a series of rather technical criticisms nearly half of which are devoted to proving that she suffered from indifferent health. This will, we fear, prevent his book from appealing to many readers, though it will be voraciously read by those who are interested in the problems of that particular period.

Among slighter historical or semi-historical books must be classed Lady Airlie's "In Whig Society" and Princess Pauline Metternich's reminiscences. The first is a compilation made from the papers of Elizabeth, Lady Melbourne, mother of Queen Victoria's Prime Minister. She lived from 1752 to 1818, and was a woman of mark both in her family and in that curious and unattractive society which watched the great struggle between Napoleon and England, the growth of Byron's eccentric genius, and of the eccentricity, without genius, of the Prince Regent. Some of the letters to and from Lady Melbourne are so interesting that one could almost wish they had been published in their entirety; but those who want to read further can follow the fortunes of Lady Melbourne's favourite son, of her extraordinarily trying daughter-in-law, the mad Lady Caroline Lamb, and of most of her friends and admirers in the innumerable memoirs already published. Lady Airlie probably felt this, and she has given enough explanation in this volume to let it either stand by itself, or act as an introduction to the period.

Princess Pauline Metternich belonged to a later generation—that which saw the fall of another Napoleon. She was one of the brilliant figures at the Court of the Empress Eugenie, between 1860 and 1870. She was herself an Austrian, granddaughter of the celebrated diplomatist whom we, most of us, think of as the fiendish oppressor of Italy. It is curious to hear of this villain of the *Risorgimento*, whose "red, wet throat" Browning's Italian in England wished to grasp until it distilled in blood through his two hands, as a mild, gentle, gracious old man delighting in lilac bloom, adoring and adored by children, and forgiving his persecutors and slanderers in a way which any saint might have envied. Certainly history has always got at least two sides!

Those who like the little things of family life will be pleased with two biographies of women who, although one was an Indian princess and the other a British novelist, both seem to have been more excellent in a domestic capacity than in any other. The Maharani of Cooch Behar tells her own story; Florence Barclay (author of "The Rosary") has hers told for her by one of the children to whom she was such a devoted mother.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

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