

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Dockers and the Public.

There seems little prospect that by the time this note appears in print, the struggle which is paralysing the international trade of this country will have been brought to an end. It is impossible to over-estimate its gravity, for this country, above all other countries of the world, is dependent for life and prosperity upon the proper functioning of its ports. Upon the pros and cons of the immediate wage demand, whose formulation has precipitated this disaster, we do not propose to offer an opinion. The Court of Inquiry which the Government has appointed will no doubt add considerably to our knowledge of the situation. But public opinion, reinforced by the publicity which it was one of the objects of the Industrial Courts Act to bring to bear on trade disputes, will play its part in determining the result. We therefore appeal to our readers to exercise imagination and sympathy in their consideration of the matter. It concerns the destinies of one of the least fortunate sections of the wage-earning class: men whose normal life is a day-to-day and hand-to-mouth struggle for material subsistence. In spite of much thought and some practical experiment the conditions under which dock labour is recruited and maintained throughout the country, as a whole, constitute a disgrace to an ordered and intelligent society. Some day our wasteful and inhuman tolerance of a vast and floating reserve of under-employed casual dock labour will take its place in History's "chamber of horrors" (economic section) along with the exploitation of the factory children and the recognition of the slave trade. Meanwhile, if the present regrettable dispute, or even a series of such disputes, should serve to bring about its reform, we are inclined to think that the game will have been worth the candle.

Women's Bills in Parliament.

Two Legitimacy Bills have been introduced this week: one by Lord Buckmaster in the House of Lords, which is to come up for its Second Reading on Thursday, 21st February, and one introduced by Colonel Campion into the House of Commons, which is down second on the Order Paper for 29th February. Both of these Bills are very much alike, and both on the lines of Mr. Betterton's Bill of last Session. Neither contains, as did last Session's Bill, a provision to exclude from the benefits of the Bill children who are the result of adulterous intercourse. In view of the Prime Minister's statement that the Government intended to introduce legislation on this subject, both these Bills may be withdrawn. Lord Buckmaster has also introduced into

the House of Lords a Matrimonial Causes Bill, but as this is not yet printed, an account of it must be delayed until next week.

Widow's Pensions.

A Debate took place on Widowed Mothers' Pensions on 20th February, on the following motion moved by Mr. Dukes:—"To call attention to the question of Mothers' Pensions; and to move: That, in the opinion of this House, pensions adequate for the proper upbringing and maintenance of children should be paid to all widows with children, or mothers whose family breadwinner has become incapacitated, such pensions to be provided by the State and administered by a Committee of municipal or county council wholly unconnected with the Poor Law." We go to press too early to be able to give an account of the fate of this resolution.

Local Option for Wales.

The defeat, or what practically amounts to the defeat, of the Temperance (Wales) Bill, introduced by Mr. Hopkin Morris, and almost unanimously supported by the Welsh members, has caused much disappointment. Mr. Morris introduced the Bill with an able and convincing maiden speech, and Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Isaac Foot, Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. T. Johnston (who described the experience of Kirkintilloch, the largest "dry" town in Scotland) followed with powerful speeches in favour of the measure. The views of the Government were stated by Mr. Rhys Davies, Under-Secretary to the Home Office, to be favourable to the part of the Bill dealing with local option as applied to licensing premises, but opposed to the drastic treatment of clubs, proposed in Part III. Mr. Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, speaking as a private Member, gave his whole-hearted support, and reminded his party that the principle embodied in the Bill had been for twenty years part of its programme. In view of the great interest taken in this question, we hope at an early date to deal more fully with the failure on Friday and its causes. Women interested in Temperance Reform will examine the division list with much interest, but the general opinion appears to be that the Bill encountered much opposition that a measure less heavily weighted with controversial matter would have escaped.

Miss Bondfield and the Trade Boards.

On Monday last a deputation from the Shop Assistants' Union, introduced by Mr. Hoffman, M.P., was received by Miss Bondfield, representing the Ministry of Labour. The deputation argued the case for immediately putting into operation the Grocery and Provision Trade Board, and pressed for the further establishment of Trades Boards covering the whole of the distributive trades. Miss Bondfield received these proposals with considerable sympathy, professing immediate concern with the Grocery Trade Board, whose workers' representatives were, she said, to meet her in the course of the week. As to the extension of the system throughout the distributive trades, it would be impossible, she pointed out, to set up boards simultaneously in all branches; those which most urgently needed trades boards must be first considered, and she invited the deputation to state its views as to which these were.

Deportation of an Alien Wife.

Considerable attention has been drawn during the week to the case of a married woman alien, Mrs. Bressler, the wife of a man who had been deported because he had committed various offences, who appeals against the order issued by the Home Office for her arrest and deportation. There was nothing against Mrs. Bressler, who is an embroidress of good moral character, and whose brother is a British subject prepared to look after her and her children.

Mr. Justice Horridge was of the opinion that the Court had no jurisdiction, as the Home Office Order was within the limits of the present law. This case is one more example of the hardship felt by married women in all countries in which they have to accept the nationality of their husbands and are not allowed to nationalize themselves independently.

When is a Turk not a Turk?

The Turkish Press is busy with the question of Polygamy and its continuance, in connection with the Family Rights Bill, which will soon be before the Grand Assembly. Educated Turkish women, it is reported, are solid against the practice, and meetings in support of their view have been held in Constantinople and elsewhere. There is, however, a stout conservative opposition. Some men profess the belief that polygamy is a safeguard against prostitution; others regard it as conducive to the maintenance of a satisfactory birth-rate. In reply to the latter contention much can be said in support of "a better way." It is after all the survival-rate rather than the birth-rate which ultimately determines the size of a country's population. Infant mortality is notoriously high in Turkey, sanitary conditions notoriously bad. Meanwhile, we shall await with very great interest the further discussions on the subject; and our sympathies will be wholeheartedly with the Turkish women in their efforts to abolish this obnoxious practice. Many of the more liberal-minded Turks have already abandoned it. Mustapha Kemal himself is generally credited with advanced views concerning the freedom and dignity of women. We look forward eagerly to the day when Turks will cease to be Turks—in the sense in which feminists sometimes use the word.

Education and the New Government.

In reply to questions in the House on Thursday, 14th February, the President of the Board of Education (Mr. Trevelyan) stated that he intended to use every endeavour to reduce the size of classes of over 50 children, and that he did not propose to retain a specific limit on the expenditure of local education authorities on the provision of meals for school children for the calculation of grant, though he relied on local education authorities to exercise due economy in administration. In reply to a further question dealing with state scholarships, he stated that he proposed as soon as possible to renew scholarships for students from state-aided schools to the same extent as formerly.

Women Police.

Captain Wedgwood Benn asked the Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Rhys Davies) if he could make any statement on the question of women police. The reply was that he was not in a position to do so.

The Children's Charter.

Every social worker will welcome the announcement that the Bill introduced last Session by Mr. C. G. Ammon, now Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, as a Private Member's Bill, to consolidate and amend the Children Acts, is to be one of the first measures brought forward by the Government. Readers of this paper will remember that in our issue of 5th October, 1923, Mr. Ammon described the scope of his Bill, and asked for the sympathy and help of the women of the country.

Honours and Mrs. Fawcett.

We do not ourselves feel much indignation about the virtual exclusion of women from the Honours List. Indeed, for ourselves, we feel it to be an inequality which we would like to see perpetuated, except that we are bound to admit that we should be glad to see women Privy Councillors and Members of the House of Lords. But all readers of this paper will greatly appreciate the high praise awarded Mrs. Fawcett in the *Observer* of 10th February, in criticizing the omission of her name from Mr. Baldwin's Resignation List. We quote Mrs. Fawcett's characteristic reply in full:—

Sir,—While thanking you warmly for the kindly spirit of the paragraph about myself in the "Political Notes" of yesterday's *Observer*, I should like to say that I have not the smallest claim on Mr. Baldwin, nor on any other party leader, for a share in the distribution of party honours.

I have not belonged to any political party since I left the Liberal Unionists when they took up Protection (then called Tariff Reform). My work has been wholly outside party lines—to endeavour to influence public opinion, and therefore all parties, not by force, but by reason, experience, and common sense, that the whole country would benefit by raising the political, educational, professional, and industrial status of women. When I was hard at work as President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, I used to tell my friends that I was specially

fitted to fill a non-party post, for I could not be a Conservative, because I was not a Protectionist, nor a Liberal, because I was not a Home Ruler, nor a member of the Labour Party, because I was not a Socialist. We have had friends and enemies in all parties, and have had the pleasure of seeing enemies converted into friends, and the dear, staunch friends who helped us from the first as stalwart as ever.—Yours faithfully,
MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

International News from Women Overseas.

VOTES FOR WOMEN IN SPAIN.

It is interesting to learn that in yet another country women are obtaining emancipation. Included in the drastic reforms which are at present being carried out in the municipalities of Spain is one giving power to women to vote in municipal affairs and also to stand as candidates; and it is only to be expected that full Parliamentary emancipation will shortly follow. Under the scheme of reform, for which a Bill has been drafted and will shortly receive the Royal assent, the municipalities will be permitted to draw up their own constitutions to suit local requirements: in the elections a system of proportional representation will be introduced, the Mayor will be elected by the councillors, and in no case can he be dismissed by the central Government at Madrid. It will be interesting to watch the development of life in Spain when women begin to exercise their new powers.

CAPE TOWN.

In the House of Assembly at Cape Town the Women's Enfranchisement Bill passed the second reading by 54 votes to 48. The Prime Minister, General Smuts, supported the Bill and urged the need for establishing a single qualification for women in all the four provinces.

Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher's Stansfeld Lecture.

Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, dealing with the multitudinous disabilities of married women, in her lecture of 7th February, raised the question of whether the time had not come when a wife should be entitled by law to a fixed proportion of her husband's income, and not be left in entire ignorance regarding its extent—a situation which was found to be very prevalent during the war when wives upon receiving direct half of their husband's earnings, were in many cases astounded by their unsuspected magnitude. We are glad that Mrs. Fisher laid stress upon this question. It is one which crops up over and over again at women's meetings, and it concerns a grievance which is widely felt.

A Children's Court for Liverpool.

The Liverpool City Council at its last meeting adopted a recommendation by the Finance Committee for the acceptance of a tender for the requisite alterations and additions necessary to convert a building into a juvenile court. The Chairman urged the importance of accommodation for children, quite apart from the environment of the police court, and stated that this building when completed would be unique in character so far as the police courts of the country were concerned.

A Discreditable Scene.

Bath has reason to be ashamed of an incident which occurred in its Guildhall last week, when a meeting in support of the relief of starving German children was broken up by a rowdy and malevolent crowd. Mme. Sarah Grand, ex-Mayoress of Bath, was among the speakers. She would plead for starving children, she said, whatever their nationality. "There are plenty of starving children in Bath," shouted an interrupter. "More shame on Bath if there are," pertinently replied the ex-Mayoress. It is indeed regrettable to have to record incidents of this kind, at a time when the people of this country really do appear to be waking up to the fact that the populations of Europe have got to make common cause against the results of their own combined political stupidity.

A Correction.

With reference to our Note of 1st February on government appointments to the International Labour office, a correspondent reminds us that the leader of the Canadian Government's delegation last November was Miss Carmichael, and that Mrs. Carruthers acted as technical adviser.

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.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

It is not altogether surprising that the first Labour Government should meet Parliament as a minority Government, holding office only as long as it receives the support of one or other of the other two parties. Once again it is the genius of the British people, long accustomed to representative institutions, that already bids fair to solve, without resort to the bloc system prevalent in other countries, the problem of a three-party system.

To a detached observer the strongest impression of the first week of the new state of things must surely be the desire, not only expressed by the leaders but apparent among the rank and file of the two other parties, to facilitate the carrying on of the King's Government. Both parties in advance promise that as far as may be there will be no factious opposition. The cynical observer may suggest that this is because neither of the parties in opposition wish to take the place of the Labour Government, but the more charitable observer will be inclined to attribute this readiness to give the Labour Party a fair trial in office to the sportsmanlike feeling that it is only fair, and also to the lessening of party animus due to the present situation.

It must not, however, be thought that either the leaders or members of either party generally will resist the temptation to score points, but it will not be the wish of either that until the new Government has been given a fair trial the scoring of a point shall be permitted to lead to a crisis.

The attitude of the new Government, as foreshadowed by the Prime Minister in his statement of policy, and as indicated by other members of the Government in answers to questions and so forth, is in harmony with the composition of the Government. Except under compulsion, no member of the Government has alluded to the two issues of the Labour Programme, as placed before the country, of capital levy and the nationalization of industries. It has been a fair retort to the gibes occasionally

hurled across the House from the Tory benches: "Where is capital levy?" "Just where protection is." But it may already be true that some of the ardent spirits in the new Government who looked to these two drastic policies as the short cut to cure all the nation's ills are already having their views modified, not only owing to the daily contact with colleagues who have no use for these remedies, but also to the modifying influence which always comes with office.

The Labour Government, in accepting office, have not done so without a full knowledge of their difficulties, made abundantly clear from time to time by the expressions of members below the gangway who let it be known that the present Government hold office only as long as they receive support from the Liberal Party. Here, again, the retort is obvious—if you do not like us, come and take our place. Notwithstanding these pleasantries, it is apparent that the Liberal Party have no desire to exchange their present position for what has been called "office without power." It was well said by one who viewed the faces of the members from an exalted position in the House during the debate on the address: "The Tories are downhearted and despondent, the Labour Party already sobered and anxious at the thought of their coming responsibilities, the Liberals jubilant and care-free."

The impression gains ground that if factious opposition can be restrained and the welfare of the country in some measure replace the welfare of party, the prophecy of an old and influential member of the House may come true, that more useful and good work will be done in the present House during the next two years than has been the case for a long while.

[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.]

PARLIAMENTARY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS re LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

We congratulate the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and Mrs. Wintringham on the following answer given by the Prime Minister on Monday, 18th February, to her question as to the Government's intention with regard to legislation on the Guardianship of Infants:—"The Government have this matter under consideration, and are willing to confer with the promoters of the Bill now before Parliament, and with others interested, with a view to seeing whether agreement can be reached as to the main provisions to be included in any measure on this subject." On the same day the Prime Minister informed Mr. Foot (Lib., Bodmin), in reply to his question as to whether the Government intended to introduce a measure during the present Session to give the franchise to women on the same terms as to men, that "the Government have not yet had an opportunity of considering whether it will be possible to take any action in regard to this matter in the present Session." This is at any rate better than a blank refusal, and we very much hope that the Prime Minister will recognize the earnest desire of women everywhere that the responsibilities of citizenship should be given to all adult women on the same basis as men. On Thursday, 14th February, Mr. Lorrimer (U., S. Derbyshire) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if "in his Budget he will remove hardship by making it unnecessary for a husband to include his wife's income in his Income Tax return," to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied as follows:—"I would remind the Hon. Member that in the Income Tax Acts full recognition of the principle of equality between husband and wife is accorded by the provisions under which either spouse may elect for separate assessment. As regards the rate of tax to be borne by either of the spouses, I would remind the Hon. Member that, as was pointed out by the Royal Commission on the Income Tax, the adoption of a course under which a husband and wife would be taxed at a rate or rates determined by their individual incomes and not by their joint income would result in a shifting of the burdens from the rich to the poor, and I am not prepared to introduce legislation on such lines."

It is a very great disappointment that the Labour Government should thus turn a complete *volte face*. In previous Sessions it has stood for the separate taxation of the incomes of married persons. Mr. Snowden's objection can be met by the adjustment of rates on the super-tax and rebates on marriage, which, if carefully worked out would not result in the shifting of the burdens from the rich to the poor. It is important that Women's Organizations should do their best to see that the Labour Government resumes its former favourable attitude, as the question will be coming up shortly. Mr. Hore-Belisha called the Prime Minister's attention to the general feeling in favour of the provision of pensions for necessitous widows and mothers, and asked for the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on the subject. He was asked to repeat his question in a fortnight's time. Mr. D. G. Somerville (U., Barrow-in-Furness), asked the Minister of Labour whether the Government accepts the principle of equal pay for equal work of equal value for both sexes in the Civil Service and in industries generally so far as its influence can be exerted; and whether there are any branches of the Civil Service or such Branches of Industry where at the present time the principle is not acted on? Mr. T. Shaw answered: "As regards industry, the question of pay for work done is a matter of settlement by discussion between the employers and workers concerned. I have no information as to cases in which the practice is not followed. As regards the Civil Service, I would refer my Hon. Friend to the Resolution of the House of the 5th August, 1921, of which I am sending him a copy."

Our readers will agree that it is extremely unsatisfactory that no announcement was made by the Government as to its attitude with regard to the question of equal pay in the Civil Service, in view of the fact that a discussion on this subject will inevitably be raised this Session and that the resolution referred to provides for its re-discussion. Other questions on subjects such as Infant Welfare Centres, Milk Supplies, Smoke Abatement, and many others were answered sympathetically, but without any definite promises.

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXIV.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

CAMBRIDGE, 1890.

I felt too keenly about what I was almost certain was going to happen when the tripos lists were read out in the Senate House in 1890 to dare to be present. My father was there and two young nieces, and they described the scene to me. I also, of course, had many letters about it. I was intensely rejoiced, my only regret being that my husband was not here to share my joy with me. I had literally hundreds of telegrams of congratulation. They showered in upon me like snowflakes in a storm. At last even the phlegmatic reserve of the telegraph boy was overcome, and he asked, "Whatever is going on in this house, is it a wedding?" Our dear old housekeeper, who was answering the door, exclaimed, "Oh no! a great deal better than that." I always consider myself a lucky person, and this impression was confirmed by the result of Philippa's tripos examination. I should have been overjoyed if any girl, even the daughter of my dearest enemy, had gained a similar distinction. But that this great honour should come to our own child was a joy that could hardly be expressed. I had been full of rejoicing when three years previously Miss Agnetta Ramsay, now Mrs. Butler, had been placed in the first division of the first class in the Classical Tripos at Cambridge, and that she had occupied this position in solitary grandeur so that *Punch* had been justified in a good cartoon showing a first-class carriage and the guard turning back all masculine aspirants with the words "for ladies only." The distinguished position of two women students, the one in Classics and the other in Mathematics, was such a triumphant answer to all the sneers and jeers showered upon the Women's University education movement in former times. Philippa's coach, Mr. Hobson, told me on the authority of the examiners that it had been a strong year, and that she was 400 marks (or 13 per cent) ahead of the senior. I heard from Dr. Montagu Butler, the master of Trinity who, in the course of a very kind letter said, "I only wish you could have seen your dear daughter in the Senate House at the moment of her triumph. You could not have seen a more perfect picture of modest maidenly simplicity. This can be no surprise to you or to any who have known her. Still, the picture presented was singularly impressive and touching." Another charming letter was from our old friend Mr. E. A. Beck, afterwards master of Trinity Hall. He wrote to congratulate us both "on the brilliant success of Philippa, on which this college with one accord looks with an interest and a strong family feeling which you can well understand." Another letter gave me details gathered from her examiners of the character of her success. One of these contains the following passage: "She was ahead on all the papers except two, so that the examiners were sure that her place had no element of accident in it, but that in any similar examination she would have accomplished the same feat. Her work was similar to that of her father (but with greater mathematical knowledge), no shots, no sheets of paper wasted, but grasp of question and proper application, the only errors and erasures being unimportant ones of analysis and these only occasional." A telegram from Miss Emily Davies was characteristic: "Magnificent news, almost overwhelming." Anna Bateson wrote: "I cannot imagine a more delightful thing having happened. It is splendid that it should be someone from Newnham, but that it should be Philippa makes it doubly so, and I am sure everyone will be as glad for you as for her. . . . They (the people in the neighbourhood, Ammonford, South Wales), all say now, 'Why don't they give women degrees?' to which I find it impossible to give any satisfactory reply." Then there was a very affectionate note from Evelyn Lady Portsmouth, whom I greatly loved; she wrote: "Philippa's success gives me a slight delirium of joy. I congratulate you, and in so doing think of one who is gone, who would have been made so proud and happy could he have seen this now." Another dear woman friend wrote: "I just sat down and cried for joy." Letters came also from Miss Emily Lawless, Miss Cons, Mrs. Arthur Lytton, Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Lord Spencer, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Professor Adams (the Cambridge astronomer) and his wife; even Sir Henry James (afterwards Lord James of Hereford) and Sir William Harcourt, both staunch enemies to the political side of the women's movement wrote

charming letters. Sir Henry James said that Philippa's achievement had considerably weakened his opposition to our political claims. This was, however, only a passing phase of emotionalism, and he soon returned to normal. Lord Courtney's letter was brief, and may be quoted almost in full:—

"Dear Mrs. Fawcett,
Magnificent!

I was out at breakfast, and when I came in my wife told me the news. . . . I have always said it was cruel as well as foolish to predict great things beforehand, but Philippa has justified everything.

Magnificent for her, for you, for all women.

Ever yours,
LEONARD COURTNEY.

OUR WOMEN M.P.s.

We propose in this section of the paper, so far as space allows, to follow the records in the House of Commons of our eight women in Parliament. During the past week both Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham took a prominent and able part in the debate on the Welsh Local Option Bill, and on Monday of this week Margaret Bondfield, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, in a convincing speech, appealed for support for the first Bill introduced by the new Government—to abolish the "gap" in the Administration of the Insurance Acts. This is the first time that a woman has spoken in the House in an official capacity; she was greeted with cheers. The same day Miss Bondfield received a deputation from the Executive Committee of the Shop Assistants' Union at Montague House, to urge the necessity of again putting into operation the Grocery and Provision Trades Boards in England and Wales. Last Thursday Lady Astor asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies to state the number of maisons tolérées recognized by the Government of Hong Kong in that Colony, and was informed that the number registered was 296 in 1923. Mrs. Wintringham asked for particulars with reference to the alleged flogging to death of a native in Southern Rhodesia. Of particular interest to the readers of this paper was the question put by Mrs. Wintringham on the Government's intention with regard to the Guardianship of Infants Bill. The favourable answer received is dealt with in our Notes and News column.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

CONTINUITY OF LETTERS. By John Bailey. (Milford. 12s. 6d.)

Some of the Essays contained in this volume have appeared in the *Fortnightly* and *Quarterly Reviews*. One was delivered at Cambridge when the author was Clark Lecturer, another on Poetry and the Commonplace was the British Academy's Warton Lecture on English Poetry for 1919, while three of the papers on Shakespeare's Histories, Prometheus in Poetry, and Don Quixote have not appeared before.

ADVENTURES IN THE NEAR EAST. By Colonel A. Rawlinson, C.M.G. (Melrose. 25s.)

The adventures here recorded are of the highest class, and the author belongs to that elect band whose doings, recounted in the simplest way, fill one with a glow of pride. His scene of action is laid among the mountains of Anatolia, which he crosses in a sham armoured car to investigate the doings of tribes and Turks. He ends with a terrible term of imprisonment and starvation, endured with dauntless courage by his little party.

BUTTERFLY LORE. By H. Eltringham. (Milford. 4s. 6d.)

This little book contains the curious life histories of many of our moths and butterflies, and the remarkable results of certain investigations in these matters conducted by the author and others.

TANTALUS. By Dorothy Easton. (Heinemann. 7s. 6d.)

The story of a clergyman and his family in a small country town during the war. Their lives are disturbed by the arrival of a little French governess, who opens their eyes in different degrees to the conventional unlovely routine in which they live. Miss Easton handles a theme which might easily become sordid with such skill that the reader's sympathy is aroused for each member of the distracted little group.

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several months.

ARIEL.

"If of life you keep a care:
Shake off slumber, and beware.
Awake! Awake!"

Last year, André Maurois, the author of *Les Silences du Colonel Bramble*, wrote a book on Shelley's life, called *Ariel*, an apt name for that singing spirit. *Ariel* also, by the way, was the boat that sailed from Livorno, in the tempest of 8th July, 1822, during which Shelley and Williams perished near Viareggio.

One of the impressions left by this notable romance of history is the very important part played in the Shelley drama by women; and the three women to whom he stood closest were, it is interesting to note, of three entirely different types, alike only perhaps in their sufferings.

Harriet Westbrook, his child-wife, comes first in order of time; Harriet, rosy pink, with her natively arranged locks (point de mèches folles), who flung herself, Westbrook greatly aiding, into the arms of the nineteen-year-old baronet to be, with his aristocratic profile, and his revolutionary, anti-clerical theories. It was Harriet who read aloud *Télémaque* and blushed at the Edinburgh inn-keeper's jest on her wedding night; Harriet who repulsed Hogg, and adored Percy, but tired of the sister of his soul, Miss Hitchener ("The Brown Demon"), and mocked at Cornelia Turner of the Petrarchian sonnets. Harriet, pettish, jealous, trivial, left her Latin lessons and her ill-digested social theories when her first baby was born, turning to chiffons, shop windows, and the luxuries desired by youth and beauty in high places. Poor little Harriet, whom Edith Southey tried to school into thrifty housekeeping and the cult of the linen-chest. One can hear her ringing laughter when, during their Dublin campaign, Shelley, from their room balcony, adroitly fired one of his tracts on Catholic Emancipation right into the hood of an absent-minded elderly lady. Harriet was a small spirit, with charm, with *naïveté*, with some gifts. But her mind lacked depth; she was neither unselfish nor constant. After the separation from Shelley, lover after lover took his place, until, according to a newspaper report, "a woman of respectable appearance, en état de grossesse avancée, was recovered from the Serpentine. She wore a valuable ring. It is supposed that this tragedy was the result of dissolute living, her husband being absent from England." To this end came the contrived and ill-considered tie between the two well-meaning children.

Mary Godwin, Shelley's second wife, was another type. Mary Woolstonecraft's daughter, and child of the theorist Godwin, who wrote the six-guinea book on "Political Justice," she looked at Shelley with hazel eyes, free from all superstition, and, away from Skinner Street, in the quiet by her mother's grave, told him her sorrows. Mary's mind floated above all prejudices; she loved the poet of "Queen Mab," and said so to him. She thought his tie to the unworthy and unloved Harriet degrading, and not to be borne. "She will have the money, and she will be glad," said Mary contemptuously, and her own union with Shelley began with a long and tiring journey, a seasick crossing, and a penniless return to England. The position was regularized after the birth of two children, and after Harriet's death. Mary was very calm in all her serious grace. On the day of her marriage to Shelley, she sedately notes—

"A journey to London, we get married. I am reading Chesterfield, and Locke."

Unlike poor Harriet, Mary was a good manager, hampered though she was by her constant efforts to help her father and to pay Godwin's perpetual debts. At Marlow, she did not care for the too assiduous visitors who besieged their dwelling; Leigh Hunt with five children; Peacock arriving each evening uninvited, to drink a whole bottle of wine; Charles Clairmont, who sponged on Shelley for a *dot* for his moneyless but charming French wife. Says Mary, "Would it not be wiser to get a little house by the sea, where our expenses would be much less?"

She is a careful mother. "I would like," she writes to Shelley in London, "William to go with me on my walks. Will you send me, if possible by Monday, a hat for him, fur, the fashionable round shape. Say it is for a boy, and we want a narrow gold cord round, so that it can be drawn up, in case it is too big." Mary had her children baptized, not that she herself cared, but it was better for them to start life observing the rules, she remarks.

Mary has self-control. The day but one after the funeral of "Little Ca," she reads four cantos of Childe Harold; it rains and she visits the Doges' Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, seeing also some fine paintings at the Academy, with Mrs. Hoppner. But under the strain of motherhood, the goddess becomes

plaintive and imperfect. She wearies of Claire, her step-sister, always trailing around them, with her passion for Byron, her mysterious illnesses, her baby Allegra, her neurotic friendship with Shelley. His other Platonic love, Emilia Viviani (Emily of the Epipsichidion) did not "remain a vestal virgin still," and Mary shrugs her shoulders. Jane Williams ("radiant sister of the day") was amusing, and played the guitar well, but house-keeping with the Williams' couple was not to Mary's taste.

Mary likes society, and desired to go to Mrs. Beckett's ball, despite Shelley's amused disapprobation. There were moments when she felt devout, and attended Anglican services, but was frightened off by the parson's allusions to atheism, looking fixedly at her. Mary was decently prudish when, during the lunch with her at Casa Magni of some English notabilities, Shelley horrified her by passing through the living-room nude with seaweed in his hair. Did she remember this on that tragic eighth of July, one wonders?

Mary could be dry and practical, but she could think, and plan, and was magnificently loyal to her father, and to Shelley, living or dead.

Claire (Jane Clairmont, the daughter by a previous marriage, of Godwin's second wife), was the woman of emotion, the temperamental lover, the minx of the limelight. When Shelley preferred Mary, Claire wrote and offered herself to Byron, who did not accept with headlong haste. Part of the calamity of Mary's life was the forced company of this Claire, who clung helplessly to the couple, and more than once, induced Shelley to intervene on her behalf, and on that of the child, Allegra, with Byron a bad lover, and a bad friend. Naturally, a strong maternal instinct was part of Claire's mental equipment. She was inordinately proud to have Byron as father of her Allegra, and even sacrificed her share of companionship for the sake of advantages to be gained for the child under Byron's care, dubious though these advantages turned out to be. One feels most for Claire that miserable first evening at Casa Magni when all, the Williams, Shelley, Mary, knew of the death of her child, all except herself, and she too, before a word had been spoken, murmured, "Allegra is dead?"

Reading the lives of these three women, the idea arises again and again that one cannot, and ought not, to make one's existence so much dependent upon emotion, a continual "Je souffre, je vous aime, et je vous attends," as tragic Julie de Lespinasse wrote to Guibert. Yet, in those days, if a dowdier woman had not the domestic tastes, if she did not feel a vocation for teaching young children, for housekeeping, or companionship, there was little else left for the more intelligent to select. At Skinner Street, pretty Fanny Imray faded and died by her own hand, and Mary's elopement made her a pariah. Claire, whose calamitous, irresponsible course ended as governess in Russia and proselyte to the Roman creed, tried to write a book on love, and is reported to have confessed roguishly when quite old, that it was Shelley she loved with all her heart and soul, and not Byron.

If these three women had had other outlet for the expression of themselves than through emotion, if they had had real work they were drawn to do, if they had had freely offered to them the suitable rewards of concentration, of industry, of ability, might not their lives have been simpler, and their tie with a sensitive and unique poet productive of more happiness and merit? Supposing that Harriet had had a satisfactory and not too arduous post, with financial interest, in a good hat shop. Suppose Mary a hard-working doctor or the principal of a college, and supply Claire with regular employment as an elocutionist, or a charity organizer, or a film star. The first two might have done better. About Claire, dear Brutus, one does not know.

T. OUPIE.

OURSELVES.

We call the special attention of our readers to an article by a new contributor on the part played by woman in the life of Shelley. In a forthcoming issue Miss O'Malley will review Mrs. Campbell's work *Shelley and the Romantics*. Next week Sheila Kaye Smith will contribute an article entitled "The Compleat Child." Mrs. Oliver Strachey will describe "Geneva Between-whiles." Our readers will notice that in addition to a survey of the political situation as seen from within, written by a Member of Parliament, every effort is made to give in convenient form short reports of important speeches and questions in the House of special interest to women. In addition to this we propose from week to week to give a brief outline of the work of our Women Members.

THE LAW AT WORK.¹ THE PRISONS REPORT.

We make no apology for returning to the Prison Commissioners' Report, with which we dealt in this column a month ago, and particularly to the changes made during the year in the conditions inside the prisons. The Commissioners state clearly the objects they have in view—to make prison a place of training, to remove its degrading features, and to give the prisoners some sense of personal responsibility.

It is obvious that one of the most urgent needs in prison is education, so that the prisoners' mentality may be strengthened and enlarged. No progress whatever has been made in this so far as paid teachers are concerned, and, though voluntary work has been encouraged and splendid work is being done by volunteers who hold classes in prisons, yet it is clear that the needs of a daily prison population of over 11,000 persons cannot be met in this way. We should like more definite statements as to what is really being done in all prisons in the way of lectures and concerts. It is not satisfactory to be put off with such expressions as "more numerous," "the object is" to have a lecture once a week, concerts have been given "regularly," "more than half the prisons hold debates from time to time." No doubt the Commissioners are informed of what is actually done, and we should be more satisfied if this information could be passed on to the public.

The Report is of particular value because no attempt is made to show that everything is what it ought to be in prisons. The new instructions that have been given regarding clean under-clothing are significant; chaplains have been called together to confer as to whether a daily service in chapel is really beneficial to all prisoners and have decided that it is not, and some prisons have now only one service each week in addition to Sunday. As to occupation, the Report acknowledges that most of the prison population is still employed on industries "of a very poor kind." We cannot but sympathize with the difficulty of getting good industries to work while so many prisoners are mentally or physically defective or sentenced to only a few weeks, but we believe that if more money could be spent on staff and equipment a great advance might be made.

In the extracts which are given from the Reports of Governors we find the same opinions expressed over and over again. With regard to first or youthful offenders, "I have no doubt whatever that a large proportion of the young prisoners received—particularly those under 18—should never have been sent to prison at all"; and from a Chaplain, "I am perfectly persuaded that young prisoners ought not to be sent to us at all"; or again, "we get boys who though 16 years of age are still too childish for prison," and "there appears to be a number of cases in which committal to prison for a first offence seems to be adopted without any use of probation. As far as I can judge, the little of prison which these youths see rouses a real curiosity in them to know more about it and all the horror of gaol life disappears."

Severe comments are also made by Prison Governors on the practice of magistrates in remanding prisoners in custody. It is pointed out that a first offender after having been sent to prison to await trial "may be found 'Not Guilty' and really deserve an honourable acquittal, yet there will always be the possibility, even if not of blackmail, of his being accosted by an old hand claiming acquaintance 'because we were in gaol together.'" "Lads are often remanded for seven days, and then very often get off. Very well! The lad has done seven days, and that is what it amounts to. The lads are, of course, recognized and hailed by old prisoners outside." The Brixton Prison Governor states that "many magistrates remand a case for a week or so as a punishment before 'binding over' and as an alternative to imposing a sentence of imprisonment," and the Wandsworth Governor that "a period of seven days, one month, or two months in prison is quite useless; in fact, it is most harmful to the lads."

TWO WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

We congratulate Dorchester and Sutton Coldfield on the acquisition of women magistrates. In the former borough Mrs. Hardy, wife of the novelist, has been added to the Commission of the Peace, in the latter Mrs. Mary Alice Evans.

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

HOW WE DIE IN OUR VILLAGE. (A TRUE STORY.)

"Missus, I shan't be here till nine this morning. That poor Mrs. Deane has been awake with her old man all night, and she has asked me to run and fetch the doctor at once."

It was 7.45, and the doctor lives two miles away, so as my assistant would be late I busied myself with my own housework, wondering meantime what I could do for my poor neighbours, old-age pensioners living in a cottage three minutes' walk down the road. I thought that at any rate a hot-water bottle could do no harm, so I filled a rubber one and went in. The poor old woman doubted if she could carry it upstairs herself, she felt so weak after her sleepless night.

"Do carry it up to him, Mrs. Lansing, and put it in his bed."

This I did, and as I looked at the old man's poor pinched face, I could see what he had been through, and what was probably before him. However, I said nothing either to him or to his wife, except that I hoped the doctor would soon be there to give him ease.

When my help arrived after her visit to the doctor, she reported that he had scolded her for coming. "What's the matter with him? Pains in his inside as usual! I'm not bound to come to these people. Tell them I shan't call till my regular rounds."

He did call later in the morning, and told the old woman to send to his surgery about seven that evening for a bottle of medicine. As he was leaving the cottage he turned to her and said: "I suppose you've had all the parish in to see him?" "No, doctor," was the reply, "only Mrs. Lansing, who brought a hot-water bottle and took it up to him." "Oh, if Mrs. Lansing has seen him she probably knows what is the matter with him." The doctor knew that before my marriage I had been a hospital nurse. This may possibly account for the fact that he later reappeared with another doctor for a consultation, the result of which was that the old man was ordered to an infirmary five miles away. A charitably-disposed farmer jogged him there that same day in a spring-cart, and there, after an operation for appendicitis, in less than a fortnight he died.

A RUSTIC.

[We print the above story, contributed by a correspondent who prefers to remain anonymous, in no spirit of hostility to country practitioners as a class. In our own experience, no doubt in every individual's experience, incidents of this kind can be paralleled by equally striking records of sympathy and devotion. Nevertheless, we believe that the medical resources of the countryside are very unequal, and in many cases quite inadequate—not necessarily through the negligence of individuals. And perhaps in no sphere are they more inadequate than in the sphere of maternity attendance.—ED.]

A NEW FACTORY AND WORKSHOP BILL.¹

Representatives of seventeen Societies were received at the Home Office on 8th February by Mr. Rhys Davies, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department. The deputation was convened by the Industrial Law Bureau of the Y.W.C.A. in order to draw the attention of the Home Secretary to the need of a new Factory and Workshop Bill. Six points were specially stressed:—The desire for a forty-eight hour week, the need of a minimum standard of temperature and a standard of lighting in all factories and workshops, the closing down of underground workrooms within a given period and the need for mess-rooms, washing accommodation, and accommodation for outdoor clothing for the workers concerned, and last, but of extreme importance, the need for a largely increased inspectorate, including both men and women. The deputation was introduced by the Bishop of Winchester, who was followed by Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, J.P., on behalf of the Industrial Law Bureau of the Young Women's Christian Association. She was followed by a girl worker, who gave her personal experience, which was listened to with much interest. The concluding speaker was Mrs. Rackham, J.P., an ex-Factory Inspector. Mr. Rhys Davies assured the deputation that their request would receive the sympathetic attention of the Secretary of State. Mr. Henderson had already expressed his interest and his realization of the desirability of an amending Factory Bill in a letter to Miss Mary E. Phillips, the organizer of the deputation.

¹ During last week the Prime Minister announced in the House that a Bill will be introduced to amend and consolidate the Factory and Workshop Acts.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY.
Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

PRESS CUTTINGS—THE BEST PUBLICITY.

Members all over the country must have noticed the excellent Press which the N.U.S.E.C. has received on the subject of Widows' Pensions. Some important provincial papers have not only inserted paragraphs but short articles on this subject. Is it too much to think that this publicity and the innumerable meetings held by our Societies have helped to create the general feeling in favour of this reform described in a question in the House elsewhere.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 26th, 27th, 28th March, King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W.C. 1.

Secretaries of societies are reminded that nominations of officers and members of the Executive Committee and amendments to the resolutions on the Preliminary Agenda must reach headquarters on Tuesday, 26th February. It will be noted that the agenda, which will be posted to societies on Friday of this week, contains much interesting and controversial material.

MATINÉE ENTERTAINMENT held 5th February, in aid of Funds.

We are glad to be able to announce that a profit of £55 10s. was made as a result of the Matinée Entertainment held at Sir Philip Sassoon's house on 5th February, of which an account appeared in this column on 8th February. From this amount all expenses have been deducted except the Entertainments Tax. We should like once again to express our thanks to those who have helped us to collect this very useful sum.

CARDIFF W.C.A.

A members' meeting was held on Friday, 15th February, when Miss Gwen M. Owen, of Swansea, gave an interesting address on "Widows' Pensions." After pointing out the need for such pensions, Miss Owen reviewed the various schemes that have been devised for providing them. She paid particular attention to the proposals of the N.U.S.E.C. The address closed with an account of the arrangements for widows' pensions already in existence in some of our Colonies and in the United States of America.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT.

An interesting record of work is contained in this report. The Bureau for purposes of inquiries with regard to employment has been much in demand, and the Report adds: "the task of the adviser becomes increasingly difficult, as there is no disguising the fact that the occupations and professions both for men and women are overstocked, and that the prospect of a hard and bitter struggle for work must be faced in most of them." The Society undertook the compilation of a section on careers for the *Woman's Year Book*. It has also organized two important committees on which other organizations are represented. These are the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service and the Joint Committee of Women employed by Municipal Authorities. An interesting new scheme is to be discussed at a special general meeting on 26th February in connection with a Members' Centre, which will contain:—(1) The Women's Service Information Bureau, (2) A Central Reading Room, (3) A Study, (4) A Luncheon and Tea Room, (5) Cloak Rooms.

For the Spring Series of Women's Service Tuesdays, which have already started this week, see Forthcoming Events.

THE UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN.

We have received the annual report of the Union of Jewish Women which shows that the Union has found plenty of scope for its activities during the past year. Under the heading "Notes and News" we have already remarked on the petition of the Union to the Council of the United Synagogue asking for the Synagogue Franchise for Women, and we trust that this request will be granted in the near future. Another point we note with interest is that during the past year the Union of Jewish Women has become affiliated to the League of Nations Union. We must congratulate the Union on this and on other successful domestic and international activities.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (British Section: 55, Gower Street, W.C. 1.)

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN JAPAN.

On Tuesday, 12th February, Miss E. M. Leaf gave a reception at International House to members of bodies affiliated to the W.I.L. There were also other guests, including several men. After tea a most interesting lecture was given by Professor F. Kawai (Tokyo University) on "Social Conditions in Japan."

In the absence of Mr. E. L. Poulton, the chair was taken by Mr. Burge, of the International Labour Bureau. The latter explained the difficulties confronting any nation that endeavoured to carry out industrial reforms alone, owing to the natural fear of the progressive nation that she would find herself at a disadvantage in competing for world markets. The International Labour Organization provided the machinery to enable nations to advance together, and therefore more rapidly than they could alone. Japan, though still behind western standards in some respects, had showed herself most willing to take advantage of this organization, and had already enacted legislation prohibiting the use of child labour under 14.

Professor Kawai gave a most interesting sketch of the social development of Japan. He showed how far-reaching had been the effects of the revolution of 1868, when the feudal system was destroyed and the government began to be representative instead of purely autocratic. He showed that progress had been steadily maintained in the direction of emancipation of women, and also of the workers, from some of the worst tyrannies of capitalism, though there was still a large field for improvement.

Professor Kawai made a strong plea to this country to adopt no line that would give an excuse to the reactionary parties in Japan for pursuing a Chauvenist policy. There was, he said, a growing body of young men in his country, and he believed also of women, who were inspired by idealism, and they needed encouragement through the world in order to defeat the forces of militarism and reaction at home.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

Miss Rathbone has forwarded us the following letter recently received by her:—

MADAM.—Adverting to your letter on "Widows' Pensions" in *The Times* of 29th January, I think the expense of Widows' Pensions to the public is over estimated both by yourself and the promoter of the Bill in the last Parliament by neglecting the following items of expenditure which occur under the present system:—

(1) Crèches: A very considerable percentage of the children in Central London crèches (and I imagine elsewhere), say from 20 to 25 per cent., are the children of widows (for the purpose of the Bill), i.e. those of genuine widows, deserted wives, or those of totally incapacitated fathers. These crèches receive grants from Government, and information could be obtained as to the cost of total grant which could all be withdrawn were "widows" to receive pensions; now the unemployed men receive doles there is no reason why any grant should be given towards the children in crèches both of whose parents go to work!

(2) Milk grants and other provision of food through schools for mothers and infant clinics. A very large proportion of my free cases were the children of widows.

(3) Various charities such as orphan schools, male and female, provision of meals and boots from the schools, etc. Here general charity is much mixed up with grants and would be difficult to disintegrate, which brings me to the next heading:—

(4) (a) Consider the provision made all over the country for various orphans in schools of all kinds other than those included in the estimated three million pound spent on Poor Law children of widows. Either the provision of Widows' Pensions would render these charities for the most part unnecessary, in which case the moneys left for them would revert to the State, or the children under the Poor Law System, i.e. complete orphans, could be drafted into them, thus reducing the cost. (b) Then consider the whole question of charities, such as hospitals, clothing distributions, free meals, etc., in all of which cases the money comes from the pockets of the public and would be required far less were it not for widows and their children.

True, the whole question of badly administered charities, overlapping or now no longer required and yet kept on, etc., wants a special Commission to itself, but I think a rough estimate might be made by studying a small dense area very carefully, if, indeed, this has not been done. I had twelve years' experience of administering a charity in Holborn, and I give you my stock widow case:—

Mother with five children (four at school) came to us for humanized milk for her infant because she was a widow and had to go to work. She obtained it at a cost to us of 1s. 2d. a week. She entered her infant at a crèche (of course, it died before the year was out), paying 2d. a day and receiving say 8s. for cost of crèche more than the 1s. paid. She having no work went to an "unemployment" centre for four months' training, receiving dinner and tea and 16s. a week. (How much would the upkeep of the Training Centre cost in addition to this?)

What the school children actually cost in the way of free or reduced dinners at school I do not know, but taking above items:—

	Per week.	
	£	s. d.
Milk for baby		1 2
Cost of crèche (other than that paid for by mother)	8	0
Wages to mother	16	0
Cost of her meals, etc., at Unemployment Centre		6 0
Total	£11	12

As this was pre-war days it is evident that half of this money (the mother being a good needlewoman and having very good health) would have served her better as a grant to stay at home, and she could have made a few shillings extra and her baby's life would probably have been preserved.

Then you say that in 1921 there were 244,793 civilian widows; but surely not all of these would wish to receive the pension? (I certainly should refuse it if I had the misfortune to be left a widow.) If you take off a considerable percentage for middle-class people with means, surely this would somewhat reduce your total? Even among the poor, some with only one or two children are able from choice to live with relatives without requiring a pension; but even supposing that everyone except the well-off took it as a matter of course, it could be not more than 85 to 90 per cent. of all widows with children. You say nothing either of the small percentage of unsuitable mothers who are not fit for the charge of children and who would therefore not require pensions. Certainly the children would have to be provided for elsewhere by public money, but need the heading of "Pensions" be attached to this?

I have long been a believer in Widows' Pensions and, if I were not so occupied with my own young family, there is nothing I should like better than making the inquiries and adding up the results on the lines I have suggested.

Hoping that these suggestions may be of some use. ENID EVE.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W.1.

APRIL 5. All day Conference on "Housing." (Preliminary notice).

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

MARCH 3. 3-4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Cinematograph Lecture on "The Gift of Life." Dr. Sloan Chesser. Chairman: Miss Maude Royden.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

FEB. 28. 8 p.m. Miss Adam on "Life in Berlin under the Rentenmark."

KENSINGTON W.C.A.

FEB. 28. 5.30. 57 Lexham Gardens. Debate on "Widows' Pensions." Speakers: Miss Myers and Miss Lawrance.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION, KENSINGTON BRANCH.

FEB. 26. 8 p.m. Public Baths, Lancaster Road. Debate on League of Nations. Speakers: The Duke of Northumberland and Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.M.G.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

FEB. 26. 5 p.m. Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. Special General Meeting of Members to consider the foundation of a Women's Service House in Westminster. Chair: Mrs. Kinnell.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

CAMBRIDGE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR E.C. FEB. 25. 3.30. "Widows' Pensions." Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

EDINBURGH W.C.A. MARCH 12. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. "Educational Developments." Speaker: Mr. Alexander Morgan, M.A., D.Sc., Director of Studies Provincial Training College.

LEEDS S.E.C. MARCH 3. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. "The Labour Saving House." Opener: Miss Thackrah (Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft).

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION.

MARCH 3. 8 p.m. St. Anne's Settlement Hall, Harleyford Road, Vauxhall. Public Meeting on "Why and How we want Women Police." Speakers: Inspector Mrs. H. More Nisbett and Miss Kathleen Wright. Chairman: The Very Rev. Mgr. Provost Brown, V.G., Bishop-elect of Pella.

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

MARCH 4. 3 p.m. Council Chamber, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1. Lecture on "Wealth from Waste," by Mr. Chas. Jackson (Supt. City of Birmingham Salvage Dept.). Chairman: Miss S. M. Smeed, J.P., T.C. Admission by ticket (1s.), to be obtained beforehand from W.L.G.S. Office, 19 Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

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ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

TO LET AND WANTED.

NORTH DEVON.—Two ladies would like to hear of married couple (gentlefolk) to share refined, comfortable country cottage. Sea and country; large garden; poultry; room for dog-breeding and car. Near market town.—Apply, Box 1,049, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908. Founded and managed entirely by women.

LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Mauresa Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post.

INCOME TAX recovered and adjusted. Consult H. M. Baker, the only woman Income Tax Expert.—275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Telephone: Holborn 377.

A FEW vacancies in class for ORCHESTRAL PLAYING (elementary) held on Monday afternoon; 30s. a term, 15s. half term.—Apply, stating instrument and experience, to C. Souper, Esq., 48 Albany Street, N.W.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

LINEN HUCKABUCK TOWELS.—White Irish linen hemstitched huckabuck towels, real good quality which we can recommend. Large size, 24 x 40, four towels for 11s. 6d. Special cheap lot of fine quality linen huckabuck hemstitched guest towels, size 15 x 22, four towels for 2s. 11d., or 11s. 6d. per dozen. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply).

DRESS.

MISS MALCOLM'S DRESS ASSOCIATION, 239 Fulham Road, London, S.W. 3. Bargain Gowns, Evening and Afternoon, at 21s.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, 9 Lower Regent Street, W. 1, 4th floor (Lift). Tel. Gerrard 908. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.—4 p.m., or by appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Women's service Tuesdays, 4.30—6.30, 12th February to 18th March. See "Coming Events."—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, Westminster.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 24th February, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Dock Strike."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 16L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 28th February, Miss Adam on "Life in Berlin under the Rentenmark."

HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10.
Tel.: Kensington 5213.

On and after December 14th, 1923, the Employment Registers of the Centre will be closed and work will be concentrated on its second and third objects:

"(2) To encourage training and interest in Domestic occupations."

"(3) To do everything possible to raise the status of Domestic Service, as Florence Nightingale did that of Sick-Nursing."

As this will entail much outside work the office will only be open for interviews once a week—in Fridays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., except by special appointment.

ANN POPE, HON. SECRETARY.
(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

HOME-MADE CAKES, made with butter and eggs (no substitutes), can be obtained from Nan's Kitchen, 15 Furnival Street, Holborn, London, W.C. Layer cakes, éclairs, meringues, etc. Regular orders undertaken. A room for tea and light luncheons. Recommended by Ann Pope.

THE SHIELD CO-OPERATIVE RESTAURANT, 1 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, has an excellent French cook. After 3 o'clock there are two rooms on the 1st floor which can be engaged for private tea parties. Tea and lunch served daily in the restaurant. Smoking-room.

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