

MONTHLY NEWS
of the
Conservative Women's Reform
ASSOCIATION.
NEW ISSUE.

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"FOLLOW LIGHT—DO THE RIGHT."

We should have liked to have printed in this month's issue of *Monthly News* the Report sent to the members of the House of Commons on the urgent need for Reform in the method of dealing with Juvenile offenders and Juvenile Adult offenders, but we fear it is too long for the limited space at our disposal. We urgently suggest however, that our members should obtain a copy of the Report as it repays careful reading, and meanwhile we give an epitome of it.

The Report tells us that in consequence of provision for Borstal treatment existing for only 723 youthful offenders, 4966 young persons between the ages of 16 and 21 were sent to Prison during the year 1918-1919, and in spite of the Probation Act and the Childrens Act there are numerous instances of boys under 16 committed to local prisons allowed to be in contact with adult prisoners, and gaining the prison taint. The wide and extended use of Probation, and the strict enforcement of clauses of the Education Act dealing with Probation, would do much to reduce the present high percentage of re-convictions.

The field of enquiry undertaken by the Joint Parliamentary Advisory Council was divided into six sections, and is dealt with seriatim in their report. This field of enquiry covers—

1. Children's Courts.
2. Probation.
3. Remand Homes.
4. Industrial Schools, Reformatory Schools and Homes of Detention.
5. Borstal Treatment.
6. After-care on release.

The following is a short statement of the Reforms suggested:—

1. "That special entrances, staircases, passages, and better waiting-rooms should be provided in Police Courts for children and those in attendance on them."
2. "That competent officers should maintain efficient supervision in children's waiting rooms."
3. "That Section 115, Children Act, 1908, forbidding child-witnesses to remain in Court, after giving their evidence, be rigorously enforced."
4. "That children should not be present in Court when their parents are being reprimanded."

5. "That Women Police should be employed to take charge of girls in Court."
6. "That a Central authority should be appointed to organise and standardise probation work."
7. "That a system of probation be made compulsory in all Police Courts."
8. "That Probation Officers should be qualified for their work by a compulsory course of training."
9. "That the pay and status of Probation Officers should be raised, and payment by case be avoided."
10. "That it is imperative that Remand Homes should be clearing-houses only, the Council considering that prolonged detention of children in these Homes is extremely undesirable."
11. "That children should be inspected frequently by a trained nurse."
12. "That better arrangements should be made for religious worship and instruction."
13. "That the names 'Industrial and Reformatory' should be eliminated and the term 'Training School' be substituted."
14. "That Education should as far as possible be severed from disciplinary routine by a system of visiting teachers and that vocational training for girls should be improved."
15. "That increased attention should be given to instruction in bodily hygiene and the dangers of alcohol."
16. "That the control of Education in these schools should be vested in the Board of Education."
17. "That Magistrates should have power to grant release from Industrial and Reformatory Schools before the expiration of the full term of committal."
18. "That short term detention schools not carrying the slur of conviction should be provided."
19. "That uncertified Homes receiving young persons for training should be registered and inspected by the Home Office."
20. "That laundry work is not desirable as the sole form of industrial training for women."

21. "That in cases where the Governor of a Woman's Borstal Institution is a man, a lady superintendent should be appointed, who would act as Deputy-Governor when required."
22. "That it is important that trained and educated men and women should be chosen to fill the posts of Borstal Officers."
23. "That a visiting psychologist should be appointed."
24. "That in order to ensure a more progressive system of education, the educational side of Borstal treatment should be placed directly under the Board of Education."
25. "That an improved system of classification of inmates should be established."
26. "That juvenile offenders waiting trial should not be detained in prisons."
27. "That greater care in granting licences should be exercised."
28. "That consideration should be given to the provision of an intermediate Home where girls on first leaving a Borstal Institution could reside for a few days before entering work."
29. "That the system of after-care should without delay be overhauled and strengthened."

Here and There.

Dame Meriel Talbot has been appointed Woman Advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture. Dame Meriel was formerly Director of the Women's Branch of the Food Production Department.

The sixth quinquennial meeting of the International Council of Women is to be held in Christiania, at the beginning of October, with Lady Aberdeen as its President. Germany has refused to send representatives until she becomes a member of the League of Nations. The Norwegian Government has kindly lent the Storting to the meeting, and has contributed £2,000 towards its expenses.

Women Police have been sent to Ireland to act in conjunction with the R.I.C. These women are drawn from among those of the Women's Police Service who were employed in munition factories during the war. Their duties will be to search women during raids. At the same time we learn that the Caledonian Railway has appointed policewomen for service at its larger stations, in order to protect and help young women who come to great cities as strangers in search of work, with little money and no knowledge of the town at their disposal.

It is to be hoped that the weight of the newly-acquired Women's Vote in America will make itself felt in urging that country to enter the League of Nations. American women will have their chance of rendering this signal service to their country during the forthcoming Presidential Elections.

A protest has been sent to the Ministry of Health by the Women's Section of the Garden Cities and Town-Planning Association, regarding

the State-Aided Houses. The Women's Section disapprove of the shape and size of the scullery in the non-parlour house, and they urge that the third bedroom is far too small. Advice of this kind should be most valuable to the Ministry, and we hope it will not be disregarded.

Persia is showing signs, through a so-called "down-veils" policy, of a growing desire to emancipate its womenkind.

St. Pancras is hoping to find the money to build a hostel for unmarried mothers and their children. It is to be in conjunction with the day nursery, and it will contain a sickroom for the convenience of such children as are not well enough to go out to the nursery. The mother will be enabled to live in her own room with her child, and either provide and cook her own food or have it in the public rooms. The hostel will be under the charge of a lady superintendent. The St. Pancras Borough Council have promised to help finance the hostel once it is opened.

Parliamentary.

Before we pass to a detailed review of the various measures which we, as members of an Association which has consistently kept up its record of keenness and public-spirited endeavour coupled with a wise Conservatism of all that is best for the common weal, it will not be out of place to refer to the tremendous crisis through which we are now passing. The threat of a national coal strike has grown in dimensions until it blackens all the horizon. There can be no doubt that if this threat is carried into execution the country will be plunged into the grimdest struggle for existence since the great struggle of the war. And it is to that supreme effort that we would appeal. We must not forget how in that day, we, workers and employers alike, stood shoulder to shoulder, as firm and unyielding as our own rugged coast. Time and again the waves beat upon us, almost overwhelmed us; but at last the tide turned, and we had conquered. We women cannot believe that lesson has been forgotten so soon, and therefore we appeal to the workers of the community to think well before they plunge their country into unemployment with its attendant evils of high prices and shortage of commodities. A fair wage for fair work is a vital and indisputable fact, with which all decent-minded employers are in hearty agreement; and if there should be any employers so base as to neglect their duty in regard to this, they must be dealt with by the force of public opinion. Sir Robert Horne has repeatedly offered to set up an independent tribunal to deal with output and wages if the miners claim for a wage increase is justifiable, and if their steadily decreasing output is due to bad state of the pits, they will indeed be blameworthy in the eyes of all right-minded people if

they refuse this offer. With regard to the 14/2 we have little to say, for we believe that the miners will no longer press that point. We are a debtor nation now, and a debtor nation must behave in the same way as would an individual under the same circumstances; its savings must go to pay off its debt.

The "Guardianship of Infants Bill" passed its second reading in July, after *Monthly News* had gone to print. There was no debate on it, and it has gone to a Standing Committee and should come up again in the autumn.

A Government Bill on the Adoption of Children has not yet been presented. It is being considered by a Committee appointed by the Home Office, of which Sir Alfred Hopkinson is Chairman, and Mr. G. R. Sharp, of the Home Office, is Secretary. The other Members of the Committee are: Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., Lady Norman, Mrs. C. B. Russell, Mr. Sherwood, Mr. James Severn, M.P.

The Sexual Offences Bill is now, in common with the Bishop of London's and Lord Sandhurst's Criminal Law Amendment Bills, being considered by a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

The Bastardy Bill has passed through its Committee stage in the House of Commons, and should be presented for its report stage next session. In deference to the wishes of the Home Secretary, it has been shorn of many of its most valuable clauses. The most important clauses which remain are those referring to:—

1. The legitimation of illegitimate children after the marriage of their parents.
2. The compulsory appointment of collecting officers in each district.
3. Raising the amount which can be paid under an affiliation order to £2.
4. Making it unnecessary for a mother to bring an action herself if the man has been traced by the guardians.
5. Preventing proceedings being interrupted by the death of a magistrate.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Committee to enquire into the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children's Bill which deals with the two-shift system. The Committee consists of Mr. Inskip, M.P. (Chairman), Miss F. I. Taylor, Factory Department of the Home Office (Secretary), Miss F. Durham, Ministry of Labour, Miss Varley, Workers Union, Mrs. Dora Coleman, Sir Malcolm Delavigue, Home Office, Mr. Appleton and Mr. Mallalieu.

The Orders in Council promised under the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act are most unsatisfactory. They lay down that the Treasury shall regulate as to the mode of admission, restrictions, exclusions, pay and treatment of women in the Civil Service.

Our Work.

This autumn our chief effort will be to increase our membership and to strengthen our finances, and we appeal to all members of the C.W.R.A., particularly those who are its old and trusted friends, and who knew it in its suffrage days, to come forward and help us. This is no appeal for subscriptions alone. The C.W.R.A. needs new members as much as it needs money; without a large roll of membership, our activities are curtailed, our ideas restricted. Sad indeed it would be to feel that we, who desire to do so much, who realise what a help we could be to others, can do nothing because our appeal falls on deaf ears.

Under the title of the "State and Sexual Morality" the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene has published the report of a Committee of Inquiry which was formed by the Association in October, 1918. The need for a Committee of this sort is to be found in a resolution, which was passed unanimously some two months before the formation of the Commission. The resolution says: "This meeting urges that the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene shall promote the establishment of a Commission of men and women to be appointed by the organisations hitherto associated together in opposing penal legislation directed against prostitutes. That this Commission should have power to add to its number, and to invite expert evidence, and should consider the whole question of legislation and remedial treatment dealing with the social evil and venereal disease in accordance with scientific knowledge and fundamental morality."

The report does great credit to the work of the Commission, to the members who comprised it, and to the choice of the witnesses and to their evidence. In this little book there is no sign of panic, of sentiment, or of sex antagonism, but only of an earnest desire to improve the whole moral tone of the community and thus ensure a higher standard of sexual morality throughout the country. Whoever reads this book, and we confidently commend it to all patriotic persons, will find abundant proof that no useful evidence was withheld which could come within the scope of the Committee, and that all evidence was carefully weighed.

The decisions of the Committee are, broadly speaking, threefold:—To give full and adequate legal protection to children and young persons of either sex; to abolish all special regulations and legislation dealing with prostitutes as a class; and to treat venereal disease by every trustworthy means of science, while strongly disapproving of the "Prophylecte packet" system from moral standpoints. Running through these excellent decisions we find the spirit of the Committee's recommendations, and the spirit is as good as the letter. It is this. Treat humanity as better than you find it. Instil into it high ideals, selflessness and sound education. Encourage those who are down by teaching them self-respect. "It is better to appeal to a sense of honour than a sense of fear" says the report. And last, but not least, bring about your reforms by these means and not by legislation. Public morality of this sort dealt with in this book is fundamentally a matter for the private conscience, and the private conscience must be stimulated, not policed.

The C.W.R.A. is to be congratulated in that one of its members, Mrs. George Currie, was also a member of this excellent Committee.

Apology. The Editor is extremely sorry for the late appearance of *Monthly News*, which was due to delay at the publishers. In consequence of this delay, the short article on the coal strike is entirely out of date. We hope that when *Monthly News* does appear, all difficulty over wages and output in the mines will be greatly reduced.

MODES OF THE MOMENT.

THE NEW COAT FROCKS.

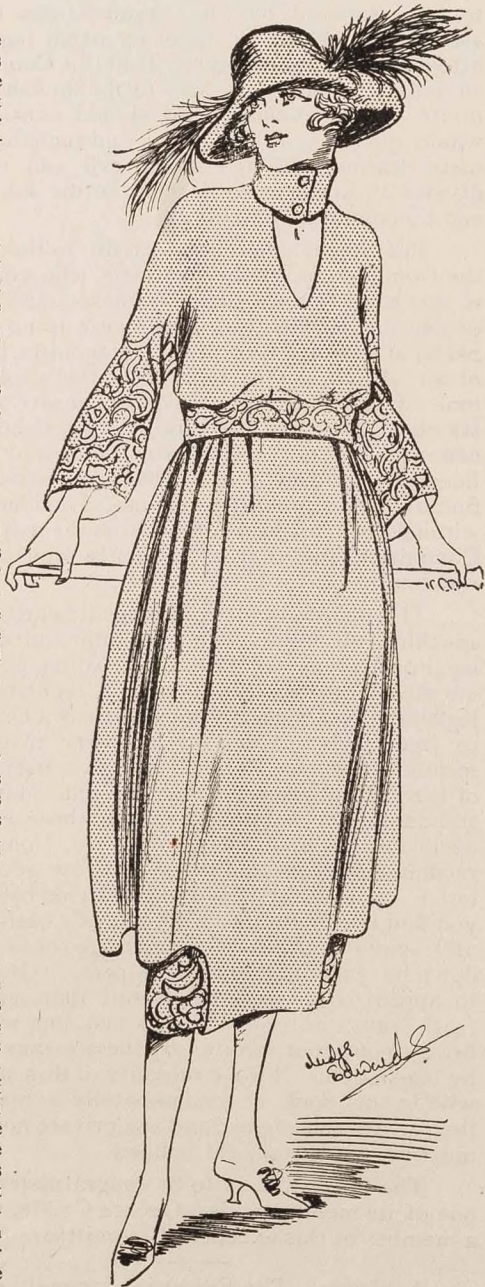
COAT-FROCKS have reappeared again this autumn in so attractive and smart a guise that they promise to be far more popular than ever before.

This applies particularly to the fascinating examples that are just now being shown in the dress salons of Messrs. Swan and Edgar, of Piccadilly-circus, W., the firm that is always first in the field with a big display of early winter fashions.

One of Swan and Edgar's new models forms the subject of our illustration and is carried out in fine navy blue serge introducing the new high neck band with an open V below.

Beautiful dull grey embroidery is used as the trimming of this model which possesses all the new characteristics, and is typical of the latest fashion.

More elaborate luxury models are to be seen in these showrooms and they emphasise the feeling that continues for accordion or knife-pleated underdresses of black silk covered with embroidered blue serge coat effects; these are very novel, and possess a fascination that cannot fail to attract admiration, moreover, Swan and Edgar's prices for frocks of this type are moderate in the extreme—*Extract from Pall Mall Gazette.*



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LECTURES, Autumn, 1920. Wednesdays, 8.15 p.m.

- Oct. 6. "The Criminal Law Amendment Bills." MISS BERTHA MASON.
Chair: DR. E. KNIGHT.
- Oct. 13. "Women as J.P's." MRS. NEVINSON.
Chairman:
- Oct. 20. "The Colonies and their present position." LORD MORRIS, K.C.M.G.
Chairman: THE HON. SIR JOAN COCKBURN, K.C.M.G.
- Oct. 27. "The Situation in Hungary." MRS. DESPARD.
Chairman: MR. J. Y. KENNEDY.

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The object of the League is to get as many beds as possible in private wards in General Hospitals in London and the Provinces, where members can receive the most skilful treatment towards their restoration to health.

Members of the League are treated as private patients, and are placed in a cubicle or a private ward. Those who can afford to pay a small sum in addition to their subscription, are asked to pay it to the Hospital.

Beneficial as have been the Insurance Acts to thousands, they cannot provide treatment for severe illness, and the work of the League begins where the Act leaves off.

All donations and Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, Miss Mildred Ransom, at the Registered Office of the League, 195-197, Edgware Road, W. 2.



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