

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Pensions Act at Work.

On 5th January, the Contributory Pensions Act came into force. Interesting figures have been published by the Ministry of Health as to the number of claims, etc., already received from widows. These number 163,000, out of which 103,000 pensions, covering 306,000 widows and children, have been awarded. 25,500 have been rejected or withdrawn, either because there were no children under the age of 14, or that the widow had re-married before the commencement of the Act, or that the normal occupation of the husband at the time of his death was not such as would have been insurable under the Act if it had been in force. 34,500 still have to be investigated. Needless to say, all these claims were necessarily made by widows whose husbands had died before the commencement of the Act. The number of applications received has been considerably less than those expected. It is thought that this can partly be accounted for by the fact that widows receiving Poor Law relief on a higher scale than the pension to which they are entitled, are frightened that they would suffer financially by applying for the pension, or that in any case they would have to apply to two authorities when they are now only being dealt with by one. This will, no doubt, be dealt with by the Board of Guardians themselves taking care that the widows under their charge have sent in their applications. We wish ourselves that it could have been avoided by means of a more adequate and alluring rate of pension.

A Storm in a Tea Cup.—The Guardianship of Infants Act.

It argues, in our opinion, an obvious lack of topics of immediate interest that many of our contemporaries should have seen fit to devote such a considerable amount of space to the criticisms offered by Mr. Bingley of the Marylebone Police Court, on the Guardianship of Infants Act. Mr. Bingley complained that the Act gave no powers to the father, and did not define his rights. A very casual perusal of the Act itself would have shown Mr. Bingley that the Act only amended certain aspects of the law dealing with guardianship and custody of children, and left untouched, in every way other than those specifically mentioned, the rights of the father as defined both by Common Law and by Statute. Mr. Bingley further complained of the difficulty of the work imposed on magistrates through the new Act's providing for guardianship cases to be brought before the Summary Courts, but we congratulate him on the ease with which he settled the particular case before him. This was a remarkably clear instance of the usefulness of the new Act. The case, it will be remembered, was one of a father claiming the custody of a child of four years old, who was living with her mother. The father proposed not to take care of the child

himself, but to hand her over to a foster mother. The magistrate realizing that his duty was to decide the case solely in accordance with what was most for the welfare of the child, allowed the mother to retain the custody in view of the child's obvious dislike of the foster parent, and affection for her own mother.

Votes for Women.

Two meetings are announced in connection with the Equal Franchise campaign which is to be a feature of 1926. The Women's Freedom League has organized a public meeting at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, 19th January, at 7.30. Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., will be chairman, and the speakers will include Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Frank Briant, M.P., and Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, M.P. On Friday, 26th February, at 8 p.m., the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has organized a demonstration in the Central Hall, Westminster, at which the chief speakers will be Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. This meeting will coincide with the Annual Council meeting of that body, so that it should be representative of all parts of the country. We hope that similar announcements from other places will reach us. Nothing could help our common cause more than an epidemic of Equal Franchise meetings throughout the length and breadth of the land culminating in the Hyde Park demonstration initiated by the Six Point Group in which a large number of women's organizations have agreed to co-operate.

A Lesson to Cambridge.

Lord Balfour, the Chancellor of Cambridge University, has removed another inequality between the sexes under which Cambridge women students suffer. In future women are eligible for the Chancellor's medals equally with men. Lord Balfour in writing to the Vice-Chancellor states that he does not intend that out of three medals offered each year two shall be for the best men and the other for the best woman. "Such a procedure," he writes, "could only be justified that so far as classical learning is concerned there is an essential quality between the sexes. . . This is not my view, nor, I think, the view of those more interested in the higher education of women. I desire simply to remove an inequality under which the women at present suffer without modifying any privilege which the men at present enjoy." Lord Balfour has always been on the right side, and we are glad to find him championing the rights of women students in the strongholds of Cambridge.

Memorandum 44.

The education controversy is raging with as much vigour as ever. The issue of Memorandum 44 has not in any way allayed the fears of educationalists and to the ordinary person the situation seems obscure. The facts that do emerge are not reassuring; reductions in expenditure are asked for which appear to be quite incompatible with the high standards of educational development hitherto indicated by the Government. Meantime, the Board of Education has issued the memorandum on the existing grant system which was prepared for the Meston Committee (see our article "Education in the limelight" in our issue of 25th December). It is significant to learn that the arguments in this official document are totally in favour of the percentage system which it is now proposed to abolish. Readers will remember that Lord Eustace Percy explained this discrepancy between the expression of opinion on the part of the Board in 1922 and 1925 in the debate in the House of Commons before Christmas by saying that these views are not those of the Board "as at present advised".

Women and the Honours List.

We have never been able to feel greatly agitated over the conspicuous shortage of women in the official honours lists. We are, of course, committed to equality of "status" as between men and women, but we would rather see the discrepancy removed by a wholesale reduction in the number of honours bestowed on men. We cannot see why long lists of undistinguished men or women, however estimably and successfully they may have done their duty in their particular walk in life, should be signalled out for distinction. We should not, however, wish to do away with honours entirely; certain titular rewards might well be retained and awarded to men or women who have rendered really outstanding service to society in any direction, giving special prominence to those who have carried out original work either in the sphere of knowledge or administration. Original contributions to thought or attainment are all too rare and when they do occur they deserve the country's grateful recognition. We referred recently to an instance of such work which has been curiously ignored. Miss Horniman has done more for the British theatre than any other living person: The Abbey Theatre in Dublin and the Gaiety Theatre in Manchester owe their existence to her liberality. All modern dramatists and most modern actors and actresses owe her much. Yet no national recognition of any kind has rewarded her services to dramatic art. Other instances might be given, though perhaps none so glaring. We will welcome expressions of opinion from our readers with regard to the sort of qualifications which call for honours, with lists of suitable names.

Queen Alexandra Memorial.

An appeal on behalf of the proposed National Memorial to Queen Alexandra appeared in the Press last week. This will take the form of an additional endowment of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and will be used for augmenting long service or pension funds for nurses in the homes of the poor. Queen Alexandra succeeded Queen Victoria as Patron of the Institute, and was deeply interested in its work. The last public act of her life was to send a telegram from Sandringham to its annual meeting a few days before her death. The institution of home nursing was one of the greatest reforms of last century, and the district nurse performs an inestimable service to the community. We are at first sight tempted to wish that the proposed endowment could be allotted to substantial increases of salaries, as we have always felt that the emoluments of the nursing profession in all its branches were out of proportion to the services rendered. But security against ill-health and old age is a valuable asset in any profession, and nurses who spend and are spent in saving others must for their own sakes and the sake of those whom they serve, themselves be saved from the devitalizing and harassing effects of personal financial anxieties. We are convinced that the public will respond generously to this appeal.

A Queen Regent in South Africa.

A Times correspondent points out that the death of Labotsibeni, "Queen Regent" of Swaziland, has attracted too little notice in this country. Labotsibeni ruled her people wisely and well for over thirty years, since the death of her husband, and won the respect of British administrators with whom she came in contact. During the Boer War she was on the side of Great Britain, and when the Transvaal was annexed in 1901 she asked that her country might also be annexed. Both Lord Milner and Lord Selborne were impressed by her ability and when the British Protectorate was established her position of Chief Regent was confirmed.

Dame Adelaide Anderson and the Boxer Indemnity.

Dame Adelaide Anderson was recently appointed the only woman member of the Statutory Committee set up under the China Indemnity (Application) Act, 1925, to advise the Home Secretary as to the best use of the funds of the Boxer Indemnity for the mutual interest of this country and China. This Committee, which consists of eleven persons, of whom Dame Adelaide is the only woman, has recommended that a third Chinese member be added to the two already appointed, and that a delegation of six members, three British and three Chinese, should meet in China to consider the whole question on the spot. Dame Adelaide has been selected as one of the three British members, and they are leaving immediately for China. Our readers will remember that Dame Adelaide was principal woman Inspector of Factories from 1897 to 1921, and since her retire-

ment she has visited China, where she made a study of industrial conditions and assisted the Commission appointed by the Shanghai Municipal Council to investigate child labour in Shanghai. This appointment will add personal interest to the somewhat tepid concern about the present chaos in China felt by those who have not followed closely the recent political upheavals in that country. We warmly congratulate Dame Adelaide on this exceptionally interesting piece of work, and the Government on its good sense in the selection of a woman so pre-eminently fitted by personal qualities and experience.

Tribute to the Duchess of Atholl.

In a report written by Miss De Alberti to the *International Woman Suffrage News* of the annual meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, she asks for publicity to the tribute paid to the Duchess of Atholl by M. Montigny, one of the French delegates, when the proposal for the settlement of Armenian refugees was being considered by the Assembly. In thanking the Duchess for the able manner in which she presided over the work of the sub-committee, he expressed his opinion that after the experience of the eminent services rendered by her to the Committee, those delegations which do not yet include women delegates are depriving themselves of a vast wealth of understanding and sympathy.

The Winter School for Health Visitors.

Bedford College has become known as a centre of what may be called extra-university teaching, and the winter course of lectures for Health Visitors and School Nurses organized by the Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association, has not only attracted a good number of students, but a good deal of attention in the Press. The syllabus has been very carefully drawn up, and indicates standards of the kind of training required for the equipment of the health visitor. Her work is preventive, and as such she must fully understand the circumstances of social and economic environment.

Girls Win Prizes at Schoolboys' Exhibition.

The institution of a Schoolboys' Exhibition during the Christmas holidays is a most excellent idea, and need not be confined to London, but we think it would be better still if girls were included. As it is, we find that out of four prizes awarded in "Stamp Street," three were won by girls. We have not heard whether all prizes are open to girls or not, but we venture to throw out the suggestion that such an exhibition should in future change its name—we admit the name will be a difficulty—and, while admitting girls and boys equally to any section, institute additional sections which will make a special appeal to girls.

The Solicitation Laws.

Our readers may have noticed some correspondence in *The Times* on the subject of the Solicitation Laws from the National Vigilance Association, to which the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene sent a full reply. Unfortunately owing to lack of space, this reply appeared in a much abbreviated form. We propose to publish both letters next week.

Ourselves.

Readers visiting our office in the future will find us no longer on the ground floor of 15 Dean's Yard, but at the top of the house in a room which though not much larger than our former quarters, gives us a little more room and a pleasant outlook. The results of our New Year's issue have been most encouraging and we regret that some late applicants for copies have been disappointed, as the issue is now sold out. We continue to receive kind letters from our subscribers, one of which we publish to-day as we feel an excess of gratified vanity in being mentioned in the same breath as our distinguished contemporary *Punch*. We are further gratified by the appreciation of our advertisers. Strange to say we are repeatedly told that our columns are an excellent medium for a certain type of advertisements. What we lack in quantity we make up in quality, and our paper reaches the right people and brings almost inevitably the desired response.

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 opinions 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.

HOUSES IN 1926.

While Local Government experts are shaking their heads over Memorandum 44 and the recent circular limiting grants for unemployment schemes, there is room for some satisfaction at least in one direction. A definite move has been made with regard to the provision of houses. It was announced before the end of the year that the Government intended to take the matter in hand in Scotland, and last week the Edinburgh Town Council decided by a large majority to give sites for the erection of steel houses to the Scottish National Housing Scheme for purposes of the projected Government scheme. In a recent issue of this paper we anticipated that this sporting decision on the part of the Government would place the Clydeside Members in something of a dilemma and so indeed it has. Labour opinion is divided; Mr. Wheatley, though a former Minister of Health himself, and therefore presumably fully cognizant of the extent of the need, and others are vociferous in their opposition. On the other hand, Mr. Rosslyn Mitchell, M.P. for Paisley, has both written and spoken in defence of the Government move. Mr. Mitchell agrees with the Minister of Labour that the scheme would not only produce much needed houses, but would have indirect results in the increase of employment for engineers who have been workless for years. "The building operatives," he tells us, "have more work than they can possibly undertake; the engineers have none at all. And the poor are gasping for houses. The people want houses, any kind of houses, now, and they cannot wait for the plasterers and bricklayers." Weir houses may have defects; they may be only a temporary expedient but as their Labour supporters point out, they offer thousands of Scottish citizens homes, comfortable and well-equipped beyond their wildest dreams. The only stipulation which the section of opinion led by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Kirkwood make is that Trades Union rates be paid, and they, unlike their colleagues who have adopted a policy of obstruction, are prepared to accept engineers' instead of building rates. To us it seems incredible that in the extreme urgency of the circumstances any trade union officials can be found to oppose any effort to provide decent homes for their fellow creatures now housed under conditions in which family life in health, decency, and comfort is

impossible. The progress of the Government scheme in Scotland will be watched with deep interest by all who are sincere in their desire for the end of the present state of affairs.

Strong words on the housing evil found a place in the New Year message to the nation from the Archbishop of Canterbury. "Scarcely any sacrifice, individual or corporate, civic or political, is too great for rolling away the reproach of conditions which to our grandchildren will seem as unbelievable as the facts and figures which confronted Wilberforce in his anti-slavery campaigns a century ago, or Lord Ashby in the mines and factories a little later." It is indeed difficult to understand our personal and collective apathy about the housing conditions which thrust themselves on us from every side. The Government has given a fine lead at the beginning of a new year, and there are indications of greater activity on the part of some local authorities. But what of ourselves? Is there anything that you or I can do? More women are needed on Housing Committees. Women who already sit on them can fight harder for homes, temporary if necessary till permanent houses can be provided, for their less fortunate fellow citizens. Women's organizations can militate the formation of Housing Councils which will inquire into actual conditions and give public bodies no peace until the housing scandal is removed. Women with a little free money can invest it in housing schemes or even, as we noticed lately one enterprising woman has done, build houses or bungalows as an investment on their own account. Women with enterprise can help to start Public Utility Societies. Social workers could do a great deal more than they do in pricking the public conscience and in impressing on the victims that they must no longer suffer dumbly. As Parliamentary and Municipal voters, they can make their voices heard by their representative in the House of Commons or on the local authority. They must adopt the policy of the importunate widow and in season and out of season make their claim heard. We give a cordial welcome in these columns to any suggestions, any reports of experiments by public bodies, societies, or individuals, and we hope that the year which came in on a hopeful note may end with a record of real achievement.

IMPRESSIONS OF A SETTLER'S LIFE IN AUSTRALIA. I.

By LADY APSLEY.

Your editor asks me to give a few impressions of a settler's life in Australia, and I gladly do so, as I feel from what I was able to see of Australian conditions that further development of Australia is largely a question of getting the right type of women to go out there from this country, and one of the first things to do is to help thoughtful people in England to know the facts. The first thing that struck me was the vastness and the variety of Australia; there seem places, climates, and occupations to suit anyone's tastes. It is well known that at present Australia is concentrating on the development of her land and her primary productions. It is estimated that the continent could easily support a population of a hundred million, whereas it contains less than six million whites, two-thirds of whom are concentrated in and around the four principal coastal towns.

Men are wanted to develop the vast untouched tracts of country. The Australian State Government help them generously with money, houses, grants of land, and pensions. Many men are anxious to go on the land but the chief difficulty seems to be that they cannot get enough women of the right type to share a settler's life with them. It is sometimes said that the life is too hard or too lonely for a woman, but the fact remains that there are hundreds of healthy, happy, contented settler's wives. It seems to be really the result of the comparative shortage of women in Australia. The ideal is for a young man to start by himself, learn thoroughly under a good farmer, save all he can for a few years, then start on his own, marry and settle down on his own land. It is much more difficult to start a married man straight away on the land in Australia unless he has capital or friends to help him, as he has everything to learn and his family to keep at the same time. Australian conditions are quite different to England and a man must learn Australian methods and forget whatever he may have known at home.

My husband satisfied himself that there is a good chance in Australia for all young men willing to work on the land with a desire to succeed. The pay for a totally inexperienced hand is about £1 a week with keep and lodgings which quickly rises in the case of a useful man. Australia seems able to take as many young women as domestic helps in the country districts as we

can send her, with varying pay, good conditions, and a status similar to that of the family. It is quite usual in Australia for the paid English girl to go to a dance with a friend, come back, sit on her mistress's bed, throw off her hat and tell her all about it. Jack is as good as his master in Australia, because Jack will probably be his master in a short time, and it isn't worth while keeping up a difference in the interval.

So keen is Australia to get settlers on the land that elaborate Government schemes have been devised to enable married couples straight out from England to start off on their own land, and to gain experience under expert advice so that the risk of failure is practically eliminated. One of the most interesting of these is the Group Settlement scheme of West Australia, and in order to study conditions from the "married man's" point of view, my husband arranged that we should spend a month on a "Group" as ordinary new settlers.

Briefly, the scheme is this. Western Australia contains some vast tracts of undeveloped, heavily timbered country in the south-west, where the climate is much like ours, but with more pleasantly hot sun. It is expensive to clear, but once cleared, makes excellent pastoral country. Western Australia is short of dairy produce, and the West Australian Government with the help of the Home Government, has arranged to settle large numbers of married Englishmen without capital on these out-back parts, grant them land, houses, roads, and materials, pay them a sustenance wage till the area is cleared and can support them, then turn each man's block over to him and charge him a certain percentage on the outlay spread over a large number of years. The idea is that the land will be well cleared and each settler will learn the best methods under competent officials. The scheme has been criticized owing to its overhead charges, but it is interesting if only for the fact that it is really a form of applied Communism—in the practical and not political sense of the word—as in the beginning everything is Government owned, from your plough to your cow, and every man has to work as he is told.

It takes a varying amount of time to clear a Group, and ours had been going about three years and was about a quarter

done. Some are already finished, and settlers working on their own with capital borrowed from the Agricultural Banks, others have fields but no houses, others are only just begun, and the people live in "humpies," or temporary shelters built of corrugated iron. The average holding is about 160 acres (which is about as much as a man can do without assistance), so that the houses are fairly close to each other and on the average Group there are about twenty families, making a happy little social community on its own though it may be out of touch with the outside world.

My husband and I applied as Mr. and Mrs. A. James, and were allotted Block 13, on Group 22, near Busselton Margaret River. No one was aware of our identity except Mr. Anguin, Minister for Lands, who signed our nomination papers for a vacancy at a date suitable to ourselves, and we went through the usual course of events as ordinary settlers, no one discovering that we were anything different to what we said we were—a young couple who had married after the War, gone to Singapore, and found the climate too trying to stay for long (which was quite true—for a fortnight!) and having no capital wished to try farming in Australia. All types are taken on the Groups so long as they are young, healthy and are keen to try.

We really had a very good time, and we both enjoyed the life and felt confident that had we been genuine settlers we should have been able to make good. We learnt a lot of things, as we tried to do and see everything from the point of view of the real settlers. Our block was a typical one. It consisted of about 120 acres of which a small portion—about nine acres—was cleared, the remainder being a tangle of brushwood and large, useless tress. Our Government house was four-roomed, built of the local jarrah wood (similar to the London pavements) with a corrugated iron roof connected with an 800 gallon tank to catch the valuable rain water. (The well-water in Australia is generally hard or contains minerals, which partly accounts for the large quantity of tea all Australians drink.) The fuel was all wood which has to be chopped every day, but there are certain species of tree which contain turpentine and burn easily. One of my chiefest difficulties was "keeping the home fires burning" but it is only a question of learning the right way of feeding the fire and chopping the wood.

Our "sustenance pay" was £3 a week, which is not considered high in Australia. We found we could live luxuriously on £2 5s., and with more experience on my part it would have been well under £2.

(To be continued.)

A QUEST IN UNTRODDEN PATHS.

This little book, *Mount Sinai*,¹ tells of a woman's interest in ancient manuscripts, and of a journey to the Convent of St. Catherine in the Sinai desert by a party of men and women bent on research work amongst ancient MSS. In days gone by no woman was admitted within its walls, but even the ancient traditions of the monks at St. Catherine's have had to yield to the onslaught of the Woman's Movement, and the whole party, men and women, were accommodated within its walls. Dr. Rendel Harris, the famous Oriental scholar, was leader of the party, and in the preface he comments on the fact that from early days Mount Sinai has been a magnet for Christian women. In the fourth century Ætheria, a woman from Southern Gaul, travelled through the desert, and has left a record of the journey, long before the monks were established in the now famous Convent. The exciting discovery of the Codex Sinaiticus by Tischendorf at this Convent in 1859 is known to all students of Biblical Manuscripts, as well as Mrs. Lewis' discovery in later years. Mary Dobson had dreams and hopes of further discoveries that solve many Biblical problems. She tells the story of the journey under difficulties vividly, describes the convent and their reception there with simple charm, and tells of the hours she spent in the library amongst the great collection of Arabic manuscripts. The book was written when the hand of Death was on her, and she wrote against time, knowing the end was near. It is the record of a quest gallantly made, the account she gives of life and journey in the desert, apart from the visit to St. Catherine's Convent, is of greatest interest, and though the ancient "Song of the Angels," with which she ends the book, may not have been a find of any critical value, it serves as a beautiful ending to the story of her quest.

E. P-T.

¹ *Mount Sinai*, by Mary Dobson, Mus. Bac. (Methuen & Co. 3s. 6d.)

"PIONEERS, OH PIONEERS!"

Some years ago we purchased secondhand and very cheap, in the main street of an ancient Wessex Borough, four stout volumes containing the letters and reminiscences of Miss Hannah More, "blue stocking" and philanthropist, who lived and talked and wrote between 1745 and 1823, and who is generally associated in the public mind with certain early tentative efforts towards the education of the "lower orders," in preparation for the more spectacular efforts of Bell and Lankester. We read these volumes from morn to dewy eve, throughout a long wet summer's day by the sea. And at the end, all impatient with the hidebound piety, infinite wordiness, and endless moralizing of their heroine, conscious too of the spacial limitations of small houses by the sea, we went forth into the rain and, following an honoured precedent set by Robert Browning, dropped those four volumes one by one into a sullen, storm-swept harbour. Its grey-green waters received them. Its molluscan denizens consumed them. And the word *More* descending into the no less muddy depths of our subconscious mind, entered into a harmonious and inextricable rhyming partnership with the word *bore*. There are few men so dead that they cannot be rendered yet deader by the compilation of a four-volume memoir. And there are few four-volume memoirs so dry that they can overcome by their dryness the humidity of Bridport harbour, with rain above and mud beneath. Such was the faith by whose darkness we performed the funeral obsequies of Hannah More.

And now a little, handy, lively book² has brought her to life again, and we learn from 200 pages what we failed (by reason of our unpraiseworthy impatience) to learn from 2,000. Hannah More was not a bore. On the contrary, she was a lively, daring, and (in relation to her time and class), adventurous thinker, who could win her way to London on the proceeds of a breach of promise case, hold her own in its most exalted social and intellectual circles, and impose upon her own sunken native countryside of Somerset a social experiment which earned her the epithet of "Jacobin."² In her social relations, as illuminated by her selected letters, Hannah More was not unlike many old ladies, whom one finds to-day in the neighbourhood of Cathedral Closets, whose congenital brain power and faculty for criticism has turned by external circumstances to conversational wit and shrewd personal judgment, where unassailable orthodoxy is blessedly tempered by gay humour, with here and there a stab of indispensable acidity. But she was something more. She was a hard and constructive worker, capable of initiating, directing, and financing a system of working-class village schools in the teeth of hostility from the farmers, criticism from an apathetic and somewhat port-sodden Church, and a certain amount of vituperation from the Press. Thus, in face of such criticism, does she vindicate her endeavours to the Bishop of Bath and Wells:—"When I settled in this country thirteen years ago, I found the poor in many of the villages sunk in a deplorable state of ignorance and vice. There were, I think, no Sunday Schools in the whole district, except one in my own parish. . . . Not one school there did I ever attempt to establish without the hearty concurrence of the clergyman of the parish. My plan of instruction is extremely simple and limited. They learn on week-days such coarse works as may fit them for servants. I allow of no writing for the poor. My object is not to make fanatics, but to train up the lower classes in habits of industry and piety." Or, later in the same incomparable epistle:—"I need not inform your lordship why the illiterate, when they become religious, are more liable to enthusiasm than the better informed. They have also a coarse way of expressing their religious sentiments which also appears to be enthusiasm, when it is only vulgarity or quaintness. But I am persuaded your lordship will allow that this does not furnish a reason why the poor should be left destitute of religious instruction. That the knowledge of the Bible should lay men more open to the delusions of fanaticism on the one hand, or of Jacobinism on the other, appears so unlikely that I should have thought the probability lay all on the other side. I do not vindicate enthusiasm; I dread it. But can the possibility that a few should become enthusiasts be justly pleaded as an argument for giving them all up to actual vice and barbarism." Thus does she answer to the charge of Jacobinism, corruption, and

¹ *The Letters of Hannah More*, selected with an introduction by R. Brimley Johnson. (The Bodley Head. 6s. net.)

² For those unacquainted with the social history of this period it may be explained that the word *Jacobin* was the early nineteenth century equivalent of the twentieth century word *Bolshevist*.

public mischief. And if, to those of us who have our being in the atmosphere of the modern adult education movement these utterances would seem to bring her into closer alliance with Lord Eustace Percy and the F.B.I. than with those whom we are pleased to call advanced educationalists, we would refer once more to the historical background which rendered such a vindication necessary. Hannah More's educational activities coincide with the latter part of her life. They were perpetrated not in the optimistic and airy and adventurous intellectual atmosphere of pre-French revolution days, when Fox could be described as "sensible and agreeable," when the City of London could publicly award civic freedom and £50 to Dr. Price for his essay on the liberty of the people and the rights of man. They were perpetrated in the disillusioned and repressive atmosphere of post-French Revolution England, when men were persecuted and prosecuted and harried and spied upon for advocating the very sentiments which twenty years earlier Dr. Price had so freely and popularly expounded. Thus these selected letters of Hannah More provide us not merely with a personal introduction to a witty and daring feminist of a century ago, not merely with an essential early chapter in the history of English education, but also with a valuable commentary upon a very significant and difficult period of English social history. We heartily recommend our readers to acquire this book by purchase, loan, or theft; and we are confident that it may be safely handled in near proximity to the deepest harbour or the mustiest hollow tree without its reader being tempted to use either of these receptacles as a literary mausoleum.

M. D. S.

HATS.

We are in receipt of a book which will doubtless prove to be of considerable utility to many of our readers: *Make Your Own Hats*, by Gene Allen Martin, revised and edited by E. M. Batchelder, Lecturer in Millinery, etc., to the London Borough Polytechnic Institute (Sampson Low, Marston & Co., 3s. 6d.). We say this not in any spirit of criticism concerning their existing headgear, but because it must be great fun to make one's own hats—and inexpensive fun at that, for it can hardly be more expensive to make a hat for yourself than to buy it in a shop. And to make a hat under the written direction of so eminent an authority as the Borough Polytechnic Lecturer in Millinery with her infinite variety of shapes and materials, her helpful accompaniment of diagrams and photographs, must give a sense of security and mastery even to the precarious business of wire-bending, canvas-cutting, and straw-plaiting. And the best of it is that by such means we can acquire not standardized machine-made hats, but hats which are peculiarly adapted to our needs, hats which are in colour and outline, "the outward expression of ourselves," for is it not indeed true that "a hat, as well as any article of clothing, may express many things—dejection, happiness, decision, indecision, gaiety, dignity, graciousness, a trained or an untrained mind, forethought, refinement, generosity, cruelty, or recklessness." Thus we intend to make for ourselves fourteen hats. The first we shall wear on Wednesday, which is Press day; the second on Thursday, which is the day of respite; the third, upon receipt of a bad article; the fourth on receipt of a supremely good article whose author demands payment which financial considerations preclude us from offering; the fifth shall be donned when a new subscriber enters the office; the sixth when an old subscriber complains that we have dealt hardly with whatever government happens to be in power; the seventh, we will wear in the presence of any millionaire who expresses an interest in the causes which we have at heart; the eighth we will hand to the auditor, retaining the ninth ourselves; the tenth we shall wear at Board meetings; the eleventh in the presence of those who complain that our subject matter is coarse and defamatory; the twelfth will serve for calling upon potential advertisers; the thirteenth shall be donned for the reception of whomsoever brings us our proofs five minutes before the paper goes to Press; and the fourteenth—ah, but the fourteenth shall be copied in replica and handed to every member of the office staff on the day our circulation touches half a million!

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

Send 6/6 to the Office of the Paper, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
1/8 for Three Months. SUBSCRIBE TO-DAY.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST YOUNG PERSONS.

The Report of the above Committee (appointed by Mr. Arthur Henderson when Home Secretary in July, 1924) has just been published, and a very excellent and interesting report it is.

The Committee met forty-eight times, examined seventy-five representative witnesses, and received many memoranda, resolutions, and letters bearing on the subject of their inquiry from a large number of Societies and persons interested in the subject under consideration.

The Committee was appointed in response to a strongly expressed desire for a thorough inquiry into the actual prevalence of offences against young persons in England and Wales and for suggestions to be made for the prevention of their occurrence. Special attention had been called in the House of Commons to the inadequate penalties sometimes inflicted for these offences, and to the general belief that those who committed them were often mentally abnormal.

The Report gives in interesting detail a great deal of the varied evidence brought before the Committee, and the reasons for the conclusions to which it has come on the many problems on which recommendations are made.

As regards the prevalence of the offences and the adequacy of the sentences inflicted on the offenders the Committee have come to the following conclusions:—

That there are many more sexual offences committed against young persons than are reported.

That when proceedings are taken the proportion of acquittal is high.

That there is a distinct increase of indecent assaults on boys and on girls under 16, and that owing to the practice of reducing charges (mainly in the interests of the child or young person) the statistics of indecent assaults now include a proportion of more serious sexual offences which the Committee consider to be an additional ground for regarding this increase with concern.

As regards the adequacy of the sentences, when they have been inflicted, the Committee have come to the conclusion, after bearing in mind the representations made to them, that in certain cases the sentence has been very inadequate. "Several of the cases have called for comment in Parliament and there can be no doubt the comment has been justified."

In considering the various ways of dealing with sexual offences and with the different types of offenders, the Committee have perforce had to consider very divergent views on the general subject of punishment. The maximum penalties, allowed by law, are by no means light, ranging from six months' hard labour for an indecent offence if tried summarily, to penal servitude for life for the most serious offences. Some courts, however, regard these maximum penalties as to be inflicted only after the offender has committed the same offence several times. Maximum penalties are now rarely inflicted for any form of crime, and the general tendency is against long sentences as being neither reformatory nor deterrent, and even so, "the volume of crime has diminished." But the volume of crime as regards sexual offences against young persons has *not* diminished, and the Committee consider that a sentence of imprisonment is the most suitable penalty for the majority of those who commit them. They urge that sentences should be adequate and ask all courts to pay particular heed to the following considerations:—

(a) That the contrast between very light sentences given for sexual offences and the far heavier ones given for offences against property, not only shocks all right-minded people, but also tends to instil into the community a false sense of values, and to lower the public tone on moral questions.

(b) That consideration should be given to the fact that where the offender lives in the same locality as the child he has assaulted, it is a great gain that he should be removed from the neighbourhood for a sufficiently long period for the child to have made some recovery from the shock of the assault before there is any possibility of its seeing the man again.

(c) And, lastly, in all cases of assault the public mind is reassured to some extent if it knows that for some considerable time the offender is shut off from society and prevented from doing further harm.

In urging these views the Committee bear in mind the increasing efforts being made in our prisons to reform the prisoner. They suggest that for young and first offenders of previous good character probation might be used with advantage if careful supervision under a good officer can be secured. In very few

cases can a fine be an appropriate penalty, though the Committee does not go so far as to recommend the abolition of fines. For those who repeatedly commit indecent offences against young persons the Committee recommend that consideration should be given to the possibilities of prolonged detention in suitable institutions.

In a short notice of this full report I have given much space to the above conclusions and recommendations, for they seem to me to be of extreme importance.

But many valuable recommendations were made, as to changes in the law, in the jurisdiction of the courts, and in the administration of the law, for the expert mental examination of offenders, for improvement of provisions for child welfare, and for the increase of statutory requirements for preventive measures affecting the safety of children.

A very few only of these recommendations can be quoted. Among the most striking are the following:—

(a) That Courts of Summary Jurisdiction shall have power to grant a separation, maintenance, costs of the legal custody of her children, to a wife whose husband has been convicted of incest, carnal knowledge, or of the attempt, or of a grave indecent assault upon one of his daughters.

(b) That the age of consent shall be raised to 17, with amendments to the law consequent thereon.

(c) That the defence of reasonable belief that a girl was 16 or over shall be abolished. That where there are extenuating circumstances a young man found guilty on indictment and placed on probation, shall not have a conviction registered against him.

(d) That 12 months shall be the time limit for taking proceedings under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

(e) That the jurisdiction of Petty Sessions shall be extended to try, where the accused consents, the more serious sexual offences, and that power be given to justices to imprison up to 12 months.

(f) That in all except the simplest cases, a solicitor shall be engaged to assist the prosecution in sexual offences against young persons.

(g) That a suitable woman shall always be present in Court to the knowledge of the girl witness, and that a Matron shall be available to take charge of young witnesses while waiting to give evidence.

Of the recommendation to raise the age of consent there is no need to write in the WOMAN'S LEADER. Three members of the Committee dis-associate themselves from this recommendation and two of the three are against the total removal of the defence of reasonable belief. It has already been removed from men over 23, and is a second offence from a man of any age.

In conclusion I can only emphasize the greatness of the evil, the carefulness of the inquiry, and the thoughtfulness and humanity of the recommendations. But I would suggest to all those who are interested, and especially to magistrates, that they would do well to read the report for themselves.

(Published by H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2. or any bookseller, 2s.)

EDITH BETHUNE-BAKER, J.P.

ELECTRICITY AND MUSIC.

Electricity has mainly been thought of up to the present as a saver of drudgery and unpleasant tasks in the home. Seldom is it thought of as a means whereby beautiful music may be produced and all the Masters, old and new, be heard in one's own home without effort and long hours of wearisome practice. The Electrical Association for Women is arranging a Musical Afternoon at the Aeolian Hall on 23rd January, when the application of electricity and the production of good music for the home will be fully demonstrated. Members and guests will be received at 3 p.m. by Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley, Vice-President of the Association, and later in the afternoon Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O., a blind musician, will lecture on "The Place of Music in the Home." Invitation tickets may be had on application to Miss Haslett, Electrical Association for Women, 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1.

A DEBATE

will be held in MEMORIAL HALL, FARRINGDON STREET, between
Mr. MITCHELL HEDGES, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S.,
and Miss ELLEN WILKINSON, M.P.,
ON "DO WE NEED A MASCULINE REVIVAL?"
WEDNESDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 6.45 P.M.
Business women particularly welcome. For further particulars apply ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN CLERKS AND SECRETARIES, 116 Belgrave Road, Victoria, S.W. 1.

THE LAW AT WORK.

TWO BOOKS FOR JUSTICES.

Mr. Cecil Chapman, the well-known London Stipendiary Magistrate, has now retired from the Bench, and has embodied his recollections in a recently issued book *The Poor Man's Court of Justice*, published by Hodder and Stoughton, price 20s. It is such a book as we should expect from his pen, sympathetic, and with plenty of the humorous common sense which must often have illuminated his decisions in the Police Court. There are some pithy sayings, such as that "Crime flourishes upon severity of sentence," and some good stories, such as that of the examiner who on being asked to describe the nature of Christian marriage replied "Monotony."

Mr. Chapman has some wise words about the loyalty impulse in evidence. It must always be remembered by those who are called upon to hear and to weigh evidence how strong is the impulse to "stick to a pal," and in the minds of many people it is far worse to let down a friend than to depart from the truth even when upon oath. With this is wrapped up the whole subject of police evidence on which there are some rather painful revelations. The author rightly warns us against judging the whole force from the misdeeds of a few, and he has on the whole a high opinion of the London police, but no magistrate should disregard the loyalty impulse when he hears one policeman backing up the evidence of another.

Many of those qualified to speak on the subject will not go all the way with Mr. Chapman in his views on Solicitation; and his opinion that prostitutes should be regarded as "idle and disorderly persons" and punished as such. Nor can we look upon the New York methods of dealing with the social evil as a guide for ourselves, but rather as a warning. And we hope that our people will long hold in the greatest suspicion any proposal that prostitutes should be sentenced to indeterminate imprisonment.

Another book to be commended to magistrates is Mr. Gurney-Champion's *Justice and the Poor in England*, published by Routledge, price 7s. 6d. There has hitherto been no book in England dealing with legal aid for the poor, and this book is therefore to be welcomed as supplying a real want. Four leaders of religious thought contribute a preface in which they give their opinion as Christians that the present denial of justice to the poor is "inexpressibly injurious and inhuman—a festering sore in the body politic." The book is not easy reading, and can only be commended to those who are already interested in the subject. The author has a tendency to repeat himself, but it is a most careful and valuable survey of the whole subject of legal aid in both civil and criminal courts, including an account of what is done in Scotland and in America, and also a report on the subject which has been presented to the League of Nations.

Mr. Gurney-Champion does not shirk the difficult question of supplying a remedy for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. He would like to see Legal Bureaux set up in various districts both to supply legal advice (as is now done by the Poor Man's Lawyer in some large centres of population) and also legal aid in the conduct of proceedings. He thinks the legal profession would be prepared to undertake a good deal of voluntary work both in giving advice and also in taking cases in court if their out-of-pocket expenses were assured to them. These would be partly met by a fund into which poor applicants would pay anything that they could and partly also by the costs in successful cases. It is proposed that only a part of these should go to the conducting solicitor, and the remainder to the general finance of the scheme.

This plan would also involve a charge upon public funds both for the upkeep of the bureaux and also for legal expenses. The author's idea is that a scheme such as this should be made to cover the whole ground and should supersede the present piecemeal method of granting legal aid of one kind to certain prisoners at Assizes and Quarter Sessions, and of another kind to poor persons in divorce proceedings while many others cannot get it at all. To practical persons who realize that the illogical way of doing things is usually the one preferred by British statesmen, it would seem that we are more likely to get some assistance for the poor in the police courts by trying to build some further structure on inexpensive lines on the top of what already exists than by trying to start afresh with a complete and logical scheme involving a considerable expenditure. It is not of course right that we should regard the cost when we are only trying to carry out the pronouncement of Magna Carta "To none will we sell, to none will we deny or defer, justice and right." It is that those of us who are at work in the police courts are desperately anxious to see something done with as little delay as possible.

C. D. RACKHAM.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 24th to 27th FEBRUARY. LADY ASTOR'S RECEPTION.

We have great pleasure in announcing that Lady Astor is most kindly giving a reception in honour of the N.U.S.E.C. delegates on the evening of Thursday, 25th February. All who know the charming and interesting gatherings at Lady Astor's house will realize what a great attraction this party will be to our delegates. We are most grateful to Lady Astor for her kindness.

Societies are asked to note the following dates:—

Monday, 18th January.—Last day for reports to reach Headquarters.

Monday, 25th January.—Last day for nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee to reach Headquarters.

Tuesday, 2nd February.—Latest date for amendments for Final Agenda and applications for Delegates' Tickets to reach Headquarters.

Wednesday, 24th February.—Council opens, 2 p.m.

Thursday, 25th February.—Public Luncheon, 1 p.m.
Lady Astor's reception to Delegates, 8.45 p.m.

Friday, 26th February.—Mass meeting on Equal Franchise, 8 p.m.

Saturday, 27th February.—Council closes.

PERSONAL.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy with Mrs. Abbott who has recently lost her mother; this is the second great loss Mrs. Abbott has sustained in the last few months; also with Mrs. Layton by the death of whose father Mr. Osmaston, we lose a valued friend.

Our congratulations are offered to Mrs. Hewlett Hobbs, local correspondent for Maidstone, on the birth of a daughter.

NEW PAMPHLET.

Nationality of Married Women: Present Tendencies, by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc., price 2d. This is a reprint of an article contributed by Miss Chrystal Macmillan to the *Journal of Comparative Legislation and International Law*, in November, 1925, and gives a full account of the present position in this country, in the Dominions, and in other countries, of the law with regard to the nationality of married women, and suggestions for further action. It will be found quite invaluable to all who are interested in the question, and can be obtained from The Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

WOMAN'S YEAR BOOK.

This valuable reference book which was published in 1923 at 6s., may now be had, price 1s., post free 1s. 6d., on application to the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE S.E.C.

Under the auspices of the Clackmannanshire Society for Equal Citizenship, a social meeting was held in the Townhead Institute, Alloa, when there was a good attendance of members and friends. The Hon. Mrs. Alex. Forrester-Paton, Vice-President of the Branch, presided; and was accompanied on the platform by Miss Bury, N.U.S.E.C. Parliamentary Secretary for East of Scotland, Mrs. John Reid, Secretary of the Branch; and Dr. Fergusson.

Miss Bury, in the course of an able address, said their Society put equal franchise in the forefront of its programme, because they felt very strongly that they would get the other things they were striving for much more quickly when they had got equal franchise. Resolutions in favour of Equal Franchise and Miss Ellen Wilkinson's Bill on Women Police, were carried unanimously.

THREE USEFUL PAMPHLETS.¹

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has recently brought two useful pamphlets, *What the Vote has done* and *The Case for Equal Franchise* up to date, and issued a new one on *Family Limitations and Women's Organizations*. What the Vote has done is all the more valuable because its writer is Dame Millicent Fawcett. Dame Millicent gives a record of the changes in the law favourable to women which have taken place since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, and adds a postscript on legislation still pending at the

¹ *What the Vote has done*, 2d.; *The Case for Equal Franchise*, 1d.; *Family Limitation and Women's Organizations*, 1d. Published by N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

time of writing, November, 1925. We cannot resist quoting her last paragraph. "Perhaps I may be permitted to add, without offence, that having had opportunities of observing manners in the House of Commons, and comparing them over a period of nearly 60 years, I see an enormous, almost an incredible improvement in this respect in recent years. Democracy is a great teacher of manners. Women felt the difference and the improvement almost immediately after February, 1918."

Few women, if any, can point to a period of nearly sixty years' experience of Parliamentary work, and that work is not finished yet! Dame Millicent, in speaking of Equal franchise, says: "We must await developments, but we cannot rest content until full equality between men and women has been reached as regards the franchise, the most elementary of all rights of citizenship." We hope she will soon hear the last debate of a long series to which she has listened when in the near future the goal is reached. The second pamphlet states, as its name implies, the case for equal franchise. It tells the story of efforts to amend the law since 1918, and states precisely the present position which has often been enunciated in these columns. It concludes with suggestions for an equal franchise campaign in the early months of 1926. These two pamphlets should be read together, if possible, and both should have a wide circulation. The third brings us to the region of controversy. Our readers will not all agree with its conclusions on the attitude of women's organizations towards the limitation of the family, but we think they should all read it, nevertheless. It brings, as it purports to do, the question of family limitation into view in its right perspective "as part and parcel of the greater question of maternity and child welfare."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"AS OTHERS SEE US."

MADAM,—May I congratulate you and your co-editor on the way you keep THE WOMAN'S LEADER always interesting and on such varied points. You never miss the thing of the day. It is the best run weekly I know—except *Punch*.
Chipchase Castle,
Wark-on-Tyne.
(Mrs.) MONA TAYLOR.

A WOMAN PRESIDENT.

MADAM,—In your last number there is an interesting review by Dr. Martindale of the work of medical women in 1925. As a constant reader of your paper, may I mention a case worthy of being brought to your notice, which has, I feel, been omitted inadvertently. In May, 1925, Dr. Eleanor C. Bond was elected president of the Dorset and West Hants branch of the British Medical Association. This is a very high honour, few if any women having held a similar post, save Mrs. Garrett Anderson, who was the President of the East Anglian branch several years ago. We women medicals in Bournemouth feel very proud indeed of the distinction won by Dr. Bond. I might note the honour is hereditary, her father being President of the Gloucestershire branch many years ago.
Bournemouth.
FLORENCE STONEY.

[We thank our correspondent for her correction, and repeat our request for such interesting items of news throughout the year.—Ed.]

AN APPRECIATION OF DAME LOUISA ALDRICH-BLAKE, D.B.E., M.D., M.S.

MADAM,—In the many appreciations which have appeared in the Press of Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake, I have not seen one from the patient's point of view. I owe my life, not only to her remarkable surgery, which was the admiration of all the theatre sisters in the nursing home, but to her unerring judgment. That, however, is not the point about which I want to write. Her surgical skill and her extraordinary wisdom as to what risks she could or could not take with a patient's life are known to all her colleagues. The points I wish to emphasize are her generosity and devotion to the welfare of her patients.

I had never seen her before my illness, but she attended me in 1912 for over thirteen weeks, often calling twice a day, and performed four operations. I imagine she was naturally rather a silent woman, but to make the time pass more pleasantly for me she would tell me about all sorts of interesting things during her long daily visits. Often after 10 o'clock at night, perhaps after a frightfully hot August day spent in the operating theatre, she would ring up and if I were in pain she would come along from Nottingham Place to Warrington Crescent, and without haste or fuss, would set to work to make me comfortable. She put off her holidays until I was round the corner, and I only knew of it later by a casual remark from the surgeon who took her place.

Afterwards she refused to accept any payment, and when pressed by a generous friend of mine to send the account in to her, she said with her kindly smile—a smile which began in the eyes and really was a smile—"Oh, no, Miss — and I are comrades in the Woman's Movement, and I am very glad to have been able to help a little." I had really not the slightest claim on her interest, but it was just her unassuming way of making light of one's indebtedness to her.

I am sure I am only one of many hundreds of patients to whom in the midst of great pain and weakness, Miss Aldrich-Blake was like a rock to which one could cling with absolute confidence, and moreover with the certainty that she would never let one down.

I enclose my card, but there is no need for you to print my name. I owe her a deep debt of gratitude and should like to pay this small tribute of respectful admiration and affection.

A GRATEFUL PATIENT.

COMING EVENTS.

FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, DURHAM BRANCH.

JAN. 16. 3 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Family Allowances."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEB. 26. 8 p.m. Central Hall, Westminster. Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise. Speakers: Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., Miss Maude Royden, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P.

Ashton-under-Lyne W.C.A. JAN. 21. 8 p.m. Lady Balfour of Burleigh on "Equal Franchise."

Barnsley S.E.C. JAN. 22. 5.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Room. Miss Helen Ward on "The Woman Citizen of To-day and Equal Franchise." Chairman: The Rev. H. E. Hove, M.A.

Birkenhead W.C.A. JAN. 22. 3 p.m. Lady Balfour of Burleigh on "Equal Franchise."

Bolton W.C.A. JAN. 21. 3 p.m. Lady Balfour of Burleigh on "Equal Franchise."

Chester W.C.A. JAN. 22. 8 p.m. Lady Balfour of Burleigh on "Equal Franchise."

Durham S.E.C. JAN. 20. 7.30 p.m. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "Family Allowances."

Exeter S.E.C. JAN. 18. 8 p.m. Barnfield Hall. Miss Alison Neilans on "Problems of the Equal Moral Standard." Chairman: Mrs. Gamble.

Ilkley S.E.C. JAN. 20. 8 p.m. Congregational Lecture Hall. Lady Balfour of Burleigh on "Equal Franchise."

Portsmouth W.C.A. JAN. 26. 7.30 p.m. High School, Kent Road, Southsea. Public Meeting arranged in conjunction with other societies. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "What Women Want for Parliament."

Saffron Walden S.E.C. JAN. 29. 3 p.m. Mrs. Hulback on "The Parliamentary Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

SOCIETY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL AND RACIAL PROGRESS.

JAN. 20. 8 p.m. Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. General Meeting. Mr. Lewis Jefferson on "Religion and Birth Control." Chairman: Dr. Marie Stopes.

SOUTHAMPTON SISTERHOOD.

JAN. 31. 3 p.m. Mrs. White on "The Parliamentary Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

JAN. 25. 2.30 p.m. Visit to Research Laboratories of General Electric Company at Wembley.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

JAN. 19. 7.30 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Public Meeting to demand Votes for Women on the same terms as Men. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mr. Frank Bryant, M.P., and Lieut.-Commander Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, M.P. Chairman: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.

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SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

TO LET AND WANTED.

FLORENCE, ITALY.—Miss Muirhead, 11 Viale Mazzini, receives PAYING GUESTS; moderate terms.

LAKE OF GENEVA.—PAYING GUESTS, moderate terms. Vegetarian. Close to Fellowship School.—Mrs. Collier, La Falaise, Gland, Vaud.

BED-SITTINGROOMS, with breakfast. Gentlewomen (professional, business, students), permanent or temporary. Gas fires, meters, e.l. Quiet, select.—10 Endsleigh Street, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1.

BED-SITTINGROOMS, with breakfast. Gentlewomen (professional, business, students). Gas fires, meters, e.l. Close tube, buses. Terms moderate.—282, Elgin Avenue, W.9. Phone, 1,160 Maida Vale.

CHELSEA—FLAT to let (sittingroom, bedroom, kitchen, use of bathroom), furnished, from March.—Apply, Box 1,213, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

WANTED, professional woman or student to SHARE comfortable FLAT, Bloomsbury; £2 10s. weekly, with partial board.—Apply, Box 1,215, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

LADY would like another to join her in her small comfortable flat; 32s. weekly, with breakfast; other meals by appointment.—Apply, Box 1,218, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

HERTFORD HOUSE, 65 Albert Bridge Road, Battersea Park.—Single and double BED-SITTINGROOMS, with breakfast and bath, for professional women or students; central heating; other meals by arrangement; £2.

FURNISHED BED-SITTINGROOM in flat; central position, pleasant outlook.—Apply, Box 1,212, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—Tiny ROOM, light and cleaning, 10s. 6d., unfurnished; own meter. Suit working gentlewoman.—Write, Bulam, 8 Clifford's Inn, E.C. 4.

BED-SITTINGROOMS (two), south aspect, every convenience, without board or attendance; very moderate terms; lady's quiet homely house, large garden; good road, near Brixton Station.—Box 1,219, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

COUNTRY COTTAGE wanted from about the middle of March for several months. Three or four bedrooms, garden, attractive country; garage near; convenient distance from London, preferably north or north-west.—Apply, Box 2,120, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

SMALL HOUSE in central part London to let, furnished, for spring and summer. Two sittingrooms, four bedrooms, telephone, wireless; easy to run; good housekeeper if desired.—Apply, Box 2,121, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

WELL-FURNISHED SITTINGROOM, two BED-ROOMS, use of bath, kitchen, gas stoves, to let to professional women in lady's flat; 38 guineas weekly.—Write, C., 5/12 St. Stephen's Square, Bayswater.

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns. Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

ZITA'S KITCHEN AND INFORMATION BUREAU, Earl's Court. Mistresses and Maids can learn house-keeping, catering, and cooking here at hours to suit themselves, or by correspondence. Study circles arranged. Economic diets planned. Terms by arrangement.—Address, Ann Pope, c/o THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Learn to become a useful speaker and Chairman.—Box 1,216, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

GENTLEWOMAN, at present resident in Geneva, good linguist, good packer, is prepared to act as TRAVELLING COMPANION to young, inexperienced, or delicate travellers. All responsibility undertaken. Terms by arrangement.—Address, Miss Geraldine Cooke, 44 Clarence Gate Gardens, N.W. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SALE.—WHITE ART LINEN BARGAINS.—Remnant bundles of white art linen, suitable for embroidery and drawn-thread work, for making afternoon tea-cloths, tray-cloths, sideboard covers, etc., 11s. 9d. per bundle, postage 6d. Write for January Sale Catalogue To-day.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

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.)

POSTS WANTED.

EXPERIENCED ORGANISER, Secretary, free for work in London. Social, political experience; good speaker; certificated shorthand-typist.—Apply, Box 1,217, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY requires part-time or temporary work; good speaker; would take pupils for public speaking.—Address, Miss Geraldine Cooke, 44 Clarence Gate Gardens, N.W. 1.

POSTS VACANT.

WANTED, 1st February, two friends as DOMESTIC WORKERS; private house; good plain cooking required; daily girl for rough work kept; salary £40.—Apply, Mrs. Cross, Sunnyside, Apsley Road, Clifton, Bristol.

DRESS.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sara, 163 Ebury Street (5 min. Victoria Station). Tel., Ken. 3947. 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.

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,141, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 17th January; 3.30, Music, Miss Margery Fry, J.P., on "Prison Reform." 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Christ or the Bible."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and the Free Birth Control Clinic, founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Councillor H. V. Roe. New address: 108 Whitfield Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, requires and supplies educated women for all branches of domestic work. Registration: Employers 2s. 6d., Workers 1s. Suits, 7s. 6d. and 2s. Telephone, Western 6323.

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