

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Armies in Retreat.

On 23rd June it was announced officially in Paris that the French Cabinet had come to an important decision with regard to the Ruhr occupation. "The Council approved the measures proposed . . . with a view to the carrying out of the promises given in connection with the evacuation of the Ruhr. *This operation is intended to begin very shortly.*" The italics are ours; for in this last sentence lies the deep significance of the announcement. The French Government intends not merely to keep its promise. It intends to go a little further than the bare letter of its promise and expedite the withdrawal of its troops from the Ruhr without waiting until 16th August: the day named in the London Agreement. And this, as *The Times* Paris correspondent points out, "in order to give Germany proof of its sincere desire for a peaceful settlement" and thus help forward negotiations on the Security Pact. The Pact negotiations has stimulated the atmosphere for peace on the Ruhr. Peace on the Ruhr will clear the air for the Pact negotiations. How very many-sided is that many-sided truth: "to him that hath shall be given . . ."

A Plea for the Pact.

The foregoing considerations suggest our answer to the resolution passed on the same day by the Parliamentary Labour Party. This resolution roundly condemns the Pact for its limited scope, its grave military commitments, its undefined responsibilities, and its failure to make provision for a mutual and general reduction of armaments. We agree in the main with these indictments. We agree too that the Pact seems to conform unpleasantly "to the system of partial alliances" which has served Europe disastrously in the past. Nevertheless, absurd situations sometimes require absurd remedies. The savage whose savagery is fostered by the ever present fear of a malignant painted devil may take his first step towards intellectual salvation under the beneficent smile of an alternative painted devil. If by hook or crook that old devil of mutual fear which stalks up and down the Franco-German frontier can be laid once and for all, the League of Nations stands to gain by the Pact more than it stands to lose. But it must be confessed that we are writing in the dark. As we go to press Mr. Chamberlain is opening the Pact debate in the House of Commons.

The Guardianship of Infants Bill and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill in the House of Lords.

The tedium of two semi-audible debates during the Committee Stage of these two Bills in the House of Lords—when the Lord Chancellor was bringing pressure to bear on Lord Askwith and Lord Russell, who between them were gallantly championing the various amendments advocated by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship—to withdraw most of the amendments down in their names, was suddenly relieved when on the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill they pressed to a division the proposed new clause giving the Courts power, when a Separation Order has been given, to make orders for the division of the furniture of the home. The amendment was carried by one vote in a House which, we must admit Ascot or some other cause had made extremely empty! Excellent speeches in favour of the new Clause had been made by the Bishop of Southwark and the Earl of Arran. It is probable that on Report stage a modification of the new proposal may have to be accepted, but in view of the practical importance for the many unhappily married women who find it impossible under the present law to make a new home for themselves and their children out of the pitifully inadequate weekly sum available provided out of Maintenance Orders, any step in the right direction will be most valuable.

A New Bill for Public Order.

Some weeks ago we announced that at a meeting of Members of Parliament and others interested, it was agreed to introduce a Bill drafted on the initiative of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene this Session under the Ten Minutes' rule. This decision has now been translated into action. Lady Astor has given notice that on Wednesday, 8th July, she will introduce a Bill to repeal certain laws relating to prostitutes and to amend the law relating to order in streets and public places. We refer our readers to the description of this Bill by Mrs. Bethune-Baker in our issue of 1st May, and to her two subsequent articles dealing with solicitation and its treatment on 15th May and 29th May. The essence of the new Bill is that *no person* should be allowed to annoy *any other person*, and that police evidence must be supported by or on behalf of the person annoyed. In this way alone can order and decency in the streets be secured.

Disinterested Public-house Management.

We regret that only one woman, Miss Madeleine Symons, has been appointed on the committee just appointed by the Government to consider disinterested public-house management. Miss Symons is a member of the Executive Committee of the Labour Party and is closely identified with the National Federation of Women Workers, which she joined soon after leaving Newnham. She is also a member of the Committee on Lunacy Reform which has not yet presented its report. While we welcome her appointment in the fullest confidence of her wisdom and ability we must reiterate our opinion that the Government—we do not mean this particular Government: the criticisms apply to any Government in power—should show more originality in the selection of women members of Commissions and Committees of Inquiries. The tendency is to appoint the same women over and over again. There are many women magistrates deeply interested in licensing questions who could have brought experience, unbiassed judgment and good sense to bear on this question, and we think two women would not have been excessive on a committee of ten.

A First-hand Study of Unemployment.

The report issued last week by the Director of Statistics to the Ministry of Labour on an investigation into the personal circumstances and industrial history of nearly 11,000 claimants to unemployment benefit¹ discloses some unexpected facts. The popular fallacy that the unemployed are as a rule the unemployable is disposed of effectively. Only 3.6 per cent of the males and 1.4 of the females were scheduled as "verging on the unemployable." Another fact which will be of special interest to readers of this paper relates to the size of the typical family and to the average number of dependents. Out of every hundred unemployed men, 48 have dependents—44 adults and 73 children. Over 70 per cent of men with dependent children were drawing benefit for one or two children only. The report is full of interest to social students and we will deal with it more fully in an early issue.

The Scandal of Licensed Houses.

If anyone doubts the evil effects of *maisons tolérées* on public morals, the article in *La Française* of 13th June should convince them. On the occasion of the 47th National Federation Gymnastic Fête at Strasburg (Alsace) some 16,000 boys and men, aged from 12 to 30, visited the town. For three nights these young men, mostly mere lads of 16 and 17 and many of them children, flocked to the special street and lined up outside the regulated brothels, which are in the centre of the town, near the University and schools. Many older men of all classes stood at the doors trying to persuade the lads not to enter the houses. Two who were thus addressed were aged 13 years and 13½ respectively. Crowds collected, watching at the end of the street. The police did nothing to prevent this appalling exhibition although they had received an appeal to do so. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, in sending us a note of the occurrence, points out that in France inspectors of the Morals Police Service have orders strictly to enforce the prohibition that mistresses of tolerated houses shall not admit any students of the lycées or any men under 18 and that in Germany prostitutes under regulation are forbidden to have relations with minors. The above instance shows how futile it is to continue laying down the conditions under which *maisons tolérées* may exist. France has just agreed to exclude all foreign women from becoming inmates of licensed houses, and the A.M. and S.H. asks: "What practical good do any such measures achieve while the licensed house is allowed to remain?"

A Woman's Views on Money Lending.

Miss D. C. Keeling, Chairman of the Loans Sub-Committee of the Liverpool Citizens' Association and Secretary of the Liverpool Personal Service Society, gave evidence at the Joint Committee on the Moneylenders' Bills on Friday last week. Miss Keeling urged that all lenders should be registered. We refer our readers to the article on this subject contributed this week by Miss Caton, who worked with Miss Keeling in the Liverpool inquiry. This is a matter on which organized bodies of women should express their opinion, and we are glad to hear that the example given by the Liverpool Women Citizens' Association has stimulated other organizations to take up the matter in their localities. Women voters can strengthen the hands of those Members of both Houses of Parliament who are fighting for reform.

The Family Endowment Society.

The first annual meeting of this Society was held last week, when the following officers were elected: Presidents, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir Henry Slessor, Professor Gilbert Murray; Chairman, Miss K. D. Courtney; Vice-Chairman, Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone; Treasurer, Mr. G. W. Currie; Hon. Secretary, Miss Olga Vlasto. Mr. Joseph Cohen, Lecturer in Economics, Cambridge, read a valuable paper on family income insurance, in which he dealt with family allowances as part of a comprehensive scheme of social insurance.

The Film Industry.

Miss Lena Ashwell and Mrs. Philip Snowden are among the signatories of a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to

¹ Report on an Investigation into the Personal Circumstances and Industrial History of 10,903 Claimants to Unemployment Benefit, 5th to 10th November, 1923. H.M. Stationery Office, 3s. net.

institute an inquiry into the measures necessary to establish the film industry in this country on a sound foundation. The letter points out that not 5 per cent of the pictures exhibited in 4,000 cinema theatres in this country to 20 million people weekly are of British production. The bulk of the films exhibited, it is stated, have a non-British atmosphere and "many are inferior productions, neither healthy nor patriotic in tone."

Married Persons in Northern Ireland — Summary Jurisdiction Bill.

A Private Members' Bill has been introduced into the Senate of Northern Ireland. It is a Summary Jurisdiction Bill designed to equalize the state of the law as between Northern Ireland and this country. Mr. Leslie, who introduced it, said that no Act applicable to Northern Ireland legalized separation, and a woman who had to leave her husband was left without any statutory provision. The Government did not oppose the Second Reading (which was carried), but made it clear that no facilities for its further progress could be afforded. They undertook, however, to bring forward legislation of their own as soon as they had a clear indication of the views of the public.

We congratulate Mr. Leslie on his enterprise in setting on foot the first Private Members' Bill yet introduced into the Senate, and are specially glad that it treats of a subject so near the hearts of our readers. It is indeed high time that the fact of Ireland's exclusion from the Act of 1895 should be noted and commented on, and we are glad to think that unhappy wives in Northern Ireland will before long be afforded the same legal help as can be claimed by those in this country. We hope, moreover, that the amendments to the existing law now before the Imperial Parliament will be incorporated into the Government's measure when it is brought in.

Questions in Parliament.

THE PROPOSED FOOD COUNCIL.—Among several questions asked with reference to the constitution of the Food Council, Mr. N. McLean asked the Minister of Agriculture to state whether he has taken steps to secure the representation upon the Food Council of working women who understand this question, and who know by actual experience what a small wage can buy. Sir Burton Chadwick replied that he would make an announcement when the arrangements for the Council were completed, and that the representation of working women had been taken into consideration.

INFORMATION ON BIRTH CONTROL.—Mr. Thurtle asked the Minister of Health if he will make arrangements to give Parliament an opportunity of directing that maternity centres provided at the cost of public funds shall be free to give information on birth control to such married women as may desire it. Mr. Chamberlain replied that any question as to the possibility of arrangements being made for the discussion of this question on the Floor of the House should be addressed to the Prime Minister.

OAKUM PICKING FOR WOMEN.—Miss Wilkinson raised the question of oakum picking for women in the House of Commons last week, when she asked the Minister of Health what communications he had received asking him to omit oakum picking for women from the new Casual Poor (Relief) Order, 1925. Mr. Chamberlain replied that he had received communications on the subject from the Women's Local Government Society, the Union and Rural District Clerks' Association, the National Association of Masters and Matrons, the National Council of Women, and the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. We refer our readers to the admirable article on this subject contributed to our issue of 5th June by Miss Bertha Mason. The Women's Local Government Society before bringing its existence to a close did excellent service in calling public attention to this retrograde Order. We imagine this is not only a question of an undesirable occupation for women, but that neither men or women who are temporarily obliged to resort to casual wards in Institutions under the control of Boards of Guardians should be put to the futile and degrading task of oakum picking which has already been abandoned to a large extent for prisoners. Twenty years ago, as Miss Mason reminds us, oakum picking was described by the Controller of Prison Industries as "low grade work without a redeeming feature, second only to the obsolete tread wheel."

THE COMING OF THE BUSINESS WOMAN.

To return to our theme of a fortnight ago—we ventured to indicate the chief snag in the way of the business woman as "marriage-mortality": her father's expectation that she will very probably marry, and that, if she does, either at once or when children come upon the scene, her business career will go to the wall. And we recognized that assumption as very largely justified by the social and economic conditions of middle-class married life at the present time. But "are those conditions themselves justified?" we asked ourselves. To-day we propose to answer our own question. Our answer is very firmly and very emphatically "No." Let us elaborate it.

To begin with we think that the education of middle-class boys is at fault. From the moment of their disappearance into a preparatory boarding-school until the moment of their reappearance in early manhood from a public school, or from Oxford or from Cambridge, they live for the greater part of their time in a world in which women, when they do appear, appear always as ministering angels of high or low degree. From private school to public school, from public school to university, the decks are cleared for the work of boys and men. And it is for the most part women who keep them cleared, either as wage-earners who do the inevitable menial jobs, or as wives who do the social or incidental jobs. And so the young man goes forth into the world with his view of the woman's place indelibly stamped on his conscious or sub-conscious mind. No—not indelibly, for some by good fortune have a contradictory home background and have learned to do little tiresome menial jobs for themselves and, when occasion arises, take their share of the washing up. And some, a very few, are so inherently equitable that they can of themselves challenge the tacit assumptions of thirteen long impressionable years, and treat women as they themselves would like to be treated. And with these same assumptions (to return once more to the general run) they enter, some years later, upon married life. Poor things—we are not blaming them. They do not, like the working man in his little house, really know all the things that women do for them. They don't see them done. Their clothes disappear without effort on their part and return washed. Their socks disappear and return darned. The decks are still kept clear for that supreme importance, the man's career outside the home. And the wife, if she need not as a middle-class woman and the mistress of servants, do these things herself, must at least see that they are done. And goodness knows—it may sometimes require less energy from her to do them herself! Yet there are few men of this class who have no leisure and no holidays from the business of income earning. Some of them have sufficient leisure, derived from the fortunate possession of an unearned income, to devote themselves to public work. Why should their work and their leisure occupations be regarded as more inviolate than that of their wives? Why must it

remain at all times uncontaminated by the tiresome details and dull jobs of everyday life? Why must there be no real give and take?

We fear that the answer to this question lies largely with the women themselves. And can we blame them any more than the men, since they too are the creatures of generations of social and domestic tradition? But the fact is that an immense part of the lives of ordinary middle-class married women are spent in the doing of jobs that are of no great importance. Why take the trouble to clear the decks effectively for the doing of them? The middle-class wife pays somebody to do the housework, she pays somebody else to look after the children, and that done, as often as not she muddles away the rest of her time in the doing of jobs which only exist to be done because she is surrounded in her social circle by other women similarly situated. They are principally concerned with the maintenance of social relationships—an unnecessary effort because social relationships are things which should be left to develop of themselves, and they do develop just as effectively among people who are doing important and interesting work together as among people who are wasting time in their express pursuit. We are sometimes told of the vital importance which the men attribute to the social work of the schoolmaster's wife, the clergyman's wife, the diplomatist's wife. We challenge that importance—or rather the genuineness of man's real belief in it. When the unmarried man is in any degree penalized in his search for such an appointment because he has no wife to perform an "important" part of his duties, we shall believe in it. No doubt the wife can find plenty of things to do if she happens to be there—but nobody really bothers about the non-performance of her work if she doesn't happen to be there.

The wife who makes a career of her wifedom and motherhood and does the work herself is, of course, in a different category. She is doing a job which really is worth doing, because someone else would have to be found to do it if she didn't. And she is doing incidentally if she happens to have the vocation for it, a really interesting job. It is a hard, arduous, and often a tedious job—harder than very many of the jobs done by men who consider themselves hard worked. But it is a real job. It is not therefore the women who chose domesticity as a career who prejudice the position of those who prefer to exercise their activities along other lines. It is the women who, turning their back on domesticity as a career, choose no other; and who by their failure to do something which must be done continuously and seriously add new force to that mighty, and as far as men are concerned, very pleasing assumption that it is in the unalterable nature of things for the domestic scene to be adapted solely to the convenience, the well-being, and the dignity of the husband's paid or unpaid work.

THE WIDOWS', ETC., PENSIONS BILL—FIFTY YEARS LATER.

By ELEANOR F. RATHBONE, J.P.

To illustrate the kind of hardship that might ensue if the proposal made in some quarters for the exclusion of "childless" widows were adopted, the Minister of Health suggested to a deputation the following hard case:—Suppose a man had only one child; that it fell into the water, and in trying to rescue it he lost his life. If he succeeded in saving the child, his widow would get a pension; if he failed his widow would go pensionless. We agree with Mr. Chamberlain in deprecating drastic dealings with the "childless" widow; but we are tempted to point out that while the case imagined might conceivably happen once in ten years, cases such as the following would certainly occur in thousands sometime during the next fifty years, if the Bill were to become and to remain law in its present form:—

A., B., C., and D. Smith were sisters. Annie was the eldest. Mother needed her at home to help with the younger ones, so she never learnt a trade. At 22 she got a job in a sweet factory. She was such a steady worker that she managed to keep it for twenty years, when her stiff fingers and shabby clothes (the pay didn't run to better ones) caused her to be turned off in favour of bits of girls. She managed to rub along for another ten years or so, sometimes with seasonal work at factories, sometimes charring. Then she went to keep house for a widowed brother. Eight years later he married again and she was thrown out. She has never been able to get any work to speak of since, and though she has paid thirty years' contributions under the Pensions Act she is not likely to get her pension at 65.

Bertha was apprenticed to the tailoring at 16. At 20 she

married a tailor, but kept on taking home work in the intervals between her babies. They managed between them to save a bit and when she was about 45 they set up a little contractor's workshop, taking in work from one of the big firms and employing three or four girls. A few years later he died. She kept on with the shop, but the years of confinement had spoilt her health, and work fell off. She is now nearly 65, and feels it hard that though her husband and she between them must have paid nearly sixty years' contributions on their own behalf under the Pensions Act, besides all they have paid for their workers, she is entitled neither to widows', children's, nor 65-70 pensions. She knows her husband should have become a voluntary contributor when he ceased to be "an employed person." But he was always an indifferent sort of man who didn't seem to think what would become of her if she lost him. Besides, he grudged the double payment of a week, saying he was paying enough for his workers. If she could have paid 4d. for her own pension, she would have managed it somehow.

Carrie went into domestic service as a housemaid. When getting elderly she married the butler, and they retired to set up a lodging-house with their savings. When he died a few years later, she was mad to think she was not entitled to a pension, after all they had both paid in. But she got her pension in the end; for she married one of her lodgers, a consumptive young man who died only three months afterwards. Some say he was not too keen on the marriage, and that she worried him into it, not letting the doctor call in a district nurse so that she might

nurse him herself, and not posting the letter he wrote to his sister asking her to come and look after him. But there are spiteful people who will say anything, and since the Pensions Act many a woman has been afraid to be kind to a sick man unless he is married already, for fear the same thing should be said of her.

Dorothy is the only one of the four who has a good word to say for the Pensions Act. Her husband died when the four children were all young, and she found the pension a rare help to her, though she had to work hard to help it out. The only thing that vexes her is that the money for the children didn't go on longer, so that she could have kept her second boy, Ned, at school. He is a clever lad, but delicate, not having had too much to eat when young, and seemed more suited to be a clerk or a teacher than a factory hand. But she had to let him go to work like the rest at 14. He got his elder brother's job, too, when he was dismissed because his master said younger lads could do the work as well, and he didn't have to pay insurance for them.

These are some of the "hard cases" that will occur if the Bill is not amended. But it will be amended, of course, long before fifty years are over, and the Government that does it will reap the credit, rather than the original promoters of the Bill.

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

CHAPTER XXVI.—THE THREE RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS: EASTER, NEBY MUSA, AND PASSOVER (continued).

Luncheon over, Mr. and Mrs. Vester and their children drove us to the place outside the walls, immediately south of the Temple area and close to St. Stephen's Gate, where we should have a good view of the Neby Musa procession as it left the city on its way to the official reception. The ground immediately outside the Gate rises steeply and forms a little hillock on either side of the roadway, the top of which is an ideal place for seeing the procession as it issues from the Gate. It is indeed a sort of "dress circle" some thirty feet above the road. And on the edge of this little precipice Mr. Vester had had a row of chairs prepared for his party, in which we were included. As soon as we arrived an amazing sight met our gaze; thousands and thousands of wildly excited Moslems, still yelling, shouting, and dancing, blowing horns and clapping cymbals, covered acres and acres of the rugged surface of the ground, their white turbans shining in the clear bright sunshine, and making each individual in the huge throng easily distinguishable. There were booths for the sale of refreshments, flags, and toys. Some of the Arabs had appropriated to themselves the chairs which Mr. Vester had had arranged for us. But a few kindly and obviously friendly words in Arabic, spoken with a smile, by Mrs. Vester, explained the situation to them; the chairs were cheerfully and courteously vacated and all possible friendliness and welcome to our party was shown. We did think sometimes that our Arab neighbours were a little too friendly, for they pressed so closely upon us that we should not have been surprised if we had suddenly found ourselves at the bottom of the little precipice just described. However, this did not happen, although we were packed as closely as a London crowd on Lord Mayor's day, and our feet were over the edge of the precipice. Our nearest Arab neighbour had provided himself with a sack full of huge Jaffa oranges; not a very easy thing to dispose of in a crowd. This view of his nose bag evidently became very obvious to its owner, and he began at once to distribute the contents of his sack with indiscriminate liberality. We each were given an immense orange and the rest of our party had a similar gift; the remainder of the contents of the sack was rapidly disposed of and the sack itself, rolled up into a bundle, was then thrown by its owner to a comrade on the other side of the road.

It seemed rather a long time before the procession appeared, and we wondered how the road could be cleared for it. However, there were more order and organization than were at first obvious. The inhabitants of each village or town kept in their own group and each group had its leader or head man. At last the regular procession, carrying flags and banners, began to arrive, town by town, village by village, the throngs of people fell into their places in the ranks and began to pass slowly by. There were very few police visible and no military force. Of course we did not know what there may have been in reserve hidden out of sight, but there was no display of physical force. One very interesting feature in the procession was the part taken

in it by school boys and Boy Scouts. The boys were quite demure and deliberate, and did not indulge in the yelling and dancing of the wilder people from the villages. It should be remembered that the Cathedral of St. George is the chief Anglican Church in Jerusalem, and that St. George's School is the best boys' school in the city. These Moslem boys walking in the Neby Musa procession were among its pupils. Surely this was in itself a good sign of fundamental friendliness between Moslems and Christians. The St. George's boys had quite a good band, which made a welcome change from the other noises, and I learnt incidentally that the instruments had been presented by Mr. and Mrs. Vester.

The presence of the Boy Scouts also particularly interested us. If there had been any real risk of the Neby Musa of 1922 degenerating into a riot, surely the presence of these children was an excellent means of preventing it. The little lads were, so to speak, hostages given by the leading Moslem families in Jerusalem guaranteeing the peacefulness and order of the whole ceremony. I never heard who had suggested their presence, but it was an idea worthy of the Chief Scout himself.

The religious part of the procession came last of all. Here all was quiet and dignified. The Grand Mufti, mounted on a splendid horse, preceded by the hereditary bearer of the holy flag of the prophet, and followed by the other chief officials of the mosque, also mounted, formed a group who fittingly represented one of the great religions of the world. The din and uproar of the crowd was stilled as they passed and everything was seemly and impressive. It was interesting to watch the long procession of thousands and thousands of men wending their way past the entrance to the Garden of Gethsemane (plainly visible from where we sat) and so onwards towards the tent where the official reception was to take place. The procession itself, as previously mentioned, is in honour of the prophet Moses; its ostensible object was to do reverence to his tomb, the locality of which is unknown!

The Moslems believe that God sent six great prophets into the world: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed. Therefore far more often than not Jews, Christians, and Moslems have the same "Holy Places" and reverence the same teachers. There should be in the future no insuperable difficulty in uniting on points of agreement rather than quarrelling on points of difference.

LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON.

Lady Betty Balfour has edited the letters—and by so doing has recorded the life and character—of her sister, Lady Constance Lytton, and no one who remembers the great days of the Suffrage movement should miss the book.¹ Its interest, however, does not really lie in the description of the militant movement, nor in the memories of those old controversies and agitations which it inevitably recalls. More important and of more lasting value is the picture drawn of Lady Constance herself, and the revelation of a character which was at once violent and gentle, passionately sympathetic and full of fun. No extracts can convey the impression which grows up from her own letters, her bits of self-revelation, her persistent driving force. It is a book to read straight through.

To those who took a share in the work of those years it becomes inevitable, after reading these pages, to reconsider the old debate about Suffrage tactics and to wonder whether time has yet made clear the rights and wrongs of the affair. But time does not seem to have done much, and the answer is still indefinite—still a yes or a no dictated by individual character and not by outside evidence. And yet, whatever the judgment on the whole may be, the part which Lady Constance played seems wholly admirable, helpful, and wise; and the spirit in which she acted was that of a true saint. Her imprisonments under her own name and as Jane Warton, and the different treatments accorded to her in these two characters made a profound and terrible impression in their day. Her book, *Prisons and Prisoners*, drove the facts home, and there is no doubt that her action had its results upon a sphere wider even than the great woman's movement she was upholding. Those who hate injustice are the guardians of our liberty; and Lady Constance was such a one. Those who love goodness, and whose charity reaches out to all the world, are the guardians of our happiness; and Lady Constance was such a one. And those who suffer for what they believe, and take no account of their suffering, are the salt of the earth.

R. S.

¹ *Letters of Constance Lytton*, selected and arranged by Betty Balfour. (Wm. Heinemann, Ltd. 7s. 6d.)

THE CINEMA IN EDUCATION.

The National Council of Public Morals has issued under the editorial auspices of Sir James Marchant, a detailed report on the uses of the cinema for educational purposes.¹ The report is supplementary to a larger inquiry concerning the social and moral effects of the cinema generally, embodied in an earlier publication entitled "The Cinema, its Present Position and Future Possibilities." It is an expert document, packed with the records of detailed and precise comparative examination of the psychological reactions of certain sample classes of children to cinema, lantern slide, and oral teaching. And though it will no doubt contain less interest for the general reader than any consideration of that wider and far more urgent problem of the psychological reaction to popular cinema exhibitions, it will inevitably become part of the technical equipment of experimentally minded teachers and educationalists throughout the country. Briefly summarized, the conclusions of those responsible for the present report embody a belief that "the cinema has from every point of view a well marked advantage for educational purposes": an advantage, that is to say, over the less vivid method of imparting knowledge and arousing interest by lantern slides and oral instruction. There is, however, as the framers of this accurate and informative report would doubtless admit, a wider question at stake: How far should the educational curriculum provided by the school deviate from the straight and narrow path of those subjects which involve primarily a strenuous creative effort on the part of the pupil? To some extent certainly; in preparation for the vast and life-long process of passive absorption which press, cinema, and wireless impose upon the twentieth century citizen. But to what extent? The question is, fortunately, not directly relevant to the publication under review.

M. D. S.

THE MONEY-LENDERS BILLS.

By A. R. CATON.

The Bills "to amend the law with respect to persons carrying on business as money-lenders" which, slightly differing, have been introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Carson, and by Mr. S. R. Wells in the House of Commons, have each incorporated partially two other Bills which deal with different aspects of the question.

The first of these two Bills is one introduced in the House of Commons a year or more ago by Colonel A. Pownall, M.P. It prohibits the issuing of advertising circulars by money-lenders, and the publication of money-lenders' advertisements in the Press. This Bill aims at dealing with the money-lender in a large way of business who sends the well-got-up circulars (so familiar to householders) which offer to lend money up to any amount without security. It would have little effect upon the different type of money-lenders whose dealings are amongst the very poor, except perhaps in those cases where it does happen that a money-lender of this class advertises his or her business by leaving leaflets under the doors of houses in poor streets, but this is probably not a frequent occurrence.

The second of these Bills is a draft Bill prepared by Mr. S. Scholefield Allen, LL.B. (Barrister-at-Law) as a result of a local inquiry made into the money-lending evil a year ago by the Liverpool W.C.A. in co-operation with the Liverpool Personal Service Society. The inquiry made two things clear to the special committee (of which Mr. Allen is a member) which considered its findings; firstly the need for more adequate legislation to protect the poorer type of borrower and secondly, the provision of some alternative to borrowing from money-lenders, such as a well-organized Loan Society.

This Bill has been revised since it was embodied in the report of the inquiry, and now contains provisions on the following points:—(1) The obligation upon the money-lender to provide a clear and definite statement of the details of the transaction; (2) Restriction on the rate of interest legally chargeable; (3) (i) Safeguards with regard to registration; the suggestion that this should depend upon Police Certificate, (ii) Suspension of certificate in certain events; (4) In actions by money-lenders that the fact should be disclosed that the plaintiff is a money-lender, and further, that the plaintiff should not sign judgment in default but should prove his case.

¹ *The Cinema in Education*. Edited by Sir James Marchant. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., pp. 159, 7s. 6d.)

The need for the first of these suggested measures (Clause I) in Mr. Allen's Bill was made very clear to the investigators during the Liverpool inquiry. A number of borrowers involved in entanglements (sometimes of some years' standing) had extremely vague ideas as to the details of the transaction, and often were ignorant of the amounts repaid and owing, and had forgotten the sum originally borrowed. In many cases no receipts were given and further inquiry from the money-lenders themselves disclosed the fact that sometimes no records were kept by them, and the opportunities for fraudulent dealings are unlimited under such circumstances, and if such a measure were made law it ought to put money-lending on a better and more straightforward basis, and should also rule out money-lending by people incapable of business methods (such as the lady visited during the inquiry who tapped her head and said that she kept all her records there).

The clause requires that particulars of the following details should be provided by the money-lender:—

- (a), (b), (c) Names and addresses of borrower and lender;
- (d) Date of the making of the contract;
- (e) Amount of the loan;
- (f) Amount actually paid over to borrower;
- (g) Amount retained in respect of interest in advance, etc.;
- (h) Rate of interest, and whether weekly, monthly, annually, simple or compound;
- (i) Particulars of borrowers' security or guarantee.

Interesting criticisms of this clause have been made by the Standing Conference on Social Work. This Conference while agreeing with the general principle consider that some of the sub-clauses are "undesirably elaborate in particular (h)" and goes on to say "it is not at all easy to say what the 'rate of interest' is, even upon a straightforward contract, and quite impossible to say at the outset what it may ultimately become in the case of default."

Probably all attempts at previous legislation have come up against this difficulty, but until some solution is found a very convenient loop-hole is provided for the money-lender. At present the overcharged borrower has no redress unless his case is brought to Court and the judge decides that the rate of interest is "harsh and unconscionable"; and only a very small proportion of distressed borrowers go to Court at all. This clause is probably one of the most important points in the Bill, and the wording is clear and comprehensive. At least it should provide a valuable basis for discussion of the principle. It is adopted in a very much simplified form in both Lord Carson's and Mr. Wells' Bills.

Clause II makes similar provisions with regard to amounts paid off in respect of Principal and Interest. Clause III deals with the penalties for infringement of the previous clauses.

The second important point, viz., restriction of the rate of interest, is contained in Clause IV. Interest is to be regarded as excessive if it is above 15 per cent. per annum where there is adequate security or the loan is guaranteed, and 60 per cent. per annum where there is no adequate security or guarantee. Though this clause has caused much controversy the legal limits to the rate of interest are very reasonable as compared to the limits in the Bills introduced by Lord Carson and Mr. Wells which are so low as to be likely to attract sympathy for the money-lender. In Lord Carson's Bill the rate of interest per annum is limited to 15 per cent. and in cases where the loan does not exceed £20, to 10 per cent. per annum. In Mr. Wells' Bill the legal rate of interest is limited to 20 per cent. per annum. Nor do either of these Bills take into consideration the important point of the effect of the presence or absence of security upon the rate of interest.

In Clause V is the third point, i.e., the provision that the certificate of registration should be endorsed by the Police. It has been said in criticism of this clause that this arrangement would give the money-lender a fictitious testimonial. It is obvious, however, that some more effective deterrent to persons of unsatisfactory character should be supplied than the mere payment of the registration fee of £1. Here again the clause should provide a useful basis for further suggestions on this point. A clause on these lines is included in Mr. Wells' Bill.

Sub-section (3) of clause V in Mr. Allen's Bill brings forward a very important point, viz., the power to suspend the certificate of registration by the Judge when a money-lender's contracts have been found to be harsh and unconscionable. Hitherto the worst which can befall a money-lender, however "harsh and unconscionable," is to lose the particular case which he or she is fighting in Court. This sub-section therefore introduces a most important new principle, but unfortunately it is not included in the Bills introduced by Lord Carson and Mr. Wells.

Clause VI deals with the last points. Firstly that in actions by money-lenders the plaintiff should divulge the fact that he or she is a money-lender, (there appears to be no objection on the part of critics to this). The clause provides, secondly, that the plaintiff shall not sign judgment in default but must prove his case. The experience of social workers in general seems to confirm that of the investigators in the Liverpool inquiry that the borrower's failure to appear to the writ is a frequent occurrence owing to his ignorance of such matters. This is an important point, but it also has failed to be included in either of the new Bills. It is hoped, however, that the points which have been omitted may receive consideration later when the Bills go before a Select Committee of both Houses.

A further suggestion has been put forward by the Standing Conference on Social Work to the effect that a husband should not be liable for any debt contracted by his wife to a money-lender unless his consent in writing has been previously obtained. Until, however, there is legislation of some kind which enables a wife to claim adequate maintenance it is obviously dangerous to interfere in any way with her present power to pledge her husband's credit.

The criticisms and constructive sympathy which have been shown on many sides to this question have proved most helpful and encouraging to those specially interested, and there seems every reason to hope that effective legislation of some sort will evolve from the discussion.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (BRITISH SECTION, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.)

On 29th June at 8 p.m. at the Queen's Hall a great Arbitration Demonstration will take place under the auspices of the National Council for the Prevention of War. The Women's International League is co-operating by circularizing women's organizations and by providing the stewards. The speakers are representative of various points of view and include Earl Beauchamp, the Right Hon. C. P. Trevelyan, the Right Rev. Bishop Gore, Mrs. George Cadbury, and Captain Wedgwood Benn and E. Rosslyn Mitchell.

John Sterling Mackinlay, John Goss, and the Cathedral Male Voice Quartet have generously promised to sing.

Admission to the balcony and area is free, doors opening at 7 p.m., with an organ recital at 7.30 p.m. Tickets for reserved seats in the rest of the hall are 2s. 6d. and 1s., obtainable from the National Council for the Prevention of War, Millbank House, 2 Wood Street, S.W. Other meetings, indoors and in the open air, are being organized in different parts of the country. As this goes to press (Saturday, 20th June), a demonstration is being held in Platt Fields, Manchester, with women speakers only, and with the petition in readiness for signatures.

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GARDEN PARTY IN HONOUR OF DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, C.B.E.

Among those who have promised to be present and to speak at the Garden Party to be held in honour of Dame Millicent Fawcett, are Viscountess Astor, M.P., and Lord Cecil of Chelwood, Parliamentary duties permitting.

As previously announced, the party is to take place at Aubrey House, Campden Hill, on Thursday, 23rd July, at 3.30 p.m., by kind permission of Miss Alexander. Tickets, price 2s. 6d., may be had from Lady Pares, 32 Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3, Mrs. Clement Davies, 11 Vicarage Gate, W. 8, or from the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

CONFERENCE ON WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS' BILL.

A Conference called by the N.U.S.E.C. was held on 17th June, at the Caxton Hall to consider the above Bill. The following organizations were represented:—Association of Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools; Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries; Catholic Women's League; City of London S.E.C.; Conservative Women's Reform Association; Croydon W.C.A. and N.C.W.; Croydon (North Ward) W.C.A.; Federation of Women Civil Servants; Kensington Society for Equal

Citizenship; National Council of Women; National Federation of Women's Institutes; National Union of Women Teachers; St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance; Six Point Group; Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organizations; Westminster Society for Equal Citizenship; Women's Engineering Society; Women's Freedom League; Women's Guild of Empire; Women's National Liberal Federation; Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association; Young Women's Christian Association. Miss K. D. Courtney was in the chair, and stated that, as the notice given had inevitably been so short, the votes should be treated as an indication of opinion only, and in no way binding on the organization concerned. The following resolutions were passed:—

1. Proposed Rates of Additional Allowances for Children.

(a) "That this Conference urges that the allowances for children should be increased to 8s. per week for the first child and 6s. per week for each subsequent child."

(b) "That this Conference is of the opinion that such increased expenditure should be met by increased contributions from the State."

2. Age at Which Dependency Ceases.

"That this Conference is of the opinion that pensions should be given to children up to the age of 16 where they are receiving full-time education, such increased expenditure to be met by increased contributions from the State."

3. Provision for Women Contributors.

"That this Conference strongly emphasizes the need for working for an amendment to make it more possible for an insured woman contributor to remain in insurance until the age of 65. It holds that this should be brought about either by enabling all voluntary contributors to the new Bill to insure for purposes of the Bill only (and not for purposes of Health as well) or by allowing a reduced rate of benefits to insured persons who cease to be insured before the age of 65, or by allowing a contributor the option of either of these methods."

4. (a) "That this Conference holds that the pension paid to a widow for dependent children should not be cancelled or paid to a third party on her behalf, unless it has been proved under the ordinary law that she is an unfit person to have the custody and guardianship of the children, and that Clause 6, Sub-section (2) (a) be amended in this sense."

(b) "That this Conference supports the deletion of Clause 6, Sub-section (4) which makes regulations which do not apply to other pensioners, for paying the pension of a widow (with or without dependent children) to a third party."

5. Disqualification of Pensions.

"That this Conference holds that the disqualifications contained in Clause 21, that a widow's pension may be cancelled if it is reported by a Court of Law that she has been convicted of an offence, to be a gross injustice, in that such a disqualification does not obtain with regard to other pensions. It therefore urges that Clause 1, Sub-section (1) should be deleted."

6. Widows without Dependent Children.

"That this Conference welcomes the provision made in this Bill for pensions for widows with dependent children. With regard to widows without dependent children, it is of opinion that for such widows there should be a duration-of-marriage qualification of 5 years, i.e. that a widow who at the date of her husband's death has no child entitled to draw an allowance under this Act should not be entitled to a pension unless her marriage has lasted 5 years."

* This Resolution was altered somewhat from the form in which it was passed by the Executive Committee which determines the policy of the N.U.S.E.C.:

"That this Conference, while maintaining its adherence to a non-contributory scheme, welcomes the provision made in the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill for pensions for widows with dependent children. With regard to widows without dependent children this Conference is of opinion that for such widows there should be a duration-of-marriage qualification of not less than 5 years, or more than 15 years."

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

PENISTONE AND DISTRICT S.E.C.

On 17th June, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Morris, a meeting was held at the Grammar School House. Mrs. Carlton presided, and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to inaugurate a branch of the N.U.S.E.C. Miss Bury then spoke on the aims and work of the National Union. This was followed by tea, which gave an opportunity for a full discussion, and a resolution was carried that the branch be called the Penistone and District Society for Equal Citizenship and be affiliated to headquarters. Twenty members joined at the meeting, and some more next day. Mrs. Carlton was elected Hon. President, and a Committee was appointed with power to add to their number, and Mrs. Morris agreed to act as Hon. Secretary pro tem.

GLASGOW S.E.C. AND W.C.A.

On Wednesday, 17th June, a largely attended Garden Party, favoured by perfect weather, was held in the beautiful grounds of Queen Margaret College by the kind courtesy of the University Court and of Miss Melville, Mistress of the College and President of the Amalgamated Society. The guest of honour was Miss Chave Collison, M.A., organizer of the Overseas Conference. Miss Collison, in speaking on "The Citizen Woman and Imperial Policy," said that by common impulse distant countries were united by the women's movement, understanding each other's responsibilities, and planning for the betterment of the human race, and that the women's movement was equal in importance in the history of the world to the Renaissance. Speaking of the Imperial Conference, Miss Collison regretted that there were no women representatives at a Conference where so many different views were expressed, but hoped that the time was not far distant when women would form part of all legislative government.

CANADA FOLLOWS SUIT.

On 4th June the Canadian Dominion House of Commons debated at length the principle of Sex Equality in divorce. Mr. J. T. Shaw, Independent Member for Calgary, introduced a Bill embodying substantially the same change in existing law as was embodied in our own recent equalization measure. That is to say it exacts the same standard of fidelity from the husband as the existing law exacts from the wife. Two amendments irrelevant to the principle of equality and seeking to impose restrictions upon the right of divorced persons to remarry were negatived. Mr. Shaw's Bill subsequently passed its third reading by 112 votes to 61. We congratulate the parent of the Bill upon his initiative, and the Canadian House of Commons upon its sense of justice. Incidentally it is gratifying to record that the only woman member of the Canadian House of Commons, Miss Agnes Campbell Macphail, played her part with vigour and courage. But of course . . .

CORRESPONDENCE.

CARLISLE.

MADAM,—Your correspondent, A. Scott, has clearly got his or her knowledge solely from pamphlets issued under prejudiced auspices and not in visiting the Carlisle district herself, or talking to independent persons in Carlisle and the surrounding area. If she would ask the Chief Constable of Carlisle, or the Chairman of Quarter Sessions of the County of Cumberland, or the Bishop of Carlisle, or Nonconformist ministers such as the Rev. Bramwell-Evans, or Members of the Trades and Labour Council, or indeed, responsible people in any walk of life who know Carlisle and district, she would find the practically unanimous opinion is that State Management has made a tremendous improvement in general conditions.

Statistics of drunkenness are in themselves no guide. Everything depends upon the way in which the law is administered and the standard set by the Authorities. The real test is the opinion of responsible people on the spot.

With regard to the question of profits, with which A. Scott deals in your last issue, she has fallen into the obvious error of assuming that because considerable profits have been made the sales of drink must be high. The real truth is that the profits are considerable because of the tremendous economies that have been made as a result of closing down altogether nearly half the public-houses, brewing the beer in one brewery instead of in five, as was the case before, and the abolition of the pernicious system of grocers' licences. Moreover, she is quite wrong in thinking that the sales of food are negligible. Let her go to such places as the Gretna Tavern, the Albion, the Bluebell, the Citadel, and the Pheasant Inn, to name only a few of those in Carlisle itself, and she will find that she is very much mistaken.

The real way to test the results in Carlisle is to visit an industrial town in the North of a similar size and character, to go to the ordinary public houses there, and then go to Carlisle and visit its public houses. No one who does this can possibly deny that enormous improvements have been effected in Carlisle.

Would A. Scott in her next letter indicate which of the public houses in Carlisle she has visited, and how recently, and state the results of her investigations?

R. L. REISS.

MADAM,—Your correspondent, Miss A. Scott, has repeated her statement that Carlisle has more convictions for drunkenness than the county of Cumberland with its much larger population, and she adds that the county is not purely rural, but contains such towns as Whitehaven, Penrith, and Workington. I can only remind her again that such a comparison is misleading. Public drinking among women is a feature of city life, and the conditions and customs of city life are not found in the rest of Cumberland as they are in Carlisle. That density of population is a factor of importance can be seen by comparing Workington with Whitehaven. Neither has State control; the area of the former is half that of the latter, but the density of the population is greater, and the number of women convicted for drunkenness is greater too. It would seem, however, that the effects of State control can best be seen where it has been tried, that is, in Carlisle itself, and there the convictions for drunkenness are lower than ever before.

The truth is that comparisons between different towns are misleading and can be used to prove anything. Miss A. Scott may quote towns which have fewer convictions than Carlisle. I can quote those that have more. Newcastle in 1924 had one conviction for every 275 people, as against Carlisle with one for every 740. Gateshead and South Shields can be quoted on the same side. But such comparisons are idle. Not only density of population, but also social and industrial conditions and standards of administration are vital factors, as can easily be seen if other towns than Carlisle are compared with one another.

As regards profits from sale of food and drink, the former is considerable. Approximately 500,000 meals are served annually. The average percentage of total profits since the scheme began is 93, much less than that of many brewery companies. It cannot be stated with accuracy what amount of drink is consumed in Carlisle in a year because (unfortunately) two hotels and all clubs are outside the scheme, not to mention supplies that are obtained by private persons in their own homes.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

MADAM,—As a convinced believer in the value of the Carlisle system of management of the liquor trade, I should like to reply to one or two points of criticism raised by Miss Neville.

She complains that there are still public-houses of the old type in Carlisle, and suggests as a reason for this that "the Treasury required the loan to be repaid too quickly for all the houses to be taken in hand at once." So far as I am aware, no such suggestion has ever been made by anyone in authority. Is it not probable that for various reasons it has not been possible up to the moment to undertake the structural alterations of all the houses? I would suggest that if you have too many houses at the same time in the hands of the builders you are likely to get overcrowding and bad supervision in the houses remaining open; further, the supply of local building labour is limited and, in answer to urgent demands for housing accommodation, has been largely concentrated on building houses. Indeed, I believe it is a fact that the Carlisle Local Advisory Committee advised the postponement of several of the licensed house reconstruction schemes on this account. It is surely important that public opinion should be with the authorities as the scheme of reconstruction goes on. A too abrupt and violent change from one type of house to another tends to antagonise public opinion against the new type, and therefore defeats its own end.

I heartily agree as to the value of the provision of food in public-houses. I understand that in the houses now under reconstruction there will be a service of food as well as drink in all the public rooms, and in my view there is room both for the type of public-house which supplies food in rooms apart from the bar as well as in the bar itself. It is surely desirable in certain houses to have rooms in which men, women, and children can get a meal without going into the bar. Is there anything comparable to the arrangements in Carlisle in this respect in any other similar city in the country under the existing system of private ownership? Miss Neville commends private ownership, but may I ask her what there is to prevent the private trade to-day from providing food in all their houses? Quite recently, an American visitor who tried to get food in a house which advertised the usual "ordinary" was informed by the man in charge that this could only be supplied between 12 and 1, as between 1 and 2 they were too busy supplying beer to their customers. The Carlisle management is catering for a variety of demands.

I am interested to hear of the public-house for which Miss Neville's Association is responsible, but may I suggest that valuable as this experiment doubtless is, it is one thing to be in charge of one model public-house in an area full of licensed premises of the ordinary type, and quite another to be responsible for the entire licensed house organization of a town or district.

JANE WALKER.

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COMING EVENTS.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

JULY 9 and 10, 10 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. Conference at Caxton Hall Council Chamber, Westminster, on "The Citizen Rights of Women within the British Empire." Speakers: Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, K.C., Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Lord Astor, Mrs. James, Lady Rhonda, Lady Astor, M.P., the Right Hon. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., Lady Chatterjee, and others. For particulars, apply Miss Collison, 17 Buckingham Street, Adelphi.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

JUNE 26, 7 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. (entrance: 12 Berwick Street). Members of the W.C.S., assisted by the Guildhouse Play Centre, present a little play suggested by Robert Browning's "Pied Piper of Hamelin." The Piper's tunes specially composed for the occasion by Martin Shaw. Incidental music adapted from Sir Hubert Parry's "Pied Piper." Admission, adults 2d., children 1d. Men, women and children welcome.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

JUNE 30, 5.30 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. The Right Hon. Viscount Gladstone, G.C.B., on "The Home Office."

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF WAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

JUNE 29, 8 p.m. Arbitration Demonstration in Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. Speakers: The Right Rev. Bishop Gore, Mrs. George Cadbury, the Right Hon. Charles Trevelyan, M.P., Mr. Rosslyn Mitchell, and the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P. Chairman: Earl Beauchamp, K.C., K.C.M.G. Songs by John Goss, Jean Sterling Mackinlay, and the Cathedral Singers. Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s., and a number of free seats.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

JULY 27, 3.30 p.m. Garden Party in honour of Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., at Aubrey House, 11A Aubrey Walk, Kensington, W.8 (by kind permission of the Misses Alexander).

Croydon W.C.A. JULY 29, 3 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "All-in Insurance."

Edinburgh W.C.A. JULY 27, 2.30 p.m. Garden Fête and Sale, 29 Murrayfield Avenue, to be opened by Dame Louisa Lunnsden, D.B.E., I.L.D. Chairman: Lady Wallace, M.B.E.

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. JULY 11, 3.30 p.m. Garden Party at Pembroke Lodge, Pembroke Gardens, Kensington, W.8 (by kind permission of Mrs. Adrian Corbett). Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser, on "The British Commonwealth Equality League."

St. Pancras S.E.C. Inaugural Meeting, JULY 14, 8 p.m. Drawing-room Meeting at 11 St. George's Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Seymour Seal). Speaker: Mrs. Hoster, on "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C." Chair: Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

SIX POINT GROUP.

JUNE 29, 5.45, 62 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Miss Lillian Barker, C.B.E., on "Juvenile Delinquents." Chair: Lady Hearn.

SOUTHALL WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

JULY 13, 3 p.m. Mrs. Walter Layton, on "Widows' Pensions."

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

Plumstead Branch. JUNE 30, 3.30 p.m. Miss Whateley on "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

JULY 15-17. British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. International Conference of Women in Science, Industry, and Commerce. President: H.R.H. The Duchess of York.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 28th June, 3.30, Music; Lecture: The Rt. Hon. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., on "Future Relations of England and America." 6.30, Miss Evelyn Underhill.

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