

THE THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS IN INDUSTRY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE HOME IN LITERATURE AND ART IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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Contents :

	PAGE		PAGE
THE WORK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. VI. By Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P.	275	BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS	276
THE THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS (contd.). By Mrs. Philip Snowden.	275	THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION	277
		CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS	278

NOTES AND NEWS

Sex Equality in Ireland.

The Dail last week unanimously authorized the preparation of a new electoral register for Ireland. The basis of all elections to Dail Eireann is to be adult suffrage without distinction of sex. There is no change beyond the removal of the special sex disqualification against women, who will now be entitled to be entered on the register on a residential qualification at the age of 21.

Miss Bondfield and the Trades Union Congress.

Our readers will remember that last week we wrote of the chairmanship of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, a position we hoped Miss Margaret Bondfield would hold this year, in spite of a certain amount of opposition on account of her sex. After a close fight she was defeated and Mr. J. B. Williams was elected chairman.

Suppression of Indecent Literature.

The Fifth Commission adopted the proposals of Mrs. Coombe-Tennant recommending the signature of the 1910 agreement against the publication of pornographic literature and the revision of the draft convention of 1921. Various speakers referred to the necessity of allowing full freedom to art and literature, but above all of suppressing indecent photographs and pornographic matter, the sale of which forms a lucrative trade amongst young people.

Women Police.

We are glad to see that the Provinces are not following the example of the Metropolis with regard to women police, for an advertisement appeared last week in the *Daily Telegraph* advertising for a policewoman for service in the County Borough of Southampton. Forms of application, giving particulars of the conditions of appointment may be obtained from the Chief Constable, Southampton, to whom they must be returned on or before 7th October.

Women Workers.

There is still a great deal of unemployment among women, and especially among the older women, who are being ousted

to a certain extent by the flood of cheap juvenile labour. The only way to end this is to raise the school age to 16, for children of 14 are being used to an increasing extent in factories and are put in charge of machines formerly run by women. The only bright spot in a very gloomy outlook is the increased work of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, which, with its recent £50,000 grant, is opening many new domestic training centres. More girls are, apparently, willing to undertake domestic training, and this staple industry is gradually moving towards the high position it deserves to hold.

Taxi-Women.

In Vancouver there is a taxi company conducted entirely by women. The president is a member of the provincial legislature, the manager is a former London journalist, and the company naturally includes many women who drove motors and ambulances in France.

Women Moneylenders in the East End.

All social workers who know anything of conditions in the neighbourhood of the Docks realize the real evil of the woman moneylender, and the recent tragic case of the suicide of a woman in debt will bring it home to many others. In this case the interest was one penny on the shilling weekly, but generally twopence is charged. It is nearly always the wives of the dockers whose husbands' employment is spasmodic and uncertain who eke out the scant money of bad times by borrowing from the women whose husbands are in regular employment, and who make a very profitable business out of their "lending". The interest must be paid weekly, and it does not take many weeks to repay the whole of the original sum in interest and still be owing it. The uncertainty of life for the docker's wife does not need much description, and it is a wonder they face life with so much courage and that despair does not often induce them to take the step this poor woman took. The husband's bald statement of the facts is all that is necessary: "The women cannot pay the interest, and so they have another loan on top of the old ones. Three parts of the new loan is taken back by the lender for interest owing, and so they hardly ever get clear."

Factory Conditions in Persia.

With reference to an article on the "Girl's Lot in Persia" which we published recently, we have received information that the Persian Government announced its intention some months ago of improving the conditions of all workers in the factories, and especially of the women and children employed in the carpet factories. The following rules are now being observed: The engagement of workers is effected with complete liberty on both sides; there is an eight-hour day; the employment of boys and girls under 10 years of age is prohibited; permission is granted to workers to leave the factories at midday for a rest; and the local authorities are ordered to provide comfortable and suitable seats for women and children to allow work in normal positions. A weekly rest and holiday on festivals is compulsory. Persia is a member of the League of Nations, and it is probably entirely due to this fact that this improvement has taken place.

Unmarried Mothers in Germany.

A Bill amending the Law concerning Federal employees, which has been adopted by the German Reichstag, includes a proposal that female employees who have illegitimate children should not be liable to dismissal. This proposal has given rise to considerable difference of opinion among the women employees. A conference of women federal officials, and post and railway employees, which was recently held, unanimously decided to protest against the proposal, and to demand its withdrawal, as it was offensive to the moral feelings of most of the women concerned, and at the same time created a privileged situation for the federal employees as compared with employees of the various States. It was pointed out that the economic possibility of marriage for women employees had been increased, as they were not obliged to resign on marriage. In view of these protests the Federal Council has issued a statement to the effect that the

existing law concerning federal officials does not, if rightly applied, make it impossible to give lenient treatment to unmarried mothers, in cases where circumstances render this desirable. There is thus, adds the statement, no necessity to include any positive provision of this kind in the Act itself. It would be sufficient if the Federal Government gave the necessary instructions to the authorities concerned.

King Boris and his Bride.

It has been announced that King Boris of Bulgaria wishes to marry an American. There are certain necessary qualifications, and among the usual "youth, beauty, and riches" which are essential, the new heroine of a modern fairy tale must interest herself in the education of women and the establishment of schools for the girls of Bulgaria. "Once upon a time there was a princess who possessed all the civic virtues." Will stories beginning so have the real flavour of romance for our great grandchildren.

An American Woman Diplomatist.

Some months ago we referred to the possibility of Miss Lucille Atcherson being the first woman to enter the United States diplomatic service. She has since passed her examinations brilliantly, and the distinction of being the pioneer is now hers. She has been recommended to the Senate by President Harding for appointment as Secretary of Embassy.

POLICY.—The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement, but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

OURSELVES.

This week we have an announcement to make which we trust will be as welcome to our readers as it is venturesome to ourselves.

We propose to reduce the price of this Paper for direct Subscribers to 1½d. weekly, Post Free.

This step is an experiment; we hope it will prove a successful one, but its success will depend upon our readers' co-operation.

If we can double our subscribers' list within the first month after we make the reduction we can survive the change. It is our readers themselves who can do this. If every reader will secure one other (and at the reduced rate of 6s. 6d. a year this should be easy) we shall pull through.

PLEASE HELP US.

The price for delivery through trade channels will remain 3d. a week as at present. Copies ordered through the Societies of the N.U.S.E.C. can be sent at the reduced rate, and those required for sale at meetings can be provided for sale at 1d. But all this can only continue if our circulation jumps up at once. Let us hear from you to-day on the subject. Send us lists of your friends, and allow us to write to them mentioning your name; fill in the order form on the back of this number, or get someone else to do so. Do not let this week go by without doing something to encourage us. We work very hard to keep the paper up to a good level, and now we are venturing a great deal to make it easily accessible.

PLEASE HELP US.

The new rates will come into operation with the number appearing on Friday, 6th October. Readers who have unexpired subscriptions at the old rate will have the right of transferring one extra copy to someone else for the remainder of their own subscription. Please let us know to whom this copy should be sent.

PLEASE HELP US.

As our readers know, the financial position of this paper is not very secure. We have money in hand with which to meet the anticipated loss on the reduction of price for a certain length of time. But we cannot keep this up for very long, and readers who feel they cannot do anything towards increasing our subscribers' list will be very kind if they will help us with donations to tide through the experimental period. At our old price only those with a margin of spending money could take in the WOMAN'S LEADER. At the new price of 1½d. a week almost everyone can afford it. We are convinced that the policy of reducing the price is a good one; and all we need is quick returns and enough cash in reserve to make a success.

PLEASE HELP US.

All new subscriptions should be sent direct to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, London, W. 1, as should lists of people to be sent specimen copies, and any other suggestions for increasing circulation. All donations should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, at the same address. Please let there be many letters in Monday's post-bag!

THE WORK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. VI.

By CAPTAIN WEDGWOOD BENN, M.P.

THE GRANTING OF SUPPLY.

We have already dealt with the procedure of the House in its aspect as a taxing authority. It remains to consider it as controller of the Nation's expenditure. The scaffolding on which this work is constructed is similar in its parts to that used for building the taxation edifice, but the proportions are different.

Supply is initiated in Committee of the whole House. The Chairman presides, and a series of Resolutions are passed and Reported. These Resolutions form the basis of a Consolidated Fund Bill, that is, a Bill for authorizing payments out of the Nation's purse, and this Bill goes through its Second Reading, Committee, and Third Reading stages in the same manner as the Finance Bill. But as I said, the distribution of the debate is different.

The Committee and Report stages of the Resolutions are the most important. These stages, though they attract a thin attendance, give the real opportunity for industrious Members to do useful work. Early in the Session every Department has laid before the House its Estimates, the grand total of which, of course, has been referred to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Statement. On any item in any of these Estimates Members may move reductions. They are, of course, not permitted to move increases, but more often than not a motion for a reduction is the form in which a complaint of niggardliness is made. Let me give one example. Considerable opposition was aroused among thoughtful people when the Home Office, acting upon a suggestion of the Geddes Committee, proposed to reduce, almost to vanishing point, the number of the Women Police. It would have been out of order for any Member to move that an increased grant be made in order to permit the Force to continue. What actually occurred was that a motion was made for a reduction of the estimate, and although in form the proposal would have limited the power of the Home Office to continue the Force, in fact it was supported by those who wished the money to be found, and opposed by those who favoured the policy of reduction.

The Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, which follows the passing of the Resolutions, gives an opportunity for the widest possible survey of things as they are. The reason is obvious. The Bill is a Bill to provide all the money for the

departments of Government, and forms an appropriate occasion for the most general criticism—with one restriction however; the House is engaged in paying for what is actually being done, and it would not be in order on such an occasion to suggest amendments of the law. When the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill is concluded, the Committee stage is taken. Unlike the Committee stage of the Finance Bill, it provides no opportunity for debate. The reason for this is also clear. The propriety of the different classes of expenditure has been fully discussed on the original Resolutions. The text of the Consolidated Fund Bill has nothing to do with these questions, it merely sets out the mechanism by which the money is to be handed over, and though presumably debate on this mechanism might in exceptional circumstances arise, the Committee stage of the Bill is as a general rule the merest formality and is carried through in a few minutes. As no amendment has been made, there is no Report stage to the Consolidated Fund Bill, and it passes to Third Reading, when a further occasion arises for a general discussion of the administrative virtues (or the reverse) of the Government.

In short, we may say that discussion on Departmental Expenditure falls into three parts. There are two opportunities for wide debate, and there is the Committee and Report stages of the Resolutions (not the Bill), which constitute a meticulous examination of every class of outlay.

It is obvious that even with a pre-war Budget of two hundred millions there would be no limit to the sittings of Parliament if each item were scrutinized at the will of any single Member. Much less is such unlimited debate possible with a budget of five times that amount. In consequence of such difficulties, the number of days of Supply is limited by Standing Order to 20, which may be increased under special circumstances to 23. When these days are exhausted the outstanding questions are put without debate from the Chair. Divisions may, however, take place, and are frequently called by those who desire to register their protests against certain of the Government's activities. The Committee of Supply is then closed and subject to two stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill, which I have already described, the expenditure of the year receives Parliamentary sanction.

THE THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. (Continued.)

By Mrs. PHILIP SNOWDEN.

The week that has passed has been filled with good things, and has done more to inspire confidence in the future of the League than any of the events of the two preceding weeks.

First, in order of importance, from the humanitarian standpoint, was the swift and warm response to the appeal of Dr. Nansen for the 250,000 miserable refugees from Asia Minor. There was no difference of opinion about using the League's machinery in Constantinople for the immediate help of these people, without regard to nationality. The means at the disposal of the League are limited, but on the suggestion of the Secretary-General, 100,000 Swiss francs were allotted out of the League's reserve funds for temporary administrative expenses. The League's moral authority will assuredly secure from its various members the funds needed for the succour of the victims.

Dr. Nansen is a remarkable figure. It is no exaggeration to say that he is one of the three dominating personalities of the League Assembly. Lord Robert Cecil is another. Everybody believes in Dr. Nansen. His honest blue eyes, untrained to hide the pity or indignation he feels, his simple dignity and unaffected manners, give confidence even to those who may doubt his business capacity or his political sagacity.

As a matter of fact, there seems to be little justification for lack of faith in either direction. Dr. Nansen has received the League's warm thanks for having organized the repatriation of nearly 500,000 prisoners of war—no light task at a time when ships were scarce and money difficult to get. At the Assembly he pleaded for more co-operation on the part of the Governments with his work of caring for the million and a half Russian refugees who are scattered all over Europe. His work for the Russian famine is notorious; and his good heart is much

troubled lest the untrue stories of entirely satisfactory harvests in Russia should result in an even greater loss of life during the coming winter than was the case last year. His proposal that the League should explore the possibility of its wise intervention in the Near East in the interests of peace, may be the way that the vexed question of the freedom of the Straits will come to be settled at last. The interest manifested in the discussion of this proposal by the delegates, the cheers of the crowd of spectators at the Commission which discussed the question, the support given to the idea by the smaller nations and the British Dominions, pointed to a general belief that the League is the very instrument competent to carry out the schemes of an international character. I was obliged to leave Geneva during this debate, but passing down the long corridor from the Committee Room to the Central Hall, the score of persons I met garnished their adieux with the prayer that the neutrals and the smaller nations might be given the courage to outvote the three Great Powers on this question of general European interest.

Amongst the supremely encouraging events of these last days has been the timid opening of the door to the consideration of the question of reparations. I must repeat that the impression made upon me by this debate was of a sincere attempt on the part of M. de Juvenal and Lord Robert Cecil towards a *rapprochement*. The Disarmaments Commission is not yet ready to report, but most of the interest centres in its work, and in the speeches of the two great contestants, the one very much afraid of his Government and the other less oppressed since he is the delegate of South Africa and not of his own Government. It was generally felt that if the coming October Conference on Reparations and its

allied questions fails, the gravity of the situation will be such that the League will inevitably be called upon to settle the question on international indebtedness.

Linked with the subject is the question of Austria. The Committee of the Council concerned with this question has recommended a loan of £21,000,000 to Austria, accompanied by certain guarantees, which Austria is willing to give. Czecho-Slovakia and France, I understand, have agreed to supply their quota, and Italy will help with the guarantee if England will do so. Many other nations would probably come in on the same condition. It rests with this country to save unhappy and much-menaced Austria, and with it a centre of European culture, which Europe cannot afford to lose.

Upon the Social Questions Commission the women delegates were active. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant presented an excellent report on the traffic in women and children. Mdle. Bonnevie was the reporter to the Assembly on the question of opium and dangerous drugs, and recommended the system of import and export certificates. Mrs. Dale (Australia) made a brave speech on the subject of white slavery, in which she suggested the abolition of *maisons tolérées*. Madame Wicksell spoke courageously to the Assembly on the subject of the mandates—the two subjects of Nauru and the bombing of Hottentots in South Africa being matters of concern. In the latter case an inquiry was promised, but at the time of writing no report had been received from the South African Government.

The unanimous admission of Hungary into the League was a matter of great rejoicing. Even those who maintained that Hungary's Government was only pseudo-democratic, and that her treatment of her minorities and of the working classes leaves much to be desired, were bound to admit that it is better she should be inside the League where everybody's grievances can be reviewed in the light of international publicity. Hopes of receiving Germany this year have vanished, but as I write, the hope is expressed that the Irish Free State will come in.

Unhappy Georgia, invaded and occupied against its will by Russians, has received the unanimous condolences of the Assembly, with an instruction to the Council that it should watch affairs in that country and help where help will be propitious. M. Brouckere, the Socialist delegate from Belgium, made moving speeches on this subject.

BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS.*

Borstal Institutions are State Reformatories for young people, financed and conducted by the Police Commissioners. They have reached their present development after many years of experiment which have been carried out in prisons in Bedford and Borstal, which takes its name from a village on the hills above Chatham. The results achieved by these experiments were such that in 1908 Borstal Institutions were established by Act of Parliament as part of our penal system, and to-day there are five in existence, the original Borstal, Feltham, Portland (like Borstal, a disused convict prison, opened last August) Aylesbury, for girls, and a wing at Wormwood Scrubbs, which is reserved for the temporary reception of badly behaved lads from other institutions.

A young offender may be sent to a Borstal institution either by a judge or by a court of Quarter Sessions, and either on indictment or on committal by a magistrate's court for that purpose provided: 1. That he is between 16 and 21 years of age; 2. That by reason of his criminal habits, tendencies, or association with persons of bad character, it is expedient that he should be subject to detention for such a term and under such instruction and discipline as appear most conducive to his reformation; 3. If he is sent on indictment, that he has been convicted on an indictable offence; if he is sent from a magistrate's court, that he has been previously convicted of some offence or has broken a condition of probation. The same regulations apply in the case of girls.

The sentence of detention must be for a term of not less than two years and not more than three. An inmate may be released on licence after six months, if a boy, or after three if a girl. This, however, is seldom done. This paper will deal specially with boys, of which the lecturer has had special experience. All lads are sent to Feltham first for classification; they stay there about two months, and during this time all possible information is collected. The Medical Officer in particular spends a long time over his examination,

* Notes of a lecture given at the N.U.S.E.C. Summer School by Rev. Colin Millington.

Great attempts have been made to cut down the expenses of the League, and in my opinion Colonel Ward's handling of the subject has been neither sympathetic nor courteous. Sir Eric Drummond preserved throughout a most disarming courtesy, and replied to criticism with complete candour. Two items of economy carried appear to me to be of melancholy significance. There is a big cut in the library allowance, and a large reduction in the grant for intellectual co-operation. It is not yet fully comprehended how great is the dynamic power of the idea, and what fatal folly it may prove to be to put obstacles in the way of international co-operation in this field.

I have said little upon the work of the International Labour Office because that requires and deserves special attention. The 350 members of the staff are quartered in a big building which was a boys' school but which is totally inadequate in size, for many of the clerks work in the corridors. It is a matter for congratulation that the city of Geneva has given to the League two plots of land, and one of these is to be used for erecting a new building for the Labour Secretariat, close to the offices of the General Secretariat. This will bring the two into closer relations, closer understanding, and closer co-operation, and perhaps enable a certain amount of duplication to be avoided.

Miss Sophie Sanger is one of the most active spirits in the work of the International Labour Office, and her vast knowledge of international labour conditions, and her other qualifications, make her an invaluable official. Dr. Mecker, who is regarded as the "star" official of the Bureau, speaks in the highest terms of Miss Sanger's work, while all are united in praise of M. Albert Thomas, their energetic, eloquent, and amiable chief.

The hope that Mr. Lloyd George may find time to come is not yet abandoned, nor will it be until the last day of the Assembly is reached. Such passionate and almost universal longing for the help of one man I have never known. I am glad I shall not be here to witness the disappointment which will be felt if he fails to appear. But if diplomacy keeps the Prime Minister in Downing Street, he will be in a spiritual communion with the League of Nations even more valuable than his physical presence, if he will boldly contend for the handing over to the League of the questions of the Near East, and of the Reparations problem at a later date.

which includes a searching test of the lad's intelligence, and a careful inquiry into his family history, his previous mode of life, any outstanding vices, and above all the cause or causes of his crime, direct or indirect—as far as these can be ascertained. The lad is sent to school and is encouraged to choose a trade. He is later transferred to the particular institution most suitable for his needs, and is then ready to settle down. Unfortunately a certain proportion fall below the mental average, and there are a considerable number of border line cases. These naturally constitute our chief difficulty.

Each Borstal institution is divided into three houses, to one of which each lad is attached so long as he remains, and every effort is made to create a sense of loyalty to his particular house. Competitions in football, cricket, boxing, and athletic sports are arranged. A house master is in charge, with a staff, under the direct control of the Governor, who alone can give punishment. The lad's time is divided into stages, which extend over a minimum period of three months. He begins in the ordinary grade and must earn the privileges of the next grade by his conduct and industry. His first promotion brings him into the halls for his meals, and permits games, indoor and outside, and his second promotion entitles him to cricket and football. After twelve months of good conduct he attains the special grade, or "gets his blue," i.e. he wears a blue suit instead of a brown one; he is allowed to work and to go to or return from work or meals without supervision. In the evening he may sit up and smoke for a short time after the others go to bed. These special grade lads help officers with the other boys, and we hope as time goes on to use them as prefects and gradually make the institution more and more self-governing.

The chief punishment is loss of privilege; it will be imagined that when you have gained a stage which entitles you to football it is a fairly heavy punishment to lose it; most lads would gladly do a day or two in the punishment cells rather than lose their football. But, of course, there are lads who lose privilege after privilege, and are a nuisance as well as a bad influence to others, and more drastic measures, which consist in sending them

to the cells for a few days, must be resorted to, but they still work during the day with the other lads and in the evening sit with the others. If this does not meet the situation a lad reverts to the lowest stage and is put in the penal class, and finally, if he does not mend his ways, he is sent to a special wing at Wormwood Scrubbs.

The day's routine begins at 6 a.m. with short physical exercises under a trained officer, after a small ration of milk and bread. Breakfast is at 6.45. At 7.30 there is a short chapel service, and work is started at 8 and continues until dinner at 12. After dinner work continues until tea-time at 5, then a break for three-quarters of an hour before the silent hour, when boys write letters, read their library books, etc. Then follows an hour of school work and an hour of recreation, and after a bowl of cocoa they go to bed at 9 o'clock. On Saturday afternoons there is cricket and football, and in winter lectures or concerts and an occasional cinema show. On Sunday there is a parade service for all, and one or two voluntary services; after service special grade boys go for a route march into the country, and the others play games. Every lad attends school until he has attained a certain standard; after this he works at the trade chosen, and passes into the evening school. A syllabus for evening work has been drawn up, which will in future include besides elementary subjects, history, geography, literature, drawing, and singing. The evening work is regarded as very important, and every effort is made to give a boy interests which may be developed in his leisure time when he regains his liberty.

When Borstal institutions were established it was recognized that the work might be wholly wasted without continued supervision after the return of young offenders to ordinary life. It was accordingly provided that on their release they should be subject to the control of a licence, and be liable to be taken back to the institution if they failed to settle down to an honest and industrious life. The Borstal Association receives, supervises, and assists every boy and girl discharged, and in order to carry out this work it has gradually enrolled a band of associates who now number over 900. The responsibility of the associate begins as soon as a boy is received into the Borstal institution; he visits the boy's home and reports any facts which may be of use during his training; he also visits the institutions, and has facilities for private talks with the young offender about his home affairs or future prospects; he gets into touch with relations likely to help and makes arrangements for suitable accommodation for homeless lads on release.

THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION.

The Women's Farm and Garden Association, founded in 1899, has done excellent work in uniting all professional land workers and those interested in outdoor work for women into a strong Central Association. The pioneers of the Association waged a long and difficult fight against the apathy of the public and the obstacles placed in the way of the woman land worker; and to-day their efforts have been crowned with success.

The information which can be obtained from the Headquarters of the Association (now removed to larger premises at 23 Park Road, Upper Baker Street, N.W. 1), as to training in existing institutions in the various branches of agriculture and horticulture, is reliable and up to date; and members are warned against dubious or frivolous advertisers who are out to entrap the unwary.

By its employment register of trained workers, the Association is able to bring specialists in touch with those requiring their services and can often obtain suitable appointments for women agriculturalists or horticulturalists. Scarcely a day passes when the Secretary's office is not inundated with correspondence—members requiring information or work, employers seeking workers, Overseas visitors requiring arrangements to be made for tours of inspection to British farms or gardens, application for membership from women all over the world.

Through the generosity of some of its members the Women's Farm and Garden Association possesses a Small Holdings Colony for women, which is particularly flourishing. The estate at Lingfield was purchased by the Association in 1920, and all the holdings are let. The heavy drought of 1921 has made the past year a very difficult one for the tenants, but the Association made various concessions with a view to tiding over this difficult period.

The Association is in close touch with the Society for the

Throughout the period of his licence frequent reports are made about conduct and progress, and if such reports are unsatisfactory his licence may be revoked by the Secretary of State.

In conclusion, it may be useful to touch on the advantages and disadvantages of the Borstal method of dealing with young offenders. The lads improve in physique enormously; they become more self-reliant; their education has been improved and they have learnt the rudiments of a trade. They have learned to appreciate the value of regular work, and that you can still carry on at your job even when you have had a row with the foreman! A boy learns to play hard for his division, even though he has not been elected captain or on the sports committee. He has attended the debating society and heard his cherished opinions pulled to pieces by boys of his own age and class. Above all, he has learnt in some degree what citizenship means. There remain, of course, a certain number who do not respond to the efforts made to help them. Some of these are mentally and physically abnormal; others are apparently normal but callous and hard—men of the world at a tender age—prejudiced, soured, embittered, mainly as the result of a bad environment.

The most obvious disadvantage of any penal institution is the risk of moral contamination when you collect 300 or 400 lads, mostly from the worst quarters of great industrial centres, and put them together with a common punishment for crime as their point of contact. This danger is fully recognized, and efforts are concentrated on getting influence at work strong enough to counteract it. Great care is taken in classifying the inmates in houses under head masters who know and watch the boys individually. Another difficulty is monotony; this is common to all penal establishments where everything must be done within four walls and by a fixed system. Life inside an institution cannot be the same as outside, and there is the danger that must be guarded against of *unfitting* by a guarded routine instead of *equipping* the lads for the rough and tumble of life in the world outside.

As to results—results need the test of years of freedom. In 1914 it was estimated that 64 in every 100 who had been at liberty after Borstal training had not again offended, but the war has interfered with the collection of recent figures. Our aim is to cut off the supply of criminals as near the source as we can get, and I think considering the fact that among our failures are included some who would now be placed under control as mental deficients, we may claim that a fair start has been made.

E. C. DAVIES.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

Telephone: Museum 6910.

AUTUMN LECTURES.

A series of lectures will be held during the winter in order to raise funds. The first of these, entitled "Relatives", will be given by Mr. J. D. Beresford at 5 o'clock on 19th October at 50 Porchester Terrace, W. 2, by kind permission of Mrs. Franklin.

EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION.

Arrangements are in progress for the Equal Franchise Demonstration in the Central Hall, Westminster, on 8th November. Reductions will be made for a quantity of tickets bought, and it is hoped that contingents from a large number of our Societies will be formed, and that there will be at least one representative of every Society in the Union.

MUNICIPAL AND BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 1st November.

Members are reminded of the urgent importance of questioning all candidates, both men and women, at the forthcoming elections with regard

to the reforms on our Programme which specially apply to Local Government. Copies of Questions compiled for this purpose may be had gratis on application. It is, of course, open to all Societies to add or alter these questions as may seem most suitable to their programme.

THE CAVENDISH BENTINCK LIBRARY.

We wish to remind those of our Societies who, in making up their winter programme are considering the formation of study circles, that book boxes can be sent for a small fee on any subject connected with women as citizens. These boxes can contain a selection of different books or several copies of the same book can be sent.

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP. ANNUAL REPORT.

We have recently received the fifty-fourth Annual Report of the above Society. The work of this Society has been greatly extended owing to the fact that it has now undertaken to become the Federation Centre for thirty Parliamentary Constituencies in the Northern and Eastern Divisions of Scotland.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

About twelve copies of the Oxford Times and the Oxford Chronicle, dated 2nd September, can be had from Headquarters, price 3d. each post free. They contain an account of the last lectures given at the Summer School.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

WOMEN'S WORK AND WAGES.

MADAM,—There is all the difference in the world between the manufacture of sugar confectionery and food preserving, and catering. You ask in your editorial note: "Who agrees as to what is men's work and what is it?" Happily, I can answer that question. In these particular trades women workers when employed in any of the following occupations are paid men's wages: cocoa making; boiling sugar for boiled sweets, other than the boiling of sugar in vacuum pans; brogueing of hermetically sealed receptacles containing meat, poultry, fish, or soup during the processes of cooking; hand-soldering of hermetically sealed receptacles containing meat, poultry, fish, or soup; tongue pumping; butchers' or pork butchers' work in preparing meat for sausages or "smalls"; brining vegetables for pickling; making extract of meat. This list was thoroughly thrashed out by a Joint Committee of employers and employees and agreed to by the whole Trade Board, on which both were equally represented.

R. M. LEONARD.

"NAUGHTY CHILDREN" IN EUROPE.

MADAM,—If Mrs. Coombe-Tennant will read the revelations made from time to time in some press organs (e.g. Manchester Guardian, Daily News, Foreign Affairs, and Labour papers) she will find that our late enemies are not the only "naughty children" in the European family; albeit, they do most certainly need a "clean pinafore", and, above all, a "seat at the table." It is time we dropped this lie, if we wish to do justice, and, incidentally, save Europe—and ourselves—from ruin.

THEODORA FLOWER MILLS.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

MADAM,—I know several readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER who share my perplexity in the matter of Family Endowment. Until I read the article on this subject in your issue of 15th September, no argument of opponents seemed valid. To oppose Victorian sentiments to a scheme offering such practical benefits was to alienate the sympathies of the younger generation at least. Now, however, an ultra-modern objection is put forward and a satisfactory answer of marriage must give way to another and entirely different one before woman gains true freedom.

It may be that our present conception of marriage must give way to another and entirely different one before woman gains true freedom. If Family Endowment, intended as a reform, should ultimately prove to be retrogressive, only the parblind can support it. It is because Family Endowment has, until now, had my whole-hearted support that I wish to see the present objection answered satisfactorily.

A. W. HANDOVER.

A "COMFORTABLE HOME".

MADAM,—One hears ad nauseam denunciations of women seeking work, but not willing to undertake domestic service.

Because of bad times and general business depression I ceased looking for office work and turned my attention to the possibilities of earning money through domestic employment. There are, we are told, a large class of married women in need of help: perhaps my experience may furnish some guide as to why they fail to get it from educated women.

My first step was to put my name down at a bureau, the announced object of which was to furnish housewives with educated home helps. Offer No. 1 was of £30 per annum (living in) for teaching a boy of 8 (fluent French, elementary Latin, and other qualifications essential), plus the ordinary duties of a nursery governess, plus household duties.

Fluent French, etc., happen to be among my qualifications, household duties are not above my mental, or is it physical, capacity to perform; but a double set of duties necessitates a double set of clothes. Can any woman, educated or otherwise, clothe herself, contribute something towards her own home, and put by for old age on £30 a year? I am out to make my living, present and future, so could not afford to take the job.

Numerous other offers were summed up in the phrases "small salary and comfortable home." Too small a salary I would remind the housewife, means added burden to her rate-paying husband later on.

Let us turn to the enticements of "comfortable home". An educated woman, unless brought up in an orphan asylum, has in most cases, "be it ever so humble," some sort of home of her own, if a mere spinster is allowed so to designate the abode which she shares with other members of her family. She is not on the lookout for a home (strange title for a house seen for the first time and inhabited by total strangers), but for work by means of which she can keep together the home that she has. The house of her employers is her workshop; a sensible business woman does not wish or expect it to be anything else.

A comfortable room, a house convenient to manage, might reasonably be attractions, but why call these assets by a name which does not apply? So much for "home"; let us investigate the statement "comfortable".

Having to perform varied primitive grade industries, domestic cooking interrupted by child-tending, house-cleaning, early morning grate and stove polishing, etc., is not comfortable, why pretend it is? The performer of these functions may create comfort for the rest of the household, but in the nature of things CANNOT share it.

Let the housewife do away with camouflage and muddled thinking, let her advertise honestly, specifying the work to be done and the remuneration offered, then perhaps those who are sufficiently hard up will undertake domestic work.

HOME SWEET HOME.

THE APPEAL OF THE GREEK WOMEN.

The League of Greek women for women's rights, affiliated to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, addresses to all women's organizations in Europe and America the following appeal in connection with the Christian cause in Asia Minor.

"To you, organized women, the whole world over, those who are struggling for your rights and those who have already obtained them, and

can therefore share the political responsibilities of your own country, this appeal is addressed. We earnestly beseech you to use all your influence to prevent the diplomacy of the Great Powers, now solely directed by the will of men, from committing such a crime as to deliver back to the Turkish yoke the Christian populations of Western Asia Minor and Thrace, only recently liberated after centuries and centuries of slavery and persecution.

"We women, until now merely spectators of the mistakes of men's policy, must no longer suffer that other fellow women should be left to the mercy of a nation, which by the late atrocities of Armenia, Pontos, and Cilicia has proved that it remains faithful to its bloodthirsty traditions. "Let women of all the world, who for years have been fighting for the freedom of the individual and the abolition of war, declare that no peace can be real and lasting unless it be based on the true principles of justice and liberty, and that peace and slavery cannot long live together.

"All women must at present feel the heavy responsibilities imposed upon them by the rights they have acquired and the ideals they are standing for." The President, A. Theodoropulo; the Secretary, M. Desypri.

This appeal is endorsed by the Union of the Women of Thrace, the Committee of Defence of Greeks in Asia Minor, the United Societies of Greek Women in Asia Minor, and the National Union of Greek Women in Egypt.

MAJI SAHIBA.

The death has been announced of Her Highness Maji Sahiba of Bharatpur, mother of the Maharaja. She was left early in her married life to rule for her infant son, and she worked hard to promote the welfare of her people. She wrote many books on welfare, on the care of the young, and on the treatment of women, and she was enthusiastic about the ideals of the west. She brought her son to England, and as a small child she took him to the manufacturing towns of the North, wishing him to learn the value of machinery. She was concerned about the present discontents in India, and always loyal to the British Raj. India as well as Bharatpur loses a great deal in losing this great Indian princess.

THE DUNDEE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 9th September, the Dundee Women Citizens' Association held a very successful garden fête in the grounds of St. Helen's, Dundee, kindly lent for the occasion by Colonel and Mrs. Tyrie. Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon accepted an invitation to be present, and gracefully opened the fête; she was accompanied by her sister, Lady Rose Leveson Gower.

The nature of the event was really social, held for the purpose of developing the Society, but also to augment the funds of the Society.

The garden is beautifully situated, overlooking the River Tay, and the weather was clear and sunny, with just a hint of autumn.

Tea was served under shady trees, and an exhibition of classical dancing on the lawn was much enjoyed. An instrumental band provided music at intervals.

About 1,000 people attended, and a sum of about £210 was realized.

A NEW CAREER FOR WOMEN.

A WELL-KNOWN FIRM have a department of their business whose principal appeal is to women; they consider that this business can quite successfully be done by women, and are shortly offering to a limited number of ladies of good social standing an opportunity to train as local studio managers. The opportunity is unique, as after training, the successful candidates will practically have their own business; but sufficient supervision and advice will constantly be available to ensure the avoidance of the ordinary pitfalls of an independent business. Immediate applications are invited from ladies between the ages of 25 and 35, preferably with some knowledge of public speaking. No charge will be made for the course of training, which will be given in London, but successful applicants will be required to provide their own expenses during training and to provide a guarantee deposit of £200. Remuneration after the first year will approximate £350 per annum, rising to £500 or more, depending on the individual. Apply in first instance to Box 937, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1, stating age, where educated, whether living at home, details of war experience (if any), whether member of any local clubs or societies, profession of father or nearest male relative, details of any public speaking experience.

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On and after 6th October THE WOMAN'S LEADER will be supplied direct from this Office ONLY for 1½d. including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1, and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

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Treasurer: The Rt. Hon. Sir GEORGE H. MURRAY, G.C.B.
Secretary: ALBAN GORDON, B.Sc., F.C.S.

Every employed woman should send a postcard asking for full particulars and a free copy of the Society's Magazine.

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COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

- SEPT. 29. Ilkley. Lecture Hall, Reddings Road. 8.15 p.m. Speaker: A. A. Hope, Esq. Leeds. City Training College, Beckett Park. 8 p.m. Speaker: J. R. Stirret, Esq.
- SEPT. 30. Newport, I. of W. Teachers' Conference, 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Speakers: Lieut.-Col. D. Borden Turner, O.B.E., M.A., Prof. Pollard.
- OCT. 2. Hereford Town Hall. 8 p.m. Speaker: Councillor Goodere.
- OCT. 4. Camberley Central Hall. 8 p.m. Speaker: Brig.-Gen. C. D. Bruce, C.B.E.

N.U.S.E.C.

- OCT. 2. Hambleton Women's Institute. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Corns. "Bills before Parliament affecting Women and Children."
- OCT. 3. Hunts Federation of Women's Institutes. 2.15 p.m. Subject as above.
- OCT. 4. Wembley Women's Liberal Association. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Deakin. Subject as above.
- OCT. 6-9. Edinburgh S.E.C. Week-end School, Golf Hotel, Kirkbrae, Elie, Fife.

WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

- OCT. 1. Croydon Women's Adult School. 3.15 p.m. "Women and Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

OCT. 2. Sutton Women's Adult School. 7.30 p.m. "Women and Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

OCT. 3. Gospel Oak Women's Adult School. 7.30 p.m. "Women and Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

OCT. 4. Malden Women Citizens' Association. 3 p.m. "Constructive Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

OCT. 5. Kingston Mixed Adult School. 8 p.m. Lantern Lecture on Carlisle Experiment. Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

OCT. 9. Public Meeting. Exeter. The College. 8 p.m. Speakers: Lady Florence Cecil, Miss Bertha Mason, Chief Inspector Champneys, etc. Chair: The Mayor.

OCT. 10-11. Conference by Women Councillors, Guardians, and Magistrates, in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, Exeter. Tickets 3s., from the W.L.G.S. Office, 19 Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OCT. 2. Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn, W.C.1. 7 p.m. Mr. Edward Cecil will open a discussion: "That our Public Schools corrode the character, stultify the intelligence, blunt idealism, and turn out their victims unfitted for the battle of life."

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SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousseaus, 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W.1; Sunday, 1st October. 2.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Religious Phrases and Modern Thought."

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, 55 Berners Street, London, W.1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET.—Membership open to men and women; light luncheons, teas, and suppers 12-7.45; Foreign and English journals; lectures and debates on international subjects; pleasant garden; write for prospectus.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58 Victoria Street, S.W.1.—Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Woman's Service Bureau advises about Women's Work and Training, by letter or interview.

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members 45s.; Country and Professional Members 44s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro tem).

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

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PUBLIC SPEAKING.

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