

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Beginning of the End.

As we go to press the progress of the London Conference seems to indicate that the path to Peace in Europe is growing progressively clearer. If all continues to go well the Great Powers, allies and ex-enemies in a few months will find themselves co-operating in the operation of a difficult, but for the first time economically practicable reparations scheme. It was not possible for us to contemplate such a prospect so long as the French Government persisted in its determination to hold the Ruhr in pawn. Now, at last, it appears that the grounds of that determination have been successfully removed. Our own Prime Minister deserves high praise for the success of the Conference, which owes its existence largely to his initiative—though in according such praise we are aware that his policy with regard to France represents to a large extent his heritage from two eminently reasonable and peacefully disposed Conservative predecessors. M. Herriot, too, deserves our gratitude, all the more so because his policy and outlook represent a sharp and difficult divergence from that of M. Poincaré. Nor must we forget that such divergence was made possible by the democratically expressed decision of wide sections of the French people at a recent general election—sections whose views and aspirations are but poorly represented by the loud-mouthed Paris press.

The Empty Treaty.

It is impossible to regard the Government's draft Russian treaty with any real enthusiasm—and this is a matter of keen regret to us. Not that we cherish any particular admiration for the form of dictatorship which has prevailed in Russia since 1917. Quite apart from certain peculiarly noxious features of the present régime, we are opposed on principle to government by coercion and force—irrespective of whether that force is exercised by a militant Left wing or by a militant Right wing. Nevertheless we are willing to admit that it is no part of this country's business to express active disapproval of any form of internal government which her neighbours may chose to tolerate, and we would welcome any agreement which opened up mutually beneficial economic relations between the inhabitants of Russia and the people of this country. We are, however, unable to see that the proposed treaty makes any material contribution to this desirable end. The clauses which foreshadow the raising in this country of a guaranteed loan (which rumour figures at some £30,000,000)

given the present temper of the City and the House of Commons, to say nothing of earlier Government undertakings on the subject, appear to us empty of significance, and such material obstacles to improved economic relations as outstanding debts and compensation claims between the governments and individuals of the contracting Powers are definitely shelved for further discussion. Indeed, it is difficult to account for the burst of acclamation which in some quarters hails this voluminous, but indeterminate, document as a "settlement" with Soviet Russia. We can only suppose that Mr. Ponsonby's lame exposition of it in the House of Commons last week represents a parliamentary paraphrase of the formula, "The Russian Government is growing more reasonable every day in every way." If that is so, we are prepared to fall in with his mood—though space forbids us from repeating the phrase twenty times in accordance with the prescribed Coué method.

Equal Opportunity in the Civil Service.

It will be remembered that on 26th June a small deputation from the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service met Mr. W. Graham at the Treasury, and received an assurance of the Government's intention to pursue the policy of equality of opportunity for men and women within the Service. A memorandum on the subject was handed to Mr. Graham, who promised a reply after giving the points raised in it his careful consideration. On 24th July a letter was sent to Mr. Graham asking for a reply to the memorandum, before the rising of Parliament if possible, and enclosing a resolution passed at a meeting of the Joint Committee on 23rd July. On 30th July, Mr. Graham's answer was received. We print the memorandum and his reply in full elsewhere in this paper, and as this is a matter on which women's societies will be asked to express their opinion in the Autumn, we recommend careful consideration of the facts.

Women and the British Association.

The British Association, which is being held this year at Toronto, is an institution which appeals nearly as much to the imagination as to the mind. The range of subjects is so great that in reading the various speeches one is left feeling somewhat crushed by the vast fields covered by human activities and by the number of factors that react on human life. To this mass of knowledge that is being disseminated from Toronto women are adding their share. Miss R. M. Fleming is a specialist on folk tales, and has studied them in connexion with the growth of children's minds and the development of race and sex characteristics. Another of the distinguished women at Toronto is Dr. Marion Newbigin, the editor of the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, who last year won the Livingstone Gold Medal and the year before was elected President of the Geographical Society of Scotland. One generally connects Geographical Societies with the encouragement of exploration, but Dr. Newbigin's chief aim is to train teachers and to open up for them more opportunities for making a career by means of geographical study. Botanical research is another field in which women will be represented, in this case by Miss K. D. Blackburn, to whom Sir Frederick Keeble, the President of the Botanical Section when the Association met at Hull, paid a glowing tribute when he said she had solved the well-nigh insoluble riddle of cross-fertilization of the rose. Roses, folk tales and children's minds, geography and teachers' training are a sufficiently varied assortment of subjects to refute the belief that still lingers that women's interests are limited to questions definitely bearing on women's lives.

Black, White, and Grey.

The Six Point Group has issued lists of members of Parliament classified as white, black, and grey. If we had ourselves compiled these lists, we should have added a fourth category "striped black and white," for there are some members—we have in our mind a conspicuous example—who are energetic in support of certain of our causes, but altogether heretical on others. The Six Points Group lists comprise altogether only twenty-seven persons, out of which sixteen are white on the grounds that "their records, judged by the Six Point Group standard, have been good." Where are the five hundred and ninety that remain? Are they neither black nor white nor grey? With due respect to a society which stands for much the same causes as ourselves, although we do not always agree as to methods, we think the system of lists is very apt to lead to unfairness. It was different in the Suffrage days when there was one clear and simple issue by which every member could be judged. Now there are at least a dozen or so, of which the Six Point Group has more or less arbitrarily selected six. Even within this six it is to some extent a question of chance—success in the ballot or the luck of catching the Speaker's eye, which enables some members to render conspicuous service. So few of our questions have this year been put to the vote that division lists afford an exceedingly insufficient test of our supporters' sincerity. Moreover, there are Members of Parliament who have won the respect of women for their services to Housing, Temperance, Unemployment, or the League of Nations, who perhaps for lack of time have taken no conspicuous part on the special points, but are known to be essentially as good or better feminists than many who have done so.

Reading in Industrial Centres.

The Manchester Public Libraries have published the results of an inquiry as to the kinds of books taken out in districts of varying types. Both in the industrial and in the residential districts the standard of books read is on the whole very good, but in the industrial districts there are more books read on the useful arts, in the residential districts on pure literature; there is also a tendency for an interest in science amongst borrowers in the residential districts to replace the interest in sociology which is more common in the industrial districts, but this is less marked than the other relationship. The results, though interesting, are not astonishing. When the pressure of the material circumstances of life are greatest it seems natural enough that the intellectual interests of the people should centre mainly on these very circumstances and on the desire to improve or beautify them; hence the interest in sociology and the useful arts in industrial districts. It is when life becomes easier that the mind and the imagination are left free to grapple with the sides of life that have a less personal bearing, and science and pure literature become greater interests. Nevertheless, in one of the poorest districts the lists include books by De La Mare, Masefield, Lamb, Maeterlinck, Chesterton, and Newbolt. De la Mare and a Manchester slum! One can but be thankful that such ways of escape from the dreary facts of life do exist and are accessible to the poorest.

The Nation's Mothers.

The National Adult School Union has forwarded us a pamphlet intended to serve as a basis for discussion in Women's Institutes, Adult Schools, Co-operative Guilds, etc. It opens with a brief foreword by the Minister of Health, and consists of a very brief digest of the facts, figures, and conclusions comprised in Dr. Janet Campbell's report on Maternal Mortality, which was reviewed at some length in these pages last April. The pamphlet in question is entitled "The Nation's Mothers," and can be obtained from the National Adult School Union at 50 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C. 1, at the rate of 1d. per copy, 1½d. post free, 1s. per doz., or 7s. 6d. per 100 post free.

Lyons and the Public.

In view of recent press campaigns on the subject of waitresses' wages, and the special attacks which have been directed against the firm of Messrs. J. Lyons and Co., some interest attaches to that firm's reply to Miss Bondfield's assertion that "there is a prima facie case for an inquiry into the question of setting up a Trade Board for the Catering Trades." Messrs Lyons assert that the waitresses in their shops are paid the highest rates in the trade, and any movement would be welcomed which would make for an improvement in the conditions of the trade generally. We have no first-hand knowledge of the labour conditions prevailing in the establishments of Messrs. Lyons and Co., and we are inclined to take with a grain of salt much of what is said

concerning the extremes of oppressiveness or altruism (as the case may be) displayed by this giant business enterprise. Nevertheless, we should like to be convinced that all was well with the employees of Messrs. Lyons, for in the matter of quality, variety, and cheapness of product the firm has served its public well.

Monogamy in Theory.

The Turkish Commission for Judicial Reform has made an interesting recommendation in connexion with the proposed Family Rights Bill. "The principle of a single wife," they suggest, "is essential in marriage. Consequently a man who wishes to contract a second marriage is not authorized to do so unless he is able to prove the necessity and also his capacity for being just towards two wives. Furthermore, he must obtain the prior permission of a Judge." No doubt this recommendation constitutes an advance upon unrestricted polygamy—but it is not, of course, the kind of monogamy to which we are accustomed, and we doubt whether it will satisfy the demands of the awakening women of Turkey. Meanwhile, we should be interested if any of our readers could throw light on the significance of the word "necessity." What would constitute, in the eyes of the Commissioners, a man's necessity for more than one wife?

New Women J.P.s.

The Commission of the Peace for Lancashire is to be congratulated on the appointment of twenty new women magistrates: Miss Sarah Lena Kenyon and Miss Annie Harriet Kirkham, of Accrington; Miss Hannah Hampton, Mrs. J. B. Mills, and Mrs. G. E. Ward, of Barrow-in-Furness; Mrs. J. T. Alty, of Blackburn; Mrs. A. W. Hedges and Mrs. Clara Beadsman Irving, of Burnley; Mrs. J. Kerr and Mrs. R. Robinson, of Bury; Mrs. K. M. Fletcher, Miss Ann Hayes, and Mrs. J. Seddon, of Leigh; Mrs. H. G. Cole, Mrs. G. Dodd, Mrs. J. G. Elliott, Mrs. O. Geraghty, Miss Alice Gertrude Lucas, and Mrs. E. Stewart-Brown, of Liverpool, and Mrs. R. McFarlane, of St. Helens.

Pioneer Medical Women.

During the next few weeks we hope to publish some account of certain women of the past whose pioneer work in medicine—in Italy, in Poland, in Spain, and elsewhere—gives to their lives and adventures a present interest. The articles, which will be written not from the professional but from the layman's standpoint, are contributed by Miss F. de G. Merrifield. The first, on "Salome Halpir," whose MS. autobiography exists in a library at Cracow and whose life was full of adventure, will appear next week.

The Housing Problem.

The new edition of the booklet published by the Consultative Committee of Women's organizations brings the present position up to date, and is most valuable for societies or reading circles engaged in the study of the subject. In addition to a clear statement of the position, with sections on special problems in Part I, Part II deals with measures for reducing the shortage and improving living conditions. Speakers and students will find the facts given in the appendices add greatly to the usefulness of the little book, and the list of books and questions for discussion cannot fail to be of great assistance to secretaries or librarians of Women's Societies who intend to undertake some serious study of this subject during the Autumn. This little publication is simply written for the lay reader, and has the added qualification of cheapness. It may be had from the office of the Committee, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1, for 1s. 2d. post free.

Jus Suffragii.

We have received a copy of the August-September number of *Jus Suffragii*. The most interesting feature is an account of the beginnings of feminism in Egypt. The awakening of women in Eastern countries is one of the most astounding facts of recent years; it is probably impossible for a Western woman to realize quite how great a revolution is involved. The Zaghul Pasha Ministry has declared itself entirely in sympathy with the feminist programme, but the women, nevertheless, found that they were not even allowed to be present at the opening of Parliament. They are learning, but without discouragement, that the promise and performance of ministries are not identical.

Another interesting article gives an account of the findings of a committee set up by the National Council of Women in New Zealand to investigate the question of maternal mortality in that country. It is astonishing to find that the position in that respect in New Zealand is worse than in this country. With the high wages, lack of overcrowding, and good climate of New Zealand, such a state of affairs should not be tolerated. It is obviously a question of adequate care and adequate medical standards to stop this waste of life.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.**FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.****THE TURNSTILE OF THE SESSION.**

We have reached the turnstile of the Session, and the fagged spirits and frayed tempers of Members may be judged from a little incident which occurred on Monday.

Mr. Climie: On a point of order, is the hon. member in order in debating the merits of the Bill?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member need not be anxious. I am listening very carefully.

Mr. Climie: What do you mean by that? (Hon. Members: "Order!") You be quiet! Do not you insult me, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member will please withdraw that remark.

As the member for Kilmarnock is a very quiet person, my readers will judge that we all need rest and change. This historic Parliamentary period commenced on 21st January with a vote of "No Confidence" in His Majesty's advisers, which was carried by a majority of 72. The Labour Government met the House on 12th February, and on 7th August it adjourned for a recess, having secured Supply and a qualified Vote of Confidence. A Member of the House in January last quotes Clough's words, "If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars," as appropriate to the Parliamentary situation. They may stand as a comment on the past seven months.

PROTEST v. YAWN.

In the weeks after the Election many people envisaged great revolutionary changes and bitter opposition inside the Chamber. The fearful (to say nothing of the unbelieving) expected to see marching mobs coming to St. Stephen's to protest against unfair treatment. These fears have gone, for the expected mobs have been realized in the last days of the Session, but only in the shape of a miniature Jamboree in which Members have undertaken long route marches as guides over the Palace for thousands of Boy Scouts. Instead of passionate protests, the Session nearly yawned itself away early on Tuesday morning on the appropriation Bill, and yawns have been very frequent of late.

THE TURNSTILE.

The Government have secured Supply, and twenty men now control eight hundred and eighteen millions of the taxpayers' moneys until 1st April next. This is the great achievement of the year, and marks the first stage of the answer to the question: "Can Labour govern?" Political questions—except for the persistent demand for equality between the sexes—have not had a large place in our deliberations, but in the last moments of the Session those who have been living in an industrial and economic parliamentary world have been sharply reminded that the eternal enigma of Nationalist feelings in Ireland is as

WOMEN'S WORK IN THE WORLD.

Three hundred women delegates attended the third biennial conference of the International Federation of University Women held in Christiania last week. The delegates were the guests of the four northern national federations of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, and everything possible was done to make the conference enjoyable as well as profitable. Although the agenda was a heavy one, most of the delegates managed to fit in a good deal of sight-seeing as well. The Conference opened in the Great Hall of the University of Christiania, and the delegates were welcomed by the Presidents of the four northern countries, the Principal of the University, and by Professor Nansen, High Commissioner of the League of Nations.

In addition to the usual business agenda, the conference had several subjects of general interest on its programme for discussion. The chief interest centred round the President's address on "The Place of University Women in the World's Work," in which she dealt with the desirability of opening up careers for women, in the higher branches of industry, trade, and finance. Professor Spurgeon was followed by Viscountess Rhondda, described on the programme as "Director of the Cambrian Collieries and Chairman of the British Fire Insurance Co.," who as representing women in commerce herself, was listened to with great interest. Miss Margaret Goldsmith, Assistant Trades Commissioner to the American Embassy in Berlin, followed, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke on women's work in politics. Considerable interest was also displayed in

yet unsolved, and that constitutional and political questions may alter the whole situation within seven or eleven weeks.

But nevertheless the Appropriation Bill, plus another precedent, namely two days for Second Reading, is through, and the Treasury will be able to give its attention to the call of the daughters of the horseleech for loans and guarantees.

OLD PARLIAMENTARIANS AND NEW MEMBERS.

Old Parliamentarians have no love for the minority system in a House fairly evenly divided between three parties, and all parties are reaching out after the truth that it is the business of a minority to turn itself into a majority, but new members are divided with those who drift in and out and who lend a ready ear to the shepherd's call and a back to the shepherd's crook and those who follow things closely and are not as troubled about the new system since, from their point of view, the Private Member has greater freedom of action.

THE SPIRIT OF IRONY.

The spirit of irony must have brooded over our debates during the last seven months. The word of the year has been *Pledge!* It has been like a ball game we used to play in Devon known as rounders, and players in all the parties have tried, I am afraid without success, to avoid being hit by the pledge balls.

The ironist has had to listen to the defence of post war treaties from unexpected lips, to watch attempted conjuring tricks for schemes of productive works, and to catch his breath while housing schemes were discussed, and those who declaimed most loudly about the need for houses refused to admit the need for a scientific examination of all our British parishes.

THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IN ACHIEVEMENT.

We have passed Acts for making financial provision for housing, for setting up boards for agricultural wages, for tinkering with the growing list of Unemployment Insurance Acts, for the public finance of the year, for the increase of certain pensions and of old age pensions, for the regulation or ireregulation of London traffic, for consolidating the Acts relating to National Health Insurance; and sixty-three Private Acts ranging from the Aberdare Canal Act to the hotly contested Clyde Valley Electrical Power Act, while the unenfranchised women, old and young, still wait for the Bill which would give the nation adult suffrage.

On the negative side it is evident that all schemes built on the foundations of a capital levy have evaporated into dreams, and that when hot gospellers become Ministers responsibility does its work. The good, bad, and indifferent are all to be found in the Ministry and in the other parties, and, as always, Bunyan's warning "Beware of the man of one book" has gone unheeded till the hammer blow has fallen upon the unwary official, and

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an address by Miss Tuke, Principal of Bedford College, London, on the "Language of International Intercourse," and a sub-committee was appointed to go further into this matter.

In this connexion it is of interest to note that although the official languages of the conference were English and French, very few spoke in French, which was obviously not familiar to the majority of the delegates. Professor Spurgeon, who has been President since the Federation was formed, is not eligible for re-election. Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, of Barnard College, New York, has been elected for the ensuing two years. During the four years of its existence the Federation has affiliated 20 national branches, Ireland and Switzerland being the last recruits. It was stated that the total membership is 27,000, and that several other countries, notably Poland and Bulgaria, will shortly affiliate. At present American University Women form a great majority of the members.

The Danish women have been somewhat reluctant to join an organization which is only for women, as they have hitherto worked on exactly the same lines as men and have all university societies in common. They, however, realize the importance of the International work which can be done by the Federation, and are supporting it loyally. This position is to some extent shared by all the northern University women.

[We regret that the above article from our correspondent at the Conference of the International Federation of University Women reached us just too late for last week's issue.—ED.]

WHAT I REMEMBER. XLIX.

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

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

It was in the House of Commons on 14th August, 1916, that Mr. Asquith had the courage to confess his former errors. If he had discovered his mistake fifteen or twenty years sooner we should have been saved from militantism with all its heartbreaking suffering and squalid incidents: for he was responsible for having led a large section of his party astray on our question: but of course the penitent was not to be rebuffed although the harm he had done before his repentance was difficult to measure. His reasons for his change of view were stated in the House, needless to say, with dignity and force. His support had been in part won by the war service of women, but what had made a special appeal to him had been the fact that when

"these abnormal and, of course, to a large extent transient conditions have to be revised and when the process of industrial reconstruction has to be set on foot, the House will agree that the women have a special claim to be heard on the many questions which will arise directly affecting their interests, and possibly meaning for them large displacements of labour? I cannot think that the House will deny, and I say quite frankly that I cannot deny that claim."

Now that the Prime Minister had discovered a ladder down which he could climb in renunciation of his former errors, the next step in the art of Parliamentary government was to devise other ropes and routes down which other M.P.s could make their descent safely and with dignity. The device adopted was the appointment of what was known as the Speaker's Conference, non-party in character, consisting entirely of members of the two Houses of Parliament, nominated and presided over by the then Speaker, Mr. Lowther (now Lord Ullswater). He was an anti-Suffragist himself, but was justly famed for holding the balance even between contending factions, and also for courtesy and humour, always a great solvent of difficulties. The questions referred to the Conference included the whole subject of electoral reform, such as votes for soldiers and sailors as such, P.R., adult suffrage, plural voting, and also votes for women. The question of women's votes was not emphasized in any way at the time when the Conference was agreed to by Parliament, but there can be little doubt that it provided the main motive power which led to its appointment. The House of Commons had got almost out of hand, and quite out of temper over Mr. Asquith's attempts to show that the difficulties inherent in the situation could be dealt with by a Registration Bill: but of course he elaborated the subject with all the art of the accomplished Parliamentarian, and presently propounded the plan of first submitting the whole difficulty to the judgment of the House of Commons itself. He wrapped this up so skilfully that his words made it appear that to leave this important decision to the House was a positive compliment to its sagacity: but one of his followers, less versed in the arts of government than himself, had charge of the matter a few days later, and said bluntly that it was because the difficulty under consideration was insoluble that its solution was left to the House. He set forth all the difficulties. Something had got to be done: the old register was useless, a new register on the old basis was nearly as bad, as it would still disfranchise our fighting men, and then the House would have to take up the difficult controversial questions of women's Suffrage, plural voting, adult suffrage, etc. This caused a genuine blaze of rage in the House: the Cabinet had thrown the problem to the House, and the House threw it back to the Cabinet, who were told, not too politely, to do their own job. Then followed another protracted period of consideration and hesitation: the Speaker's Conference solution finally emerged. During the preliminary discussions in Parliament and in the Speaker's Conference itself, our cause received invaluable services from Sir John Simon. Details concerning this and also concerning the splendid help we received at every critical moment from Lord Robert Cecil (now Lord Cecil of Chelwood), Sir W. H. Dickinson and Mr. Bonar Law can be found in my little book, *The Women's Victory and After*, already referred to.

In the Cabinet itself, we were told on good authority, that our chief friends had been Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. Arthur Henderson, who fought our battles for us again and again. This was particularly satisfactory to us as a non-party association, because the three friends just named belonged respectively to the Conservative, Liberal, and Labour Party.

When Mr. Asquith ceased to be Prime Minister in December, 1916, he was succeeded by Mr. Lloyd George. Lord Northcliffe who had been in the earlier years of our movement one of its

opponents had now become its ardent supporter. He had watched with a trained and skilful eye its growing strength and volume, and became convinced that the change in the Premiership, from the hands of a skilful and dexterous enemy to those of an equally dexterous and skilful friend, made the moment particularly propitious for a big step in advance. He wrote to Lady Betty Balfour on the subject and his letter began with the words "There is absolutely no movement anywhere for Women's Suffrage." He then suggested that she should get up a large meeting or a demonstration in its support. Lady Betty forwarded this letter to me. It made me very angry, and I wrote back in a white heat to Lady Betty. I have not any draft of my letter but I know that I recounted how from the beginning of the war we had suspended all our political work, and had concentrated our organizing and money-raising power on various services to our country. I mentioned the Scottish Women's Hospitals, with funds bordering on half a million sterling, raised in all parts of the British Empire, and maintaining 1,800 beds: our Hospital Units sent to Russia to help the civil population there: our work for our soldiers in the training camps all over the kingdom: the recognition of the value of British women's work by our Allies in France and Serbia, as well as by the head of the R.A.M.C. in our own country, and so on: and yet, because we broke no windows and attempted no injury to anyone, Lord Northcliffe declared that "there was absolutely no movement for women's Suffrage anywhere." I had no patience with people who could see nothing unless their heads were broken with it. Lord Northcliffe's whole attitude was absolutely unreasonable, and so on. Lady Betty sent my tirade on to Lord Northcliffe, and he then wrote to me direct, as follows:—

Christmas Day, 1916.

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,

I hope you will allow me to waive ceremony and defend my "unreasonable" sex against your attacks.

I do not suggest window-breaking, but I do think some great meeting or united deputation is necessary.

Public psychology is such that people can only think of one thing at a time. They are now thinking only of the war, and it is quite possible that legislation will arrive unnoticed that may be detrimental to the interests, not only of women, but to many other sections of the community.

Lady Betty has asked me to speak to the Prime Minister and I will do so to-morrow.

Yours sincerely,
NORTHCLIFFE.

I wrote at once, thanking him for his advice, and explained that I could take no action without consulting with the officers of the N.U.W.S.S., but I was to meet them the next Friday morning, when we should very carefully consider his letter, and added:—

"I believe that as a consequence of the experience of the last twenty-nine months, Women's Suffrage has obtained a new and far stronger position than ever before; and that this is due not only to the good work done by women, but to the good spirit in which it has been done, the spirit of whole-hearted love of our country and reverence for its aims in this war. It is this, if I mistake not, which has made such an impression on the public mind. We must beware of acting in any way calculated to weaken this impression, and from this point of view I incline to the big deputation rather than to the public meeting.

Yours sincerely,
M. G. FAWCETT.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER (Continued from page 231).

the expert in the shape of a Private Member has had his way. So we turn the stile and pass out, leaving some reputations made, some enhanced, and some, like Lady Astor's picture, a little damaged. The fires of red, orange, and green flared up in the very last hours of our sitting, and every member has fallen to wondering whether after all he or she will not be on the hustings in the autumn. I am inclined to think not; so that our enfranchisement and other Bills, whose progress was so well described in the WOMAN'S LEADER last week, may yet find their belated way to a Royal Assent before Christmas.

The mace, the symbol of power, has been removed from its rest. The men who sit in the seats of the mighty and who, therefore, never hear the best quips in the Chamber, have been released from their inquisitors; and the men who sit on a particular mountain bench are smiling as they go down to the sea at the remark by a mountaineer during a certain debate that "The measure is a fraud!" and the reply by another of the tribe, "My dear So and So, a fraud is something constructive!"

GREEN BENCH.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper, they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—ED.]

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

MEMORANDUM OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE CONCERNING LACK OF EFFECT NOW GIVEN TO SECTION 9 OF THE REORGANIZATION REPORT AND TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF AUGUST 5th, 1921, IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.¹

I. INTRODUCTION.

In presenting this memorandum, we wish in the first place to recognize the great progress towards equal entry and opportunity made in some of the Government Departments, notably the Ministry of Labour and the Board of Agriculture, but to point out that in the majority of Departments the pace is very slow, while in the Ministry of Health, Post Office, Home Office, Board of Education, the Office of Works, and the Civil Service Commission we can see no improvement at all.

We do not propose in this Memorandum to raise cases in any but these six Departments, although we wish to put it on record that we are far from satisfied with the position in the Colonial Office, the Foreign Office, or indeed the Treasury itself.

II.

In the Ministries mentioned we contend that some approach to, or at least advance towards, the opening of the normal work of the Departments should by now be apparent; that equal opportunities of promotion ought to be in sight, and that the reservation of whole blocks of clerical or executive work to either sex is contrary to the policy adopted.

We see no such tendency in these Ministries. There is only one woman in a responsible position in the Home Office (other than the Inspectors). Men and women are still almost entirely segregated in the G.P.O., and in all six Ministries the nature and the number of men's and women's posts are rigidly laid down in re-organization schemes, and this, not only for specialized departmental work (such as is allowed for in the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, and in the Resolution of the House of Commons) but for the work of the Common Treasury classes. Promotion for men and women, therefore, still proceeds upon wholly different lines, and all competition between them is impossible.

In proof of these statements we adduce the following facts:—

1. *Ministry of Health.*—Women were at one time admitted to the Housing and to the Approved Societies Branches, from both of which they have been excluded on reorganization. Even the work of the women's benefit cases under Approved Societies is now closed to them. The woman Health Insurance Commissioner has not been replaced. In the Local Government Branch the Women Poor Law Inspectors have had their salaries reduced on reorganization, and are not eligible for promotion to the Higher Inspectorate. In the Inspectorate of Health and Unemployment, men and women are organized on different lines, that of the men including a chief, deputy chief, and a number of divisional inspectors, as well as inspectors and assistant inspectors, while the women have only one deputy chief, no divisional inspectors, and the rest all assistants.

The only change in the other direction seems to be the appointment of a Woman Principal in the Maternity and Child Welfare Branch.

2. *General Post Office.*—Women were at one time admitted to the Daily Balance Branch and the Government Stock Branch and are now wholly excluded from these on reorganization. The only exchange apparent is that the Acknowledgement Branch (which used to be for men and women) has been graded down to Writing Assistants, and so is closed to men.

The women in the Secretary's Office are confined to cases connected with women, and so have no opportunity of gaining experience which would qualify them to be considered for promotion.

3. *Board of Education.*—We have no case to bring forward in regard to the Inspectorate, which is, from our point of view, fully satisfactory. In the main administrative work of the Department, however, there is only one Junior Administrative woman employed (on any but routine work), and when the woman assistant secretary died her place was not filled.

The Teachers' Superannuation Branch was formerly staffed by women only. On reorganization it was graded Executive, and immediately thrown open to men also; while no corresponding men's branch was thrown open to women.

¹ See Section 9 of Report and Resolution on page 234.

4. *Home Office.*—In this Department, apart from Writing Assistants, there are only two women employed on the Clerical Executive or Administrative work. One is an assistant secretary, the other a lower clerical officer. There are no higher or lower Executive or Higher Clerical posts for women at all.

5. *Office of Works.*—There is no woman above the clerical class in the Office of Works, although this Department has charge of all the arrangements made for the accommodation of the staff.

6. *Civil Service Commission.*—There is no woman above the clerical class in the Civil Service Commission, although the whole recruitment of the staff passes through the Commission.

III. SEGREGATION.

In only two examples in these Ministries has any attempt been made to allow men and women to work side by side on equal terms. One is the Factory Department of the Home Office (which is of course, a specialized grade, and which had been reorganized upon equal lines before 5th August, 1921) and the other is the Teachers' Superannuation Branch (Board of Education) already mentioned, and even here separate establishment lists, and separate ladders of promotion still prevail. Thus the only result of reorganization in these Departments has been to lessen the number of Executive posts for women by admitting men to the only women's branch in the whole Service which was graded Executive, while no corresponding men's branches have admitted women.

IV. PROMOTION.

Throughout these Ministries no effort to permit equal opportunities of promotion is apparent, and we feel no assurance that when vacancies in the higher posts occur the names of women are even put forward or considered for promotion.

V. TRAINING GRADES.

We are moreover gravely concerned with the future outlook. At this moment there are in the Cadet Corps for the Administrative Grade 272 men and 3 women. Still more disquieting is the position in the Junior Executive Grade. There are at present 3,548 men and only 26 women in this Grade. We cannot feel that these proportions are evidence of a desire to provide equal opportunity in the near future, or that they in any way carry out either Section 9 of the Reorganization Report, or the Resolution of the House of Commons.

VI. COMMON SENIORITY.

We feel bound to point out that it is most unfortunate that the Departmental Committee on Common Seniority Lists has been allowed to sit for over two years without reporting, thus making inaction in the Departments a simple matter. During this delay all the separate reorganization schemes have been completed and are thus a *fait accompli*.¹

VII. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING ALLOCATION OF WORK.

No attempt in these Departments seems to have been made to specify what is appropriately men's and women's work based on the nature of the work. The division seems actually to have been made on quite other grounds. Departments apparently have discretion to say in regard to successful competitors from mixed examinations "This post needs a man" whenever they please, the reservation of posts to men being in fact wholly different in different Ministries.

We wish to ask whether this custom is considered to be a privilege of the separate Departments, and if so how it can be held to be in accordance with the Resolution of the House of Commons?

VIII. WRITING ASSISTANTS.

We wish further to point out that the existence and apparently growing use of Writing Assistants in these and other Departments in the Civil Service already constitutes a serious problem. The duties assigned to these girls in one department are performed by men clerical officers in another (e.g. registry work in Ministry of Pensions in England and in Scotland) and we hold that the decision to reserve this class of work to women alone is a grave injustice to men. 938 Writing Assistants were recruited last year, and a similar number are expected this year, and it is a serious matter to refuse to unemployed men an opportunity of competing for these posts.

IX. CONCLUSION.

In view of all these facts, we wish to ask whether in your view we have established our case that sufficient effect is not yet being given to Para. 9 of the Reorganization Report and to the Resolution of the House of Commons of 5th August, 1921? If you are satisfied that we have, we beg you to give us your assurance that there will be speedy improvement in the position.

¹ The Report of the Committee has just been issued.

If you are not satisfied that we have made out our case we earnestly beg you to appoint a special Committee, including persons from outside the Civil Service, and with an outside Chairman, to examine into matters of fact and to report upon:—

(a) The extent to which the policy underlying the Resolution of the House of Commons has been or is in reasonable prospect of being complied with.

(b) The extent to which Para. 9 of the Reorganization Report has been carried out.

(c) The measure necessary to ensure full compliance with that policy if any delay in putting it into force is found.

(d) The position of the Writing Assistant Class in relation to that Resolution.

We further suggest that the Committee be instructed to report within a specified number of months, and that the Report be published so that the Government may be able to allay the dissatisfaction which is at present widespread upon this subject.

(Signed) P. STRACHEY,
Secretary, Joint Committee.

25th June, 1924.

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ORGANIZATION, Etc., OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. Section 9.

"In the application of this principle we were met at the outset with the claim, which has the support of a number of members of the Committee, that in recruitment, status, pay, and general conditions of service there should be no differentiation between the sexes. In the direction of meeting this claim, we are agreed that within the parallel classes of the Civil Service women should be given a status and authority identical with that accorded to men. Further, whilst we propose that during the experimental period, there should be separate Establishment Lists for men and for women within each class of the Civil Service, and that promotion for men and for women should proceed separately as vacancies occur in the higher establishment reserved for either sex, we are of opinion that the principles of training and of promotion that we have recommended for men should be applied equally to the parallel women classes, and that it should be the duty of Departments, under the general guidance of the Establishments Department of the Treasury, to see to it that women are regarded as available for employment on the same work as men within the several classes, and that women are given the widest opportunities of proving their administrative capacity. Whether the interests of efficiency will be best served by segregation, or by the employment of women and men side by side, is a matter on which experience varies; and we suggest that the requirements of Departments in this respect might appropriately be discussed at the Departmental Councils. It may fairly be argued that, in order to obtain the full value of the experiment, every opportunity should be given for men and women to work side by side."

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WITHOUT DIVISION ON 5th AUGUST, 1921.

Resolved,

"(1) That this House approves of the temporary Regulations for competitions governing the appointment of women for situations in the new reorganization classes in the Home Civil Service.

Provided that after a provisional period of three years women shall be admitted to the Civil Service of His Majesty within the United Kingdom under the same Regulations, present or future, as provide for and prescribe the mode of admission for men.

Provided, further, that the allocation by the Civil Service Commissioners of such candidates as qualify at the examination shall be made with due regard to the requirements of the situation to be filled.

(2) That women shall be appointed to and continue to hold posts in the Civil Service within the United Kingdom under the same Regulations, present or future, as govern the classification and (in so far as regards status and authority) other conditions of service for men.

(3) That, having regard to the present financial position of the country, this House cannot commit itself to the increase in Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women in all cases at the same rate as men; but that the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men shall be reviewed within a period not exceeding three years.

Provided that arrangements in hand for the inclusion of ex-Service men on special terms be not by these Resolutions prevented or delayed."

MR. GRAHAM'S REPLY.

Treasury Chambers,
Whitehall.

DEAR MRS. STRACHEY,

I have now looked into the questions which you raised at the Deputation on the 26th June as regards "equal opportunity for women," and I have made inquiries from the Departments named in the memorandum which you left with me, and which I promised to consider carefully and to answer.

At the Deputation you put to me two particular points of interpretation arising out of the Resolution of the House of Commons on the 5th August, 1921, and perhaps I may answer these first.

Your questions, I think, were:—

(a) Whether after a competition open to both men and women it would be open to a Department to pass over a woman's name on the list of qualified candidates and to take a man; and (b) whether I regarded the House of Commons Resolutions as satisfied if there were in fact women in each grade or whether they should not be free to go into all the branches in which the grade was employed.

With regard to the first of these questions, the second proviso to the first of the Resolutions imposes the over-riding consideration that the allocation of candidates who qualify at an examination must always be made with due regard to the requirements of the situation to be filled. As regards the second question, the same consideration as to the requirements of the situation to be filled would necessarily apply.

Subject to this general over-riding consideration, I see no reason to think that the opportunities of women as regards first appointment and as regards transfer will be different from those enjoyed by men.

Your memorandum is designed to show that sufficient effect is not yet being given to paragraph 9 of the Re-organization Report and to the Resolutions of the House of Commons. I have been at pains to ascertain what the position is in the Departments particularly mentioned by you, and while it is a fact that there are branches in these Departments wholly staffed by men at the present time, I can find no foundation for the suggestion that any branches in the Departments you name are definitely reserved to men or to women. This suggestion has been dealt with in previous correspondence with your Society, and with the Federation of Women Civil Servants, but it is necessary to repeat that the "ideal" reorganization scheme must not be confused with the application of such a scheme to existing staffs, and that, as vacancies cannot be artificially created, the result of the application of a reorganization scheme to existing personnel necessarily means that in many cases the allocation of branches as between men and women follows for the time being the arrangements previously in force.

On the main question at issue, viz. how far the rate of progress made in giving opportunity to women is satisfactory, you recognize yourself that in some Departments great progress has been made; and, in general, it must be borne in mind that the obligations of the Government to ex-Service men and the demands for the reduction of public expenditure since 1920 have both militated against the appointment of women. The present redundancy of officers assimilated to the Executive scale of salary makes it necessary to restrict new appointments of either men or women to the Executive Class, but, on the other hand, a final settlement of the problem of the ex-Service man such as we may hope to get by carrying out the recommendations of Lord Southborough's Committee, will open the way for the resumption of normal methods of recruitment to the Service; and this will inevitably lead to a freer entry of women into the ordinary service grades than has been possible for some time past.

Having regard to all the difficulties, I do not feel that the progress which has been made towards giving equal entry and opportunities to women can be regarded as unsatisfactory. The full application of the principle will necessarily take time, and the difficulties I have referred to can only be removed in course of time. In these circumstances I do not consider that there is any sufficient reason for the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry as you suggest. You can, however, rest assured that I am in full sympathy with the principle which you urge, and that, while it would not be right for me to hold out misleading hopes that progress can be very rapid, the policy of the Government will be directed to securing in future the fullest possible equality of opportunity between men and women in the public service.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) WILLIAM GRAHAM.

30th July, 1924.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

(British Section: 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.)

The W.I.L. supports the terms of the Prime Minister's letter and the action of the Government in rejecting the Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance, but, with the refusal of this method, the problem of disarmament and security remain to be dealt with. Those who oppose this Treaty are often asked to suggest alternatives.

In this connexion special interest attaches to proposals made by an important American group of ten unofficial experts representing law, history and economics, education, the army, etc., many of whom acquired first-hand knowledge of European problems at the Paris Peace Conference.

These proposals are presented in the form of a *Draft Treaty of Disarmament and Security* for the consideration of the League Council and of the Governments represented on the Council. In the first place it attempts to provide for the outlawry of war, and at the same time safeguards national sovereignty in that no State is required to take measures of enforcement at the order of any other Power. The Treaty is to be open to all nations whether members of the League or not.

In the Treaty of Mutual Assistance the Council pronounce judgment—in this Treaty the Permanent Court of International Justice is the body that is to give judgment, on the complaint of any signatory, as to whether an act of aggression has or has not been committed.

In this Draft aggression is defined by making any State which refuses the summons of the International Court of Justice an "aggressor." Enforcement of the Court's decision falls into two divisions, economic and military. In the case of the latter every State is free to consult its own interests. Economic enforcement would mean that an aggressive State becomes an "outlaw," i.e. it would lose all its rights under International Law. Professor Shortwell, one of the experts principally concerned in the drafting of this document, says "the merchants of an aggressor State would not know whether their bills would be paid, their ships permitted to land, or whether their commercial contracts would be enforceable."

Another important section of the Treaty deals with *disarmament by conference*. It is proposed to set up a Permanent Disarmament Conference to meet at least once every three years. The duties of the Conference would be to consider from time to time the codifying of international law in regard to aggression and preparation for aggression, to publish periodical reports as to the armaments of signatory States, to prepare Treaties for demilitarized zones, and to give advice on technical matters to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The expenses of this Conference and of agencies it would appoint are to be met by the signatory Powers in proportion to their budgets of defence.

Copies of the Draft Treaty of Disarmament and Security are obtainable at the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE REJECTION OF THE DRAFT TREATY OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE.

MADAM,—May I in a few words attempt to answer the points raised by Miss Sheepshanks in favour of the rejection of the Treaty.

First of all does the writer consider our undertaking in Articles X and XVI mere eye-wash, and if so how can she expect the small nations, apart even from France, to accept the League's security in place of increased armaments. Article X as it stands is impracticable, and for that reason, France and other small nations have supplemented League security by military alliances outside the League, which is disastrous.

If Great Britain is not prepared in the last resort, to support these undertakings defined in some practical scheme, neither Germany nor France will feel secure, and France will refuse to reduce armaments.

If the present Conference comes to a settlement, Germany will undoubtedly be admitted to the League and on the Council. The Treaty would then, undoubtedly be approved in U.S.A. and Germany if (1) an International Court of Justice was made the arbitrator, particularly if our Prime Minister had the courage to sign its compulsory clause; (2) if refusal to make use of the League's machinery in a dispute constitutes "aggression."

Those who have seen the growing power of the League feel it most unfortunate that the Prime Minister should have chosen a curt rejection of the Treaty instead of suggesting practical amendments both to it and to the Covenant, which would have been a real practical step in a constructive peace policy. Of course violent settlement of disputes should be forbidden altogether, but, just as a police force is necessary at home, so for a long time a similar force will be necessary internationally.

The Draft Treaty differs profoundly from the old alliances because it is open to all and will only operate if the international opinion of the League considers a nation definitely aggressive. In all probability for this very reason no aggression will take place, but countries will disarm and confidence will have time to grow until such Treaties have become unnecessary.

E. D. LAYTON.

A FORTNIGHT IN THE COTSWOLDS.

MADAM,—In response to my last letter to you, I have had several offers of help. Is there any chance, I wonder, of my finding another need supplied by any of your readers? From 11th September for two weeks we are having an intensive Labour Party campaign in the Mid-Gloucester division. I am standing for the division, and for those two weeks I and a party of several others are holding meetings round about Stroud and in the villages which nestle in the valleys of the Cotswold Hills. Extensive preparations are now being made for this campaign. Will anyone who possesses a motor-car come and help us? At present the only member of the party who has any means of getting about is a young man who has a motor bicycle. It is a most beautiful part of the country. An offer for half of the time would not meet our need. But if any reader could and would offer for the whole fortnight, driving two of us, or possibly three, for that period we would be very grateful. As I am leaving England for three weeks, will any one who could help in the way I have indicated write to my hon. secretary, Miss Betty Waldegrave, Achnacridlie, Drimmin, Argyleshire.

EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILL.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY.
Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Telephone: Victoria 6188.

CARMARTHEN BY-ELECTION.

The Rev. E. T. Owen (Lab.) has replied to the Parliamentary questionnaire in the affirmative throughout. Sir Alfred Mond (Lib.) states in a letter:—"I would say generally that, having been all my political life a fighter for women's rights and woman suffrage, I am prepared to support all measures of legislation which will treat all citizens of either sex, both economically and legally upon the same basis." No reply has been received from Sir Alfred Stephens (U.).

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

A great loss has been sustained by the Society in the death of its President, Sir George Beilby, F.R.S., LL.D. What he did as a most distinguished citizen of Glasgow must be told elsewhere—in scientific research and discovery combined with great business qualities he was outstanding—and in his leisure he gave papers on scientific subjects over a wide field, as well as being Chairman of the Governors of the Glasgow Technical College. That it is a very fine record we gratefully acknowledge, but what he was to our Society we must put down here in a few words. A member of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship and a warm supporter since 1905, he succeeded Colonel John Denny, C.B., in 1922 as President, and recently when the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship amalgamated with the Glasgow Women Citizens' Association he consented to continue as a President of the Amalgamated Society. At the outbreak of war Sir George Beilby found it necessary to live in London, so that the last occasion when members had an opportunity of hearing him speak was at a meeting just before the War. The support to the Woman's Movement which such men as Sir George Beilby give so wholeheartedly is imperative to its ultimate success, and throughout the years he has been a great buttress, and we mourn his loss.

AUTUMN SCHOOL, 9th-13th October.

The Glasgow Amalgamated Society has arranged to hold an Autumn School in the Waverley Hydropathic, Melrose, from the evening of Thursday, 9th October, to Monday, 13th October, 1924. The subjects to be discussed are:—

1. The Equal Moral Standard.
2. The Legal Position of Women (a) as Wives, (b) as Mothers.
3. The Problem of Mental Deficiency.
4. Women in the Church.

Excursions to places of interest in the Scott country will be arranged. The inclusive terms for board residence (single room) Registration and Lecture Fees are £3 for the period of the School. The fee for members attending part of the time is at the rate of 15s. per day (registration and school fee 5s. extra). Application for membership of the School must be made to the Hon. Secretaries, 172 Bath Street, not later than 15th September.

The formal opening of the new offices and a Sale will take place on Saturday, 4th October, 1924, 11.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 172 Bath Street, Glasgow. Members and friends are invited to come, and bring and buy provisions, flowers, sweets, old gold and silver, and anything else saleable. Contributions may be sent to the office (Bath St.) any time after 1st October.

OURSELVES.

We regret that owing to the importance of stating the position with regard to women in the Civil Service in full this issue is somewhat cramped and some important correspondence and regular features have been crowded out. Every week as we go to Press we wish we had twelve pages instead of eight to fill!

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

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TO LET.—Unfurnished, large attractive Room; gas-ring, cupboard, sink, all first floor; off Holland Park Avenue; to gentlewoman engaged all day; moderate.—Box 1083, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

TO LET.—Large south Room, furnished or unfurnished, with partial board; vacant middle September.—Ladies' Residential Club, 15 Kensington Park Gardens, Notting Hill Gate.

LOW GREEN HOUSE, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.—Comfortable BOARD-RESIDENCE. Good centre, moors and dales. Three guineas per week.

BRASTED CHART, KENT.—To let, for six months from October to April, a well furnished TEN-ROOMED HOUSE; garden; rent moderate. Lovely country, healthy district. Apply, Mrs. Hope-Pinker, Brasted Chart, near Sevenoaks.

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PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Miss Geraldine Cooke, 2 George Street, Portman Square, W. 1, is free to address meetings on Citizenship and kindred subjects. Terms on application.

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

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1, the only Income Tax Agency owned and managed by a woman. Telephone: Holborn 377.

POST VACANT.

CANNING TOWN WOMEN'S SETTLEMENT, LONDON, E. 16.—Full-time Voluntary Workers Wanted in the Autumn for all departments of Settlement Work. Vacancy for student to train in social work.—Full particulars from the Warden.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

KITCHEN TOWELS.—100 dozen heavy Irish linen kitchen or pantry towels, made from very strong Irish linen yarn, guaranteed all linen, which will wear for many years, size 22 x 27 in., 9s. 6d. per doz. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 17th August, 7 p.m., Maude Royden: "Faust."

THE HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE, 510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10,

is now definitely **CLOSED**, as Ann Pope has, by medical advice, had to discontinue all active participation in social work. An article on the work of the Centre (which is being carried on as a fresh undertaking at Ealing) will appear shortly in the WOMAN'S LEADER.

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

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