

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
 IN THE HOME
 IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
 IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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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.

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS

International Court of Justice.

The new war between Turkey and Greece might have been avoided if the International Court of Justice, which will sit in permanence next year at the Hague, were already in existence. Great Britain has signed and ratified the Protocol establishing it in the form approved by the Assembly of the League of Nations. South Africa, New Zealand, and India have signed, but not yet ratified. Canada is on the point of signing. During the current year the eleven judges and four deputies, who will at first constitute the Bench, will be appointed. The first step will be the recommending of names by the nations forming the League. Recommendations need not be put forward solely by Governments, nor need recommenders confine themselves to jurists of their own nationality. Recommendations received will be selected for nomination by national groups of the Court of Arbitration; no group may nominate more than two persons. The final step is election by a majority of both the Assembly and the Council of the League. No nationality may have more than one judge on the Tribunal. The office of judge is not purely judicial; he represents his country and its judicial system, and is not expected to retire when his own country is an interested party in the case to be tried. If he were to do so, the Tribunal might decide impartially, but without the requisite knowledge of the matters at stake. Four more judges and two deputies will be added when nations, enemy and otherwise, now outside the League are admitted. Nine judges will form a quorum, and decisions will be those of the majority, the President giving a casting vote. We, as Englishwomen, may be proud of the distinguished part taken in the establishment of this court by Lord Phillimore, a jurist and statesman of undoubted eminence and impartiality. His reluctance to admit the claims of women to moral, intellectual, and economic equality with men is a matter for us to regret; they do not blind us to his services to his country and to humanity.

Opium Traffic.

The Council of the League of Nations decided, at the Paris session in February, to appoint a Consultative Commission on Opium Traffic, consisting of representatives of the eight countries signatories of the Opium Convention, namely:—Holland, Great Britain, France, India, Japan, China, Siam, and Portugal. The Commission will also include three assessors nominated for two years. These three specialists are Sir John Jordan (English), M. Henri Brenier (French), and Mrs. Hamilton Wright (American).

The Protection of Emigrants.

Steady progress is being made by the International Emigration Commission, set up by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, with its enquiry into measures for regulating the migration of workers out of their native countries, and for protecting the interests of wage-earners residing in countries other than their own. The Commission, of which Lord Cave is chairman, is composed of eighteen members; nine appointed by European Governments, and nine by Governments outside Europe. Its secretary is M. Louis Varlez, chief of the Emigration and Unemployed Section of the International Labour office. One of the questions to which the Commission is giving its attention at the request of the British Government, is the unfortunate position of the British emigrants to Peru, to which we drew the attention of our readers last week. It is expected that the Commission will draft proposals which will protect emigrants against such abuses.

Education for Internationalism.

The Women's International League is arranging an International Summer School for the first fortnight in August, which

will be held in Salzburg, in Austria. Owing to the exchange, the cost to students should be small, and the lectures are of more than usual interest. The inaugural lecture on the general subject—Education for Internationalism—will be opened by Miss Jane Addams, who is also presiding at the meetings in Vienna, during July, of the International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The first week at Salzburg will be devoted to the psychological aspect of internationalism, and the second to the political and historical aspect, and there will be special classes in literature and art. Salzburg is an old historical town, and was the birthplace of Mozart, and the Mozarteum, where the Summer School will be held, was erected as a School of Music. The League of Nations Union is also arranging Summer Schools—one at Balliol College, Oxford, from July 21st to 28th, which will give courses of instruction on the work of the League of Nations and on the Covenant. Another will be held at Bruges, from August 6th to 13th, and a third at Geneva, for working men.

Mrs. Smith's Cabinet Position.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, of Vancouver, has declined the honour of acting as Speaker of the Parliament of British Columbia, but will take office as a member of the Cabinet. That the offer should have been made shows that women are recognised as capable of maintaining a non-party attitude in most exacting conditions; that Mrs. Smith should have preferred her present position is a proof that she, like many of her sisters, recognises Party as a good servant if a bad master of the State.

Pre-War Pensions.

The retired Civil Servants who are preparing to press their claims for a revision of their pensions to meet the change of values, have a strong case. Men who retired on a pension of under £200, and women pensioned on less than £150, have, indeed, received an increase under an Act of 1920, but this is granted rather as a dole than of right, being dependent on the result of inquiry into other sources of income, and it in no case exceeds 50 per cent., while the Civil Servant not yet retired may expect an addition of 130 per cent. if his pre-war rate would give him a pension of less than £50 per annum. Those Civil Servants who are drawing a pension of £200 after retiring from forty years' service on a salary of £400, perceive that if they had left the service in December, 1919, they would be taking £260; if after March, 1920, the sum for exactly equivalent service and conditions would be £302 14s., and if after November, 1920, £419 4s. 8d. Such inequality is certain to arouse a feeling of injustice, and the claim to a revision, restoring the pension to its original value in purchasing power, is much stronger than that of existing Civil Servants to have their future pensions on a war bonus granted on account of the existing cost of living, which will possibly diminish before the pension is due.

Women Clerks at the Ministry of Health.

Before the House adjourned, Lady Astor asked the Minister of Health whether, in the Navy and Army Fund branch of the Ministry of Health, there are two first-class women clerks who have been assimilated to the lower clerical grade, although they are doing exactly similar work to two men assimilated to the higher clerical grade, and two first-class women clerks who have been assimilated to the lower clerical grade, although they are doing exactly similar work to two men assimilated to the lower executive grade, and what reason could be offered for the degrading of the women. Dr. Addison confessed his ignorance—but why are heads of departments invariably ignorant of facts which it is their business to know?

Newspaper Boys.

The Employment of Children Act, 1903, as amended by the Education Act, 1918, prohibits the "employment" of children in street-trading. The question has now been raised whether boys selling newspapers on commission are "employed" in the sense intended by the Act, and three Justices of the King's Bench have decided that newspaper boys selling on these terms, while not employed in the sense of being servants of a news-agent who pays them a commission, are "employed" as his agents, and that he is responsible for ascertaining the age of boys acting for him in this way. It is fortunate that the question has been decided in this sense, for a decision in favour of the news-vendor would have opened the door to wholesale evasion of the Act, and a recrudescence of street-hawking by children with all its admitted evils.

Bradford's Scavenging.

Opponents of child-welfare schemes have frequently pointed to Bradford, with its indefatigable efforts and unexampled generosity in this direction, and have asked why it is that so much care and money have availed so little to keep down the infant death-rate in that city. The inference they drew was that infant welfare work is mainly ineffective. On the other side it was argued that climatic conditions in Bradford were especially deadly to child life, and that the special efforts put forth merely counteracted these, without showing a credit balance on the side of health. Fresh light has been thrown on the question by medical evidence proffered at a Boundary Extension Enquiry. According to this the city is very badly scavenged, and conditions exist in its slum area worse than in any mining villages. If this is so the evil is comparatively easily remedied; to clean streets and yards is more possible than to alter climate, and Bradford, which employs twenty-seven doctors in its Public Health Department can well afford a few extra scavengers.

Paid Prisoners.

Miss Margery Fry draws attention in the Press to the experiment being tried in New Zealand of paying long-term prisoners wages for industry combined with good conduct, and also in some cases of a wage for the support of dependants. The Home Secretary's intention to reform the conditions of long-term imprisonment gives room for hope that some such method of stimulating prisoners to effort which will be truly reformative may be tried in our own country. The spirit which prescribed the treadmill as salutary because the prisoner's labour on it served no useful purpose, is a thing of the past, but its influence still affects prison occupations. The New Zealand prisoner may not spend his earnings, but receives them on his discharge, or, if he has dependants, may be permitted to allot them to their support. Miss Fry points out that this provision restores the prisoner's self-respect and minimizes the unjust incidence of his punishment on his wife and family. It would also solve the problem of punishing the violence of a man towards wife or children, without depriving these of a livelihood, a difficulty which leads to many miscarriages of justice. Efficient organisation of prison industries would be looked on with suspicion by Trades Unions; it will be interesting to learn how New Zealand has met their criticisms.

The Deceased Wife's Sister Amendment Bill.

Last week Dr. Rendall presented the Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act Amendment Bill, which is intended to remove the anomaly in the present law which prohibits marriage with a deceased brother's widow, although marriage with a deceased wife's sister is legal. It was hoped that the Bill would come up for its second reading before the House adjourned, but pressure of business prevented it. We hope that the supporters of the Bill will contrive to get it read a second time early next Session.

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

The National Health Insurance Act provided for the institutional treatment of insured persons suffering from tuberculosis, but in fact very few persons received this benefit, which, during the war, practically lapsed. The Amending Act of 1920 relieved the Insurance Committees of the obligation to provide institutional treatment after the 30th of March, and the majority of the county and county borough councils have already arranged for such treatment within their areas. Some local authorities, however, have failed to set up schemes, and lest in these areas there should be a break in the treatment of insured persons, the Minister of Health will immediately introduce a Bill enabling the Ministry to make arrangements where none have

been provided by the local authorities, and to recover the cost from these. All local authorities will receive financial assistance in maintaining this service, and the new Bill will enable authorities to co-operate in the treatment of tuberculosis and to co-opt for the purpose outside persons, members of insurance Committees or otherwise. It is difficult to foresee what, if any, effect will result from this decentralisation. Sanatorium treatment is extremely costly, and local authorities, if they are faced with heavy expenditure in this respect, may devote increased attention to preventive measures, which have made less appeal to them when the resultant spread of tuberculosis was regarded as the affair of the central Government. Or, on the other hand, necessary expenditure on Sanatoria may be curtailed in areas where the incidence of the disease is heavy. Hitherto the proportion of radical cures in institutions has not been large. It is difficult to induce early cases to submit to what they regard as internment; relapses after discharge from institutions are common, and each one of them implies a focus of infection in the home to which the patient has temporarily returned. The "cured" case can seldom be expected to do well in the ordinary conditions of industrial life, and residence in convalescent colonies, though desirable, is necessarily costly and generally regarded as a hardship. It may be that local control will be more successful in overcoming these difficulties than were the Insurance Committees, and the experiment is perhaps worth trying. But it is an experiment.

Road Making.

Road making sounds like a straightforward job demanding muscle rather than skill, and it is easy to imagine thousands of unemployed men earning their pay with pick and shovel under the direction of a small number of engineers. But the modern road conceals under its surface a formidable network of the machinery of civilisation. Sketches of the new West Road into London still disclose the secrets in their depths, the concrete towers that will, when buried, become manholes, stand up at intervals along the excavated trench, and at the junctions of cross roads the pipes that convey telegraph and telephone wires, electric current, gas, water, and sewage, are laced above and below with careful exactness to maintain their proper levels. The problem of such road-making is less like digging a garden and more like packing the equipment of a factory than the navy of fifty years ago would readily believe. It is evident that the unskilled worker must, in the main, be restricted to secondary roads in non-residential districts, where the public interests at stake are fewer, and the need of skilled supervision is not urgent every other minute.

French Waiters Denounce Tips.

The National Federation of Workers in the Food and Drink Trades in France has launched a campaign for the abolition of the tip system in hotels, cafés, and restaurants, and the substitution of a guaranteed minimum wage. A manifesto issued by the Federation, according to the "Daily Intelligence" of the International Labour Office, denounces the system as "immoral, unjust, and uncertain," "an attack on the dignity of the worker," and "an obstacle to the limitation of working hours." How heartily the woman worker who lunches daily in a restaurant will support this movement! No one wants waiters, or taxi-drivers, or porters, or anyone else to be paid too little for their work. But when they get their pay by private tipping, civility and attention almost unavoidably follow the directions from which the heaviest portions come. And every woman worker knows, to her cost, that that direction is the man customer and not the woman customer. It isn't the woman's fault; she has not got the money to spare and gives quite as generously according to her means. But what is that to the recipient? A twopence which is costly to give is less agreeable to receive than an easily spared sixpence. And so the woman worker waits and waits for her lunch, or her cab, or her trunk. We commend this movement from both sides, and applaud the French waiters.

The New Mistress of Girton.

Miss Bertha Phillpotts, O.B.E., Litt.D., Principal of Westfield College, University of London, has been appointed Mistress of Girton College from July next. Since Miss Phillpotts is unable to take up her work at Cambridge till 1922, Miss Katharine Jex-Blake has consented to hold office until then. Miss Phillpotts was herself educated at Girton and was placed in the first class of the Modern Languages Tripos in 1901, and her knowledge of Scandinavian languages led to her being attached to the British Legation at Stockholm during the latter part of the war. Miss Phillpotts is a member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education.

WARS AND THE RUMOURS OF WARS.

There is nothing the world needs so much as peace: and there is nothing which seems farther distant. Five years ago, at Easter time, we had the Irish Rebellion in the midst of the world war; to-day we still have war in Ireland, in the midst of a world peace which is no peace. From Russia comes the confused report of serious fighting: from the Near East come tales of warlike preparation: from Germany come rumours of rebellion, and everywhere there is that miserable unrest which comes of instability. No one knows what the future may not bring, of violence, and horror, and destruction. Business enterprise and private thrift are alike discouraged, and nothing seems sure enough to be worth while.

In politics this uneasiness is as apparent as it is in other directions. Internationally no one yet knows where to turn. The inconclusive Peace Treaties, with their contradictions and impossibilities, have left all the countries of Europe uneasily struggling on from day to day by the use of shifts and short expedients. Nothing is secure enough to be worth much care, and international relations are, even now, perpetually unstable, with war for ever in the foreground.

At home the same general state of affairs prevails. Principles seem to have vanished entirely, and only a most futile expediency has taken their place, an expediency not even justified by success. Industrial disputes, such as the present imminent coal stoppage, wear the appearance of being, on both sides, merely stupidities. Things break down and are patched up, and break down again, and no one finds the courage to take on that radical repairing which the world needs. And so domestic affairs, too, are haunted by the thought of war, and conflict grows daily a more and more natural element.

Financially it is the same. We run closer and closer to national exhaustion, and see other nations in an even more serious plight. And yet we only try to save small fractions, and do not so much as attempt to cure the evils from which we suffer. Unemployment grows, and the rich spend, and the evils of class conflict come ever nearer and nearer.

All this blackness which confronts every honest worker in every department of life to-day, has been directly caused by the late war. No one, whatever his theories, can deny it, or can dispute the fact that, in addition to the material confusions, the moral lassitude of the world to-day springs also from the same cause. We are sick and worn out because we have been fighting, and it will take us a generation to recover from it. No other moral is so plainly to be seen as this, that war is poisonous to the world.

If this is so, surely there is one thing which ought to be possible to the peoples upon whom this lesson has been made plain—and that is that they should prevent the evil for the future. One enthusiasm should surely burn bright in an exhausted world, and that is the enthusiasm for peace. That cause, at least, ought not to be eclipsed, that determination ought not to falter. Nothing ought to stand before it, and no other consideration

ought to push it to one side. Neither interest nor interests, neither pride nor prejudice, neither the love of glory nor the hope of power: all these things are as nothing to the world's overwhelming need for peace, and the whole effort of statesmen should be centred upon this crucial problem.

All this, we say, should be. But in actual fact it is not so. Wars and the rumours of wars abound, and instead of protesting, or objecting, we accept the continued misery. When the trouble does not concern us we sit tight, hugging the momentary security we fancy we possess, and not caring, or, perhaps, not even seeing that unless we can secure a real and stable peace, all security and all civilisation will be inevitably doomed.

We let the fighting in Ireland go its way; we are quiet when new armaments are planned; we tolerate talk of employing force in Germany—and all this, while we know that every further stroke of force is a fresh immense disaster.

When we say this, and assert that the continuance of war means the end of all security and all civilisation, we speak in all seriousness. The scale of the last war was immense enough: its effects, as we all know, are devastating in the extreme, both materially and morally. But it is nothing to the results which must follow if we ever fight again. Nothing which the world has ever conceived before can approach the extent of the horror which must inevitably result from the next world conflict. We shall all go down in that struggle, if it ever comes, and we shall not emerge again.

With these facts before us it is an amazing thing that we can remain so dull and apathetic upon the questions of peace. We must not remain dull much longer. It is not safe.

But if we care, what is there that we can do? What hope is there, and what help? How can we set the tide turning against force, and stop these "little wars" which do such moral damage? How, above all, can we keep our own country in the right path, and ensure that the influence and authority of the British Empire shall go upon the side of peace and security? These are the questions which we must ask ourselves, especially we women, newly enfranchised. We have not been fighting, and our part in war is the quieter and, necessarily, the easier one. We hate force and distrust it, even if, perhaps, we admire it. We know, or we ought to know, the poison which it brews. We have a special need to destroy it, and a special responsibility. For, indeed, peace is a woman's ideal, and war a woman's dread. But what are we to do?

There is one way, and only one way, to end war. It will be hastened by the perfecting of the League of Nations: it will be hastened by the wholesale reduction of armaments and the steady rise of international justice. For all these things we must work, whenever and however we can. But peace will not be safe and stable until we have taken the worship of force out of the hearts of men. That is the task before the women of the whole world to-day: and we can only do it by the right education of our children.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Parliament rose on Thursday, March 24th, until Monday, April 4th. Monday, March 21st, saw the funeral of some of the War Ministries, but perhaps not so much their funeral as their translation. They come to an end, but their functions are transferred to other departments. This is probably unavoidable, for you cannot wind up a vast business by a time-table. Anyhow, the House was tolerant, and the Bill got through with little opposition. Tuesday and Wednesday, March 22nd and 23rd, were spent on that mixed fare which a Consolidated Fund Bill always provides. Unemployment, the Washington Conventions, Economy, and Ireland, were among the subjects discussed. Dr. Macnamara was voluble and diffuse, the only point of substance in a lengthy speech being the announcement that the Government meant to train fifty thousand ex-soldiers for the building trade. It was received languidly, not because the House does not desire their training, for it desires it intensely; but it has utterly lost faith in the Government's resolution, and until the fifty thousand actually appear it will continue to regard them as men in buckram. The more interesting part of Mr. Clynes's speech dealt, not with Unemployment, but with the Washington Conventions. As is known two of the Conventions passed at Washington in 1919 remained unratified; and one, the Maternity Convention, the Government have definitely rejected. But the point which has never been made clear is, which is the proper authority to accept or reject. Is it Parliament, or is it the Government as representative of the Crown in its treaty-making powers? In other words, if the Government disapproves of a Convention, as our Government did of the Maternity Convention, can they reject it summarily, or are they bound to submit it to Parliament? The point is partly technical, and partly of substance. On the technical side, the Government have apparently been advised that Article 405 of the Peace Treaty gives this power to them and not to Parliament; this is their apparent decision, though Dr. Addison's somewhat confused speech did not say so. But, assuming this is so, it leaves open the bigger question, who ought to decide? Mr. Clynes, Mr. Tom Shaw, and others were indignant that the decision was not left to Parliament. On the other hand, to compel a Government to enact such a Convention against their will is to put them in an impossible position. It may cut right across their existing system. It may cost too much. These are matters which a Government alone can settle and you do not advance a solution by short-circuiting them. Therefore, the Government are probably right in their action, and had it come to a vote, Parliament would have supported them. But what, it may be asked of the Convention itself? What of this great Maternity Convention, of which so much was expected? Are the Government right in turning it down. Dr. Addison's defence was two-fold. We are doing more, he said, than the Convention; and we are doing it differently. That we are doing it differently is true; for no doubt the Convention, with its six weeks' maintenance and treatment before and after childbirth, does differ very substantially from our method of maternity benefit, and maternity treatment generally. Whether we are doing more is a different matter. Dr. Addison says we are, much more; and he indulged in one of those laudatory defences of his department to which we are accustomed. Unfortunately, however, a Minister's eulogy of himself is no longer taken at its face value. To listen to Dr. Addison, you would imagine that the problem of infant mortality is solved. The fact is, that every method should be tested, and every road examined; and it is much to be regretted that we are not to have a debate on the Convention.

The debate on Ireland on Wednesday, March 23rd, was remarkable for two things: the best speech that Mr. Asquith has hitherto made in this House, and the ominous tone of the Prime Minister. Mr. Lloyd George made it plain that matters are not getting better; and he said openly that he might have to ask for support for even more drastic action. The situation is so serious that one is reluctant to write about it, and perhaps it is best to say nothing.

On Thursday there was the usual adjournment debate. The Mallow shootings were discussed, and Mandates, and the House was counted out.

[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.]

NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS.

THE LEAGUE OF LITTLE MOTHERS, WARSAW.

The League of Little Mothers is the cheering title of the Children's Institution in Poland. It was started by a woman doctor, a Pole, who, as was the case with most Poles, was educated in Berlin, Vienna, and Petrograd. She also paid a long visit to France, and therefore she had the standards of the best children's work in these four countries, and in France and Germany the standard is high.

She started many new enterprises in Warsaw—various clinics and a sanatorium. But everywhere she met with great difficulties, through the ignorance and lack of standards which prevail among the women. With a group of other women she conceived the idea of training schoolgirls to be really good mothers, and so the League began. This doctor has a real understanding of girls; hence the League idea, and badges for the girls, and a general happy feeling of playing a lovely game in earnest.

A small day nursery and clinic were started for training purposes, and some hundred girls between the ages of thirteen and sixteen came from school twice a week in the afternoon to learn mothercraft. The course extends over three years and includes physiology, hygiene, foods and their value, infants' diseases, home nursing, the feeding of children, and their practical care.

When a new baby is brought to the clinic a "little mother" retires with the baby and its mother and takes full notes of the child's history, and later she conducts the interview with the doctor, the mother, of course, being present. She is expected to give a detailed description of the child and to sum up its whole condition. The doctor then instructs the "little mother" as to the care of the child, and henceforth it becomes her child. She visits it at home, brings it again to the doctor, and watches its treatment. Resident babies provide practice in feeding, bathing, &c., and the "little mother" receives a thorough education. But the doctor is too wise to lay all stress on the physical condition of the baby. The "little mother" is spiritually and morally trained, and she does gymnastic exercises and plays games, so that she may become a perfectly beautiful "little mother."

In the evening the day nursery turns into a club, where the "little mother" can learn her lessons, or play, or receive a variety of instructions. In Warsaw, in these times, it is quite often not possible for families to afford lighting, and a room where a girl can have light to read is a real boon.

I have been with the League when the children were having a lecture, and later a demonstration of a normal three years' old child beside a typical rickety case; their interest and intelligence were great, and there could be no doubt as to the value of this form of training.

"So far, all sounds well, you may say. And so it is, in so far as the idea is sound, and is well carried out so far as the doctor is concerned. But—imagine prescribing for a child when the family cannot buy milk or emulsion, or clothing. This has happened. But now the Friends have stepped in with gifts of milk, emulsion, and light foods for nursing mothers. Many of the "little mothers" themselves had not enough clothes. Here, again, they stepped in, and these were Christmas gifts. The doctor told me with great joy how happy the girls were to receive them; and you can imagine what an encouragement all their help is to the doctor.

But—and it is a very large but—again there is the lack of trained women. The doctor cannot be a nurse as well; there must be a superintendent, and, alas! the present one has not the highest of standards. The doctor asks us for a trained English or American nurse, and if she came she would want some little improvement in equipment.

Further—and this is my chief claim for the place—the "little mothers" are the best educated in Poland; they are all keen and love children. I long to see a little residential training centre where some of these girls can live for a year or so, and then become pioneer children's nurses in this needy land. The doctor, the Committee, the pupils, all are here and all longing for development, and we women of more fortunate lands could give the greatest assistance. If we could give two good trained nurses for two or three years, with quite a small money gift, the Poles would do the rest, and would never forget the understanding love which would prompt such help.

DOROTHY MCCONNELL.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

FACING THE FACTS OF THE IRISH SITUATION.

By BRIG.-GEN. C. B. THOMSON.

If the present state of affairs in Ireland prevailed in any land outside the British Empire, all England would thrill with horror and indignation against the oppressors, and with sympathy for the oppressed. As Ireland happens to be a sister kingdom, we permit our own Government to proceed unchecked with a policy of terrorism and reprisals, which, in the words of Mr. Asquith, "confuses the innocent with the guilty in a common tumult of lawless violence." This policy is ineffective, since, so far from restoring law and order, it only embitters moderate Irish men and women and strengthens the forces of Sinn Fein. It costs millions and achieves nothing but destruction. It aggravates the scourge of unemployment and deprives our food markets of a source of supply within easy reach of British ports, and thus keeps up the cost of living. In short, it is both unpractical and un-British—neither our ideals nor our interests are served. Moreover, each day that passes renders more difficult a reasonable settlement of the Irish question. Five years ago, Ireland would have accepted a Dominion status, but then it was refused. To-day, officials at Dublin Castle proclaim themselves Dominion Home Rulers, forgetful of the fact that if a settlement on those lines is right to-day, it was right then, and that this tardy recognition of past errors does not exonerate them from responsibility for the tragedy now being enacted.

Five years hence, if we persist in a policy of coercion, the population of Ireland will be reduced by half, Irish industry will be completely paralysed, British manufacturers will have lost one of their best customers, what might have been a prosperous, producing country will be a waste, fit only for auxiliaries and "Black-and-Tans." An impartial observer might well ask how a race, which prides itself on its sound political instincts and the love of liberty and justice, can allow such misgovernment to be practised with its money and in its name. The kindest answer would be that the people of this country do not know, or, at any rate, *have not* known and understood the facts.

It has been with a view to bringing to light the true facts of the Irish question that men and women, of all political parties, have combined of late in a campaign of publicity throughout the length and breadth of England, Wales, and Scotland. They feel that once these facts are known they will be faced, and that British commonsense and humanity will revolt against a policy which is at once wasteful and shameful, which squanders our millions while it betrays our honour.

The central fact of the Irish situation is that Ireland will never be a contented neighbour, and, therefore, never prosperous, until her separate nationality is recognised. The Irish people claim, with ample historical justification, that they have as much right to self-determination as the Czecho-Slovaks or the Poles. Their claim is logical enough. Our hold on Ireland is that of conquerors, but during the war we posed as liberators, and if we are ever going to be sincere we must let charity begin at home.

Those who oppose the claims of Ireland do not argue, they assert. One of their staliest assertions is that Ireland cannot rule herself, that the Irish are careless and improvident, and would soon fall on evil times without the saving guidance of the English and the Scotch. The facts do not support this statement. To take one example only: The Irish wool trade was, at one time, so prosperous that it became a formidable rival to certain vested interests in this country; it was ruined, not by fair competition, but by political action through the imposition of a crushing tariff.

Another assertion is that if we withdrew our troops and police, there would be civil war. This prophecy is, at best, a half-truth. To begin with, perhaps, there might be a certain amount of fighting on the frontier between "Carsonia" and the rest of Ireland, but by no stretch of the imagination could it be so terrible or intense as the struggle now raging in the name of law and order. The Nationalist and Sinn Fein elements in Ireland outnumber the so-called "Loyalists" by about four to one. They do not want to fight, they want to live, and they have at their disposal far more potent means of persuasion than

internecine strife. They can appeal to the democratic instincts and the economic interests of the Trades Unionists in Belfast. The artisans in the shipyards and the operatives in the mills have everything to gain from a united, prosperous, and contented Ireland; they have everything to lose by partition and perpetuation of the existing discontent, which, by creating an artificial barrier between their homes and the food-producing parts of Ireland, would leave them to be exploited by importers. The ascendancy clique in Ireland has shot its bolt by accepting partition, the talk of civil war, like that of Rome Rule, is a bogey designed to deceive the ignorant. Sooner or later, co-operation between the workers in the North and the agriculturists in the South and West, whether they be Catholics or Protestants, must come, because it is in the interests of both.

Strategical considerations are frequently invoked by the opponents of a settlement in accordance with the expressed will of the Irish people. They warn the inhabitants of Britain that Ireland, once independent, would be a base of operations for any foreign State with which we might be at war. The question suggests itself: Which State? The answer is hard to give. Europe may be unsettled, America most certainly is disillusioned, but there is a vast difference between these conditions and a declaration of war against Great Britain. If another war occurs, it will, as Lord Grey has well remarked, be the end of what we now call civilisation, and, in the presence of such world-wide chaos, the Irish question would be relatively unimportant. Further, Ireland as it is to-day is a far more serious menace from a strategic point of view than it could ever be as a Republic. At present, Ireland absorbs two-thirds of our Expeditionary Force, and such is the temper of the Irish people that the whole British fleet could not prevent dozens of bays and coves on the Western shores of Ireland becoming bases for enemy submarines. If those who talk of strategy in regard to Ireland were either knowledgeable or frank, they would realise and confess that a prosperous and contented Ireland would help to solve the greatest of all our strategic problems—the problem of food supply. If Ireland were producing all that she could produce, she would be the granary of Britain, a granary at our door, and thus relieve our navy of more than half its convoy duties in time of war.

Not the least insidious of the attempts to mislead the British public in regard to Ireland is that which suggests that any concession to Irish sentiment would be what is termed "climbing down." The phrase undoubtedly appeals to a false form of pride, but in the light of facts it has little or no significance. Who would be "climbing down" if we refused to cut off our British nose to spite our Irish face? Not the people of this country, and certainly not the women voters who cast their votes for the first time when a Home Rule Bill, accepted by the Irish people, was in the Statute Book. Until the last few months, the women voters have been innocent of guilt for the misgovernment of Ireland. They have never given a mandate for the policy of reprisals; most of them, when they hear of the sufferings of Irish women, must deplore it. The Government might well "climb down." It has flouted too long already the intelligence and morality of the British people.

Discussion of affairs in Ireland is often burked by those who assume that the only authorities on the subject are Irish people who have spent their lives in England, with seasonal visits to the South of France. This assumption is, of course, absurd. The best judges of how British money should be spent, and how our honour should be maintained, are not necessarily the nephews or nieces of Irish aunts nor shareholders in Guinness's brewery. They are ordinary men and women who pay taxes, who view these tragic happenings from afar and have never set foot in Ireland. This Irish question is essentially a British question; it is the touchstone of fidelity to principles which should be the glory of our race. By our handling of this question we will be judged. If we permit the present policy to continue, posterity will condemn this generation. It will be said that we tried to kill the spirit of a nation, and failed as we deserved to fail. That we were the ready dupes of scheming politicians and venal newspapers, and that we dared not face the facts.

SOME FACTS ABOUT IRELAND.

By AN IRISH LOYALIST.

The following extracts are taken from a letter by an "Irish Catholic," which appeared in the *Church Times* last October. The writer says: "I came to Ireland at Easter, 1916, after the rebellion, a supporter of Sinn Fein, and since that date I have seen it at close quarters. Your correspondent, Mr. Stockley, says there have been some fifty murders committed by uniformed men. Anyone reading the phrase would conclude that they were Royal Irish Constabulary, or soldiers, whereas they are neither one nor the other, but Sinn Feiners wearing stolen uniforms. I have often seen men I knew to be Sinn Feiners in uniform; they have a plentiful supply of them, as well as Service weapons and cartridges, and many a crime has been attributed to the R.I.C. and soldiers which was really committed by Sinn Fein."

"There were uniformed men among the gang who murdered the late Lord Mayor of Cork, and they used Service rifles, but they were all Sinn Feiners. He was murdered by order of Sinn Fein, because, though he was himself a Sinn Feiner, he opposed the campaign of murder and terrorism which is directed from Cork, and also objected to Sinn Fein using the city rates for the promotion of their criminal plans. Mr. Stockley asks why there was no enquiry. Sinn Fein, by methods of its own, would provide plenty of evidence against the police and military, but no one in Ireland (or out of it, I trust) would place any credence on such evidence. Anyone who gave evidence against Sinn Fein would certainly be shot, as experience proves. There was no 'mistake' in the murder of poor Lynch, nor was there any 'mistake' at Thurles, when Sinn Feiners in police uniforms went about the town firing into the houses of their friends (after duly giving them notice) two hours after all the police had returned to barracks, in order to provide a good supply of broken glass for the edification of the Labour deputation which was coming to Thurles. I was there and saw Sinn Fein at it. I was also there next morning, and saw the same men point out the ruin to the Labour men, who freely expressed their indignation. A Sinn Feiner whispered to me, 'These English are green.'"

The Coalition policy does not go far enough to solve the problem; much more drastic measures are required in order to save the lives of hundreds of innocent people. To put an end to these murders Martial Law should be proclaimed all over Ireland and the agitators and hired assassins, paid by Irish-American and German money, should be rounded up.

The want of logic on the rebel side is astounding; they murder civilians, labourers, and small farmers, who, it is believed, have given evidence against them, and pin a piece of paper on the dead bodies, on which the word "Informer" or "Spy," is written as a warning to others; but when rebels are caught, the Irish leaders are horrified at "the brutality of the Government in allowing the death sentence to be carried out!" Mr. Asquith and the Labour Party deplore the burning of the Creameries, though some of them were used as arsenals, but they make no allowance for the feelings of the men who have seen their comrades foully murdered. The R.I.C. and the military are doing their duty in hourly danger of their lives, and are constantly misrepresented and slandered.

The late Government have chiefly themselves to blame for the present appalling state of Ireland, by the way in which they handled Irish affairs when they came into power in 1906. Mr. Bryce, then Chief Secretary, said, "There never had been so little crime, nor had Ireland been so peaceful for over 200 years." This peace did not suit the agitators and Nationalists; they could get no financial help from the people to start their campaign of outrage. I believe the subscriptions averaged a half-penny per head. So they turned their attentions to a more lucrative source, and Irish-Americans and pro-Germans filled their coffers, and supplied a never ceasing flow of lying propaganda. Then began agrarian outrages, cattle drives, and boycotting, until it culminated in open rebellion in 1916.

People talk about the 80 per cent. of the Irish population who are governed against their will, but they do not mention the numerous threatening letters sent out by Sinn Feiners just before elections, warning the people if they vote for the Unionists "To prepare to meet their God, for they will never reach home alive." One can hardly call the resulting voting an accurate account of Irish public opinion. Ireland has had more concessions than any other place in the United Kingdom, the Irish are a restless, discontented people, an easy prey to adventurers and foreign leaders. As a Republic, Ireland would be a continual source of danger to England, and as to her guarantees, they would only be "another scrap of paper."

A DIARY OF WORK.

By SIR LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

REST PERIODS IN INDUSTRY.

The Chief of the New York State Bureau of Women in Industry remarks, in the Institution's Official "Bulletin," that regular periods of rest during the working day in American industrial establishments are the exception rather than the rule. The conditions of 111 firms in the State were inquired into, and in only 21 were there found to be definite rest periods, varying from five to fifteen minutes in length. One wonders whether even as high a proportion as 21 in 111 would be found if inquiry were made in the factories of London and its environs. I fear not, for it is not yet generally recognised that, merely to look at the thing from the lowest point of view, the best results are only obtained from workers who are made comfortable and happy in their work and whose physical and mental powers are cherished by wise consideration of the bodies which sustain them.

The New York *Bulletin* remarks that a rest period means, more than anything else, a change of position, accompanied by a complete cessation of work for a given length of time. "If the work is performed while sitting, then opportunity for exercise and fresh air should be given during the recess; if the work is performed while standing, then comfortable chairs should be provided for use during the rest period." There seems little doubt that such rest periods raise the efficiency of women workers by preventing cumulative fatigue and by refreshing the mind and body. Thus, it is true in this connection, as in so many others, that the dictates of humanity are one with the truest economy. Indeed, this must be so, because economy is made for men, and not men for economy.

I am a strong believer in *change of process* for the workers in monotonous occupations. When, many years ago, I first saw a great cycle factory at work, I carried away with me as a thing unforgettable, the picture of a young girl standing at a punching machine which made the holes in the rim of a bicycle wheel for the reception of the spokes. What she did all day was to move with her right hand the handle of the punch as the rim rotated. The imagination hoggles at the idea of a girl performing that single motion week after week, and month after month. Yet it is the kind of work, we have to try to realise, which is done by hundreds of thousands of people, and it is the kind of work which grows as the conception of standardised mass production spreads. In so far as such occupations exist, they must be mitigated by short hours and rest periods, but that is not all. There should, and can be, in most cases, a change of work, as, for example, from a standing to a sitting process, or, at least, from one sort of machine to another.

In the case of telephone work there can be no change of occupation, since the job is a skilled one which can only be performed successfully after a year or two of training. In such a case, therefore, there must be mitigations in the shape of reasonable working times broken by suitable rest periods. Not all telephone authorities are sufficiently alive to the necessities of the case, and not all telephone subscribers are as helpful as they might be. In this connection it is a comfort to think that when the Post Office took over the National Telephone System, the miserable sum of £13,000 a year, which the Company thought enough for a Pension Fund, was raised to £243,000. One of the things it is incumbent upon us all to do, in respect of public service, is to insist upon the Government being a model employer. Unfortunately, many organs of the press do their best, in their own and the public's despite, to make things hard for public servants.

In too many industrial processes there is neglect of good seating accommodation, and that is another point in which America, like Germany, is going ahead of us. I see in American trade journals far more advertisements of special industrial seats and chairs than I do here. In fact, I cannot call to mind having seen one here; if I am wrong about this I should be delighted to be furnished with details, which I would gladly publish. In America many processes at which women formerly stood have been turned into sitting jobs, making for the health of the workers and the good of the employer. It should not be supposed that any seat will do. The true practice is to get a surgeon to design a seat to suit the work. That is what is being done in America in an increasing number of cases in laundries, in clock works, in hosiery factories, and in various metal and other trades.

THE WORK OF A SMALL HOLDING IN THE VICINITY OF THE COUNTRY HOUSE.

By VISCOUNTESS WOLSELEY.

The present time seems an opportune moment in which to bring forward some suggestions which may enlist the sympathy of those young educated women who are about to take up a profession. I have not merely those in mind who intend to make a living out of their work, but this article is written in the hope of its being especially applicable to the daughters of squires or landowners, who are, as a result of the war, compelled by desire or necessity, to work for the common good.

We none of us desire to lead a life of idleness, to put it plainly too, we cannot afford to do so, and I know of no profession which needs more intelligent and practical study by both educated men and women than that of food production.

It is questionable, whether from the point of view of good health, it is justifiable for us to encourage women to devote the best years of life to strenuous farm work, to operations such as motor tractor driving, hard trenching, digging roots for many long hours together in cold, wet weather. They did so during the war to replace men, but this should be looked upon as one of the many emergency undertakings that they joined in for patriotic reasons. We owe them gratitude for what was generously done, but they should not be encouraged, I am of opinion, to continue solely in this course.

There is a lighter side of garden and small farm work which lends itself without doubt to the permanent and active interest and co-operation of women. I allude to the care of animals, together with a moderate amount of gardening, and all those less strenuous operations of root-storing, seed-collecting, fruit and vegetable bottling, which find their centre in the store room or in the farm kitchen. All such branches they can undertake with confidence knowing that work done in the open air, amidst nerve soothing influences, can only tend to the improvement of health.

We are fully aware that in the past we English have not studied what the fear of invasion long ago taught to the French peasant, the need for thrift. It is necessary that we make our orchards, kitchen gardens and holdings far more fruitful than in the past. We should strive to increase poultry, goat breeding, pig keeping, and all those profitable industries that are comprehended in the life of a small-holder.

Now, how is it possible to do this, if we have to pay the exceedingly high wage, and for it receive a limited number of working hours, from the man who takes the place of the 22s. a week man of old days? Well, we cannot make a success of the monetary side unless we work ourselves.

In my opinion, each house that stands upon one or more acres of garden and orchard land, should be able to make its inhabitants very considerably independent of purchased food supplies. One or two goats can be kept, and by tethering them out upon the lawn, or in the adjoining paddocks, or even letting them graze by the side of the adjacent roads, these animals will require no other food during the summer. At kidding time they will need extra food for a season, so that the yield of milk is maintained, but this is no serious extra expense. In the winter, any roots or leaves that can be spared from the kitchen garden will keep them in good condition. They are easily managed by women, and the milking is not difficult to learn. They will, in a measure, take the place of a gardener, as they eat down the grass on the lawn tennis ground, and the only danger to guard against is that of placing them near tree stems that they might injure, or within reach of shrubs that might prove poisonous to the animals. What do they offer us in the way of food? We obtain nourishing milk, creamy and delicate in flavour, and highly nutritious both to children and invalids. Then, too, the kids are excellent when cooked for the table. If several goats are kept and the milk is not all required for household purposes, the rest can be made into cheese, the colour and flavour of which is good. Again, thereby, we gain great nutrition. Goat's milk has not been popular in England, but the prejudices against it are absolutely unreasonable. Although the supply from so small an animal is not comparable to that of a cow, yet there are advantages about goat keeping which should not be overlooked. The goat is the friend of those who have not much capital to place to the account of the holding, and the yield they give of two quarts a day from each one is not to be despised.

Chickens and ducks come next, and they, too, save the household expenses, for they give fresh eggs to the house, the surplus can be preserved in waterglass as cooking eggs, and the young cockerels, killed off one by one, add to the meat supply.

Upon twelve acres of land at Scaynes Hill, in Sussex, my friend, Mrs. Peete Musgrave, with a working staff of two other ladies, is able to show in this way what can be done. There is no man worker on the place, and everything, from pumping water for the house, to harnessing the horse for the market cart, digging the garden or minding the goats, is done by these three women. In addition to what I have mentioned, there is always a large surplus of vegetables for sale or for preserving. Amongst other things that are within reach are bottled fruit, home-made jam, and tomatoes made into ketchup.

There is no reason, to my mind, why girls, living in their own homes, should not all do this sort of work, they would find it profitable and interesting. The great aim should be that the work of kitchen, orchard, garden, and meadow land becomes closely united, for it is by using what comes from one part of the homestead in another portion of it, that the harvest is reaped. Upon this principle do they use the trimmings from the hedge-rows and grassy lanes as bedding for the animals. This, when it has become highly enriched with the manure from the stable or sty, will grow the finest vegetables. Then, too, all the parings and trimmings from the kitchen will come in for some food stuff or other for the live stock. But it is in the work of the miniature plough that economy of labour is best secured, and I confess I often wonder that our Royal Horticultural Society does not draw the attention of its Fellows to this manner of working kitchen gardens. By using these handy little implements, it is possible with the help of a stout cob and a lady, perhaps, to steer him, whilst the head one guides the plough, to do in one morning what it would take a man several days to dig and clean. Earthing up potatoes, stirring land, preparing it for planting or seed sowing, all this can now be done by means of the many implements that are put on the market for the purpose. Much, much more should be done by horse-power than hitherto in our kitchen gardens. Of course, it means a slight re-arrangement of the garden, for the land must be free from trees, and sufficient room, too, has to be allowed at either end of the long furrow for the plough and horse to turn. This is no difficult matter, and can in most gardens be carried out without the loss of many fruit trees. Certainly, where any economy has to be made in the number of men employed, it is the only way of not falling back and growing less stuff.

It is, in especial, for the further development of these new ideas that the educated women of the family are really wanted in the garden or in the small-holding. The man gardener of old was not accustomed to the miniature plough; in fact, his strong inclinations are against it now. But if we want to progress, if it is the national requirement that we grow more and more food in this country, then it behoves thinking people to consider these matters, and not leave them altogether to those whose views are still undeveloped, or prejudiced.

Then, too, the daughter of the house will have far more personal interest than the employee would have, in seeing that no wastage occurs in the use of feeding stuffs. She will like to save the manure bill, she will like to see that as much firewood as is possible is obtained off the place. On wet days, two women with a double saw can prepare many logs for the house. Her plans, too, in the shape of interweaving the work of the garden with that of the small-holding, will be more easily shaped if she, the part owner, is at the head of affairs. It seems to me a delightful life for two or three sisters, so to work the outside of their country home that the utmost profit can be made. If they soar in ambition beyond the mere sphere of providing for their own household, then they can sell their surplus, either goats, pigs, poultry, or vegetables, letting, of course, the home have the first fruits of their energy, but keeping an exact account all the time to show what, in a business way, the land has given to the house. I am convinced that if people began in their youth to study these questions, if such matters came under the observation of really thinking women, a vast saving would ensue to families who now live in the country, carrying on an artificial existence of trying to live up to their house. They find the pleasure ground in itself an expense, the upkeep costs at least £110 per annum, without counting the labour bill of the kitchen garden. Why cannot the daughters of the house come to the rescue, and instead of carrying on a profession far from the home, try to make a profit or even a saving out of the land that stands at their very door, and which is asking to be made use of to its utmost capacity?

KING'S LANGLEY PRIORY.

It is a school now, but it was once a Dominican Priory, and, except that it is a co-education school, something of the spirit of the Priory informs it still.

The old building still stands, and the fourteenth century rafters run across the ceiling of the refectory. Dormitories with verandahs, where children can, and do, sleep in summer, a big "barn" with a great wooden door, always wide open in summer, and a little Gate House complete the group of buildings. They stand in eight or ten acres of orchard, and when all the tall cherry trees are in bloom you could find no lovelier spot in Hertfordshire. From a dove-cot black nun pigeons come cooing to meet you; under the cherry trees goats nibble at the grass, and in a further corner there are hens, ducks, and rabbits. Behind the Priory there is the bee orchard, and the bees and all the other animals play their part in the education of the school. For the children are brought up with nature, and they are bred on natural history. They know all the wild flowers of the district, how the apple blossom sets, and how the seeds swell and colour into apples, and how the next year's apple seed is there before you pluck this year's fruit.

The school is specklessly clean. In the holidays it is scrubbed and polished and whitewashed to the last stage of perfection, and when the children come back they have to keep it clean. Up at 6.30 a.m., cold baths, housework for half an hour, breakfast at 7.30 a.m., and then housework for forty-five minutes. Beds are made, rugs are shaken, floors polished, dishes washed, &c. Then, about 11 a.m., there is a pause of an hour for "useful works," when soap tureens and silver are polished, windows cleaned, &c. The smallest child is given some task to do, but the hour is merely an interlude between the lessons.

This alternation of active practical work and sedentary study, is the special feature of the school. Professor Geddes's theory of "occupational education" finds its fullest development here, and the theory that working with the hands helps to quicken and stimulate the brain is effectively proved. Games and gardening in the afternoon supply fresh air and exercise, and all the meals are laid and cleared away by the children.

The food is vegetarian, but carefully planned and balanced, and the vigour of the children who can walk and study and work without being limp and tired is a proof of its sufficiency.

There are many joys in the course of the summer—haymaking when the grass is cut, cherry and apple picking, and, when the bees swarm, why, the headmistress and a select party of scholars

must, perforce, go in pursuit. In winter, when there is snow, there is tobogganing in the steep chalk slopes, for King's Langley lies on one of the last spurs of the Chilterns.

The school is strong on drama. There is a big cupboard full of costumes, and the children prepare and adapt these as required, and much ingenious manufacture of scenery goes on. Roman soldiers in brown paper helmets, Norsemen in winged headgear, are amongst their achievements. Shakespeare, acted on the lovely lawn behind the old Priory is arcadian, Gareth and Lynette, with Lynette looking down from an upper window at Gareth, looking vastly gallant upon one of the school ponies, a pageant of King's Langley unrolling its exceedingly interesting history—all these, and others, have been excellently done.

The "education," that is, the education in the customary subjects, is very thorough and good. The foundation of English is soundly laid, natural history is a speciality, geography in its newest presentation, and history is wide and varied in its range. Song and dance are not forgotten. The children learn the harp, and sing Celtic songs in addition to the usual music, which is unusually good. They dance, and invent dances, and are light of foot and graceful in their movements.

There is a good deal of self-government. The House Committee arranges the housework, and the older girls are keen overseers of the work of the younger ones. There is a tradition of thoroughness that the school is on its honour to live up to. What the older children have learned they teach! The House Committee makes its own rules, but the tendency in the school is to have fewer and fewer, rules. Where the inspiration is true and fine, rules are not necessary. Each form chooses its own leader, who must be approved by the headmistress, and she in turn chooses two "shepherds," who guide and direct her flock for her, maintain order, and keep up the high standard of the school.

The old Abbeys were the centres of education and enlightenment in their countryside. The monks did their own work, dug in their gardens, illuminated manuscripts, and made the music of their churches beautiful. Where the life was pure and good, as it often was, it was a very fine thing indeed, and the old Priory spirit is worth reproducing to-day.

But blithe and merry children, with rosy cheeks and jolly laughs, are better than monks, for they are boys and girls together, and lead, therefore, a fuller life than ever monks can do. In King's Langley we have the best traditions of the old time united with the most enlightened methods of modern education.

THE DIARY OF A WOMAN IN THE HOME.

16, Plane Tree Road, G—.

Good Friday, 1921.

The miracle of spring has happened again. It gives me a fresh surprise every year. I have had to stay in for a few days, and now that I can go out of doors again, I see that not only has our old pear-tree covered himself with white blossom, but that all the little Hawthorns have that veil of half-transparent emerald-green which is like nothing else on earth. Sunset lights, starry skies, mountains in the early morning, the rippling of the sea, all give us at moments a feeling of something beyond our present state of being, but I don't think any of them bring immortality so near as that young green that Dante's Guardian Angels wore:—

"Verdi, come fogliette pur mo nate,
Erano in veste, che da verdi penne
Percosse traen dietro e ventilate."*

I suppose many people have some particular poem that they read when they feel the spring—mine is the eighth Canto of the "Purgatorio." I have been reading it this evening, while Ellie and Bridget have gone alone to a children's service.

Ellie has a natural addiction to church-going, but Bridget is strictly moderate, and what may be called "occasional." She goes to the delightful Sunday Kindergarten, in which the babies of our parish rejoice, regularly, and to Church when she thinks something specially interesting may be going to happen. On this occasion, I am not at all sure that she has not gone under a misapprehension. Some days ago Ellie, in giving me a list of Easter Services, said that on Sunday evening there would be a children's service with a procession and carols. Bridget had not

* "Green as the tender leaves but newly born,
Their vesture was, the which, by wings as green
Beaten, they drew behind them, fanned in air."
—Purgatorio, Canto VIII., Cary's translation.

been paying much attention, but at this point I observed her eyes shining, "a procession of camels!" she murmured. "Oh, I should like to be there!" The mistake was explained, but I think for a moment she had had a gorgeous vision of animals from the Zoo taking part in Easter Rites, and I am afraid some traces of it may have lingered in her head. Poor camels! I don't think they have ever been accorded even that faint reflection of Gospel promises that the ox and the ass have inherited from those ancestors of theirs who stood by the manger at Bethlehem. The only pictures of Gospel events in which they figure are those of the Adoration of the Magi. If they were to take part in Church ceremonial it would have to be at Epiphany time!

The children are having a kind of preliminary holiday. Their school term does not really end till April 5th, but these Easter days they have off, and they are thoroughly enjoying them. Yesterday afternoon they spent in preparing and sending off Easter eggs; from the point of view of presents and surprises Easter is becoming almost as good a festival as Christmas. This morning they went for a walk with Laurence and his nurse, and since then they have spent most of the day in the garden with "the Citan" (as Bridget writes the name of the small grey furry member of our family when she refers to him in her letters), all the dolls, some books, and provisions in the form of bananas and gingerbread nuts. Ellie has been stationary, absorbed in "Kenilworth." "The Citan" has spent most of his time rushing up and down trees, and Bridget in pursuing him and endeavouring (quite vainly, of course!) to reclaim him from what she considers positions of danger. Fortunately, "the Citan," who might be said to be growing into "the Kat," is well able to take care of himself.

One such day is delightful, but the children will miss school during the full month to which the real Easter holidays extend.

Lessons are no longer the dreary prison they used to be to many children. A modern school is certainly a wonderful place. Ellie has been thrilled to the marrow, because for history "homework" her form were given the delightful task of writing a play, or plays about the coming of a Norman Lord to a Saxon Manor. The children were allowed to collaborate as they liked, and yesterday, at the history lesson, the three best plays were acted. A play of which Ellie was part author was one of the ones selected, and she herself appeared as the Haughty Baron, "Sir Richard de Vere." Nothing could be more congenial, of course! I am bound to say, however, that I think Ellie would enjoy history, and most other lessons, even if they were presented to her in a far less attractive form. She takes after my mother, who used to pore over Rollin's "Ancient History" in secret, at a time when it was accounted "naughty" for little girls to read except at stated hours, and who was once reduced to tears of shame at a children's party, where she was contemptuously pointed out by a little boy as "the little girl that likes 'Magnall's Questions.'" Bridget's new interest in her lessons is far more remarkable. She would any way wish to go to school, because she is so exceedingly sociable, but I was greatly amazed as well as delighted when I found that, even after the first novelty had worn off, she was really interested in her lessons, and not only in her teachers and the other children. Even history, she now approves of. "We had a new kind of history to-day; it was about a little girl called 'Sharptooth,' and she lived in a tree"; or, "To-day, in the history lesson, I axshally told them a story myself."

"What was it about?"

"Well, the thing was, there were some people, a family of children, an' they lived in a house—at least, they called it a house; it was really a cave. And they lived there and lived there, but they didn't know how to make a fire. And it got colder and colder, and there came an East-bitter-wind, so they took all their things and went away to a warmer country. And there came a bear, and when he found the house was empty he brought all his things, and lived there and lived there, until . . ." I can't remember it all, but I think some people ultimately came who could make a fire, and "the poor bear did not like it." Bridget is evidently being taught "l'histoire inédite des temps pré-historiques." She knows nothing of dates and periods, and both they and the deductions from them will probably all be changed by the time she grows up; but, in the meantime, she has at least had her interest awakened in what happened to children and bears "long, long ago," and that surely is the beginning of the historic sense.

During the last few weeks the zest of life at school has been enormously increased, at any rate among the lower forms, by the division of all the girls into the supporters of Oxford and the supporters of Cambridge. The boat-race is, of course, the special object of this partisanship, but other Inter-Varsity events are watched with impassioned interest. I dared not confess that I did know who had won the hockey match. In Ellie's form feeling seems to run specially high. The form mistress (the same engaging young teacher who promoted the plays, and told about "Sharptooth") is far from discouraging it. When it began she at once saw the propriety of allowing the children to move their desks so that all "the Oxfords" and all "the Cambridges" might sit together. Though she has the misfortune to be a mere Cantabridgian herself, she gave "the Oxfords" a special notice board for their "Important Notices." They elect "Leaders" and hold "Parliaments," whose discussions are wrapped in a kind of Masonic mystery. Few of the form, I suppose, have seen a racing boat, let alone a boat-race; few have visited either Oxford or Cambridge. Some happy ones have fathers or mothers, or uncles or aunts, or elder brothers or sisters, who have been, or are being, educated at one of the ancient Universities. Others, less fortunate, cannot claim so direct a tie. They have had to be allotted to one or other 'Varsity, sometimes according to their desires, more often according to the shade of blue in which their parents have unthinkingly dressed them, or the initial letters of their names. Ellie had, however, a better reason to produce for her own partisanship. When a visitor asked her whether she was not "Oxford" just because I had been there, she said indignantly, "No, it is not *only* that! Oxford is BETTER than Cambridge, *really* BETTER! It has given Degrees to women!!"

To that retort there could be no reply in this house! Which of Oxford's daughters is not proud of her at this moment? Which of us is not glad to pass that pride on to another generation, and to think that these will have no difficulty founded on sex in becoming members of the Really Best University in the world!

MARGARET CLARE.

DRAMA.

"Love?" at the Playhouse.

This is one of that very large class of plays written to be acted by puppets rather than human beings. Each of the characters has one or more cries which it gives out in response to any given stimulus. The fun is caused by placing these puppets in a variety of different positions. There is a strong, silent puppet with a V.C., a heart of gold, and forty thousand a year. His only cries are to propose to the young lady, to say that he must be going, and, in moments of strong emotion, that he "feels funny." He is in love with a young lady of Kensington, a rather flippant puppet whose chief interests in life are dances and new dresses. The other puppets are an advanced young lady with horn-rimmed spectacles, who is devoted to progress and the equality of the sexes; a dashing young novelist, whose senses draw him to the dancing puppet, and his intellect to the one in spectacles, but whose heart appears to remain detached from either. He is the most lively of the puppets—one is not always sure what he will say or do. The comic characters are an uncle with a magnificent Lancashire accent and a French governess with a broken accent.

The question which agitates all these puppets and keeps them continually jumping about the stage is "Love?" To each it means something different, as might be guessed from their costumes and general deportment. To the V.C. it is a mute uneasiness in the Kensington young lady's presence, and a complete misery in her absence. To the young lady herself it is something connected with dances, kissing, and ordering young men about. To her cousin, the spectacled young lady, it is a lofty platonic friendship, nourished on conversation about progress, art, and the position of women. The novelist, in spite of the fact that he had written a book on the subject, was not quite clear about it himself. The Lancashire uncle was a confirmed bachelor, to whom love was a temptation of the devil only to be kept under by Sandow exercises. In the end, however, he succumbed to the French governess, caught in an elaborate trap of spring onions and gramophone records.

The plot in which the argument takes place is curiously uneven. The first act is very depressing. It gave the melancholy impression that the play was doomed. The last act unfortunately reinforced this impression. In it, the argument is brought to a close, and the couples are paired off. The comic uncle and the comic governess do it cheerfully and facetiously enough. The V.C. and the flippant young lady do it in the approved style in the garden, and are seen through the window by the people on the stage. But when it comes to the most important couple, the philosophic novelist and the high-souled young lady, something goes wrong. The young lady suddenly discovers that the senses as well as the intellect are important in love, and goes upstairs, as we knew she would, to put on a white silk dress and fluff out her hair. She comes down and is duly folded to the heart of the astonished and enraptured novelist. But, whether through the fault of the author, the actors, or the audience themselves, the whole thing became completely ridiculous, and the curtain went down on the extraordinary scene of the young couple locked in each other's arms, and the audience in fits of laughter.

It was a pity that the first and last acts were not better, because the middle had in it the making of a good play. It was a surprise, in the second act, to find oneself really laughing and settling down to an evening's amusement. The puppets came to life for the moment as really amusing human beings. The acting contributed a great deal to this. Mr. Ian Livesey, the Lancashire uncle, was very good during the whole evening, but for the greater part of the time the part was such that it was almost impossible not to caricature it. In the second act, the part had real humour and individuality, and Mr. Livesey made the most of it. Miss Mary Merrill also got her chance in the second act. She made a surprisingly real character out of what was for most of the evening a very conventional part. She really was the anæmic, highly-strung, intellectual young woman whom the author presumably had in his mind. Her scene with the Lancashire uncle, who scoffed at her theories about the advancement of women, was really excellent in its tension and restraint. It was hard for Miss Merrill that she was obliged to rant like a Suffragette in *Punch* for a great part of the time. But she did it so well that we could bear even that, and still hope that she would marry the right young man. Miss Dorothy Tetley had a much easier part as the flippant young lady, but was not nearly so successful. Her voice is thin and high pitched, her gestures restless and uneasy—even her clothes were not pretty. Mr. Frederick Worlock was an admirably strong and silent V.C., and Mr. Stanley a loquacious yet cynical young novelist. D. E.

REVIEWS.

NOVELS OF CHANGE.

Revolution. By J. D. Beresford. (Collins. 7s. 6d.)

Privilege. By Michael Sadleir. (Constable. 8s. 6d. net.)

Waking or sleeping, a good many members of the middle classes dream about revolution at the present time. Mr. Beresford has put his dream into a novel, and has given us a vivid picture, not of England in revolution, but of a small group of people in a small village in the Midlands while the British Revolution was going on. He was right, I think, to concentrate in this way. He is not a writer of epics—there are probably very few readers of epics about now—and an epic about events that have not yet happened would frighten away even those that there are. Rather than attempt such an impossible task, Mr. Beresford has returned to the manner of "The Goslings," an earlier work, which will be remembered by those who have read it partly on account of the singular manner in which the prophecy it contained about a world ruled by women was falsified during the war. This new prophecy is somehow more convincing than the old one was, even when it was first published, perhaps, because a revolution seems a more likely event now than a sudden world necessity for doing without the work of most of the young men seemed before 1914. And if it does come it is not unlikely that it will come in some such way as Mr. Beresford has pictured. A new leader of Labour opinion, extremist in his ends but moderate in his methods, a general strike, a frightened Government, the assassination of the revolutionary leader by a person unknown, the outbreak of more riotous methods, disorder, panic, economic collapse—all these things are far from impossible. Mr. Beresford has only sketched them in lightly so far as they concern the whole. His picture of events in the village of Fynemore is more detailed and seems to be drawn from what was described as happening in Russian villages during the Revolution and modified by the author's opinion of the English character. It is quite probable. Mr. Leaming, the hard-headed (but also rather muddle-headed) man of business; Andrews, the old farmer; Lord Fynemore, the disillusioned, tolerant, fundamentally unchangeable aristocrat; Oliver, the village scamp, are all characters that we know in ordinary life, and, in the given circumstances, they would probably behave very much in the manner here described. Perhaps, however, Mr. Beresford has followed the Russian parallel too closely in making the events at Fynemore happen in such an isolated manner. In Russia, country villages are cut off from each other by great tracts of country, railways are few, roads bad, during a great part of the year, weather conditions make communication almost impossible. They are used therefore to leading a separate life, and in the dislocation produced by revolution, it must have been easy for any one village to get cut off from all the rest. In modern England this could hardly happen, and the little group of people could scarcely have been thrown into the position of a shipwrecked crew. This reflection inevitably occurs to the reader and rather spoils the realism of the book. No doubt, however, the story would have been difficult to work out if things had not been made to happen in this way. It all centres round Paul Leaming, the visionary who saw through immediate events to their timeless meaning. The description, or rather the indication of his states of mind and of his vision, was the chief difficulty Mr. Beresford had to overcome, and I think he has done it successfully, though not with genius. The women in the book are its weakest part: Mr. Beresford has not contented himself with sketching more or less conventional characters (as in the case of the men), and, on the other hand, his suggestion of something different is not worked out. We are left wondering whether he shrank from trying to make Imogen and Angela's outlook clear, or whether he tried and failed, either because he did not know what he was trying to describe, or because he was too much afraid of spoiling the perspective of the book. Perhaps it was for this last reason, and perhaps he was right. If "Revolution" is neither an epic nor a work of genius it is at any rate a thoughtful and well written book.

Mr. Michael Sadleir describes social change from quite a different angle from that adopted by Mr. Beresford. He is what may be called a satirical psychologist. When he describes the downfall of an aristocracy he does so not by selecting certain types and picturing their behaviour in the midst of a social cataclysm, but by creating a set of individuals grouped indeed in a family and with a family psychology, but each with very special idiosyncrasies of his or her own. Michael Sadleir is that rare thing, an original novelist. This book is full of imagination, and though it is not attractive, is indeed rather repellent, I confess that I find it fascinating reading. The characters in it are not people that we know already. They are not normal and not agreeable, hardly more so, indeed, than the characters in "Wuthering Heights." It is probable that Emily Brontë's work has been an inspiration to Michael Sadleir as to several other writers of this generation, but "Privilege" is not an imitation. The aristocratic "Whern," with its pseudo-classical eccentricities and Regency traditions, set in dark, spreading woodlands, is quite unlike the rough grey farm house on the bare moor; the vices of the Bradens are not those of the Heathcliffs and Earnshaws: but if the horrible atmosphere produced by the conflict of individuals with a heritage of tainted nerves, brought into too close contact by family relations, may be called generically "wuthering," then we say that this book is full of "wuthering" and that the "wuthering" is very well done.

The contrast between "Privilege" and "Revolution" is interesting. Mr. Beresford's aristocrats are doomed because of their too passive acceptance of false, or partially false, ideas, their acquiescence in a convention which belongs to the past; Mr. Sadleir's are doomed because of their individual passions, passions to which they are ready prey, not because of false ideas but because of weakened nerves in a vitiated stock.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

London's Story. By Claud Mullins. (G. Bell & Sons, Ltd. 2s. 6d.)

This little book tells the story of London's Government and Administration. The author complains in the preface of the people who say "that London is so difficult to understand and that its government is in such a muddle that no ordinary person can ever hope to know much about it. That is not true," he continues. "London is quite simple, if people will only look at it in the right way."

But we fear that Mr. Mullins is an optimist, and that there is no way of looking at some London administrative methods that will ever make them anything but extremely complicated. For example:—In eighteen boroughs the rates are assessed by the Borough Council; in the remaining areas by the Boards of Guardians. A debtor living near the Elephant & Castle, is summoned to attend the County Court of Surrey, and yet "the whole of the County of London, outside the City, has been placed for the sake of convenience in the County of Middlesex for jury purposes." These facts are easy to understand, it is true, but they surely cannot be said to form part of a simple system.

Certainly, Mr. Mullins does his best, and by tracing the historical development of the various institutions unravels many complexities and explains away many anomalies. Perhaps the least satisfactory section is that dealing with the Guilds and Livery Companies. They are spoken of as "mysterious," but the account given of them, while purporting to explain, only intensifies the mystery. The difference between Merchant Guilds and Craft Guilds is alleged to be that the former belonged to "wealthy traders," and the latter to members of "the poorer commercial classes," and we are introduced to the City Companies by the words, "the Ancient City Guilds or Livery Companies, as they began to be called in the early fourteenth century." This is not very helpful. More illuminating are the chapters on such subjects as London's water supply, London's markets, and London's light, and a particularly interesting one on books about London.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

THE IRISH PROTESTANT POINT OF VIEW.

MADAM,—In "An Ulster Woman's" article under the above heading in your issue of March 18th, there are a number of statements which, as a southern Protestant, I do not feel justified in allowing to pass unchallenged.

The first is this:—"To begin with, the issue is not political so much as religious, as every Irish woman knows." As an Irish woman, I know nothing of the kind. I have mixed rather freely with both Catholics and Protestants in the south, and while I am no admirer of the Catholic Church, I have never seen any disposition on its part to interfere with Protestants. The issue is political, slightly complicated by religious prejudice among a certain section on each side, and as far as my experience goes, this prejudice is considerably stronger on the Protestant side than on the Catholic.

Protestants in the south are compelled to pay into Roman Catholic anti-Protestant funds, which they detest; because if they did not do so, their lives would be insupportable. Will "An Ulster Woman" substantiate this charge by giving the name of the fund, and instances of people who have been compelled to pay into it? I have never heard even the most bitter Protestants mention anything of the sort.

No Roman Catholic would vote for a Protestant candidate in an election, even if he respected him and knew he was the best candidate. From this it is evident that a Protestant has no chance either as a politician or as a citizen under a Roman Catholic majority.

This is nonsense. If a Protestant holds popular political views, he has as good a chance in most elections as a Catholic; even if he is a Unionist, if his private character commands respect, he is not treated with unfair discrimination. I have no statistics at hand, and will only mention facts of which I have personal knowledge. In Waterford, where there are not more than 4,000 Protestants in a population of 26,000, taking my own family alone, my brother and my two uncles—all Protestants and one a Unionist—have been elected to the Corporation by their Catholic fellow-citizens. It is not very many years since a Protestant Unionist was Mayor of Waterford, and I know of at least three other Protestant Unionists (two of them women) who are, or lately were, members of the same Corporation. I know a Protestant who, I believe, has been for years Chairman of the Urban Council of Carrick-on-Suir, on the borders of Waterford and Tipperary. I have been elected vice-president of a Sinn Fein club, of which I was the only Protestant member.

"An Ulster Woman" speaks vaguely of the fearful oaths taken by "the Sinn Fein party." No member of a Sinn Fein club need take any other oath beyond a simple declaration of loyalty to the Irish Republic; so I suppose she must refer to the Volunteers, or Irish Republican Army. I know nothing of their oaths, and if "An Ulster Woman" does, it would be interesting to know how she got her information, as they are at present, of necessity, a secret organisation.

"An Ulster Woman's" remarks on Ulster are not particularly relevant. She states that the Ulster Protestants pay about two-thirds of all Irish taxes. It may be so. In a book lately published, "Ireland and the Ulster Legend," statistical tables compiled by W. A. McKnight, we are told that the income tax assessment on land and on all classes of property in Ulster is less per head of the population in Ulster than in Leinster or Munster. She also says that the Ulster Protestants are "strictly moral." They are far less moral, in the usual sexual sense of the word, than the Catholics of other provinces. The percentage of illegitimate births in Ulster is, according to the above-mentioned book, 3.72 as against 0.70 in Connacht, and of these the vast majority occur in those counties of Ulster where Protestants most preponderate.

The Ulster question was not created by us. No; it was created by the English Government in the reign of James I., when, after crushing in the Nine Years' War the resistance of Ulster to British aggression, it carried out a scheme of land robbery on an enormous scale, driving the inhabitants out of all the best land in Ulster, and bringing in a colony of Scotch and English Protestants to become receivers of the stolen property. If Ireland had ever gained her freedom, the descendants of this colony would gradually have amalgamated with the rest of the country, but the British Government, having created the Ulster problem, perpetuated it by means of the system of Protestant ascendancy which it kept up throughout the 17th and 18th centuries and through part of the 19th as well.

The greater part of the compensation money was claimed before ever the much maligned "Black-and-Tans" appeared. "An Ulster Woman" must here refer to the compensation money claimed for burned police-barracks and murdered policemen. The Government is being condemned not for its action regarding these, but for putting the burden of compensation for murder and arson committed by the Crown forces on the Irish ratepayers—a course of action which really beggars comment.

The sentence describing Ireland as the spoiled child of the Empire and England as her mother would be amusing if one had not heard it so often before—at least it might have been amusing ten years ago. At present it shows an ignorance of, or an utter indifference to, the campaign of outrage, robbery, arson and murder, which the British Government is carrying on against the Irish people which, in an Irishwoman, is rather terrible than funny. But it is always ridiculous to speak of any nation as another's spoiled child. No nation can claim, except in a purely theoretical sense, to be more like a grown person or less like a child than any other nation, and no nation has a right to exercise authority over another as a parent must, within limits, exercise authority over a child. Lady Laura Ridding's letter in the same issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER may be answered by the enclosed extract from an article which appeared in "Old Ireland," on February 26th.

ROSAMOND JACOB.

(Extract from "Old Ireland," February 26th, 1921).

These facts must be repeated as to "who began it." In 1917, no police killed in Ireland. But, Irish houses raided; 250 men and women arrested; 24 political leaders banished out of their country without trial; meetings suppressed; men, women and children beaten; newspapers suppressed; savage

sentences for "seditious" speeches, &c.; 2 civilians murdered; 5 died in prison from ill-treatment. Not one of the Government criminals brought to justice. In 1918, no police killed in Ireland. But, 260 private houses raided by night, 1,100 Irish men and women arrested for their Irish politics; meetings suppressed; men, women and children wounded; many of the 1,100 political prisoners maltreated in prison, one died of the maltreatment; 5 civilians murdered by military; fairs and markets suppressed. No punishment or even reproach for the murderers.

The Irish in 1917-18 showed what a distinguished foreign visitor called "an almost criminal patience." They devoted themselves to preparing—by English form of law, under the English constitution—for the election of December, 1918, to show the English and the world, peacefully and "constitutionally," what they asked. They had their reward—in worse persecution. Therefore, in January, 1919, the first policeman, as persecutor and spy, was shot, and throughout 1919, sixteen policemen were shot, most of them in conflict with men less well-armed than they.

In 1919, 14,000 houses were raided by night by armed soldiers and police; 255 meetings suppressed. The elected government and every other national organisation was declared illegal; 478 armed attacks on orderly gatherings; 260 men, women and children wounded; 359 arrests for politics; 20 leaders deported; 25 papers suppressed; 8 civilians murdered.

In 1920, more arrests, deportations, raidings, lootings, and wrecking of houses. Sacking of towns and murders of civilians more frequent; mills, factories, tramways wrecked in an attempt to starve the people into submission to English rule in practice against English theory.

These were the answers to the municipal elections of 1920 repeating the "constitutional" demand of the Irish people for self-determination. In June, 1920, at the rural elections, 83 per cent. of the people declared for independence. Therefore, in the following three months, 74 towns were sacked and burned, and 43 innocent men murdered by police and military.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—The letter from Margaret Clare acknowledges the difficulty in which the middle-class mother is placed, due to the shortage of domestic workers who are willing to live in, and also the danger of what she calls "the slave owner attitude" of those who would drive women to live in the houses of others against their will.

Have you ever looked through the index of a book on industrial law, or any handbook on law, to see what you can find under the heading "domestic servant"? She generally enters into an Act of Parliament for the sake of being excluded from it. Because she is in a home, she is presumed to be safely cared for and not in need of protection.

Have you ever had the confidence of servants and heard in detail the experience of their young days, before they settled into situations which suited them? Domestic servants have nothing to take the place of the factory inspector.

Most middle-class women require and deserve domestic help, but there are households which do not, and it is these households which give service a bad name and hinder others in obtaining domestic workers willing to live in. As servants do not stay long in them, they become known to a large number of servants and influence the situation quite out of proportion to their number.

I am not suggesting that we should have inspectors visiting our homes, but I am suggesting that some method should be devised for strengthening the position of the woman who finds herself working under the roof of a master and mistress. A good deal of experience has been gained by the work of the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants, and by Orphanages who place girls in situations and safeguard their interests. Unsuitable homes become known to these societies and can be avoided by the girls they serve.

HELEN G. KLAASSEN.

UNION DEBATING SOCIETY.

The abysmal ignorance of a number of barristers and law students of modern conditions and the laws relating to industry, was revealed at the annual "ladies' night" of the Union Debating Society of London, when Mrs. Abbott, of the Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C., opened a debate on Equal Pay for Equal Work and Equal Opportunity for Women.

The Union Society, established in 1835, does not admit women members, and does not otherwise seem to have progressed very much. It was rather sad to hear the arguments of the opposer, Mr. Archibald Safford, supported by so many educated and presumably enlightened men, whose archaic views, nevertheless, only served to show their ignorance of modern life.

One of them even laid it down that there existed no Act of Parliament to prevent employers from giving women equal pay and opportunity! That a member of a Middle Temple Debating Society should forget the Pre-War Practices Act and the restrictions of the Trade Boards was, to say the least of it, ludicrous.

The opposer also said that jury service was most unsuitable for women and not one of them wanted it. This sweeping assertion was challenged by Miss Stella Wolfe Murray, who pointed out that women were attending classes on jury service throughout the country, and that five hundred had been notified of a mock murder trial in London that week.

Even the few lawyers who spoke in support of the motion were a little behind the times. They agreed that equal pay would prevent blackleg competition, but they denied the married woman's right to work. They thought the home, with its domestic duties, was every woman's sphere, and forgot the widows who must toil to keep that home together, or the two million so-called "surplus" celibates who have no home or children at all. On eugenic grounds they laid it down that women should take no part in industry, and did not seem able to grasp that they were already there, although in her opening speech, Mrs. Abbott had given some illuminating statistics. In her reply, however, she made mincemeat of these arguments, and the motion, voted for by nearly all the women present, and a number of men, was carried by a fair majority.

Owing to pressure on our space several letters have been held over.—(Ed. "W.L.")

COMING EVENTS.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

- APRIL 1, 2 & 3. At Highcliffe Parish Room. Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq. Evening.
APRIL 4. At Hampstead Public Library. Speaker: Sir George Paish. 8 p.m.
APRIL 5. At Derby County Branch Education Conference. Speaker: Prof. Gilbert Murray.
APRIL 6. At Stoke Newington, Abbey Congregational Church. Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. 8 p.m.
APRIL 7. At Garden Suburb Free Church. Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. 8 p.m.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY AND NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

An English-Speaking Conference on Infant Welfare, will be held at the Kingsway Hall, from July 5th—July 7th, and from 2.30—4.30. The main subjects under discussion will be (1) Residential provision for mothers and babies; (2) Inheritance and environment as factors in racial health; (3) The supply of milk; its physiological and economic aspects.

JOURNALISM.

The Louise Heigers Correspondence College for Journalism and Fiction Writing is the first institution of its kind having a woman Principal to direct the course of studies. Louise Heigers qualified in journalism as the writer of articles and stories. Later she became Editress of various important periodicals. She is the author of some of the most successful novels and volumes of short stories of the day.

It was at first feared that an institution with a woman at its head would fail to attract male aspirants to success in journalism and literature. This has proved to be a false view. The College numbers among its students men from all grades of society. Clergymen, doctors, lawyers of the two branches of the profession, officers of the Army and Navy, are included among its students, as well as aspiring men of what is known as the "Labour" class. The aim of the College is to turn every student of the Course into a successful writer for the Press and Magazines.

More than any other profession, journalism and fiction writing offer especial scope for the employment of woman's talent. While law, science, medicine, classics, are all open to women as a career it is quite evident that only exceptionally gifted women can hope to make a success in these branches. On the other hand, once the art of writing and the technique of fiction are acquired by women, they, even more than men, are by nature adapted for success. When, for instance the fiction market is taken into consideration, it must be clear that from the very nature of things, the subtlety of a woman's nature and her emotionalism, which, although sometimes exaggerated, is, too, a fact of nature, render her peculiarly adapted for success in this profession.

The experience of those directing the College has been that, although there are large numbers of women who are attempting to make a living from writing, very few succeed, owing to a want of logical treatment of their subject in the daily and weekly Press, and through want of knowledge of technique in the construction of fiction. The great value of the Courses given by the College finds strange testimony in the fact that it has many women students whose names are well known both in the literary and in the magazine world but whose successes have hitherto been of a spasmodic nature, and who desire, in order to make a steady income, to acquire a knowledge of technique which will ensure an income upon which they can count regularly from week to week.

The methods of instruction employed by the Louise Heigers Correspondence College have been highly commended, but the best testimony to their value comes from students themselves. The Courses are not merely sets of lessons; they include careful and elaborate criticism of the students' work. Everything is done, in short, to secure the success of students in the career they have chosen.

An interesting outcome of the Louise Heigers College is a monthly magazine, "The Writer," which is proving to be of great help to aspiring authors and journalists. It is a magazine devoted entirely to the art of writing, and every month are to be found articles on such subjects as "Style," "Writing Film Plays," "Short Story Writing." (Advt.)

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Mrs. Hubback.

General Secretary: Miss Stack.

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

Telegraphic Address: Voiceless, Westcent, London.

Telephone: Museum 6910.

OBJECTS

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

SPRING AND SUMMER PLANS OF ORGANISATION.

The next few months should show much activity at Headquarters and all over the country. New developments will be discussed at the first meeting of the Executive after the Council which takes place on April 14th, and with a Headquarters' staff reorganised to fit the new conditions, and rather less harassed by shortage of funds, a strenuous and fruitful period of work is anticipated. Our first duty during the remainder of the year is to strengthen our weaker societies. Already a beginning has been made in the right direction. Two Hon. Secretaries have been found to organise groups on the proposed new lines at Liverpool and Malvern, and we hope, before the next Council meeting to see all societies linked together in groups or local councils.

SUMMER SCHOOL.—Variety is the very spice of societies as of life and we propose to make virtue of necessity by abandoning the idea of a Central Summer School this year, and by encouraging local week-end schools, which will reach a far larger number. It is also intended to act on an excellent suggestion made by a delegate at the Officers' Conference, that quarterly conferences of officers and members should be held in London or elsewhere. It is probable that the first of these will take place in or near London in July.

PARLIAMENTARY WORK.—The next monthly letter to be issued as soon as possible after the meeting of the Executive Committee, will suggest action to be taken with regard to each reform on our immediate Programme. Several of these have now reached a critical stage when success seems likely to depend on the amount of pressure that can be brought to bear from the constituencies.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PILGRIMAGE.—A special circular with regard to this will shortly be issued. It will be remembered that a resolution urging societies to do all in their power to promote the success of the pilgrimage was carried at the Council with much enthusiasm. The idea of a pilgrimage sprang from the remarkable pilgrimage organised by the N.U.W.S.S. before the war, and the League of Nations Union is looking to the N.U.S.E.C. for help in organising this great

undertaking with the same skill and effectiveness which characterised Suffrage demonstrations of the past. The League of Nations is on our immediate Programme, and this scheme will give our societies a fresh opportunity of showing that their members can look beyond the parish pump to worlds beyond the seas.

PERSONAL

We print the following extracts from letters received from our new Vice-Presidents:—

DEAR MISS MACADAM,—Your kind note of 16th inst. came to me as a surprise with its news of my having been elected as a Vice-President of our N.U.S.E.C. I take it that this is intended as a kindly mark of appreciation of work done in the past and does not imply the taking on of new or heavy responsibilities in the future. It is my wish now to retire to a great extent from public work, so that my last stages of life may be one of quiet observation of the work of the generation for whose benefit we were content to devote ourselves to the obtaining of the Parliamentary Franchise. If this be so, and if acceptance of the proffered honour implies no hard and fast adhesion to every article of faith in the Programme of the N.U., I will gladly accept the compliment so graciously offered by the Council.—Yours sincerely,

S. E. S. MAIR.

5, Chester Street,
Edinburgh,
18th March, 1921.

DEAR MISS MACADAM,—... Will you please convey to your Council my warm appreciation of this honour, which I have much pleasure in accepting? The excellent and much needed work that the National Union so quietly and persistently carries on, in spite of many difficulties, has always won my sincerest admiration, and I wish it all the success it so richly deserves!—I am, yours sincerely,

EMMA C. BEILBY.

The Langham Hotel, W.,
March 20th, 1921.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

DURHAM SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.—At the recent annual meeting of this Society, a large attendance of members were present. An interesting record of a year's active work was presented by Mrs. Potts, the Hon. Secretary, and the President, Miss Christopher, gave a survey of the aims and methods of the Society. Mr. N. O. Parry gave an instructive address on the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of woman jurors.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT SOCIETY EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.—After careful consideration it has been decided to dissolve this Society and to reconstruct it on broader lines, giving special attention to matters of local interest. It will still be affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. A final meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, March 19th, at the High School for Girls. Mrs. Lewis, of Greenmeadow, who has been President of the Society from its foundation in 1908, reviewed the work done and congratulated the Society on the attainment of its chief aim—the Parliamentary vote. After tea a beaten silver bowl was presented to Mrs. Lewis, on behalf of the Society, by Mrs. D. E. Jones, and short addresses were given by Miss Collin, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. Charles Morgan, Mrs. Price Williams, and Mrs. James Robinson.

The Society will be known in future as the Cardiff and District Women Citizens' Association, and the office will still be at 17, Quay Street.

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