

**BRINGING AMERICA INTO THE LEAGUE.**

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

AND  
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**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Marriage and Nationality.**

It is a tribute to the growing interest in the subject that in the discussion of the International Law Association on 11th October on "Nationality and Naturalization," the greater portion of the time was devoted to the effect of marriage on Nationality. Mr. E. V. Schuster, in a most able address, advocated that a woman should be able to choose whether she should change or retain her nationality on marriage. A resolution was passed that the following questions be considered by the Nationality Committee for report to next year's Conference at Stockholm :

(1) Whether the opportunities for conflicts giving rise to cases of double nationality and statelessness and to other undesirable consequences would be increased by changes in the law having for their object the prevention of the automatic change of the nationality of a woman, being a citizen of one State, by her marriage with a citizen of another State ?

(2) Whether any, and if any, what, means can be suggested for the avoidance of any such conflicts ?

(3) By what methods a change in the law as to the effect of marriage on nationality could be most conveniently carried out ? We are glad to note that the Imperial Conference has decided to remit this question, with certain other nationality questions, to a committee for discussion.

**The Suffrage in Japan.**

Japan is about to embark upon a Suffrage crisis. The Home Minister and the Minister of Posts are collaborating in the drafting of a Suffrage Bill whose object is to confer votes upon all males over twenty-five years of age, on a six months' residential qualification, without respect to taxation. The Cabinet has not yet decided to support the Bill, well knowing that it will meet with unbending opposition from the most powerful party in the Diet when that body meets next month. Meanwhile, however, one of its principal authors, the Minister of Posts, declares that he will resign from the Ministry if official support is not forthcoming. It is regrettable that, in making so vigorous a stand for the principle of representative government, the authors of this bold and sweeping measure should have failed to grasp the whole of their philosophy. An Adult Suffrage Bill would have been worth fighting for.

**The Matrimonial Causes Act in Practice.**

The Michaelmas term at the Law Courts will open on Friday, and for the first time we shall have an opportunity of observing the practical effects of last Session's divorce legislation. Will the establishment of an "equal moral standard" in our divorce laws involve an actual increase in divorce petitions, or will it simply result in the disappearance of the artificial "restitution suit" with its pretence of desertion? The term list in the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division contains 815 probate actions and matrimonial causes, as compared with 888 last Michaelmas. But until we know more about the nature of the latter our question cannot be answered. Nevertheless our own belief is that the recent change in the law will be of greater importance in its indirect effects on public opinion than in its direct effects upon the number of persons actually seeking divorce.

**Teachers' Pensions.**

The Committee appointed under the menace of the "Geddes axe" to enquire into the superannuation of teachers with a view to placing it upon a sound financial basis, issued its report on October 5. Its outstanding feature is the recommendation that the teachers themselves shall continue to pay the 5 per cent. levy towards their own superannuation, which they have been paying pending the enquiry. The Committee point out, however, that on its present basis the amount of the levy falls far short of the actuarial value of the superannuation rights. As regards women teachers, it is stated that since "women teachers are relatively better paid than women Civil Servants, and their salaries reach a high proportion of those paid to men teachers", there is "less need for any sex differentiation in the rate of pension."

**A Woman Mayor.**

Mrs. Buchanan Alderton, J.P., who stood for Parliament as Liberal Candidate for South Edinburgh, has been asked to be Mayor of the Borough of Colchester for the coming year. We are glad to hear that Mrs. Alderton has accepted the office, and we congratulate her very warmly on the honour which has been conferred on her.



**Repeal of the Solicitation Laws.**

The eight report of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has been published, and contains an interesting account of the valuable work carried on by the Association during the year. In addition the draft is given of a Bill for the Repeal of the Solicitation Laws as a basis for discussion and criticism. "It has," the Report states, "been drawn up by Mr. G. W. Johnson, C.M.G., who has devoted a great deal of time and thought to the matter. The objects of the draft Bill are to repeal the special sections only applicable to alleged 'common prostitutes,' to substitute for them a section making it an offence for any person to annoy or molest any person, and to provide in all cases that conviction shall only follow on the evidence of the annoyed or molested person." We note that the A. S. & M. H. is asking for the support of Women's Organizations in a campaign in favour of a Bill on these lines. It is to be hoped that the Bill will be ready in its finished form for introduction during the next Parliamentary Session.

**Christian Politics, Economics and Citizenship.**

A great meeting is to be held in the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday, 25th October, at 8 p.m., with the Archbishop of York in the chair, to prepare for the Conference to be held in 1924 on Christian Politics, Economics, and Citizenship. The speakers at the Albert Hall meeting include the Bishop of Manchester, the Rev. Father A. F. Day, S.J., the Rev. Sidney Berry, and Miss Lena Ashwell. The aim of the meeting is to emphasize the need for spiritual preparation for the Conference, and all who are hoping for a more truly Christian order of human society are invited to attend. Full particulars may be had from the Secretary, 92 St. George's Square, S.W. 1.

**A New Form of Vocational Training.**

The L.C.C. is trying an interesting experiment in vocational training at its Voluntary Day Continuation School at Brook Green, Hammersmith. A group of girls between 15 and 17 years of age are being given a six or twelve months' course of training as waitresses, and there is a shorter and more intensive course for older girls. The experiment has only been in operation for a few weeks, but already, according to the Chief L.C.C.

Inspector, several catering firms are anxious to secure girls so trained. Their work, which requires an attendance of fifteen hours weekly, includes table-laying, dishing up, mental arithmetic, and the balancing of trays and baskets. We shall follow the result of this experiment with interest; for the present we welcome it as a step in the right direction of widened opportunity for the training of girls for specialized occupations.

**Motherhood as a Craft.**

On Saturday the Minister of Health will open the first of the four Model Welfare Centres for the education of mothers which are being erected with the help of grants from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. The building, whose construction and equipment has cost something in the neighbourhood of £25,000, is situated in one of the most densely populated districts of Birmingham, and it will be formally presented to the City by Lord Elgin, speaking on behalf of the trustees.

**Crosby Hall Endowment Fund.**

A series of interesting lectures is to be held this autumn at Crosby Hall, Chelsea. The lectures have been arranged by the London Association of the British Federation of University Women as part of its effort to raise £1,000 in aid of the Federation's scheme to acquire Crosby Hall and found an international hall of residence and clubhouse for post-graduate women.

The programme of lectures is:—

Friday, Oct. 19, 8.30 p.m.	"The Nuns of St. Helens," by Miss Eileen Power, M.A., D.Lit.
"Nov. 2 "	"Atmosphere in Fiction," by Mr. Walter De La Mare.
"Nov. 16 "	"Saint Joan of Arc," by Mr. G. Bernard Shaw.
"Nov. 30 "	"Ye Cryes of London in the time of Shakespeare," by Sir Frederick Bridge, C.V.O., Mus.Doc., and a small chorus.

Tickets for the whole Course: Reserved seats £1 1s., unreserved 15s. (not sold singly), may be obtained from Miss C. Jamison, 14, Cecil Court, Hollywood Road, S.W.10, and Miss D. L. Adler, 35, Clevedon Mansions, Highgate Road, N.W. 5.

**LEVIATHAN.**

Last week the journalistic world was disturbed (but not surprised—for such things do happen from time to time) by the report that four daily and two Sunday papers had changed hands at one fell swoop. It was rumoured, and later definitely asserted, that the group of papers (including the *Evening Standard*, the *Daily Sketch* and the *Sunday Pictorial*) hitherto controlled by Hulton, of Manchester, had been, or were about to be, acquired by the group hitherto controlled by Lord Rothermere, and worked in association with those controlled by Lord Beaverbrook. Doubtless, most of our readers immediately visualized the implications of this financial deal. It means a widened sphere of influence for the largest united section of the British Press, whose leading representative is that immensely popular contemporary of ours, the *Daily Mail*. The outlook of the *Daily Mail* will in future be reflected over a wider area, and its anonymous voice will alternately blare and whisper into the ears of a few hundred thousand more unthinking British subjects.

Frankly, we cannot help regarding this latest development in the newspaper world as regrettable. It is regrettable both in general and in particular. It is bad that the outlook of one single man, or one small group of men, whatever their views, should dominate the popular Press of a nation. It is especially bad when such a position of dominance is purchasable with money. It is true that to a large extent a newspaper's position is determined by its power to produce "what the public wants." But the public wants many things in many forms—nor does it always know what it wants or what is to be had. And the thought that its wants are to be supplied or not supplied under the direction of one man is offensive to our democratic instincts. The trustification of the Press is so recent a thing that its results have hardly shown themselves; nevertheless, we believe that it is a dangerous thing, even for a nation that is neither easily regimented nor easily inflamed—and that to say the least, it is not conducive to the formation of a responsive and responsible public opinion.

So much for our general regrets. Our particular regrets are occasioned by the fact that the *Daily Mail* outlook, which will no doubt colour the outlook of the new group, is fundamentally opposed to our own. We stand for the further extension of the franchise to women, and more generally, for the full development of women as responsible and equal citizens of a democratic state. Implicit in our policy is our belief in ordered representative government under parliamentary institutions. The tendency manifested by one European country after another for parliamentary government to go down before some form of violent dictatorship either from the extreme right or from the extreme left, appears to us deplorable. Those of our contemporaries who reflect the *Daily Mail* outlook do not, however, regard it as deplorable. Provided the violent dictatorship comes from the extreme right, they appear to regard it as on the whole desirable. Equally clearly do we differ from our syndicated contemporaries in our attitude to the League of Nations. We see the League, at the present time, as the prime instrument of international salvation. We wish it power and ever-increasing prestige. We care more for its welfare than for any single people's supposed "national honour." We glory in its successes and we mourn over its failures. We even go so far as to believe in its future, great as is the effort of faith required by such belief. And we cannot fail to observe with disgust that during recent months every defiance which has been hurled at the League from whatever quarter, has received the active or tacit support of the Rothermere Press. That is why we deplore, in particular, this further accretion of its influence which the past week has disclosed.

However, let us not be altogether churlish. Though our sex precludes us from "taking off our hats" to the *Daily Mail* confraternity and its distinguished chief, we must acknowledge that they have won a position of almost super-human eminence. Indeed, they appear to have secured power over "all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time." And we do not suggest that they have attained that position without giving good value.

**BRINGING AMERICA INTO THE LEAGUE.**

The American Movement for the Outlawry of War has sent several energetic exponents into Europe this summer, and those who have listened to their oratory and read their publications have been led to think that perhaps this movement in America, if it could be met by a converging movement in Europe, might lead to the eventual establishment of an all-inclusive League of Nations.

All those who earnestly desire the establishment of international co-operation through the medium of the League know that the prolonged abstention of the United States, Germany, and Russia is one of the most serious obstacles to that co-operation. It is my opinion that there is one obstacle even more serious, and that is the introduction into the Covenant of the League of provisions for the use of armed force and blockade (see Article 16), and it seems likely that this Article has been one of the chief causes for the continued abstention of America. It is true that the Article enjoining unanimity before any decision to use force could be arrived at (Article 5) would probably always render Article 16 inoperative and it is to be hoped that the recent crisis between the League and Italy may bring home to members of the League not only the futility of these provisions (because they can never be carried out according to the intention of the Covenant), but also their danger, in that they tempt foolish newspapers and blustering persons to trouble with threats the atmosphere of negotiation and concession. But when the Covenant was made, a great many people thought that without "Sanctions" the League could do nothing, and it was perhaps necessary to let Article 16 stand for a while, if only to let those people see that it had become dead and might, by infecting the atmosphere, even endanger the good work of the League. Most people want to "make peace" with a thick stick, and will have to learn by experience that it can't be done.

American supporters of the League idea in the later years of the war were no wiser than we, and went so far even as to name the League they contemplated "The League to enforce Peace." But the tragic events in Europe since the end of the "war to end war" have been potent educators, and it is precisely the movement for international co-operation which has now, in America, turned entirely away from the idea of enforcing peace. Senator Borah's resolution for the outlawry of war which he submitted to the Senate last February contains the following arguments: "Whereas all alliances, leagues, or plans which rely upon force as the ultimate power for the enforcement of peace carry the seeds either of their own destruction or of military dominancy to the utter subversion of liberty and justice; and whereas we must recognize the fact that resolutions or treaties outlawing certain methods of killing will not be effective so long as war itself remains lawful; and that in international relations we must have, not rules and regulations of war, but organic laws against war; and whereas in our Constitutional Convention of 1787 it was successfully contended by Madison and Hamilton that the use of force when applied to people collectively, that is, to states or nations, was unsound in principle and would be tantamount to a declaration of war; and whereas we have in our Federal Supreme Court a practical and effective model for a real international court, as it has specific jurisdiction to hear and decide controversies between our sovereign States; and whereas our Supreme Court has exercised this jurisdiction, without resort to force for one hundred and thirty-five years, during which time scores of controversies have been judicially and peacefully settled that might otherwise have led to war between the States and thus furnishes a practical exemplar for the compulsory and pacific settlement of international controversies; and whereas an international arrangement of such judicial character would not shackle the independence or impair the sovereignty of any nation. . . ."

I have put certain words in italics to emphasize how utterly this section of American thought—the one which is making rapid approaches to the League idea—is repudiating the notion that force can be profitably applied to "people collectively." Judge then how this most hopeful section of American thought will be alienated by the discussions now taking place in the Third Committee of the Assembly as to the merits of Draft Treaties of Assistance, which not only recognize war but propose elaborate provisions for the waging of war by members of the League under the auspices of the Council!

This question of force, involving as it does sovereignty in its most potent aspect, is undoubtedly the most important in the minds of Americans desiring a world organ of co-operation.

But there are other matters to which it would be well for us to give attention if we wish to persuade America into an amended League. Some of these have to do not with the Covenant, but with the use the great Powers have made of the League in Silesia, in the Saar, in sanctifying crude annexations under the name of mandates. Some relate to the continued complacency of some of the great Powers towards notorious Covenant-breakers. America is shocked because, after Poland had been solemnly lectured by the Council on the subject of her seizure of Vilna, and after her continued defiance of the League in remaining there, she was not only allowed to continue a member of the League, but loans and military help were lavished upon her by another member of the League. American opinion is puzzled by the part played by Great Britain in the last Greco-Turkish war.

We know, of course, that such things are likely to happen for some time to come; that the idea of a genuine internationalism is still in germ; that infinite patience and a dogged obstinacy not to be discouraged are essential. But we must not forget that America is a whole ocean away; that she sees us in a horrid mess and not unnaturally wants to keep out of it. Are we so sure that we would not keep out of Europe if we could?

Lastly, there is the provision (in Article 1) that the original members shall consist of the signatories named in the Annex and certain other invited States. Among the first, with one vote each in the Assembly, are the United States, the British Empire, Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and India. To these has been recently added Ireland. Seven votes in the Assembly for the nations in the British Empire and only one vote for every other sovereign State in the world! Of course, a perfectly sound legal reason can be given for this arrangement, but that doesn't make it a good arrangement for international purposes. It gives not only to America but to other countries an excuse for saying that the Britisher wants to paint the League as he has painted the map, red. No matter how pure and democratic we feel our motives to be, we must, if we are good internationalists, try to disarm this suspicion. H. M. SWANWICK.

**CONFERENCE ON WOMEN POLICE, 4th October, 1923.**

A Conference was called by the National Council of Women at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on 4th October, to discuss the present position with regard to Women Police. Mrs. George Morgan, Acting Vice-President, was in the chair, and the speakers were Miss Tancred, Mrs. Wilson Potter, Mr. F. Briant, M.P., and the Rev. W. Rodwell, from Liverpool. Lady Astor was on the platform, and said a few words at the end of the Conference. The following resolutions were carried:—

*Women Police in the Provinces.*—That this Conference calls upon the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland to carry out the recommendations of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, 1920, by advising police authorities in England and Scotland with regard to: standardizing the conditions of service of policewomen (para. 53, 54, 55, 58, 74), attestation of policewomen (para. 36) with power of arrest; and further, seeing that the Treasury contribution depends upon the condition "that the police service is fully and properly administered" (H.O. Circular 355,094/22 of 28.ix.18) and that the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties found there was "urgent need" for the employment of policewomen in large centres of population, this Conference urges the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland to make regulations that policewomen be appointed on the strength of all police forces of and above 100 members in a proportion to be decided by H.M. Inspector of Constabulary in consultation with local Police Authorities, and that where there are more than two they should be selected and supervised by women.

*Metropolitan Police Force.*—This Conference views with alarm the present conditions under which the 20 women constables retained in the Metropolitan Police Force are working.

The Conference respectfully refers the Home Secretary to the Report of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties (1920), specially directing his attention to the fundamental principle that women police should be selected and supervised by women officers, and urges him to review the situation at the earliest possible moment.



WHAT I REMEMBER.<sup>1</sup> V.

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

Other friends came to live in Aldeburgh in the sixties: Mr. and Mrs. Percy Metcalf. He came from the Tyne, and was a ship-builder by profession: he built some ships at Snape for my father, and made great friends with Sawyer, the head carpenter, and Felgate, the shipwright, who were already in my father's service. But what made all the difference to the rest of our lives was his passion for music. It was he who introduced us to the great world of music, Bach, Mozart, and Handel. He was less enthusiastic about Beethoven; and Wagner, I think, he had never heard of. Mozart was the god of his idolatry, and Spöhr. I can hear now my sister Agnes singing Spöhr's "Who calls the Hunter from the Wood?" with the piano accompaniment in his wife's rather inadequate hands, Mr. Metcalf playing the horn obligato, taking the horn from his lips from time to time to say to his wife quite good naturedly, "What a fool you are, my dear." He opened a new world of music to us, and gave us a perennial spring of consolation, hope, and endurance which has never failed us. The local concerts at Aldeburgh became quite a different thing after the arrival of the Metcalfs: he would sing songs out of Figaro and Don Giovanni in a way that made the audience hardly know whether they were standing on their head or their heels; and even Mrs. James, usually so reserved, would say it reminded her "of her naughty days," when she used to go to the Opera. After one of his Don Giovanni's songs there was a great roar of applause, and he flung himself back on his seat and exclaimed *sotto voce*, "I thought the fools would like it."

In after years, my sister Agnes's friendship with Sir Hubert Parry and Lady Maud Parry gave us another great musical friend, and when we had our big meeting of rejoicing over our Suffrage victory in 1918 it was Sir Hubert who volunteered to be the conductor of our music, and Sir Hugh Allen who most nobly travelled through the night to Oxford for the rehearsals of the orchestra. He would say to his orchestra: "No doubt you are all Suffragists and will play your best for the love of Suffrage; but if there is anyone here who is not a Suffragist he will play his best for the love of me."

Years and years before our victory, the late Mrs. Arthur Lyttleton and I used to discuss the programme of the music we would have to celebrate our victory. We thought we must certainly have the last part of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with the great burst of triumph at the end, and without doubt the great Leonora overture to Fidelio where the horns sound, which bring the news of freedom. We could not have the Fifth Symphony except in our hearts, but we did have the Leonora overture, and felt it expressed exactly what we felt.

## MY FATHER AND MOTHER.

What I have written already may, I hope, give some indication of my father's personality. I cannot pretend to write with any detachment either of him or of my mother. My father was a handsome man, of the straight-featured Scandinavian type. In appearance he was not unlike Garibaldi: but the portrait of Walt Whitman at the beginning of *Specimen Days* is so exactly like him that it might have passed, even among his nearest relations, for a portrait of himself. I have tested this by showing it to nieces and cousins and, covering the name, have asked, "Who is this?": they have answered at once, "Uncle Newson." We had been told by Mrs. Barham (an older contemporary of my father's) that he was the most beautiful child she had ever seen: fair-haired, of a bright complexion, "ruddy and withal of a beautiful countenance and goodly to look upon," like David. He was a great contrast in this respect to his sister and two brothers, who were dark even to the point of swarthy. His temperament was sanguine, generous, daring, impulsive and impatient, and I am afraid I must add quarrelsome. There were very few in our little circle at Aldeburgh with whom from time to time he did not quarrel desperately. He quarrelled badly with his elder brother, Richard, of Leiston. Sometimes he quarrelled so fiercely with our clergyman, Mr. Dowler, that going to Church on Sunday became a positive scandal; then we were all marched off to the little Dissenting chapel in the High Street, and it

entertained us very much to see with what deference we, even the little children of our party, were greeted by the usual habitués of the place. Once about the time of the birth of my dearest brother, Sam, the war between my father and the Vicarage waxed so hot that he swore that Mr. Dowler should not christen the new baby: Sam was therefore taken, suitably escorted, to be christened at Snape Church, a beautiful little 15th century building with a font much more ancient.<sup>2</sup>

My father had built up a considerable malting business at Snape: it was conveniently situated on the Alde, so that malt and other things could be shipped thence: and when railways became a practical proposition in our part of Suffolk my father exerted himself successfully to get a branch line, for goods only, extended to Snape. The junction is between Wickham Market and Saxmundham, and it is one of my joys to this day to look out of the railway carriage window at this point and see the masts of ships rising up apparently out of the trees and meadows of rural Suffolk.

Snape Bridge is of importance strategically, as we found out during the war, for it is the main place where heavy-wheeled traffic can cross the Alde. A party of spies were held up there by my brother George in 1917: they had begun to find their position, on the narrow strip of land twelve miles long between the river and the sea, unpleasantly lively, and my brother was warned that they were attempting to escape by motor and was asked to stop them at Snape Bridge, and this he accomplished by the simple device of stretching a ship's cable across the road. Notwithstanding their vehement protests, he took a parcel of papers from them before allowing them to proceed.

For many years, from the fifties and sixties of the last century, our family migrated from Aldeburgh to Snape during the winter months. My father's main business was then at Snape. This was constantly growing, while his business in Aldeburgh, since the arrival of the railway, was as constantly diminishing. My father adapted himself with characteristic energy to the new situation. There was no house at Snape where we could live, so he at once built one, in the bungalow style: a one-storied house which could be extended at discretion. Its advantage from the business point of view was obvious, and, as its position shortened my father's driving journeys to nearly all the markets at which he bought barley, it considerably lessened the fatigue and wear and tear of his life. Malting can only be carried on in the cool months of the year: it generally stops in May and is resumed in October or November. For many years, therefore, Snape was our winter, and Aldeburgh our summer, home. Often and often I remember my father returning from his more distant markets, having driven himself in an open dog-cart, his hair and beard fringed with icicles. He was fond of horses, and rode himself almost daily until nearly the end of his life. He taught us all to ride, and mounted us on Shetland ponies as soon as we were old enough to sit on a saddle. It was a great pride to him to take out a cavalcade. He was a fearless driver, and it was quite an interesting adventure driving with him. "Would you like to see the new house that So-and-So is building over there?" he would say, pointing with his whip across the Common. Of course we did like, and then we drove straight over the Common where there was no road and where the vehicle was often very much out of the perpendicular. He met naturally with many accidents, but none of a serious kind: his horse would arrive home sometimes without the trap, and then a search party would set out, usually meeting my father before long laughing at his misadventure.

It was one of our family jokes that he kept up this habit of upsetting himself even when age and infirmity had reduced him to a bathchair: it was a bathchair with a pony to draw it, and he even managed to upset himself in this, and was found laughing to himself, the pony standing close by perfectly quiet, my father still encased in his wrappings, chair and all, like a hermit crab in its shell.

<sup>2</sup> There is a tale hanging to this which I feel I must not leave out. Some thirty years later my brother was walking with his eldest boy in the neighbourhood of Snape Church, and, pointing to it, said "Father was christened in that church, Douglas." Whereupon the child replied "What a *menjously* old church it must be!"

<sup>1</sup> This article is the fifth of a series which will extend over several months.

## "FROM NATIONAL TO INTERNATIONAL FACTORY INSPECTION."

The fifth session of the International Labour Conference is to be held in Geneva towards the end of October. Although it will only last one week, since the big Conference is to take place in June, 1924, it is of peculiar historical importance and should bear results of world-wide value. The subject chosen for discussion is "The General Principles for the Organization of Factory Inspection," and one glance over the past century of our own industrial legislation alone will show the great strides that have been made in the interests of the welfare of the workers, and especially of women and children.

In 1802 our first Factory Act was passed, by which no apprentice in a cotton or woollen factory might work at night or for more than 12 hours a day. This Act affected only a few of all the industrial labourers, and there were then no inspectors to enforce it. The year 1833 marked the beginning of the enforcement of factory legislation, and social reformers were able to triumph in the appointment of four paid factory inspectors. From that time onwards working conditions, at the cost of many hard-fought battles, gradually improved.

In Europe there had been movements of a similar nature, and 1866 saw the foundation of the Working Men's International Association, and in 1900 the International Association for Labour Legislation was established. To-day, the League of Nations, through its International Labour Organization, is asking its Members—eastern and western States—to consider the question of the general principles of factory inspection. What is the meaning of this? It means that public opinion is realizing that industrial welfare is no longer merely a national question, that inhumane conditions of labour in the East are no more to be tolerated than they are in Birmingham. Moreover, the ideal put forward in Part XIII of the Peace Treaty is the attainment of uniformity of industrial legislation, and the practical expression of this ideal is found in the Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the four International Labour Conferences. About 86 ratifications have now been registered, but there is as yet no proof or record from all Member-States that the desired effects of ratification are being obtained. Herein lies the work of the factory inspector. World uniformity of industrial legislation is of comparatively little value without a world system of factory inspection based on a code of general principles. A short time ago India had a working week of 72 hours, to-day she has reduced it by ratification of the Hours' Convention—which makes special provision for India—to a 60-hour week for adult workers with a maximum day of 12 hours, while for children the hours of work may not exceed six in one day.

China—one of the most backward countries in these matters—has also taken a big step towards the regulation of factory conditions, and has limited the working day to ten hours, besides prohibiting the employment of boys under 10 and girls under 12, and granting five weeks' rest before and after childbirth and a money benefit to women employed in industry. Compare these regulations with the following recent picture of Chinese labour conditions. "In the textile industry a very large proportion of the operatives are women and children. The moist heat in the silk filatures in Shanghai is very trying for women, and fainting is a matter of almost daily occurrence. In the absence of any legislative regulation or recognized custom women rush back after childbirth in order not to run the risk of losing their employment. Small children are employed in the textile mills and work equal hours with the adults, usually twelve-hour shifts. They get very tired, and accidents frequently happen because little is done in most factories to guard the machinery. In the Hong-kong investigations it was found that some girls were working 96½ and 82½ hours a week in alternate weeks."

But again, the facts that really matter are the practical and psychological results of these reforms, and only the factory inspector—man or woman—can supply them. It will be remembered that Article 427 of the Treaty of Versailles urged that "each State should make provision for a system of inspection in which women should take part, in order to ensure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the employed." Clearly, therefore, to obtain this, each Member-State of the I.L.O. must adopt and develop a system of factory inspection along comparatively similar lines. But the organization of this system is fraught with many difficulties; it is affected by the degree of industrial development reached

by any country; by custom and tradition; by conceptions as to the methods and functions of factory inspectors, and whether their work should be chiefly supervisory or constructive.

Realizing these difficulties, and wishing to avoid any encroachment on the individual sovereignty of States, the Governing Body has suggested that the decisions arrived at by this Conference should take the form of a *recommendation* to Governments, which would merely embody general principles for factory inspection and would not lay down hard and fast rules.

Following their usual practice, the International Labour Office has sent a questionnaire to Governments, which includes questions on three outstanding items: the object of factory inspection; the functions of factory inspectors and their judicial and administrative powers; and the organization of factory inspection.

The first of these questions deals chiefly with the kind of labour laws that fall within the scope of the inspectors, and whether their work should be limited to the supervision of the enforcement of regulations for the welfare and protection of labour; or whether it should include technical supervision or "functions of industrial police as regards new buildings, alterations, etc." Regarding the third question—the organization of factory inspection—details of much interest are raised, such as the creation of special independent services for certain classes of establishments: industrial, commercial, agricultural undertakings, mercantile marine, and others. Attention is also drawn to the subject of women factory inspectors, and as to whether they should be employed on the same conditions as men; and whether they should inspect all, or only certain classes, of establishments employing women. Another important question put to Governments is whether representative, of the workers may be called upon to take part in the supervision of the enforcement of the laws regulating conditions of labour, and if so, what methods would be considered the most appropriate to secure their collaboration. Those men and women whose lives are centred in the industrial world will recognize the far-reaching issues of the decisions of this forthcoming Conference and should watch closely its proceedings, for the factory inspector is no mere policeman; it lies within his power to promote the collaboration of employers and employed; to secure the co-operation of the workers in upholding activities for their own welfare and safety such as "Safety First" measures; and to aid inquiries into accident; Causes which depend partly on the spirit and standard of welfare within the factory, and the solution of which rests largely in the development of international co-ordination and uniformity of legislation.

As with every other movement, the ultimate results of the decisions arrived at by this fifth Conference will depend on the force of public opinion, which must not be content until it has a knowledge of results achieved in everyday life as well as on the Statute Book of any country. M. E. COHEN.

## CONFERENCE ON PROPOSED SCOTTISH LEGISLATION HELD IN EDINBURGH 8th OCTOBER.

Mrs. Hubback, Parliamentary Secretary of the N.U.S.E.C., presided over an informal Conference of members of some of its Scottish Societies for the purpose of receiving suggestions for legislation on questions not covered by recent legislation in England. Mrs. Hubback, after explaining the aims of the meeting invited expressions of opinion on the following points:—Laws of Intestate Inheritance, Children of Unmarried Parents, Abolition of Solicitation Laws, The Appointment of Women Magistrates, Women Prison Commissioners, and Separation and Alimony. Miss Helen Frazer, of the N.U.S.E.C. Executive Committee, also took part in the Conference.

After discussion, during which Mr. Easson (member of Edinburgh S.E.C.) gave valuable information on the present position of the laws under review, it was resolved that the Scottish Federation should take up especially amendment of the Laws of Intestate Inheritance, the means of securing the appointment of more Women Magistrates, and the Improvement of the Status of the Illegitimate Child.

Two sub-committees were appointed, one for the Western Societies and one for the Eastern Societies, to deal with these matters.

Representatives were present from Edinburgh S.E.C., Edinburgh W.C.A., Glasgow S.E.C., and Haddington S.E.C.



## HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS.

[This column is under the direction of Ann Pope, who will be pleased to receive contributions in the form of letters, not exceeding 300 words; or short articles, not exceeding 600 words.]

## THE HOME AS AN ECONOMIC UNIT.

It has been truly said that those occupations and branches of knowledge are gaining most rapidly in which the most advanced workers share their discoveries. In America, through the scarcity of domestic servants and other interesting economic conditions, a Home Economics' Association was organized in December, 1908. Its headquarters are at Washington and Baltimore, its President hails from Boston, and it has branches all over the States: California, Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio. It runs a monthly journal as a means of extending knowledge of the subject and of promoting thought and discussion.

## RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION.

A perusal of the aims and policies of the Association is most illuminating. They include instruction in the elements of home management, the principles of nutrition, the proper choice of foods, thrift and economy in the use of clothing, fuel, and other household essentials; education in matters relating to child welfare, questions of public health, nutrition and thrift. The association aims at promoting research by encouraging and aiding investigations, and gives active support to all legislation which aims at securing any of the ends for which its members are working. They do things pretty thoroughly over yonder.

## HOME-MAKING AN ART.

"What is the work of a home? It is providing and preparing food; making and buying, washing and mending clothes; keeping the house clean, sanitary, and comfortable; buying and making many household necessities; doing all this work personally, or assisting in part of the work and superintending the work of others; caring for children and training them; taking charge of the health of every member of the household; making the home a place from which people go ready for work and where they can return for rest and spiritual refreshment."

To make things go well in a home is an art and the woman who does this is an artist. She creates an atmosphere of tranquillity, poise, confidence and serenity.

## ITS ECONOMIC VALUE.

If any one asks what is the economic value of her work, it is work of this kind that is meant when it is said that every successful man (and woman!) has a woman working with him. In 1910 Professor Mabel Atkinson writes: "The household has been treated by economists with curious negligence. . . . The investigation of domestic expenditure has never yet been carried out in a purely scientific spirit solely for the sake of the resultant knowledge. . . . Few women have until recently received any training in economics, and it has never occurred to them that the furniture and wearisome problems of the rent, the butcher's bill, and the children's clothes, together with the difficulty of finding a satisfactory cook, may have a wider aspect than the narrow and personal one." But it is so.

## PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

It is acknowledged by the economists themselves that although in theory they have set aside a section to be devoted to the discussion of "consumption," as other sections deal with "production" and "distribution," of wealth, yet in practice the treatment of "consumption" has been meagre and ineffective. And yet consumption is of equal importance to production. What is the good of producing wealth (material or otherwise) if it is to be wasted or badly used?

The object of this column is to collect and publish correct and first-hand information.

In the issue of 28th September a recent household budget was published in the hope that it might prove useful, in some way, to some one. Others gathered from different occupations, etc., can be given from time to time. This column belongs to the readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER. In its original contributions, signed or otherwise, can be printed dealing with a field of interest practically untilled in this country. In it questions relating to household economics can be discussed. In this way we can learn from each other.

ANN POPE.

THE LAW AT WORK.<sup>1</sup>

## MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

An interesting case was recently reported to the office of this paper of a mother who was prosecuted in the north of England for the neglect of her three young children. The mother appears to have left her children in the care of her husband and gone away to a neighbouring town, where she obtained employment.

It would seem at first sight as if there could be no neglect in leaving children with their only legal parent and guardian, but proceedings for cruelty or neglect under the Children Act, Part II, may be taken against any person who has the actual possession or control of a child, and the question of parentage does not really enter in at all. It does not seem that proof is required that the neglect caused or was likely to cause unnecessary suffering, though it can no doubt be safely assumed that, if a mother leaves her infant children with their father who is away all day at work, such suffering would probably be caused.

The case mentioned above is complicated by the fact that the woman's reason for leaving her children was that she wished to leave her husband, and though a wife cannot now be compelled to live with her husband against her will, yet as a practical question it may come to the same thing if she can be compelled to live with her children. She often cannot afford to maintain a separate establishment for them, and if she remains at home to look after them she remains in the home of her husband.

As regards desertion of the wife by the husband, this is, of course, one of the grounds on which a wife can claim a separation and an order for maintenance. The wife must prove that the husband has not only gone away, but deliberately intends to remain away. It may not be necessary to show that the husband has actually left his wife, but that his conduct towards her has been such as to compel her to leave him and that his action in the matter was deliberate and intentional.

A man can be punished for desertion if his wife and children thereby become chargeable to the parish. A married woman can only be convicted of allowing her children to become chargeable if she has separate property, and a married woman having separate property is liable for the maintenance of her children and grandchildren in the same way as her husband is liable for them.

These statements have been brought together to show how complicated and uneven the law in these matters is to-day. To every practical person it is clear that there is no department in life in which it is more difficult to make equal laws which will work out equally in their application than in domestic relationships. The tie which binds mother and child is by nature so close, and the power of the father to make an independent existence for himself if he chooses is so much greater than that of the mother, that a vast amount of injustice and suffering will continue to exist (whatever the laws may be) as long as human beings remain what they are. But this is not to say that equal laws are not of vital importance: they enable greater justice to be done for those who make their appeal to the law, and for those larger numbers who struggle along without taking their domestic troubles into court they inevitably, if gradually, influence public opinion in the direction of greater equality between the sexes.

Those who are responsible for this column will be glad if readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER who are interested in the law at work will report any cases of hardship or injustice in the courts of which they hear or read, so that they may be discussed and made public in this column. They are invited also to send any questions or difficulties on which they would like to have information. Correspondence might be started in this way which would be of help and interest to women magistrates in different parts of the country.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Next week's number will contain an article on the State and illegitimate children in France, the 6th instalment of Mrs. Fawcett's reminiscences, and reviews of the recently published life of Mrs. Humphrey Ward and other new books.

<sup>1</sup> Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry J.P., with Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

## NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

## North-Western Federation.

## BIRKENHEAD W.C.A.

A complete list is being compiled of local Institutions and Associations for Social Service, which will always be available at the office for the benefit of Social Workers. A form has been sent to all local organizations asking for a brief epitome of their objects and activities, together with a copy of the Annual Report and the names of the officers for the current year. It is not intended to publish the list, which is being compiled in response to many inquiries from members and newcomers to the district.

Following a question asked at a Council Meeting by one of our members, a letter was sent to the Markets and Baths Committee asking for a reduction in the prices of hot baths, especially in view of congested housing conditions. We are glad to state that within a few weeks of raising the question the prices have been considerably reduced.

A course of autumn lectures has been arranged on "Public Health and its Relation to the Individual." The subjects dealt with will include Epidemic Diseases, Tuberculosis, Infantile Mortality, and the Birth-rate and the Population.

## CHESTER W.C.A.

The Police Court Rota has been kept up with few interruptions, and so long as it continues no woman can be dealt with in the Police Court in the presence of men only. It is also valuable as affording those who attend some little insight into the way that justice is administered.

During the autumn addresses will be given on "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C.," "The Cinematograph," "Children's Rights," "School Hygiene," and an interesting report is anticipated from the representative who attended the Summer School at Portinscale.

## LIVERPOOL W.C.A.

A course of twelve lectures is being arranged on "Current Political Events." The lecturer will be Mrs. Mott, and it is hoped that being of an informal nature it will induce a good discussion.

## NEWPORT W.C.A.

The first meeting of the new session was held on 27th September, Mrs. Horace Lyne in the chair. Miss Picton-Turberville spoke on "Women in National Life," giving an inspiring review of the increased work done since the granting of the franchise to women as compared with the work of the years 1900-18. She emphasized the importance of idealism in public life with special reference to a high moral standard in politics and the abolition of war.

## BARNESLEY S.E.C.

The opening meeting for the session 1923-4 was held on Tuesday, 25th September, when the members had the privilege of being addressed by Miss Helen Fraser on "International Relationships and the Washington Convention." Miss Fraser was in Washington at the time of the Conference, so was able to throw many interesting sidelights on some of the accepted and rejected resolutions. She also impressed on all women the necessity of thinking internationally, for the future progress and prosperity of every nation and country is so dependent on other countries that, in the words of Edith Cavell, "Patriotism is not enough." Miss E. Hone made a most sympathetic chairman, and urged everyone to further the aims of the League of Nations and make them a living force throughout the world.

## EXETER AND DISTRICT S.E.C.

A well-attended meeting of the Exeter and District Branch of the N.U.S.E.C. was held on Friday, 5th October, at the Arcade Hall. Lady Owen was in the chair, and Sir Robert Newman, the popular M.P. for Exeter, gave an address on "How Bills go through Parliament." He handled his subject most skilfully and interestingly, explaining many details of procedure which can be adequately dealt with only by a legislator. In the course of his speech, Sir Robert paid tribute to the tact and energy of Mrs. Hubback, so helpful in getting through

Bills which specially affect women. Questions were asked at the close of the address, and clearly and fully answered. The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to all those who had helped to make it such a great success.

EDINBURGH N.U.S.E.C. WEEK-END SCHOOL AT DUNBLANE.  
An account of this will be given in next week's issue.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

International House, which was started by the W.I.L. as a Club for men and women of all nationalities with international interests, has arranged a most interesting series of Discussion Meetings this autumn on Thursday evenings at 8.15.

Mrs. H. N. Swanwick, Miss Margery Fry, and Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe will be among the speakers and the subjects will cover a wide range. Full programmes can be obtained from the Secretary at 55 Gower Street.

The meetings are always preceded by a club supper at 7, which, like the subsequent discussion, is open to friends as well as members, and give a particularly good opportunity, through informal conversation, of getting to know fresh people who are united by the common wish to promote international understanding.

The subscription to the Club is 7s. 6d. for the whole year, and membership carries with it the right not only to make full use of the Reading Room and Cafeteria, but also to attend all discussions without further payment.

The promoters of the Discussion Meetings always endeavour to get an expert on the subject, e.g. Sastri on "The Disabilities of Indians in the Kenya Colony," Mr. Noel Buxton on "The Balkan Situation," and Mr. Hamilton Fyfe on "The Manufacture of Public Opinion by the Press."

Those who are not in agreement with the views of the speakers are always encouraged to take part in the discussion which follows the address.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## N.U.S.E.C.

EDINBURGH S.E.C. OCT. 22. 1 p.m. Luncheon at North British Hotel. Guest, Mrs. Winttingham, M.P. Tickets 5s., from E.S.E.C., 40 Shandwick Place.

OCT. 22. 3 p.m. Reception, New Gallery. Speaker: Mrs. Winttingham, M.P., on "The Need for Women in Parliament." Tickets 2s.

GLASGOW S.E.C. OCT. 22. At 8 p.m., in the Glasgow Athenæum, St. George's Place. "Women in Public Life." Speaker: Mrs. Winttingham, M.P.

READING S.E.C. OCT. 22. At 8 p.m. Public Meeting for Women, Abbey Hall, King's Road, Reading. Speakers: Major The Hon. Edward Cadogan, M.P., C.B., and Mrs. Hubback.

## GUILDHOUSE W.C.A.

OCT. 22. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. "Let us put an end to War." Speaker: Miss K. D. Courtney.

## INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

OCT. 17. At 8.15 p.m. "The Crosby Hall Endowment Scheme." Speaker: Professor Winifred Cullis, O.B.E., D.Sc.

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

OCT. 18. Mrs. H. M. Swanwick: "The Treaties of Guarantee."

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

OCT. 14. Leatherhead, Southgate, Hornsey, Newcastle.

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OCT. 16. Lymington, Norwich, Penge, Ilkeston, Kensington, Ealing.

OCT. 17. Broadstone, Ipswich, Mere, Goodmayes, Stamford Hill, Herstham, Islington.

OCT. 18. S. Norwood, Ambleside, Louth, Romford, Exeter, Birmingham, London, Great Marlow.

OCT. 19. Waterfoot, Stockport.

OCT. 20. Congleton, Roehampton.

OCT. 21. Teddington, Sittingbourne, Canterbury, Hither Green.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OCT. 18. 3.30 p.m. "At Home." The Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. 4 p.m. "Tea and Sugar Boycott Scheme." Speaker: Mrs. Juson Kerr.

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WORK MATERIALS, wools, knitting needles, etc., gratefully received for Infirmary inmates by Hon. Sec., Brabazon Society, Fulham Workhouse, 129 Fulham Palace Road.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Change of Address: Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. Enquiries: Room 6, 3rd floor.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 14th October, 6.30. A. Maude Royden. "Christ Triumphant—II: In Business."

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