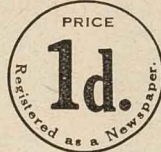


WOMEN AND FOOD PRICES.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Plymouth.

By the time this issue is in the hands of our readers the country will probably know something about the Government's policy regarding the all-engrossing subject of Imperial Preference and Protection. Clearly this is the issue which will overshadow the counsels of the Unionist Party at Plymouth this week. Equally clearly currents of opinion within the Party are pushing its leaders as far as they dare to go within the bounds of Mr. Bonar Law's election pledge that the fiscal system of this country shall not be fundamentally changed during the present Parliament. If the pressure is applied hard enough the country may find itself faced with a general election in the near future. We believe, however, that this last possibility is unlikely to materialize—partly because the Government's paralytic handling of foreign policy during the past two months taken in conjunction with the widespread criticism of its unemployment record makes the present an unpropitious moment for its supporters to talk of an appeal to the country—partly because the trough of a bitter economic depression is a bad viewpoint for the contemplation of taxes whose immediate reaction must be an advance in the cost of living. We suspect, however, that in view of the collapse of European markets and the rapid disintegration of ordered and civilized life on the Continent, any policy (short of one involving a general election) which carries us in the direction of Imperial self-sufficiency is bound to make a widespread appeal. To many it may represent a counsel of despair; but what good ground does the present state of Europe give us for any other counsel?

Leamington By-Election and the Countess of Warwick.

We hear that the Countess of Warwick is to contest the Leamington Division as a Labour candidate at the forthcoming by-election. Lady Warwick has long been known as a champion of the Labour cause, and only recently has thrown open Easton Lodge for the use of the leaders of the Labour Party. She will have a tough fight, as Sir Ernest Pollock, now Master of the Rolls, was returned unopposed at the last two elections. We hope to be able to announce Lady Warwick's views on the policy for which this paper stands next week.

The International Council of Women.

At a joint meeting of the two Boards of Officers of the International Council of Women and of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in London in November, 1922, Mrs. Chapman Catt suggested the possibility of a Congress of Women's International Organizations. A committee was accordingly appointed, in which were represented the following: The International Council of Women, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the World's Young Women's Christian Association, the International Federation of University Women, the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union. It was unanimously agreed that the President of the International Council of Women should summon a Joint Conference of Women's Organizations for the discussion of the Prevention of the Causes of War, with the object of giving an opportunity for a demonstration on the part of women of their support of an International policy based on the promotion of permanent peace. This conference will take place in London in March, 1924. A *Call to the Women of the World* has just been issued by Lady Aberdeen, which gives the draft programme of this great conference, and further information may be had from Miss Elsie Zimmern, Conference Office, 26 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Woman's Year Book.

Towards the end of next week the *Woman Citizen's Year Book* for 1923 will be on sale. Reference has already been made in our columns to this interesting venture, which has been planned in order to take the place of the old *English Woman's Year Book* which ceased publication after 1916. The book has been compiled by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, with the assistance of other organizations such as the London Society for Women's Service, the Woman's Local Government Society, and of many expert contributors. Among those who have written articles, for example, are numbered Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Rathbone, Lady Rhondda, Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss C. Macmillan, Mrs. Crofts, Dame Meriel Talbot, Albert Mansbridge, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Lady Denman, Miss Lilian Barker, etc., etc.

The book will contain sections on training and employment, central and local government, Parliamentary procedure, vital

statistics, and other figures concerning women, laws relating to women and children in other countries, particulars of women's organizations, lists of women magistrates, county and town councillors, etc. It is a book of which it is safe to say that no woman interested in public or social work can do without. Although it numbers 704 pages, the cost will only be 5s. The book can be obtained from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, 15 Dean's Yard, London, S.W. 1, or from the Editor and Publisher, Miss Gates, Women's Publishing Company, 170 Strand, W.C. 1.

The Edinburgh Conference of the National Council of Women—The New Officers.

We are glad to welcome Mrs. George Morgan as President of the National Council of Women, and believe that she will be a worthy successor in a line of distinguished women who have occupied this position. Mrs. Morgan is already well known in many directions. Until recently she was President of the Free Church Women's Council and of the National Organization of Girls' Clubs. Her son, Mr. Cope Morgan, stood for Cambridge in the Liberal interest both at the by-election and at the General Election last year. Mrs. Morgan is specially interested in questions affecting the welfare of the young, and in moral questions. The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, acting Vice-President, has long been associated with the National Council and for some years has been Convener of its International Section. Mrs. Franklin is well known in the educational world for the leading part she has taken in the formation and development of the Parents' National Educational Union. The other three officers remain the same: Lady Trustram Eve, Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, and Miss E. M. Eaton, Hon. Editor of the *N.C.W. News*.

Principles at Edinburgh Meetings.

Some of the discussions were of great interest and indicated an increasing tendency among women of all shades of opinion to find a common platform on subjects formerly considered highly controversial. An instance of this was the resolution on the four points of the electoral policy of the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches. We have urged agreement among women on this basis, which has united all genuine schools of opinion on temperance reform, and it is gratifying to learn that three of these points—No sale to persons under 18, Sunday Closing, and Local Option—were supported by the Council. The Council also spoke with no uncertain voice on the "present official policy of extreme economy in the most vital department of education." A further report of the proceedings will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Magistrates at the Guildhall.

The annual conference of the Magistrates' Association was held at the Guildhall on Monday. There was an excellent attendance of women. Sir R. Wallace, Chairman of the Council of the Association, presided at the morning sitting, when papers were read by Sir Edward Troup and Dr. M. Hamblin Smith on the mentality and grading of prisoners. Lord Haldane presided at the afternoon session, when the Lord Chief Justice addressed the meeting. He entreated all magistrates to read and re-read Bacon's immortal essay "of Judicature," and to think twice and thrice before sending a man or woman to prison for the first time. Addresses were also given by Lord Lambourne on heavier penalties for cruelty to animals and by Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., on Bills affecting women and children. Resolutions dealing with probation work and with institutions for young offenders committed for short sentences by Quarter or Petty Sessions were passed.

The Late Miss E. K. Prideaux.

In the death of Miss Edith K. Prideaux, in Exeter, we have lost a woman who has done original work in a field so far little explored by women. Miss Prideaux's works include *Sutcombe Church and its Builders*, *Branscombe Church Architecturally Considered*, *Carvings of Musical Instruments in Exeter Cathedral*, and only last year she published in conjunction with Rev. H. E. Bishop *The Building of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, in Exeter*, which is regarded as the best work of its kind extant, and in conjunction with Miss Cresswell, Exeter, she completed recently the MSS. of a book on Devonshire churches. Miss Prideaux was an authority on mediæval carving and a member of the Royal Archaeological Institute. She was a skilled photographer and recently presented to the Exeter City Library her collection of negatives and lantern slides.

The Drink Octopus.

Our contemporary *Time and Tide* deserves the thanks not only of those who are working for more women in Parliament, but of all who are working for "Temperance" (we purposely avoid the words now contaminated in this connection, *true* and *reform*), for the first of two articles which appears in last week's issue under the title of *The Drink Octopus: I. The Indictment*. The indictment is that the Trade, for reasons of its own, is putting up a great fight to keep women out of politics. The activities of the Fellowship of Freedom and Reform, the Anti-Prohibition League, and the True Temperance Association, which all claim to stand for "true temperance" and "reform of the public-house," are discussed. We referred in a recent issue to Lord Astor's exposure of such camouflaged organizations, and we agree with the writer of the articles that their powerful influence on the chances of women candidates for Parliament must be reckoned with.

"A Black List" and Municipal Elections.

The Manchester Women Citizen's Association, which is taking an active part in the forthcoming Municipal Elections by supporting candidates and in other ways, has introduced what is to us a new method of attack in Local Government Elections. It has issued a "Black List" of the candidates it is definitely opposing. This is a method which is already familiar in Parliamentary elections. We have our doubts as to the wisdom of this method in Parliamentary elections, owing to the undoubted fact that the great majority of Members are neither black nor white, but, like the curate's egg, are "good in spots." A man may be definitely opposed to one measure a Political Organization is interested in, and in favour of another. In local politics, however, this objection does not hold to anything like the same extent. Councillors are usually either very active or very passive. One is bent entirely on avoiding the expenditure which falls on the rates and another thinks only of the particular cause he has at heart, whether it does or does not involve additional expenditure. Moreover, it is far easier to obtain a record of the votes and speeches of a member of a local authority than of a Member of Parliament, as meetings of town councillors are generally fully reported in the local Press.

The Manchester W.C.A. is not, however, content only with drawing up a "Black List," it is advocating the following points, among others: and increase in the number of Child Welfare Centres, treatment for tubercular children, increase in the number of secondary schools, special schools and nursery schools. A suggestion is also being put forward that a special part in the Parks should be railed off for the small children.

Women Teachers in the Dominions.

The migration to the Dominions of educated women to fill positions as teachers in schools or governesses in private families is a feature of overseas settlement which so far has claimed but little public attention at home. Yet this transference of cultured women from our universities and colleges to less developed parts of the Empire is, despite the smallness of the present movement, of profound significance, and likely to bear fruit quite out of proportion to its numerical expression. We learn from the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women (3 and 4 Clement's Inn, W.C. 2) that since the beginning of May, 1923, the officers have interviewed 100 potential migrants of educational status, 61 of whom have proceeded to academic positions overseas. The Union of South Africa has, during this period, claimed several of these candidates, although, generally speaking, the demand in that country with reference to our educated women is for housekeepers, hospital nurses, or midwives. Of the teachers who have proceeded overseas recently to South Africa, one has been selected to fill the important position of Headmistress to the Kimberley Girls' School. A teacher of Domestic Economy for Umtata, a Senior Assistant to train native girls at an Orphanage at Cape Town, and Staff teachers for six schools in Johannesburg (including the Cleveland Government High School), the Diocesan School for Girls, Pretoria, and a music mistress for the Conservatoire of Music at Johannesburg, have also been recently appointed through this Society. In Canada during the past six months several Girls' Schools have been aided with Staff, notably at Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver, and from South Australia a fairly steady demand is being met for women teachers. There is also scope for governesses in private families in South Australia, especially if the candidates are willing to go up country and live on a sheep station.

INFLATION.

Last week we commented in an editorial note on the special pre-occupation of women with food prices and with the effect of import duties on the cost of living. In addition, we went so far as to record our agreement with the Rothermere Press upon the subject. On Sunday last Mr. Lovat Fraser, writing in the columns of one of Lord Rothermere's latest and most popular acquisitions, expresses the attitude of our syndicated contemporaries with more than usually blunt and forceful precision. "At a time when millions of people are living only from hand to mouth," he says, "food taxes cannot be considered within the range of practical politics. Now that women have got votes, it is doubtful if we shall ever see food taxes in this country."

Now there is an element of satisfaction to us in Press manifestations of this sort. It confirms us, if indeed confirmation were needed, in our knowledge that the possession of the franchise carries with it a respect which was conspicuous by its absence in pre-Suffrage days. Nevertheless, we cannot go all the way with Mr. Lovat Fraser's easy assumption. Women are less accustomed than men to apprehend the direction of their economic interests and organize sturdily in their own defence. It is no doubt a pleasant trait in their character, but yet it makes us disinclined to assume very readily that a development which prejudices women cannot conceivably come to pass. Moreover, there exists, among enfranchised women many public-spirited creatures who, while apprehending the special disadvantages under which they will be placed by an increase of food prices, nevertheless believe that a Protective policy is good for the country or the Empire, and therefore consider that the game is worth the candle. Still, it is as well that even these women should face up honestly to the fact that the question of Protection and Imperial Preference is one which specially concerns women *qua* women, and that the burden of any taxation which involves a rise in retail prices will fall, in the first instance at least, primarily on women. It is a commonplace in all discussions of price that there is a "time lag" between the increase of prices and the answering upward drive of money wages. It is often forgotten that there is apt to be a further "time lag" between the upward drive of money wages and the corresponding increase of "the wife's bit" and the family income.

And this suggests that there is yet another development of modern industrial life which touches women with peculiar force, and for precisely the same reasons: *inflation*, with its inevitable effect of a rise in the general level of prices. Inflation of the currency amounts in effect to a tax on everything; a tax levied in the most unscientific and wasteful manner possible, as an equal percentage increase in everybody's expenditure without respect to their ability to pay. If can, of course, be shifted, as a tax can be shifted. An increased price level will eventually be reflected through a series of unrestful wage disputes, in increased money wages. But as with the tax, so with the inflated price level, there is a "time lag," which in the case of "the wife's bit" is a double "time lag." Again, as with taxation so with currency inflation, large sections of women may be ready to believe that they have certain uses from a national or international point of view which require them to sink their sectional interests in face of wider considerations. Still, it is as well that they should begin by facing up honestly to the domestic implications of currency inflation.

Meanwhile, during the past week or so inflation has curiously enough been dragged into the arena of practical politics. On 10th October, Sir Montague Barlow hinted in his Nottingham speech that a mild dose of deliberate inflation, with its attendant stimulating effect on prices and business enterprise generally, might, after the fashion of alcohol taken in strict moderation at the proper moment, whip up the flagging energies of the body economic, and serve as a partial cure for the sickness of unemployment. Since then the Press of all Europe, our own included, has been in a continuous flutter of agitation—a flutter only half appeased by Sir Montague's comforting assurance of last week that no such policy is seriously contemplated. It is, of course, a matter which would naturally excite Press apprehension, for among the financial interests which stand to lose by a rise in general prices the Press is pre-eminent. The prices of newspapers rise so painfully, with such explosive fifty per cent. or hundred per cent. jerks, that the aforementioned "time lag" is bound in their case to be a fearsome consideration. Nevertheless, we are inclined to agree with our syndicated contemporaries that inflation is a dangerous drug. And since there is a danger that the less thoughtful sections of our female

(Continued on next page.)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

ANNUAL MEETING—THE CALL OF THE CHILD.

BY A DELEGATE.

After an interval of twenty-one years the N.C.W. held its annual meeting in Edinburgh. Lady Frances Balfour, in her opening address, spoke of the pioneer work which had been carried on in that city: for Education by Miss Flora Stevenson and Miss S. E. S. Mair, for Women Doctors by Miss Sophia Jex Blake, and for further freedom for women by Dr. Elsie Inglis. Then followed the Annual Report, a fine record of work achieved by the various Departments and Societies of the N.C.W., the progress made in Parliament this year especially being an encouragement to greater efforts. The feeling of the Council was strongly expressed in support of the resolution, urging that heavier penalties without the option of a fine should be imposed on those who criminally assaulted little children. Dr. Suttie (Perth) advocated, however, that examination should be made of the mental condition of such criminals. Moved by Mrs. H. More Nisbett on behalf of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and seconded by Miss Bury for the N.U.S.E.C., the resolution on the Guardianship of Infants' Bill was passed with enthusiasm and complete unanimity. The Housing question was keenly debated, opinion being divided as to whether Trade Union restrictions or trade rings and combines were to blame for the delay in building, but a motion that Local Authorities should be urged to make fuller use of their powers under the Housing Act was accepted. The Education and Care of tubercular Children was dealt with in a resolution moved by Mrs. Keynes, J.P. (Cambridge), and later a resolution was carried regretting "the present official policy of extreme economy in the most vital department of Education." A resolution, moved by Miss Musson (N.C.U.M.C.), urged the need for further recognition of the joint responsibility of the parents of illegitimate children. Miss Lyall (Hospital Almoners' Association) urged that alimony be increased in Scotland, and that an officer be appointed to receive the payments. Another resolution called for reciprocal legislation throughout the Empire for the enforcement of affiliation orders. The Committee on Police and Patrols put forward a resolution urging the standardizing of the conditions of service of Women Police and their attestation with power of arrest, and that policewomen be appointed on the strength of all police forces of and above 100 members. Miss Helen Ward (N.U.S.E.C.) moved an amendment, which was carried, to the resolution on the agenda for Pensions for Fatherless Children, whereby reference to the Poor Law as a distributing agency and supervision being necessary to prevent fraud were removed, and "existing officials both for distribution and supervision" was substituted. Other resolutions passed included Women in the Civil Service, Venereal Diseases in Children, and Temperance legislation.

The new President is Mrs. George Morgan, and the acting Vice-President the Hon. Mrs. Franklin.

On Friday the corner-stone of the Elsie Inglis Memorial, the new Maternity Hospice, was laid by Viscountess Novar. It is surely a most fitting memorial to one who so nobly worked for the well-being of women and children. When completed the Hospice will have forty beds, and will form a valuable addition to the City's resources. Viscountess Novar spoke of the work done by Dr. Inglis and her units during the war. Lady Frances Balfour recalled Dr. Inglis' great and consuming desire that women should be free and citizens of this great Empire, her work in the cause of emancipation, and her life as the friend of all who suffered.

It has been a memorable week for all the Societies in Edinburgh, which have been cheered and strengthened by hearing their particular objects discussed and supported collectively by this great gathering of women from all parts of Great Britain. The delegates also have enjoyed making acquaintance with the "Athens of the North," the excursions planned for them, and the hospitality so lavishly offered at the various receptions given by the Lord Provost, the Local Committee, Lord and Lady Salveson, and other friends.

On Sunday the delegates attended service in St. Giles' Cathedral, and in the evening the sermon in St. Cuthbert's was preached by Miss Maude Royden. She spoke of the immense amount of work to be done before the needs of the child and distressed womanhood could be met.

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ VII.

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

THE SCHOOL AT BLACKHEATH AND WHAT GREW OUT OF IT.

I and all my sisters, but the youngest, were sent in turn to a school at Blackheath presided over by Miss Louisa Browning. She was an aunt of the poet and a remarkable person in many ways. She ruled her school with a rod of iron; but she was a born teacher and we all appreciated her thoroughness of method, especially as our ancient governess at home had been incompetent to the last degree. One of Miss Browning's personal peculiarities was an objection to needlework in her school. This, she considered, ought to have been taught to us at home. If she saw a girl with a needle in her hand she would call out in her most commanding tones: "A guinea a stitch, my dear, a guinea a stitch!" Another peculiarity was her passion for gay colours. She daringly mingled scarlet, purple, green and yellow on her ample person. I remember being taken to school by my father after the summer holidays in 1861, a week or two after the death of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Miss Browning's entry into the little drawing-room, clad, as usual, in all the colours of the rainbow. After the more formal greetings, she said to my father, "No doubt, Mr. Garrett, you are astonished not to find me in mourning; but I have a black dress upstairs in case Robert should call." I never heard that Robert did call nor saw anything of the black dress; but in after years, in books and articles written about Robert Browning and his family, I have met with passages some of which asserted positively that he was a Jew by birth while others denied it. I cannot bring any positive knowledge to bear on the point. Our Miss Browning had an elder brother named Reuben, but this does not prove anything. There was a Richard Garrett, my father's great-grandfather (born 1733, died 1787), who had ten sons, three of whom were named respectively Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; but we have every reason to believe that he was of an unmixed East Anglian stock and had no trace of Jewish blood. Miss Browning used to talk to us sometimes about her brothers. Reuben, she declared, was a most devout Christian, but the most selfish man she had ever met, while her darling youngest brother not only was not a professed Christian, but had no religion at all, nothing but the dearest, kindest heart in the world. I have sometimes reflected, especially since I have had the opportunity of seeing Palestine, Algeria, Egypt, etc., that possibly Miss Browning's love of bright coloured clothing may indicate an Eastern strain in her ancestry; but she had a very British look.

When my elder sisters, Louie and Elizabeth, were at Blackheath they had among their schoolfellows two very charming North Country girls, Sophie and Annie Crowe. Their home was at Usworth in the county of Durham, and my sisters more than once spent part of their summer holidays there. While there they were introduced to Miss Emily Davies, the only daughter of the Rev. Dr. Davies, Rector of Gateshead. The friendship thus formed between my sisters, the Crowes, and Miss Davies lasted as long as their lives, and had a strong and enduring influence, not only on the little group immediately concerned, but also on nearly the whole of my family.

Miss Davies had a strong and masterful character; she had early in her own life set before herself as a definite object to improve the whole social and political status of women. I do not know how far, if at all, her mind had been influenced by those of her own way of thinking who had preceded her, such as Mary Woolstonecraft, Godwin and the Shellys. I think probably not at all, except in so far as these pioneers indicated to her the way not to do it. Miss Davies was the least revolutionary of revolutionists. She meant to spell revolution without the *r*. She wanted women to have as good and thorough an education as men; she wanted to open the professions to them and to obtain for them the parliamentary franchise. But she did not want any violence either of speech or action. She remained always the quiet, demure little rector's daughter, and she meant to bring about all the changes she advocated by processes as gradual and unceasing as the progress of a child from infancy to manhood. Her best route towards her ultimate goal was, she was convinced, through education, and this for a double reason. Firstly, improved education for women was good in itself and would arouse the minimum of opposition. Secondly, education was a necessary preliminary to enable women to

¹ This is the seventh of a series which will extend over several months.

occupy the place in national life which Miss Davies aimed at for them. Mrs. Somerville, Miss Herschel, Miss Martineau, and Mrs. Fry had already done really fine work in their several lines, and they were all women who from various accidental circumstances had received a first-rate education. That which had qualified them for their work, Miss Davies aimed at securing for women at large. She was pre-eminently one of those reformers who saw the end from the beginning. She had a logical, thorough and far-seeing mind; delicately scrupulous as to methods, honest and truthful in word and deed, and also unswerving and unceasing as to objects. She obtained a strong influence over my two elder sisters, and through them a little later on the rest of us. She did not influence my sister Agnes and myself in our childhood. She had had no younger brothers or sisters of her own (her only brother, the Rev. J. Llewellyn Davies, was nearly of her own age), and her manner towards us was not winning. She always seemed (I am speaking still of the late fifties and early sixties) to be letting us know of how little consequence we were. Later, especially when her experience as first Principal of Girton College had brought her more into contact with young people, her manner softened and she became the friend and comrade of our adult life rather than the stern preceptor of our youth. In 1857 our eldest sister, Louie, married, Alice, our third sister, also married a few years later; her husband, Herbert Cowell, was practising out in Calcutta, where she spent nearly ten years. Elizabeth consequently became more than ever therefore the leader and friend of the younger half of the family. Her deep fund of natural human affection and almost maternal feeling towards us prevented her from falling into the mannerisms which for a time estranged us from Miss Davies. One of Elizabeth's inventions for our benefit was what she called *Talks on Things in General*, which took place on Sunday evenings. I can see her now on the sofa in the Alde House drawing-room: George, our youngest brother, on her lap, and the rest of us grouped round her while she talked on just what was uppermost in her own mind at the time; Garibaldi and the freeing of Italy from the Austrians, Carlyle's Cromwell, Macaulay's History of England, and modern political events and persons such as Lord Palmerston, and the chances of a Reform Bill, Louis Napoleon and the Haynau incident, etc., etc. I remember taking the most lively interest in the 1857 campaign in Italy against the Austrians, when the French joined forces with the King of Sardinia. From that time Garibaldi, Cavour and Victor Emmanuel became my heroes, and I tried to learn all I could about them. To show what a queer little creature I was at that time, I may mention that I remember thinking on my tenth birthday that I had now reached the prime of life and that henceforward I must expect a descent towards the sere and yellow leaf of old age. Perhaps this temperament may explain why Miss Davies wished to snub me. Several years later I was telling my brother George my childish notion of ten being the prime of life, and he in return told me of one of his blunders when he was about the same age. He had begun making a small collection of coins, and was familiar with the terms "obverse" and "reverse" as applied to them. One Sunday in church the hymn selected contained the lines:—

Oh, how my spirit longs and faints
For the converse of the Saints.

He thought this was an example of the extraordinary ideas grown-ups had of enjoying themselves. He had mixed up the word "converse" with "obverse" and "reverse", and thought the hymn indicated an uncontrollable desire to turn the saints upside-down or inside-out. Probably everyone who remembers their childhood will recall similar grotesque mistakes.

INFLATION. (Continued from page 307.)

electorate may comfort themselves with the thought that inflation is a technical problem of currency and finance with which, unlike the question of food taxes, they have no intimate concern, we would take the opportunity of pointing out to them that this is a dangerous error. Whenever and wherever inflation occurs they will bear the first brunt of it. As housewives they are pre-eminently the spenders of the pound sterling. As voters, therefore, they must be the most vigilant custodians of its purchasing power.

A MODERN SETTLEMENT.¹

In spite of the material hardships of present-day working life, its whole aspect has greatly changed since Settlements were first founded by men and women of leisure and education, spurred by a new social conscience. Undoubtedly they succeeded in establishing comradeship and trust in place of suspicion and active dislike amongst their neighbours, who, if thinking them somewhat crazed, learned to turn to them for help and to respect their genuine self-forgetfulness. But many things that were then a matter of personal charity are now the national right of every man, woman, or child; and with the improvement of material conditions has arisen the spirit of independence which expects its rights and disdains private palliatives. True, we are suffering at the moment from a bitter reaction in physical prosperity, but the same remedies are no longer possible; nor is it desirable that they should be.

Social control is passing into the hands of an ever-increasing body of citizens, and every man or woman of ordinary self-respect has a say, and will in future have a greater one, in the administration of internal political and social organization. They themselves will regulate the conditions of State services, of taxation, and of the maintenance of the distressed and unemployed. "Organized Charity" is dead. The temper of our working people is accepting no condescension, and claims the power to dictate its own self-government. No amount of hardship will break this spirit or revert to a bygone attitude of mind.

But there is still a way in which the services of those who have greater education at their back are profoundly needed. Increased leisure, earned or enforced, has brought increased desire for education and recreation. Increased independence has brought the desire for creative expression. Latent gifts, fine brains, lie all around us—lacking opportunity to be of use—and here is the need for the leadership of more highly trained minds and for organizing capacity. We crowd our picture halls nightly not so much because we are too tired for personal effort, as because we lack opportunity to make such effort fruitful to ourselves or to others. The modern Educational Settlement realizes that this is the need of the moment and sets about to provide the opportunity and the organization. Especially, it sets out for the interest of the young. Experience shows that young people who have grown up with no continued mental stimulus after leaving school, generally lose the desire for it, until they return in middle age, desiring to know or to create, and regretting that they have missed the years of greatest mental flexibility when the necessary technique would have been easily acquired. Nor do Continuation Schools entirely meet the need—savouring as they must do of the compulsion of school days.

What the Settlement can supply is the opportunity of subjects to study, of arts and crafts to practise, of comradeship and recreation, in groups controlled as far as may be by the members themselves, whose leaders are specially qualified to direct their energies and creative powers and to place at their service the knowledge and understanding of past and present achievement in art and science.

Such work is being accomplished to-day in ways adapted to local conditions. The Letchworth Settlement specializes in the sending of lecturers, concert groups, and groups of players, to the surrounding villages, thus making possible undertakings of which a local group could not bear the burden unaided. The Folk House at Bristol provides an admirable Rest Room, Café, and Book Room for its members, and is a centre for dramatic, choral, and Folk Dance groups, gymnastic classes, courses of lectures of University standard in conjunction with the W.E.A., Sunday talks and Music Recitals, and open meetings and performances. The University Settlement of Bristol, which caters for an entirely different district, is, in addition to its Clinic, Mothers' Schools, Children's Play Centres, and the training of students in Social Study, the headquarters of a W.E.A. branch, holds courses of lectures, athletic, dramatic, and musical clubs, weekly dances, and social meetings for all ages. A most valuable feature of their work is the Association, which keeps practically every member of any branch of the Settlement in touch with, and responsible for, the work of the whole. Their recently organized Handicrafts Exhibition roused keen and widespread interest in a very desolate neighbourhood, and was the starting point of a series of handiwork groups which did admirable work during the succeeding year. Citizen House, Bath, is the centre for a very flourishing W.E.A., holding nightly classes under Bristol University lecturers. It forms a centre

¹ This is the first of a series of articles on different departments of Social work. Contributions, suggestions, and correspondence will be welcomed.

for the meetings of choral, literary, and other societies, whose organizations are independent, but who are enabled to hold their meetings in surroundings beautiful in themselves and congenial to their purpose; the house being lovely in itself and of considerable historic interest. Its group of players has won some reputation as an experiment. The players design and make in their leisure hours after work their scenery and dresses, and produce their own mystery and other plays. They combine children and grown-ups in their plays, and one and all show a fine spirit of loyalty and enthusiasm.

The work of Educational Settlements in London and in the North is too well known to need detailing here. Everywhere such associations are springing up. The name of Settlement, implying as it seems to do a colony of strangers in an unknown land, were perhaps better abandoned. But there will always be the need for trained exponents to help the man or woman engaged in manual work to the fulfilment of their intellectual desires and pleasures, and thus make for better-balanced, better-equipped, and happier citizens, with some store of spiritual and aesthetic wealth to fall back upon and refresh mind and body withal. This is the field lying before the Educational Settlement of to-day.

MARION RADFORD.

THE STATE AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN IN FRANCE.

"Les enfants abandonnés seront élevés aux frais de la nation." So runs a clause in the "Declaration of the Rights of Man," of 1789. The carrying out of this was, however, left to the church or private charity until the Law of 27th June, 1904, from which derive the regulations which at present hold. All abandoned children are brought up by the State, and any mother of an illegitimate child may hand it over to the care of the State. If she does so she relinquishes all rights in the child: she never sees it again, is not informed of its place of residence, only hearing at regular intervals of its continued existence or otherwise. She may, however, reclaim it, but if she does so, the child will not be again taken over by the State except in case of destitution. Should the mother wish to retain her child, she will receive monetary aid from the State for three years only: this amounts to 90 francs per month during the first year, 75 francs during the second year, and 60 francs during the third year; free medical attention will also be given to the child. Although provision exists for compelling a father to contribute to the support of his illegitimate child, this seems seldom to be put into force, owing to the difficulty of proving paternity.

The "Enfant Assisté," taken over entirely by the State, is henceforth regarded as in filial relationship to it; the State, like a father, will watch over the material, moral, and spiritual interests of the child. If in normal health the child is placed in a family residing in the country, and an attempt is made to assimilate the conditions of its life to that of an ordinary home and to make no difference between it and the children of the house. The "père nourricier" chooses its religion.

Each Department has an Inspector and a Sub-Inspector, whose duties, regarded as confidential, are to watch over the child's welfare. In the case of infants under two years they must see that they are properly fed and cared for (there are strict regulations about feeding bottles and other details), and that any medical or other special instructions are correctly carried out. Vaccination and re-vaccination in France are compulsory.

From two years old to thirteen, the child is watched from the moral as well as the material side. The "père nourricier" must show that the child is in wholesome moral surroundings, in happy family relationships, and that his education is duly attended to. If ill, he must have proper medical care, and must not be transferred to another home without the permission of the authorities.

At thirteen, though he resides still in the same home, he is apprenticed to some occupation, preferably agricultural. A contract is drawn up between the State and the employer, which becomes void if the employer does not keep the conditions. Part of the boy's or girl's wage is put away in the Savings Bank and kept there until he comes of age. His tutelage continues till the age of twenty-one, when he becomes a free man, but young people of both sexes receive a dowry on marriage.

Special arrangements are made for children unsuited to the ordinary country home. This may be due to special aptitudes, to health, or to social position. In such cases the "pupille de l'assistance" may be placed in a college or school, or a sanatorium, or, in case of moral defect, in a special school.

E. M. GUEST.

COMING EVENTS.

N.U.S.E.C.

NOV. 8. Hornsey Group. "Equal Guardianship." Speaker: Mrs. Wrightson.
NOV. 12. 2.30 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Conference on "The Separate Taxation of the Incomes of Married Persons."
NOV. 12. 4.30 p.m. Caxton Hall. Conference on "Pensions for Civilian Widows with Dependent Children."

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

NOV. 14. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 St. George's Street. "The Public Ownership of the Liquor Traffic, with special reference to the Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE S.E.C.

NOV. 1. 8 p.m. York Place Hall. "The Need for Women in Parliament." Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.A.

NOV. 5. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. "How can grown up people educate themselves?" Speaker: Rev. G. Hudson Shaw.

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

NOV. 1. Rev. H. W. Fox, of the World Alliance for Promoting Friendship through the Churches: "A new path in International Relations."
NOV. 9 and 10. From 12 noon till 10.30 p.m. each day. International House Fête: Recitals, entertainments, sale of Christmas presents, etc.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

OCT. 25. Wandsworth, Hitchin, Pembury Grove.
OCT. 29. Acton, Weybridge, Minstead.
OCT. 30. Shoreditch, Ealing, Upper Norwood, Kensington, Addingham, Woking.
OCT. 31. Mere, Winchester, Skipton.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

NOV. 8. 8 p.m. Church House, Westminster. Debate: "That the Admission of Women to Holy Orders would make for the Moral and Spiritual Welfare of the Nation." Proposer: Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E. Opposer: Rev. Canon Goudge, D.D.

LONDON LABOUR PARTY.

NOV. 9. At King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road. Women's Demonstration on Unemployment.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

NOV. 9. 8 p.m. Central (Small) Hall, Westminster. "Child Life in Germany To-day." Speakers: Miss Margaret Bondfield and Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard. Chair: The Lady Mary Murray.

SIX POINT GROUP.

NOV. 14. 8 p.m. Kingsway Hall. Meeting on "Child Assault."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OCT. 29. 7 p.m. Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn, W.C. "Women at Work in the League of Nations." Speaker: Mrs. Northcroft.
NOV. 2. 8.15 p.m. Minerva Club, 56 Hunter Street, Brunswick Square. Speeches and Discussion on "Unemployment among Women."

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

DEC. 5 and 6. Board Room of Metropolitan Asylums Board, Victoria Embankment, E.C. 4. Conference of Women Councillors, Guardians and Magistrates.

WEMBLEY WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

NOV. 7. The Programme of the N.U.S.E.C. Speaker: Mrs. Western.

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

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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, 28th October, 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. Subject: "Christ Triumphant—III. In Our Industrial System."

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria and in the garden. Thursday Club Suppers and Discussion Meetings re-opened in September, 1st November. Rev. H. W. Fox, of the World Alliance for Promoting Friendship through the Churches: "A new path in international relations."

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