

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVIII. No. 1. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, January 29, 1926

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE WOMAN'S PROGRAMME IN 1926	3
IMPRESSIONS OF THE COAL COMMISSION. By Edith Picton-Turbervill	3
A NEW VIEW OF FAMILY ENDOWMENT. By M. D. S.	4
WHAT UNION MIGHT DO FOR THE HOUSEWIFE. By Mrs. C. S. Peel, O.B.E.	4
WOMEN AND ARBITRATION	6

Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and
Abroad, 6/6.
Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Opening of Parliament.

The 1926 Session will have been opened a few days after this is in the hands of our readers. We give in another column a forecast for the Session from the point of view of legislation specially affecting women and children. Women's organizations are asking that certain of these should figure in the King's Speech. The ones selected for this are Equal Franchise, Legitimacy, and the right of women employed in the Civil Service or under Local Authorities not to be forced to resign on marriage.

Married Women and Income Tax.

Last week we were interested to see the letters published in *The Times* from sufferers under the present law by which the incomes of married persons are taxed jointly. The assumption was made in each case that married persons suffer financially by not being taxed separately. This, of course, obtains in a great many cases—but not where the wife's income is below a certain amount. None of the writers to *The Times*, however, have faced up to the question of the position of the wife with the small income. The question is an arithmetical one. Given the present marriage abatement, a simple sum will show that if the wife has an earned income of under £150 or an unearned income of under £90 it is more to her financial advantage to be taxed together with her husband than to be taxed separately. We think that our readers will agree that married women cannot both have their cake and eat it, and it is impossible to put forward a demand for separate taxation and for marriage abatements at the same time. There are obviously a larger number of wives with incomes of under £150 than with over that sum. Many women's organizations are, therefore, not asking now for the separate taxation of the incomes of married persons in all cases, as this would be tantamount to asking for heavier taxation than already exists in the majority of cases. They are putting forward the demand that married women should have the option as to whether their incomes should or should not be taxed separately, but that in every case any rebates due on her income should be repaid to her.

Women at the International Labour Conference.

We have received from the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations a copy of a courteous letter from the Director of the International Labour Office, M. Albert Thomas, relating to the representation of women. M. Thomas writes that his office had not overlooked the promise

previously given to remind Governments of the eligibility of women, and states that in a letter addressed to the Governments in December last relating to the Conference to be held this year, a special paragraph was inserted, calling attention to the Articles of the Treaty of Versailles and the corresponding Articles of the other Treaties of Peace, which state that all positions under or in connection with the League of Nations shall be open equally to men and women and that women are therefore equally eligible with men for nomination as delegates or advisers to sessions of the International Labour Conference. Attention is also directed to the fact that, as matters specially affecting women will find a place on the agenda of the next conference, the provisions which relate to the nomination of women as technical advisers should be borne in mind in the selection of the delegates to represent the country.

A Respite for Women Civil Servants.

We congratulate the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries on the measure of success which has crowned their efforts to safeguard the position of temporary women clerks in the Civil Service. As a result of negotiations opened in October of last year with the Treasury, Mr. Ronald McNeill, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has undertaken that for a provisional period of two years no efficient temporary woman clerk employed in a headquarters office shall be replaced by a new entrant. In discussing the effect of this concession, Miss Evans, Secretary of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, pointed out to a representative of the *Morning Post* that considerable fear had existed of a repetition of the events of 1922 when 1,000 new entrants were brought in, involving the displacement of a similar number of temporary women. She added, however, that the position was still far from satisfactory—especially with regard to the position of women in the Ministry of Health, where the permanent staff was working overtime, while a number of ex-temporary clerks were in receipt of unemployment benefit.

The Organization of Women Workers.

In furtherance of the campaign initiated by the Trades Union Congress for the encouragement of trade unionism among women workers, a meeting of the Manchester and Salford Trades and Labour Council received last week a report from its secretary, Mr. Mellor. He explained that at a private meeting of persons representing the women's group of the Trades Council, members of its Executive Committee, and of the Trades Union Congress, it had been decided to summon a conference on the subject. This conference would represent numerous outside organizations interested in the welfare of women, including Co-operative Guilds, Girls' Friendly Societies, the Y.W.C.A., Copec, as well as various party organizations such as the I.L.P. and local Labour Parties. We shall follow its activities with keen interest, and with the sympathy that we derive from a belief that trade union solidarity among women is a sounder and safer weapon for the protection of their standards than the "protective" legislation which has so often done duty as its substitute.

Women "Commercials".

The Commercial Travellers' Association which met in Belfast early last week, decided by 20 votes to 15 to postpone for a year consideration of a demand that women should be admitted as members. One member raised the objection that women "worked for salaries that would not keep men in cigarettes" by another that commercial travelling was essentially a "marital job"; another that "woman's place was in the home." not ion

commenting upon this decision, Mrs. Hoster, of the London Chamber of Commerce, remarked to a representative of the *Daily Herald* that the gentleman above quoted ought to "go back to Methuselah." We are inclined to deprecate the attribution of such obscurantist views to our long-lived forefather. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the men of his period held more advanced opinions with regard to women, otherwise animal life would long since have vanished from this earth—because, of course, no female would have been admitted to the ark. But with the spirit of Mrs. Hoster's remark we are in complete agreement. There are a number of successful women commercial travellers "on the road," and in receipt of substantial earnings. For a woman, as for a man with a taste for perpetual motion, commercial travelling is a life not excessively strenuous nor devoid of social amenities. It need involve neither late hours nor muscular strain. And we are inclined to suspect that the gentlemen who expressed in Belfast the opinions which we have quoted, were actuated rather by motives of social exclusiveness than by motives of economic self-protection. They resent the presence of women of equal status with themselves at the commercial hotel dining-table or round the fire in the lounge. A similar exclusiveness actuates the senior members of Oxford University who, though they are willing to associate with women on terms of complete academic and administrative equality at the examination board or in Convocation, nevertheless show a stubborn reluctance to eat with them or smoke with them in hall or common-room. As for the above-mentioned complaint regarding the low salaries earned by women "commercial"—we have yet to learn that a class of workers can obtain adequate protection of their standard by excluding from their vocational organization the persons by whom that standard is threatened. Even the Trades Union Congress knows better than that!

Men Teachers.

It is reported from Lancashire that the County Director of Education is finding some difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of certificated men teachers. As a result "wherever it appeared that the interests of the school would not suffer, the managers have been asked to appoint women teachers." But this has not wholly solved the problem, for "in moderately large mixed schools provision for the older boys requires the appointment of at least one man on the staff in addition to the headmaster." We sympathize with the difficulties of the Lancashire Education Committee, nevertheless this is just the situation which we should have expected to arise from the present unsatisfactory relations existing between the salaries of men and women teachers. The present measure of unequal pay as between the two sexes is sufficient to inspire the women with a sense of acute grievance; it is at the same time sufficient to put a distinct premium on the employment of women wherever possible by education committees labouring under the necessity for rigorous economy. It is, however, insufficient to ensure for the average male teacher the prospect of being able to marry and bring up a family in the educational standards which he has himself come to regard as a necessity of civilized middle-class life. From this impasse we can see, as we have already from time to time pointed out, only one channel of egress: the institution of a system of equal pay as between men and women at a level drawn with due references to the professional standards of a single man or woman—reinforced by a system of family allowances such as would render the teaching profession attractive to the man (or woman) who desired to entrust his family fortunes to it without fear of depreciating his standard or that of his children below the customary level of his colleagues.

American Women and the Right to Work.

The Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* reported last week that women's organizations all over the U.S.A. are pressing for an amendment to the Constitution such as shall make it illegal for any State to pass laws involving the special protection of women in the matter of hours and night work. They threaten, if necessary, to make the demand for such an amendment an issue in the next Congressional election campaign, and to vote against any member of Congress who opposes their contention. Such an amendment would, if carried, rule out a class of State legislation. It appears to be a world-wide experience to have in these columns recently quoted instances of itsurrence in Russia) that excessive solicitude regarding the conditions of someone else's labour is apt to be occasioned by a sire to enlarge the scope of one's own. And with this experience

American women are doubtless not unfamiliar. The native population of South Africa may have similar doubts with regard to the minimum wage legislation which is at present taking shape in the South African Union, and which may conceivably involve the determination of a wage so high that no native will be capable of earning it. All of which illustrates our belief that the forms which sex, class, and race oppression may take are manifold, multiform, and menacing—and not always obvious to the naked eye.

Dictators and Dictatorships.

As far as one can judge from the news which reaches us concerning the progress of Italian parliamentary government, the latest device of that country's energetic dictator for dealing with a critical opposition is to prohibit the opposition deputies from taking their seats in Parliament. Mussolini has, it appears, attained this desirable end by laying down certain conditions on which opposition members will be admitted and which involve a solemn and public recognition that the Fascist Revolution is an accomplished fact, and that the "iniquitous and scandalous" campaign conducted by the opposition has "miserably failed." This represents one of the grosser abuses of political dictatorship, and is analogous to those practised by the Soviet Government whose power, like that of Mussolini, rests upon a negation of democratic representative democracy. When we move eastwards to the Balkans we find that similar principles tend to express themselves in more absurd, if less mischievous forms. General Pangalos, who occupies a position in Greece which is similar in principle though less secure in practice, has recently instituted a force of women police in Athens whose duties are focussed upon the rigorous censorship of the female skirt. These garments must attain a given length. Happy indeed is the Government which is in a position to concern itself with such trivial preoccupations.

An Oxford Scholar.

We congratulate Miss May Yardley, a former scholar in L.C.C. public elementary schools, a holder of one of the L.C.C. Senior Scholarships, who has been in residence at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, since 1925, on having just been elected to the Charles Oldham Scholarship of Oxford University as a result of an examination in the knowledge of Shakespeare. This, we believe, is the first occasion where a woman has held an Oxford University scholarship.

Women and the Churches.

We congratulate the congregation of the Littleover Baptist Church in Derbyshire, upon the appointment as their Pastor of Miss Violet Hedger, B.D. Miss Hedger, though not the first woman pastor in the Baptist Ministry, is the first woman to complete the regular course at a Baptist theological college alongside with men. We understand that already, at the age of 25, and at the outset of her pastoral work, Miss Hedger has achieved some reputation as an able preacher. We offer her all good wishes for success, both visible and invisible, in her interesting and responsible career.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent.

We are fortunate in being able to resume next week our weekly column of "News from Westminster." With the literary style of our Parliamentary Correspondent, our habitual readers will doubtless be familiar, for he has served us in that capacity in former times. His name will, however, remain wrapped in mystery. They must therefore be satisfied with our assurance that it is the name of an M.P. who is well qualified by political experience and personal eminence to analyse and criticize current parliamentary events; and that its possessor is one who deserves from women's organizations thanks greatly in excess of those to which his present contributions to our columns will entitle him.

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

THE WOMAN'S PROGRAMME IN 1926.

A speaker recently stated that now that women have the vote, Parliamentary achievement on their behalf requires comparatively little effort! This is unfortunately not the case. Such successes as have been attained have not indeed fallen like manna from Heaven; they are the fruits of hard and prolonged grinding labour year in and year out—how hard and how prolonged only those who are behind the scenes can ever know. Last session, after years of strenuous exertions, women's organizations reaped an overdue harvest of good things; to-day we find ourselves once again preparing the ground and sharpening our tools for the opportunities which 1926 promises to bring us.

First and foremost in our plan of action comes, of course, equality of voting privileges. The present unequal franchise has operated for eight years, and if women's societies show stiff determination the real end of the long drawn out suffrage agitation is within sight. The Prime Minister has promised a conference of all political parties to lead to subsequent legislation granting the extension of the franchise, "if possible by agreement," in the following year. There is, therefore, not a moment to lose. Who can predict the length of life of even the most stable of Governments? The conference must be summoned immediately; public opinion must straightway be mobilized on a straightforward measure. It is unnecessary to reiterate here the snags in the insidious proposal to make the minimum age in future 25 for both sexes. This might or might not be a desirable state of affairs, but it is too late for such a change now. A reduction of the present voting age for men would be opposed tooth and nail by two of the political parties, and as this would make "agreement" impossible the whole question would be shelved indefinitely. In another column we describe the successful inauguration of the 1926 campaign. If this year sees the completion of the foundation of equal citizenship laid in 1918, women for the first time with a conscience clear from the reproach of those who are still unenfranchised will be able to turn with undivided vigour to the other work for peace and well-being at home and abroad which calls them so irresistibly.

Other chances of improving the status of women must, however, be snatched as they come. The recent adverse decisions in the High Courts relating to married women teachers make the present time opportune for a Bill to amend the Sex Disqualification Removal Act. In order to safeguard the married woman worker other Bills will deal with the selection of women jurors and the position of the married woman under the law of coverture. In the Upper House a motion will be introduced calling on

the Government to remove the ban imposed on Infant Welfare centres, receiving Government grants, from giving information on methods of birth control desired by married women or deemed necessary to their health.

A second important group of Bills deal with moral problems. The Public Places (Order) Bill, so favourably received in the House of Commons last session, will be introduced by Lady Astor as a private Member's Bill if she is successful in securing a place in the private Members' ballot, and in all probability a Government inquiry will be set up to thresh out the whole question of the Solicitation Laws. The Legitimacy Bill now sole survivor of a batch of Bills that have been tossed from House to House, from Committee to Committee, from session to session for repeated years will, it is earnestly hoped, reappear as a Government measure, and a new Criminal Law Amendment Bill of far-reaching social importance is expected as the result of the convincing report of the Departmental Committee on sexual offences on young persons recently described in these columns. The question of women police will also receive attention. Members are being asked both to ballot for a Private Member's Bill on the lines of the Municipal Corporation Act Amendment Bill introduced by Miss Ellen Wilkinson last session, and also for a resolution on the same subject.

To turn from Bills which are actually drafted to reforms still in the deliberation stage, two reports of Royal Commissions of outstanding significance are shortly expected—the report of the Royal Commission on the Reform of the Lunacy and Mental Disorders Law and the report of the Royal Committee on the National Health Insurance Act. Women's societies which hold a watching brief for women's interests must scrutinize these reports and do all in their power to influence in the right direction subsequent proposals for legislation.

This brief summary is only the barest outline of the most immediate matters which constitute our "job" for 1926. Others already under discussion have been omitted for lack of space; others again may suddenly and unexpectedly loom large on the political horizon. But, such as it is, it is a programme of which no women need be ashamed. Peace among the nations, and peace in industry at home, the removal of the housing scandal, temperance and other great causes which we have at heart will not suffer if thinking women combine for a time to procure once and for all reforms which not only make for justice to women as citizens but which will cleanse our streets and public places and raise to a higher level our national standards of decency and morality.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE COAL COMMISSION.¹

EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILL.

At five-thirty on Thursday the curtain was rung down on the public sittings of the Coal Commission. Silence falls. For three months, thrice weekly, problems of the coal industry have been hammered out at Westminster Hall. There were four Commissioners. Sir Herbert Samuel, the chairman, cool, quiet, utterly impartial, spare of speech, never a word too much fell from his lips, and he was the embodiment of punctuality! Sir William Beveridge, the distinguished economist, made one think of a hawk. Keen-eyed, quick, alert, nothing escaped him. An argument with a weak spot, figures given to prove points that were not really comparable, were invariably detected by Sir William, and mercilessly, though quite gently, revealed as of no value. Some of the witnesses rather squirmed under his examination, though it was always made in the most friendly spirit, for in his search after facts his rapier-like mind accepted no fallacies were they wrapped up ever so skilfully in evasive phrases. The other two Commissioners, Sir Herbert Lawrence and Mr. Kenneth Lee, contented themselves with listening.

OWNERS AND MINERS.

The representatives of the Mine-Owners' Association—Mr. Evan Williams, president, quiet, courteous, a trifle cynical; Mr. Lee, secretary, eager, and just a little unpleasant now and again.

Representatives of the Miners' Federation—Mr. Herbert Smith, the president, plodding, determined, obviously and utterly straight (this infers no innuendo concerning others); Mr. A. J.

Cook, with one clear single aim; Mr. Richardson and the veteran Mr. Tom Richards, whom I think everybody loves.

THE UNDERGROUND WORKERS.

Day by day evidence was given, day by day much of it was challenged by one or other of the parties. A wealth of detail has been realized by many of the general public for the first time, and, after all, it is the nation, not the experts—who seldom take wide views—that will be the final arbiter. Many people think of those who work underground as mainly concerned with hewing coal, and fail to visualize the horse-keepers, deputies, on-setters, trolley-waymen, sinkers, timber-drawers, shifters, watermen, fillers, and a host of others who work underground as well as the actual hewers of coal. At the surface, mechanics, masons, fitters, joiners, blacksmiths, boiler-smiths, also a host of others, all, of course, who are involved in the great question at issue.

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE PROBLEM.

What a complicated, involved problem the whole thing is! One outstanding impression left upon all who listened is that so far-reaching are the ramifications of the industry, so involved with other big interests, that no changes such as doing away with royalties, wayleaves, and dead rents will alone solve the problem from a financial standpoint.

These things are important psychologically, however, and we are realizing as never before the importance of psychology in industry—for the worker must be forgiven if he is unrestful under the suggestion that those who are well off and who do not toil should make no financial sacrifice to meet the situation

¹ Extracts from an article in *The Western Mail*.

whilst those who are poor and work should do so. The psychology of the thing is hopeless. Man does not live by bread alone; he asks for more than wages. Community in sacrifice would have a healing effect.

THE HOURS ISSUE EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

The two issues, the one brought out by the owners, the other by the miners, are impressive in their clearness. The miners said, "Nationalize the industry," and produced their scheme. The owners maintain that a seven-hour day will ruin the industry; eight hours and—proportionally—lower wages alone will save it.

As I hear the owners' case being put an echo of another industrial struggle in far-off days by Westminster Hall seemed to reach my ears. The words of which I heard the echo were spoken in the 'forties of last century: "If you reduce the hours of labour the industrial greatness of England cannot survive." "If these labours were cut down from twelve to ten hours ruin would be certain." And yet—

The beauty and dignity of Westminster Hall is impressive indeed. In the late afternoon when we emerge from the Commission the Hall is wrapt in gloom, for darkness is at hand. It has always been my fortunate necessity to walk from the Palace Yard entrance to the door at the farthest end. It is ever an entrancing walk, but more so in the gathering darkness than at any other time, then the magnitude and glory of the hall is overpowering. Away at the farthest end the soaring arch is lit up, and stands out with incomparable beauty from the surrounding gloom. Perhaps in spite of all that has been said of the coming struggle, a light, at present unseen, will yet penetrate the present gloom and bring industrial peace.

A NEW VIEW OF FAMILY ENDOWMENT.¹

Mr. J. L. Cohen, of the Cambridge University Department of Economics, is well known to students of public administration as the author of three authoritative and indispensable books on various aspects of social insurance. In company with Sir William Beveridge, he knows, perhaps, as much about the technique and philosophy of this aspect of insurance as anybody. It is therefore a matter for great satisfaction that he, like Sir William Beveridge, has set himself to the task of visualizing the possibilities of applying this technique to the problem which underlies the demand for family endowment. And it is a matter for even greater satisfaction that the outcome of his contemplation should be a book,¹ small, inexpensive, and easily comprehensible to the general public, which made its appearance last week.

Advocates of family endowment are in the habit of arguing—indeed, it is the starting-point of all their discussions—that the National Income now and in the measurable future is insufficient, if distributed without regard to variable family needs, to provide for every wage-earner an income sufficient to meet bare requirements during the period of his family's maximum dependence. Let us alter the phraseology of this statement and say alternatively: Just as the normal level of the ordinary man's income cannot be so drawn as to make provision for such emergency expenses as sickness, unemployment, or the widowhood of his wife, so it is now generally admitted that it cannot be so drawn as to meet the expenses of a family during its dependent period. Stated thus, the connection between what is popularly described as *family endowment* and social insurance becomes clear; and this connection, its inevitability and its administrative fitness, is the subject of Mr. Cohen's book. The first set of emergencies have already, to a large extent, been dealt with by the method of social insurance. The last, though not an emergency in the sense of an unforeseen and inevitable calamity, is nevertheless a potentially insurable risk for whose insurance existing administrative machinery, habit, and social philosophy stand ready to hand.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Cohen goes theoretically further than to recommend the extension of National Insurance machinery to cover family dependence. He says that all methods of family endowment hitherto conceived or practised are in essence insurance schemes. "It is misleading then to talk of providing family endowment either by the pool method or by that of insurance. Any reliable method of providing family endowment *must* use the machinery of insurance. The alternatives are contributory and non-contributory schemes, administration by the State, and administration by employers, voluntary

¹ *Family Income Insurance*, by Joseph L. Cohen, with a preface by Eleanor F. Rathbone. (P. S. King and Son, 1/- net.)

and compulsory schemes, industrial and regional schemes." And according to the strict logic of words he is right. Equally would he be right were he to assert that the education rate which we are all required to pay to our local authorities is in the nature of a compulsory educational insurance premium which we pay, receiving in return the right to enjoy certain educational benefits should our need for them arise. By a similar logic all the public services undertaken by those same local authorities from the lighting of the highways to the relief of the poor, are in the nature of consumer's co-operation. Nevertheless, there is a certain inconvenience in the application of such logic. And there is, contrariwise, a certain convenience in confining the word insurance, or it may be consumers' co-operation, to the species of a large genus upon which our haphazard conversational habits have conferred an undesired monopoly. Thus, in defiance of Mr. Cohen, we shall continue to talk of "providing family endowment either by the pool method or by that of insurance." And our readers will be perfectly well aware of what we mean when we do so.

But we are not going to quarrel with Mr. Cohen about words. We prefer to congratulate him on the illuminating use he has made of figures. He advocates the inclusion of contributory family income insurance in our existing National Insurance scheme—suggesting the addition of a voluntary scheme for the benefit of persons in non-insured occupations. And he asks himself the inevitable question: how much would it cost? His answer is embodied in twenty-four alternative combinations involving variable rates and conditions of benefit. We cannot, of course, retail them in full, but the most generous and the least generous will give us a fair sample. Scheme VII, allowing 8s. for the first, 6s. for the second, third, and fourth, and 4s. for successive children under 16, would cost £184m. per annum. Scheme VI involving a flat rate benefit of 3s. for each child under 15 would cost £76m. Scheme VII would, if costs were divided equally between the employers, the workers, and the State, involve a weekly premium from each party of 1s. 11d. (11½d. in the case of women and juveniles). Scheme VI would involve a weekly payment of 10d. (5d. in the case of women and juveniles). It is for our readers to determine whether such payments represent an excessive cost for the immense disburdening of anxiety and destitution which would be its result in the case of the average working mother. In our opinion such a disburdening is cheap at the price.

Meanwhile, here is a book that nobody who professes an interest in the problem of family endowment can afford to ignore. It is the next step in any intelligent study of the question. And in view of the problematic state in which the whole question of social insurance at present finds itself, it is a very insistent and immediate next step. M. D. S.

WHAT UNION MIGHT DO FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

By Mrs. C. S. PEEL, O.B.E., Chairman of The British Housewives' Association.

High prices, dirtily handled foods, adulterated foods, shortage of domestic labour, ill-planned labour-making houses, corrupt practices on the part of many of those who, in one capacity or another, serve the housewife, and the housewife fighting single-handed to feed and house her family in such a way as is necessary for their health and well-being, and yet to keep within a limited expenditure. A difficult and most unpleasant task. "But could not the task be lightened?" "I cannot dictate to my tradesmen what prices they shall charge." "I complain that this or that is dear, but what more can I do?" "I know that I often get short weight, but unless my account is a large one it wouldn't be any use to make a fuss—I should only meet with rudeness," say Mrs. A., Mrs. B., and Mrs. C. True. But suppose that these three ladies had at their backs a powerful organization, what then? Suppose, as is the case in Australia, there is in this country a Housewives' Association, able to collect information on behalf of its members and to suggest a policy of reform. After due inquiry it is decided that the price of some article of food is excessive. "Do not buy So-and-So, or at all events cut down your order to a minimum," the Headquarters' experts suggest. All over the country thousands of housewives follow this advice. No trader can afford to disregard such a protest, for he realizes (though the British housewife has not yet done so) that she is the chief purchaser of the nation, that to a great extent it is for her that trade exists. Soon he learns that though an honest trader has nothing to fear from such an association a dishonest or dirty trader cannot stand up against it.

Again, let us suppose that the Housewives' Association comes

MRS. PANKHURST.

It is reported that Mrs. Pankhurst has returned to London—though with what specified object, if any, we know not. If this is the case, then it is a happy coincidence that her return to the scene of early battles coincides with the intensified campaign which the women's organizations are about to wage on behalf of an Equal Franchise measure. To the majority of those on whose behalf it is being undertaken: the "under thirties," Mrs. Pankhurst's name, her power of oratory, and personal magnetism are matters of hearsay. But the news of her return tempts us to wonder whether her voice, if it were to sound again, would kindle the same burning enthusiasm and stimulate the same reckless self-sacrifice that it evoked from an earlier generation of young women. The individual memory is a capricious and disproportionate historian. It allows us to forget the differences of method and the more fundamental incompatibilities of political philosophy which separated us from Mrs. Pankhurst in those far off days. But it reilluminates, at the mere repetition of her name, all the old splendour of her appeal, with its spell-binding mixture of wisdom and fanaticism, all the old consciousness of her genius for leadership. It would be a fine thing if she were with us in this last lap of the fight on behalf of our common cause.

CONFERENCE ON SOME OF LONDON'S PROBLEMS.

A Conference convened by the London Branch and Home Counties Committee of the National Council of Women was held at Caxton Hall on 20th and 21st January. The Hon. Mrs. Home Peel, President of the London Branch, presided, and the Hon. Mrs. Franklin and the Lady Emmott, President and Vice-President of the N.C.W. of Great Britain, came to start the discussions. Lady Emmott drew attention to the importance of such a body as the N.C.W. as affording means of making social workers acquainted with each others' work and problems. The mornings were devoted to the discussion of resolutions. The undesirability of repeated short sentences on offenders really needing training or special treatment was considered. Mrs. J. W. Meares (Guildford) read a paper urging the importance of a cheap and abundant electricity supply. The Church Army (Miss Beckett) urged the need of more Women Police, knowing the value of the existing women; it was suggested that the present age of enrolment, 23 to 30, is too low, and that older women could with advantage be employed. Miss Neilans (Association for Moral and Social Hygiene) strongly advocated a change in the obsolete laws dealing with solicitation, and the need of an equal law applicable to all who molest or annoy others. More playing fields for girls were pleaded for by Miss Nichols (Social Institutes Union) and strongly supported by the conference. Miss Adler, J.P., advocated that London should be treated as one city to secure efficiency and economy in administration. She was opposed by Dame Beatrix Lyall, L.C.C., and the motion was lost. Mrs. Oldfield brought out some interesting and significant facts in urging the accelerating of building houses for working class populations. An interesting discussion was held on the importance of inquiring into the prevalence of rheumatic infection among school children. In the afternoon a most interesting account was given of the means employed by the L.C.C. in tackling London problems by Miss Rosamond Smith, L.C.C. (housing), Dr. Barrie Lambert, D.P.H. (Health), and Dame Beatrix Lyall, L.C.C., in an able bird's-eye view of many departments, the Countess of Haddo being in the chair. A debate on Capital Punishment, the case for abolition being in the able hands of Miss Margery Fry, J.P., occupied the conference on the second afternoon. Miss Constance Warner put up a good case against abolition, and after an interesting discussion Miss Fry's resolution was carried. The presence of the Lady Frances Balfour in the chair greatly added to the success of the meeting.

A PEOPLE'S THEATRE.

The St. Pancras People's Theatre, Tavistock Place, is trying a novel experiment in performing religious plays on Thursday evenings in Lent. The plays selected include the "Little Plays of St. Francis," Parts I, II, and III, "Everyman," and "Michael." Readers of this paper in London should not fail to encourage this local effort to provide good plays at nominal charges within easy reach of a populous and somewhat drab area of London.

to the conclusion that certain abuses should be checked or certain amenities of life encouraged. All over the country groups of women make known their opinion to their Members of Parliament, and, if needs be, ask the Home Secretary or the Prime Minister, or whoever the appropriate authority may be, to receive a deputation. No Government can afford to disregard the voice of a vast number of women, a large proportion of whom are voters. Soon the Press realizes that it must report the doings of such a live and powerful body, and other unions and associations realize that they will be wise to seek the help of the housewives just as the housewives, too sensible to duplicate machinery, will seek the help of existing societies who may be willing and able to further their ends. Thus things get done by the force of public opinion.

The fact that union is strength must be patent to all of us, for the power of the Trades' Unions affects us at every turn. If trades and political bodies can organize, surely the members of the foundation profession of the world—that of home making—may organize, and indeed would be wise to do so. Such an organization should be non-sectarian and non-party, though it must, of course, be political. When women united to obtain the suffrage they were non-sectarian and non-party, but intensely political, and there is no reason that history should not repeat itself in this respect, though it would never be necessary for a housewives' association, because of the fact that many of its members now have political power, to depart from lawful methods in order to achieve its ends.

In Australia there is a Housewives' Association, and it has dealt successfully with prices, with distribution of food, with the sale of the produce of small holders, with postal reform, and with some aspects of domestic work, and there seems every reason to suppose that a like association might do admirable work in this country.

One of the problems which we have to solve in this country is how to popularize domestic work, for at the present time unemployment pay is given to young women who might do some form of domestic work. Girls endeavour to enter already crowded occupations, and little girls on leaving school at fourteen are employed as cheap labour by firms who may not require them when they become adult and must be paid accordingly. But after two years in a factory these children have probably become unsuited for a domestic life, and have thereby lost the opportunity of entering a profession in which conditions are now fairly good and work always to be had at reasonable wages by girls of good character.

Without interfering with the private affairs of employer or employee much might be done to popularize domestic work and to make it acceptable to girls of every class, and in doing this a large association of housewives of every class could materially assist, always bearing in mind that the loss of a profession to the girl is quite as serious as the loss of labour to the would-be employer—a point of view which the girl needing work seems to have ignored.

Because it is thought that a British Housewives' Association may do valuable work a group of enthusiasts has formed the British Housewives' Association, Ltd., and a number of well-known women have consented to join the Council, the Executive Committee, or to become members. So far those who have organized the Association have chiefly been responsible for its financial support, but the time has come when it is necessary to rent an office and pay a secretary. The Committee now appeal to those who appreciate the value of the work of women in the home and its results on the work done out of it to join the Association, to send donations of any amount or to act as guarantors of £5 or over. Information regarding the British Housewives' Association may be obtained from the Secretary, 70 Victoria Street, S.W. 1, but interviews may be made by appointment only.

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

PRESIDENT: VISCOUNTESS BURNHAM.

Founded for the Association of Women engaged in Journalism in the British Empire and abroad, *The Woman Journalist*, the organ of the Society, is published every alternate month. Supplied free to members, it is an invaluable guide to current journalism. Members of the Society are privileged to receive free medical advice, free legal advice, and the Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon is always available by appointment. A Benevolent Fund, administered without publicity, is another advantage to members.

The Subscription for membership is One Guinea for London and Half a Guinea for Country.

Application for membership should be made to Sentinel House, W.C. 1.

WOMEN AND ARBITRATION.¹

On 19th January, an interesting Conference of women's organizations was held at the Caxton Hall to discuss the possibility of a great women's campaign in support of arbitration to be held during the course of next summer. The Conference had been summoned by the Women's International League, and was attended by representatives of a large number of women's organizations, including the Women's Liberal Federation, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the B.W.T.A., the League of Nations Union, the N.U.S.E.C., the standing joint committee of the Women's Industrial Organizations, and many others. Some distinguished women were also present, including Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Swanwick, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

It was agreed that as a number of the delegates were not able to commit their organizations without reporting back to their committees, any votes taken should be regarded as an expression of opinion on the part of those present, and not as in any sense binding on the organizations represented. The unanimity with which the proposal that women should demonstrate in favour of the principle of arbitration was very remarkable. There was indeed little difference of opinion on the subject. The main topic of the Conference was the form that such a campaign should take. The W.I.L. had put forward a proposal that a pilgrimage should be organized on the same lines of the great Suffrage Pilgrimage of 1913. This idea was accepted with enthusiasm and it was agreed that a general Council should be formed consisting of representatives of all the societies taking part, the Council to appoint an Executive Committee and decide the details of the work. Points to be discussed by the General Council will be the exact date of the Pilgrimage—a beginning at about Whitsuntide was approved by the Conference—as well as its precise scope—and the name by which it is to be called. The raising of funds and the appointment of a treasurer will be before it, as well as the arrangements for starting the work all over the country.

A letter of support from Professor Gilbert Murray was read; Miss Royden and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence were both warmly in favour of the Pilgrimage idea, and active in suggestion as to how it could be carried out; in fact, the whole atmosphere of the Conference was an encouragement to go forward.

The first General Council meeting will be held in a few weeks' time. It will then be possible to publish a full list of the Societies participating and to give details of the general organization.

If the Women's Pilgrimage of 1926 does not rival the Suffrage Pilgrimage of 1913, the enthusiasm of the Conference held last week at any rate promises that it will show the same spirit of hope and comradeship that animated women in suffrage days.

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD—UNITE!

The Secretary of the Austrian Legation writes: The Juvenile Welfare Board for Lower Austria, an institution which organizes on an extensive scale all branches of child welfare work in the province of Lower Austria, is anxious to put through a scheme which should be of interest to social workers and those desirous of promoting international understanding and friendship. The Holiday Homes which the Welfare Board runs in some of the most beautiful parts of Austria have been thrown open to children from foreign countries. Holland, Hungary, Germany, and Czecho-Slovakia have already co-operated by sending parties of children to the Homes. The Welfare Board particularly wishes to arrange for similar expeditions from Great Britain, so as to give evidence of its gratitude to this country for the help it received during the post-war years of hardship and suffering. The Holiday Homes are run under the competent supervision of teachers and welfare workers, and the charges are extremely moderate. In order to acquaint people with the nature of this branch of its work, the Welfare Board is going to place at the disposal of the Austrian Legation in London a series of lantern slides showing the interior of the Homes, the parts of the country in which they are situated, and illustrating the games, excursions, and other opportunities for sports (including winter sports), which the small holiday-makers are offered. Organizations interested in the work of the Juvenile Welfare Board and willing to help towards the realization of the scheme are requested to apply to the Austrian Legation, 18 Belgrave Square, S.W. 1, which will be pleased to supply them with the lantern slides and descriptive text and any other information which may be required.

¹ Contributed by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY.
Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

COUNCIL MEETING, 24th to 27th FEBRUARY, Central Y.M.C.A., St. George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W.C. 1. (Entrance, Caroline St., Gt. Russell St.)

TIMES OF SESSIONS.

Wednesday, 24th February, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.; Conference, 4.45 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, 25th February, 10 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.; 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 26th February, 10 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Saturday, 27th February, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RAILWAY FARES.—URGENT.

Societies are reminded that applications for Delegates' Tickets must be made before 2nd February, and that it would be of great assistance to Headquarters and to all concerned, to know by that date the number of those who require reduced railway fares. The tickets will be available for Societies who would like to bring, in addition to their Delegates, substitute delegates to act when the delegates proper are unable to attend. Substitute delegates can be present during the whole meeting if they wish, but only have speaking and voting powers when the delegate is not present.

Societies are further reminded that there will be no reduced fares at all unless the requisite number make application. The number was only just reached last year, it will be necessary for each Society to make an effort to send a larger contingent this year.

LUNCHEON—THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY. HOLBORN RESTAURANT, 1 p.m.

The speakers at the Luncheon will be: Capt. Walter Elliot, M.P. (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health, Scotland), Sir Martin Conway (M.P. English Universities), Miss Gray (High Mistress St. Paul's School for Girls), Lady Keeble (Miss Lillah McCarthy), and Dr. Jane Walker. Seats will be allotted in order of application. Tickets, price 5s. for members, 7s. 6d. for non-members, may be obtained either through Societies or directly from the Secretary, 15 Dean Yard, S.W.1.

LADY ASTOR'S RECEPTION.

Lady Astor is inviting delegates to the Council Meeting to an evening reception at her house, 4 St. James's Square, on Thursday, 25th February, at 8.45 p.m.

MASS MEETING ON EQUAL FRANCHISE. FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, at 8 p.m. CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

Speakers.—Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., LL.D., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Madame Malaterre-Sellier, President of the Paris Branch of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

Lady Astor's plans have been changed owing to the illness of her son, and there is every reason to hope that she will also be one of our speakers. Lady Astor was asked to speak when the first arrangements for the meeting were being made, but as she had arranged to go abroad on that day, she was obliged to refuse.

VISITORS' TICKETS.

Visitors' tickets may be obtained either on application to Headquarters or at the door. Price 2s. 6d. for the whole session or 6d. for a single session.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

DEPUTATION TO CAMBRIDGE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

A Cambridge Committee, recently formed to press for the application of the principle of "Equal pay for equal work," to men and women workers employed in the Civil Service, arranged a deputation which was received by Sir Douglas Newton and Sir Geoffrey Butler. The chief object of the deputation was to ask the Borough and University Members to support a request which will be made this Session for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider by what means, if any, the principle of equal pay for men and women workers of the same grade may be applied. The deputation, the members of whom were introduced by Councillor Mrs. Hartree, chairman of the committee, consisted of representatives of the Association of Officers of Taxes and the Cambridge Post Office, Mrs. Bethune Baker, representing the Cambridge S.C.E.C., Mrs. Rackham, J.P., Mrs. Stevenson (representing the Cambridge W.C.A.), Miss Strachey (Principal of Newnham College), Miss M. G. Jones, and Mrs. Heitland.

Sir Geoffrey Butler said that the aims of the deputation had most sympathetic friends in Sir Douglas Newton and himself, and he asked that the Cambridge Committee should "brief" him and keep him well supplied with information respecting the movement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HOUSES IN 1926.

MADAM,—In an article on "Houses in 1926," in the issue of the WOMAN'S LEADER of 15th January, it was stated that a welcome would be given in its columns to any reports of experiments in housing by public bodies, societies, or individuals, so I send a short account of an experiment which is being made at Worthing, which was started by a few members of the National Citizen's Union, two of whom were friends of mine who had just gone to reside there and were shocked at the overcrowding and consequent misery to be found in an apparently prosperous town. Their first idea had been to build two houses on their own account and accept the responsibilities of landlords themselves, but they found it would be so much more effectual, and in the long run, economical to attempt the project on a larger scale, and build a small terrace of houses, that finally a meeting was called, and a small company with the title of Worthing Small Dwellings Company, affiliated to a Public Utility Society, was formed, and it was decided to begin with twenty-one houses, six of which are now occupied, five more will be in a week's time, and the remaining ten by the end of February. A committee meeting was held in December to consider the claims of applicants to the number of 150 for the twenty-one houses. It is too soon to say whether the scheme will be a financial success, that was not the first object of the promoters, it was thought there might be a reasonable return on the money laid out which would be all they looked for, and which they hoped would satisfy the shareholders also.

It is encouraging to think that such schemes can be set on foot by private effort in the first place, and no one with the least idea of what the shortage of houses means can do otherwise than heartily wish them success.

(Mrs.) MARIAN POLLOCK
(Dorking).

"WEIR HOUSES BETTER THAN NONE."

MADAM,—The Government, I gather, is winning the praise and gratitude of the women's organizations, judging by their press in England, for its decisive and practical step toward a solution of the housing difficulties in Scotland. It would certainly deserve all the *adros* if the Weir house were the only solution to the problem of the housing and re-housing of the working classes and the slum populations, as the public have been practically led to believe by "damned re-iteration's artful aid" on the platform and in the Press.

Can the Government really be believed to be putting the housing urgency before every other consideration, when for a solution they fix upon the one type of house which the building trade operatives have sworn war against, building employers regard with distavour, and the Local Authorities fight shy of—partly perhaps because of possible Labour trouble, but partly also because of the heavy cost of upkeep which these houses will entail for their duration, whether long or short? One indisputable item is the annual coat of paint on the outer walls if the house is to be maintained in good condition. It was recently reported in the Press that a representative of Messrs. Weir had stated that if the walls of their steel houses were "deliberately allowed to corrode" (i.e. by inadequate painting) "entirely new walls could be built in two days at simply the cost of a year's rent"! Regarding the interior of the steel shell, Mr. Henderson, M.P., a ship's joiner of long experience, states that the lining of the hull of a ship must be made removable to allow for the frequent cleaning and repainting of the interior. Unless this were done the ship would be unsuitable for living in. The same proceedings would be necessary for the steel house. It appears as if the steel house, rather than solving the housing problem is likely to create one. If the Government's object is to give a filip to the steel trade and to provide work for the unemployed therein, then surely the Atholl house, in the erection of which they would run no risk of Trade Union obstruction, would serve their purpose. It is rather more expensive, but according to experts it has certain structural advantages and provisions against corrosion worth the extra cost. I would point out in passing that although English editors may applaud the Weir house for Scotland, when English Local Authorities decide to give the steel trade a share of business, they invariably choose the Atholl house as their medium.

I am not seeking to defend the building trades unions' tactics, but I do suggest that the Government in pursuing a selective and coercive policy in housing is also to blame. This is surely the psychological moment to "beware of entrance to a quarrel," and the Government, with a choice of other alternatives for mass production, and of other steel houses non-provocative of obstruction, might very well adopt the principle of "Noblesse oblige."

In a former letter which you were good enough to insert, I alleged that progressive women had not played their part in a thorough study of the housing problem. I now submit that if they had done so, we should not have had the women's Press joining in the Coué-like conspiracy of suggestion that "Weir houses are better than none."

Apart from my disagreement with your attitude toward the Weir house, I should like to express my appreciation of the suggestions made in your article, "Houses in 1926," in the issue of your paper of the 15th January. Women could do so much by concerted action to speed up housing. I hope with your permission to deal with some aspects of this in a further letter.

(Mrs.) M. E. BERTRAM
(Midlothian).

THE PEERESSES' BILL.

MADAM,—I notice that, in the account of the Political Year which appeared in your issue of the 1st January, it was stated that the Peeresses' Bill, which was introduced into the House of Lords last year by Lord Astor, was initiated by the Six Point Group. I should be grateful if you would allow me to make a small correction: While the Six Point Group, in common with other women's societies, supported the measure, it was actually initiated by the Committee of Peeresses in their own right.

MARGARET WEST,
Secretary to the Committee of Peeresses in their own Right.

KENSINGTON S.E.C.

At a Drawing Room meeting held by the kind permission of Mrs. Adrian Corbett at Pembroke Lodge, W. 8, on Thursday, 14th January, presided over by Miss H. Reynard, M.A., Warden of King's College for Women, Mr. J. L. Cohen spoke on "Women and Social Insurance." He enumerated the emergencies which have to be met by families of the working-classes when the bread-winner is out of work, through sickness, accidents incidental to their employment or other causes. He emphasized the fact that women and children bear the brunt of these hardships, and that the amounts received under the present system of insurance are inadequate and are not extended to the dependents of the workers. Meanwhile families frequently pay as much as four or five shillings a week to insurance companies. The remedy he suggested was that certain classes of insurance should be administered by the State. A resolution was passed and forwarded to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Royal Commission on Health Insurance asking that medical sick benefits be increased and extended to the wives and children of insured workers.

ILKLEY S.E.C.

A well-attended meeting on Equal Franchise for men and women was held in the Lecture Hall, Ilkley, on Wednesday, 20th January. The meeting was organized by the local S.E.C., and supported by the Ilkley, Ben Rhydding, and Junior Conservative Associations, the Women's Liberal Association and Young Liberals, the Trades and Labour Council and Women's Section. Lady Balfour of Burleigh moved the N.U.S.E.C. resolution. An amendment was proposed by the Ben Rhydding Women's Conservative Association, suggesting 25 for the qualifying age. The amendment was lost, and the resolution carried by a large majority.

DO WE NEED A MASCULINE REVIVAL?

DEBATE BETWEEN MR. MITCHELL-HEDGES, F.R.G.S., AND MISS WILKINSON, M.P., UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN CLERKS AND SECRETARIES, CITY BRANCH.

At the last moment the Library of the Memorial Hall had to be exchanged for the larger hall as the number of people who expected to be present at the debate grew, and on the evening of the 20th January, some seven to eight hundred city women workers and a good sprinkling of men attended to hear and take part in this interesting debate. Mr. Mitchell-Hedges, in opening the debate, stated that he had already come to the conclusion that many of his principles and convictions coincided with those of the Association; he believed that the worker should have a fair return for his or her services, and that initiative should be encouraged more than is done at present. He told us frankly that man was the leader by nature, and those nations where women had been allowed to rule soon developed into a state of degeneracy. He quoted many Indian tribes amongst whom he had lived, where this state of affairs had obtained, and then proceeded to instance the case of Rome, and stated that Rome had only decayed when men had turned to the worship of women. At many stages, the audience was unable to keep control of itself, and Miss Lilian Dawson from the chair had continually to check the interruptions.

Miss Wilkinson had little difficulty in scoring points against Mr. Mitchell-Hedges. Her speech began by dealing with the points of her opponent one by one. She first of all exploded the rule-of-nature idea and then proceeded to point out how women were just as capable of performing the work of the world as men were. Mr. Mitchell-Hedges' argument that the prime object for the creation of men and women was procreation she countered by a fine appeal to the better instincts of her audience and wound up her address on a high ideal note. That the human race was created in order to add its quota to the sum of the world's good was surely the belief which guided most of us rather than the purely materialistic conception outlined by Mr. Mitchell-Hedges.

The debate was then taken up from the body of the hall, and it was significant that although most of the speakers were men with one exception, all were united in criticizing Mr. Mitchell-Hedges' arguments, and in upholding the position taken by Miss Wilkinson.

The Chairman, in closing the debate, declared there was no need for a vote to be taken, as it was perfectly obvious from the way in which the audience responded to Miss Wilkinson's fine address that all were united in emphatically denying that there is any need at the moment for a Male Revival.

THE NEW SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN.

This campaign was inaugurated by a successful meeting organized by the Women's Freedom League at Caxton Hall last week. Miss Elsie Morton, from the Chair, moved a resolution calling upon the Government immediately to introduce and carry into law a simple Franchise measure, granting the vote to women on the same terms as to men. Mr. Frank Briant, always a good friend, seconded in an admirable speech. Miss Ellen Wilkinson and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence spoke with something of the fire of the Suffrage struggle in pre-War days, and Miss Phipps, who will be remembered as one of the gallant band of women who stood for Parliament as far back as 1918, gave an amusing speech in support of the resolution. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Woman Engineer

Articles on Published quarterly—Price 6d.
ENGINEERING, INDUSTRIAL,
and ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

By Women and Men Engineers.

Send for a Specimen Copy to: The Publishers, Women's Engineering Society, 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W.

COMING EVENTS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEB. 26. 8 p.m. Central Hall, Westminster. Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise. Speakers: Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., Miss Maude Royden, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P.

Dunfermline S.E.C. **JAN. 29.** 7.30 p.m. New Row Masonic Hall. Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "Woman's Share in the World of To-day." Chair: The Right Hon. W. Adamson, M.P.

Edinburgh W.C.A. **FEB. 2.** 5.15 p.m. Study Circle at 27 Rutland Street. Miss C. R. Borland, M.A., on "Present Position with regard to Factory Legislation."

Gillingham W.C.A. **FEB. 1.** 7.30 p.m. Miss Whately on "Current Legislation."

Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A. **FEB. 4.** 8 p.m. Central Halls, Bath Street. Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "The Task of the Women in Europe."

FEB. 6. 7.15 p.m. Grand Hotel. Dinner to commemorate the Passing of the Representation of the People Act (1918).

Horsham W.C.A. **FEB. 12.** 3.15 p.m. Miss Bertha Mason on "Reform of the Poor Law."

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. **FEB. 5.** 3 p.m. Annual Meeting at South Villa, 76 Camden Hill Road, W. 8. 3.30 p.m. Open Meeting, when Miss Helen Ward will speak on "Equal Franchise." Chair: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Purley W.C.A. **FEB. 3.** 3 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Legislation Affecting Women during 1925."

Saffron Walden S.E.C. **JAN. 29.** 3 p.m. Mrs. Hubback on "The Parliamentary Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

SIX POINT GROUP.

FEB. 1. 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence on "The Relation of Women to the Modern Youth Movement."

SOUTHAMPTON SISTERHOOD.

JAN. 31. 3 p.m. Mrs. White on "The Parliamentary Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

JAN. 29. 8.15. Minerva Club, 56 Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. Conference on "Women's Work in the Home." Speakers: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Miss Haslett, Mrs. Northcroft, and Miss Marian Berry. Chair: Miss Anna Munro.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

JAN. 29. 4.30 p.m. 70 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Mrs. Willoughd Hodgson on "Pottery and Porcelain." Chair: Mrs. Freeman.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPEWRITERS.—4 Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

TO LET AND WANTED.

FLORENCE, ITALY.—Miss Muirhead, 11 Viale Mazzini, receives PAYING GUESTS; moderate terms.

LAKE OF GENEVA.—PAYING GUESTS, moderate terms. Vegetarian. Close to Fellowship School.—Mrs. Collier, La Falaise, Gland, Vaud.

BED-SITTING ROOMS, with breakfast. Gentlewomen (professional, business, students), permanent or temporary. Gas fires, meters, e.l. Quiet, select.—10 Endsleigh Street, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1.

CHELSEA—FLAT to let (sitting room, bedroom, kitchen, use of bathroom), furnished, from March.—Apply, Box 1,213, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

HERTFORD HOUSE, 65 Albert Bridge Road, Battersea Park.—Single and double BED-SITTING ROOMS, with breakfast and bath, for professional women or students; central heating; other meals by arrangement; £2.

BED-SITTING ROOMS (two), south aspect, every convenience, without board or attendance; very moderate terms; lady's quiet homely house, large garden; good road, near Brixton Station.—Box 1,219, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

COUNTRY COTTAGE wanted from about the middle of March for several months. Three or four bedrooms, garden, attractive country; garage near; convenient distance from London, preferably north or north-west.—Apply, Box 1,222, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

SMALL HOUSE in central part London to let, furnished, for spring and summer. Two sitting rooms, four bedrooms, telephone, wireless; easy to run; good housekeeper if desired.—Apply, Box 1,221, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

WELL-FURNISHED SITTING ROOM, two BED-ROOMS, use of bath, kitchen, gas stoves, to let to professional women in lady's flat; 3½ guineas weekly.—Write, C., 5/12 St. Stephen's Square, Bayswater.

W. SUSSEX.—Beautiful manor house to let, furnished, six months, 8 guineas week, or for sale £5,000; two large reception, six bedrooms, massive oak staircase.—Box 1,123, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

UNFURNISHED, large ROOM to let in March, Bloomsbury district; top floor, 3 windows, overlooking public gardens; use of kitchen and bathroom (geyser); £1 weekly; attendance by arrangement.—Apply, Box 1,124, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

W.C. 1.—TWO ROOMS, beautifully furnished, in professional woman's flat. Lift, every convenience; 37s. 6d.—9 Woburn Mansions, Francis Street.

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

ZITA'S KITCHEN, LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE, Earl's Court. Mistresses and Maids can learn housekeeping, catering, and cooking here at hours to suit themselves, or by correspondence. Study circles arranged. Economic diets planned. Terms by arrangement.—Address, Ann Pope, c/o THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Learn to become a useful speaker and Chairman.—Box 1,216, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

GENTLEWOMAN, at present resident in Geneva, good linguist, good packer, is prepared to act as TRAVELLING COMPANION to young, inexperienced, or delicate travellers. All responsibility undertaken. Terms by arrangement.—Address, Miss Geraldine Cooke, 44 Clarence Gate Gardens, N.W. 1.

BOOK-KEEPING.—Classes and Private Tuition.—Courses to suit individual requirements.—Miss A. E. Cowley, 31 Westminster Palace Gardens, S.W. 1. Telephone Victoria 768.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SALE.—HUCKABACK TOWELLING.—Remnant bargain bundles of Irish huckaback linen towelling, very superior quality, for bedroom towels, sufficient to make six full size towels, 12s. 6d. per bundle, postage od. Write for January Sale Catalogue To-day.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

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. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

POST WANTED.

SWISS Lady, experienced SUPERINTENDENT of Hostel for Girls, now closing, seeks similar post. Reference, Miss Sharpe, Gibbaven, Highgate, N. 6.—Box, 1,125, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

DRESS.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sara, 163 Ebury Street (5 min. Victoria Station). Tel., Ken. 3947. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,141, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 31st January; 3.30. Music, The Right Hon. Lord Buckmaster, P.C., K.C., on "The Reform of the Divorce Laws." 6.30, Miss Maude Royden on "Christianity and Divorce."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and the Free Birth Control Clinic, founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Councillor H. V. Roe. New address: 108 Whitfield Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, requires and supplies educated women for all branches of domestic work. Registration: Employers 2s. 6d., Workers 1s. Suiting, 7s. 6d., and 2s. Telephone, Western 6323.

CHARGES FOR PREPAID CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

	INSERTIONS.			
	One.	Three.	Six.	Thirteen.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
12 Words	1 0	2 0	3 6	7 0
18 "	1 6	3 0	5 3	10 6
24 "	2 0	4 0	7 0	14 0
30 "	2 6	5 0	8 9	17 6

Additional words at 1d. per word.

Payment may be made by postage stamps. Postal Orders and Cheques should be drawn to The Common Cause Publishing Co., and crossed.

If a copy of the paper is required, postage should be sent.

Persons using a Box Office Number and requiring replies to be forwarded by post must send sixpence to cover expenses.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **1½d.** including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

Name

Address