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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Return of a Friend.

Our feelings are, of course, mixed when a woman candidate is defeated at a by-election and a former consistently loyal friend returned to the House of Commons. Dr. Laura Sandeman has not identified herself with our "Cause", and her replies to the questions of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship prove that she does not see eye to eye with us on some very important matters, but we believe that she would have taken trouble to understand our point of view if she had been successful. Mr. Wedgwood Benn, on the other hand, has already proved by his words and deeds not on one occasion only, but over and over again, his whole-hearted support, and knowing this we welcome his return with enthusiasm. Lip service is common enough to-day, but the little group composed of members of all parties can always be counted on for comprehending and practical help, all the more helpful because it is based on sincere conviction. Mr. Wedgwood Benn has been greatly missed during his absence, and we not only congratulate him but ourselves on his return.

Sir James Agg-Gardner.

In the death of Sir James Agg-Gardner the Woman's movement loses one of its oldest and staunchest friends. A Member of Parliament with few gaps since 1874, he was one of the earliest supporters of Woman's Suffrage. In one of his only three speeches in the House of Commons, he moved the second reading of the Suffrage Bill of 1912. Sir James was also a backer of the first Guardianship of Infants Bill, and his vote was continually given for the causes for which we stand. Though a bachelor, his interest in domesticity was shown by his chairmanship of the Kitchen Committee of the House of Commons.

Another By-election Woman Candidate.

Miss Florence Widdowson has been nominated as the Labour candidate at the Cheltenham by-election, caused by the regrettable death of Sir James Agg-Gardner referred to above. We are not yet in a position to state Miss Widdowson's views on our special subjects. Whatever her chances may be, we regard with approval the tendency for women to be brought forward at by-elections. They must take hazards just as men have done, and the public will get accustomed to them; even already they are less of a curiosity than they were a few years ago.

Women Candidates at the General Election.

The list of names of women candidates at the next General Election becomes longer every day. Miss Monica Whately has recently been unanimously adopted as prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire, and Miss Mary Grant has been adopted as prospective Liberal

candidate for West Salford (Lancs). Both these candidates were prominent suffrage workers, and are sound feminists and their knowledge and experience would make them very valuable members of the House of Commons.

Viscount Haldane of Cloan.

The death of Viscount Haldane removes not only a statesman with a fine tradition both of public service and intellectual probity, but one of the most consistent and warm supporters of the woman's movement. As a keen advocate of woman's suffrage in both Houses since 1892, Lord Haldane has always worked for equal opportunities between men and women before the law and in the professions—particularly in his own, the legal, profession. We have no space to pay tribute to his services as Minister of War, as Lord Chancellor, as a philosopher, but some reference must be made to his advocacy of adult education and his close connection with the Workers' Educational Association.

The Two Political Platforms in the United States.

We discussed in a leading article recently the published programme of the Labour Party in this country and before long the programmes of the other two parties will be open before us for scrutiny. In the United States the "platforms" of the Republican and Democratic Parties adopted at their National Conventions have been printed by the League of Women Voters in a handy pocket edition for examination during the summer and autumn. In the current International Woman Suffrage News are published some interesting comments from the President of the League. This body, like similar organizations in this country, encourages its members to work with the parties of their choice. So far as the purely equality programme is concerned, it would appear that the Democratic Party takes the lead, though the women of America appear to be faced with an indeterminate issue with regard to prohibition. The Democratic Party declares its support of "equality of women and men in political and governmental matters and advocates an equal wage for equal service." We ourselves feel less comfortable about the continuance of "the traditional policy of the party for the protection of women in industry". Why not extend its acknowledged responsibility for "problems of human welfare" to industry instead of selecting women for special favours?

Crystal Eastman.

The death of Crystal Eastman comes as a shock to all those who remember her vivid personality. She was not so well known here as in her own country, the United States, where she worked for Suffrage and for the Woman's Peace Party, but in recent years she lived a good deal in London, as her husband, Mr. Walter Fuller, who died last year, was an able member of the B.B.C. staff. Some readers of this paper will remember her appearance on the platform at the Council meetings of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship two years ago, when the Council was rent with controversy. She seemed to bring a breath of fresh impersonal interest into the debate, and those who heard her regretted that her return to America obliged her to withdraw her candidature for the Executive Committee.

Cannon Fodder.

The Italian Press, or in other words the Fascist party Press, is deploring a 2 per cent drop recorded during the last half year in the Italian birth-rate. Italy, it is urged, cannot play its part as a great power unless it maintains a regular annual increase of some half a million souls, and this apparent check has developed in spite of deliberate political action designed to frustrate its operation: tax rebates, bounties for the fathers of large families and what not. Indeed, those who have followed expressions of Fascist opinion with regard to women will know that one function

and one function alone is assigned to them: the unrestricted breeding of male Fascists for purposes of national expansion and military security. The recorded utterances of the militarist leaders of pre-war Germany were not more explicit in this matter than is the declared policy of post-war Italy. Against this tide of articulate and orthodox national opinion, Professor Salvemini, speaking at a recent international gathering in Birmingham, has launched the obvious counterblast. He drew attention to the fact of Italian economic overpopulation and suggested that a Government which boasts of deliberately promoting an increase of population is hardly justified in making that increase an excuse for demanding territorial conquest.

Some Hope for Mining Areas.

The holiday season is darkened for many of our readers by the apparent hopelessness of the situation in mining areas. The recent experiment of sending unemployed men to Canada gave a ray of hope, and we now welcome the Prime Minister's appeal to employers, announced as we go to press, to make an effort to absorb as many as possible of the men and boys by a transfer scheme, which was proposed in the Report of the Industrial Transference Board, which we discuss in our leading article to-day. The Ministry of Labour is prepared to advance travelling expenses, cost of removing families and to maintain families during the period awaiting transfer. It is unthinkable that so many of our unfortunate fellow citizens should go through another winter of hardships similar to those of last winter, and we trust that every employer of labour, and everyone who has it in their power to employ labour, even on a small scale, will respond to the Prime Minister's appeal.

Mountain and Sea

We offer our warm congratulations to Dr. Dorothy Jordon, who on 18th August climbed the Eiger (13,040 feet)—one of the highest peaks in the Jungfrau Group—and also to Miss Ivy Hawke in having swum the Channel for the first time this season. It is interesting to note that Dr. Jordon Lloyd is the first person to accomplish the ascent and descent of the Eiger in the same day.

"LITTLE DROPS OF WATER, LITTLE GRAINS OF SAND . . ."

The Industrial Transference Board Report,¹ appearing late in July and dealing in popular terms with the most vital social and economic problem of our time, is the kind of official document which one lays by at the end of the summer term, to resume with intelligent anticipation when the holidays offer leisure for concentrated thought. But alas for those who follow such a regime in this particular case! Here is a report of some 56 pages, compiled by three eminent experts: Sir Warren Fisher, Sir John Cadman, and Sir David Shackleton, consisting of a string of solemn platitudes concerning the problem of unemployment. These are so obvious, so well-worn and withal so unhelpful that the reader is tempted to greet with a scream of irritation and anguish the nth statement of a belief that the "practical sympathy of the whole community", the "steady accumulation of small offers of help", and the "firm decision to take advantage of every chance" are necessary for the solution of our obstinate unemployment problem.

We are inclined to think that the root of the trouble is a misinterpretation of their functions by the three members of the Transference Board. These were, let us remind our readers, appointed by Mr. Baldwin in January, 1928, "for the purpose of facilitating the transfer of workers, and in particular of miners, for whom opportunities of employment in their own district or occupation are no longer available." Whether they have attempted to do this, to what extent they have succeeded, with what response they have met from individual or organized employers, or from the workers themselves, they do not tell us. Instead, the Board has devoted itself to the production of a sententious essay on the present position of unemployment, based upon a number of secondary sources already perfectly familiar to students of the subject, and involving a rapid survey of various well-worn proposals for the relief of unemployment and the reasons why,

¹ Industrial Transference Board Report. Cmd. 3156. (H.M. Stationery Office, 1s. 6d.)

Women Managers on Corporation Housing Estates.

Scarborough has gone one better than Liverpool, Chester, Walsall, Rotherham, and other towns which have appointed women managers for housing estates. It has appointed two women trained in the Octavia Hill system. The appointment was only confirmed by one vote, the opposition being based on the ridiculous supposed interference of women managers with the private affairs of the tenants. No work could be more suitable for women, and the strange thing is that this has not been discovered long ago. It has taken over a quarter of a century before Miss Hill's pioneer work has received adequate recognition. The woman manager is specially trained for her job, and brings to it expert knowledge of housing problems. Every housing scheme in the country, whether under municipal or private control should have women managers as an essential feature.

Women of Turkey.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* chronicles the interesting and, it would appear, tactful steps which the Angora Government has taken to secure some of the outward appearances of female emancipation. Its edicts imposing modern Western dress on the inhabitants of post-revolution Turkey were punitively enforced against men only. On women, emerging with greater difficulty and a more deeply inbred conservatism into the light of day, Western dress, the hat in substitution for the veil, has been imposed by precept and admonition, and by the gentle pressure of encouragement at public functions. It is said that at a banquet and dance in Angora, Mustapha Kemal cheerfully challenged all the ladies present to doff their head scarves, and the challenge was cheerfully accepted. Meanwhile the advance of women into business life, educational interest, and the public service, marches *pari passu* under official encouragement, with these changing outward and visible signs. There is no doubt at all that the intimate connection between national regeneration and the emancipation of women is at last firmly established in the minds of ambitious Eastern statesmen.

in view of the declared financial policy of the present Government, it is impossible to recommend the adoption of any of them.

So much for their negative results. Their positive result is the conclusion that in the mining industry alone there exists a permanent surplus of 200,000 men for whom the industry can offer no prospect of regular employment. This conclusion is set forth at the beginning of the report. At the end of the report it is reiterated as a figure relating to all industry, the compilers doubtless having become so bored with their own production that by the time they reached the end of it they had not the energy even to be consistent. The earlier conclusion is presumably the correct one, i.e. that there is a surplus of 200,000 men in the mining industry alone, and hypothetical surpluses amounting to perhaps 100,000 or so in other branches of the "heavy industries". Such being the case, it is very properly argued these men must be prepared to move into other industries and if necessary into other areas. It would be desirable, the Board considers, if some of them could emigrate to the Dominions—a movement which would be facilitated by the simplification of emigration procedure and the reduction of passage rates by shipping companies. It is unfortunately, however, "a matter of regret, and indeed astonishment" that the Dominions do not seem particularly anxious to have them. For the rest, one must rely on the co-operation of the public for the gradual absorption of the surplus. "This implies that every section of the community, both as a human duty and as an act of wise policy, makes itself responsible for allowing every chance of employment to those workpeople from the depressed areas." This illuminating suggestion is repeated four times in the two pages of "summary" which conclude the Report. We have neither the time nor the inclination to count the number of its appearances in the body of the report. At a rough guess we should suggest a round 50 as the probable figure. But perhaps there is a certain method in the apparent imbecility of this bewildered Board. It is, it asserts on p. 29, "Encouraged to believe that it is only necessary to state clearly that the problem before this country can be solved by a large number of small offers of help, for that help to be forthcoming." It is, however, unfortunate that we are given so little precise indication of the grounds upon which this extraordinary belief rests, for as things are, we are unable to share it.

OFFENCES AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

When the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons was appointed in 1924 part of its reference was to inquire into the prevalence of these offences. The Committee reported in December, 1925, and it is interesting to compare the results of their investigations with the Criminal Statistics for 1926.

The points on which comparison can best be made are these:—

(1) The increase in indecent assault on boys and girls under sixteen. The Report showed that the annual average had increased from 43 in the case of boys and 593 in the case of girls in the five year period 1909-13 to 82 and 807 respectively in 1920-4. In 1926 the number for boys was 127 and girls 961—an increase in both cases. It is always difficult to decide how far an increase in the number of cases brought into Court indicates an increase in the number that actually occur, but the Committee came to the conclusion that there was a real increase in these assaults and it is very deplorable that the increase should still be continuing.

(2) The decrease in sexual crime accompanied by violence and in the defilement of girls under thirteen. The number of persons tried for the defilement of girls under thirteen shows a steady decrease. The annual average was 86 in the five year period 1910-14 and 55 in the period 1921-5. In 1926 it was 43. Rape decreased from 97 in 1910-14 to 65 in 1921-5. The number in 1926 was 83. Incest on the other hand showed an increase from 60 in 1910-14 to 84 in 1921-5 while the number in 1926 fell to 69. The defilement of girls between thirteen and sixteen remained about stationary over a twenty year period. The annual average was 129 in 1905-9 and 124 in 1921-5 but the number in 1926 was 143.

(3) "When proceedings are taken the number of acquittals is high." This was the finding of the Departmental Committee. They showed that in the period 1919-23 out of 286 persons charged with the carnal knowledge of a girl under thirteen, 112 were discharged or acquitted. In 1926, out of 64 persons proceeded against, 10 were discharged by the magistrates, 2 were acquitted by the magistrates, and 6 were acquitted on their trial. For carnal knowledge of girls between thirteen and sixteen, 744 persons were proceeded against in the period 1919-23: out of these 407 were discharged or acquitted. In 1926, 185 were proceeded against and 93 discharged or acquitted (33 by magistrates, in 4 cases the Grand Jury threw out the Bill, and 56 were acquitted on their trial).

We turn to another page of Criminal Statistics on which persons tried for "Rape and other offences against females" are all classed together. Here we find an increase from an annual average of 806 in 1900-4 to 1,340 in 1921-5, and 1,479 in 1926. In the same time the increase in indecent exposure has been from 1,705 in 1924 to 1,958 in 1926. If we turn from the number of persons tried to the number of offences known to the police we find the increase more marked. In the two five year periods the increase in "Rape and other offences against females" has been from 1,218 to 2,081, while the number in 1926 was 2,390. This is a heavy increase even when we allow for the increase in the population.

These figures are sufficiently disquieting to arouse our indignation and disappointment that so little effort has been made to carry out the recommendations of the Committee made two and a half years ago. Nothing has been done in the way of legislation, and very little to improve the procedure in the Courts. When Parliament meets again fresh pressure should be brought to bear upon the responsible Department.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

(Continued from next column.)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.—ANNUAL MEETING.

The N.U.S.E.C. is entitled to ten delegates at the Annual Meeting of the N.C.W. to be held at York from 15th to 19th October, 1928. We hope that our Societies will send in nominations from among their members. Such nominations should reach Headquarters as soon as possible. In the event of more than the requisite number of nominations being received a postal ballot will be taken.

ANOTHER WOMAN TOWN COUNCILLOR.

Mrs. Rawson, who is actively associated with the Waterfoot and District Nursing Association, has been returned to the Rawtenstall Town Council. She is the third woman to be elected.

BOOK REVIEW.

LEEWAY, by Horace Shipp. (Sampson, Low, Marston and Co., 7s. 6d.)

Novels dealing with the evolution and experiences of the young writer are legion, and as they are rarely free from the besetting sin of egoism, it is a relief to see evidence to-day of reaction from them. *LeeWAY* is, however, one of those where the writer yields to the temptation of pouring out experiences of this sort, and it shows sufficient skill in construction and writing to make one regret this egocentric quality. It is the story of Stephen Sherwood, whom we follow from childhood to an apprenticeship as a "boy" in a bookseller's shop, as an assistant there, then, taken under the wing of Lady Wandesleigh, to war-work and a private secretaryship which leads to journalism and finally to a successful career as litterateur. Stephen marries his patron's sister, and seems floated on a career of social and literary success. But he turns out to have betrayed his true self, and, after complications with some revolutionary Russians, he is, as the consequence of an intricate intrigue with Sonia Metchnovitch, sentenced to three months in prison, where he works out his spiritual salvation. It is not an outstanding plot, and it loses its effect because the characters are none of them quite alive, and because even Stephen fails—inevitably, since Mr. Shipp uses him rather as a peg on to which to hang impressions, ideas, glimmerings of truth, aspirations about art, than as a character in interaction with other characters. Had Mr. Shipp striven to express himself more fully through his characters, he would have written a better book, and have got better value out of his genuine insight into people. As it is, he is inadequate, both in characterization and in the fact that, though he deals with very diverse groups of people, he never shows that sense of environment and of social and other distinctions and differences which are necessary to make the mingling of such groups clear. His best work is in some very beautiful writing where he shows a poet's sensitiveness to the phenomena of town and country, and again, when he reaches back to childhood and achieves something fresh and exquisite. And he has a share of the artist's immemorial delight in his art, a delight which brings a touch of rare distinction into the midst of a story frequently wooden and unconvincing.

E. C. E.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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SUMMER SCHOOL.—4th-11th September, 1928.

Everything promises well for the Summer School, and we anticipate an interesting and enjoyable week. Special arrangements have been made for discussions on matters of particular interest to women magistrates. These discussions will take place at the week-end, 8th-10th September.

Those who have not already applied and wish to do so are asked to send in their names as soon as possible.

The School Fees are at the following rates: Members of Societies affiliated to N.U.S.E.C., over 30 years (on 4th September), 15s.; members of Societies affiliated to N.U.S.E.C., under 30 years (on 4th September), 5s.; non-members of Societies affiliated to N.U.S.E.C., over 30 years (on 4th September), £1; non-members of Societies affiliated to N.U.S.E.C., under 30 years (on 4th September), 10s.

The charge for full board and lodging at the College will be £3 10s., but arrangements can be made for a very limited number of places to be available for a few days only at the rate of 11s. per day, if special application is made.

Non-residents wishing to attend some of the lectures can obtain tickets either beforehand or at the time, price 1s. per lecture, or 2s. 6d. for a day, including the three lectures.

TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At the last meeting before the holidays, the Executive Committee decided to invite the Hon. Mrs. Franklin and Dame Katharine Furse to serve as co-opted members of the Committee. We are glad to be able to announce that both Dame Katharine and Mrs. Franklin have consented to do this.

(Continued in preceding column.)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35/37 Marsham Street, S.W. 1. Women's Service House will be closed entirely for the whole of August and up to Monday, September 3rd.

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 199 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 10s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

EDINBURGH EQUAL CITIZENSHIP SOCIETY (in co-operation with the Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A.). Week-end School at the Buchanan Hostel, East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh, from 28th September to 1st October. Subject: The Equalities still to be won by women. Speakers: Miss Elizabeth Abbott, Mrs. Horton, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Miss Pictou-Turbervill. Inclusive fee £1 15s. Applications to the Secretary, 40 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 26th August, 6.30, Dr. Albert Mansbridge, M.A., LL.D., "The Adventurous Life."

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National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

SUMMER SCHOOL

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