

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS IN INDUSTRY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE HOME IN LITERATURE AND ART IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

Women and Jury Law.

The Hendon W.C.A. has been promised facilities by the authorities at the Law Courts and the Central Criminal Court for parties of a limited number of women, who are liable to be called up for jury service, to visit the courts. They visited the Law Courts on November 29th, and will visit the Old Bailey, Newgate Street, on December 6th, to study court procedure, and particularly the law relating to jury work. This is an excellent plan, and will familiarise women with their duties beforehand. The example of the Hendon W.C.A. should be followed by other local organisations.

New Women J.P.s in Cheshire.

The following names of women, as well as those of four men, have been added to the Commission of the Peace for Cheshire : Miss Edith Mary Dempster, of Vale Royal ; Lady Arthur Grosvenor ; Mrs. Marian Perrin Knight Newall, Wharton Hall ; Mrs. Mary Bennett, Sandbach ; and Mrs. Elizabeth Hannah Kenyon, Ashton-under-Lyne.

The Place of Women in Hospitals.

The Lady Mayoress of Manchester (Mrs. Simon) has protested strongly and actively against the exclusion of women from the governing boards and staffs of hospitals, and has sent the following letter to the Chairman of the Ladies' Committee of the St. Mary's Hospital :—"I am very sorry that it will not be possible for me to do as your committee asks and distribute the Christmas gifts at St. Mary's on December 28th. Holding, as I do, very strongly the necessity for the inclusion of women on the governing boards and on the staffs of our hospitals, particularly those that deal exclusively with women and children, I do not feel that I can co-operate with St. Mary's so long as it continues to be managed and staffed entirely by men." We welcome her spirited stand.

Women Candidates at the Canadian Elections.

Five women have been nominated for the general election for the Canadian State Parliaments, which is to take place on December 6th, three in Ontario, one in Montreal, and one in Winnipeg. They all represent the Liberal, Labour, or Progressive groups, and one of them is opposing Mr. Ballantyne, the

Minister of Marine and Naval Affairs in Montreal. Miss Macphail is the Progressive candidate in the rural constituency of Grey, Ontario.

Women as Head Teachers.

It was recently announced at Rochdale that the headships of four mixed elementary schools were about to become vacant, and it was suggested that at least one woman should be appointed. Several women submitted applications for the positions, but none have been successful, since the Staffing Sub-Committee have appointed four men to the vacancies. The question of discrimination has been answered by the Committee, who say that they appointed the four candidates they thought best suited for the positions. Some members of the Education Committee are favourable to a trial of a woman as head teacher, and will take the first opportunity of raising the matter in the Council. The choice certainly looks like prejudice, in spite of the Committee's denial.

Women's Night Work in South Africa.

The South African Government has formally notified its ratification of the International Convention adopted at the First International Labour Conference, held at Washington in 1919, prohibiting the employment of women, without distinction of age, during the night in public or private industrial undertakings.

A Mothers' International.

The International Congress of 1921, held in the old Swiss city of Basle, on the Rhine, will probably go down to Co-operative history as one of the greatest occasions which the Movement has known. It was the first international Congress since the great war. The problems, the difficulties, the possibilities for the Co-operative Movement which it had to discuss were greater than ever before. There, some Co-operative Movements—those of the new countries like Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Georgia, Hungary—made their appearance for the first time as Movements of independent nations. And there the foundation was laid of an International Women's Guild. Co-operative women are not, for the most part, wage-earning women, but represent that still more numerous and important section of the

community, the working class housewives and mothers, who are now for the first time uniting internationally. It is not possible at the moment to start a regular international Guild; funds are lacking and possibilities of meeting are few. That must come later. But feeling amongst the delegates was unanimous that some kind of International Committee would be of the greatest help in keeping Co-operative women of different countries in touch with each other. It was accordingly decided to form a Committee consisting of one representative from each country appointed by the Women's Organisation of that country (Guild, Committee, or whatever it might be called), and of a President and Secretary appointed by the Conference, with power to co-opt a woman from each country where there is yet no Co-operative Women's organisation. Frau Freundlich, of Austria, and Miss Enfield, of Great Britain, were appointed President and Secretary.

Belfast Women's Advisory Council.

The Belfast Women's Advisory Council, representing practically all the women's societies in the city, was organised in 1919 to "worry the Housing Committee," as one member remarked, and reorganised in 1920, as experience had proved the real desire among women's organisations for some means of joint action on political and municipal questions. The situation this autumn was not easy. The hall in which the meetings were held stands at the edge of a "disturbed area," and some members live just beyond another district where "there is trouble," to use the cautious phrase of the non-combatant. The neighbourhood of a district where political controversies are carried on by means of revolvers, bombs, and "pavies," is necessarily a check to regular attendance. Again, no one, official or unofficial, knows what will ultimately be within the powers of the Northern Parliament. For instance, the Advisory Council has steadily agitated for an increase in the number of women police, and for this purpose promoted a memorial signed by every society in the city interested in social welfare. Under the Government of Ireland Act the police form one of the reserved services under the control of what even Unionist Belfast is beginning to term the "British" Parliament. But who knows what changes are to come now? So that has to be dropped for the present. The Council has therefore concentrated on the education question. A Committee has been appointed by the Northern Cabinet to draft recommendations for the forthcoming Education Bill. The Council has organised an influential deputation to wait upon this Committee and put forward nine points, which it is hoped may meet with a more genuine acceptance than the historic fourteen. No real compulsory education exists in Ireland, as the clauses in the present Act are admitted to be a farce. The Council places first, genuine compulsory education up to the age of sixteen, abolishing the present exemptions for "potato harvesting, fishing, or any other domestic necessity," to quote the Act. The Council also urges alteration of school hours, abolition of the present single session, from 9.30 to 3, and adoption of the two sessions, with provision for school dinners. Medical opinion in Ireland strongly condemns the present arrangement, with the long hours, want of dinner, and absence of recreation. Provision for education of the mentally deficient, at present non-existent in Ireland, for special training for deaf and dumb, for the blind, and for outdoor schools for delicate children, have also been recommended. It is hoped the long-expected Education Bill will prove that the woman voter can in reality influence legislation. Education is needed, not only for children of school age, but for politicians and even members of the Northern Parliament. The clamour against the "hardship" of compulsory jury service for women has been as loud in Belfast as elsewhere. Those whose tender care for women's welfare leads them to desire modification of the law in this respect saw in the Northern Parliament a chance of success. They arranged a deputation to wait on the responsible Minister, and urged a change in the interests of the over-burdened working woman. The deputation was introduced by one of the newly elected women M.P.s! A non-committal but sympathetic reply was given by the Minister. The Advisory Council took immediate action. Press letters were sent; individuals were communicated with, and a counter deputation, consisting largely of working women, was arranged. A public lecture on the need for women jurors was given by a woman J.P., and probably the question of modification of the law will be left in peace until the time comes for pressure to secure strengthening of the clauses. "If it was not for the Advisory Council, we women would never have a say," remarked one of the members, a working woman. The remark was true.

The Danish Marriage Laws.

A Bill to amend the marriage laws was introduced into the Danish Parliament last week by the Minister of Justice, M. Svenning Rytter, which makes it unnecessary to undergo a civil ceremony if a religious one is performed. It proposes that persons of deranged mind and "imbeciles of a higher degree" shall not be allowed to marry, although, in certain cases, permission may be granted. Persons suffering from infectious venereal disease or from epilepsy are not to be allowed to marry unless the other party to the marriage has been informed of the facts, and both parties have been warned by a doctor of the dangers of marriage in the circumstances. Failure to support, intoxication, serious discord or vice are all grounds for separation. After eighteen months' separation the King may grant a divorce, and after two years either side may claim a divorce. Divorce can also be claimed when one has declined cohabitation for two years, disappeared, and has not been heard of for three years, served two years' imprisonment, or suffered for three years from insanity.

Women and Music.

At a special meeting last week, the Royal Philharmonic Society abolished all sex distinctions and passed a resolution admitting women to all privileges equally with men. In recent years women have been admitted as Fellows and Associates, but not to the higher grade of Membership, election to which is considered a professional honour, and is rather strictly limited by number. Membership is now possible for women, and since the Directors are elected by the members annually, women may now take their full share in the management of the Society. This step forward will give very general satisfaction.

Army Schoolmistresses.

Our readers will remember that some time ago Lady Astor asked a question in the House on the subject of Army Schoolmistresses. Army Schoolmasters, already in the Service, were ranked as certificated teachers, but amongst Army Schoolmistresses, only those in Class 1 were so ranked, while those in Class 2 and Class 3 were graded as uncertificated, however long their service. Under a recent Royal Warrant the conditions of Army Schoolmistresses have been considerably improved. Their pay has been recognised as the Burnham Committee Scale 3, plus £10 a year when at home, or plus £30 a year when abroad. The grievance that only a certain number of Schoolmistresses in the Army could be paid for having gained the Board of Education certificate has been removed, and the extra pay for Mistresses in Charge, dependent on the number of children in the schools, has also been allowed. This is a great step forward, and Lady Astor and the Army Schoolmistresses are to be congratulated on the success.

Woman Linguist.

Miss Alice Werner, who speaks 300 native dialects, has been appointed Professor of Swahili, an East African language, at the School of Oriental Studies. This is the first professorship of the language to be instituted in this country, and Miss Werner, who is a recognised authority on African languages, has for some time past been lecturer in Swahili at the School. She is a Fellow of Newnham, and has written and lectured much on languages, which she has been studying for thirty-five years.

Unequal Guardianship.

A woman, appealing to the Willesden magistrate for the recovery of her child last week, was told that "the law says that the child belongs to the father absolutely unless there is any order of the Court to the contrary." The mother explained that her husband had "stolen her child," and asked piteously whether she had no rights at all with regard to her own child, but was told that the Court had no power to help her. These cases make the early passing of the Guardianship of Infants Bill a very real necessity, and we hope that continual pressure will effect its reintroduction next Session.

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

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

According to the latest reports, the present Government will undertake, next session, the reform of the House of Lords, and will not proceed to a general election (Irish Conference permitting) until that important matter has been settled. If these reports are true, there is a curious time ahead, for any tampering with the Second Chamber rouses passionate feelings in every truly Conservative breast, while all the lawyers and other guardians of the unwritten British Constitution will have a grand chance to mystify and perplex themselves, each other, and the public. Traditions and history apart, the question of how to constitute an ideal Second Chamber remains an exceedingly difficult one. In every country in the world it seems to work badly, while its total abolition appears to work even worse. It is wanted, of course, as a check on rashness and temporary enthusiasms, as a steadying factor, and for securing a continuity differently timed to the continuity of the more active directly elected House.

A couple of years ago a very interesting, if somewhat complex proposal for the reform of the House of Lords was put forward by a special Committee over which the Speaker had presided. An equally complex and equally interesting Minority proposal was included in the same report, and those who are interested in this subject would do well to read it.

It is not our place, in this paper, to express opinions as to the respective functions of the Lords and the Commons, nor even to draw a sword to attack or defend the hereditary principle. But any proposed change in the system of representative Government does, nevertheless, concern us very vitally, because we maintain that whatever the basis may be, men and women must be equally treated under it. If it is birth which is to determine the composition of our Second Chamber, it must be equally open to Peers and Peeresses in their own right. If it is election by some indirect manner, from some special electorate, that special electorate must not be exclusively male, nor must the possibility of being chosen be closed to women. If it is appointment, after distinguished public service, this too must be open to women, and if it is a combination of all three, women must enter by all three doors. This much is axiomatic to Suffragists, and, we believe, to almost everyone in the country. And yet, in the matter of the House of Lords, very curious old prejudices still survive, and we may find that there will be some struggling to do in this matter next session.

It is not a month since a well-known lady said that she could not tolerate the presence of women in the House of Lords—or Commons for the matter of that. "Statesmen are born, not made," she remarked, "and the gift is hereditary, and therefore can only be passed on from father to son." Such a confusion of ideas, and such a travesty of the laws of heredity makes one groan. But it is impossible to ignore the fact that there still are people—though happily few—to whom such notions present themselves as truth. And the few that there are all cluster round, and doubtless in, the House of Lords. There will be a great unloosing of their voices next session.

Meantime, with the House of Lords as it is, it is by no means certain that Peeresses in their own right are disqualified. There are twenty such ladies in the land to-day, and the Viscountess Rhondda is doing a public spirited thing in the legal steps she is taking to bring the matter before the Committee for Privileges.

Last week a deputation from a large number of women's organisations, organised by the N.U.S.E.C., waited upon the chief Whips, Lt.-Col. Leslie Wilson and Mr. McCurdy, at number 12, Downing Street, and laid before them the considered desire on the part of women that in any reconstituted Second Chamber there should be not only a nominal but a real opportunity for the inclusion of women, and that if any appointments were made by the Government of the day it should be an understood thing that some of these appointments should be filled by women. It would be very easy to say that women should be eligible for such appointments, and then to lay it down that the only persons to be appointed were judges and other public functionaries who are not likely for many years to come to be women, and a nominal opportunity of that sort is not what the women's organisations are demanding.

While the Whips, of course, gave no indication of the proposals of the Government, they assured the deputation that the representations made would be at once laid before the Cabinet Committee dealing with the matter, and that they would receive careful consideration. "Careful consideration" may mean much or nothing, and it is for the newly enfranchised women of this country to show that this demand is not merely a continuation of the old suffrage cry, but expresses a real desire to see distinguished women participating in the labours of government.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

All the Irish news is bad: not perhaps hopelessly bad, but decidedly discouraging to those (and they are all) who want a quick settlement on agreed lines. The suggestion that the Prime Minister can, after all, go off to America, and leave Irish matters to simmer during his absence is a measure not so much of his hopes about Ireland as of his fears about Washington. And meanwhile the state of affairs in Belfast is most disquieting, and the renewal of shootings makes the outlook blacker still.

From Washington, also, the news is not so clear and bright as it was a few weeks ago, and the attitude of the French—which I can only call obstinately militarist—has given a very decided set-back to American opinion. If this is the sort of thing Europe tolerates, they say to themselves, we'd better keep out. This is, of course, uninformed public opinion, and it is by no means the view of Mr. Harding and the Administration. On the contrary, they are putting forward a scheme—nebulous as yet as to details, but quite clear in outline and intention—for a rival to the League of Nations to be called the Association of Nations, and to be constituted without Covenant or Secretariat. The suggestion is, apparently, that it should meet yearly, and, without any formal plans or procedure, should aim at "gentlemen's agreements" upon international matters. To propose this plan at all in the teeth of the existing League is curious: but that is a minor point compared to the value of the plan as such. If it would be better for the world, no considerations of priority or anything else should avail. But would it? This question deserves very careful study: but for my own part I am quite clear that it would be utterly insufficient. Although there might be some slight advantage in such an international gathering for purposes of world publicity, there can also be no assurance in it that mutual action can be called upon to support any decisions, nor can any emergency be met. In international troubles it is the emergency which makes war, and without steady and continuous machinery there will be no security at all. Nor can disarmament, that very difficult thing, rest secure upon occasional conferences. This, and the watch on secret treaties, will require continuous supervision, and Mr. Harding's proposals appear to me to leave out the very essence of success.

However that may be, Washington remains the real centre of interest: but the inevitably technical and difficult discussions on Chinese affairs which have been in progress do not lend themselves to concise analysis.

At home the chief domestic event of the week has been the meeting of the National Liberal Federation at Newcastle. It was an occasion of great enthusiasm, and revealed a very remarkable spirit of optimism within that party. There is no doubt that the cloud is lifting from off Liberal ideas, and that there is a great revulsion of feeling in the country. But it is not certain that Mr. Asquith and the Independent Liberals will secure all the benefit of the change, since it is likely that Mr. Lloyd George and the Coalition Liberals will bid for some of it, and the Labour Party for some more of it, and the Progressive Conservatives for what is left. However, through whatever party channels it flows, it is as certain as such things can be that the temper of the country, when at last the General Election materialises, will not be of the "Hang the Kaiser" type.

The Newcastle gathering was an interesting occasion for more than the temper and spirit it revealed. The speaking was of a very high order, and both Lady Bonham Carter and Miss Violet Markham made contributions to the deliberations which were of the very first rank. There is no lack of ability among Liberal women, nor of spirit either.

Every day, now, the daily Press announces more prospective women candidates, from all parties. This is decidedly to the good, and when they come forward with constituencies as well as parties (as has been happening lately) it is distinctly promising. It is early to begin to make forecasts, but there is certainly a pretty general wish abroad to have at least a dozen women in the next Parliament.

It looks now as if we might have another session first. But in these matters no one can tell.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

THE EVIL THAT REMAINS.

It has fallen to my lot to visit many sore spots in our great cities. This record of a visit to a Scottish town, which is true in every detail, is written because it is needful that the very comfortable should get a glimpse of the dark places of the earth, of which the Common Lodging is an emblem. Even we, who are workers in the towns, and who wade deep (or is it, perchance, shallow?) in problems of criminal law, of rescue work, still fail to realise to what extent our efforts are needed, and are at the same time perpetually frustrated. The youth we wish to save lives its everyday life on the border-line of sin. We waste our effort as surely as they their lives.

The Scottish town I have visited is well supplied with the doubtful refuge of the Common Lodging, and, unemployment and had housing playing their part, each lodging is well filled. I left my comfortable hotel one bitter night and plunged into the darkness of a certain street, through the inevitable archway, up three flights of stone stairs, and entered the strait gate of destitution, finding all as it has ever been.

There is the well-remembered rush of foul air, the dreary kitchen with the hard benches, the fire, and the bundles of rags that stand for women. These turn apathetically as I enter, and survey me from head to foot. They are not the only inmates of the place; there is something else which should be foreign to the atmosphere. On the floor, playing languidly with a stripped meat bone and the poker, sits an exhausted, nine-months-old baby. His exhaustion would seem to be the result of an overdose of a peculiar kind of motherliness, for at short intervals he is seized and sucked (one cannot call it an embrace) by a large assortment of the women, nor is there any clue to the actual ownership of his puny being! Songs of the music-hall type are bawled into his ear, so that his little face becomes even graver than before and nerve-racked. The operation over, he is replaced, and, derelict born of derelicts, he plays with his bone, and perforce takes life as he will doubtless find it to the end! There is nothing to mark his individuality, save that his face is one colossal smut! This, then is his babyhood! What will become of his boyhood, his manhood, his fatherhood? These lodging houses turn one's world upside down, and rob one of the self-complacency by which one should live!

The deputy pokes the fire viciously with a stick. "An'," she remarks, "I expect you'll be leeking to hev cli'n shi'ts the nicht!" A roar of laughter goes round at my expense. I feel aggrieved. I think no such thing. It is a Friday, and a fortnight away from the last washing day. She need not have robbed me of the pride of past experience.

I sat down on the closely packed bench. An hour goes slowly by, and young and old, healthy and unhealthy, drunk and sober, we still sit with our hands before us. Some half-dozen of the women are smoking clay pipes, and are expectorating freely all over our "drawing-room," so that the dust has become speckled and fouler than before. Anon, the deputy's "assistant" rises, and, seeking her broom in the corner, begins to sweep. She does not sweep away from the fireplace where we sit. On us it rolls, the foul cloud of dust, of filth, of refuse, into our eyes and nostrils—and where it cannot rise for the dampness she but sweeps the harder—and the baby still plays upon the floor! My very soul revolts; this is his nursery! How many germs of disease will have entered his lungs and ours before the floor has become foul again? The woman sweeps the evil into the corner near my feet, to join that which lay there before, and so she completes her "cleaning."

Two more hours go by, and still we sit. There is no change in our attitudes upon the hard bench, only that a woman bringing in a scrap of fried fish has let a page of a newspaper fall, and it has been fought for and devoured greedily. Later on again, two girls come in—one is very young. She strolls up to the bit of a mirror against the wall, and begins to make up her face with powder and much rouge. The face has a semblance of spirituality and childishness which should belong to a happier world, but it lacks all joy; it is as if someone had gone up to her and had blown its light out. Poor little hardened, stupid face of a child, blurred by the world's evil! She turns away from the mirror, shaking out her skirts and adjusting her absurd hat, cocks her head on one side, and, with a defiant shout of "Wot 'o! S'long, gels!" goes out into the night. The second girl sits opposite to me—she is of a finer type. Her hair is nut brown, falling in curls just as far as her shoulder. She has been extremely attractive, her expression is still wistful, but her eyes are dimmed, and her face has little, curious blotches upon it. She has a twitching of the face and body. She stares at me

with hard eyes. Then I perceive that they have softened and are filling with tears. She creeps up to me furtively, sits beside me on the bench, and begins to gabble very soft and low. I have to bend my head to hers to catch what she says. "Sister, my sister—sister." "Well," I say, "what of your sister, then?" "Dead! dead!" She is gabbling again. "Three years ago—lived in the country—broke my heart—nothing to live for—went back to my job in the town—wrong chap, and no one to help." She plucks at her foul dress. "She was like you," she says, turning again. "I was watching you—fair and slight, not dark like me. We were ladies then." She pauses, and then begins again in the quick, low monotone. "The country—the country—stayed with her once, I did! An' it was all fresh an' clean! An' the birds at dawn! Oh, the birds at dawn!"—her voice breaks pitifully. "Clean, clean, I tell you, can't you hear me, clean!"—her hands clench and her shoulders heave. Suddenly she flings her arms above her nut-brown head in passionate protest against her own soul, and bursts into the very desperation of crying, "Gawd! Gawd! Christ, my Gawd!" The agony of her voice turns me sick. I move quite close to her, but I dare not leave my play-acting. "Laass, I say, 'doan't ye tak' on i' sic' fashin! Doan't! Why, whativver's yer job, then?" She turns her face, all blurred with crying. "Look at me! Look at me!"—I shake my head—"On the streets two years come December," she says—"and worse." She pauses. I must needs resume my commonplaces. "Eh, laass, but surelye t' life's not good enough for sic' as you? A clean job's a sight better nor that! Why, laass, ye doan't surelye like t' life you're leading, do ye now?" "Like it?" she says, and laughs and cries, burying her head on her hands, and shaken from head to foot. I put my arms round her, and her head falls on my shoulder and her tears upon my hand. Soon she is crying more quietly, gulping and shuddering like an overstrained child. Why can I not tear down the barrier that is between us? Of what is it made, but false conditions and false conceptions? Hard-faced, the other women watch us, but the deputy fidgets. I am a stranger, and she is not sure of me. The girl sobs on. I whisper to her of the country and the sisterhood of women and the kinship of all living creatures, of the never-failing love of God, of the powers that make my own life good. She does not speak, and lies soothed. Then her voice comes dreamy. "You talk like I never hear now," she says—"but as to Gawd! Tell me what sort of a Gawd lives in a place like this"—and then the old, old story I hear so often in these homes for derelicts. "A girl like me has nothing to live for except her own sin." The deputy is watching keenly, and I dare not say any more. So we sit, and her tired head is still on my shoulder. Presently she gives a long sigh and pulls herself erect on the bench, and, except that ever and anon her hand steals out to touch mine, she stays quiet for the rest of the evening, staring before her with great brown eyes of despair.

Night comes, and the long, restless hours of discomfort that I know so well! More women enter and many are drunk, but the child with the blurred face, much-rouged, comes back no more! I am half-dazed with sleep and have momentarily lost consciousness upon my bench. I am awakened by the penetrating sound which has its own significance—the well-known sound of a brawl. I look round, and see that they are herding a woman into a corner and are closing in upon her like a pack of wolves. Their language is foul. They are defending someone—or something—before the half-draft creature against the wall. My perceptions awake and receive a shock! It is their Maker whom this sorrowful crowd of drunkards and prostitutes are defending, the God whose breath is in their pitiful being, whose indwelling not even their besotted souls can fail to perceive! It seems that a woman missionary had visited the house a short time before, had said a few words, and prayed, and that the sodden woman in the corner, alone of all that crowd, had insulted her. "An'," shouts the deputy in words that may not be set down, "I will not hev a decent, prayerful wumman meemicked in my hoos! I will not! Christ! wumman wot air ye then, ye creature that ye took it upon yerself? Wot air ye then? Naethin! Juist naethin' at a'!" (Here it must be recorded that she spits in the woman's face, and that the rest of the pack are threatening to do likewise.) "An' ye daur ta insult Gawd in oor very faces! An' whaur will ye puir peetifu' sowul gae? Whaur?" So her cry of indignation goes on, and her pack take it up! "You who have dared to deny the Almighty in this house of decent, God-fearing prostitutes and thieves! That ever such a thing should be!" And the poor thing crouches against the

wall, shielding her head from the blows that they are at the bottom too merciful to give, and echoes drearily, "Naethin! Naethin' ava! I hev never been mair nor naethin! An' what less s'all I be now?" My brain reels under the torment of words! In the end surely the first shall be last and the last first! So they leave the woman to rock and to moan in her corner!

The deputy has returned to the peace of the fire. Anon she looks my way, and with the pride of a good hostess, remarks decisively, that it is not seemly that a stranger within her gates should listen to brawls! "Coom awa', dearie. Ye s'ould be weeshfu' for ye bed," and with arms round my shoulders she pulls me from the room. The brown-haired girl gives a cry like a wounded animal as I go. The deputy pulls me on relentlessly into the pitchy dormitory, and together we thread the long, grim rows of beds in the darkness, till we reach the one nearest the window. Here she leaves me, with the severe injunction to remain where I am.

Outside, a street lamp blinks and the wind sighs drearily. I spread down my newspapers, wrap my old coat round my body and lie down. It is bitterly cold. Forms creep in one by one, and stretch themselves out. There comes to me the old, unforgettable stench, the sound of the groans and curses, the beginning of the long night and the feeling that the room is burdened with all the sorrows of the world! But bathos is

awaiting my thoughts, for after some hours have passed, and the forms are momentarily still, a sudden impulse—and something else—leads me to strike a match and look at my bed! I roll up the newspaper—I look at the sheets, at the pillow—and I see what I see! I shudder, so that the match goes out. I lie a moment petrified, and then common sense comes to my rescue; and I know that I must not stay any more. I slip from the bed, and creep silently past the forms: I pray that the strait gate of escape may still be open, for the deputy will not let me go. From the kitchen, whose open door I must pass, comes, even at this hour, the sound of drunken brawling and the shouting of coarse songs. Can I pass? I creep along the passage, take a deep breath—and I fly! Past the door, and the brawlers; down the three flights of stairs with the sound of footsteps behind me, and so out into the street. And in my ears echoes the terrible, heartbroken crying of the girl with the nut-brown hair. Never do I see tears such as are shed in these tragic houses of Derelicts! Is it impossible to bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Is it possible to let the evil of the world make foul that which is by Nature clean? If we are content that it should be so, then it was for nothing that Christ attributed to youth a joy so whole-hearted, and a perception so unspotted, that the very Kingdom of Heaven lies within their souls!

M. FRIDA HARTLEY.

CLEARANCE SALE, AUTUMN 1921, IN GERMANY!

Seldom, surely, has there been a sale of such dimensions as is taking place to-day in Germany. Why, a bootblack off the London streets could change a paper pound for the sum of eleven hundred marks. With these eleven hundred marks he could indulge in luxuries undreamt of, had he been in Germany within the last three weeks or so. It stands to reason, in view of this exchange, that thousands of Americans, English, French, Swiss, Danes, Swedes, Italians, &c., have simply overrun the country. They have bought up goods of the finest quality with that love of acquisition which is one of the most marked characteristics of our present-day civilisation. They have been particularly fortunate, too, for the mark has sunk so rapidly that the increase in the price of goods could not keep pace with the fall of the mark, and just the very best old-established firms would naturally sell at fixed prices, according to the mark at the time of purchase, and not raise their prices from day to day as a less genuine business house would seek to do. The result is appalling. Many think they do Germany a good turn by this, but in reality, by buying up raw materials they are undermining her wealth, for the mark falling simultaneously, leaves her poorer than she was before. This is against Allied interest, the poorer Germany being the less likely to meet her liabilities. Then, again, by buying up her manufactured goods, they are under-paying German labour while increasing unemployment at home, thus not enriching themselves in the long run, though for the moment their pockets may swell. It is quaint to see people with the best of intentions, themselves feeding starving children in Central Europe, or travelling to promote new ideals, buying up things, beautiful books for the home libraries, for instance, trunks to pack them in—for even including that they are cheaper than at home—without an inkling of the way they are counteracting their own humanitarian endeavours.

A similar process may have been experienced in Austria, but she, having had no opportunity since the war of setting her factories and hands to work as Germany has had, cannot have had anything approaching the same quality and quantity of goods for sale.

On arriving in Berlin a couple of weeks ago, I went with a friend to a tailor's for a winter costume. The friend, I should mention, was German, so readers need not consider this was a case put up for my benefit. The tailor received us with a willingness to make the costume, but no material to make it with. In our presence he telephoned to several wholesale houses for materials, but was informed that their stock had been cleared. We then set forth ourselves in search of materials, and the sight of shelt upon shelt completely bare was an extraordinary one. We then set out to inspect other warehouses—we could not get a scrap of material for underwear, though luxurious ready-made goods of fabulous value in marks were still to be had. Raw materials are becoming so inconceivably expensive in marks that simple garments can no longer be produced—only by dint of the luxurious work added to it can an adequate price be demanded to cover the cost of purchase. Wherever you go, you hear every other language except German. You are told if you remark on the high price of a thing, that an Englishman or

Frenchman had just laughed at the cheapness of the very same article, because 500 marks (pre-war £25) is but ten shillings to him. Some of the bigger shops are trying to protect themselves against this inroad of foreign buyers by posting up placards outside their door bearing the inscription, "No sale of goods to foreigners."

Germany has been working almost day and night. There was business everywhere, hardly any unemployment, a circulation of ready money such as has hardly ever been experienced. A well-known firm informed me that they had sold more goods (the firm's goods are similar to those of Robinson's and Cleaver's) during the month of October than they had done during the whole of any pre-war year. A firm for manufactured leather goods said that as the stock of leather had entirely run out the factories were rearranging their machines, as in war-time, to the use of paper instead of leather. All the firms are pestered with orders, are overworked beyond endurance, are discontented through overwork. What a different picture does this call up to that of London or Paris? But while the German workman works and works, the mark falls and falls, whether it be the fault of German speculation or Allied pressure, he knows not. He only knows that at the end he is left with a mountain of paper marks, the value of which is dwindling to such a degree that had there been no business, but the goods held over, the profit might have been greater. The wheels go round, but grind no flour to make bread. Who, for any length of time can continue to work at fever heat in view of this? Who, knowing that reparations, liabilities and loss of valuable territory, will eat up the fruit of his labours by undermining the value of the currency for which he has bartered his goods and labour, will continue to work and not revolt? At present, it is my opinion that the actual stress of work is preventing reflection, but that as prices, especially of food, rise, the masses will awaken to the danger—and then? They are paying eight marks for a loaf of wholesome black bread now. This price was fixed when about 250 marks would buy an English pound. Now 900 marks will not—is it therefore not a flagrant fact that within a very short space of time the price of a loaf of bread will be 40 marks (pre-war £2)? Within this one week the price of margarine has risen from 16 marks to 32 marks a pound—will not Germany soon be where Austria is? What is the use of saying Germany is to blame for speculating as she certainly does? We are all to blame for the state of Europe. We must seek a remedy together. The German people, a population of 70 millions, will not take the fate that is forced upon them lying down; they will struggle to the last breath. Bolshevism is alien to the German instincts for dogged industry, and Russia has been a wholesome lesson, but there is such a thing as the overtaxing of patience.

It is true, therefore, however weird it may sound, that a return ticket to Germany and back is a mere item in a business transaction that may make a man or men rich over night, but that very transaction conduces to the increase of unemployment in his native country and to the chaotic state of Central Europe. The rapid fall of the mark is a calamity beyond the comprehen-

sion of the bulk of the population of any country, including Germany herself. It has been so sudden and precipitate that it reminds one vividly of the suddenness and precipitancy of Germany's awakening to the abyss of defeat into which she had sprung in the autumn of 1918, when she signed the Armistice. The atmosphere before the revolution was one of panic and yet hope, there was the hope that the overthrow of the Hohenzollerns would pave the road for Germany to re-enter into relationship with other nations, but now there is an atmosphere of panic without hope, and above all without understanding. The German people feel uncertain of the ground under their feet—they watch the tide of marks rise and rise—they gather them in, in ever increasing heaps and tell you with a look of intense fear in their eyes, that in a short time they will be faced with famine, and be glad to give the coats off their backs for a crust of bread. This attitude encourages them to enter into that seemingly incomprehensible whirl of speculation. A German will buy all he can get, whether shares at the Stock Exchange or goods in the market. He feels that any object is of more value than marks, and the owner of goods and shares will refuse to part with them unless the amount of marks he receives is

great enough to assure him of the possibility of acquiring a fresh quantity of goods.

If, nevertheless, this clearance sale is to continue till Germany is really devoid of all but paper marks, the crash that ensues will surpass our imagination. We, in England and other countries outside Germany, will be overstocked with her goods, unemployment will increase further and will cost us more than German reparations would pay for, and that seething mass of human beings in Germany will be clamouring for food and clothing as Russia is doing, as Austria is doing. We shall find ourselves faced with a state of humanity beyond our control, and disease and penury will creep to our very doorsteps. Why can we not face this and pool our resources, and with all parties concerned set about the reconstruction of Europe? We shall never do it by forcing others to pay and suffer in lieu of ourselves—we become co-sufferers then. But there is still time to co-operate and together seek a solution. Could we not somehow allay the fears of France and yet demand a revision of the Peace and a withdrawal of the Rhineland occupation troops? With America won over at Washington to help Europe, what might not yet at the eleventh hour be avoided?

IDA KORITCHNER.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 6910.

DEPUTATIONS TO CHIEF COALITION WHIPS.

On Tuesday, November 22nd, the N.U.S.E.C. organised two deputations to the Coalition Whips, Lieut.-Col. Leslie Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P., and the Right Hon. C. A. McCurdy, K.C., M.P.

Col. Sir James Greig, C.B., K.C., M.P., introduced the first deputation on the Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants Bill. The societies represented urged that the time had now come when this Bill must become a Government Measure, and emphasised the fact that women were practically unanimous on this reform. Col. Wilson, in replying to the Deputation, stated that Mr. Chamberlain had informed him that it was impossible at the present time to make promises with regard to legislation next session, but that he was sure the views of this representative and influential Deputation would receive most sympathetic consideration.

ELECTION OF WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan introduced the second deputation, which was composed of representatives of twenty-one women's organisations. She asked that the Bill dealing with the reform of the House of Lords, which is at present being considered by a Government Committee, should be drafted in such a manner as to make women eligible as members of the new Second Chamber on equal terms with men. Col. Leslie Wilson expressed his own personal agreement with the object of the deputation, and stated that the views put forward should be submitted to the Cabinet Committee which is considering the proposed Bill.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

It is possible that the Prime Minister will go to Washington after all. We therefore remind our readers that the post-card message of encouragement and support should be sent two days before his departure to 10, Downing Street.

SOUTH-EAST SOUTHWARK BY-ELECTION.

A meeting has been arranged by the N.U.S.E.C. and the London Society for Women's Service at which both candidates, Mr. T. E. Naylor, J.P. (Labour), and Mr. T. A. Jacobsen, J.P. (Coalition Liberal), will attend to give their views, and to answer questions with regard to the status of women and the welfare of women and children. The Meeting will take place at the Crossways Hall, 92, New Kent Road, at 8 o'clock on Tuesday, December 6th. Miss Macadam will be in the chair, and our members in the constituency are asked to attend to ask questions. A list of the meetings to be held by both candidates can be obtained from Miss Deverell, London Society for Women's Service, and our members are also asked to attend in order to put to the candidates questions from our Parliamentary Questionnaire.

SURREY, SUSSEX, AND HANTS FEDERATION.

A Meeting of the above Federation took place at Headquarters Office on Wednesday, November 23rd, with Miss Merrifield in the chair. Representatives from our Societies in Brighton and Hove, Hastings and St. Leonard's, Petersfield, Godalming, Croydon, and Kingston were present. It was agreed that it was impossible to continue the Federation on pre-war lines, and that, in view of the difficulty of travelling, it would be desirable to divide into smaller groups. It was therefore decided (1) to form, if possible, an Area Group for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, with Portsmouth as its centre; (2) that Societies in Surrey should have the option of joining other recently formed London and District Groups or the proposed Hampshire Group.

The possibility of the formation of a Sussex Group was deferred to a later meeting.

Miss Verrall, 14, St. Hilda's East, Old Nichol Street, Bethnal Green, E., former Hon. Secretary of the Federation, will continue to serve in this capacity for the present. She will be glad to hear from anyone in Surrey, Sussex, or Hampshire who can help to form or reorganise groups or Societies, or who will act as local Parliamentary Correspondent.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 6910.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

A most successful Mock Trial was organised by the Edinburgh S.E.C. for the education of their members in Court Procedure and duties on November 17th and 18th, when the "Court" was packed on both occasions. Storer Clouston wrote an outline of the events which led to a murder trial, but the development of the proceedings was entirely in the hands of those who took part, who gave their evidence quite spontaneously. The technical arrangements were made by Mr. Ronald Morison, son of the Lord Advocate, and other young men reading for the Law, who were careful that everything should be carried out strictly according to Scottish Procedure at the High Court.

Excellent Press notices refer to the admirable acting of all the parts, which included women Counsel for the Crown and Defence, a woman usher, who vainly attempted to quell the laughter in the Court, women as well as men jurors, and policewomen.

Societies, which have not already done so, wishing to combine education with fun, money-raising, and publicity should certainly organise Mock Trials.

GLASGOW S.E.C.

The Annual Meeting of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship was held in the Central Halls, Bath Street, on Thursday, November 24th, Miss Buchanan (Chairman of Executive Committee) presiding. The Annual Report and Financial Statement were submitted and adopted, and Office Bearers and Executive Committee for the ensuing year elected.

Resolutions were passed urging the Government to redeem their General Election pledge to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women, and to give time next session for the further consideration of the Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants Bill, and thus facilitate its passing into law. Other resolutions adopted dealt with the inequality between married men and married women under the Income Tax laws, and urged the Government to apply the principle of Equal Opportunities for men and women within the League of Nations.

Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc., gave an address on "Women's Position: Has Recent Legislation Improved It?" The meeting afterwards took the form of a reception to Mrs. Stocks and Mrs. T. Paisley as members of the N.U.S.E.C. Executive Committee.

HARROGATE S.E.C.

The first Annual Meeting of the Harrogate Society for Equal Citizenship was held on Friday, November 18th, at 8 p.m. Lady Lawson-Tancred presided, and Miss Macadam gave a graphic and very interesting account of the Parliamentary work done by the National Union during the past year. She described the high hopes entertained with regard to the Equal Guardianship and the Criminal Law Amendment Bills, and the way in which, with success almost within our grasp, expectations had been disappointed at the eleventh hour. There were grounds for hoping that we might be more successful in the coming year. Miss Macadam described the work done at recent by-elections, and defined the attitude of the Union on party questions. The audience was keenly interested, and a number of new members were enrolled at the end of the meeting.

REPORTS.

BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

The fund for International Scholarships which is being raised by the British Federation of University Women was considerably augmented by the proceeds of a matinee given at the Palace Theatre on Tuesday, November 15th. In the course of an interesting speech, Professor Winifred Cullis announced that £500 had been obtained from the sale of tickets, etc. She warmly thanked all those who had helped to make the venture a success, especially Mrs. Dornton Brown, who, on behalf of the Dramatist Section of the Lyceum Club, had arranged the programme. Three short plays were given, of which "Virginia," by Clifford Mills, proved to be of real dramatic value.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FALSE ECONOMY.

MADAM.—In your issue of November 11th, you drew attention to the inability of the London County Council to deal with new urgent cases under the Mental Deficiency Act by reason of the fact that they have spent all the money allowed to them by the Board of Control for the purpose. This situation is, as you agree, a dangerous one, but it is even more dangerous than is apparent by your remarks upon it. For the hands of every Local Authority are, or will shortly be, tied in the same way as a result of the Board of Control's Circular to which you allude.

To this circular was attached a list of urgent cases with which Local Authorities must contrive to deal, *vis.* :—

(1) Women in receipt of Poor Law Relief prior to, or at the time of giving birth to an illegitimate child, and young women with immoral tendencies or in danger of corruption by others. The urgency is increased if they have V.D.; (2) Children about to leave Special Schools and who are in need of protection; (3) Youths who are a source of local corruption; (4) Criminal defectives; (5) Defectives with severe epilepsy or of such low mentality as to be an intolerable burden in their own homes.

So far, so good. But while on the one hand the circular emphasises the necessity of providing for such cases—a necessity which cannot be disputed—on the other, it makes it impossible for Local Authorities to carry out its exhortations, by laying down as a hard and fast rule that under no circumstances can the Treasury grant for next year exceed the amount sanctioned for this.

Now, next year, on the lowest estimate some two thousand new "urgent" cases, involving an expenditure of £100,000 (half of which would be borne by the Treasury and half by the Local Authorities), will require institutional care; but none of them will be able to be provided with it under existing circumstances unless other defectives already in institutions are discharged to make room for them without additional expense. Very few such cases will be fit to be discharged; still fewer will die—probably the total number will not exceed three hundred. That means that some seventeen hundred admittedly urgent cases will be left uncared for. But it is idle to imagine that the money which it would cost to maintain them in an Institution under the Mental Deficiency Act will be therefore saved. Everyone with any experience of social work must know that if defectives of this type are left to their own resources they will drift in and out of Poor Law Institutions, Rescue Homes, Prisons and Lock Hospitals, and the total cost of dealing with them in this spasmodic and ineffective way is likely to be actually greater than the £100,000 which it would have taken to provide for them permanently and effectively under the Mental Deficiency Act. Therefore, neither true economy nor even actual saving of money will have been effected.

The C.A.M.D. are doing all in their power to give publicity to the true position, and we appeal to all who have the welfare of the community at heart to support us in our demand that the financial restrictions which at present make it impossible for admittedly urgent cases to be dealt with shall be speedily withdrawn.

EVELYN FOX.

Hon. Sec., Central Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective.

WOMEN AND WAR.

MADAM.—Miss O'Malley's fear, that a civilised nation which is not prepared to sacrifice thousands (more truly millions) of lives in warfare stands to lose its honour, is identical with the fear of the eighteenth-century sword-bearing gentleman that he would lose his honour if he were not prepared to kill or be killed in private warfare in its defence. As the one fear has long ago proved fallacious, so will the other in the near future.

In national law courts individuals, gentle and simple, have long found a means of protecting their honour, their religion, and their property, including the soil of their fathers if they happen to possess any, and any civilised individual who commits homicide in defence of his honour is condemned by all right-thinking men. An International Law Court, with fifteen international judges, has now been established at the Hague by the League of Nations. In that Court the civilised nations of the world can, from now on, settle their international disputes, and defend their national honour, their religion, and the soil of their fatherland, and any nation which fails to do so and resorts to warfare will, rightly, be condemned at the bar of humanity.

MARY M. ADAMSON.

THE WOMEN'S POLICE MOVEMENT.

MADAM.—My attention has been called to some articles in THE WOMAN'S LEADER on the subject of Women Police. It was satisfactory to note that in the article of October 28th the writer gives a generous appreciation of Miss Damer Dawson's work. Miss Dawson was untiring in her efforts for the cause of Women Police. No one who did not go through the first months of night work at the London stations, and watch the indescribable misery of those scenes, can realise the strain that was involved; and yet, as has been said, it was out of this the W.P.S. work grew.

The article of October 28th concludes with these words: "In our view it is through the disinterested and untiring efforts of the two pioneers in Women Police work, Miss Damer Dawson and Miss Allen, that the movement is still able to make its way." There are other names to add, the omission of which would be unfair. For example, Miss Nina Boyle and Mrs. Meeson Coates.

In all probability the writer of this article hardly realises what went on at the first starting of this movement. Mrs. Meeson Coates was the first inspector of Women Police in England, and was working with Miss Damer Dawson from the outbreak of the war. To her early spade work and disinterested devotion the service owes a large debt of gratitude which should not be overlooked.

Perhaps as one in the movement from the first, the designer of the original uniform, and the organiser of the first meetings ever held for the W.P.S., you will permit me to add this further bit of information.

A. ST. JOHN PARTRIDGE.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

We are indebted to the Women's Local Government Society for some of the names of women elected in the recent Municipal Elections published last week.

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COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

DEC. 3. London, Kingsway Hall, 11.30 a.m. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.

DEC. 5. Camberley, Central Hall, 8 p.m. Speakers: Frederick Whelen, Esq., A. M. Samuel, Esq., M.P.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

DEC. 7. 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. Subject: "Nationalism." Speaker: Captain Colin Coote, D.S.O., M.P. Chairman: Mrs. Jervis.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE

DEC. 8 & 9. At 56, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Christmas Sale. 2-7 p.m.

LEEDS S.E.C.

DEC. 5. At Home, Bransdean, Buckingham Road, Headingley, 7.30. Music. Dramatic Sketches.

FOLKESTONE W.C.A.

DEC. 5. "Woman's Programme at the General Election." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

HERTFORD W.C.A.

DEC. 9. "The Endowment of Motherhood," 5.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Ward.

PIONEER CLUB.

DEC. 6. 8.15 p.m. "Alchemy." Lecture by the Rev. C. H. Lee. Chair: Miss Rosenberg.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DEC. 5. At 144, High Holborn, 7 p.m. "The Principle and Practice of Dismissing Married Women." Speaker: Miss Lind-Af-Hageby.

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

DEC. 7. Public Meeting, Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117, George Street, 8 p.m. "Treatment of the Young Offender." Speakers: Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., Mr. Cecil Leeson. Chair: Miss Haldane.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

DEC. 5. Gravesend, Milton Congregational Church, 8 p.m. "State Purchase as a Solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

DEC. 6. Beckenham, Women Citizens' Association, 8.15 p.m. "The Case for State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

DEC. 9. Folkestone Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "The Future Public House." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

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THE HAT DOCTOR, 3a, Little Sussex-place, Hyde Park-square, W.2. Re-blocks and makes hats, toques; own materials used if required; re-covers shoes, satin, thin kid, or canvas; own material if preferred. Furs altered and re-made at lowest possible price. Shoes taccapped, providing satin.

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LEARN SHORT CUTS to housework from Miss Gwynne Howell, household engineer and labour-saving specialist; consultations, personal or written.—6, Redcliffe-road, S.W.10.

SECRETARIAL TRAINING combined with practical office work; fees according to subjects taken.—Miss Trotman, 36, Victoria-street, S.W.1.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, Social Workers, Approved Society. Deposit Contributors; Exemptions. New entrants cordially welcomed.—Secretary, 16, Curzon-road, London, N.10.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84, Kingsway, W.C.2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd. 1908.

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GARDENING FOR WOMEN at Ileden College, Kingstone, near Canterbury. 300 ft. up. Practical comprehensive training, individual consideration. Gardening year begins mid-September.—For illustrated prospectus apply Secretary.

TO GENTLEWOMEN.—Courses in PRACTICAL Gardening, Poultry Management, Dairy Work. Beautiful old Manor House and grounds N. Devon. Expert Teachers.—Apply Principal, Lee House Training Centre, Marwood, Barnstaple.

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LADY (25) seeks post as assistant manageress in good-class restaurant or tea room in West-end; thoroughly domesticated, practical.—Box 860, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62, Oxford-street, W.1.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston-square, S.W. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Prayer II.—What is Faith?"

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s.; Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance fee, one guinea. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte.—All particulars, Secretary, Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Town members, £5 5s.; Country and Professional members, £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro. tem.).

THE STATE AND SEXUAL MORALITY, 1s. 9d., post free. Order this constructive Report from Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Great Smith-street, S.W.1.

DECEMBER 14th, Mr. H. G. WILLIAMS will speak on "National Finance." Apply Secretary, Conservative Women's Reform Association, 48, Dover-street, W.1.

AT CHRISTMAS.—Civic Study Tour in Paris. Organised by the Civic Education League. Making a survey of social conditions, Parliamentary and Municipal buildings, conditions of industry, art institutions, &c.; also the environs of Paris. Leaving London December 27th, for 14 days.—For full particulars write: Miss Margaret Tatton, Civic Education League, 65, Belgrave-road, S.W.1.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Vic. 9542. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. CHRISTMAS SALE, 56, Victoria Street, December, 8th and 9th. 2-7 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL.

COUNTRY KINDERGARTEN and PREPARATORY SCHOOL: trained teacher; individual care; 23 miles London.—The Home School, Old Downs Hill, Fawkham, Kent.

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