

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### Equal Pay and Unequal Opportunity.

The current number of the *British Medical Journal* contains among sundry "black-listed" appointments, an advertisement by the Wigan municipal authorities inviting applications for the post of woman assistant medical officer at a salary of £500. The *Journal* explains that in view of the extensive qualifications demanded by the Wigan Authority and the very wide sphere of activity indicated as falling within the woman medical officer's duty, the British Medical Association regards the salary as wholly inadequate and hopes that "practitioners possessing the necessary qualifications will, by refraining from applying for this post, assist the B.M.A. in its mission of improving the condition of public health officers in this country." It is added that, since only about one in five assistants can expect to attain the post of senior M.O.H., it is particularly desirable that starting salaries should be adequate. It might be added that since the proportion of women assistants who reach the post of senior M.O.H. (with an average salary of £800-£1,000) is, we believe precisely none in five, it is in their case all the more desirable that starting salaries should be adequate. We sympathize with the aim of the B.M.A., and we regard such "trade union" action for the protection of occupational standards in a competitive world as generally justifiable when not carried to excess and used as an instrument for the exploitation of the consumer. But we sincerely hope that it realizes that under existing conditions of sex-discrimination in the matter of pay and opportunity its above-mentioned demand is one which may require a considerable measure of professional altruism on the part of women practitioners. £500 is a relatively low salary for a professional man. It is, we regret to say, a relatively high one for a professional woman. The man who rejects it has a far wider field in which to seek alternative opportunities, far more desirable alternative opportunities for which to strive. That such professional altruism will be forthcoming we do not doubt. Women doctors have proved themselves to be loyal colleagues. But they have a right to demand in return for such loyalty the removal of all impediments and tacit exclusions which may narrow their field of appointment or promotion. They must be given that equality of opportunity and status without which equal pay may become a poisonous mockery. And we are well aware that they have not always been given it in the medical profession.

### The Curse of Adam.

A correspondent has drawn our attention to a recent verdict of Mr. Mead, London Stipendiary Magistrate, given at the Marlborough Street Police Court. An elderly banker and a young woman were charged together with being concerned in an offence in Hyde Park. They pleaded guilty. The elderly banker emerged from the ordeal with a fine of £5. The female prisoner was condemned to one month's hard labour. Why this discrimination, one may ask, in the punishment of an offence committed jointly? The bare report which lies before us states that there were "previous convictions" against the woman. Well—we are ready to believe that she was a thoroughly bad lot. But what were the extenuating circumstances which induced Mr. Mead to deal so tenderly with a gentleman to whom the loss of £5 can have meant very little in terms of economic strain? Perhaps his advanced age influenced the verdict. He was 74. Perhaps through the court and through Mr. Mead's brain there sounded that familiar cry which has echoed down all the ages since our white-livered first male ancestor raised it as an "extenuating circumstance" in the Garden of Eden: "The woman tempted me." Not knowing the answer to these questions we refrain from further comment.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Another Step towards Debt Settlement.

Last week Mr. Churchill was enabled to make the welcome announcement that M. Caillaux, on behalf of the French Government, had accepted "in principle" the figure of £12,500,000 as the annual measure of indebtedness to Great Britain. So far so good. Our readers do not require to be reminded of the fact that according to a condition imposed by the British Government this agreement will only take effect in the event of M. Caillaux being enabled to secure a proportionate writing down of French political debt from the American Government. He is at the moment on his way to Washington for the promotion of this desirable end—nor do we imagine that it will be very easy for the U.S.A. to wreck the present rosy chances of debt settlement by insisting upon a less-generous financial policy than has inspired this country, whose resources are less adequate and whose taxpayers are more heavily burdened by the consequences of the war. If less had been said and written in America prior to November, 1918, about the ungrudging nature of American co-operation and the intimacy of her connection with Allied ideals and Allied sacrifices, it would perhaps have been easier for her to insist at this present juncture upon the sacredness of commercial morality in the matter of debt discharge—more especially in view of the vindictive lunacy which has inspired certain phases of French foreign policy since that date. But all things considered, we have good hopes that M. Caillaux will return from Washington with a better bargain than Mr. Baldwin secured for us in 1923. Meanwhile, we congratulate our own Government upon the recent policy which it has pursued as between debtor and creditor. The device of making our own settlement contingent upon a similar settlement with the U.S.A. is so simple as hardly to deserve the adjective "clever." It is almost inevitable in its simplicity. It is inconceivable that any other Government representing any other party would not have leapt to an identical solution. We feel towards it as we have sometimes felt towards the melody of a Beethoven symphony—it is so simple that we might have written it ourselves—only somehow we didn't! Therefore we offer our congratulations to its effective architects in the Government of Mr. Baldwin and our sympathies to its victims in Washington.



### Women in Council.

The Annual Conference of the National Council of Women, after a Reception by Mrs. W. A. Cadbury on Saturday, a Special Service in the Cathedral Church by the Bishop of Birmingham, and a Meeting for Girls in the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon addressed by the President, Mrs. George Morgan, started on Monday morning on the business of the Conference, whose keynote this year is Practical Idealism. The Mayor welcomed the delegates at their opening session, and the Presidential Address emphasized the power of union as a solution and an aid to the reaching of the highest practical idealism. The chief feature of Monday's proceedings was the debate on Family Endowment between Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Helen Fraser, which aroused great interest. No vote was taken. The resolutions carried in the first two days' proceedings covered a wide field, including two dealing with Press matters, one in support of the Judicial Proceedings Bill and the other urging that the names of juvenile offenders and minors concerned in sexual offences cases should not be published. On Industrial and Civil Service and Equal Moral Standard important resolutions were carried, and the business of the Conference proceeded with dispatch. The Council has been marked so far, even where victory was not gained, by marked advance in the support of equality motions. A fuller report will appear in our columns next week.

### The Unmarried Mother and her Child.

Muriel Harris, writing in the *Manchester Guardian* of 11th September, draws an interesting comparison between the treatment of the unmarried mother here and in France. In France legal conditions are much harder: "recherche de paternité" being forbidden. Thus the mortality of illegitimate children is deplorably high. On the other hand, with the closing of opportunities for marriage to a large surplus female population, and with the growing volume of public opinion in favour of a larger population at all costs, the social status of the unmarried mother is relatively very high, and a change in the law will in all probability soon follow. The state of affairs in this country is dealt with, up to date, in the 1925 annual report of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, which we have just received. The aims of this body are doubtless familiar to our readers. They include certain amendments in the law relating to Bastardy and Affiliation Orders, to the advantage of the illegitimate child, together with day to day work for the provision of proper treatment for unmarried mothers on lines which will, as far as possible, avoid separation from their children. Unfortunately, though the report is able to chronicle much Parliamentary activity, none of it is as yet reflected on the Statute Book. But that its point of view concerning the treatment of the Unmarried Mother by society is becoming part and parcel of the accepted public opinion of this country cannot be doubted. Such progress can be seen with the naked eye!

### A Judgment from the Past.

In this connexion we venture to quote verbatim a passage drawn from Harriet Martineau's contemporary comments on the bastardy arrangements embodied in the "New Poor Law" of 1834:—"Of the changes proposed by the new law, none was more important to morals than that which threw the charge of the maintenance of illegitimate children upon the mother. Hitherto the father had been made chargeable upon the oath of the mother as to his paternity. . . . The Lords, however, modified this arrangement by giving an appeal to the Quarter Sessions against the father. This appeal was rendered sufficiently difficult to leave the practical operation of the law pretty much what it was intended to be till a change was made in 1839 by which it was rendered more easy to reach the father. This change was occasioned by feelings of humanity, which many wise persons still think misguided. When the law was framed there was much wonder abroad that the Bishop of London and many moral and humane persons about him, and not a few thoughtful women, were in favour of an arrangement which left the father of an illegitimate child "unpunished," and threw the whole burden upon the mother. The Bishop of London and his coadjutors were presently proved to be right by the demonstration of facts. The decrease of illegitimate births was what many called wonderful, but only what the framers of the law had anticipated. . . . As for the thoughtful women who did not object to the new arrangement, their feeling has been nobly expressed by one of them—Mrs. Jameson—in a passage which will not be forgotten; a few sentences in which

she indicates the benefit to the whole sex, when woman is made, even through apparent hardship, mistress of herself—the guardian of her own mind and morals instead of the ward of man." The House of Lords appears in this matter to have been a considerable length ahead of contemporary opinion. We congratulate it upon this shining incident in its long history.

### Guildhouse Events.

The authorities of the Eccleston Guildhouse have devised for their "Five Quarters" Sunday afternoon discussions a most fascinating winter programme: Fifteen addresses by as many eminent persons on "Ideals in Commerce and Industry," beginning at 3.30 on 27th September. One or two appear to us of quite exceptional and outstanding interest. On 1st November Sir Josiah Stamp will speak on "How far can Economic Law be modified by Ethical Ideals?" The title alone is provocative, with its suggestion of economic law as something akin to natural law transcending the shifting man-made institutions of human society. On 22nd November Mr. Spedan Lewis will discuss the proposition that "Industry may perhaps give rise to quite fresh Social Forms," and in so doing will of necessity open up the vast subject of Economic Determinism. Are the social forms which we enjoy at present, which our ancestors have enjoyed at various times in the past, themselves the mere changing reflexes of an industrial evolution having its causation in the material needs of man? Are even our Ethical Ideals nothing more than the same reflexes in a more elusive form? Some of our Communist friends hold the view that they are. But perhaps Mr. John Lee's address on 13th December on "The Sacramentalism of Commerce" whets our keenest curiosity, for we cannot by the veriest stretch of a well exercised imagination conceive of what he means by "The Sacramentalism of Commerce."

### Producer v. Consumer.

The National Food Council, which was this summer appointed under the interim recommendation of the Royal Commission on Food Prices, and which seems to be taking its job seriously, met its first check last week. On 18th September its Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. G. A. Powell, met for the discussion of bread prices. Our readers may remember that the section on bread prices in the Royal Commission interim report contained some disquieting accusations of anti-social agreements on the part of organized traders. On the present occasion the Committee had invited the Incorporated Society of Principal Wholesale and Retail Bakers, Ltd., and the London Master Bakers' and Confectioners' Protection Society, to attend the meeting. Both societies, however, declined the invitation on the ground that they had nothing to add to the evidence already given before the Royal Commission. This is regrettable, since the evidence already given is not such as to inspire confidence in the mind of the consumer that bread is being supplied to the public at the cheapest rate consonant with reasonable profit, nor is the refusal of the two above-mentioned organizations to allow the Food Council to determine what is and what is not relevant to the business of their present inquiry likely to stimulate such confidence. Even the National Association of Master Bakers, which did go so far as to send a deputation to the meeting, appears to have displayed no great evidence of its desire to assist the proceedings of the Committee, members of the deputation being content to deny absolutely that as a national body they had anything to do with the regulation of bread prices. This, too, is to be deplored, since section 71 of the Royal Commission's interim report, wherein a slight discrepancy is noted between a statement to the same effect on the part of the National Association and the operation of a restrictive trade device known as the "National Sale Note Clause" leaves an unpleasant taste in the mouth. We hope that the National Food Council is composed of very pertinacious people, and that both Press and public will give them ungrudging support throughout the performance of their very difficult task.

### Lady Cynthia Mosley.

It is reported from Stoke-on-Trent that Lady Cynthia Mosley has been adopted as Labour Candidate for the Division. The seat is at present held by an Independent Member, Col. John Ward, who defeated his Labour opponent at the last general election by 4,546 votes. Thus it appears that Lady Cynthia has a stiff fight ahead of her. We sincerely hope that although she has not inherited the political outlook of her distinguished father, the late Marquess Curzon, which we have frequently had occasion to criticise, she may, nevertheless, have inherited his outstanding pertinacity and his marvellous capacity for solid work. Meanwhile, we must confess that we have seldom contemplated a more whimsical turn of the social and political wheel than that which is signaled by this interesting candidature.

### THE SIXTH ASSEMBLY. II.

By K. E. INNES.

It is quite impossible in the limits of short weekly articles to give any adequate reflection of the multifarious activities of the League Assembly and its Committees. To attempt to do so would reduce the report to a catalogue and duplicate bare facts which can be found in the daily papers. I therefore propose to concentrate on two reports on subjects of special interest which have been presented by their respective Committees to the Council and the Assembly and are forming the basis of the present work of the Committees, which in turn will decide the line of action in each case for the coming year and are good examples of the subordinate work of the League in bringing about peace conditions in the post-war world.

The report of the Commission for the Protection of Women and Children in the Near East continues a fascinating story of initiative and resource in the face of great difficulties. The lines of work, with Aleppo as a centre, were approved by the 1922 Assembly; but in spite of steady work since that date there are known still to be thousands of women and children in certain areas who were carried away from districts where large scale massacres of Armenians took place, and whom it has been up to now impossible to help to escape. The need for the continuance of the work is therefore clear. Two aims are kept constantly in mind by Miss Jeppe and her helpers: "to rescue the women and children and to educate the rescued and give them a proper start in life."

The rescue work has had great difficulties to contend with during the year. One of its native agents died suddenly from heart disease; another, Vasil, could not resist the call to return to an old field of labour and was murdered by Arabs, "as a revenge because of the liberations he had effected." The closing of the Turkish frontier in the Turkish-Kurdish war checked a great flow of people, but nevertheless 250 people have been rescued this year, and a new area of operation, where it is believed at least 2,000 Armenians are still in captivity, has opened up round Ras-el-Ain, a place now occupied by French troops.

The second part of the aim, the education of the rescued and their preparation for life, has been developed in the Aleppo centre under the charge of a very efficient Danish lady, Miss Jenny Jensen, and two Armenian villages have been founded in the district. A large sum is, however, still needed to establish under a colonizing scheme at least 30,000 people—some of whom have now been five years in the camp at Aleppo.

In Constantinople, "League of Nations House" has become a well-known centre "where women and children may seek help, protection, and advice," about 3,000 having been helped in the past year. This work, under a Commission of the League, is largely financed by voluntary contributions from America. Only overhead charges draw on League funds.

### ON EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOLS.

By ALICE WOODS.

It is proposed to give in this paper a series of articles on some of the various experimental schools of our time, and the present article is to act as a kind of a guide to the researches that are to be made. Experimental schools may mean those that are "searching by trial" for new discoveries or those that are making attempts to apply what they believe to be established truths in education.

There is a general feeling of distrust as regards old methods of education, and we are looking to pioneers who have theories and beliefs to guide us in the changes that we trust are at hand; for there is no doubt that a new spirit is at work amongst us, urging us to make changes of some sort, and the question is "What form shall these changes take?" "We have the mistakes of the past and the opportunities of the future" for our guide, as a speaker well remarked at the COPEC gathering this year. If we read the reports of the Conferences of the New Ideals in Education, or of the New Education Fellowship, or their magazines *The New Ideals Quarterly* and *The New Era*, or if we do better still and attend their meetings, or if we read modern books on education, e.g. the works of Mr. Edmund Holmes, Clutton Brock, Professor Dewey, Dr. Rudolf Steiner, Canon Lyttelton, or Dottressa Montessori, or articles in *Child Life* and *The Beacon*; or such books as *Janus and Vesta*, and various American writers, we soon see that much as educators may differ each from each there is a certain general trend of thought.

The Commission is appealing that the work may not be brought to an end by any curtailment this year of the small grants made. Akin to this work is that reported upon by Dr. Nansen, who for the past year has been President of the "Commission appointed to study the question of the settlement of Armenian refugees" in the Caucasus and elsewhere. It is estimated that there are between 300,000 and 400,000 Armenian refugees in Europe and Western Asia. Of these, 10,000 from Greece and 5,000 from Constantinople need and ask for immediate repatriation.

Since 1921, a stream of refugees have found their way to the present Republic of Armenia, and the Commission reporting this year is of opinion that the Republic cannot absorb many more without aid for the development of its great natural resources. These include both mineral wealth and a rich soil waiting only for better drainage or, alternatively, irrigation. Industrial schemes have for the moment been set aside. The Armenian Government have agreed to facilitate settlement on the land by employing refugees in drainage and other works and by granting free entry and transport from the borders and exemption to settlers for two years from military service. If the scheme is realized, it will solve the most immediate problem of repatriation of the 15,000 for whom it is urgent. It appears likely that in a limited time, the charges of a loan to carry it out could be easily covered by the proceeds from a reasonable portion of the production. The special Commission is therefore urging the Sixth Assembly to arrange for this loan.

There is barely space left to refer to the Slavery Protocol, first placed by Lord Cecil before the Sixth (Political) Committee, and now before a special Sub-Committee for further consideration before this Assembly refers it to the Council, whence in due course the matter will be taken up by the Seventh Assembly. It crystallizes the work of the Temporary Committee on Slavery and sets forth definite pledges to be accepted by all States members which adhere to it, for the suppression in their territories of all forms of the slave trade and "as speedy elimination of domestic and other slavery as social conditions allow." An important clause points out the grave evils that may result from the employment of forced labour except "for essential public services" and the signatories will promise to take all necessary precautions "to prevent conditions analogous to those of slavery from resulting from such employment." This document is an interesting example of the results of steady investigation of conditions and accumulation of evidence by a League Committee in a way that could not have been carried through by any one Government or by private effort, and of the practical proposals embodying definite steps forward internationally which may ensue.

We are anxious to produce a generation that shall not "learn war any more": to give our children a new abundant life in the direction of the eternal verities of beauty, truth, and goodness. We want to set free the spiritual elements as being more important than the material elements of our lives; and to do this we want to set youth free for service. Hence comes a great stress laid on the discovery of each child's native powers in order that these may be used for the good of mankind. Certainly modern views have been anticipated by Plato, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Froebel, and others, but the generality of these views is a feature of our own time.

We want to discover in schools experiments that are in some measure carrying out these aims. Our boys' public schools are most of them so tied by tradition that it is very hard for them to become in any great degree experimental, but we find certain even of the oldest among them touched by the new spirit, e.g. Oundle, Marlborough, Rugby, Christ's Hospital, whilst newer schools such as Holt and Newbury are making marked changes. Our large girls' schools have been a good deal tied by the traditions of boys' schools, but they are fortunately freer and can make more changes; but it is to the private schools that we must look for the most daring experiments in whatever sense we use the term. To these we must go to look for the setting free of the spiritual elements in each individual, and we find fortunately all around us schools that are most



successful in this direction, and also we may note that the more old-fashioned schools are undoubtedly being touched by the new spirit.

It is impossible to describe in a brief introduction all that the observers must look for in the schools they visit in order to decide whether they are in any true sense experimental; but at least the fundamental question must be: "Is spirituality of the first importance? And are the changes suggested those which are likely to lessen the stress that has been laid in the past on material satisfaction?" Is service being put before personal gratification? This will lead us to consider in all the schools we visit whether the spirit of co-operation prevails; and we shall find in schools that have adopted the Dalton or a similar system, such as Streatham Secondary School or the Green School, Isleworth, for girls, and schools at Kingston and Tottenham for boys, a greater spirit of independence on the one hand, a helpfulness to comrades on the other. The schools that have abandoned prizes, marks, and place-taking, and which cultivate a love of work for its own value, or for the help of the form or school, are experimenting on the lines of co-operation rather than competition amongst the pupils. This abandonment of a material reward is fortunately spreading, and was much helped forward at the time of the war when many a school discovered that prizes were not an essential factor in good work, but it is sad to see how many schools drifted back into the old habit.

Co-operation between the sexes is worked out at such schools as Bedales, Petersfield, and St. George's, Harpenden, on a large scale, and in many a smaller school throughout the country, e.g. the King Alfred School at Golders Green and the St. Christopher School at Letchworth. Co-operation between the teacher and pupils is spreading widely among the schools, and special pains were taken to bring about co-operation in every one of its aspects, but most of all perhaps between teacher and taught, at the High School for girls under Miss Silcox at Leeds. The Garden School at Great Missenden is making a great effort to make the school a centre of spiritual life in the village, by bringing together village and school interests. The Priory School, King's Langley, is keen in its endeavour to apply the principles of Rudolf Steiner to the upbringing of British children. Co-operation between nations is the key-note of a school at Gland, on the Lake of Geneva, where boys and girls of all nationalities are taught together and taken to visit other countries.

But it is only possible to mention the schools best known to the writer; readers interested in the subject should go forth to study all the schools where some of the most uplifting experiments are being carried on, and they will make their own lists of those schools that are making the educators of to-day feel so hopeful of the future.

### THE QUALITY OF MILK YOU GET.

By WILFRED BUCKLEY, C.B.E.

The public is getting the quality of milk that it wants, which is quite different from the quality that thoughtful people would like it to have. By the word "quality" I am not referring to its "richness" in cream, but to its hygienic quality—its cleanliness and freedom from bacteria. The chief values of milk are its health-giving and nutritive properties; it is at the same time the most valuable of all foods and the most easily damaged. At the moment it leaves a healthy cow it is in perfect condition—it becomes damaged in proportion as it is allowed to become contaminated by slovenly and dirty methods, by its age and by the temperature at which it is maintained, for damage is caused by the number or kinds of bacteria it may contain, and this depends entirely on the three factors that I have just mentioned.

Of course, the quality of milk at the time we drink it depends a good deal upon how the consumer has kept it since it was obtained from the dairyman. It must be kept in absolutely clean vessels, it must be covered, not by a piece of muslin, but by something solid such as a plate or saucer (if it is not in the bottle in which it should be delivered) and it must be kept as cool as possible.

It is most important that milk should be kept properly in the home, but the object of this article is to try to induce some part of the thoughtful public to do their share towards obtaining for the nation a better supply. I have said that the public gets the quality of milk that it wants, which is quite a different thing from getting the quality of milk that it needs. The points to bear in mind are that milk as it leaves a healthy cow is perfect, that it can never be improved, that it must deteriorate to a greater or lesser degree while being distributed, that clean milk from healthy cows costs more to produce than carelessly handled milk from

any animal that milk producers can pick up, and that good milk is worth to the consumer far more than milk of poor quality. I repeat that the public can have good milk if it wants it—already there are many milk producers and distributors who are providing high quality milk and a small proportion of the public buys it, but the majority of the public is content to complain and to do nothing. The Government Departments concerned know quite well how the general quality of milk can be improved and they are doing what they can under the circumstances, but in order to do what they would like to do some further legislation is necessary, and further legislation can only be brought about by Parliament, and what representatives in Parliament do depends on what their constituents tell them they want. When the subject of legislation is raised agricultural organizations use their great influence, fearing that some measure may be brought forward that they may not think to their immediate financial advantage, ignoring the fact that an increased consumption of milk can only be brought about by an improved quality. Too often the leaders of such bodies are more concerned to gain the immediate approval of their followers than to take steps which will benefit those they represent. The consumer is far more concerned in the milk question than is any producer, for milk is vital to the health of the nation, and the producer's interest is only financial.

The public must demand the best quality of milk that it can afford to buy, for which reason it must know the quality of milk that is offered, and unfortunately one cannot judge the quality of milk either by looking at it or (except when it is very bad) by tasting it. But there is no difficulty in having it classified, not by those who sell it, many of whom mislead the public by describing ordinary milk by such names as "nursery milk," "invalid's milk," etc., etc., but by the local authorities, where it is sold and consumed. At present there is a method of classification carried out by the Government—efficient so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. The Ministry of Health has power to forbid the use of certain designations by those who sell milk except under license granted by the Ministry's authority—but it is essential that all milk should be classified—and the present designations are misleading. In regard to raw milk they are as follows, in order of merit: (1) Certified Milk; (2) Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) milk; (3) Grade A milk.

Naturally the consumer hearing of "Grade A" jumps to the conclusion that it is the best, whereas it is the lowest quality for which special licenses are granted. That point, the need for honest and proper classification, can be remedied at will by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture—the trouble is that the representatives of agricultural interests like the present classification, and yet they represent comparatively small numbers compared with the 44,000,000 consumers that the Government also represents. That Local Authorities should have power to compulsorily classify all milk sold within their respective areas requires an Act of Parliament. This we could get almost at once if the public would tell their representatives in Parliament that they want it.

If milk is not classified and sold according to quality, there is no inducement for producers and distributors to do their utmost to improve the quality. In Canada and the United States, where for many years all milk in the larger towns has been classified, it has been found that the immediate result is to raise the quality of the entire supply, for bad milk cannot be sold, and the trade promptly learns that the quality depends primarily on methods and that good milk can be produced by anyone who wishes.

Will each of you who read this, write to your Member of Parliament telling him or her, as the case may be, that you want (1) Local Authorities to have the power to classify all milk and (2) that you want all milk classified in such a way as is not misleading—or will you do nothing? It rests with each of you. I repeat that the public has the quality of milk that it wants. The question for you to decide is—What do you want?

### THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

PRESIDENT: VISCONTRESS 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.

### CONSERVATIVE IDEALS.

A PAPER READ BY PROFESSOR DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE N.U.S.E.C., 3rd September, 1925.

The ideals of the Conservative Party can perhaps best be summarized by the principles laid down by Disraeli and reaffirmed lately by Mr. Baldwin as the Maintenance of our Constitution, the Development of our Empire, and the Welfare of our People.

It is certainly an ideal of the Conservative Party to maintain what is good in the past and to be rather cautious about change; this does not mean stagnation, they are out for improvement in many directions, for more employment, for better conditions of labour, for better relations between employer and employed, for contributory insurance; but they think it well to measure the cloth before you cut it, to be sure you want an open space before you saw down the tree. It is consistent with this point of view to have constituted a Commission to investigate the problem of the mines. It has been asserted that the mines are not economically managed, and, on the other hand, that the miners' hours are too short. The accuracy of such statements needed testing before action could be taken, and a subsidy pending inquiry is justified if a fairer settlement is the result. The maintenance of the Constitution involves for every citizen freedom under the law, and, in the political field, liberty to support the party in which he believes and to refrain from supporting others. Apart from home affairs it involves preparedness for defence, for, in the words of General Macready, "Victory can be secured by insufficiently trained and inexperienced troops only at the price of an enormous casualty list."

In connection with the development of the Empire, it is an ideal that the British Empire should serve as a great force for good in the world, and that the closest and most friendly relations should be preserved between the mother country and the colonies and dominions; Empire preference, encouraging trade within the Empire, is a logical outcome of this and, incidentally, is already beginning to bring us cheaper food. At home, in the part of the Empire with which we are most intimately concerned, every effort is needed to increase employment and to this end to discourage unfair foreign competition; the lace trade, in which a duty on imports has recently been established, is an excellent example of this.

In many ways the most interesting group of ideals consists of those which centre round the welfare of the people. The Conservative Party are not a class party, probably the majority of their supporters are weekly wage-earners and a number of their most valuable workers, candidates and members are of working class origin; this is perhaps not always recognized, as it is taken for granted and little is said about it; we look forward to an increasing proportion of Conservative working men and women in the House and on committees. In this connection, as in others, the ideal is equality of opportunity. This is probably the only practicable equality, for we cannot alter the inequalities of heredity; environment can suppress or develop, but cannot change what heredity has provided. The party has a wonderful record of Factory Acts, Housing Acts, Acts connected with Water, with Allotments and with Drainage—one of the last-named, in 1872, caused the Government to be accused of a policy of sewage; it is worth while remembering Disraeli's retort "to the labouring multitudes of England . . . a policy of life or death." Again, it was Conservative Governments which in 1824, 1825, 1859, and 1875 did justice to the Trades Unions, and four great Education Acts are to their credit; in 1842 Peel's Factory Act aimed at making elementary education universal, the Act of 1876 made it compulsory and that of 1891 made it free, while, in 1902, the Act laying the responsibility on the County Councils brought elementary into touch with higher education and developed the educational ladder. A sound principle was laid down lately by Lord Eustace Percy when he advocated "more education and less administration."

In connection with the so-called women's questions also equality of opportunity may be recognized as the ideal or final aim, and any separation of interests as a thing to be deprecated. Mr. Bonar Law has well said that "there is no woman's question worth sixpence which is not a man's question also." In the attitude of the political parties on this matter one is often reminded of the parable of the father who desired his sons to work in his vineyard. It will be recalled that one said "I go, sir," and went not, while the other answered "I go not," and went. We may not receive from the Conservative Party the

amiable "I go, sir," of some of their opponents, but they have a habit of "going" a good deal more frequently than their statements lead one to believe. It is hardly necessary to quote the Bastardy Act of 1923, the Matrimonial Causes Act of the same year, the Summary Jurisdiction Act and Guardianship of Infants Act of 1925, or the passing into law of Widows' Pensions as evidence in this connection.

In the ideals of the Conservative Party one must include the recognition of the State as of major importance, justifying the sacrifice of the individual, and the recognition that in the development, yes, and in the happiness of individuals, discipline and duty play their part.

### REVIEWS.

#### "WELLESLEY VERSE."

Wellesley College, U.S.A., celebrates its semi-centenary this year, and its Alumnae Association has indicated the event by publishing through the medium of the Oxford University Press an elegant and beautifully printed book of verses by the staff and students, past and present, of the college. It is a creditable performance. Not that the poems are particularly good—but it is a creditable thing to recognize the fact that everybody does write or half-write poetry, with a few God-forsaken exceptions, and that much of what is written or half-written is better worth publishing than most of the prose which is given out to this externally prosaic world. We have said that the book is not particularly good. Of course it is not. No less than 102 women have contributed to its make-up; and how is it to be supposed that in fifty short years one college could produce anything approaching 102 persons capable of writing good poetry? Nevertheless, "The Soldier" by S. Jewett, "Two Helpers" by M. R. Bartlett, and "If Life were a Banquet" by J. A. Cass are three metaphysical studies of very pleasing memory. "Silence" by J. P. Simrall describes in language which flows very tolerably, a familiar human experience. M. Vedder, the author of "Old Woman," reflects a proper appreciation of Walter De la Mare and a certain desirable simplicity of diction. And F. Converse, the author of "Lines to a Pumping Engine for a Religious House," displays a very whimsical capacity. M. D. S.

#### REBUILDING EUROPE.

*Rebuilding Europe*<sup>2</sup> is the story of a great adventure. In February, 1920, five women, inheritors of centuries of racial political, and religious antagonism, who frankly "owned they hated to meet," gathered in a cold room in Vienna University. As presidents of the women's students' societies, they had been asked to supply data for an appeal; nothing less than the appalling suffering among the students would have brought them together. From this unpromising beginning sprang the European Student Relief Fund, which by 1924 had raised and disbursed £437,200. The gifts in money and kind have, however, been only a part of the work. Self help has been encouraged and pauperization avoided. In Warsaw, for example, the support took the form of a loan which enabled the students to start a soap factory, which is now a flourishing concern. In Germany and other countries special efforts were necessary before the Trade Unions would agree to allow the untrained students to work in mines and factories in order to cover their expenses. The impartial administration of relief, regardless of race, nationality, or creed, while difficult at first, has stimulated a new international consciousness, which has been further developed by the recent congresses and exchanges of students. It has been a real education in Internationalism, not least valuable in the knowledge of each other which American and European students have gained. W. GLADYS RINDER.

#### OUR PLANS.

We announced last week that questions relating to the intricacies of the Pensions Act will be considered in our columns. Miss Bertha Mason will answer questions connected with women in Local Government, and Mrs. Rackham, J.P., will deal with questions relating to the work of women magistrates. Other plans for the future will be announced later.

<sup>1</sup> *Wellesley Verse*, 1875-1925. (Oxford University Press, 10s. 6d.)

<sup>2</sup> *Rebuilding Europe*, by Ruth Rouse. (Student Christian Movement, 4s.)



### THE LAW AT WORK. "THE YOUNG DELINQUENT."

A book with the above title, by Mr. Cyril Burt, has just been published by the University of London Press, price 15s. If the author's object in writing it had been to make magistrates deeply conscious of their ignorance and their incapacity to deal rightly with the young criminals that they see before them in the Juvenile Court, he would indeed have succeeded in his aim. The contrast is too painful. The magistrate is kindly and well intentioned, seeking to preserve the due mean between sympathy with the delinquent and severity towards his crime, listening with care to a report from the police and from the teacher, and to an indignant expostulation from the parent, and then after a few minutes' deliberation deciding on probation or a fine or "sending to a School." But what does the magistrate really know about the child, about his heredity, his relations with his family and the discipline he gets at home, his companions and the occupations of his leisure, his attitude towards his school or his treatment at his work, his physical weaknesses, his sexual development, his intellectual condition, his dreams and his phantasies, the reasons for his untruthfulness (for "all children tell occasional untruths"), his instincts and emotions, his sentiments and complexes? All this, and much more, has Mr. Burt studied in about 200 juvenile delinquents and in about 400 children of the same type but not delinquent, and the result of these investigations he gives us in this monumental work. Perhaps a good many parents and teachers, as well as magistrates, will feel small after reading this book, and we can only be relieved that as a result of the blind blunderings of those in authority more damage than actually occurs is not wrought upon the child population.

We find here no confirmation of the easy assumption that any one factor, such as poverty, overcrowding, parental neglect, bad company, the cinema, unemployment, or mental defect is the predominant cause of juvenile delinquency. The identical circumstances likely to lead to crime are found in the lives of so many children who are not delinquent that cause and effect are very difficult to trace. Of one thing we are assured: crime in itself is not inherited; the number of children who may be said to have criminal blood in their veins is trifling. Of the whole group of delinquents studied only 11 per cent. had relatives sentenced for crime. The "born criminal" theory is exploded.

That poverty is a cause of juvenile delinquency, and especially of theft, needs of course no proof. We read that half the delinquents examined come from homes that are poor or very poor, and it is generally computed that in London only 30 per cent. of the inhabitants fall into these classes. The blackest boroughs in London in respect of juvenile crime are Finsbury, Holborn, and Shoreditch, where a poor population lives on the edge of rich haunts of business or pleasure. But it must always be remembered that in the poorest neighbourhoods, where drunkenness and general neglect are rife, there are innumerable children who do well. As the author says, "There are as many virtuous children in the tenements of Hoxton as there are in the mansions of Mayfair." Any study of the young delinquent must quickly pass from a consideration of his environment to a study of the child himself and of those physical, mental, and emotional weaknesses which enable bad external circumstances to work their worst upon him.

The examination of juvenile delinquents reveals a sad tale of bodily weakness and ill-health. No less than 70 per cent. of those examined were found to have some such defect, and 50 per cent. were in urgent need of medical treatment. But we know that physical defect is terribly prevalent among children in general in the poorest neighbourhoods, and Mr. Burt computes that in only 10 per cent. of the boys and 7 per cent. of the girls was the illness or bodily infirmity the chief source of the child's faults. In some cases, of course, abounding health and vitality may be a cause of juvenile crime, but that kind of young offender does not become the habitual criminal, as does the frail and sickly. Juvenile delinquents are, as we should expect, of very varying types of intelligence. Only 8 per cent. of those examined were found to be mentally defective, but a large majority were dull or below the average in ability. One wonders if the cleverest children succeed in not getting caught.

The book contains many most lively descriptions of individual children, their characters and their crimes, and in some cases their portraits. The chapters dealing with child psychology are of intense interest, and should be read by all who have to do with children. In another issue we hope to comment on the views expressed as to the proper treatment of child criminals.

C. D. RACKHAM.

### 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.

#### RECEPTION TO DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

The N.U.S.E.C. will be holding a Reception in Caxton Hall later in the autumn to meet the Duchess of Atholl, who has kindly consented to give an account of the work of the Assembly of the League of Nations. It is hoped that Mrs. McKinnon, substitute delegate for Australia, will also be present.

#### PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONNAIRE.

The Parliamentary Questionnaire, which is sent to all Parliamentary Candidates, has been revised and brought up to date and will be published in full shortly.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

The following books are on sale at the Headquarters Office, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1:—

*The Disinherited Family.* By Eleanor F. Rathbone, price 7s. 6d. Postage 4d.

*What I Remember.* By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D. Price 12s. 6d. Postage 6d.

*The Equipment of the Social Worker.* By Elizabeth Macadam, M.A. Price 6s. Postage 4d.

A new pamphlet on *Social Insurance and the Worker*, by Joseph L. Cohen, published by the I.L.P., which gives a comprehensive idea of the problems involved in Social Insurance, may also be had on application at the Office. This is one of the subjects which we hope our Societies will study during the Autumn.

#### PERSONAL.

We have to offer our congratulations to Miss Jannett S. Rogerson, who is to be married in Landsdowne Church, on 24th September, to Mr. Arthur Garnet Tucker, M.I.C.E., of Glasgow. Miss Rogerson was for six years organising secretary to the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship.

#### THE RIFF CAMPAIGN.

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

Our sensibilities have been so dulled by the war and the recent famines and earthquakes that it is doubtful if one person in a hundred in this country has thought of the Riff campaign in terms of human misery. But the statements of Miss Ruth Fry and Sir Charles Hobhouse make the inevitable consequences of even so small, so localized a war very clear. They have just concluded a visit to Tangier, on behalf of the Friends and the League of Nations Union, in order to investigate the condition of the war refugees in that area, and their report deals not only with Riffs but with members of other tribes. The war has been going on more or less for eight years, but the present increased activity has intensified the distress. So far relief is confined to the supply once a week of a ration of flour for the women and children: there is no provision for men; and unless further support is received even these meagre rations will be stopped. Clothing is, if possible, more badly needed than food. Sir Charles Hobhouse states that a considerable number were clothed in "little more than sacking." And there seems to be no likelihood of peace in the near future. There was a widespread rumour last month that the French and Spanish Governments had made definite peace proposals, but in a letter to *The Times* special correspondent, dated 29th August, Abd-el-Krim expressly stated that "he had not been formally informed of the conditions and therefore could neither accept nor refuse them." In any case it is doubtful if the terms would have been accepted; because while Abd-el-Krim is prepared to arbitrate on other points if the recognition of an independent Riff is guaranteed, these proposals would apparently leave the country under the legislative control of the Spanish at Tetouan, or the French at Rabat. The territory is very small, but for some hundreds of years the Riffs have been independent. Surely this should be a case for the League of Nations? Not only France and Spain, but England and Italy are interested in so far as they both desire to keep the passages to the Mediterranean open. In the interests of peace and humanity it is to be hoped that this course will be adopted in the near future.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### "AN AMERICAN VIEW."

MADAM,—As under the above heading a paragraph appeared in your issue of 4th inst. in which is a reference to a matter upon which public and even medical opinion is definitely divided, you will, I feel sure, allow a few words concerning it from one who takes a different attitude on the question under consideration.

The quotation (from "an American Student of the Public Health Administration in this country"), which is embodied in Sir George Newman's Annual (Health) Report, is as follows: "I am surprised to find that in the land of Jenner vaccination is so neglected." Possibly the actual statistics concerning the incidence of small-pox and the death-rate therefrom may not have been studied by "this stranger within our gates." It may be imagined by him (or her)—since the English Government rewarded Jenner so handsomely for his so-called services by paying the sum of thirty thousand pounds—that he had really been instrumental in stamping out, once for all, the disease of small-pox! But is this theory consistent with the facts? The subject can only be touched upon in a short letter; but the following figures are surely a sufficient reason to make the proverbial "man in the street" pause, before submitting his children to the rite of having their blood-stream infected by matter scraped from disease-ulcers on the abdomens of calves.

England during the last serious epidemic of small-pox (1871-2) was, speaking broadly, a vaccinated country: the vaccination percentage reaching over 97 of the population. Yet, during that epidemic over 44,000 persons died from small-pox! Shortly afterwards the Public Health Act was passed, enforcing better sanitary conditions; since which, in spite of the gradually increasing "neglect" of vaccination, until now that more than half the children born remain "unprotected" by vaccination, the death-rate from the disease has become almost negligible. In the last half of 1924 there were but three deaths connected in any way with small-pox at a time when 2,000 deaths were recorded as due to influenza.

Is it to be wondered, therefore, the bubble having been pricked, that "in the land of Jenner vaccination is neglected?"

ALICE A. LUCAS.

[We have inserted the above letter in fairness to those who hold our correspondent's views, but owing to the limitations of our space we cannot print any further communications on this subject.—ED.]

#### BIRTH CONTROL.

MADAM,—May I congratulate you on the enlightened policy of your paper with regard to Birth Control?

A tragedy like that of Mrs. Vaughan's "murder and suicide" contains a dramatic element that brings it into prominence, but what of the thousands of drab cases only too familiar with those of us who work among similarly overburdened mothers?

Our maternal mortality rate—double that of Holland, where Birth Control clinics were started in 1885—continues to baffle us. Doctors and midwives assure us that anti-natal supervision is a necessity if this rate, which has not been reduced in the last twenty years, is to be lowered. But ante-natal supervision will never be widely possible so long as so many of our prospective mothers deliberately conceal their condition from all qualified persons so that they may not be hindered in their frantic experiments with abortifacients. They do not dream of going to a nurse or doctor until everything that the neighbours can suggest has been tried in vain, and by the time they and the baby that they carry are thoroughly weakened with drugs and worse than drugs.

Let us see to it that the mothers are shown how to avoid being "caught"—the very word they use for a pregnancy shows how they look upon it—let us show them how every baby may be a wanted baby; and then they will seek help for it from the beginning, instead of trying to murder it and themselves either before or after it is born.

CHARIS U. FRANKENBURG.

MADAM,—In the course of the editorial note in your last issue, replying to a letter from a correspondent, Hilda D. Oakeley, you make use of these words, "It is therefore part of our policy to advocate, among other feminist reforms, the provision of expert information on Birth Control." Against the phrase which we have italicized we desire to protest most strongly. You must surely be aware that to class Birth Control amongst "feminist reforms" is to gravely compromise other feminist societies. For ourselves we yield to none in our advocacy of the "political, social, and economic equality between men and women," which we take to be the essential feminist creed. We deprecate the taking into it of other subjects as to which there is no agreement amongst feminists. Birth Control is undoubtedly one of these. We feel, therefore, that we must ask you to explain that when you speak of it as being part of your policy to advocate, amongst other feminist reforms, the provision of expert information on Birth Control, you are doing so as concerns the National Union Societies for Equal Citizenship alone, and have no authority to do so on behalf of other feminist societies.

ISABEL WILLIS,  
Hon. Press Secretary,  
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

[Want of space prevents us from dealing adequately and on the spot with our correspondent's first important point. We do regard the teaching of certain forms of Birth Control—under certain conditions—as a "feminist reform," and we will elaborate our reasons for so doing in next week's issue. Meanwhile, we are well aware that many excellent feminists do not agree with us; and we are not so conceited as to suppose that the world at large will attribute to all members of all feminist bodies the views advocated in this paper. We are, as Miss Willis points out, certain only that we reflect the policy of the N.U.S.E.C.—ED.]

#### THE LAW AT WORK.

MADAM,—Mrs. Pyke writes so as to convey the impression that the period that a child spends in an Industrial School or a Reformatory is at present entirely elastic, depending solely on the child's progress in the school, and that I am seeking to impose a fixed period of detention. She knows perfectly well that at present the general rule is for a child to be committed to an Industrial School till it is 16, and to a Reformatory till

it is 19, and we have the Home Office authority for saying that in too few schools does licensing out before the close of this period depend either on the child's merit or circumstances. As I said in my letter, I want magistrates to be able to commit for a shorter period, if they think fit to do so. I added, though Mrs. Pyke chooses to ignore this, that they should have power to extend the period in consultation with the School authorities. I do not think that many magistrates will disagree with this proposal.

C. D. RACKHAM.

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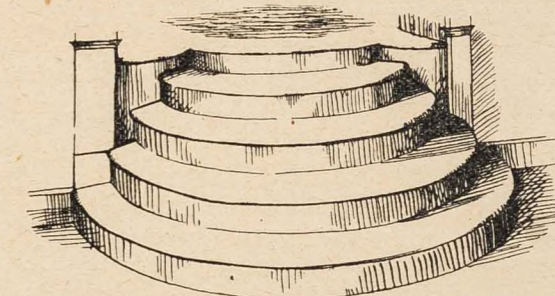
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**1st Prize £300** will be awarded to the worker whose estimate is nearest to the actual gross amount received under the "Five Steps" scheme at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital by noon, 22nd October, 1925.

2nd prize £200, 3rd prize £100, 4th prize £50, 5th prize £25. Five prizes of £20 each. Twelve prizes of £10 each to those whose estimates are the next nearest.

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Application for forms, stating the number of workers you can enlist, should be forwarded to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road, N.W. 1, marked "Five Steps" Scheme.

It will be seen that the top step workers have started, but workers for steps 1, 2, 3 and 4 are urgently needed.



## COMING EVENTS.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

**Repton W.C.A.** SEPTEMBER 22, 8 p.m. At the Schools. Discussion on N.U.S.E.C. Annual Report. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

**York W.C.A.** OCTOBER 5, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."

**Cardiff W.C.A.** OCT. 5. Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman W. H. Pethybridge). Guest of Honour: Dame Millicent Fawcett.

**Waterloo W.C.A.** OCTOBER 6, 4 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Widows' Pensions."

**Edinburgh W.C.A.** OCTOBER 6. At 13 Greenhill Terrace (by kind invitation of Lady Ramsay). Lady Ballour of Burleigh and Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "The Future Parliamentary Session and Legislation Affecting Women."

**Alloa and Clackmannanshire S.E.C.** OCTOBER 6, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."

**Waterloo and Seaforth W.C.A.** OCTOBER 6, 4 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Family Allowances."

**Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A.** OCTOBER 7, Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "How can Citizens get what they want?" (Afternoon) and "The Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act." (Evening).

## NATIONAL UNION WOMEN TEACHERS.

SEPTEMBER 26. Public Conference at Central Hall, Westminster. Morning 10-12, Afternoon 3-5. Chair: Miss E. E. Crosby. Speakers: Mr. F. S. Marvin, Miss Sophie Elliott-Lynn, Sir Michael Sadler and Miss Marjorie Gullan.

SEPTEMBER 27, 11 a.m. Miss Maude Royden will hold a special service in the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Music by Mr. Martin Shaw and his Quartette.

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES,** Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 27th September: 3.30. Music; Lecture by Viscountess Rhonda. 6.30 p.m., Maude Royden, "The Foundation of the Christian Religion."

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