THE VOTE, AUGUST 20, 1920. ONE PENNY.

# THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

M. CURREY, O.B.E.

# OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. THE ORGAN

VOL. XX. No. 565.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate).

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

AN IDEAL FACTORY. Interview with the Misses Clark and Weaver.
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD. IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. M. Currey, O.B.E. WOMEN AND THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE. BOOK REVIEW. F. A. Underwood. IS PARLIAMENT SUPREME? Dorothy E. Evans.

#### FACTORY. IDEAL AN

Interview with the Misses Clark and Weaver.

Camomile Street, London, is very proud of its Firm of Women Wholesale Manufacturers, a firm managed, directed and staffed entirely by women, and conducted on absolutely impartial and most enterprising lines. Its history, as recently told to a representative of The Vote by its two capable heads, the Misses Clark and Weaver, is a fascinating narrative of intelligence and fairplay.

"I worked for years for men as a designer of ladies' wearing apparel," said Miss Clark, "but always had it in my heart to start 'on my own' directly I had the opportunity. It always seemed to me so much more natural that women rather than men should conduct businesses directly connected with women's clothes. So eventually I entered partnership with Miss Weaver, who is a secretary and book-keeper, and we opened works for the manufacture of women's under-clothing. Our capital was a sum comprised of

### Two Figures Only,

truly absurd to start a business involving the setting up of machinery, the paying of work girls, travellers' salaries, and all the expenses attendant on such an enterprise. But we were determined to succeed, and what we lacked in capital we made up for in work and

generations of trading experience, and which is such an asset to men in similar positions. These handicaps sometimes made us over-cautious, so that golden oppor-tunities were occasionally lost. But belief in our own ability, and a thorough knowledge of our business helped us to win through during those first hard years. The advent of women into the field of commerce is as exciting as any work of fiction, since in many ways it is, of course, an exploration into hitherto untrodden

paths. For instance, we had to solve the problem of travellers, supplying large firms with big orders, auditing of books, and various other matters that a hundred years ago would have seemed as impossible for women as flying. Sometimes we raced ahead, then met with unexpected difficulties and real slippery paths, but nevertheless we were always advancing, and to-day our business has become so flourishing that motors

have been installed to drive the machines.
"We do not believe," explained Miss Clarke, "in conducting and regulating our staff as those employers do who look upon workers as 'hands' over which it is necessary to exert strict supervision in order to get a maximum amount of work, and who, in short, must be treated like the machines they use in order to obtain greater gains for the owners of the factory. The hours greater gains for the owners of the factory. of work here are from 8.45 to 5 o'clock, and the

### Non-Necessity of Surveillance

illustrates the complete confidence between the workers and ourselves. Of course, disputes arise at times, but these are soon settled. Only recently Miss Weaver was actually congratulated by one of her own work girls on her spirit of justice, this is conforting to these of us who are tired of which is comforting to those of us who are tired of hearing that women cannot work together in harmony. According to regulations of the Wages Board the girls must be paid at least 6s. per day, but as they are engaged on piece-work it is no uncommon thing for their weekly wages to exceed £3, and no one is more pleased at this than we are.

"This is an anti-profiteering firm," continued Miss Clark. "The margin of profit may not be so large in consequence, but both Miss Weaver and myself are resolved that we at any rate will not take advantage of the present disturbed state of the world to get rich quickly. Articles are sold at the prices at which the materials were bought, and not at the reigning cost which may probably have become inflated. Women WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD must bring ideals into commerce as into their other fields of livelihood, and commerce must be freed of those sharp practices and unscrupulous dealings that are sometimes mistaken for good business ability and smart enterprise, and which are generally countenanced so long as they are successful.

'We are very anxious to see more women in the wholesale trade. At present they are very few, but we hope the time has now come when women possessed of initiative and grit will not be content to work for others, probably at a salary far below their deserts, or to spend their strength and energy in a firm where their work will never receive its just recognition, where their position must always be a subordinate one, and where a pension is not awarded even after years of faithful service. The desire to be on one's own, to build up a business and to see it grow, has been the ambition and life's work of many men, and it is encouraging to find that women, who up to the present have only ventured into the retail side of trades, are now beginning to realise the fascination and hear the call of a more ambitious environment.'

"Both Miss Weaver and myself," Miss Clarke con-ided, "are keen supporters of women's suffrage, although we took no active part in the agitation a few years ago. We had to content ourselves with being pioneers in another way, in opening up a hitherto unexplored road to women in the great realm of

# THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

We have often had occasion to complain of the dilatoriness of the members of the present House of Commons in the discharge of their parliamentary duties. How many times was it impossible to secure a quorum for the committee stage meetings of the Plumage Bill and the Bill which was to give women the vote on the same terms as men? It is interesting, therefore, to draw the attention of our readers to the following extract from last Sunday's Observer:-

"This is not a good House of Commons for attending to business—that is, the business of the House. Of the 700 members there are rarely more than 200 present. Even in the momentous Peace Bill Treaty division only 167 members voted. Scores of members left town early last week. Some returned for the luncheon to Mr. Lloyd George on Thursday, which was attended by nearly 100 Coalition Liberals, but most of them resumed their holidays as soon as it was over. They are not shooting grouse, for this is not a shooting house. They are taking it easy at the seaside. The truth of the matter is that a large proportion of the present House consists of middle-aged business men who have outlived any political ambitions they may have entertained. They stood at the Khaki Election because they regarded it as a national duty to do so. They will be unaffectedly glad when a dissolution absolves them from their embarrassing obligations. Even the Labour Party, composed for the most part of trade union officials who earn the best part of their living elsewhere, thinks it lucky when it can whip up an attendance of thirty out of more than twice that Suffrage in Greece. number of members.'

What a difference a hundred keen women Members of Parliament would make to this dreary condition of

# Send your Printing to us

We will do it cheaply, : quickly and well

We know we shall please you, and you will be helping the VOTE THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd., 144 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

### Lyons' Girls' Strike.

A strike is in progress amongst some of the waitresses in the well-known tea shops of Messrs. Lyons. Out of the 5,000 employed, some 600 girls have come out. The trouble is in connection with the dismissal of the head kitchen woman at the Brompton Road branch, who was asked to leave, after 16 years' service, for wearing her trade union badge when on duty, which is forbidden by the management, although the union has been recognised by them since last May. It is stated that representatives of the Ministry of Labour have interviewed both sides with a view to opening negotiations for a settlement.

### A Gallant Woman.

The King has conferred the Albert Medal for heroism on Mrs. Emmitt, wife of the stationmaster at Peshawar, in recognition of her gallant conduct on the occasion of a murderous attack by an Indian fanatic upon her husband and son last December.

### The Goal in Sight!

At last the thirty-sixth State has been found to ratify the Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Federal Constitution in America. Tennessee has done so by 25 votes to 4. Provided the Lower House also ratifies the Amendment, which it is expected to do this week, the necessary authorisation for the amendment of the Federal Constitution will have been obtained.

## A Lucrative Tour.

Miss J. L. Crossley Batt, who has an O.B.E., and is a doctor of science, will shortly start on a lecture tour to America, New Zealand, China, and Japan. It is not the first journey of the kind she has made, for on a previous occasion she set out on a world lecture tour with £60 in her pocket, and came back with much

### More Women Doctors.

Medicine becomes more and more of a favoured profession for women, and no less than six scholarships are yearly awarded at the London School of Medicine Women. This year these have been awarded from October to Miss E. Masterman, Miss E. Adams Clarke, Miss F. I. Moore, Miss M. Bowstead, and Miss E. H. R. Newboult.

# Woman Press Representative.

Miss Mary Frances Billington, of the Daily Telegraph, is the only woman representative at the Imperial Press Conference in Canada. Miss Billington has a war record for arranging for the women writers who visited the munition factories where women were employed, and also the bases in France wherever women worked. She has visited India twice for press purposes, but this is her first visit to Canada.

# First Daily Newspaper.

One of the first daily newspapers in the world is said to have been established by a woman, Miss Elizabeth Mallette, in London, March, 1702. She published and edited the Daily Courant, which she founded for the purpose of doing greater justice for women.

An important Woman's Congress will be held at Athens in October, at which full political and economic rights will be demanded for the women of Greece. A general invitation has been extended to the other countries of Europe to attend the Conference and discuss social and economic problems.

## A Congenial Profession.

Lady members of the Uxb idge Guardians now carry out the duties of tea tasters at the institutions. Previously the work was done by a professional tea taster, who was paid a guinea.

# Women and the O.M.

The King is about to make certain additions to the Order of Merit very shortly, and the name of at least one woman is likely to be included.

# IN PARLIAMENT.

# Nurses-Conditions of Work.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1920

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Minister of Health whether his attention had been called to the conditions under which nursing probationers in many London hospitals at present worked, especially with regard to housing accommodation and hours and conditions of duty; and whether he would consider recommending reforms in these connections to all hospitals in receipt of State grants for the benefit both of probationers and of the nursing profession generally? DR. ADDISON replied that he was fully aware of the unsatisfactory conditions under which many probationer nurses were at present employed, and any steps which the General Nursing Council might propose to remedy that state of affairs would have his sympathetic attention. State grants, however, were only paid in respect of the treatment of certain specified diseases, and he did not think it would be practicable to attach to them conditions such as the hon. member suggested. Why not? Surely the health of the nurses is a great factor in the proper treatment of disease!

#### Prisoners (Remand Cases).

he would consider the desirability of the establishment of separate places for the confinement of remand prisoners? Mr. Short replied that he could not make himself responsible for the very large expenditure necessary to establish and maintain special buildings for the detention of prisoners on remand and to provide them with the necessary staff. He also pointed out that magistrates were empowered to commit prisoners on remand to other places of security than prison. Then why not make this compulsory in such cases as those of Ellen Sullivan and others mentioned more recently in THE VOTE?

### Women's Prisons.

MR. C. WHITE asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to the evidence contained in the recently-published report of the Penal Reform League, showing that the influence of women's prisons on the character of young girls is of the worst possible kind; and whether the Government proposed to introduce any ameliorative legislation? Mr. Short replied that statements were frequently made to that effect; but he believed them to be quite unfounded. To a further question he admitted that he had read the evidence and a great deal more besides. No one who cares for prison reform can deny that Mr. Shortt is entirely unsatisfactory as Home Secretary. His narrow official mind precludes all hope of any reform of our prison system during his term of office.

### Prison Administration.

MR. HANCOCK asked the Home Secretary if he would consider the desirability of the transfer of the Prison Medical Service to the Ministry of Health, and of prison education to the Board of Education? MR. SHORTT replied that the arrangements for maintaining the health of prisoners and providing means of education were intimately bound up with general questions of prison administration, and it was most undesirable that the responsibility for this should be divided among three separate Departments of Government. We think there is nothing quite so undesirable as leaving prison administration in the hands of the present Home Office.

## Effect of Prison Life on Youths.

Mr. GLANVILLE asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to the body of evidence in the recently-published report of the Penal Reform League to show that under our prison system youths who entered in a condition which gave hope of their reformation, were converted by contact with their fellowprisoners and the system under which they lived into the most hardened criminals; and whether the Government proposed to introduce legislation to remedy this

state of affairs? Mr. Short replied that his attention had been drawn to the report. The records showed that the charges against the present system were greatly exaggerated. Mr. Shortt's statement does not disprove the evidence.

### Assaults on Children.

LADY ASTOR asked the Home Secretary if he was aware of the increase in the number of cases of criminal or indecent assaults upon children; and whether, in view of the seriousness of the offence, he would consider the advisability of taking steps so that sentences which could be imposed under summary jurisdiction should be increased, or that all such cases should be tried before a superior court? Mr. Short replied that no evidence of any general increase in the number of assaults on children had been brought to his notice. If the hon, member would let him have any evidence on this point he would consider the matter further. Would not the records serve the same purpose?

### Women and Girls (Employment).

DR. MACNAMARA, in reply to a question by MR. HOWARD GRITTEN, said there were at present about 48,000 women and 12,000 girls on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges. Of the total 60,000, MR. C. WHITE asked the Home Secretary whether approximately 22,000, being insured under the Insurance Act, were in receipt of unemployment benefit. About 700 ex-members of the Women's Corps were in receipt of out-of-work donation. The possibility of absorbing women in domestic occupations was being given special consideration, and over 20,000 women and rls were at present being placed each month by the Employment Exchanges in domestic occupations. A considerable portion of the women who were registered at the Employment Exchanges for domestic work were, on account of their circumstances, only available for part-time and local employment, while others had no previous experience in anything but industrial war work.

### Poor Law Reform.

MR. GILBERT asked the Minister of Health whether the Government proposed to bring in any legislation during the present Parliament dealing with the reform of the Poor Law and in any way altering the composition of the bodies which now administered the existing laws? Dr. Addison replied in the affirmative.

## Adjournment of Parliament.

The House of Commons adjourned last Monday until Tuesday, October 19th.

### WOMEN FACTORY INSPECTORS.

It is good news that an important scheme of re-organisation has been sanctioned for the Factory Department by the Home Office, and that in future the men's and women's sides of the inspectorate will be amalgamated into a single organisation. The post of principal lady inspector will be abolished, and a woman deputy chief inspector will be appointed, with special duties in regard to the women inspectors. Women divisional and district inspectors will also be appointed, sharing with men responsibilities and duties. The changes involve considerable redistribution of the staff as between the various grades. The number of women inspectors will be considerably increased, but the total number of the staff will remain about the same. At the same time the scales of salaries of the inspectorate have been revised in view of the increase in the remuneration which technical qualifications and experience command in industry.

### OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them mention the 'YOTE.'

# THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD. Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20th, 1920.

NOTICE.-Letters should be addressed as follows:-To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.

To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

#### Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London." EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE. At Home and Abroad ... Post free, 6/6 per annum.

# RAILWAY MUDDLING.

The Women's Freedom League recommended the doing away with First Class Carriages as a possible economy in connection with the railways, and it is interesting to note that in reply to a question in the House of Commons, Mr. Neal, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, stated that the first-class seating accommodation on December 31st, 1919, represented 12.45 per cent. of the total, while the revenue from first-class passengers amounted to 14.68 per cent. of the total receipts from all passengers carried in the year ended December 31st, 1919. Mr. Neal failed to give any satisfactory answer to the enquiry as to the amount of rolling stock that is run for first-class passengers and the proposition of revenue derived from it. Last week a passenger was summoned by a railway company for travelling in a first-class carriage when in possession of only a third-class ticket, the defence being that there was no room in any third-class carriage. We are glad to record that the magistrate refused to give judgment in favour of the railway company. We have no good feeling towards railway companies who have such tender consciences in regard to the comfort of first-class passengers while they accept fares from third-class passengers and then let them travel twenty-three in a railway carriage intended only for ten people! The more we see and hear about our railway services the more we are convinced of their gross mismanagement. Now that the price of season tickets is to be raised so considerably, hundreds of thousands of people from the suburbs, among them a large proportion of women and girls, will be forced to leave their local stations soon after 7 o'clock in the morning in order to catch the last workmen's trains to London and other places. They will reach London just before or just after 8 o'clock, and as many of their offices and businesses do not open until 9.30 or 10 a.m., they must waste their time on the platforms during the coming winter months for between one and two hours each day. This will not do either the girls or their employers any good; but it will all help to bolster up our expensive Minister of Transport in his rake's progress in ineptitude. The least we can demand is that these workmen's trains shall be run until 9 o'clock in the morning. Each day they become more crowded, and they are a grave danger to the health of those who are obliged to travel in them. Only a very small percentage of our working population are fortunate enough to sleep within walking distance of their work. Cheap non-stop excursion trains are an ostensible piece of window-dressing on the part of the Ministry of Transport, but they entirely fail to meet the needs of the great mass of our population for whom cheap railway facilities are an essential in our present stage of civilisation. The recent increase of freights will naturally mean higher prices for all commodities, and the public will be caught up more and more in the meshes of our newly-formed Ministry

## VALUE OF WOMEN POLICE.

The report of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties has just been published. It states that the experience of the War has proved that women can be employed with advantage to the community in the performance of certain police duties which, before the War, were exclusively discharged by men. The Committee insist that it is essential that the women should be specially qualified, highly trained, and well paid, and that they should form an integral part of the police force. The Committee are convinced that the police duties which women undertook in munition works and thickly-populated areas during the period of the war must, in normal times, be entrusted solely to women under the direct orders of the police authorities, and that in industrial areas, where offences against the law relating to women and children are not infrequent, there is not only scope, but urgent need for the employment of policewomen. The Committee recommend that the age of entry be 25 to 30 years, and state that, while it is desirable that a certain proportion of policewomen should be of good education, women whose education is of elementary standard should not be excluded. Married women are not to be precluded from joining the Metropolitan Police women patrols, provided that they have no young children dependent on them for whose care they are not able to make satisfactory arrangements. Women constables are to receive 6os. a week on appointment on probation; sergeants, 90s. weekly; inspectors, £260 a year; superintendents, £320 to £350 a year, rising in four years to £380 or £410.

# A COMMENDABLE "STUNT."

The daily papers have been recently deriving an immense amount of amusement out of "The Sewing Parson," an enterprising clergyman in the South-East of London, who, rather than let his parish sewing class go to pieces during the holidays, is gallantly "carrying on" while the instructresses are on holiday, with his wife's assistance! We have always failed to grasp why a man who understands and applies the elements of needlework should be treated from time immemorial as a humorous byword, qualified to rank with other hoary specimens of the jovial inebriate, or mother-inlaw type of joke. Sailors are proverbially "handy not only with their needles, but in many another domestic direction as well, a habit of mind which frequently engenders envy in the bosoms of wives whose husbands are inconveniently burdened with certain traditional theories as to "woman's work"!

After all is said and done, can anyone advance a really pertinent reason why women's fingers-already overburdened with a host of minor domestic duties, and these often in addition to professional occupations which take their owners outside the home for a number of hours daily-should alone bear the brunt of the darning and patching and mending which falls to the lot of most households in the land? Men are not ashamed to cook and clean and design wearing apparel for both sexes; why then should it be esteemed such a ludicrous event if they sympathetically lightened the family workbasket of an evening, with or without the assistance of their womenfolk! Why should knitting and darning and the more constructive amongst the needlework stitches not replace some of the more aimless "handwork" of the kindergarten, and form a definite portion of the earlier school curriculum of both sexes alike? We confidently predict that such an innovation would go far to counteract the idle loafing contracted by so many boys as they grow towards manhood, besides fulfilling an important function in the preparation of the future "ideal mate"! We very much hope that when the "Sewing Parson" is released from his present duty he will turn his inventive genius towards the organisation of a parish sewing class for husbands. We know that such a project would win approval from many hard-working wives!

# THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Women's Power and Responsibility,

Do the men and women of this country realise the mission shall be appointed to advise the Council "in power which has been placed in their hands? For many years there has been at fitful intervals as demand for the democratic control of foreign politics," and now the citizens of this country and Empire are called upon to take their share in controlling not merely the foreign politics of this country or this Empire, but the destinies of the world. When the Peace Treaty with Germany was ratified in Paris on January 10th, 1920, there came into existence the League of Nations, the Covenant of which has constituted the first 26 clauses of each of the Peace Treaties with the former enemy Powers. By that Covenant the machinery was set up by which the nations of the world can, if they so desire, avoid war in the future, and in that power lies the responsibility. The Government of a democratic country represents the wishes and the opinions of its citizens; what part do we intend that our representatives shall play in the Council of the League of Nations? To answer that

#### A Clear Understanding

of the principles on which the League is based, and of the sacrifices and benefits in which each member State must take its part.

Thirty-nine nations have now signed the Covenant, the only notable "absentees" being, for very different reasons, first, and most unfortunately, the United States of America, Russia, and the late enemy powers. With these exceptions the countries of the world have bound themselves not to go to war without first submitting their quarrel to one of the bodies, the Council, the Assembly or the International Court of Justice of the League, whose decision must be given within six months or "a reasonable time." If that decision is unanimous it is binding on both the nations concerned. If the body consulted should be unable to give a unanimous decision the nations may then go to war after a further delay of three months. Consequently no nation which abides by the Covenant can plunge the world into war in a sudden fit of anger or a sudden madness of ambition; public opinion, not only in the countries concerned but in the whole world, can be brought to bear on the dispute, and hot blood will have the age of 14 was forbidden except in certain Eastern

### The Power of Public Opinion

is the first and the great "guarantee" which the League of Nations gives to its members of security in the future. Of course, it is impossible to legislate against the existence of a "traitor State" which may declare war without appealing to the League, or refuse to accept a judgment which adverse to its claims. In such eventualities the Council of the League has the power to declare a blockade -economic, financial, commercial-a terrible and a potent weapon in these days, or in the last resort the Council can call upon the other member States to supply the necessary armed forces to protect the innocent and punish the guilty.

In this feeling of security against sudden attack, in the certainty of rapid and certain support, lies the hope and the possibility of a limitation of armaments. No nation under the system of rival alliances and the delicate equipoise of the balance of power could be expected to lay themselves open to attack by a stronglyarmed neighbour; but as one of the objects of the League it is laid down in the Covenant that a Com-

the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety and the enforcement by common action of interational obligations." cases of the late Allied and Associated Powers and the 3 States who were neutral during the Great War the Powers will have the right to accept or reject the recommendations of the Council as they see fit, but with regard to the admission of the late enemy Powers and certain other nations which have become fully selfgoverning since the war and who are now applying for membership, one of the conditions is, that they shall accept the scale of armaments laid down for them by the Council.

In the minds of all men and women to-day the great questions affecting peace and war overshadow all other considerations, but the problems of peace are almost as many and as difficult as those of war. One lesson which the war taught every nation was its dependence on question it is essential that there should be in this others, that in the complicated questions of finance, commerce and a hundred other matters we were members of not separate families but of one family, that the conditions of life in one branch affected the whole, and that for national effort we had to substitute

### International Co-operation.

The first fruits of this new international thought have been the establishment of the International Labour Bureau and the International Health Commission. So vital and pressing were the problems of labour that although owing to the delays in the ratification of the Peace Treaty, the League of Nations had not come into existence, the first International Conference of the Labour Bureau was held in Washington last November. Here a series of far-reaching conventions were passed, and the member States are now bound to introduce the necessary Bills into their legislative assemblies so that these conventions may, if approved by those bodies, become law.

The matters dealt with in Washington were of the highest importance, and in several instances specially affected women. The principle of the eight-hours day or 48-hours week for workers in every country was accepted, the employment of children in industry under countries where the age is to be 12 years, a great advance in countries where a child could previously be employed as soon as it could walk. The conventions dealing with

# Maternity Benefits

and forbidding the employment of women on night work, though carried in Washington, seem likely to have a stormy passage through our House of Commons.

The scheme for the establishment of the International Health Bureau was approved by the Council of the League at their meeting at San Sebastian on August 4th. There are no frontiers to disease, and there is no matter on which international action is more urgently needed than to prevent the spread of epidemics and to raise the standard of health and cleanliness all over the world.

All this vast machinery is being set up; it is ready to our hands, ready to do the work, if the driving force is supplied. The power of the League of Nations rests on the public opinion of the world; it is the responsibility of the men and women of this nation to create that public opinion.

M. CURREY, O.B.E.

# WOMEN AND THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE.

Revival of Deaconesses.

166

The Lambeth Conference, held at Lambeth Palace, London, from July 5th to August 7th, issued its Report last week. The exercise of the gifts of women in the Anglican Church was one of the subjects on the agenda, and their Lordships made a handsome apology for past neglect in this direction: "The Church must frankly acknowledge that it has undervalued and neglected the gifts of women and has too thanklessly used their work," and showed eagerness to atone, "so that the fellowship of the Ministry may be strengthened by the co-operation of women and the fellowship of the Church be enriched by their spiritual gifts.

The Conference agreed that the Order of Deaconesses should be restored, and laid down the functions that may be entrusted to them. These include instruction and exhortation of the congregation, under licence from the Bishop, and the right to speak in consecrated as well as unconsecrated buildings. The main resolutions are as under :-

Women should be admitted to those councils of the of which Mill was a devoted partisan.' Church to which laymen are admitted, and on equal

The Diaconate of Women should be restored formally and canonically, and should be recognised throughout the Anglican Communion. The Order of Deaconness is for women the one and only order of the ministry which has the stamp of apostolic approval. The office is primarily a ministry of succour, bodily and spiritual, especially to women, and should follow the lines of the primitive rather than of the modern diaconate of men. It should be understood that the deaconess dedicates herself to a lifelong service, but that no vow or implied promise of celibacy should be required as necessary for admission to the order.

should be adopted a form and manner of making a deaconess such as might fitly find a place in the Book of Common Prayer, containing in all cases provision for:—(a) Prayer by the Bishop and the laying on of his hands; (b) a formula giving authority to execute the office of a deaconess in the Church of God; (c) the delivery of the New Testament by the Bishop to each

The following functions may be entrusted to the deaconess, in addition to the ordinary duties which would naturally fall to her :-

(a) To prepare candidates for Baptism and Confirmation; (b) to assist at the administration of Holy Baptism and to be the administrant in cases of necessity in virtue of her office; (c) to pray with and to give counsel to such women as desire help in difficulties and perplexities; (d) with the approval of the Bishop and of the parish priest, and under such conditions as shall from time to time be laid down by the Bishop—(1) in Church to read Morning and Evening Prayer and the Litany, except such portions as are assigned to the priest only; (2) in Church also to lead in prayer and, under licence of the Bishop, to instruct and exhort the

Opportunity should be given to women as to men (duly qualified and approved by the Bishop) to speak in consecrated or unconsecrated buildings, and to lead in prayer, at other than the regular and appointed services of the Church.

This is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, but it is not enough. 'The "Twist" in all suffragists will continue to ask for still greater equality in spiritual affairs than the revival of an Order which, though a remarkably useful one in itself, still confines women's activities within well-prescribed limits. Learned and chivalrous as the theologians at the Lambeth Conference undoubtedly are, their recent pronouncements, nevertheless, lack the broader vision which characterised their great prototype St. Paul in his famous declaration, that the life of the Spirit knows no distinctions

# BOOK REVIEW.

The Life of Lord Courtney. By G. P. Gooch. (Macmillan & Co.) 18s. net. (Can be obtained from this office.)

This book is written with rare sympathy and understanding by a distinguished scholar and author. It reveals the life of a truly great Englishman who owed nothing to birth or fortune, and yet throughout a whole generation he was a powerful force in British politics, forming and checking public opinion as a writer, speaker, and an influential Member of both Houses of Parliament. Leonard Courtney championed the cause of Woman Suffrage and Proportional Representation because he was convinced that Parliament should express nothing less than the whole mind of the country. So late as April, 1917, the Women's Freedom League received a letter from him expressing keen regret that he could not, through indifferent health, accept our invitation to join in a commemoration of John Stuart Mill, "not only in connection with woman suffrage, but also on account of Proportional Representation,

Courtney became a leader writer for the *Times* under Delane, "the omnipotent editor"; but found time to continue his economic studies, and when he obtained the Chair of Political Economy in the University of London, women were invited to attend his classes. In 1877 he was elected for Liskeard, and his first speech the House of Commons was on the Eastern Question. He secured petitions for woman suffrage, one of them being signed by Florence Nightingale, Harriet Grote, and Anna Swanwick; and he pleaded our cause so effectively that occupants of the Ladies' Gallery began to hope for Mr. Gladstone's conversion! He became Under-Secretary to the Home Office, then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, afterwards Chair-In every branch of the Anglican Communion there man of Committees, very nearly secured the Speakership, and was raised to the Peerage in 1906.

Inside and outside Parliament Courtney was a zealous and uncompromising advocate of the causes he believed in; claimed and exercised absolute independence in the expression of his views; never hesitating to oppose the Government of the day, or his own party, when opposed to their policy, and on more than one occasion he paid for his independence by the loss of office. He well earned the title of "The Conscience of

the House of Commons. When Courtney married Miss Kate Potter in 1883 they both received congratulations from Herbert Spencer, John Morley, Joseph Chamberlain, and a host of other friends. No man was ever richer in friends than Leonard Courtney, nor more loyal to them; and the generous hospitality of the Courtneys was enjoyed by people of every shade of political opinion, and by men and women from all parts of the world. Not the least pleasing parts of this work are some delightful descriptions of persons, and places-extracts from Lady Courtney's Journal, and two or three charming letters from Mrs. Fawcett, notably one on Courtney's resignations from office in connection with Mr. Gladstone's Redistribution Bill, which, in his opinion, failed to provide for proper representation. While many of his closest friends deplored his action and Mr. Gladstone regretted his want of accommodation, Mrs. Fawcett at once penned her congratulations, adding: "Mrs. Courtney must be very proud to see her husband fight-

ing, 'where what he most doth value must be won.'"
Readers of this book will be grateful to Mr. Gooch for including Courtney's address at Herbert Spencer's graveside—it is a gem of perfect taste, deep feeling, and fine understanding. In closing the review of Lord Courtney's life, we are led involuntarily to describe

One who never turned his back but marched breast forward,

Never doubted clouds would break, Never dreamed though right were worsted wrong would triumph, Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

# Women's Freedom League. IS PARLIAMENT SUPREME?

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

Telegrams-" DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON." Telephone-Museum 1429. Colours—Green, White and Gold. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT. Hon. Organising Secretary-Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES. VOTE Sales Department-Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK Literature Department—
Hon. Heads: Miss H. NORMANTON, B.A. (Literary);

Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business). General Secretary-Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Wednesday, August 25.—Open-air Meet-g, Hyde Park. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 25.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park. 7 p.m.
Friday, September 24.—Miherva Café, 144. High Holborn, W.G. I. Reception to members of N.E.C. 7 p.m.
Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.
Wednesday, October 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144. High Holborn, W.C. I. Miss Vida Goldstein. Subject: "Election Experiences in Australia." 3 p.m.
Wednesday, October at Public Meet

BE FREE

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Lind-af-Hageby. 3 p.m.

White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Monday, September 6.-Hastings. Whist Drive. Metropole Hotel, Robertson Terrace. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Bexhill. Business Meeting.
Marine Mansions. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. 3.30 p.m.

### SCOTLAND.

Thursday, September 2.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting, 44, George IV. Bridge. Discussion of winter's work. 7.30 p.m.

#### WALES.

From July 29 and throughout August.—Aberystwyth. Meetings at the Bandstand every night. 8 p.m. Subjects: "League of Nations," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Why Women Should Use the Vote," "The Need for Women in Parliament," etc. Speakers: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Chairman: Alix M. Clark.

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, November 1.—Bethnal Green Women Citizens' Association, 33, Blythe Street, E. Speaker: Miss Kirby. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." 8 p.m.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

### BRANCH NOTE.

ASHFORD.

The Garden Party held at Glengariff last Saturday in aid of the Women's Club was a brilliant success. Everything was done that could be done to make it enjoyable. Mrs. Bankes, as a pleasant surprise, had arranged for an orchestra, and we warmly thank the musicians who played selections during the afternoon and evening. The Whist Drive was a great attraction. Mr. Huckstepp very kindly acted as M.C. The Misses Lloyd and Miss Glover very ably acted in two little plays, which were much appreciated. The tea arrangements, with Mrs. Gower and Mrs. Milbery in charge, were well managed. The stalls, which were well patronised, were in the hands of Mrs. Ware and Miss Maud L. White. We proudly welcome the 21 new members made at the Fête. This constitutes the highest number of new members made at one function in the South-Eastern District. The thanks of all our members are due to Mrs. Kither, Vice-President of the of all our members are due to Mrs. Kither, Vice-President of the Women's Club, who so kindly lent her garden for the Fête. A nice sum was made, part of which has been sent to the Birthday Organiser-Miss M. L. White, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

# WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

Three women—Lady Janet Gertrude Firth, Miss Nora Constance Illingworth, and Lady Mabel Florence Harriet Smith—have been appointed as magistrates for the West Riding. At the same time more than forty men have also been appointed as magistrates for this district. The authorities are at present apparently not desirous of granting our demand for an equal number of men and women on every magistrates' bench.

### Orders in Council

It was believed that the passage into law of the Sex Disqualifi-cation (Removal) Act, 1919, constituted a Charter of Liberties for Women Civil Servants, and was a distinct step forward for all

It was beleved that the passage into law of the Sex Disqualination (Removal) Act, 1919, constituted a Charter of Liberties for Women Civil Servants, and was a distinct step forward for all professional women, in that it was an example set by the Government of the country. Many feminists, however, when the Bill was before the House, questioned whether the proviso about Orders in Council did not annul the value to women of the whole Bill. The passage reads:—

A person shall not be disqualified by sex from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming any civil profession or vocation, and a person shall not be exempted by sex from the liability to serve as a juror. Provided that notwith-standing anything in this section, His Majesty may by Order in Council authorise regulations to be made prescribing the mode of admission of women to the civil service of His Majesty, and the conditions in which women admitted to that service may be appointed to posts therein, and providing for the exclusion of women from admission to any branch of the civil service in any of His Majesty's possessions, or in any foreign country.

Later, on May 19th, 1920, an emphatic resolution was passed with acclamation reaffirming the intention of the House that women should be given equal pay and opportunities in the State services. Undoubtedly both the House and the public believe that this is being carried out under the new Reorganisation Committee of the National Civil Service Whitley Council, on the contrary, laid down such conditions as to lower, if anything, the relative position of women to men in the Service; setting up separate establishments for women's promotion; introducing the pernicious system of appointment of women to the higher posts by Selection Boards instead of the open competition which obtains for men; and determining different scales of pay for women and men in the same grades except during the first four or five years of service. The wom

cession, and in this they were steadfastly backed by practically all the women's societies.

To allay this outery the authorities asseverated that in the carrying out of the Report it would be found that a far better case would be made than we feared. The women, therefore, turned all their energies to bringing this about by going on deputation to the Heads of the big Departments, urging them to interpret the Report in accordance with the spirit of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act rather than in the reactionary letter of the Report. Notwithstanding this, however, it is found that in the administration of Reorganisation the position of the women is being rendered worse and worse.

Meanwhile the women had still another hope. The Orders in Council, referred to in the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act had still to be introduced before the authorities could legally make these artificial barriers for women. Our champions in the House were armed and marshalled to fight the whole question and rouse the House to insist that their mandates as to equality should be carried out, and not flouted in this way.

Imagine our dismay, therefore, to find that the House is to be kept in ignorance of this flagrant disobedience of its orders, and that the wording of the Orders in Council are merely in general terms and give no idea of what the new regulations for the Civil Service are.

On Tucsday, August 3rd, they were laid upon the table of

On Tuesday, August 3rd, they were laid upon the table of

If within 21 days on which the House is in session these Orders are not objected to they will become law, thereby conferring upon the Commissioners dangerously unlimited powers and taking away completely any liberties and widened opportunities previously given to women civil servants by Parliament.

Time for a Debate on the question is being applied for from many quarters, and a memorial is being prepared to be signed by several hundred Members to support the demand. Early next session, therefore, the matter will be raised, and we shall see whether the House of Commons clings still to the belief (is it a delusion?) that its decrees are paramount in the land. Once and for all this ambiguity as to how we are governed should be cleared up. The House must assert itself.

DOROTHY E. EVANS.

## SUMMER SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP.

The second summer school arranged by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is to be held at Ruskin College, Oxford, from the last Saturday in August to September 11th. A wide range of problems of citizenship, local and national, will be discussed, special attention being given, of course, to women's questions, On alternate days throughout the fortnight lectures will be given on the part of women in the League of Nations. Sir Sydney Olivier will lecture on mandates under the League of Nations, and Sir George Paish on the danger of economic breakdown in Europe. Miss Eleanor Rathbone is to preside at the one public meeting to be held in the Town Hall on national family endowment. The most novel series of lectures will be those on the administration of justice, with special reference to the work of women as magistrates and jurors.

FRIDAY. AUG. 20, 1920.

### EDUCATIONAL.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA. HOME School on Progressive Thought
Lines: Large Garden, Crisks, Trial Coaching for advanced pupils. Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM.
2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings. Specially good prices given.—HELENE, 5, Hanover Road, Scarborough.

#### The Minerva Pen. Gold Nib. Upleakable.

If you have been worried by pens that leaked and blobbed and required to be carried upright, and unscrewed to fill and jogged to start, the Minerva Pen will be a revelation to you.

It may be carried full of ink upside down or anyhow, it cannot fail to write instantly on demand, and it is filled in a flash without unscrewing any part.

> Prices, 10/6 to £2 2s. THE IDEAL PRESENT.

To be obtained from the Minerva Publishing Co. 44, High Holborn, W.C.

G.E.A.B. spells help in all social, travelling and other emergencies; shopping, meeting people, accompanying children, invalids, etc., on journeys, sewing. Those coming to town can use office as collecting place for parcels, etc. Terms moderate. Call or send stamp, Secretary, General Emergency Assistance Bureau, 444, Strand, Charing Cross.

BRITAIN AND INDIA MAGAZINE, Edited by Mrs. Josephine Ransom. A unique and popular Monthly Magazine containing articles of real value to all who realise the vital necessity of encouraging the varied and mutual interest of Britain and India. The Magazine has already an international circulation. Annual subscription 13/6 post free. Single copies 1/- or 1/1½ post free.—7. Southampton St., High Holborn, W.C.1.

RELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Kensington Town Hall, are suspended till September 5th, 1920, when Miss Maude Royden resumes, and Dr. Percy Dearmer's "Five Quarters" commences September

# Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words.	Once.	Three Times.	Six Times.
20	s. d. 1 6	s. d. 4 0	s. d. <b>7 6</b>
30	23	6 3	12 0
40	3 0	8 6	16 0

Displayed Advertisements, 8/- per Inch.

#### REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BUSY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board-Residence at Miss Turner's, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702.

COTSWOLD HILLS! Take your HOLIDAYS at "Rosemary," the Food Reform Guest House.—Apply to BERTHA RYLAND, "Rosemary," Whiteway, Stroud, Glos.

VEGETARIAN Guest House. Station
Under 2 miles; charming garden;
tennis; croquet; dairy; pony-trap. Two
guineas.—The MANOR HOUSE, Noke,
Islip, Oxford.

VEGETARIAN Guests received—weekly; week-ends; 17th Century Farmhouse; orchard country; simple life and comfort. Generous table; Diet cures carried out; Unfired food specialised. Moderate terms.—"VERITAS," Bogle, Lynsted, Kent (Station: Teynham).

Costumes, Coats.

Skirts, to measure at

reasonable prices.

11 LUDGATE HILL. E.C.4.

(Entrance in Creed Lane).

Just facing the W.F.L. is the

# CAMEO

With its wonderful selection of Barbaric Beads, lovely Pebbles, Engraved Gems, and all sorts of things for the most refined Tastes.



Selections sent on approval to all parts of the country. Please mention"THE VOTE.

# GOOD'S CAMEO CORNER,

1, New Oxford Street, W.C. 1.

# Suffrage Health Food Stores.

231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough

# BUY OUR GOODS & HELP THE MOVEMENT.

Send for New List. Carriage Paid on orders over £1. Large Stock of Vegetarian and other Health Foods.

# THE HANDICRAFTS,

82 HIGH STREET, HAMPSTEAD, N.W. 3.

Handweavings, Leatherwork, Jewellery, Basket-Work, Hand-made Lace, Pottery, etc.

COLOURED HAND-WOVEN COTTONS from 4/- per yard

PATTERNS OF MATERIALS SENT FREE ON APPLICATION.

POTTERY PACKED AND DISPATCHED.

# ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY.

68 UPPER STREET, N.

# Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

M. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon Established 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man, Fee 7s. 6d.
Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches,
Send Postcard for Pamphlet. N.B.—No Showcase at door.
CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone: 3795 North,

F you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

# Join the Women's Freedom League.

Fill in your name and address and send it, with subscription (minimum 1s.) to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1. Name

Address

Published by the MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., LTD., at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1., and Printed for them by PAGE & PRATT, LTD., 151-2 Gt. Saffron Hill, London, E.C. 1.