

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

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

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CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, who, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter. MSS. not used will be returned if accompanied by a stamped envelope.

CORRESPONDENCE should reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday. The Editor's decision is final.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Municipal Elections.

Complete returns of the Municipal Elections are still lacking as we go to press, but there is no indication of any marked success of women candidates. Very many women stood as Independents without realising that a non-party candidature entails heavy work and a more complete organisation than is necessary for the party candidate. Others suffered from the prevalent idea that their known enthusiasm for education would result in an addition to the already heavy education rate should they be returned. Five women were returned unopposed:—Miss Rathbone (Liverpool), Mrs. Laney (Bournemouth), Dame Maud Burnett, Mrs. Silvester (Gloucester), all sitting members, and Dame Catherine Hunt (Colchester), a new candidate. Miss Clark was head of the poll at Doncaster, and Mrs. Catt is returned for Scarborough. Southampton returned three women. Manchester returned Miss Caroline Herford as its only woman. At Reading Miss Edith Sutton was successful in her first contest, though she has sat since 1907, when she was returned as the first woman Councillor in England, women having not hitherto been eligible for this office. Glasgow returned Miss Snodgrass, Mrs. Mary Bell, Mrs. Baird Smith, Mrs. Barbour, and Miss Eleanor Stewart. It is satisfactory to learn that the number of electors going to the poll was much higher than at recent elections, and that women in particular recognised their responsibilities and polled well. Those women who stood in the Labour interest naturally shared the ill-luck of their party.

A Step Forward.

The fight for equal pay and equal opportunity in the Civil Service has passed through many ups and downs, and will, no doubt, continue to do so. At the moment, fortunately, it is at an "up," and in spite of the many times the Government have deceived us, we cannot be so utterly cynical as to think that their present declarations mean nothing at all. Our readers will remember that a petition from M.P.'s was secured asking for time to debate the Orders in Council, and that before that petition had been presented the Government conceded the time. Before the time could be reached, however, the Government again gave way, and asserted that the Orders in Council would only be subject to detailed and explicit regulations which should be passed, and if desired, amended, by the House. On their behalf, Mr. Bonar Law gave to the champions of the Women Civil Servants a solemn assurance that so long as they were in power the Treasury and the Civil Service Commissioners should, in this matter, be subject to the control of the House, and that

they would not, in any circumstances, leave the framing of the regulations to them. This promise clears all the technicalities and considerations of rules of procedure out of the way. When the debate comes on, the subject of it will be the terms and conditions under which women shall be allowed to try for and to serve in the Home Civil Service. We have no doubt at all as to what the Members will say. It is more interesting to speculate what the Treasury will do thereafter!

The Importance of It.

The progress of this fight is of some interest in detail, because of the extreme persistence of both sides; but it is of more interest still because of the very great importance of the result. It is not too much to say that the whole future of women's employment in this country depends upon it. For if women fail to secure equal admission and equal treatment in the service of the State they are unlikely to secure it in any other service. If men and women are kept in watertight compartments there, not interchangeable, always doing "men's work" and "women's work," even on such purely unsexed matters as typewriters and filing cabinets, then we may expect to see this same pernicious separation persisting in trades and industries, in banks, offices, shops and warehouses, and in all the occupations of the country. But if, on the other hand, we win in the Civil Service, we may look for a permeation of commonsense everywhere else. After all, in spite of all the drawbacks that arise from it, men and women live on this earth together; they eat together, travel in the same trains and omnibuses, walk the same roads and breathe the same air. Why, then, should they not do the same work? It is all nonsense to pretend that they shouldn't.

Equal Pay for Health Visitors.

The attitude of the Government does to-day mark a step forward, but an even more practical one has been taken by the Lambeth Borough Council in their recent decision to pay their women health visitors and sanitary inspectors salaries equal to those of the men, namely, £350, rising in six years to £450. The Ministry of Health took fright at this decision and demanded a report on the work of the female inspectors. Lambeth, however, stuck to its guns, and pointed out that the training, experience and qualifications are not only identical, but that women, by reason of their work in connection with maternity and infant welfare, are at least as important and valuable to the community as the men. Once this principle is understood and accepted it will carry us far. Teachers, take notice!

Equal Pay in League of Nations.

Yet another practical advance is shown by the method of appointment for the administrative posts in the International Labour Office of the League of Nations. We reprint the advertisement published in the *Times*:—

The International Labour Office, of the League of Nations, which is now established at Geneva, proposes to fill by examination to be held in London early in December a limited number of VACANCIES on its staff:—

(A) Posts of an administrative character; salaries commencing at £500 (12,600 Swiss francs), rising to £800 (20,000 Swiss francs); age 22 to 30.

(B) Posts involving translation and preparation of documents for publication; salaries £600 (15,000 Swiss francs), to £800 (20,000 Swiss francs); age 25 to 45.

Men and women are equally eligible for both groups.

Candidates for Group A will be required to have a good general education, approximating to the standard set for the First Division of the Civil Service, and a good knowledge of French. Other languages may be offered. Administrative or legal experience is also valuable. For Group B a thorough knowledge of French and a knowledge of economics and labour questions is required. Candidates for this group must also be prepared to offer at least one additional language.

Applications for further particulars should be addressed to the Office's London Correspondent,

Mr. J. E. HERBERT, 26, Buckingham Gate,
London, S.W. 1,

and must be received not later than Friday, November 12th, 1920.

Comment on this is scarcely necessary. It is, indeed, the way in which we hope all public appointments will be made in the future, for it is the only one which will ensure the best service to the community. We hope that there may be a sufficient number of good women applicants, and invite our readers to bring it to the attention of their friends.

The Women Teachers' Protest.

The discontent and disappointment over the Burnham Report and the position of women teachers generally, is finding expression in a huge demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Saturday next, November 6th, when the principle of Equal Pay will be discussed and demanded. It is obvious that this fundamental principle must be acknowledged and granted as a right, and the sooner the Government recognises its inevitability, and acts on that recognition, the sooner will outspoken or latent discontent be overcome, and the better will be the work for the community given by all classes of women workers. We understand that the Manchester Branch of the National Union of Women Teachers has unanimously repudiated the findings of the Burnham Committee, and that a handsome banner, Manchester's contribution to the Trafalgar Square Demonstration, is to be carried by Manchester women teachers.

Scottish Temperance.

The polling which began in Glasgow, Perth, Paisley, Stirling, and other important Scottish towns and districts will continue till the middle of December in the case of those localities where it has been thought inexpedient to hold temperance polls on the same day as municipal elections. It is for the 588 districts which have demanded a poll to decide between leaving the regulations for the sale of intoxicating liquors as they are, and two measures reducing the number of licences to be granted, or restricting retail sale almost to the point of prohibition. The medium policy, that of reducing licences by twenty-five per cent. has few advocates, but the provisions of the Act make it likely that this half-way house will be the portion of more districts than will carry either the "no-change" or the "dry" alternative. If this should happen, the adherents of the other parties may console themselves with the reflection that they will be spared the disturbances which might well arise from the juxtaposition of two districts which had taken widely divergent decisions in this matter. The figures for the different localities will be eagerly watched, both in Scotland and England, by all parties who are interested in liquor reform—and those who really believe that no kind of reform is necessary are growing fewer every day.

Public Houses.

A Committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to enquire into the question of the hours of closing of public houses, particularly on Sundays. Lady Astor is a member of the Committee, and any of our readers who have views on the subject would do well to communicate with her.

Policewomen.

Sir J. D. Rees is very persistent in his attacks in the House on Women Police. His latest question is to ask the Home Secretary what the cost to the taxpayer or the ratepayer of the women police in London will be, and whether they are maintained elsewhere by local bodies. Mr. Shortt answered that the

present cost of the Metropolitan Women Police is £19,000 per annum, the total strength being 112. In addition, about half of this number are provided with quarters, rent free. According to the latest figures available, Mr. Shortt continued, about the same number of women patrols are employed in the county and borough police forces. The employment of policewomen has been left entirely to the discretion of the local police authorities, but the Home Secretary's opinion was that the policewomen were of great assistance to the police in dealing with certain classes of cases, and this opinion had been communicated to the local police authorities. Sir J. D. Rees gets little sympathy from the Home Secretary on this subject. Perhaps he will take the hint and leave the fulfilment of the recommendations of the Report on the Employment of Women Police to those who know what they are talking about.

Juvenile Courts.

Mr. Shortt, on Monday, moved the second reading of the Juvenile Courts (Metropolis) Bill which has passed the Lords. In London, all cases of juvenile crime come before the police magistrates, none of whom at present are women. Mr. Shortt said that there had been some misapprehension about the Bill; it was not proposed, as some people thought, to set up one central Court to which all children accused of crime were to be brought. On the contrary, the Courts were to be spread about London as far as possible. With regard to women magistrates at these Courts, the Government felt strongly that in London, as was the case elsewhere in the country, they should be able to sit, not as assessors, but on equal terms with other magistrates, and the Bill made this possible. As an example of what would happen, Mr. Shortt said that the court would consist of the President, who would always be a legally trained magistrate, and the two other magistrates would be chosen from a panel of local justices (men and women) and at least one of these would always be a woman. Objections on the ground of expense and the entire satisfaction given by the present Courts, were made by Mr. Rawlinson and Mr. Hohler, but the Bill was enthusiastically welcomed by Lady Astor who said that no expense should be spared in order to put these high-spirited children on the right road. Every woman's organisation dealing with the subject, she said, was in favour of the Bill. Sir Frederick Banbury found this a reason for opposing it, but no one pays much attention to Sir Frederick Banbury. Mr. Shortt said there would be no expenditure on buildings, and that juvenile cases could be held in a building away from the police court without in the least interrupting the ordinary work of the Court. The Bill was then read a second time.

Maternity Welfare.

Mr. Raffan, in the House last week, asked the Minister of Health whether he was now in a position to state when a Bill to give effect to the Washington draft convention concerning the employment of women before and after childbirth would be introduced; and whether he was aware that action on these lines had already been taken by the respective Governments of Belgium, France, Italy, Greece, Spain, South Africa and Venezuela? Dr. Addison replied that the question was engaging the attention of the Government, and that he hoped to make an announcement shortly. We must not rest content with these vague answers, but by dint of continual pressure force Ministers to give effect to the Conventions. The regulations under the Peace Treaty are clear enough, and insist that the signatory States are bound to put the Washington Conventions into practice, and that, within one year of the closing of the Conference, they are bound to submit the Conventions and Recommendations to the national authority competent to give effect to them. The year ends on January 27th, 1921, and only nineteen of the forty-six signatory States have taken any steps at all, and even in many of these the Conventions are only in a state of preliminary examination. Unless some course of action is forced upon the Government by outside pressure, the work of the International Labour Office, one of the really vital offshoots of the League of Nations, will be useless. It will be remembered that the Hours of Labour Bill which was recommended by the Washington Conference is being considered by a committee on the Two-Shift System, and the Women and Young Persons (Employment in Lead Processes) Bill passed its second reading on Monday, subjected to the criticism of Sir J. D. Rees and Sir F. Banbury, whose opposition to all progressive legislation is so customary as to be hardly resented in most cases. In this case, however, although not opposed to the Bill in itself, their opposition was directed against the Internationalism of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, and protests against their reactionary attitude were raised on all sides.

Married Women's Property.

Mr. T. Morison, Lord Advocate, moved the second reading of the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill on Monday. He pointed out that in Scotland a wife was still subject to the husband's right of administration, and all transactions, with one small exception, in regard to her separate estate required his consent. The Bill was destined to remove from married women all disabilities affecting them in regard to their own estates, and to place them in the same position as married men. Mr. Hogge welcomed the Bill, and even Sir F. Banbury asked why the Bill was confined to Scotland and why a Scottish husband who was unable to maintain himself should be supported by his wife while an English husband was not. Mr. Morrison answered that under the law of England a woman who had an estate was already bound to free the parish from the maintenance of her husband, while under Scottish law a married woman had been under no such obligation. It is, indeed, high time that this curious anomaly was put right; and we could wish that now that Scotland is following the good example of England in this respect, England would follow the good example of Scotland in the many other instances where Scottish law is more just to women than English law.

Education Schemes.

Mr. Fisher replied to a question in the House of Commons that only two schemes submitted by local authorities under the Educational Act have, up to now, been approved by the Board. There are 145 authorities which are under an obligation to present schemes, and only 39 have, at present, submitted even instalments, though the appointed day fixed for this was in August last. Arrangements for carrying out the provisions of the Education Act are, however, less in arrears than this answer would suggest. Local authorities were instructed to provide for at least ten years of development, and any plans they might attempt are obviously dependent in some degree upon costs of building and equipment over which authorities have little or no control, and of which estimates, even by experts, are little more than an exercise of prophetic gifts. The scope of schemes already under consideration includes the whole field of elementary and secondary education, with provision of many technical schools, of special schools for the deaf and dumb and epileptic, arrangements for school meals and the conveyance of children from remote districts, and many other fields of activity. The arrangements for commencing Continuation Schools in May next are not dependent on the completion of these comprehensive schemes. Some towns, Leeds, for example, are already carrying on large Day Continuation Schools on a voluntary basis in preparation for the advent of compulsion. The cost of bricks and mortar is no excuse for postponing out-of-school education; if the managers of continuation schools cannot get the accommodation they like, they must like the accommodation they can get. Education in the past has been singularly detached from questions of housing, and may be so again, without serious results.

Film Censorship.

The Film Censors, on whose Report we commented last week, are a voluntary body representing the trade. Their efforts have done a good deal to sift out the less desirable class of film and some licensing authorities are so satisfied with the films they pass that they consider the Censors' certificate as a sufficient guarantee of the character of the films exhibited in the halls under their jurisdiction. So far so good. But it is possible to exhibit films which have not gained this certificate, and, moreover, there are not a few persons who, while grateful to the Censors for sparing us the worst of the pictures submitted to them, view with misgiving a good deal that is passed by the Board. Objections by private persons would have little influence with Authorities working under an official censorship, but (at any rate, in London) they are carefully considered by the licensing authority, who investigate all protests made. The position is this, licensing authorities are apt to renew, almost automatically, the licence of any cinema against which no objection is lodged. They seldom go out of their way to seek out objections, and this is, perhaps, none of their business. Any citizen who sees an undesirable film has, therefore, the plain duty of objecting to the renewal of the licence of any cinema exhibiting it. If he announces to the cinema his intention of lodging such an objection the whole process will very likely be short-circuited, for exhibitors have considerable inducement to withdraw films about which they anticipate trouble. Any town tends in the long run to obtain the kind of cinemas it deserves.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The House of Commons was occupied last week on Ireland and the new Dora Bill. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were given up to Dora. The measure was strongly opposed by both wings of the Opposition, and in fact they put up the best Parliamentary fight which they have ever shown. One had the idea, however, that the fight was mainly Parliamentary, and that there was not much behind it. However this may be, the discussion followed its usual course, and it must be confessed was not exhilarating. In the end, the Government not only got their usual majority, but established their case. This was largely due to Sir Gordon Hewitt. Mr. Shortt was far less successful with the House, but when this is said it must be added that Sir Gordon Hewitt has no equal. For a debate of this sort he is unsurpassed, and the smooth passage of a highly contentious Bill was the result.

The only critical occasion was the first day. The Bill was moved by Mr. Bonar Law in a speech devoid of his usual persuasiveness, and for a time the tide set strongly against the Government. Accordingly, the Prime Minister was sent for, and made one of those speeches of which he alone possesses the secret.

On Monday, Mr. T. P. O'Connor secured the adjournment of the House to discuss reprisals. Very much the same speeches were made as had been heard on the previous Tuesday. It is somewhat difficult to describe the attitude of the House. Opinion still runs strongly in favour of Sir Hamar Greenwood, though possibly not quite so strongly as a week ago. As has been said, there is a suspicion that he has put his case too high. The difficulty is to obtain reliable Irish information, for that coming from Sinn Fein sources is discredited, Government statements do not always carry conviction, and there are few impartial observers. The general feeling of the House is perhaps that Sir Hamar Greenwood is doing as well as could be done, but at the same time the hostility to reprisals and the conviction that the Government has encouraged them is as strong as ever.

It was in this atmosphere and against this background that the House took the final stages of the Home Rule Bill. The debate was like its predecessors. Col. Guinness and his friends renewed their attack and were met by arguments now familiar. The questions round which discussion centred were customs on Thursday and income-tax on Friday. Col. Guinness spoke admirably on customs, and his speech should be looked at by all who want to know the case for fiscal freedom. Mr. Fisher replied in a speech well proportioned and not ineffective, but academic. He made no attempt to show that the Government plan had any relation to facts, and in truth it has not. The debate lasted until the evening, when a private Bill cut it short. Mr. Marriott and Sir Frederick Banbury were almost the only supporters of the Government outside the ranks of Ulster, and the views of those two members are well known. On Friday income-tax shared the same fate, the only difference being that Sir L. Worthington Evans in this case replied, a different minister but the same speech. After this decision, the small band of Unionists who have fought the Bill unceasingly and courageously from its very beginning, who are the only section in the House who can be said to have an Irish policy, apparently thought the Bill too bad to be worth troubling about and took no farther part in the debate. Accordingly, the financial clauses were completed, and the new clauses hurried through in a short time. The only ones not passed were Mr. Walter Long's two masterpieces compelling candidates to take the oath of allegiance, not as is done all over the world before they take their seat, but before they even stand for election; and another which enabled the Lord Lieutenant to dissolve the Southern Parliament if sufficient members are not chosen. Rumour has it, and these two clauses support rumour, that the Government's intention is to set up in Dublin what one member called a barbed-wire Parliament. In the present unfortunate state of Irish opinion, no candidate, Republican, Sinn Fein, Nationalist, or Moderate, could take the oath of allegiance before offering himself for election, for to do so would be to commit political if not physical suicide. As Lord Winterton said, this is deplorable but it is no less true. Therefore, nobody will stand except Government nominees, and the incredible plan of the Government appears to be to have a certain number of these elected and to start a Parliament in Dublin supported by bayonets and barbed wire. It is difficult to imagine a more menacing beginning for what is supposed to be free Government.

LEGISLATION ON THE MORAL QUESTION.

The most pessimistic person must admit that there has been an extraordinary advance in the status of women during the last two or three years. But in the direction of an equal moral standard the position seems to be stationary, if indeed it has not actually changed for the worse. We can congratulate ourselves on an increase of knowledge of the facts, especially among women, which should certainly have good results. If it does nothing else it will create an informed public opinion capable of resisting additional encroachments on the liberty of women. Unfortunately, knowledge, though indispensable, is not enough! In one of William de Morgan's books it is observed, "She knows, and she knows correct," and there is no subject on which *correct* knowledge and the power to discriminate between the true and the specious untrue is more needed. The spread of knowledge is even now checked by a kind of false modesty which causes so many women to turn deaf ears to the information which would perhaps enlist them on the right side. This is not selfishness; it is the inevitable result of the traditional treatment of moral problems. It is not surprising, then, that there is much confusion of thought in these matters. Does anyone think, we wonder, that women are the sole or even the chief agents in immorality? If the answer surely is "No," it seems incredible that under the present law and under two of the proposed amending Bills which are now before a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament it is the woman who is to be dealt with, and that even where the apparent intention is to apply the law to both sexes it is obvious that the main result will be increased penalisation for women. There is not only confused thought among the public on this question; there is confused thought at the back of these two Bills. They are an attempt to deal, at one and the same time, with punishment, rescue, and public health. The idea of punishment has, however, prevailed, and there is little else in the supposed rescue and public health clauses. The third Bill is, of course, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill drafted by the Bishop of London and containing much that is generally acceptable to women and the general public, and opposed, as far as we can judge, only because it may lead to blackmail or unduly curtail the freedom of men. Blackmail, that familiar bugbear in connection with Bills of this kind, can always be urged against any attempt to pass legislation on immorality. Everyone must judge for himself which of the two evils he prefers—occasional attempts to blackmail innocent men or to leave young girls without protection. It is usual to point out the horrible possibilities of blackmail as if there were no horrors on the other side. The points in the Bishop's Bill on which there is already a large measure of agreement are as follows:—

1. Raising the age of consent to an indecent assault to sixteen.
2. Removal of the "reasonable cause to believe" (that a girl was over sixteen) defence in cases of criminal assault.
3. Raising the time limit in cases of assault.
4. Increased penalties for brothel-keepers.

With regard to raising the age of consent to seventeen or eighteen, it would be welcomed so long as it is not associated with a "reasonable cause to believe" proviso.

All these points have been debated for years, and we doubt whether it is possible for any fresh light to be thrown upon them. They should be embodied in one Bill, and passed through both Houses during the present session. "Hope deferred" has made many women consider any further discussion on these points as just so much obstruction.

The Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, of which,

most fortunately, Lady Astor is a member, has been meeting constantly in the past two weeks, and still meets almost daily in the House of Lords, its hours of meeting being published in *The Times*. The general public is admitted, and the discussions and evidence are well worth the careful attention of all women who care about this vital and difficult subject.

The Joint Select Committee has many contentious clauses before it, in the Criminal Law Amendment (No. 2) Bill (the Government measure), and the Sexual Offences Bill. First there is the proposal to penalise the communication of venereal diseases. Everyone must desire to prevent the spread of these diseases, but there are differences of opinion as to the practicability of legislation for the purpose. They are not always easy of diagnosis, and it is often impossible to say which of two persons had the disease in a communicable form on a date already past, and which was guilty of infecting the other. Experience in other countries, and here during the operation of D.O.R.A. Regulation 40 D., has established this beyond doubt. It is also a serious difficulty that an accused person would be obliged to submit to medical examination in order to establish his or her innocence, and that this would apply to cases where only solicitation was alleged. If this were passed it would be possible, unless some safeguard were introduced, for every woman accused by the police of solicitation, to be placed under the necessity of clearing herself of the graver charge. Doubtless, the proposal is advocated with the best and purest intentions, but in effect it is the regulation of vice in another form. In theory, all the women suffering from disease would be shut up and the impression on the public mind would be—as it always is under any form of regulation—that immorality has been made "safe." Another proposal is to sentence girls who, in the opinion of the Court, are under eighteen, to be detained in Homes until they are nineteen, which might, of course, entail long periods of detention, especially if the age is extended to twenty-one, as desired by some of the witnesses before the Committee. One of the witnesses evidently thought it a drawback that under the voluntary system Homes must be made sufficiently attractive to the girls if they are to be willing to stay in them. Imagination quails at the thought of what a compulsory Home might be like.

All these arguments have been heard before, and, indeed, nothing very novel has been advanced at the meetings of the Joint Select Committee. It is the old story modernised by references to women magistrates, jurors, and police. Only the somewhat startling evidence of Mrs. Hornbrook on the subject of prophylactic packets has ruffled the even surface of the Committee's deliberations. It seems doubtful if anything really constructive will result, unless some part, at least, of the Bishop's Bill can be secured. Meanwhile there is another path to be explored. The women's societies are seriously agitated on the subject of criminal assaults on young children, and an important public meeting has recently been organised on the initiative of the Edinburgh N.U.S.E.C. by a committee representative of thirty-two societies. Frequent acquittals and light sentences are complained of, and it is stated that there is a steady increase in the number of cases. Administration, too, requires improvement so that the child shall be spared in every way. This is a matter in which we look to the increasing association of women with the legal system to make drastic changes. It is probable that adult immorality can best be checked only by raising the standard for men, by better housing, better education, and other preventive measures. The protection of youth is on another plane and will be met by wise amendments to the law and a more sympathetic administration—in which men and women together will join—based on a close study of child-psychology.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

THE CASE FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL RATE.

By LILIAN DAWSON.

To demand "equal pay for equal work" is easier than to define it, and its definition has baffled friends and foes alike. Does it mean "equal pay for equal output?" or "equal pay for equal time-work?" In the early days the phrase no doubt meant that where women were employed on work previously done by men, they should be paid on the same system as the men, and at the same rates, whether payment was made by time or by output; but employers and the Government put a very different construction upon these terms, and interpreted them literally to mean, "equal pay for an equal amount of work done," and where women produced less than men on time-work, they should receive accordingly a lower time-rate than men, regardless of the fact that output varies between men and men, exactly as it may vary between men and women.

The ambiguity of the formula "equal pay for equal work" has been the principal cause of its failure. Women have not been able to afford, nor have they cared sufficiently, to organise themselves strongly enough to enforce its original meaning, with the result that employers have put their own interpretations to the form of words, and evaded and dodged the issue whenever it has appeared. It has been said that women need greater supervision and more amenities than men, and women have not been able to prove that it was not they who wanted extra decencies or better working conditions, but that men had been content with too few.

The price of labour has depended upon two things—the law of supply and demand, modified by trade union organisation. Where organisation has been strong, it has been possible to regulate wages, and to come to an agreement with employers for a standard rate, below which no worker in the occupation shall fall. In those occupations where organisation has been weak, or non-existent, and where workers have depended upon "individual bargaining" in the "higgling of the market," wages have been low and there has been no standard or occupational rate. The employer has bought his labour in the cheapest market, and has been influenced only by the law of supply and demand, with the result that, before the war, in those industries where women were unorganised and the supply of female labour exceeded the demand, women's wages were appallingly low. During the war even the unorganised women were able to demand a slightly increased rate, largely owing to the shortage of labour; the increased cost of living played only a secondary part in the bargain. Since the war, and the return of men to industry, women's wages show a tendency to fall—though the fall may be checked to a certain degree by the fact that a very much larger number of women are organised than was the case before the war.

The majority of the members on the "War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry" faced with the problem, burked the issue, and in their report maintained: "That women doing similar work, or the same work, as men should receive equal pay for equal work in the sense that pay should be in proportion to efficient output." But Mrs. Sidney Webb, in her minority report, came nearer to the solution by stating, "That the essential principle which should govern all systems of remuneration, whether in private industry or in public employment, in manual-working, as well as brain-working, occupations, is that of clearly-defined occupational or standard rates, to be prescribed for all persons of like industrial grade; and, whether computed by time or by output, to be settled by collective agreement between representative organisations of the employers and the employed; and enforced, but as minima only, on the whole grade or vocation. There is no more reason for such occupational or standard rates being made to differ according to the worker's sex than according to their race, creed, height, or weight."

The application of an occupational rate is not a new principle discovered by Mrs. Webb. It is largely in operation to-day among the professional classes and some of the more highly organised workers. The latter, by their system of collective bargaining, piece-work rates, and standardisation of

wages, fix a minimum occupational rate below which no worker shall be employed, and the employer neither demands, nor do the men expect to give an efficiency of output as between man or man; each man gets the minimum rate, and if he is inefficient he is discharged. In the non-manual professions, an occupational rate is the rule, and the Army, Navy, Bench, Bar, and Medicine base their remuneration upon it.

The question of the principle of the relation between men's and women's wages must be determined by the kind of society we wish to produce. In the scramble for personal gain, men and women have striven not to give to the community the best services they were able to perform, but to secure from the community the best-paid jobs, and until we base our society upon production for services and not for profits, this must inevitably be the condition, and, unless women organise themselves as strongly as men have done, they will not obtain the equality they demand. Women sometimes forget that the higher standard gained by men has been built up by real self-sacrifice and combination and not only by processions and deputations to the Prime Minister.

The community needs the best work of all its members, and that work cannot be given if its members are handicapped by economic pressure through lack of common interest. Too much insistence has been laid upon the difference between men's and women's work, but there is no work which some women could not do as well as men, and the thing to aim at is that each person should give those services for which they are most fitted. At the present time women are being badly paid for work which is far beyond their capacity and strength, while men are in positions which obviously belong to women.

Mrs. Sidney Webb, in her book, "The Wages of Men and Women: Should They be Equal?" puts forward certain propositions which, if adopted, would help to solve the problem:—She insists, first of all, upon a national minimum, which must be a basic minimum, and below which it is nationally inexpedient to allow any human being to descend. The old idea of individual bargaining must be swept away, since it leads to "sweating." The formula of "equal pay for equal work" cannot be determined, and, therefore, defeats its own end by its ambiguity—the principle of a male and female rate is an inequality which even the meekest women would rebel against if an attempt were made to establish it legally. And, lastly, the vested interest of the male must be rejected; she declares: "There is no ground whatever for any deliberately imposed exclusion with regard to any occupation whatever of a whole class, whether marked out by sex, height, weight, colour, race, or creed. There can plainly be no warrant for any other ground of selection or exclusion, whether in manual working occupations or in the brain-working professions, in capital enterprise, or in public service, than the aptitude and fitness of each individual."

In order to qualify for an occupational rate, the only thing to be decided would be the applicant's fitness for the position, and for this some form of certificate would have to be obtained. With our present system, in a large majority of industries, no training or qualification is necessary for the work to be performed, with the result that thousands of human beings are used up in the industrial machine, and thrown on the scrap heap to return a charge upon the community when they are no longer able to satisfy the employer either by their cheapness or their efficiency.

Given an occupational rate, fixed by the worker's and the employers, a qualifying certificate would be an inducement to boys and girls to undergo a training to fit them for the work they wish to do, and having undergone the training, the best qualified would be chosen for the work, irrespective of sex.

Finally society itself has to be reorganised and a more equal distribution of incomes, efforts, and needs must be made if we are to abolish the discontent which is now prevailing, and increase a wiser production which is so essential to the whole world.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF MOTHERHOOD IN NORWAY.

By Mrs. KATTI ANKER MÖLLER.

In Norway, as in most other countries, legislators have worked to protect self-supporting women in industry as in other working fields. Considerable efforts have been made to improve wages, public control has been introduced to prevent overwork and exploitation, and many good regulations have been established to secure proper hygienic conditions for their work.

All this legislation chiefly concerns unmarried women. Unfortunately, it cannot be said that the legislators have shown an equal interest and care for the married women in their most special and most important work in the home.

What is the reason of this partiality and oneness in their efforts? One of the reasons is, at any rate, that the mothers live comparatively isolated lives, often with large families, and are so overwhelmed with work that they cannot meet and co-operate for their common demands.

It can, however, no longer escape our attention that the married woman, as mother of a family, works under conditions that are not up to the standard demanded by public opinion in other spheres of work. Our legislators have shown a neglectfulness which, in the long run, must lead to an intolerable situation both as regards the economic position of married women and as regards the general conditions of their work.

Her household work is still thought of little account, and her economic reward for it is settled in a very impracticable way. Her working capacity is often overtaxed with no regard to her strength and health. There is no limitation of her working hours, and she has no settled resting hours at all.

The independent self-supporting women have now succeeded fairly well in obtaining equal wages for equal work, but as regards married women in their essentially womanly work, it is the same for the woman who has no child as for the one who has ten or twelve children.

As regards the hygienic conditions of their work as mothers of families, they have been neglected. Very little has been done to protect women during their important physiological processes as mothers, and far too little attention has been directed to the vital work of nourishing and educating the new generation, especially in the first years of life.

How far we are removed from an ideal state can be seen when we consider that the death-rate of the babies in several European countries is still between ten and twenty per cent., while the death-rate in Australia and New Zealand, for instance, has been reduced to below five per cent., and according to the Danish appeal for the welfare of babies, Dr. Morel, in the town Villiers-le-Duc, in France, has succeeded by means of drastic regulations, during the ten years he was Lord Mayor there, in preventing any baby from dying in the first year of life.

According to the Royal Commission on the declining birth-rate in Great Britain, there are more miscarriages during pregnancy than deaths during the first year of life, although the death-rate for Great Britain is also high. To what extent the health of women is abused can be realised, when we hear that in Russia and Bulgaria the women bear more than forty children per thousand inhabitants, compared to New Zealand, where the necessary increase in the population is provided with ten to fifteen births per thousand inhabitants.

But common to all countries is the general reduction of women's health after a birth; it is so general that we must almost say that those women are exceptions who bring a child into the world without acquiring a greater or smaller weakness for life.

Here in Norway during the last years we have carried through several laws aiming at a better protection of mother and child. The principle of all of them has been to prevent mother and child from being separated, to secure to the mother a sufficient income to enable her to take care of her own child without resort to other work in order to safeguard the health of the child.

These laws chiefly concern the unmarried mother (except for the community of Kristiania, where they apply to widows, and divorced or separated and deserted mothers as well), and

the laws have so far succeeded that we may almost say that the unmarried mother in many cases is now better provided for than the married one.

The unmarried mother will get an increased amount of money for every fresh child she brings into the world, as a necessary safeguard for the child, while the married mother will have to divide up what she has afresh with every increase in her family.

Though we are glad that the unmarried mother has slowly obtained some improvement in her miserable conditions, and it is not more than is necessary, it is, however, unsatisfactory that the married mother in her proper family work is worse off economically, and must often look forward with greater anxiety to the arrival of a new child, and must see her child less well provided for than a child born out of wedlock. Sometimes the married mother, having already brought a number of children into the world, and often with failing health, is obliged to leave her home, leave the smallest children to others, even her baby of a fortnight old, in order to get sufficient work to pay for the feeding of the children. So not even the natural joy of caring for her own children is left to her. The wages which her husband earns, the income on which the whole family is to live, is never apportioned to the increasing family, and the growing demand for food and clothes.

The wage system which now prevails in our society is founded on a quite different conception. It is governed by the cost of production and by the tariffs, and is not based on a conception of maintenance, while the State, as a whole, is obviously most vitally dependent on the work which the mother does in the home, which results in the production of a healthy, strong, and well-educated generation.

The more a wife is willing to sacrifice herself for the needs of her husband and children, the more she obeys her purely womanly instincts, the more she gives herself up to her task as mother, the more children she has, the worse will be her prospect of safeguarding the existence and health of her own family.

Such a disproportion between labour and its reward is so irrational and unjust, that it cannot be allowed to continue, since it has become a serious danger to the whole institution of the family. The consequences are to be seen on all sides—women no longer consider it a happiness to bear many children.

I can well understand that people may be concerned about the consequences of the complete removal of the parents' duty to support their children, which is the basis of the family institution, the oldest and most venerable institution in the world, and which claims our great respect and devotion. But we must say, on the other hand, that if we work to keep mother and child together, not to tear asunder the strongest and most natural tie existing between human beings, and if our ideal is always the welfare of the child, then we are acting in harmony with the deepest instincts of women. We must succeed in finding forms in which both these ideals are united.

In England, during the war, the Government grants for children were given direct to the home-staying mothers, and the Chief Inspector of Health says that the children have never had better health or better clothes than during this time.

In countries where maternity insurance is established, this method would be excellently suited to help mothers in the continued nursing of their children. It seems to me, that the proposal which is presented by the National Council of Women of Norway in its well-considered form is a step in the right direction, since it establishes a minimum standard of expenditure for the feeding and nursing of a child, and where this standard cannot be obtained from the family's own resources, the mother of the family will receive a contribution from the State, which is calculated as a fixed proportion of the family's income, and based on the number of children. Control must be exercised so that this contribution is really used for the benefit of the children.

We must in this manner be able at last to prevent the most immediate cause of underfeeding and bad management of children within the homes, in order that we, with growing knowledge on the part of the mothers, and by the realisation of a greater responsibility on the part of the parents, can reach our great ideal—a complete rational nursing and feeding of all children.

THE CHANGING WORLD OF EDUCATION.

In no department of life are movements of change at present more marked than in education; and in scarcely any other can such movements be of so much interest to women. On the whole, the tendency of the experiments now being made in every part of the world is towards replacing command and inhibition by freedom, spontaneity, and self-government. To some observers these experiments seem to offer the greatest possible promise for the world's future; to others they appear deplorable examples of "soft pedagogy." Here, as always, the only sure plan is to read, examine, ponder, and judge for oneself.

THE EDUCATION OF MERCHANT SEAMEN.

By A. MANSBRIDGE

(Chairman of the World Association for Adult Education).

The last twenty years have seen a marked revival of education among working men and women. Eloquent testimony to this is borne in the Report of the Ministry of Reconstruction's Committee on Adult Education. This Report was largely made possible by the recent activities of the Workers' Educational Association and of the Adult School Movement, both of which endeavour to satisfy the educational needs of men and women.

Strangely enough, however, an important section of the community has, until recently, been entirely forgotten. There is no mention of the needs of seamen in the Report referred to above. It was left to the World Association for Adult Education* to give expression to the idea that workers on sea should have equally good facilities for self-development as workers on land. No other educational body, in England was willing to undertake so difficult a task, and accordingly the Association took the initiative and constructed a Commission upon which the sailors' trade unions, the mission societies, the Chamber of Shipping, the Seafarers' Joint Council, and educationalists are represented.

After careful consideration the Commission decided that it was essential to establish a well-selected library on each ship as a nucleus of its educational work. In the selection of the books the seamen themselves were to participate. As a library without guidance of some sort as to reading was almost useless, it was decided not to place a library upon any ship unless some member of the crew, able and willing to look after it, explain its use as far as possible, and keep the necessary records of the books borrowed, could be appointed for this purpose.

The educational value of the cinema with suitable films was also fully realised. Later it was decided to investigate the possibilities of tuition by correspondence. Finally, the work afloat will be linked up with educational work in ports abroad.

In order to discover the exact nature of the educational problem, it was agreed that persons skilled in adult education should be invited to undertake the round voyage under the best conditions to be obtained from the owners, and to supply the Commission with a report as to the prospects for the development of a complete scheme of education.

The ship-owners began by doubting both the possibilities of the scheme and the existence of any wish for it on the part of the men, but when the conclusions of the Commission were explained to them they readily agreed to co-operate and to pay their share of the initial costs.

All the facilities necessary for the conduct of educational experiments on board have now been secured. Three lines of ships sailing from Liverpool have agreed to make all possible arrangements for such work and to pay the actual costs incurred. Important lines like the Cunard and the White Star have expressed their interest in the scheme, but they have been asked to wait until the results of the initial experiments are to hand before taking any steps towards its adoption.

In the meantime the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union and the National Union of Ships' Stewards, Cooks, Butchers, and Bakers, have each made grants of £100 towards the expenses of the Commission. The Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom has agreed to make a first grant of £500 for books, and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust has decided to make a conditional grant of £1,000.

On May 29th the Blue Funnel liner "Æneas" set sail for Australian ports, with a library in charge of a member of the crew appointed especially to work it in co-operation with the Commission. On August 21st the Lamport & Holt ship "Holbein" sailed for South American ports, with a library to be worked by the ship's carpenter in co-operation with the Commission. In the middle of September the Blue Funnel liner "Ulysses" left for Australian ports, with a young man

*13, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

who was recently captain of one of our big public schools acting as librarian and educational officer.

Such libraries are part of a central library constructed on the most up-to-date principles and capable of extension into a library for the use of the whole mercantile marine. It is probable that the books selected in the first instance may not precisely meet the needs of the sailors, but gradually their desires will be ascertained and satisfied, so that the organisation of the library will be in part the work of the men themselves.

Interesting evidence as to the interests of sailors was given by one of their representatives, who was convinced that they would rather read books dealing with land occupations than those based on life at sea. The explanation of this is probably to be found in the fact that the average sea life of men on ships is only ten years.

Of course every experiment will depend upon the personality of the librarian in charge. If he be a man of resource, and able to get on with his fellows, he will see that they read the books which really appeal to them. Those who know the forecastle are emphatic in stating that sailors are anxious for something worth while to occupy their spare time. It is said that they will read newspapers over and over again, including the advertisements—during a long voyage. It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of the interest aroused by the reading of well-selected plays with each member of the circle taking a part. In time the level of a dramatic representation might even be reached. Another important point to be borne in mind is that on big ships nowadays there are men of all types to be found, who possess a good working knowledge of some subject of education and who may well undertake to lead classes or study circles. Here again the librarian in charge can give a great deal of help in the way of inspiration and organisation.

In the near future, experiments will be made with the cinema, but certain very real problems will have to be met. Some ship-owners are doubtful as to its value as an instrument of education. In any case there will be great difficulty in securing an adequate supply of educational "non-flam" films for long-distance voyages, but in this matter the co-operation of other bodies can be secured. However, it is certain that, if cinemas do supply a want on board ship, the necessary organisation can be developed to meet the need. No one doubts that sailors have a right to the amenities of education to the maximum degree, always having regard to the efficient working of the ship and the obvious difficulties of the situation.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that funds have been secured for the initial experiments, although for the later work much more financial help will be required. There is not the least doubt that the nation owes a great debt to its seamen, and, whatever the financial difficulties, it must pay that debt as far as possible.

No mention has been made of women on ships, but their case has not been forgotten, and on the big liners representatives of the stewardesses will be consulted at the first opportunity, and their special needs considered in the same spirit as those of the men. In any case the books that women ask for will most certainly be provided.

There is an element of romance in this new educational effort, which must surely inspire those who care for right thinking and for right learning on the part of people who have to take their share in the development of the democracy.

In conclusion, it can be noted with satisfaction that both the men and the owners regard educational work as something in which they can jointly participate and make common cause. The need for common effort on the part of those engaged in the shipping industry of Great Britain is generally admitted, and now that there is a prospect of its being satisfied, at least in part, everyone concerned may look forward to the future with greater hope and contentment.

HIGHER EDUCATION OF SPANISH WOMEN.

By MARIA DE MAEZTU, PH.D.

Delegate to the International Federation of University Women.

In the thirteenth century the "Siete Partidas" of Alfonso the Wise admitted women to high schools, universities, and even professional schools, but explicitly forbade them to practise law, ruling that: "no woman, however learned she may be, may act as an advocate of another person at a trial, and this because it is not suitable nor dignified that a woman should assume the office of a man, becoming engaged with men to defend another person." During the Middle Ages and late Renaissance many learned women and doctors, for instance Beatriz Galindo and Doctora Maria Isidra, studied, took degrees and attained distinction in the universities.

Gradually, however, women lost these privileges and were definitely excluded from academic degrees higher than that required for an elementary teacher; and when, in 1880, a young woman applied for a high school diploma a Royal Bill was necessary to admit her to the examination. A campaign for the opening of university courses to women followed; and the Liberal Minister of Education, Julio Burrell, remembering the almost forgotten laws of Alfonso the Wise, caused them to be, so to speak, re-enacted. In 1887 a Royal Bill was passed, granting admission to university courses, on condition that it did not involve "the disturbance of the order in such institutions," and, finally, women were allowed to take examinations and receive degrees. As some doubt remained about the practice of law, a Royal Bill, in 1910, gave women the right to pursue the same studies and practise the same professions as men.

The degree of *Bachiller*, however, is a necessary step to entering a university, and although the "Institutes" of Secondary Education (modelled upon the French *Lycées*) have been open by law to both sexes since 1847, custom and prejudice kept girls out of them until about twenty years ago. Since then many girls have taken the degree of *Bachiller* and entered a provincial university where they can take the degree of *Licenciado* (Master), or studied in the University of Madrid where, alone, the Doctorate is attainable. There are already eighty-one women graduates and two hundred and eighteen undergraduates at the various universities.

Until recently the aim of most students was the earning of a livelihood and the majority became teachers. But in the last few years women have sympathised in the general movement of Spain towards a higher educational level and are seeking culture for its own sake. Members of aristocratic families are studying at universities and a daughter of the Duque is preparing for university examinations in Madrid. The *Residencia de Señoritas* is a hostel for women students, accommodating eighty-five and providing some opportunities for extra study. It grants scholarships to poor students, and the Board of Extension of Studies gives grants to enable some women to study abroad. A few American colleges have given similar opportunities to students of the *Residencia*.

Some Doctors of Medicine are doing well in Madrid; there are several women pharmacists and a few women working in libraries and in the public archives. There are Doctors of Science and Philosophy, but only one university professor, the novelist, Miss Emilia Pardo Barzán. The entry of women into public life has been well received; but their work is worse paid than that of men. Although the university women of Spain are still few they have formed a federation which is affiliated to the International Federation of University Women, and was represented at the London Conference last July.

WOMEN'S WORK IN COUNTRY VILLAGES.

By PRISCILLA E. MOULDER.

For the past six months I have been living in a genuine old-fashioned country village. It contains one general shop, one school, one blacksmith's shop, one Wesleyan chapel, and an ancient parish church.

Small holdings, not big farms, are the rule in this village, and they range in size from three to thirty acres in extent. Very little corn is grown. The small holders go in for hay, roots, vegetables, fruit, milk, butter and pigs. Of course, all through the war labour was very scarce and where the men could not do all the work themselves they have had to depend largely on their wives. All through the past six years, women who live on small holdings have had to work as hard and as continuously as those who worked in munition works or textile factories.

Before the war they took a fair share of outside work, helping

their husbands to run the holding, but during the war the work was doubled, indeed, often trebled.

Take the ordinary routine life of a woman living on a small holding to-day. Labour is still very scarce. Usually, the woman rises betimes in the morning, often at 5.30 a.m. in the summer and 7 a.m. in the winter. She has the fire to light, the kettle to boil, and breakfast to prepare for the whole family. Wedged in between these jobs she often tidies up the living-room, having been too tired to do it over night. Probably there will be several children, with three or four of school age. Most of the youngsters have to be washed, dressed and got off to school. Then the mother can get her breakfast in peace, along with her husband and the youngest born, often a tiny toddler.

Breakfast over and the things washed up and cleared away, she proceeds to feed the hens and chickens, the ducks and rabbits; the husband feeding the pigs, cows and horses.

Presently the milking comes on—that is, if the cows have returned from the common, if not, they must be fetched—and that takes time according to the number of cows kept on the holding. It may be butter-making morning. The cream is put into the churn, after the right temperature has been ascertained, then it must be churned into butter, after which it is made up into half-pounds for the market.

By the time the butter-making is cleared away, it is noon, and dinner time. Probably the school is too far away for the children to come home for dinner, so the husband and wife sit down to a cold meal in company with the baby. After dinner the husband returns to his work outside and the wife proceeds with hers indoors. There is sure to be washing to do, or ironing, and lots of little garments to mend and patch. Polly and Nelly and Susie are not old enough to do such things for themselves, and the mother often sits up until midnight working with her needle when all the rest of the family are fast asleep. During the afternoon, too, the poultry require feeding again, and the eggs must be gathered in from the nests. Baby may be teething, and very fretful, and the harassed mother has to nurse and amuse him as best she can. Just before tea she manages to get upstairs, taking the baby with her, and while the child toddles about or rolls on the floor she makes the beds and clears up generally. By this time it is 4 p.m. The mother picks up the baby and hurries down to prepare tea for the hungry youngsters returning home from school. She lights the wood fire with sticks which she brings in from the yard, boils the kettle, lays the table, and cuts platefuls of thick bread-and-butter to fill the hungry little mouths.

Shouts are heard from the lane, and the children troop into the cottage. The husband is called in, and all the family sit down to tea. Tea over, the mother washes up the things, with the help of the eldest girl, and clears the table. Father goes out to milk the cows and feed the pigs. Jack is sent to feed the rabbits. Sam is told to go out on the common and bring home some furze sticks to light the fire in the morning. Polly takes the baby out in the push-cart, along with the next youngster, and the mother is left in comparative peace for an hour or so.

Does she sit down and rest? Not she, indeed! A hundred and one jobs are still staring her in the face. Her man's shirts have to be cut out and made ready for the winter. Jack wants some new vests. Polly needs some thick knitted stockings for the cold weather, and Susie some gloves. In spite of the modern craze for buying ready-made clothes, the wives and mothers in country villages often make their own. How they find time to do it is a mystery I have never been able to solve.

The evening works round to 7 p.m., and the children are called in to get ready for bed. Dirty hands and faces and grubby knees are washed and made clean by mother. The children all say their prayers at mother's knee, and then trot off to bed with a good-night kiss. Even the baby is asleep in his cradle, the husband has gone out for a smoke and drink at the village public-house, and quietness reigns in the cottage. Sometimes the mother of the family is very proud of her garden, and treats herself to an hour among the flowers. She finds plenty of weeds to uproot, faded flowers to cut off, and other things to do. It may be the fruit season. Gooseberries, strawberries, currants, raspberries all have to be picked and either have to be got ready for market or for making into jam for home use.

So the evening passes quickly away. About 10.30 p.m. the husband returns, gets his supper of bread and cheese, and goes off to bed. If she is very lucky the wife soon follows, but more often than not it is midnight before she can seek a much-needed rest. Naturally, there are often childish ailments to disturb the mother's sleep—toothache, or earache, or colds or mumps. To add to all her other worries, food is double the price it was before the war, as well as every article of clothing. These are very serious items these days to a mother with a growing family of boys and girls; but the women in country villages never rebel against such an existence.

THE BUILDING GUILDS.

By C. M. LLOYD.

The appeal which the Building Guild movement makes to the public is twofold. In the first place it claims to have found a method superior to that of the private builder—a method that will provide us with houses more expeditiously, at a lower cost, and, withal, of a better quality. Secondly, it is a remarkable social experiment, for it claims to be a constructive effort in the fashioning of a new industrial democracy, which may ultimately supplant the whole of our present capitalistic organisations. It may, and will, be judged on both these claims. The second is obviously the more important; but it is equally obvious that much will depend on how far the first can be made good. Let us, in order that we may be in a better position to appraise the value of the movement, look briefly at its origin and development.

Its beginnings are to be found in that great stirring in the building trade referred to recently by Miss Hutchins in these columns. The idealism and energy of Mr. Malcolm Sparkes brought a new vision to the operatives and to many of the employers. The "Builders' Parliament" was formed in 1917, and a committee appointed by it a little later presented a Report, which created widespread attention, setting forth, as it did, large measures of immediate reform, and pointing to the possibility of a greater transformation in the future. Those who believed in this possibility were inspired by the ideals of Guild Socialism. They were challenging not only the system of private profit-making, but the Collectivist alternative to that system. Their aim was to rescue the building industry from capitalism, not in order to hand it over to the State, nor to establish it on a Syndicalist basis, as a close corporation free of any control by the community, but to weld it into "one great self-governing democracy of organised public service, uniting a full measure of free initiation and enterprise with all the best that applied science and research can render." Their hopes, however, were for the moment doomed to disappointment, for the Report was shelved. But the enthusiasts who believed in its principles determined to make their own experiment.

The first step was taken in January last by the Operative Bricklayers in the Manchester district, who proposed the immediate formation of a Building Guild by the workers themselves. This was endorsed by the Federation of Building Trades Operatives, the Union to which the Bricklayers, like other sections in the industry, are affiliated. The Manchester Building Guild Committee was forthwith established, with Mr. S. G. Hobson, a well-known Guildsman, as Secretary. The movement spread rapidly, and there are to-day some eighty Building Guilds in existence. They are most numerous in Lancashire and Yorkshire, though they are to be found all over the country, from London to Glasgow, from Ipswich to Newport. Some of them are isolated and independent, others are more or less loosely co-ordinated; plans are on foot for federating all into a National Guild.

Let us now look a little more closely into the organisation and methods of the Guilds. The pioneers at Manchester declared that their purpose was "to change the spirit and organisation of the industry so as to end the wage system and establish the principle of self-government." They aim, therefore, at the abolition of the wage contract. The maintenance of the worker should be the first charge on the industry; he is no longer to be a "hand," taken on by the hour or the day, or turned loose among the unemployed when a job is finished or bad weather or an accident stops work. Furthermore, the Guild ideal is, of course, that the whole body of those engaged in the industry, whether as "hand-workers" or "brain-workers," should control their own conditions, acting as partners in a co-operative enterprise. The Guild, therefore, is not to be confused with the "Direct Labour" system, under which the Local Authority carries out its own building with its own employees. Direct Labour may produce cheaper and better houses than private enterprise; but the worker, says the Guildsman, will still be under the wage-system, subject to the more or less despotic control of the public authority, liable to the grave evils of unemployment. And on those terms the workers will be less and less disposed to give good service.

The constitution of the Guild is completely democratic. The rules of the Manchester Building Guild Committee require that it shall be composed of one representative from each trade union connected with the industry, together with one representative from the administrative and one from the technical department, though, so far, these latter appointments have not been able to be filled. The "Guild of Builders (London) Limited" has, however, been more successful in getting the technicians in. Its governing committee includes representatives not only of the various sections of the operatives, but also of architects and surveyors, and it will presently add those of the civil engineers and the decorative painters and sculptors. To this London Guild also are affiliated the local committees, each of which is entitled to be represented on the central body. In order to become a legal entity the Manchester Guild had to be registered as a joint stock company, with a nominal capital of £100 under the "no profits" clauses of the Acts. The London Guild registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. Each "director," as the law calls him—or committeeman as the Guild calls him—holds a shilling share. But the shares carry no dividends, and the "directors" can be removed at any time by the associations which elected them.

The terms of the Guild's contracts for building are simple and straightforward. Its object is not to make "profits"; it tenders on the basis of cost. The price per house will be the actual net cost of materials and labour at standard rates, plus a lump sum of £40 (to enable the Guild to provide continuous pay to its workers), plus six per cent. on the estimated cost given in the tender (to cover plant, expenses of management, and so on). A further important point is that the Co-operative Wholesale Society comes in as a third party, to supply materials, whilst the Co-operative Insurance Society guarantees the Local Authority against loss under the contract, to the extent of twenty per cent. of the estimated cost. These are the terms on which the London Guild has just contracted to build 400 houses at a cost of £400,000, for the Wathamstow Urban District Council, and it is safe to say that the progress of this venture will be watched with enormous interest. The Manchester Guild is building on very similar terms for the Irlam District Council. It, like many others of the newly-formed Guilds, has been in negotiation with other Local Authorities; but there has been a general protest that the Ministry of Health has delayed and thwarted their schemes. Even now the Minister, it is complained, has only sanctioned sixteen Guild contracts. These contracts represent a total of something near £1,000,000, while there are further contracts amounting to £3,000,000 awaiting acceptance.

It is evident, then, from this brief summary, that the practical achievements up to date do not afford us enough material to pass a conclusive judgment. But the Guildsmen may justly claim that they have had great difficulties to contend with, and that they are beginning to surmount them. It is evident, too, that the movement is so far only a partial embodiment of the Guild Socialist ideal; for as yet it has but little support from the "brain-workers," the technicians and the managers in the industry. But that is not the fault of the promoters, or of the manual workers, who are eager to bring in every grade. There are critics, of course, who do not believe in the Guilds. They predict that such a democracy as this is bound to fail, either because the motive of public service instead of private profit will not be a sufficient stimulus to good and hard work, or because, "when men are their own masters," discipline will inevitably break down, and with it, efficiency. Those are questions which cannot be argued out here. But it is perhaps worth reminding the sceptics that the present system is very far indeed from guaranteeing good and hard work, and that the possibilities of real democracy in the industry have not yet been tried. It is, at any rate, certain that the principles on which the Building Guilds are based are inspiring myriads of the workers to-day. Their enthusiasm, if it does not succeed in carrying this experiment to a triumphant issue, may presently be turned into more dangerous channels.

I WONDER!

By GERTRUDE VAUGHAN.

"You wrote that?" Helena dropped the cobweb-covered volume on the flagged floor of the Inn kitchen.

Paul bowed his head. The answer, most reprehensibly, was in the affirmative.

He stood facing her, trying to realise the stupendousness of the blow that had shattered this last evening of their honeymoon—how Helena, prowling round the room examining the old hunting prints on the walls and the guns and fishing-rods stacked in the corners, had come upon an obscure shelf behind a door, containing a mere half-dozen books all told, but among them *that* book, "Woman: the Enigma." What ironic fate had cast up on this remotest of islands off the remotest point of the Irish coast that book among all the books in the world? Written in a rebound of bitter disillusionment, of hatred of women because of one woman; three hundred pages of concentrated essence of all the jibes at women and all the pretty-pretty sayings about women from the days of Adam to the days of Weininger! Written, it is true, anonymously, but in this particular instance branded on its very title-page with his autograph: "Best wishes from the author, Paul Durham!" To whom he had given it, how it had drifted here, he could not even guess. It was the devil's own luck.

Even while he raged inwardly against the fate that had dragged his past to light at this supremely inopportune moment he was conscious of Helena's vivid charm—Helena, the woman he had chased over half the globe, up to Lake Baikal, where she had gone to search for the *Phoca Siberica*; down to the Antarctic, where she was deeply engaged with the *Stenorhynchus Leptonyx*; and whom he had at length run to earth somewhere in France, khaki clad, driving a motor, gallant and fearless, with the Archies getting busy. It had taken him a whole year to convince her that Heaven had decreed their marriage, and another six months to induce her to fix even an approximate date. And now—this.

They had been so happy! All up England, all across Ireland, on the steamer that called at quaint islands all beginning with "Bally," suggesting so obvious a pun that his fastidious soul evaded it as one evades a wasp; then the drive on the side-car through an enchanted land of bog and mountain and sandy bays, past crimson-skirted queenly women mounted on the extreme end of panniered island ponies or trudging, bare-foot, with droves of small cattle and excited dogs and smiling babies; past hedges of fuscias and thickets of yellow ragwort and purple loosestrife; past black pigs and thatched cabins basking under a summer sun, in the peat-scented air, to this little village perched on the tip of a tongue of green land flung out into the glorious blue Atlantic. And then a month of perfect unalloyed happiness, of delvings into the folk-lore of the island, talks with the ancient who had the Gaelic, and with none of that sparring that had sometimes clouded their engagement. And now this. And all because of an old book.

He picked up the miserable object that had destroyed their happiness and flung it through the window. It fell into a fuscias bush.

"That won't mend matters," she said.

"It was before I knew you," he pleaded. "I've changed since then. . . ." The phrase, so familiar during the later stages of the war, "The women were splendid," rang in his brain. Should he say it? No. It would sound so like the Prime Minister, or the "Daily Mail." He was silent, waiting. She was silent, waiting. For what? Heavens! Had they quarrelled? On this last evening?

"Oh, I can't breathe!" she cried. "I want to push the walls out, and blow off the roof." She went outside, into the summer evening, and took a deep breath. Then she came back,

and began to clear the supper things away, quite unnecessarily. True, the entire household was in the hay-field, but it would come in presently. He watched her while she rolled up her sleeves, hunted for things like bowls, and cloths, and poured hot water from the kettle and washed up with terrific energy.

Of course he knew that he ought to go away and not come back until she had worked off steam and was in a more reasonable mood. For, after all, the book did represent a point of view, though a most unfortunate one. Ha! Why not treat the whole thing as a joke? Stand by the book? No! Helena was in deadly earnest. She was—he had to admit it—a Feminist. A bee in the bonnet, he called it. But a phrase would not mend matters.

Of course, the thing to do was to go outside and walk about and smoke the biggest pipe in his collection. Pretend that nothing had happened. He walked up the lane and down the lane, convinced that the air of indifference he put on was a triumph of histrionic art. Twice she appeared at the door, but only to shake out a broom or empty a bowl of water. He stood with his back to the Inn and studied the burnished silver of the sea and the purple-headedness of the distant mountains and the quaintness of the goose family, waddling down to the shore in charge of a mother-goose so ancient and low-gearred that he laughed at the likeness to his first governess.

"There's nothing to laugh at," said Helena. "She had put the broom back in its corner, and was shaking out a duster. She drew another deep breath. "Now I feel tidier in my mind," she announced. "And I'm glad I know the worst." She crossed the lane and picked the book out of the fuscias bush. Why, why, had he been such a fool as to let it lie there? Idiot! She fluttered the leaves. "Oh," she cried, "these books about us! One would think the people who write them had just discovered a woman—dug her up in the sands of Time—a rare specimen of a forgotten race—and had brought her home and set her up on the Embankment, or in a museum, for all the world to stare at."

He would have to go through with it. She sat down deliberately at the kitchen table, and spread the book before her. Spread out her arms, too, in the attitude of the Sphinx, elbows on the table. . . . "And there it crouches" (the scorn in her voice!) "the wisdom of all the ages in its unfathomable eyes and the smile of all the unsolved riddles on its enigmatic lips. Oh, and a neat little tufted tail at the other end."

"Helena!"

"Well, aren't you just as much an enigma to me as I am to you? And aren't we both an enigma to our friends? Don't we jolly well puzzle ourselves, too, sometimes? Isn't the plain unvarnished truth that we, you and I, are just ordinary human beings? I hate these generalisations, these differentiations. Lies, that's what they are. Some men do and say and think such and such things, and some women do and say and think such and such things. Isn't that good enough? Why be always analysing, and dissecting, and comparing—mostly to the disadvantage of one sex?" She fluttered the pages. "Oh, yes, I thought we should find it." She read: "The highest woman is infinitely below the lowest man!" She extended her fingers with a gesture of hopeless finality that said, "After that what can you expect?"

"That," said Paul, quietly and with great dignity, "dates the book, of course. No one pays the least attention to that sort of thing now."

"I wish I could write a book about Man—the—the . . ."

"Don't spare my feelings," he said, frigidly. "Say 'Fool,' if you mean that." (Alas! Their last evening. . . .)

"You ought to have married a Thou." She stared at him tragically.

"I beg your pardon?"

"A Ministering—Angel—Thou. Someone who would have your slippers warming in the fender on summer evenings and play you to sleep with 'La Donna é Mobile.' You've got a doormat wife at the bottom of your heart all right!"

He pulled himself together. "Look here, my dear" (it was the first time he had said that!), "you've had your say. Now I'm going to have mine. And first, such women do exist. You know they do."

"Of course they do. And they'll go on existing as long as there's a demand for them. But there are other sorts. I'm one of the other sorts."

"If," he said, in the forlorn hope of getting back to the last-evening-of-our-honeymoon-feeling of ten minutes—or was it a lifetime?—ago, "if we talk till tomorrow morning we shall be in exactly the same position that we are now, because you are in an unreasonable mood."

"I'm waiting to hear your say."

He said his say. But to quote it would be to quote exhaustively and interminably from "Woman: the Enigma," for which neither time nor tide would wait. He covered the ground pretty thoroughly, and wound up with "That, briefly, is the position. It is at least tenable. It is at any rate arguable that women have not the same mental, and certainly not the same physical capacity as men. But that," he added, hastily, "is not to say that they are inferior. If I maintained that position in this miserable volume I definitely and violently—yes, violently—abandon it now. It is a dastardly position. Any man who holds it. . . . Different, but not inferior. Now, may we be friends?"

She ignored his flag of truce, and read: "While a man's ideal is his work, a woman's ideal is herself and her family." Then she flung out, "How can your ideals be fine and noble if ours are wretched little stunted things never out of swaddling bands? Even apart from a whole race of women that doesn't marry because it wants to be free to do other things with the brains that an absent-minded heaven gave it. Where do men come from, do you suppose? Does the stork bring you? Do you occur, on gooseberry bushes?"

Paul blushed. He was a poet. Like Solomon, his songs were a thousand and five; to Helena alone he had written fifty-one lyrics and sixteen odes and three fine sonnets. The poetry of their relationship shrivelled at her crudity. He was silent, laying wreaths on the tomb of his dreams. . . .

"Dreamer!" she said.

He started. He pleaded guilty. For a year and a half he had dreamed. . . .

"You dreamers, sitting at ease in your study chairs, are back in the dark ages. You must open your windows! What you are worrying about are our cocoons. But we are not in them. We are out in the sunshine, spreading our wings! Don't you envy us? Oh, it's good to be a woman these days! It's good to root up old moss grown notions and prejudices! It's good to be alive! It's good to fight!" She waved her arms in the way people do in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoons.

"You don't have visions, do you?" he asked, apprehensively. "Voices, and so on? Joan of Arc sort of stunt?" As a poet, he was a purist in language, but the circumstances demanded crude treatment.

"Oh, I'm not a pioneer, or anything of that sort. I'm just an ordinary woman with her eyes open. Work, that's my ideal, just as it's yours. Marriage? Um!" She paused, chin in hand. "Well, something thrown in, as a make-weight, so to speak!"

"My dear girl!"

"Well?"

"I've already told you that I didn't know you when I wrote it. I hadn't met—your sort. You are an exception. . . ."

"No, no! I won't be singled out and labelled. Women like me are everywhere. We're as thick on the ground as pebbles on the beach. Or as buds in May. You stumble over us with your eyes shut. You see, Paul, I believe in us. And it's just rotten to find that you wrote the book that made us all see red in those days—that you are bounded, on the north and on the south and on the east and on the west, by that bad old habit of thinking about women not as individuals but as—a sex. It's against that that I am on strike."

"Dear Helena. . . ."

"And now everything is spoilt, and I've got to get used to the new Paul Durham. . . ."

"But this is sheer moonshine!"

She dashed from the room without answering. Was she

crying? He hoped she was. It would give him his cue. But in another minute she came springing lightly down the stairs, sang out that she was going to bathe, and walked past him humming in a Gregorian chant, "Me-en are me-n and wo-men are wo-men!"

II.

Footsteps on the flagged floor of the kitchen roused him out of his gloomy preoccupation. Mike, the hotel handy-man, in a coat that hung together precariously by slender threads. Could it be only an hour ago—or was it a lifetime—that Helena had laughingly said that to see Mike get into his coat was a liberal education? Laughingly! Would they ever laugh again?

"I suppose," the poet said with exceeding bitterness, "you never committed the indiscretion of writing a book?"

"I did not. But I've read one."

"I wrote one." He had to talk to somebody.

"Ye did?" Mike sat down on a box and lighted his pipe, listening politely.

"Yes. All about women."

"Glory be to God! What would ye be after thinking to write about the creatures?"

"A great many things. A great many things. Confound it!"

"Will it be about the book that ye've quarrelled?"

Yes. He admitted it. It would be about the book that they had quarrelled. On the last day of their honeymoon.

"Thanks be to God that from that day I executed me lamentations for the ould widdy-woman there's no woman has crossed me threshold. But if I was a married man, it's meself would not be letting a woman get the better of me. Did ye try bating her?"

"Good heavens, man! We don't beat our wives where I come from."

"It's the best way at all." There was a finality about that.

Paul began to feel almost as if he would like to beat her. He felt primitive. There was something to be said for the cave-man method of settling matrimonial differences. . . .

"As man to man, now, if ye were to pacify her with a kiss?" (*Did one pacify a fury with a kiss?*) "And there's another thing ye might be after doing. Sure a book is nothing at all in the world but a lot of paper with small little marks on it. If it had been a great book, now. . . ."

"It's not a great book," said the author, humbly.

"D'ye see, now, a great book would take a lot of burning. But a small little book like that. Poof!"

The poet flung the book on the smouldering peat and stamped it down savagely. Then he started. For there was a sudden thunderclap. The rain fell out of the sky outside, and began to trickle from the roof inside. Mike, as if accustomed to being rained on indoors, pulled up the collar of the precarious coat and went on smoking unperturbed. The rest of the Inn household came clattering in from the hay-fields, throwing down their rakes, chattering and laughing, clamouring for supper.

Paul went forth into the deluge. Helena had gone to the pool to bathe!

III.

He had searched the pool from end to end. And the cliff path. And the tall pinnacle of rock on the peak of which they had so often perched after bathing. He had exhausted himself, for he had sought frantically, unresting, for many hours. As he had rushed from the house he had caught up a cloak, Helena's cloak, because she would be wet. It trailed behind him as he climbed the pinnacle, wearily. He stood on the top-most peak, with the cloak trailing, and cursed the sea, because it had taken from him the woman he loved, he cried out to it, to give her back. . . . he vowed anything, everything, if only the sea would give him back the woman after his own heart. . . . He sank into the posture of The Thinker, on the top of the pinnacle, and gave himself up to gloomy reflections.

He started up again. He must get together a search party; the whole island must be covered from side to side; not a sod of earth must be left unturned. Helena! Where was she?

It was dark now. The storm had died down; the moon was struggling through scudding clouds. As he started up, the corner of the cloak, still trailing, was wrenched from his grasp; something tugged at it, tugged so hard that he lost

it. He stared into the shadow. There was nothing. Strange boomings came from the caves; but no living creature was in sight.

And then, across the waves, borne on the wind, there came floating a fragment of song, mysterious, alluring, like the song of the wind when it whistles through caverns and rustles in the tree-tops and whispers in key-holes. And silvery laughter mingled with the little song, soft, seductive laughter. . . .

He sat listening, trying to catch the melody of the little song. Then, with a cry of "Helena!" he started up. But before he could rise something caught him from behind; something pinioned his arms; something—it might have been a woman's hair—brushed his cheek. Human arms were round his neck; he felt human kisses, heard human laughter, soft, seductive. . . . With a frantic effort he turned, to see only a woman's laughing face, and a woman's white hands clinging to the rock as she let herself slide down the sheer precipice on the outer side of the pinnacle. He heard a splash as she dropped into the water. "Helena!" he cried. "Helena!"

Clinging to the top of the pinnacle he stared down into the shadow. The dancing moonlit waves mocked him. A trail of phosphorescent light showed where she (but was it she?) was swimming with swift powerful strokes towards the next rocky point. And as she swam she turned her head, and golden hair (Helena's hair was golden in sunlight) floated on the waves, and the little errant song came to him like the wind in tree-tops and key-holes. . . . the old, old song of the wind and the sea. He saw two stary eyes—he was vowed against the phrase, but no other was adequate to describe them—glancing back at him; he saw the wash she made with her—feet? Of course, feet. He saw Helena's cloak rising and falling as with one white hand she held up a corner of it, laughing, playing with it, turning over and over, gambolling in the waves. And he knew nothing more until he found himself in the water, swimming after her with all his strength, lured by her beauty and by the little song. . . .

IV.

Exhausted with the chase he lay panting on the golden sands of the Mermaids' Grotto. And she whom he had followed lay in the clear water at his feet and laughed up at him, bewitching him with full red Bacchante lips and soft wild-rose cheeks, as she combed the long golden hair that had in it all the lights of sun-kissed wet sea-weed, hair that was, and was not, Helena's. For this being was, and was not, Helena. Was he dreaming? He did not know. He knew only that here was the beautiful alluring, maddening woman of all the ages, the woman for whom men have fought and died; the woman of whom poets have dreamed and sung; the woman whom painters and sculptors have created; the Venus, the Galatea, the Helen, the Aphrodite. . . . but living, breathing, alive to the finger-tips and to the tips of the. . . feet, of course. The alternative sent a shudder through him. She had flung Helena's cloak round her. . . .

And as she sunned herself in the little waves she sang fragments of the old, old music of the spheres, the music of aeons ago, when the earth was without form and void. . . before the spirit of creation breathed upon the face of the waters; the music that lives in caverns, and tree-tops, and key-holes. . . . And all the poet in him awoke; he stretched out his hands to her, and she drew him to her breast; she wound her white arms round him. . . . and then the water surged up and over them; clasped in one another's arms the two went down and down; her hair was in his eyes; her arms tightened round him. . . . the green, translucent waters were all round and above; strange fishy shapes flashed busily past; "the crawling, creeping creatures, the little beasts of the deep sea. . . till the eels were whistling, the froth down and the sand above; till he was listening to the blowing of the seals, and the roaring of the great beasts; till the little red-mouthed fishes were rising. . . till they came to the court and castle of the King of Underwaveland. The King of Underwaveland has but one daughter; she is going to be married to-day. . . came the priest of the patents and the clerk of the bells and the pair were married. . . ."

V.

"Paul!"

"Helena!"

Lying on the sandy beach of the Mermaids' Grotto he came to himself; Helena was bending over him, concern in her eyes, her finger on his wrist. "How you terrified me, Paul, old boy! I've been doing artificial respiration for twenty minutes. You've

been quite stertorous. And now you look as if you wished I'd let you drown."

He rubbed his eyes. If this was indeed Helena, where—and who—was *she*? Helena's cloak was under his head; Helena's hand held his; Helena's eyes smiled at him and quarrels were things that had happened—if they ever happened at all—a very long time ago. "You see," she was saying, "I was cross with you, old boy, about that silly book, and to work off my beastly temper I came out to bathe. Of course, I knew the storm was coming on, but I didn't care. Then on the cliff I slipped down a hole, and I couldn't stop myself; and it was one of those chimneys they told us were on this coast; and before I knew what was happening I was down here, in this Grotto, and couldn't get back anyhow, because the tide was in, and the only thing to do was to perch myself as high up as possible and wait. And then, when daylight came, you were here, though how you got here I don't for the life of me see."

"I think I swam here," said Paul. "From the pool."

"My dear boy! It's miles. At least it's a mile. And round the most horrible rocks. And you brought my cloak! How decent of you."

"Did I?" He sat up and considered. But considering didn't help. He rubbed his eyes again. That didn't help either.

"Paul," said Helena, in distress, "are you hurt?"

"Oh, no! I was never better in my life. And, by Jove, Helena, I believe I've got a jolly good poem coming! All about a. . . ."

"Oh," cried Helena, running to the other side of the Grotto, "what a perfect darling! Look, Paul, at its little face, and its eyes, and. . . .oh, you perfect pet! You know they're awfully intelligent."

She came towards him, carrying the perfect pet in her hands, and what he saw—because he was perhaps not yet quite himself—was an exquisite little creature with pink and white skin and grey eyes, shaded by long lashes; and golden hair with all the lights in it that the wet sea-weed has when the sun is on it; a perfectly formed human being down to the waist, then iridescent, scaly, ending in a fish-tail.

"Her child!" he murmured.

"What did you say?" Helena was absorbed in contemplation of a perfect specimen of a young *Phoco Vitulina*. But she cried out suddenly, a moment later, "Oh, you little beast!" She flung it from her; there was a splash, and the tiny creature was swimming away, wriggling, beating the sun-kissed waves with baby fists. . . .

"It positively spat at me!" said Helena. And Paul rolled on the sand convulsed with sudden and uncontrollable laughter.

"Paul," Helena announced, sternly, "if you don't get into dry clothes, and I don't have eggs and bacon and coffee in half-an-hour, something funny will happen."

"It has happened," said Paul, wiping the tears of laughter from his eyes.

"The tide is out," said Helena. "We can get round the point. And then we must talk about trains." She added, kindly, "You won't ever write another silly book, will you?"

"Never! But there's no law against writing a poem—about a mermaid?"

"Oh, a poem. That's another matter altogether. About a mermaid? To amuse kiddies, of course. Or are you thinking about the story the old man with the Gaelic told us the other day?"

"I wonder," said Paul.

"You see, dear Paul," she explained, patiently, as they trudged through the shingle, "you've got to take us as we are. That's where you have been making a mistake. You haven't been content with us as human beings. You've tried to make us into goddesses. And, of course, we have failed you—sometimes—because really we are flesh and blood like you. And then you got bitter, and wrote jibes. You had created a wonderful being in your brain, and she didn't exist anywhere else. The pedestal theory must go. We're just your comrades, pals, chums. Isn't it ever so much jollier?"

"Y—es," said Paul. And added, heartily, "Oh, rather!"

But more than once, as they climbed the rocks, he turned and looked out to sea, as if he were searching for something.

In a cleft of a rock an angry cormorant screamed defiance at the human intruders; outside in the bay the waters began to be ruffled with the rising of the wind; the shiny black head of a seal rose and fell with the rising and falling of the waves.

REVIEWS.

Lady Adela. By Gerald Gould. With drawings by Will Dyson. (Cecil Palmer. 3s. 6d. net.)

This is the most infectious book I have met in recent years. Unless you want to catch it you will do well to avoid it. Each page sprays out imbecile jokes like rockets; appalling puns, brilliant witticisms, epigrams, and humours tumble on one another's heels. There is enough wit, enough humour, and enough bad and good jokes to season ten ordinary full-length novels, and their effect when concentrated into eleven brief conversations is weakening to the reader's system. It is also, as I have said, alarmingly catching. You find yourself for a while, after reading it, talking in this strain:—

"Lloyd George ought to have demanded the maximum," said Lady Adela.

"Maxse-mummery!" said Adolphus, almost, for him, tartly.

All conversation offers indefinite opportunities for this kind of thing; when the disease catches hold of you you must let it run its course.

Sandwiched between these continuous and frightful puns is humour of a less squibby but even more effective type. Lady Adela herself, as revealed through the collaboration of Mr. Gould and Mr. Dyson, is a happy target for satire. She is "one of those patricians who travel third class for the sake of harrying the lower orders."

"Lady Adela rustled her newspaper and addressed the Colonel. "Terrible," she cried, "this fraternising of our troops with German civilians in the occupied areas! It is Bolshevism! It ought to be stamped out!"

"The Colonel made a military noise—something between the argumentative and the physiological.

"Adolphus put up his eye-glass and uttered. He said: 'When you are in Cologne, you must do as the Colonials do.'"

"Adolphus is like that. . . ."

Again: "Literature!" said Lady Adela. "I'd like to know what good literature is to anybody. Give me something to read."

Or again: "There's no such thing," said Lady Adela, "as progress. . . . And if there were, I shouldn't want to hear about it."

But it is obviously not feasible to quote the whole of this book in these pages. It should be read all through, but in small doses. To devour it at a sitting is dangerous, and also wasteful. It is all funny, though not equally so. It seems time that Mr. Gould wrote a play. His gifts of brilliant dialogue, unforced epigram, and character drawing by self-revelation, are badly wanted on our stage.

ROSE MACAULAY.

The Romantic. By May Sinclair. (W. Collins & Sons. 9s.)

It is impossible to review "The Romantic" without giving away the development of one of the two principal characters, but it should be said at once that Miss Sinclair succeeds in putting her readers so much inside the mind of the other that the development of John Conway, when it comes, is a shock to them, as it was to Charlotte Redhead. After a very few minutes of breathless reading—breathless because of Miss Sinclair's peculiar style—the reader will find himself in the very midst of an exciting and deeply interesting psychological study. A few hours later he will lay it down surprised that it is over so soon, surprised, above all, that with all its shortness, and the ease with which it appears to be written, it is so complete and goes so deep. Miss Sinclair has a remarkable power of concentration. She does not do it by leaving a great deal of strenuous work to the reader nor does she do it by closely-packed, complicated, involved sentences, like Henry James. Her sentences are so short and jerky as to cause irritation, till one forgets them in the interest of what they convey. They are also printed jerkily, so that a page of her book reminds one of the work of an inexperienced and uncontrolled typist, in which every paragraph is divided into a number of short lines. But whatever it looks like it does the trick. One realises after a little while that the author's concentration is the outcome of a swift and penetrating imagination, disciplined by much hard work, and that if those sentences are the form in which her imagination can best express itself it is absurd to mind them.

John Roden Conway is a study in morbid psychology. He is an extreme case of a quality which is present in us all. Every human being who lives a self-conscious life—and that is every

human being who has come out of the animal stage—seeks to justify his existence to himself, and, therefore, desires not only to feel and do and be things, but to reflect about the process. "The Romantic," as described in this book, is a person in whom this desire is developed to a morbid extent, and like other morbid developments romanticism generates a poison which corrupts the whole being. But it is the excessive development, not the need itself, which constitutes the disease. The need is present in all thinking creatures, though more in some individuals and races than in others. It is not necessarily divorced from action. In the extraordinarily interesting Gallipoli Diary recently given to the world by Sir Ian Hamilton, we have the spectacle of a modern General, at the crisis of his fate, contemplating events and his relation to them as Henry V., according to Shakespeare, did; and there is no evidence that the contemplation paralysed action. The danger arises when individuals contemplate people and events so exclusively in relation to themselves as to forget their separate existence, and deepens when they begin, not only to contemplate them, but to use them for the satisfaction of their own desires. This is what John Conway did when he got thrills out of the war and the wounded. According to the psycho-therapist who watched the whole tragedy, Conway was a physical degenerate, "forced" to make up for the lack in himself by clutching at every possible source of power. This is, of course, a point of view. It is possible, even probable, that every morbid development of the mind is the result of some lack, and one's belief in the inevitability of such a result, will depend on one's disbelief in free will. Anyway, Conway was a loathsome creature, not only a coward, that is, "a person who betrays defenceless things," but a devil rejoicing in cruelty.

It is a triumph for Miss Sinclair that she makes one understand Charlotte's clinging to him. She does it, as I have said, by putting one right inside Charlotte herself. One is so much inside her that, till the end, one hardly thinks of her from the outside at all; then one begins to love her. The other characters are sketched in with just the right amount of detail; they also are seen through Charlotte's eyes. The description of places and scenes is wonderful, the book makes one realise Belgium in war time, seen through the eyes of an ambulance worker as no other has done. But it is primarily a psychological romance.

I. B. O'M.

The Amorous Cheat. By Basil Creighton. (Chatto & Windus. 7s. 6d.)

"Let us suppose," suggests Mr. Basil Creighton, "that for once in a way two and two made nineteen." His hypothesis lies in the realm of what he would call manners, and more old-fashioned people ethics, and, given his postulate, he shows wit and observation and a neat turn for surface characterisation in developing his fable. Edward, reckoning the sum according to the arithmetical system which was once held to work out in the case of men only, makes a mean and ridiculous appearance when the bill has to be paid. Vivian Fare, in spite of her awareness that arithmetic makes no discrimination between the sexes, cannot persuade us that she ever could, even in her most careless moments, have supposed that nineteen was a possible answer. A good deal is forgiven to the novelist who has a light hand, but Mr. Creighton may find that he is asking too much of his public when he invites their attention to the dilemma he has chosen as the basis of his comedy. Like Edward, he seems to be "tired of innocence."

In **The Englishwoman** for November, S. E. White deals critically with that part of Clause 10 of the Health Ministry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which is concerned with reform of the lunacy law. In view of the recently published Report of the Home Office Committee on the employment of Women Police, Miss Vera Laughton's article, "Policewomen and Pioneers," will be read with interest. Miss Laughton gives us a full record of the splendid work done in this direction from the inception of Miss Damer Dawson's "Women Police Volunteers" up to the present date, when the Women Police Service is undergoing a process of disbanding and reorganisation. Stephen Gwynn brings his series "Memories and a Market Garden" to an end this month, entertaining us with "Horace Walpole," "Echoes" are devoted to "The Two-Shift System," "Women in the Civil Service," and "Women at Oxford and Cambridge."

DRAMA.

"Foundations" and "The Little Man" at the Everyman Theatre.

Mr. Galsworthy, in choosing the titles of these two plays is not unlike an acquaintance who used to say to the writer, "When are you coming to dinner in my dirty little flat?" The invitation was always refused, with the mental reservation that it would have been more polite to clean up the flat before asking people to dinner in it. But perhaps the flat was not dirty at all. In that case, why say it was? There is nothing attractive in dirt—no merit in having a dirty flat.

Mr. Galsworthy describes "Foundations" as "an extravagant play in three acts," and "The Little Man" as a "farfical morality." There is no sense in which these words can fail to be derogatory. At the worst they are abusive, at best apologetic. A writer who describes his plays as extravagant or farfical might as well say in so many words that he has not tried—or that he has tried, but knows he has not succeeded. No very good reason for publishing a play.

There is evidently something wrong with "Foundations," though it is not only extravagance. Extravagance, as generally understood, is so far wide of the truth as not to come into competition with it. If a man appears on the stage fantastically dressed and announces that he has just come from Mars or the Tower of Babel, we know that what he is saying is impossible, but are not necessarily irritated. The whole thing is obviously so far removed from every-day truth and probability that we cease at once to apply our ordinary standards. If a man enters with the remark that he has just arrived at Waterloo by the 4.15 from Manchester, we are justly annoyed. It is as impossible to arrive at Waterloo from the moon. But there is a false air of probability about the statement which challenges and irritates our credulity.

It is not the "extravagance" of "Foundations" which is its fault, though the groundwork is extravagant. The scene is laid in the immediate future. The war is only just over—the young men in the play have just come back from it. Yet it obviously is the future, for the "revolution" is in full swing. The populace clamour round the houses of Park Lane yelling for the blood of the aristocracy. The story centres round an article left by mistake by a workman in the cellar of Lord Dromondy. It is supposed to be a bomb, but at the last moment is discovered to be something quite different. This is all a little extravagant, but is not necessarily irritating. The future is free ground where the dramatist may be allowed wide liberties. As for the bomb episode, many a better play is based on a case of mistaken identity far more improbable. It is the liberties which Mr. Galsworthy takes with the present which are irritating. For "after the war," his future is singularly out of date. It is the kind of future which might have been imagined in 1850. His revolutionary masses sing "The Marseillaise," a song in favour with revolutionary bodies in the early nineteenth century. It has been supplanted in this country in the twentieth century by the "The Red Flag" and the "Hymn of Labour." A woman working full time at "bespoke tailoring in Bethnal Green makes 7s. a week in a good week." Bespoke tailoring is certainly not overpaid since the war, but its workers certainly earn more than 7s. a week in a good week. As a matter of fact a regulation has just been made under the Trade Boards, fixing a minimum time rate for this work of 10s. 4d. an hour for female workers. This would make the average earnings of a full time worker at least about £2 a week. When a play is so largely occupied with the condition of the working classes as this is, it seems hardly justifiable to be content with such very pre-war statistics.

Apart from the discovery of the bomb in the last act, the dramatic interest of this play is singularly slight. It is rather an argument than a play. The argument is on Mr. Galsworthy's favourite theme of the relations of rich and poor—upper and lower classes. It is put into the mouth of various stock figures with little claim to individuality or real character. There is Lord

Dromondy, M.P., a young man newly back from the front. He has fought side by side with working men in the trenches and found them "very good fellows and all that." He thinks it a shame that he should be so rich while they are so poor, don't you know. It was quite natural that they should try to blow him up. The only remedy he had to offer was that "everyone should be more kind and all that." So he was the president of the "Anti-Sweating League," and allowed Leming's mother 10s. a week. Leming himself was a cockney working man. He, too, had a sneaking belief in kindness, but the time for it had passed. If only the rich had all "come it kind" from the beginning, things might have been different. But it is too late now, and he believed in nothing in particular. His old mother, who finished trousers at 3s. 4d. a pair, providing her own cotton, had all the beliefs of the Victorian era intact. She thought she was lucky to be able to earn 3s. a week—that it was wicked to abuse the rich. She sang "There is a green hill" as she stitched on the buttons. Between these characters all exposing their own views was "the Press," a bald, underfed, nervous, pushing little man with a notebook. His function was to draw out the characters and whip up the argument by a series of leading questions. He took down their replies in a notebook which he used with as much regularity but less effect than Shaw's Shakespeare. Even the children take their part in the argument, as the following conversation between little Anne Dromondy and little Aida, of Bethnal Green, shows:

Anne: Do you hate the rich?

Aida: No, I hate the poor.

Anne: Oh, I like the poor, they're such dears.

So they argue about it and about—till at last the butler announces, "The populace, my lord," and Lord Dromondy steps to the window to address the mob which was surging up his front palings. They will not be put off with speeches, however, but demand blood. They are only pacified when Leming, the plumber, steps up and tells them that he really is a good sort, and has made his old mother an allowance of 10s. a week. At that the populace gives "three cheers for Lord Dromondy," and passes on to gut his neighbours' houses.

As the curtain fell it seemed that the author of "Strife" and "The Silver Box" had indeed fallen on evil days. The programme of "The Little Man" did not look more promising. The scene was laid on the platform of an Austrian railway station, and the characters are "The Englishman," "The Englishwoman," "The German," "The American," "The Dutch Boy," and so on. It seemed as if the problem of "Foundations" had been raised to an international plane, and that the argument is to continue as before. In a sense this is true. "The Little Man" is an exposition of Mr. Galsworthy's views on international politics expressed through the mouths of various puppets, just as in "Foundations" his views on social questions are expressed in the same way. But in "The Little Man" the puppets are extremely clever and amusing. They have the rare quality of making one laugh inordinately, and from the mind. The whole thing is a really finished, extraordinarily lively and, as the American would say, "stimulating" piece of work. Nobody but Mr. Galsworthy at his best could have produced it. By far the best of the puppets is the American, and for those who have once seen the play at Hampstead the American is inseparable from Mr. Laurance Hanray. His leanness, his swagger, his indefinable air of being responsible for the whole party and having it under his protection are inimitable. The part as written is a little monotonous, but the play is so short and Mr. Hanray so good that it has no time to pall. And, indeed, the whole play is one of those rare and delightful episodes when one is entirely absorbed and amused—and our whole life is concentrated on the little puppets on the stage.

D. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRY.

MADAM.—Would your reviewer of Lord Emmott's book give any illustrations taken from any country, where any form of nationalisation of any industry has been carried on for a certain number of years so successfully that we can deduce from it sufficient evidence to assume that we in England to-day should be benefiting the community by transforming private ownership under Government supervision, into nationalisation of that industry?

It is not sufficient to theorise, unless we have some evidence of some sort to support theories, which upon paper may appear plausible.

I note that your reviewer throws over the Post Office, Telegraphs and Telephones as being illustrations of some other kind of nationalisation than that which she recommends. I should like to have, therefore, some illustration in practice of the successful nationalisation of which she approves.

JOSIAH OLDFIELD.

Hon. Treasurer, Liberal Anti-Nationalisation Committee.

Our reviewer writes: "In the first place I would point out that the Government supervision referred to by Dr. Oldfield, which has mitigated some of the most glaring evils which inevitably result from private ownership is purely temporary. The capitalist accepted that supervision under stress of war necessity for fear of a worse fate, but had it not been for the growing self-consciousness of the masses, which shows itself in an insistent demand for a fuller share of control of their own destiny and the conditions under which they live and work, a demand which has made nationalisation of industry a living problem, such supervision would long since have been removed in the interests of a small and privileged class. That it will be removed in the near future has been admitted by the Government, and herein lies the necessity and urgency for the working out of a scheme to take the place of the pre-war system of uncontrolled private ownership which has led directly to the present impasse."

I discarded the forms of nationalisation adopted in the case of the Post Office, Telegraphs, &c., because they tend to bureaucratic control, and ignore the universal demand for democratic control, without which any scheme of nationalisation is valueless. The refusal to adopt any theory, however "plausible," on the plea that no evidence can be produced to prove its merits in practice is to stultify progress in every realm of activity; such a standpoint is only conceivable on the part of the "top-dog," who, having got all it desires, and being regardless of the interests of the community, refuses to consider any alteration in the status quo on the ground that if he is satisfied all must be perfect in a perfect world. To those of us who recognise the seriousness of the gathering storm and realise that the growing demand for a fuller share of control is based on principles of right and justice, the glaring inequalities and evil results of the well tried system of private ownership are a menace and a danger. Every unprejudiced student of sociology and industrial problems admits that the present labour unrest is due to a growing conviction on the part of the producer that the proceeds of his labour flows steadily into the pockets of a small and privileged class instead of being applied to the benefit of the community at large, and he refuses any longer to give the unskilled and willing labour which alone will yield the increased production the world so badly needs. In the face of the obvious fact that the system of private ownership has broken down in practice, it is useless to refuse to consider any alternative because it has not been actually worked. The only sane course of action is to propound a carefully thought-out scheme, which, while avoiding the evils of previous experiments in State ownership, gives a full democratic control to the worker, at the same time safeguarding the interests of the consumer, and providing the incentive to willing co-operation of all classes in the interests of the community. Such a scheme was outlined in my review, and Dr. Oldfield might be more profitably employed in suggesting improvements to this scheme than in resisting any alternative to our present system, lest, in damming the stream of legitimate aspirations, he causes a flood which may overwhelm us all.

[This correspondence must now cease.—Ed.]

THE FIRST REPRISAL.

MADAM.—What have women to do with reprisal? Is not this mad policy of answering evil with evil, force with force, unreason with unreason, just what thinking women should set their faces against? While we are in a state of savagery it is only to be expected that women should uphold, or cover behind, their fighting males. Now surely we should be intelligent enough to see that each side always starts history at the point where it may appear that reprisal for wrong done is justified, and not till we grasp the truth, that reprisal is never justified, shall we move an inch towards peace and freedom. Your contributor makes precisely the *ex parte* defence of reprisals with which one is wearied. Far more important is it for women to think out how the loathsome vendetta is to be stopped in Ireland, and I venture to submit the following considerations:—

1. The only civilised form of government is by consent of the governed; those who continue to govern a country against its will are waging war against it.

2. Ireland, in the General Election of 1918, under "British rule" chose her government (70 per cent. for Dail Eireann and 80 per cent. against the Union), which has since then sat and functioned in Ireland as a people's government against a conqueror's government.

3. The argument for "security," advanced by your correspondent, is precisely the argument put forward by Germany as "military necessity." There is no security for Great Britain in a passionately revolting Ireland, appealing to the whole world against British rule, and lately against British militarist anarchy. As Mr. Shaw has pointed out, if Ireland is a danger to us, France, much nearer, is a much greater danger. The theory of "military necessity" will take us far, and there is no easy stopping place on that steep descent.

There is no security in life. Life is full of danger, but some danger is exhilarating and ennobling. To risk something on a great act of faith in the principle of self-determination of peoples would bring out the highest courage in our people. They can only sink from one cowardly panic to another if the resources of the Empire are used to crush the almost unanimous will of nine-tenths of Ireland, and our reputation for honesty will be gone all the world over if we allow our Government to continue lying on the proved facts of "murder and arson" (to use Judge Bodkin's words) by forces of the Crown.

Our Government has declared that it is impossible to make friends with the Bolsheviks until they summon a constituent assembly democratically elected to choose the Government. Ireland's constituent assembly, democratically elected, is Dail Eireann, and it has chosen a Government of which De Valera is the head.

What are we going to do about our principles? Force is not a principle.
H. M. SWANWICK.

IRELAND REVISITED.

MADAM.—I, an Irish woman, living in Ireland and aware of what is happening there, have read with horror and dismay Mrs. Victor Rickard's extremely misleading articles. She appears never to have heard of the many and brutal murders of policemen, soldiers and other persons, nor of the innumerable raids upon private houses, sometimes accompanied by violence and brutality, sometimes—especially the later ones carried out with apologetic civility—to impress the too gullible English public. Mrs. Rickard does not seem to be aware that people in Ireland dare not tell the truth, dare not give evidence, dare not express their opinions, lest they also be murdered, boycotted, driven from the country. This lady, who has seen only what she wished, or was ordered to see, says that her strongest feeling is that the truth should be made known. If her idea of truth is the exaggerated and one-sided account of a few unpleasant and regrettable incidents, which she has published, in which the cause is ignored, and the fact that none of the people whose fears and sufferings she describes are innocent of murder or connivance at murder and crime, one feels it imperative that her articles shall not be allowed to pass unchallenged.

Let Mrs. Rickard's study both sides of the question and find out how many police barracks have been besieged, bombed and burned; how many private houses have been raided or burned; how many families have been threatened and have had to leave their homes and their country, and how many innocent and loyal men ambushed, murdered or wounded in discharge of their duty before a single act of retaliation took place. Let her then compare this list with the acts of terrorism she attributes to the police or soldiers, let her examine the evidence and discover whether all the acts she attributes to these forces were perpetrated by them, and then we should be glad if she would revisit Ireland with her eyes open, and would write a truer and saner impression.

I dare not give you my name and address for obvious reasons, but I beg that you will publish this refutation in your next issue.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.

MADAM.—I was surprised to read some of the remarks *re* the now extinct Matrimonial Causes Bill in your "Notes and News" last week. I had always believed that your paper, while supporting equality between the sexes in divorce measures, as in all other legislation, had not in any way committed itself to asking for further facilities in regard to these. As you say very justly, "equality between the sexes has long been recognised as a tenet of the Christian religion," but proposals for divorce facilities open up a large space of very contentious ground.

ISABEL WILLIS.

Hon. Press Sec., Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

[Miss Willis is quite right in her view that our policy is to support only those changes in the divorce law which will give a real equality to men and women. Until Lord Buckmaster's Bill gets a chance of discussion, however, this reform has no practical possibility of coming into fact. We therefore wish to see the Bill proceeded with, and in the House of Commons the other clauses can, if desired, be struck out. Some of our readers wish them to be, some do not.—Ed. W.L.]

THE STRIKE.

MADAM.—In your issue of October 22nd in the paragraph "The Strike," you say "It is not our business to say whether the miners are or are not right in using their power over the community as they are using it." This struck me with surprise, and I afterwards thought over it. Is it not the business of women to have an opinion, and express it on anything that is going on? It seems to me strange that the voice of woman has not been heard more lately in the policies of the nation. They might have had something to say about Ireland, something that might have led to peace and better government. The men might be asking the women why they give them no advice or council. I understood that it was for that purpose we entered the arena. I should be glad to hear your idea on the subject.

KATE MITCHELL.

[The policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER in the matter of strikes, Ireland, or foreign affairs is this: it seeks to inform its readers impartially and have no solidarity of opinion on these public questions. Men and women share a desire for peace and good government everywhere; men and women alike disagree as to how to attain it. This paper therefore urges and tries to promote good and well informed citizenship for women: it does not seek to voice "Woman's Opinion," and believes that on questions such as these there can no such thing.—Ed. W.L.]

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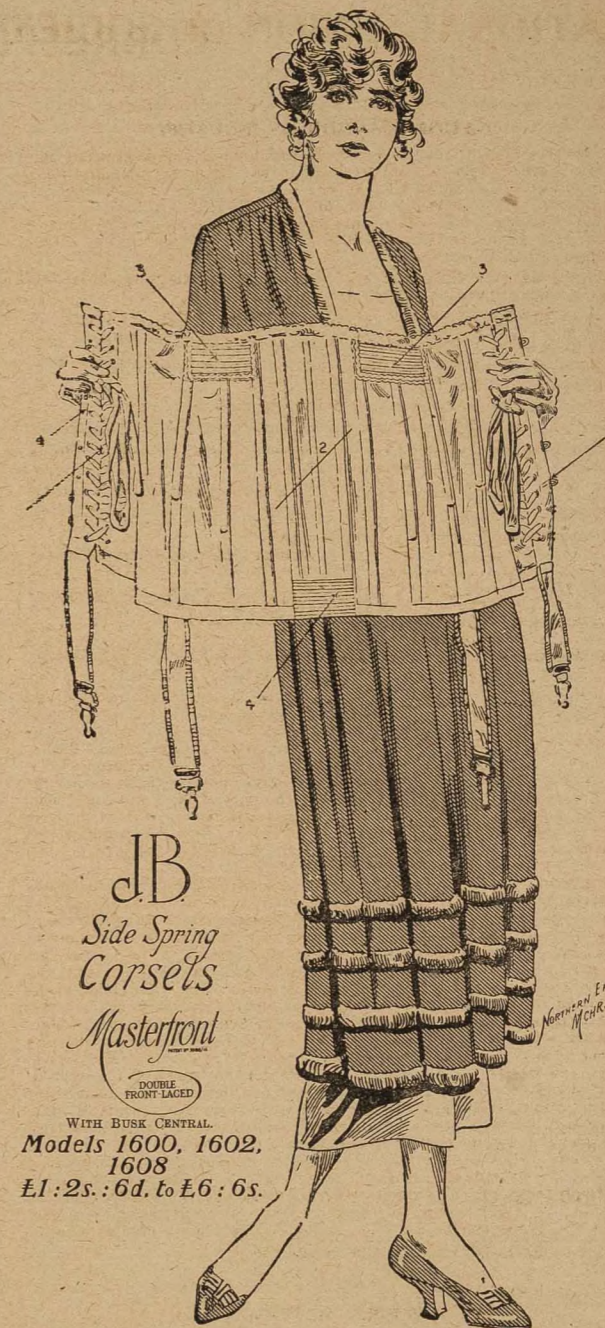
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AUTUMN LECTURES: ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF WOMEN IN THE HOME AND IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

Third Lecture: Tuesday, November 9th, at 5.30 p.m., at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. "Women in the Professions." By Mrs. Oliver Strachey. (Chairman: Major J. W. Hills, M.P. Space does not admit of reports of either the first or second lecture. Miss Rosamond Smith's lecture will, however, be reprinted as a leaflet. On Tuesday last, Colonel Greig, M.P., presided over a very large attendance, when Mrs. Hubbak described the present position of legislation with regard to the economic position of woman in home life.

PARLIAMENTARY.

The following is a report of a question asked in the House on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C.:

MR. NEWHOLD: To ask the Prime Minister, whether maintenance orders for separated wives are still limited to £2; whether this limit is irrespective of the means of the husband and father and the size of the family; and whether, in view of the rise in the cost of living and the hardship consequently inflicted on separated wives and their children, he will consider the desirability of entirely removing the limit of £2 to be paid under these orders and substituting an arrangement whereby the sum granted should be such as the court, having regard to the means both of the husband and wife, consider reasonable.

The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Shortt): My right hon. Friend has asked me to reply to this question. £2 is the most a defendant can be ordered to pay in the cases in question. I hope it may be possible to amend the law in this respect, and a Bill for that purpose has been prepared and is ready to be introduced.

October 28th, 1920.

PUBLIC MEETING IN THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

It has been decided that the Mass Meeting to be held on the occasion of the meeting of the Board of Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in London will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, November 24th, at 8 p.m. The following Societies have decided to co-operate with the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society: Federation of Women Civil Servants, National Union of Women Teachers, Women's Freedom League, League of the Church Militant, Women's International League. The speakers will include Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone in the Chair, Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mrs. Fawcett, and the Viscountess Astor, M.P. Other names will be published later, and short addresses will be given by representatives of the I.W.S.A. Board of Officers from other countries.

Handbills for distribution may be had from Headquarters and we earnestly ask for the co-operation of all our Societies in or near London. The charge for seats will vary from 10s. 6d. to 1s., with a limited number of free seats. It has been proposed that certain sections of the Hall may be reserved for groups from working girls' or women's clubs or other women's organisations, at a charge of 3d. each. The meeting should certainly be an event of historic interest, and now that women's suffrage as an accomplished fact has been accepted warmly and generously by former opponents as well as supporters, the Central Hall should be packed by an enthusiastic gathering eager to see and hear Mrs. Chapman Catt, who has for years led the American women in their struggle for political emancipation, and our own honoured leader, Mrs. Henry Fawcett. Any offers of help in making this meeting widely known, distributing bills at meetings and selling tickets, will be gratefully received at Headquarters.

THE CONFERENCE OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

Readers may have seen with interest that, at a recent Conference of Magistrates held at the Guildhall, at which only a few women were present, the selection of women to serve on the Committee of the newly-formed Association of Magistrates was referred to the forthcoming Con-

ference on November 30th and December 1st, of which notice was given in last week's Headquarters Notes. In response to a letter signed by several women magistrates, it is hoped that the Lord Mayor Elect may grant the use of the Guildhall on this occasion. This will add greatly to the dignity and interest of the gathering. The Secretary to the Conference will be glad to hear from any woman magistrate in England or Wales who may by any chance have been omitted from the list of names to which the preliminary circular was issued. The Conference Agenda, with fuller details, will shortly be forwarded to all who have sent in their names as desirous of attending.

AN EQUALITY DEMONSTRATION.

Our readers are again reminded of the Procession and Demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, November 6th, organised by the National Union of Women Teachers to ask for Equal Opportunities and Equal Pay for Equal Work. The N.U.S.E.C. is sending banners and would like offers of help from those willing to act as banner-bearers. The Procession will line up at 2 p.m. (Northumberland Avenue end of Embankment).

HELP AT HEADQUARTERS.

Our special thanks are due to Miss Hovey, of Colwyn Bay, for years a warm friend of our movement and an officer in one of our Societies, for the promise of a gift of £100 this year and next year as well as a cheque for £50 to make her subscription of last year up to £100; also to our late Treasurer, Mrs. Auerbach, who, though no longer an officer, gives us never failing help in sympathy and advice as well as money, for the renewal of her subscription of £25. In response to our appeal in last week's Headquarters Notes we received almost by return post a generous gift of £5 from Mrs. Stocks.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

EDINBURGH S.E.C. CONFERENCE: SOME PROBLEMS OF CITIZENSHIP.—We have now received the preliminary time-table of the Conference organised by the Edinburgh S.E.C. It will be held in the Goolf Hall, 5, St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, on Thursday and Friday, November 18th and 19th. There will be three sessions daily, from 10-12.30, 2-4, and 4.30-5.30. There will also be a public meeting each evening at 8 p.m. On Thursday the subjects of discussion will be: The Economic Independence of Women; Women in the Labour Market; Women's Part in the League of Nations; Methods of Election Work; Registration; the public meeting will be on the Endowment of Motherhood—speaker: Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., C.C. On Friday the subjects will be: The Economic Independence of Women in the Home; Women in the State; Methods of Election Work; Canvassing. The public meeting will be on Women in the Church—speaker: Miss Edith Picton-Turberville, O.B.E. **BRIGHTON AND HOVE UNION FOR WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**—The Standing Committee of this Union, of which Miss F. de G. Merrifield is Chairman, has had a very favourable response to the twelve questions to candidates for election to the Town Council. The list of questions, with the replies received, was communicated to the local Press.

LEEDS SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.—This Society has issued a neat little syllabus of gatherings for "Tea and Talk" to be held each month at 5.30 p.m. The first of these talks was given on Monday, November 1st, by Miss K. D. Courtney on "Votes for Women under Thirty." An original touch worthy of emulation is the instruction on the outside page: "Read THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 3d. weekly."

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AND DISTRICT W.C.A.—A Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 20th, in the Town Hall on the Matrimonial Causes Bill. The Rev. E. G. Evans, M.A., presided and explained the objects of the Association and the fact that on the subject of Divorce Law Reform the Association remained neutral except that it demanded equality in the law between men and women.

Mrs. Seaton-Tiedeman, of the Divorce Law Reform Union, spoke in favour of the Bill, and Mrs. Knight-Bruce, of the Mothers' Union, opposed it vigorously.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Knight-Bruce the Rector of Ashton congratulated the Association on its fair treatment of the subject in arranging for both sides of the subject to be heard on the same platform. It was noticed that whatever feeling people had about the Bill there was a general agreement that the law ought to treat the husband and wife equally.

All the members of the Association are rejoiced to know that Mrs. Higson, one of their Vice-Presidents, has been made a magistrate for Stalybridge. Mrs. Higson is a member of the local Weavers' Union and has done a considerable amount of public work lately and it is felt that she will render excellent service to the community as a J.P.

E. G. MAMOURIAN, Hon. Sec.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.—Our warmest congratulations are due to our Doncaster Society on its success in the return of Miss H. M. Clarke at the head of a record poll, to Scarborough on the return of Mrs. Councillor Catt, and to our Glasgow Society on the return of Miss Snodgrass and Mrs. Mary Bell.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

- NOVEMBER 5. At St. Michael's Parish Room, Lant Street, Borough, S.E. Speaker: Miss M. Currey, O.B.E.
- At Leytonstone, Wesleyan Church. Speaker: Miss Maude Royden.
- At Council House, Hounslow. Speaker: Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P. 8 p.m. Evening.
- NOVEMBER 6. At London Teachers. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P. 11 a.m.
- NOVEMBER 7. At Downs Park, Brotherhood Quarters, Clapton. Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Otley. 3 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 8. At Gravesend Sisterhood, Milton Congregational Church, Clarence Place. Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E.
- At Greenwich Sisterhood, South Street, Christian Institute. Speaker: Miss Edith Johnson. 8 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 9. At Hendon Women's Liberal Association, Town Hall, Hendon. Speaker: Miss Rosamond Smith. 4.30 p.m.
- At Whitefields, Tottenham Court Road. Speaker: Lady Gladstone. 11 a.m.
- NOVEMBER 10. At Hamsgate. Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. 8 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 11. At Margate Pavilion. Speaker: Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P., Earl Beauchamp. 8 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 12. At Hanley. Speaker: Bishop of Lichfield.

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

- NOVEMBER 8. At Claremont Central Mission, Pentonville. Subject: "State Purchase as Solution to Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. 8 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 11. At Plymouth Chambers, Plymouth. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton. 3 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 11. At St. Mildred's Settlement, West Ferry Road, E. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Boyd Dawson. 8 p.m.

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

- NOVEMBER 16. At the St. Andrew's Hall, Cambridge. Subject: "Women without Work and Work without Women." Speakers: Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and Mrs. Rackham, J.P., T.C. Chairman: Mrs. Helland. 7.30 p.m.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

- NOVEMBER 9. At the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Subject: "Women in the Professions." Speaker: Mrs. Oliver Strachey. 4.45 p.m.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

- NOVEMBER 8. At the Atelier Tea Rooms, 32, Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road. Subject: "Why we need Politewomen." Speaker: Mrs. H. More-Nisbett (Sub-Inspector, Women's Police Service, Scotland) Entrance free. 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

- NOVEMBER 10. At the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Subject: "What St. Paul really said to Women." Speaker: Miss Raleigh. 3 p.m.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

- NOVEMBER 6. In Trafalgar Square. Procession followed by a Demonstration, 3.30 p.m. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

LECTURE CLASSES ON THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY.

- At the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 9. Subject: "The Libido, or Life Urge." Speaker: Miss Violet M. Firth.
- NOVEMBER 16. Subject: "Mental Difficulties and Diseases." Speaker: Miss Violet M. Firth.

ENGLISH WOMAN EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS.

The 10th Annual English Woman Exhibition will be opened at the Central Hall, Westminster, on November 10th, at 3 p.m. It will remain open until Saturday, November 20th (inclusive), 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibits will include hand-weaving, wood-carving, enamelling, pottery, etchings, jewellery, miniatures, leather work, book-binding, &c. There will be music during the afternoons. Light refreshments and teas will be served. Entrance, 1s. 3d. Catalogue, 6d. 5s. 6d. season ticket.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—Fellowship Services, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "What is Christian Fellowship?"
A SET OF SIX LECTURES on The Business of Life, will be given on Mondays at 8.30 p.m., at 10, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, beginning on Monday, October 4th. Admission Free.

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KINGSWAY HALL, Monday, November 15th, 8 p.m. Admission free. Reserved Seats 2s. 6d., 1s., from the Secretary, Women's International League, 14, Bedford Row, London, W.C.1.

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

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