THE

# WOMAN'S LEADER

AND

# THE COMMON CAUSE

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# NOTES AND NEWS

# The World Outside.

In the all-absorbing turmoil of a General Election, fought on a definite issue of home politics, we find it lamentably easy to shut our eyes and ears to the newest complications of the long-drawn Franco-German crisis. Thus the most recent crescendo of conflict which agitated the Ambassadors' Conference over the week-end caused strangely little disturbance in the mind of the average elector. Nevertheless it remains true that the French Government has been pressing the Conference for its acquiescence in further military "sanctions" in view of certain political happenings, that General Foch has appeared before it ready equipped with a prepared strategic plan for driving the invasion right into the heart of Germany, and that our Ambassador in Paris, Lord Crewe, has been resisting the French suggestion with all the powers at his disposal. As we go to press there is much doubt about the outcome of it all. The one constant and indisputable factor in the situation is the British Government's expressed opposition to any further "territorial sanctions," and the British people's overwhelming approval of their attitude.

## Mrs. Philipson's Maiden Speech.

Mrs. Philipson was well received when she rose to speak in the House of Commons for the first time on the closing day of the Parliamentary Session. Though she spoke from a Party angle in defence of the Prime Minister, she did not forget that she and her two colleagues were the sole representatives of the women of the country when she referred to the hardship of unemployment on women and children.

## Women on the Scottish Bench.

In England the terms "Justice of the Peace" and "Magistrate" are practically synonymous. In Scotland women who are appointed Justices of the Peace do not act as Magistrates unless they are elected as Bailies by the Town Council. This obviously limits the number, and the recent election of Councillor Mrs. Ella Millar as one of the five new Bailies in Edinburgh was an event of some importance, as we understand there are only two other women Magistrates in Scotland. An expert committee is at present at work considering the legal position of women in Scotland and we hope this unsatisfactory state of affairs with regard to women Magistrates may be dealt

with. When space permits we will deal with the subject more fully, and a Scottish contributor with full knowledge of the subject will describe the present position.

# The Woman's Year Book.

We have had the opportunity of handling an advance copy of this absolutely indispensable volume, and heartily congratulate both the Editors and compilers. The pressure on our space cause by the General Election prevents an immediate review of its interesting contents, but we must say at once that no woman engaged in any form of public, educational, professional, or social work can afford to be without a copy. Indeed, since it came into our possession three days ago, we have constantly wondered how we carried on without its assistance. The portrait gallery of contributors is not the least of its many attractions.

# Women in Local Government.

Councillor Miss A. M. Lile, elected in 1919 as first woman member of the Hastings Town Council, has consented to act as Deputy Mayor for the coming year. Councillor Miss Bartlett has been elected chairman of the Birmingham Health Committee, and Miss Martineau has been re-elected chairman of the Mental Deficiency Committee. In Canterbury a woman Councillor, Mrs. Arthur Wells, has been elected to the position of Sheriff of the City. We believe that this is the first time in the history of English Boroughs that this honour has been conferred upon a woman.

# New Occupations for Women in America.

We have been sent an account of important new positions being held by women in America, by which it will be seen that women are beginning to make their way in responsible positions with regard to engineering and finance. One woman, for example is Miss Clara Goldhurst, who is a member of the New York Stock Exchange (there are a number of women outside brokers); Mrs. Goodman, on the Great Lakes, is a Marine Salvager; Mrs. Shassers undertakes the erection of steel buildings and skyscrapers. Miss Loomis owns and manages a Cellege of Radio Engineering; Miss Melton designs and builds bridges, and has a position in the United States Government Bureau of Public Roads. Miss Horowitz is a rag dealer—last year she sold a million pounds of rags!

## List of Women Candidates.

We are glad that the list of Women Candidates already exceeds that of last year. Whatever happens, this means useful educational work throughout the country.

Plymouth Sutton Division. Kinross and West Perthshire. Denbigh, Denbigh Division. North Camberwell. Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan Mrs. Hilton Philipson. Miss Irene Ward Berwick-on-Tweed. Wansbeck, Northumberland. St. Helens, Lancs. Glasgow, St. Rollox Division. Dundee. Miss V. Robertson

Mrs. Corbett Ashby Richmond.
Birmingham, King's Norton Division.
Birmingham Moseley Division.
Cambridge County.
Lanark, Hamilton Division. Mrs. George Cadbury Mrs. Randolph Clarkson Mrs. Dimsdale Miss Helen Fraser Mrs. H. Folland Mrs. Rowley Moody Glamorgan, Gower Division. Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley Division. Bucks, Wycombe Division. Lady Terrington
Miss Ursula Williams
Mrs. Wintringham Durham, Consett Division.

Pontefract.

Birmingham, King's Norton Division. Brentford and Chiswick.

Labour.
. Oxford, Banbury Division. Dame Ethel Bentham Miss Margaret Bondfield East Islington Northampton. Surrey, Farnham Division. Chatham Miss Jewson . . . Miss Susan Lawrence Miss M. Pallister . Miss Mary Richardson Norwich. E. Ham North. Bournemouth.
S. Acton.
Warwick and Leamington. Countess of Warwick Miss Ellen Wilkinson Ashton-under-Lyne.

Mrs. Barton (Co-Op.)

Miss M. E. Grant

Women's Societies and Election Activity.

Reports indicate that women's Societies both at Headquarters and in the constituencies are showing considerable activity in bringing the reforms in which they are interested before the candidates and in offering help to women who are standing. The National Council of Women, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Freedom League, the Six Point Group, and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance have all issued lists of questions, and in some constituencies their branches are co-operating in approaching candidates. There is a strong family likeness in the different lists and it might be possible on a future occasion to produce a joint questionnaire which would inevitably carry more weight than that of any individual organization.

Various appeals have been issued on behalf of Women Candidates, notably by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, which has a staff of voluntary workers already at work in six constituencies, the Women's Election Committee, and the Women's Freedom League.

A useful form of election work which might well be copied is the organization of a meeting by the Six Point Group in the constituency of Mr. Dennis Herbert, one of the most determined opponents of women's questions in the House of Commons.

Women and Company Management.

The Stainless and Non-Corrosive Metals Company, of Birmingham, has as chairman Miss C. Griff, a qualified engineer and metallurgist, and two women have recently joined the Board as directors: Hon. Gabrielle Borthwick and Lady Gertrude Crawford. Miss Borthwick, who is the daughter of a former Lord Borthwick, is the governing director of Borthwick Garages. Ltd., whose principal premises are in Brick Street, W.1. Lady Gertrude Crawford, who is a sister of the Earl of Sefton, is also a director of Borthwick Garages, Ltd. She is the only woman freeman of the Turners Company. She was Chief Superintendent of the Women's Royal Air Force.

# OUR SOLIDARITY.

December 6th bears down on us, and with its coming the centrifugal tug of party interests and party hopes becomes intenser. In the minds of feminists the loyalty of party looms up in bewildering complexity alongside the loyalty of sex. The leading spirits of the women's non-party organizations slip out one by one and lose themselves in their respective party organizations. They look at one another (if our readers will excuse a peculiarly wild flight of metaphor) over piled and swollen barriers of thought, or across the deep channels which the tremendous implications of Protection and Free Trade and Nationalization cleave between one human outlook and another.

Well—we would not have it otherwise! We do not stand. have never stood, for the formation of a self-contained and self-sufficient women's party on the old political model. Nevertheless, to those of our enthusiasts who are about to take sides and plunge into the three-cornered party fight, we would like to repeat the call for feminist solidarity which we have so often sounded in these columns. For there remain certain issues of no mean importance which continue to unite us as feminists, and which have got to find a place among the cries of this very

First and foremost we unite, as women of all parties, in demanding the ever-increasing devotion of whatever Government may come into power to the practical idealism of an all-inclusive League of Nations. Not one of us will subscribe to the Satanic gospel of material force expounded by our old enemy, Lord Birkenhead, to the Glasgow students on November 7th. Secondly, believing in representative government as a thing good in itself, and as the best alternative to government by armed force or government by personal hypnotism, we unite in demanding that our system of government be made fully representative by the extension of the franchise to women on the same wide terms already accorded to men. Thirdly, we unite in demanding that the legislation and administration of this country shall be readjusted for the better safeguarding of child-life. We will no longer tolerate the foolish and inequitable arrangements which deny the legal rights of parenthood to the married mother; which impose upon the unmarried mother unaided responsibilities too great to be borne, and which fail to make reasonable provision for the bare human needs of the widowed mother. In the fourth place we unite in demanding that those women who wish to play a part, as well as those who are forced by circumstances to play a part, in the business of production shall be enabled to carry on their work without favour in a fair field. Finally, we unite in demanding that all remaining traces of an unequal moral standard as between men and women shall be driven from our social system. The sons of Adam who inherit the earth to-day must once and for all abandon their age-long cowardly cry of the woman tempted me," and shoulder their half-share in the burden of sin.

Such in shadowy outline is the very solid and concrete programme for which feminists, still united as feminists, will fight in the coming Election. Above and below the party barriers which divide them, they will be conscious of the feminist solidarity which unites them. We will not pretend that the solidarity of sex may not sometimes obscure the solidarity of party, or that the solidarity of party will not sometimes obscure the solidarity of sex. We do not, however, regret that fact, for too much solidarity is bad for any group of human beings, unless that group be humanity itself. But that is a philosophic consideration which we are not prepared, for want of time, to argue on the eve of a General Election. For the present we will content ourselves by reminding our readers that W. S. Gilbert did not speak the whole truth when he so wisely remarked that:-

"Every boy and every gal,
That's born into the world alive,
Is either a little Liberal,
Or else a little Conservative."

We should like to add (though our poetical limitations prevent us from doing so with Gilbertian brevity) that:

Every little partisan
That's born into the world alive, Capitalist or artisan, Communist or Conservative, Be it high or be it low, Now, or a thousand years ago, In whatever part of the world you go, Creed, or colour, or race—we know
Is either a male with his place in the sun
Or a female whose work is never done."

# NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

#### BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

When the House of Commons rose in August it seemed destined for a fairly long life and few could have imagined that it would reassemble in November only to make arrangements for its own funeral.

The feelings with which Members assemble on such occasions are varied. Some may welcome the end of a Parliament in the hope that its successor will bring either to them or their party some success; others may view the future anything but thankfully, but with most of the Members there is that feeling of sadness that is associated with the shaking of a friend's hand from whom one may be separated for a long period, for after all, though political ambition may attract Members to Westminster, it is something difficult to describe that attracts them to the place when once they are there. All know that the changes must be many: some are not seeking re-election, others must fail in the coming fight.

The last Parliament ended very differently from the way in which it started. It commenced with four distinct parties-Ministerialist, Labour, and the two branches of the Liberal Party. It ended with three parties, for the two Liberal wings

It is difficult to forecast the future. Will the Liberal Party be able to consolidate its position? If so, it would become the great Central Party between the Conservatives and Labour. Or will it be so crushed by its two neighbours that its Members will have to seek shelter in either the Conservative or Labour fold? Again, what effect will Protection have upon the Conservative forces?

Some light may be thrown upon the matter when the ballot boxes are opened. Many think it will end in a stalemate; with no party with an independent majority a Coalition must who would coalesce? It is difficult to imagine many of the Liberal party joining with Labour, especially with Capital Levy in the forefront of its programme. Would it mean a further re-shuffle of parties—a union of progressive Conservatives with the moderate Liberals and the formation of a Constitutional party, with the Socialistic party as Opposition and a few inde pendent but small groups of Conservatives and Liberals who worship the party colour? These are questions that force themselves upon the student of politics.

Lastly, there is the question of the restoration of the dignity and power of the House of Commons. If this Assembly can be dissolved at the will of the Prime Minister of the day without any consultation with its Members, is it likely to lose its prestige? For we shall probably change Prime Ministers more often than in the past with the possible increase of parties and groups. Will it be necessary to have a fixed period for our Parliaments, with some possible provisions to meet exceptional circumstances

These are great and difficult problems, but doubtless the sound common sense of the British people will solve them.

# THE PARTY MANIFESTOS AND WOMEN.

As we have constantly said, we do not in these columns take any side with regard to Party Politics. We must, however, confess to a very sharp feeling of disappointment that the manifesto of the Unionist Party as expressed in Mr. Baldwin's election address leaves so much unsaid with respect to those matters in which women are particularly interested. We admit that the issues with regard to Protection and to foreign affairs are of the keenest importance to women. We regret, however, to see no reference whatsoever to social problems of any kind, other than the effect of tariffs on unemployment, and, coming last in the whole list, "the reorganization of our various schemes of insurance against old age, ill-health, and unemployment. More particularly should we devote our attention to investigating the possibilities of getting rid of the inconsistencies and the discouragement of thrift at present associated with the working of the Old Age Pensions Act.'

We find no mention of the important questions of Housing, Temperance, or Education, and no reference to removing the legal disabilities under which women suffer. It is particularly unfortunate that the Government should be presenting no policy with regard to these matters.

When we turn to the Labour and Liberal Parties, however, we find specific mention of most of these points. Labour puts forward "work or maintenance" as a remedy for unemployment. The creation of a commonwealth of co-operative service; scientific organization of industry; stricter inspection of workplaces; more effective measures against accidents and industrial diseases; fuller compensation for the workers and standard of hours to be improved; equal opportunity in education for all children; generous provision for the aged people, the widowed mothers, the sick and disabled children; abolition of the slums; adequate supply of decent homes to be built and no decontrol until need is satisfied.

'Drink traffic to be placed under popular control; fair play for ex-Service men and their dependents; equality between men and women; equal political and legal rights, equal rights and privileges in parenthood and equal pay for equal work.

The Liberals propose as a cure for unemployment the courageous use of National credit on enterprises that would permanently improve and develop home, country, and Empire.' They propose to remodel the Insurance Acts, and "to secure to the worker a proper status and a fair share in the produce of the industry in which he is engaged." With regard to the equal rights of men and women, the manifesto continues: "Liberals aim at securing political, legal, and economic equality between men and women. Mothers and fathers should have equal rights and responsibilities in the guardianship of their children." On pensions they state: "The thrift disqualification attached to old age pensions should be immediately removed. Liberal policy concentrates upon lifting from the homes of the poor those burdens and anxieties of the old, the sick, and the widow with young children, which the community has the power and the duty to relieve." On Housing and social services, the following statements among others have been made: "Liberals will be no parties to the starvation of, or to false economies in, education. They believe that no better investment of national wealth can anywhere be found than in developing the faculties and intelligence of the youth of the country.

"For the same reason Liberal policy centres upon the promotion of all those things which build up the home—housing, emperance, child-welfare, and other social services.

Women voters will inevitably bear the differences between these manifestos in mind when going to the poll.

They must, however, between that day and this, do their best to obtain from Unionist candidates favourable statements on the many subjects we have referred to, which are excluded from their party's manifesto, and from Liberal and Labour candidates more detailed pledges with respect to the general principles set out in theirs.

# REPORTS.

# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

The Fête and Sale of Work which took place on 9th and 10th November at International House emphasized the practical side of the League's work, and also demonstrated the possibility of using all kinds of talents in the service of peace. The following day was Armistice Day, when the thoughts of everyone were turned once more to the tragic past and still more threatening future; when many were asking "what can I personally do to avert the recurrence of such a calamity as that which fills our minds to-day?" Might not some who cannot help in other ways follow the example set by International House by organizing similar entertainments in their own localities? The money gained is not the only consideration, but sometimes those who come to help out of purely friendly motives at first become in the end supporters of our cause. Every means must be tried, each person's particular gift used, if from the present chaos a world-order is to emerge which shall compensate (if that be possible) for the devastation of war.

### BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN. FORMATION OF NORTH-EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

Under the auspices of the Durham Women Graduates' Association, a meeting convened by the Principal, Miss Eleanor Christopher, M.A., was held at St. Hild's College, Durham, on 19th October last, to consider the possibility of forming a North-Eastern branch of the British Federation of University Women

tion of University Women.

Miss Hiley, M.A., was in the chair, and was supported by Miss May. There were present between forty and fifty graduates, representing the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, London, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, and Dublin. The meeting was addressed by Miss B. Callender, M.A., who gave an inspiring account of the Federation's work from the standpoint of national and international value, and vividly portrayed the past glories, present attractions, and future possibilities of Crosby Hall. It was unanimously decided to form a North Eastern broade of the Pritich Federation of University Women, and the following. or Crosby Hall. It was unanimously decided to form a North Eastern branch of the British Federation of University Women, and the following officers were elected: President, Miss Christopher; Vice-Presidents, Miss May and Dr. Ethel Williams; Secretary, Miss E. O. Hardy; Assistant Secretary, Miss Deacon; Treasurer, Miss Brockbanks.

there in 1923.

MY NEW HOMES IN LONDON, SALISBURY AND CAMBRIDGE, 1867–1884 (continued).

Two of the most interesting inhabitants of Salisbury at the time of my marriage were Dr. and Mrs. Fowler. He was a retired physician, and in his young days had formed a part of the Holland House group of whigs. He brought to Salisbury anecdotes of the Holland House dinner parties and of Lady Holland's management of her guests: Macaulay was, of course, very frequently one of them, and dominated the rest of the company by his encyclopædic knowledge and his facility in pouring it forth. On one of these occasions, when for a long time there had not been one brilliant flash of silence, Lady Holland beckoned to a footman, and said to him; "Go round to Mr. Macaulay, and say "that'll do."

Mrs. Fowler was a lady quite of the old school. She had in her childhood sat on the knee of Dr. Johnson, and it interested us to observe how few links were necessary to fill up the 150 years or so which covered the time between our little daughter and Queen Anne. Philippa had been patted on the head by Mrs. Fowler, who had sat on the knee of Dr. Johnson, who had been "touched" by Oueen Anne. Another very warm Salisbury friend was Dr. Roberts, also a retired physician. He sympathized deeply with my husband's general outlook in politics, and they had other interests in common. We used to drive out occasionally in Dr. Roberts' company to dine with Dr. and Mrs. Roland Williams, the former then being Rector of Broadchalke. He was rather frowned upon by the "County" and the Cathedral dignitaries of Salisbury for having written one of the articles in the once famous Essays and Reviews. The charming old rectory at Broadchalke was afterwards acquired by Mr. Maurice Hewlett, who created a marvellous series of gardens round it and died

During the months of the Parliamentary Session which we spent in London, I regarded it as a very great honour when we were invited from time to time to dine with Mr. Mill and his stepdaughter, Miss Helen Taylor, at Blackheath. These were delightful evenings, when we met Mr. and Mrs. Grote, Professor Cairnes, Herbert Spencer, and other celebrities and heard, I suppose, some of the best talk from some of the best talkers in England. Of course, questions concerning Women's Suffrage and the general position of women not infrequently came up, and I remember a discussion between Mill and Herbert Spencer, the latter taking the "anti" line, and basing his arguments on the heavy handicap nature had imposed upon women.

Mill's reply took my fancy exceedingly. He said, "You look upon nature as something we should do well to follow. I look upon nature as a horrible old harridan." Again it was interesting to hear Mrs. Grote explaining why she had become a suffragist. She always reminded me of a well-bred old country gentleman; tall, robust, and well set up in every way, towering over her rather delicate finicking looking husband, who resembled a Dresden China figure. Mrs. Grote habitually spoke and wrote of him as "the historian." When anything was said which surprised her she would exclaim "Good God," God, you astound me." When explaining to us what made her a suffragist, she said, "When I discovered that the purse in my pocket and the watch at my side were not my own but the Historian's, I felt it was time women should have the power to amend these preposterous laws." However, of course, the laws went on unamended for many years after this. I have related elsewhere (see Women's Suffrage: a Short History of a Great Movement, T. C. and E. C. Jack) how at a Liberal meeting at my father's house in Suffolk I had taken round a petition asking Parliament to pass the Married Women's Property Bill then Those present were mostly Suffolk farmers I explained my petition and asked for signatures, but obtained very few One old farmer voiced the feelings of the majority Am I to understand you, ma'am, that if this Bill becomes law and my wife had a matter of a hundred pound left to her, I should have to arst her for it?" Of course, I was obliged to confess that he would have to suffer this humiliation, and then I got no more signatures. It was several years after this, I believe in 1877, that I had another illustration of this monstrous state of the law. I was at Waterloo Station taking a ticket; as I dropped my purse back into my pocket I felt a hand there

that was not my own. I naturally grabbed it and tried to hold it; naturally, also, I was unsuccessful; it belonged to a young man who quickly broke from me with my purse in his possession Some by-standers grasped the situation and pursued the thief. who threw my purse on the ground, and his flight was ended in the arms of a policeman. He and the thief and I were then marched off to a small office in the station where there was a Police Inspector. The policeman said, "This here young gen'leman have been liftin' a bit off the person of this here young lady." The Inspector said to me, "Do you charge him?" and I replied, "Yes." If I had known then as much as I knew later I should have said "No," and contented myself with the recovery of my purse. "But I, being young and foolish," did not see that this would have been the best both for me and for the thief. He was brought up before a police magistrate the next day and committed for trial at the Surrey Sessions. I had to come up from Cambridge in about six weeks' time to give evidence against him. When in the court I saw the charge sheet, and noted that the thief was charged with "stealing from the person of Millicent Fawcett a purse containing £1 18s. 6d., the property of Henry Fawcett." I felt as if I had been charged with theft myself. A few minutes later I heard my thief condemned to seven years' penal servitude, a very terrible thing for him, almost a sentence of death, at any rate, of social and industrial death. I am a Metropolitan magistrate myself now, and I often watch with respectful admiration the humanity and wisdom with which the presiding magistrate at the Newington Sessions, Sir Robert Wallace, deals with cases, now very infrequent, of this kind; always trying through the probation system to give offenders, especially young offenders, another chance to come back into respectable methods of getting a living. It seems to me that the pessimists are altogether wrong, that the world is better and not worse than it was fifty years ago, more intelligent and more humane, and that the results of the comparatively gentle method of dealing with crime have not increased it but the contrary. If I may refer here to another little piece of my small magisterial experience I may mention having sat occasionally over a period of some three years as member of the Holborn bench to hear education summonses My colleague in this capacity not infrequently was the late Sir John Kirk, one of the founders with Lord Shaftesbury of the ragged School Union movement. This dear gentle old Christian gentleman was moved with compassion not only for the defaulting parents but also for me, inexperienced as I was in the more seamy side of the life of the London poor, by the evidence brought before us of their wretchedness, as one after another a bedraggled and sodden looking woman with a baby in her arms, another pulling at her wretched skirts, was brought before us and called upon to explain why her son or daughter under the age of 15 had not punctually attended school. Sir John Kirk used to say to me in a low voice so that no one but myself should hear him, "You must not let these things make you too unhappy. These that come before us are the failures; but the great mass is very satisfactory indeed." The way he used to explain to parents how they could get helped, that there was a Care Committee which would aid them materially if applied to and that the whole machinery of the Court was devised in order to help them, and especially their children, to make good in the world and have a fair chance of a more satisfactory existence in the future, made a deep impression on me and was a lesson how these magisterial duties should be performed.

# A GENERAL ELECTION TWELVE-PAGE ISSUE.

Please send orders for next week at once, as in order to save expense we must know approximately how many extra copies are necessary. Next week's issue will contain extracts from Women's Election addresses, news from the Constituencies in which women candidates, tried friends, and known foes are standing, and the leading article will deal with matters of special value to women voters. It will also contain short articles by G. B. Hurst, K.C., late Member for Moss Side (Manchester), Miss Margery Fry, as well as the usual instalment of Mrs. Fawcett's Reminiscences, Household Economics, and The Law at Work. We hope that women's societies will order this copy in large numbers for sale during the closing days of the Election.

# HOW THE AVERAGE WOMAN VOTER CAN HELP.

Many readers of this paper have it in their power through the various women's organizations and meetings with which they are concerned to induce women to use to the utmost their privileges as enfranchised citizens in this election campaign. The importance of the careful study of the election programmes of the different candidates, and the fact that an election in which the main issue s Tariff Reform as a remedy for unemployment very specially concerns women, has been pointed out elsewhere. In this short article we will confine ourselves to different forms of election activity within the reach of the average stay-at-home woman who has a little time to spare and the desire to help. Women voters have yet fully to learn that, however insignificant they may think themselves in the great world of politics, the possession of the vote endows them with a real significance in the eyes of their representative or would-be representative in Parliament. This fact justifies the so-called "campaign," with its broadcast literature, its innumerable meetings, its door-to-door canvassing, which all form part of a clumsy but sincere attempt to secure some kind of contact between the candidate and the elector. For this reason women cannot afford to neglect the opportunities afforded by the meetings of the various candidates ascertaining their views on matters which do not find a place n their election addresses. It has been suggested that at this election the women of the country would strengthen their position by concentration on one single issue, such as, for instance, pensions for widows. Even if this were possible, there are obvious reasons why it would be impossible for women's organizations, nowever unanimous they may be on this or any other outtanding question, to ignore other reforms, some of primary mportance, such as equal franchise, or others which were in a nighly hopeful position before the dissolution quenched all opes. But one can readily imagine the effect on the mind of a andidate who is asked at every meeting, without exception, if ne is in favour of pensions for widows with dependent children. Most women's societies have drawn up lists of suitable questions on the various reforms demanded by women, and individual voters should make it their business to see that these questions are brought forward at all public meetings. Those who cannot attend meetings can write to their candidate (if they are kindnearted they will not expect a written reply!) asking him to xpress his views publicly on any reform they have at heart. Once again, imagine the psychological effect on the attitude of candidate who is snowed under with letters on the unfairness women of the present franchise laws.

But the possibilities of useful work by the woman voter extends even further than this. Whether a party woman or not, if candidate after her own heart is standing she should not be fraid to offer to do active work on his or her behalf by canvassing. The canvasser is a link between the candidate and the oter. Any elector has the right of access to the man or woman who seeks to represent him in Parliament, and as personal access s physically impossible in an electorate of 25,000 or 30,000, the anvasser serves as the medium of communication. Long experience has convinced the writer that canvassing undertaken on this assumption is rarely resented and often greatly appreciated. It is highly skilled work and can, in the right hands, become a valuable vehicle of political education, but the inexperienced and unskilled should not be deterred by this, as excellent work can be done by any keen worker who follows the instructions given her conscientiously. In places where a woman candidate is standing canvassing plays, if anything, a more important part, as there is still some degree of ignorance and prejudice to fight against. Given some degree of courage and enterprise, combined with a love of humanity and a lively imagination, canvassing is a fascinating occupation. The canvasser gains glimpses of interiors that she would never otherwise penetrate—not only physical interiors, interesting and diverse as these may be, but mental interiors much more interesting and much more diverse. In conclusion, at a national political crisis ordinary pursuits should be abandoned as far as possible, and every ounce of strength and energy concentrated on the task of returning an enlightened House, whatever the distribution of parties, containing, in addition to the three women who have already taken their seats, a band of new women who will share in the strenuous tasks which they have too long borne unaided.

## F M

# THE WOMEN CANDIDATES.

The number of women candidates standing at this Election already at the time of going to press exceeds the number—33—of those who stood last year, and doubtless this number will be considerably increased by nomination day. A list is published in another column, from which the following facts emerge. Fifteen, or rather less than half, stood last time, and of these Mrs. Strachey and Mrs. Corbett-Ashby stood in 1918 as well. Out of the whole list, only those three who were Members of the last Parliament—Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, and Mrs. Philipson—are standing for seats of the same Party colour as the sitting Member. As before, all the other candidates, in order to achieve success, will have to win their seats for their Party—a difficult task at any time.

The candidates are at present divided curiously evenly among the Parties, the Conservatives numbering ten, the Liberals twelve, and Labour eleven.

The geographical distribution of the constituencies is interesting. Scotland claims three, Ireland one, Wales two, the North of England seven, the Midlands eight, London and Home Counties nine, the South and West three.

On all sides, questions are being asked with respect to the chances of the women. At the time of writing it is impossible to say. Mrs. Philipson, rejoicing in a majority only last Spring of over 6,000, is a practical certainty. Lady Astor, with a majority of 3,093, should have plenty to spare, even though her valiant championship of Temperance, or Women Police, etc., may have lost her a certain number of votes. Mrs. Wintringham's majority is only 883, and much hard work will have to be done in order to ensure the return of so tried and valued a Member. Her loss is unthinkable. Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan has a majority of only 254 against her last time, and is fighting the same opponent, Mr. Ammon. Who can tell the result this time? Whatever it is it will have its dark side! Dame Helen, with her wide experience and vigorous personality, would be a first-rate Member, but Mr. Ammon is an old friend whom we can ill spare.

Mrs. Oliver Strachey is putting up a splendid fight in order to obtain her necessary turnover of 1,100 votes. Not only do we want to see Mrs. Strachey in, as an expert on both international and women's questions, but we are also most anxious to see Colonel Grant Morden out. There are not many Members with a worse record in the House with respect to legislation specially dealing with women and children. Few women are more needed in the House of Commons than Miss Margaret Bondfield. We send her our best wishes for good fortune at Northampton. It is at present impossible to predict the issue.

In the King's Norton Division we find the somewhat unfortunate situation of two women, Mrs. G. Cadbury (Liberal) and Mrs. Barker (Co-op.), opposing one another. Both these women would be valuable members, and it is a pity they could not find different constituencies!

In our next week's issue we shall hope to give a more complete account of the progress of the campaigns in the constituencies in which women candidates are standing.

# REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES.

We greatly regret that owing to curtai'ment of space much interesting information has been crowded out. As announced elsewhere, we shall have four additional pages next week, and we invite *short* reports from Women's Societies of their election activities, or of the results of their questions to candidates. News relating to women candidates will be specially welcome.

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY ERIDAY

ONE PENNY

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This article is the eleventh of a series which will extend over several months.

# NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

# GENERAL ELECTION.

Although it is still very early days, we are receiving reassuring accounts of active work in most of our Societies. Tunbridge Wells, for example, is opening a shop; Bolton W.C.A. is dealing with the constituencies round about. The Scottish Federations are tackling all the candidates in their area. We would urge on our other Societies to lose no time. We had succeeded in obtaining a satisfactory number of pledges from the Members of the last Parliament, and we must have an even larger number this time.

CONSTITUENCIES IN WHICH WOMEN CANDIDATES ARE STANDING.—We would like to repeat our urgent request for more voluntary workers. The number of constituencies in which women candidates are standing is increasing daily. Any number of workers can be absorbed. In cases in which volunteers do not name any special candidate, our policy is to concentrate on constituencies in which women have the best chance, and to do what we can to help members of our Executive Committee.

MEMBERS' RECORDS.—Our Members are reminded that we have at headquarters complete Parliamentary records of the action which has been taken by Members of Parliament on subjects in which we are interested, which will be forwarded immediately on application.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.—We are working full speed, and would be grateful if Societies would not write on subjects other than the General Election until after Polling Day. Our election literature is now all up to date, and reprinted (see advertisement). In those constituencies in which we have no Societies, efforts are being made to induce other Women's Organizations to put the questionnaires to the candidates. Where this is impossible, they are going straight from Headquarters.

DEPUTATION TO THE NATIONAL UNIONIST ORGANIZATION. A deputation, consisting of the officers, Miss Deakin, Mrs. Browne, Mrs. Fawcett, and Mrs. Wrightson, was received on Monday by the Hon. F. S. Jackson, and Admiral Hall. The need for inserting in the Government programme a statement with regard to the removal of the existing inequalities in the Law between men and women, with special reference to the Equal Franchise, Equal Guardianship, Equal Pay, Pensions for Widows, was expressed. The deputation was received sympathetically, but although Lieut.-Col. Jackson stated that some of the demands were still considered contentious by the Conservative Party, and it was too late for insertion in its manifesto, he hoped references could be made to certain other points, in the speeches made by Conservative leaders during the campaign.

LABOUR AND LIBERAL PARTIES.—Representations have also been made in writing to both the Labour and Liberal Parties, and we welcome so complete a pronouncement in favour of the reforms for which we work in the manifestos of these parties.

## SALE OF WORK.

A Sale of Work will be held on 14th December at the Church House, Dean's Yard.

We once more appeal to our readers to send contributions to this Sale,—inexpensive Christmas gifts, farm produce, flowers or fruit will all be useful. The need to raise funds is of vital urgency, the General Election being a heavy drain on our slender resources, and the active support of all those who are making no money-raising effort for Headquarters' funds would be warmly appreciated.

Contributions should be sent to the office and addressed to the Sale of Work Secretary.

# WOMEN CANDIDATES.

The following officers and members of the Executive Committee are standing for Parliament, and have a special claim on our help: Viscountess Astor, Vice-President (Sutton, Plymouth), Mrs. Corbett Ashby (Richmond), Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Brentford and Chiswick), Miss Helen Fraser (Hamilton), Mrs. Wintringham (Louth). Miss Eleanor Rathbone has decided not to contest East Toxteth, as her former opponent's attitude with regard to Mr. Baldwin's fiscal proposal corresponds with her own. In addition to work carried on by our Societies, the National Union has already sent workers to help Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Strachey, Mrs. Marcus Dimsdale, Mrs. Wintringham, Lady Astor, and Miss M. Bondfield, and next week we intend to send additional workers to these and other constituencies.

### ELECTION FUND.

We append a list of generous donors to an election appeal. We desperately need an even larger sum to do our work effectively, and hope to be able to publish a much longer list

				£	S.	d.	
Miss S. Clegg		mi - 1 6		25		0	
Anonymous				10			
Miss Simeon	. 1				2	6	
Mrs. J. Ward				2	2	0	
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# KENSINGTON SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Kensington Society is making a great effort to raise funds for headquarters this winter, and is taking a stall at the Sale of Work organized by the N.U.S.E.C., and the committee would be most grateful for any help towards making it a success. All articles, except perishable goods, may be sent at once to Mrs. Houston, 3 Edwardes Square, W. 8. Perishable goods should be sent to Church House, Westminster, on the morning of the Sale, addressed to the Kensington Stall.

# EDINBURGH S.E.C.

MISS K. D. COURTNEY'S VISIT TO SCOTLAND.

Miss K. D. Courtney spent a few days in Scotland last week, and spoke twice for the Edinburgh S.E.C., first at a meeting arranged by Mrs. Harrison at her house on "The Aims and Objects of the N.U.S.E.C." A proposal to form a Junior Section was discussed, but as there were not many young people present, it was deferred. All who were present enjoyed Miss Courtney's reasoned exposition of our aims and her appeal to carry on the work begun by the Suffrage Societies. Miss Courtney also spoke at a well-attended drawing-room meeting given by Lady Ramsay on "War and Unemployment," at which she showed the connection with, and the result on, unemployment of the situation in Central Europe. New members were obtained, and the Woman's Leader had a good sale. Other meetings addressed by Miss Courtney were for the Falkirk W.C.A. and the Glasgow and Edinburgh branches of the Women's International League. International League

The Edinburgh S.E.C. and all the Women's Societies in Edinburgh are The Edinburgh S.E.C. and all the Women's Societies in Edinburgh are to be congratulated on the election by the Town Council of Councillor Ella Millar as a Bailie, and the fact that at last there will be in Edinburgh one woman to sit on the Magistrates' bench. According to law and custom in Scotland, the only path open to women to the Magistrates' bench lies through the Town Council. A Councillor may be elected a Bailie after having served on the Town Council for three years, and as very few women have been elected to Town Councils (in this election not a single woman candidate has been successful), and J.P.s can only sit in the small debt courts, Scotland is without the valuable work done as magistrates by hundreds of women in England. Bailie Ella Millar, who is a Vice-President of the Edinburgh S.E.C. and President of the Chill A Sasault Protest Committee, has made a firm stand against any Chill Assault Protest Committee, has made a firm stand against any action on moral questions which has been proposed on the basis of one standard for men and another for women.

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY.

ONE PENNY.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

# "THE POWER OF THE LIE."

MADAM.—In your issue of 9th November, there is an article by Professor Gilbert Murray on "The Power of the Lie," from which it appears that the rulers of most of the countries of Europe are lying to their peoples. Professor Murray recounts that French cavalry in Düsseldorf disarmed German police and stood by whilst they were beaten by "hired criminals whom the French had imported to set up a Separatist Republic." Will Professor Murray be so good as to state what evidence he has that these criminals were imported by France and whence they were imported? If he has not good evidence it would seem that his charge against France comes itself perilously near that ugly thing which was abounding in Persia and Media.

F HINKS

#### LOCAL OPTION AT WORK IN SCOTLAND.

MADAM,—I would ask a little space to refute the comments made— in a letter signed Helena Thomas—on the article headed as above. Her first contention that the Inverness illustration of "the relative purchasing power of 12s. 6d., i.e. a bottle of whisky and household goods," was an unsound one, for the reason that "a diamond ring or a motor-car" might as justly be cited. The point of difference is the fact that, unlike diamonds as justly be cited. The point of difference is the fact that, unlike diamonds and motor-cars, whisky is a commodity that the very poor, and even the unemployed, buy. It is therefore practical politics to demonstrate to them what money will produce in groceries, as against drink. To do the same in diamonds, etc., would be ridiculous. About Kilsyth Cooperative Society, the extracts given, without statistics or explanations as to the fall of the miners' daily wage from £1 to 8s. 5½d., give an entirely wrong impression. I will be pleased to forward to anyone interested the report of Mr. John Wilson, Manager, Kilsyth Co-operative Society, giving carefully tabulated statistics of the conditions of trade since the area voted itself "No-licence" in 1920. These figures are more eloquent than words in showing how Kilsyth has prospered, and the success of the recent poll shows that the district has no uncertain mind as to its prosperity. As to the third point, some of us hold that liquor taxes do not "find" money, but are a partial repayment of the enormous expenditure incurred by the community, in meeting the ravages caused by drink.

MARION I. BUCHANAN.

MADAM,-The letter signed by "Helena Thomas" in your issue of the 16th instant may be clever Liquor Trade propaganda, but its assertions and inferences are altogether wide of the mark.

1. Britain's repayment of the debt to America began only a few months

1. Britain's repayment of the debt to America began only a few months ago. Economic prosperity in the United States has steadily grown in the four years following nation-wide prohibition, until, to-day, unemployment as we know it scarcely exists throughout the Republic.

2. About Kilsyth. I refer my critic to John Wilson, the Manager of the Kilsyth Co-Operative Society, with whom I spent an afternoon last month, examining his trading returns for the "No-licence" years. I affirm without the state of the stat rear of contradiction that the quotations given by "Helena Thomas" are wrenched from their context and entirely misrepresent the fact. Let ohn Wilson be the arbiter.

John Wilson be the arbiter.

May I add that a few days ago the people of Kilsyth voted for a continuation of "No-licence.". They evidently believe that the absence of the drink-shop is a gain to the community.

3. About the Inverness illustration. Of course, it is true that the equivalent to "any luxury" in household goods would be "enormous."

The real point is that a 12s. 6d. quart bottle of whisky means 12s. 6d. less to be spent on food or fuel or clothing for a warking class family. o be spent on food or fuel or clothing for a working-class family.

HENRY CARTER.

# GIRTON GIRLS AS DOMESTIC HELPS.

MADAM,—Mrs. Rose Satchell does me over much honour when she bids me single-handed open the doors of the Church of England and the Civil Service that women may enter in. Such insignificant influence as I possess has from time to time been given in that direction.

But what is the truth about the "Girton girls" and Domestic Service

in Australia? Simply this. The opportunity for such work has been made known as well as the special arrangements for educated girls. Some have responded, and when asked "why?" they have said, "I want to see the world, I want to get to a country where there are fewer competitors for every job." Among these young women is a former Girton

I have not "sent" her, for I never knew her until she asked to know more of this particular opportunity. And after all, it's a free world. MERIEL L. TALBOT.

# ALCOHOL AND COOKERY.

MADAM,—Please allow me to point out that the practice of putting spirits in cakes and plum puddings is:—

1. Unnecessary. For many years my mother and I have made, without any spirits or wine, cakes and puddings, both plain and rich, which have "kent" perfectly.

' perfectly.

armful. Though the greater part of this small amount of alcohol

armful. Though the greater part of this small amount of alcohol is probably driven off in the cooking, sufficient remains to give the characteristic flavour, and this may prove the stumbling-block in the path of one who is bravely struggling against the drink habit.

The correct place for the bottle of alcohol is not the kitchen, but that increases the stumbling between the correct place for the bottle of alcohol is not the kitchen, but that

nner compartment of the medicine cupboard which is marked "Poisons."

[This letter refers to a recipe given last week by Ann Pope.—ED.]

# POLICE ADMINISTRATION AT PETERBOROUGH.

Madam.—I have read with interest Mrs. Donaldson's letter, as it confirms the most serious of the statements made by the women.

Mrs. Dawkins, who was pregnant, did not see a doctor. She slept not in a bed but on a "wide wooden shelf," though blankets and a pillow were supplied. She was left in strict confinement, and was not able to take exercise. A woman officer called at intervals—the women stated they only saw her once a day; but, in any case, during the greater part of the day and night she was under the charge of male officers; and anyone acquainted with the routine of police cells knows that this means she was or the day and night she was under the charge of male officers; and anyone acquainted with the routine of police cells knows that this means she was under the inspection of men. Her baby was born the day she arrived at Holloway. There does not appear, I hasten to say, any reason to fear that the birth was premature, but rather that there was a mistake as to date. This doubt, however, is an added proof of the necessity of medical attendance.

Now I appeal to all mothers: whether a plank bed, no exercise, no medical Now I appear to all mothers: whether a plank bed, no exercise, no medical attendance, and supervision by male officers is proper or even decent treatment for a woman in this condition? Such treatment would not be permitted in any prison or in any casual ward; and it must not be altogether forgotten that this poor woman was unconvicted. She was therefore technically innocent, and might been proved to have been really so. But the question of guilt or innocence is irrelevant. The question is one of the proper treatment of pregnant women; and it; our duty is one of the proper treatment of pregnant women; and it is our duty as women to put an end to the present system.

I should like to add that I am informed by a Scottish magistrate that

that I am informed by a Scottish magistrate that the arrangements at Glasgow are incomparably more humane; that eds are provided, and that in similar cases a doctor would call daily. If this is so, our first step is easy: to insist, that is, that the rules of the cottish Office are adopted in England.

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# GENERAL ELECTION, 1923

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### COMING EVENTS.

#### GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

Dec. 3. 3-4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. "The Protection of Animals." Speaker; Captain F. MacCumm (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

#### INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, 9 GRAFTON STREET, W.1.

Nov. 28. 8.15 p.m. "Some Aspects of China." Speaker: Mrs. Stan Harding.

#### INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

NOV. 29 and DEC. 6. No Meetings or Club Suppers

#### LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

NOV, 27, 4.30 p.m. Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. "Economic Position of Women in Other European Countries." Speaker: Miss Helen Ward.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Dec. 14. Church House, Dean's Yard, S.W. Sale of Work.

Owing to the General Election the Matinée arranged for 4th December, at Sir Philip Sassoon's house, will be postponed till 5th or 12th February.

EDINBURGH S.E.C. NOV. 28. 8 pm. Public Meeting, New Gallery, Shandwick Place. "The Unmarried Mother and her Child." Speaker: Miss Higson.

#### ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Dec. 4. 5.30 p.m. Public meeting at International Franchise Club, 9 Grafton Street, W. 1. "The Trade Boards Bill." Speaker: Mrs. Beer, M.A.

#### WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

The Council of the Women's Local Government Society begs to announce that the Conference of Women Councillors, Guardians, and Magistrates, fixed for 5th and 6th December, in consequence of the General Election is postponed until 16th and 17th January. Tickets already issued will be available for the later date.

# TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

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LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS,—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Mauresa Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post.

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L ACE,—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored; embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, nitials.—Beatrice, Box 1017, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean'S Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

# POSTS WANTED.

L ADY can recommend capable, experienced woman for temporary work as HOUSEKEEPER, caretaker, etc., excellent cook, thoroughly trustworthy; terms, £r a week.—Box 1,026, Woman's Leader, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

TWO SISTERS, COOK-GENERAL and HOUSE-PARLOURMAID (middle-aged); £40 and £30 respectively; good references; would like to take charge of a house and housekeeping for lady or gentleman; flat preferred; London only.—Apply, Ann Pope, 510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.— Conferences every Tuesday, 4.30 to 7 p.m. Admission free; Tea 6d.—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, Westminster.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place, Town Members £55s.; Country and Professional Members £44s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro. tem.).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. r.: Sunday, 25th November, 6.20. Miss Maude Royden: "Christ Triumphant. VI: Why Christ must Triumph."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 16L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

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