The Woman Workers. Edited by MARY R. MACARTHUR (Secretary, Women's Trade Union League). Published at Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C. Vol. 1.—No. 4. DECEMBER, 1907. One Penny.

Vol. 1.—No. 4.

DECEMBER, 1907.

ONE PENNY.

FPITORIAL

THE Woman Worker continues to make many new friends From all parts of the country we have received helpful, encouraging letters. Shop-workers, office-workers, mill-workers, factory-workers, have written to tell us how much the journal is needed, and that they will do all in their power to make it better known. We are more than ever confident that the magazine can be made a strong force in stirring making women to take a deeper interest in all questions. working women to take a deeper interest in all questions affecting their welfare and freedom.

Many of our best helpers and workers are men who see how necessary it is to have the women with them in the struggle for improved conditions. Men now realise that they cannot fight their battles alone. Either the women will help or hinder. For the sake of men and women alike, and, above all, for the sake of the children, it is urgently imperative that women should be educated to take an honourable place in the Labour army. Our central aim is to win over new recruits to the organised cause of the workers, and to teach the deeper meaning of the movement to those who are already with us.

We have received during the month kindly messages of sympathy and support from Prince Kropotkin, Edward Carpenter, Rev. R. J. Campbell, and Dr. John Clifford. "I have the utmost sympathy for your work," writes Dr. Clifford. "I am in fullest sympathy with your desire to Clifford. "I am in fullest sympathy with your desire to organise women workers, and trust it will meet with success," says the Rev. R. J. Campbell. On all sides there is a desire to see the lot of the worker made brighter and happier. This is true in a peculiar degree of sweated and underpaid women. But nothing much will be done until working men and working women with united strength open the gates leading toward culture and a more abundant life.

The announcements made on another page respecting our future contributors will, we are sure, be highly appreciated by our readers. The list includes many of the best-known men and women in the Reform movement. Bishops, clergymen, artists, editors, Members of Parliament, distinguished novelists, journalists, students, Trade Union officers, social reformers, have vied with each other in their desire to help the women's cause. All this augurs well for the future and the increasing success of our journal.



Many of the contributions sent in by bona-fide wage-earners in mill, factory, office, and shop show surprising talent, and the magazine will discharge a useful function in helping to call out these latent gifts. From time to time we shall publish letters and short articles from work-girls dealing with their daily toil, with work and wages, with their struggles for betterment and unity.

We are sorry we cannot join in the practically unbroken chorus of congratulation and praise which the so-called settlement of the railway dispute has called forth upon all

We have no desire to appear ungenerous or unfair. The officials of the Railwaymen's Union were in the best position to gauge the strength or weakness of their movement, and the action of Mr. Lloyd-George undoubtedly placed them in a tight corner. If the rank and file voluntarily accept and endorse the settlement, they may be assumed to be the best judges of their own interests. But there is a wider Trade Union principle involved, and it would be calamitous if the present agreement were set up as a precedent in future disputes. For what does the railway settlement amount to?

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the wrists, and there is teathering and lace at the neck. I tell you it can't be done, Mr. Perret, for less than three-pence halfpenny. It's dirt cheap at that. It takes me four hours 'ard to do one, and then there's thread to pay for."

There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women behind.

"Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Perret, suavely.

He waits a moment, but the girl's

He waits a moment, but the girl's passion has already waned, and he adds, "You'd better put an extra tuck on the sleeves!

The Simple Life -The True Atheism -

Walt Whitman. - Russell Lowell.

Complaints and the Law.

PORTIA.

Talks with the Doctor

Dr. X.Y.Z.

Trade Union Notes

MARY R. MACARTHUR.

Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD.

Women's News of the Week.

girls as Mr. Perret. He is the con-cocter of the specious advertisement and —I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and

trimmed."

Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour belongs to a more prosperous competitor,

* N.B.—The facts contained in this article re vouched for. Names are of course, ctitious.—En.

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Even the first principle of Trade Unionism has not been Even the first principle of Trade Unionism has not been conceded to the railway servants—the right to be represented by officials whom the employers have no power to victimise. The spectacle of a Conciliation Board on which a shunter or a signalman will in person tell his directors what he thinks about his wages and hours is not one that will fill any Trade Unionist with enthusiasm. In practice it will be found that the settlement hailed with such rapture the directors the bone and the in the Press has given the directors the bone and the employees the shadow. Unhappily the hands of the Union are practically tied for seven years. Directors can now sleep o' nights unhaunted by the dread of a strike.

Improvement in the labouring conditions of the railway-Improvement in the labouring conditions of the railwaymen seems as far off as ever. Yet there is no class of wage-earners more deserving of just treatment. At great personal risk they discharge a valuable and responsible public service. Last year the railways showed a net profit of over £44,000,000. How did the workmen fare? Out of 305,000 railway workers affected by the agitation 100,930 receive not more than 20s. a week; and of these 23,420 receive from 12s. to 15s. a week. More than ,420 receive from 12s. to 15s. a week. More than ,000 railway servants are working twelve hours a day and upwards. In the ten years, 1897-1906, 5,238 railway servants were killed and 146,746 injured. It cannot be doubted that in the search for dividend, railway directors and shareholders overlook the interests alike of their employees and the general public. If the present unrest has accomplished nothing else, it has given an impetus to the movement for State-owned railways run from the standpoint of the advantage and convenience of the entire

It is amusing to find some hard-driven opponents of It is amusing to find some hard-driven opponents of Wages Boards seizing upon the railway settlement as an argument against the establishment of a legal minimum wage in Sweated Industries. They are committing themselves to the somewhat reckless assertion that the Railway Conciliation Boards will be practically identical with the Wages Boards outlined in Mr. Henderson's Sweated Industries Bill. Such a statement is manifestly a mere Industries Bill. Such a statement is manifestly a mere figment of a hostile imagination. The Sweated Industries Bill explicitly recognises Trade Unions and Trades Councils, conferring upon them power to demand an inquiry into any trade represented by them. More than this, the workers under the Bill are allowed to nominate anyone to watch over their interests on the Board; and it is certain that in most cases Trade Union officials would be elected. It is the failure to concede this point that roles elected It is the failure to concede this point that robs the railway settlement of its value. Therefore any attempted analogy between the two systems breaks down

Messrs. J. and P. Coats Ltd. show a net profit on the year's working amounting to £3,056,125. This is good news. It will gladden the hearts of the Paisley milllassies, who in many cases are working for a wage hardly more than half what their Lancashire sisters receive for the same class of work. It will gladden the heart of the seampstress who knows that spools which used to contain 200 yards are apt to come to an untimely end at 100 yards because a Trust has now got the upper hand. In ten years this great monopoly has been able to make profits of $\pounds_{22,000,000}$. It controls the output of cotton thread in this country, and has greatly increased prices without increasing wages. But is it not a little inconsistent that these capitalists who have combined to obtain better profits should have shrieked in righteous indignation when their Paisley workers threatened to combine to secure better

Last year was one of great industrial activity and prosperity. There was a great boom in the Textile trades, Fresh capital flowed into the various industries, new mills and factories were hastily erected, exports and imports were enormously increased, large dividends were declared. Free Traders were able to smite the Protectionists hip and thigh with the story of our commercial progress. And last year 1,116 fatal accidents, and 110,788 non-fatal accidents, were reported under the Factory and Workshop Act! Hundreds of lives are needlessly sacrificed every year through bad conditions and unsafe machinery. Organised Labour is slowly teaching the manufacturers that the progress and prosperity of a nation are not to be measured by our exports of cheap shirtings or shoddy

SOME Special Features of Our Next Issue!

SHORT ARTICLE BY THE BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM:

A Message to the Women of England, entitled "Women and Organisation."

"BOURNVILLE: A Garden Factory"

With Photographic Illustrations. By WILLIAM C. ANDERSON.

"THE TWO NATIONS." Special Article by the Hon. Charles Lister.

"FROM MY TENEMENT WINDOW." Characteristic Sketch by Victor Grayson, M.P.

(Held over from the present Issue.)

"THE STORY OF AN IRISH STRIKE,"

By Mary Galway

(Secretary Textile Operatives' Society of Ireland).

Our Portrait Gallery.

No. 4.- MRS. PETE CURRAN.

PETE CURRAN, as the first of her virtues, is an Irishoman, and she has the racy speech, the optimism, and e light heart of her nation. Her soft voice and frank, mely face tell unmistakably of the sainted, snakeless nd where, despite great dearth, life flows as merrily as

> Save by an evil chance. And the merry love the fiddle,
> And the merry love to dance.

Mrs. Curran first saw the light in the dear little village of Skibbereen, in County Cork, which ex-County Cork, which explains a great deal; for though every Irishman is restive and rebellious by divine right, the restiveness of Cork is the envy of all the sister counties, and Skibbereen is the envy of Cork. At Skibbereen houses are not so pay rent for. And it was at the Skibbereen National School that one of the pupils (perhaps Mrs. Curran herself) returned a famous

An annual examination.

The inspector had asked for a definition of longitude, the was given. "And now, my dears," he said, "what titude?" "Troth, sir," retorted a little maid, "it's to we niver get in Ireland. The police won't allow d Mrs. Curran remained in Ireland she had doubtless

ed her name boldly among the renowned of the children ork. But Providence decreed otherwise, and at a very age she came from Ireland to London, where in g womanhood she started to work in a tailoring y. It was here that her racial bias "agin the Governing began to assert itself—not the same Government, wer, that excited the ire of her countrymen.

that East End factory the young Irish girl saw the of that East End factory the young Irish girl saw the low not of the Saxon oppression, but of a vaguer and er tyranny: the shadow not of Dublin Castle, but of other castle of which Swinburne sings:

"Where other spoilers sit

Trampling the children of men "; the great government of capital, which fetters not any e people, but fetters the weak and humble everywhere.

Mrs. Curran (Marion Barry she was then) found her mrades treated as industrial women so often are. They are underpaid, bullied, overworked. Needless to say, they are discontented; needless to add, they were unorganised few of them had heard of Trade Unionism, and with esse Miss Barry took earnest counsel. Heads were laid gether, and one day the plotters had reward, and the first last London Branch of the London Tailoresses Union me to birth

work was hardest and most unpleasant, the promise and comradeship of the Union kept our hearts light, and encouraged us to look beyond the trials of the moment to the brighter and happier days that we felt were ahead."

It was at one of the meetings of the Tailoresses' Union

that Miss Barry made her first speech. Miss Marion Tuck-well, the then Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, had given an address which touched the young tailoress deeply. Involuntarily, when the principal speaker had ended, she leapt to her feet and poured out to her colleagues a burning appeal for greater zeal and devotion in developing their Union and helping working women to a loftier state. The speech was an eventful one, for when a few weeks afterwards the Women's Trade Union League determined to appoint an Assistant-Secretary, Miss Tuck-well remembered the tailoresses' meeting, and gave the post to the maiden orator of that occasion. In a little while it was found possible to release the new official from the burden of secretarial work, and henceforward Miss Barry was able to devote her whole time to organising activity. She commenced at a propitious moment.

At this time the industrial world was still rubbing its

eyes over the dockers' strike. To the scandal of Political Economy, the unskilled dock labourers abruptly tired of a Economy, the unskilled dock labourers abruptly tired of a starvation wage. A great spontaneous movement for betterment broke out, and, led by Burns and Tillett, the dockers boldly claimed their "tanner" per hour. What is more, they got it. The iron law of wages did not for a little while recover the shock, and Mrs. Curran took advantage of its indisposition. Her efforts were helped by the impulse which the dockers' victory had communicated to all grades of westvers including two forces. to all grades of workers, including even factory girls.

There were calls for women speakers and organisers, and many little Unions sprung into sudden life. Jute-workers at Stratford, Silk-weavers at Halstead, Blouse-makers and at Stratford, Silk-weavers at Halstead, Blouse-makers and Tailoresses in London, were organised in succession. At Coventry Mrs. Curran had a specially interesting experience. Changes in the making of tyres had resulted in a big displacement of male labour and in the substitution of that of badly-paid girls. Finding some difficulty in ascertaining the facts of the employment of the girls, Mrs. Curran went as employee into the works herself. A discovery of abominably low payments and the formation of a Union brought her effort to a conclusion.

Subsequently, Mrs. Curran like a second St. Patrick

Subsequently, Mrs. Curran, like a second St. Patrick, revisited the land of her youth to preach economic deliverance to her countrywomen. In Ireland they have a peculiar conception of Trade Unionism, and Mrs. Curran has many tales to tell of her experiences. There was the Unionist who, when he had got a few of his comrades organised, immediately prepared to strike. "What are you going to strike for?" asked a friend. "Shure, we'll have plenty of time to think about what we are going to strike for when we come out," said the enthusiast. "It's only black-

when we come out," said the enthusiast. "It's only blacklegs who bother about reasons for striking."

Besides many laurels won in organising women, Mrs.
Curran gained distinction by evidence given before the
House of Commons' Committee of Inquiry into Government Contracts, and by representing the W.T.U.L. at
the International Socialist Congress held in London in
1896. She has also the glory of being the first woman to
go on picket duty in London, which she did during the
strike of tailors and tailoresses several years ago.
Since her marriage to Mr. Pete Curran, Mrs. Curran
has no longer as much time as formerly for organising
work. The fires of her devotion, however, have not burned
low, and still, on occasion, she renders valuable service to the
W.T.U.L. and the National Federation of Women Workers.
And she is not less optimistic than of old. The

tether, and one day the plotters had reward, and the first st London Branch of the London Tailoresses Union ne to birth.

'Henceforward,'' says Mrs. Curran, "a new feeling me into the workroom, and those of us who were lionists became strong and hopeful. Even when our when our when the long to the men, and both permeated by ideals of mutual help and brotherhood, we shall be at the door of the millennium.

The Simple Life -The True Atheism -Complaints and the Law.

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Trade Union Notes

MARY R. MACARTHUR. Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week,

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WIT WITH WISDOM.

Eating his cake.

It is sometimes asserted that the relations between Capital and Labour would be perfectly friendly and harmonious but for the agitations carried on by the Trade Unions. Of course, the employers would be glad to have it all their own way, to do as they like with their own, and to impose such terms as seem good in their sight. But if there were no Trade Unions in this country the position of the workers would be little better than that of the workers of India and China, who have no organisations, and whose daily fare is a handful or two of rice.

Said an employer to his workman: "John, don't thee listen to the Trade Unionists. They'll turn thy heid, lad. Thou can't have thy cake and eat it too."

And John said: "No; and I can't have it if thou eat it, nayther."

Trade Unions may slightly reduce the dividends of the rich, whose great wealth is often a burden to themselves; but for the workers Trade Unionism means more food, more clothes, better homes, better education, more holidays, and greater freedom.

Their eyes were opened.

A Protestant bishop and a Catholic priest lived next door to each other in the North of Ireland, and were on friendly terms. One day a bright-eyed Irish ragamuffin called at the priest's house and offered to sell him some kittens. "Buy a kitten, good father," said the young rascal. "They're nice kittens—true Catholic kittens." But the priest smiled, and wouldn't be tempted. Walking in his garden a fortnight later, the priest overheard the boy trying to drive a bargain with the Protestant bishop. "Just take one, your honour," he pleaded; "they're good kittens—real Protestant kittens." "What do you mean, you young vagabond," cried the priest. "Didn't you tell me a fort-night ago they were Catholics?" "Ah, yes," retorted the

When the eyes of the workers are opened to a sense of their rights and wrongs, the first thing they do is to join

Have you a character?

In many shops and workshops employers are very par ticular in insisting that the employees shall bring a "good character" with them. Yet these masters would be shocked and outraged if a character were demanded from them, certifying that they were just and fair in their dealings towards their workpeople. But if the arrangement is to cut one way it should also cut the other; for there are bad masters as well as bad workmen.

and outraged it a character were demanded from them, certifying that they were just and fair in their dealings towards their workpeople. But if the arrangement is to cut one way it should also cut the other; for there are bad masters as well as bad workmen.

Once a Scotch farmer was trying to hire a lad, and sent him to obtain a character from his late employer. When the boy returned, the farmer said: "Well, have you got your character with you?" And the boy answered: "No, but I've got yours, and I'm no' comin'."

When workers are well organised they are able to bargain

When workers are well organised they are able to bargain on terms of greater equality with the employers, and are not so apt to be driven by their weakness and isolation into

Is it Drink?

Some well-intentioned people tell us that drink is the main cause of poverty. When they hear of destitution or misfortune, they attribute it to the one source. Once a archbishop was travelling in a third-class carriage with workman. They had a long talk together, and the

"Don't think me rude, sir. I've enjoyed this little talk. I've been wondering who you are. You'll be—you'll be—you'll be a bishop, I reckon?"

The archbishop smiled a kindly, indulgent smile.

In my day I have been a bishop," he replied.

Ah! a parson, perhaps?" said the workman.

At one time I was also a clergyman."

Humph!-maybe a curate?

"Once I was a curate; too."

"Ah, drink, I suppose!" said the workman sadly.
But it was not drink that led to the archbishop's "downfall." Neither is drink the chief cause of poverty. Women are the soberest of workers. Yet they are sweated and half-fed. Low wages and high rents are the main causes of poverty.

Fines and deductions.

In many workshops and factories fines are capriciously imposed by the employer. Unless there is a Union to protect them, the workers are subjected to fines which are grossly unjust and unfair, and they hardly know for what they are being punished. In an Irish police-court a man, who was not present to defend himself, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence. Policemen and neighbours gave evidence, but it was soon made plain that the evidence gave evidence, but it was soon made plain that the evidence rested on hearsay, as nobody had personally seen the dog in question. So when the magistrate summed up he said—"If we had been quite sure the defendant kept a dog we should have fined him ten shillings and costs, but as there appears to be a great deal of doubt about it, we'll only fine him five shillings and costs."

On much the same principle some employers build up their system of deductions, which reduce wages and increase profits. Organisation is the remedy.

Tommy and the medicine.

Occasionally employers will make a great show of granting concessions. Unless the workers are careful and wellorganised, the employers are apt to take away more with one hand than they grant with the other. They afford a

in thirteen pennies, she takes them all out and spends them on another bottle of medicine for me."

Some of the "reforms" carried out by the employers

accepting any situation, however hard and grievous the terms of employment.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PAGE.

Edited by MEREDITH ATKINSON, Keble College, Oxford.

No. 1-THE PEARLS OF KNOWLEGE.

talking to her friends about every subject of interest. Everything around her will be stamped with a big "Why?", and she will find herself picking up the pearls of knowledge and sterest. If you set a savage before a motor-car, he will see only a jumble of metal, or think it a devil, while a new pockething of the wonderful way her mind works when it takes the simplest piece of knowledge.

It alking to her friends about every subject of interest. Everything around her will be stamped with a big "Why?", and she will find herself picking up the pearls of knowledge and steriling them together in quite a wonderful way.

If you set a savage before a motor-car, he will see only a jumble of metal, or think it a devil, while a new pockething will make him wild with excitement. His observation is not trained to take in the small points which make the motor-car wonderful. Similarly, a worm may seem to you only a slimy, crawling thing, but it becames an object of interest interest when you know it has several stomachs, and, instead of having eyes, it feels the light on every part of its skin. You may look at the moon a thousand times without thinking of it, but give you a telescope, and show BEFORE we begin the real series of educational articles, it ay be best that the one who is to conduct them should splain what they are going to be, and why our readers ust follow them with the greatest diligence and interest, there are some amongst our women workers who fail see what use knowledge is to them, beyond what will in them their daily bread and shelter, I hope they will on see how wrong this notion is, and how much better d happier they can be with the right kind of knowledge.

education.
Eddication!" said he, in great scorn. "Where would a been with a gentleman's eddication?" Now, although old man would have been no worse for a little of what despised so much, he had got hold of part of a great th—that education must first of all teach us to get our ng. Not long ago there were being shown in London ne Bushmen from the forests of Central Africa—tiny fellows, scarcely human, understanding little more how to keep the life in their bodies, chiefly by eating another, with wild bananas for dessert. Yet they are he Red Indian gentleman, though we call him a savage, and to learn a good deal about the woods, hunting, and the eather to prevent himself starving or dying of cold. oreover, by his belief in devils and spirits, he tried to eplain all he saw around him; and so he taught his son,

the had also to undergo great tortures to test his courage.

Thus, the word "education" applies to any training of the mind or body to do certain things, whether useful or therwise. Mr. Red Indian's skill in shooting animals is seful knowledge. The neat way in which he can string ne scalps of his enemy to his belt is more or less ornamental nowledge, similar to the skill of women in working pretty in-cushions. At any moment, of course, this ornamental nowledge may become useful; and, indeed, it is difficult to knowledge may become useful; and, indeed, it is difficult to say what knowledge is not useful. Some people would be such as that all knowledge that cannot be reckoned in the cash is better left alone. This is all very well for a machine or an elephant, but a human being seeks happiness machine of an elephant, but a numan being seeks happiness besides. Apart from the grand fact that education can make us useful citizens, and help us to do our duty by our family and friends, it must play a large part in filling our life with interest and giving our mind pleasant food. If someone told you to eat only bread, but never cake, and omeone told you to eat only bread, but never case, and rink water, but never tea, you would take no notice. o long as we take nothing to injure our health, a pleasant hange is the best possible thing for the stomach and for s. The brain is the stomach of the mind. Feed it with only one kind of knowledge, say the bread-and-butter kind, and it becomes a dull machine. Give it knowledge which braces it and rests it, making for it a new interest in life, and it acts like a sea-breeze to an over-worked mill girl, In fact, if more women workers could enjoy this mental change of air, so to speak, there would be fewer human machines, and more women fighting for a just wage. We want these articles to give you that bright change which comes from an interest in the things around you. We romain interest in the things around you. We promise that each month the reader will go out to her work and to her pleasure with her eyes a little wider open to the wonders at her feet and over her head, with a greater interest in what she sees and hears. We want to set her

of its skin. You may look at the moon a thousand times without thinking of it, but give you a telescope, and show you how to examine the great mountains and valleys on its surface, and the moon will never be quite the same to you again. Think of the people you know who fly pigeons, take photographs, or grow flowers. We may think them silly, but their leisure is full of interest. Knowledge has filled in the gaps, and given them something to live for beyond their bread and butter. There is no woman too humble to gain more pleasure from a knowledge of the things outside her mere daily toil.

Now let us see how your mind works when it receives a piece of knowledge. A new-born baby is some time before

Now let us see how your mind works when it receives a piece of knowledge. A new-born baby is some time before she begins to "take notice," as mothers say. For some time she is attracted only by bright lights, noises, and the like. However beautiful your face may be, to her it is only a jumble, making queer noises. Soon, however, she begins to smile at her mother (and perhaps her father, too) and to cry for her; and she prefers whiskers to any other tor. What has happened in haby's mind? The bright light toy. What has happened in baby's mind? The bright light enters her eye and runs along the nerve to the brain; or the dog's bark strikes the drum of her ear, and goes to the same place. When that has happened several times, baby begins to know the light and noise again, and memory steps in. So from one thing to another, until, as her strength grows, she tries to find out things for herself. That is why she tries to pull the cat's tail off, and the next time she sees the cat's tail she looks at the scratches on her hand. This is worth noticing. You will find it impossible to think of one thing without thinking of many others. If I say the word "green" to you, you may at once think of trees, or paint, or Ireland, or of one after another of those things; another person will think of a certain greenhorn of his acquaintance. In the same way, when you take in new knowledge, your mind does its best to fasten it to something already in your mind, to remember it easily. For instance, if you are told that pearls are taken from the shells of if you are told that pearls are taken from the shells of oysters, knowing what an oyster is you tack on to it the idea of a pearl, and so you remember the fact. You know what a train of thought is—how you often find yourself thinking of something, and you are able to trace right back to the thing which set you thinking. Knowledge, then, is like a lot of pearls for which the mind must provide the string. In these articles we shall supply a good many pearls, and we hope that you will find them string on quite naturally to those you already nossess. Some readers may naturally to those you already possess. Some readers may call them pebbles, but if they are patient, sooner or later they will be offered even diamonds.

The editor of this page will be pleased at any time to receive any suggestions to make the page more useful. The writers will be University men (and, I hope, women) who have devoted considerable time to a study of the subjects on which they write.

ENNY.

Leeds, Not who conduct lines.

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* N.B.—The facts contained in this article are vouched for. Names are of course, fictitious.—ED.

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The Simple Life -Walt Whitman. The True Atheism -- Russell Lowell. Complaints and the Law.

Talks with the Doctor

Trade Union Notes MARY R. MACARTHUR.

Women's Labour Leasue Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD.

Women's News of the Week,

trimmed."

Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour belongs to a more prosperous competitor,

There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women behind.

"Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Perret, suavely.

He waits a moment, but the girl's a moment, but the girl's suavely.

craft, and even of war, are not to be regarded as abnormalities, but as types of what woman may easily become after a few generations of opportunity.

We are not, then, to think of woman at work as an evil.

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We are not, then, to think of woman at work under improper by a are only to think of women at work under improper by a are only to think of woman at work under improper by each woman bearing but two children. Thus the average woman in that day will have a long span of life to be spent in other occupations than that of maternity and children.

material and artistic pursuits. We have to remember twe are subduing disease, and that the time is not removed when the normal life of man will extend to

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DAUGHTERS OF THE GODS: Ought Women to Work?

By L. G. CHIOZZA MONEY, M.P.

Is it for good or for evil that woman is increasingly cometing with man in the world of work? Plato wrote: "In the administration of the State, neither

a man as a man, or a woman as a woman, has any especial function, but the gifts of Nature are equally diffused in both sexes; all the pursuits of man are the pursuits of woman

That is a clear answer to my question, and modern science is beginning to endorse the verdict of Plato, even while woman herself is showing, in a thousand different branches of occupation, the rapidity with which she can emancipate herself from economic dependence upon man

As one who has always seen more of good than of evil in the increase in the numbers of independent working women, I welcome the growth of any important literature on this subject. I have before me Dr. Emmet Densmore's "Sex Equality," published by Messrs. Swan, Sonnenschein and Co. It is a work which accepts the dictum of Plato, and offers a cloud of witnesses as to its truth. Dr. Densmore gives as a frontispiece to his book a picture which strikes its keynote. It is a photograph of the beautiful Greek statue of Orestes and Electra, now preserved at the National Museum of Naples. It shows Orestes, the man, and Electra, the woman, alike tall and well developed, alike exhibiting the grace which springs from health and strength. Electra is not the narrow-shouldered, short-legged creature held up to scorn by Schopenhauer. She is as well fitted as her mate to play her part in the world—

'A daughter of the gods, divinely tall, And most divinely fair."

Has the reader noticed that the new generation of women is taller than the last, and that the young girls of the present time bid fair to top their mothers? Electra is no impossible ideal. The fainting, hysterical woman of Dickens' novels, who wept copiously on every possible and impossible occasion, has already disappeared. We have discovered that womanhood and weakness are not synonymous. It is a happy discovery, both for the man and for

The inferior strength of civilised woman is merely a result of centuries of training in unfitness. Organic constitution does not account for the great muscular difference between civilised men and women. The difference has arisen through long generations of environment and occupation. Savage women do not exhibit such a great disparity, nor is it exhibited by the females of the higher animals. The tigress can take care of herself, in spite of her function of maternity. And woman will from this time forward increasingly learn to take care of herself. The time will surely come when a woman will be as ashamed to exhibit cowardice as a man. The great strides she has made in the last generation, the improved physique of well-fed and well-trained British women, shows with what rapidity she is likely to advance in the next generation

This question of relative strength is of extreme importance to both men and women in the economic field. We find women content nearly everywhere to accept a lower wage than men for the same work. It is a content which springs from the inferior strength, which is the inherited effect of centuries of dependence and restriction. "The past," as Dr. Lester Ward, President of the American Sociological Society, has said, "has always been characterised by inequality of sex. The future will be characterised by greater and greater equality. The inequalities that have been inherited from the past prevail to a large extent in the present, and most persons assume that they are natural

We have assumed as a matter of course that woman should occupy an inferior position and earn a lower wage. That assumption has been an evil not for women alone. Woman in industry under present conditions becomes a leveller-down of wages—an instrument to lower the standard of remuneration. We are entitled to hope that, with of remuneration. We are entitled to hope that, with increased opportunity, civilised woman will regain those traits of courage and self-reliance which are the common heritage of man and woman, and that every step towards sex equality will be a gain to both sexes.

How is this desirable equality to be attained? "In order," said Darwin, "that woman should reach the same strendard as man she ought when pearly adult to be

standard as man, she ought, when nearly adult, to be trained to energy and perseverance, and to have her reason and imagination exercised to the highest point; and then she would probably transmit these qualities to her adult daughters." Let woman dress sensibly, and pursue healthily a variety of occupations calling for the exercise of her latent powers, and from mother to daughter will pass on an increasingly noble womanhood, not less sweet because it issues from strength. "The woman of the future will be the fit and equal partner of the future man.

"For further progress," says Dr. Densmore, "it i necessary that women enter more generally the rank of industrial workers. Through this increased association the refining and elevating influences which each sex, under favourable conditions, exert upon the other will be augmented." Woman, we are promised, will gain in powers of generalisation, initiative, invention, and logical deduction, while man will increase in powers of intuition, spirituality, refinement, patience, and unselfishness. "Then will men and women truly companion each other, and their mutually uplifting influence will be at its culmination."

The strength woman needs to engage increasingly in men's occupations she will gain from use of her muscles. Since free exercise gave men their stature, and since restriction is the cause of woman's inferiority in size, strength, and health, it follows that so long as the present trend towards healthful exercise on the part of women continues, the present disparity between the sexes will diminish; and it is difficult to escape the conclusion that when woman has had an environment as favourable as that of man for a sufficient number of generations, she will become his equal in physical development. Examples are already to be found in the world. A recent writer gives a striking picture of the woman of Galicia as evidence that physical disability is not necessarily the portion of the female. The muscular development of the Galician woman is splendid. She can carry great weights with consummate ease, and thinks nothing of bearing on her head, from the fountain to a third floor, as many as seventy large buckets of water on a summer's day. Moreover, she has a welldeveloped brain, and is fully equal to her men-folk in energy

In fine, we are allowed to hope that the wonderful women who have enriched the pages of history as masters of state-

NOTES FROM THE WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE.

one hundred or one hundred and twenty-five years. a permanent factor in civilisation

members of the League then decided to floud it the wing year at the same time and place as that of the bur Party itself, with which we work in conjunction. Here is an active branch of the League at Hull, which extended a cordial invitation for us to go there. This ch is also busy with the Parliamentary bye-election, of the Railway Servants Union, carry the Labour banner in West Hull. The result probably be known by the time these notes are shed; but whether we win or lose, we shall have put ill the work and enthusiasm possible to increase the

rhe members of the League, including many members the Railway Women's Guilds and the Women's Corrative Guild, are folding circulars, writing addresses, wassing, speaking, and doing all the usual work of ctions which may be described as drudgery, enlivened by

he branches of the League usually hold meetings for The branches of the League usually hold meetings for educating their members on political subjects and training them to speak and express their thoughts clearly. The Central London Branch is holding such a meeting on Wednesday evening, December 18th, at 8 p.m., at 3, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. Mrs. Despard will open the discussion on "The Labour Party's Unemployed Bill," and we hope to get an opponent (from outside) to help us sharpen our wits to defend our position. Visitors are allowed, so anyone interested who is not a member of the branch will be welcomed. As Unemployment is one of the two questions (the other is Old Age Pensions) to which he Labour Party is devoting special attention just now, to important to know fully what its proposals are for improving our very unsatisfactory Distress Committees and them more money and greater powers.

tiving them more money and greater powers.

The Women's Labour League was well represented at the National Conference on the Unemployment of Women and Girls, which was arranged by the Women's Industrial Council, held at the Guildhall on October 15th. Miss Margaret Smith, of Birmingham, a member of the League Executive, had made a special study of conditions and ossible remedies for unemployment among women in her ty; whilst Mrs. Macrosty, of London, summarised the

first annual Conference of the Women's Labour the will be held at Hull, in the Assembly Rooms (in the Labour Party is also meeting) on Saturday noon, January 18th, at 2.5 p.m.; and Monday, ary 20th, at 10 a.m., with a reception to delegates on the bear of the same place.

The branches are now preparing their resolutions to be in by December 6th for the agenda. Although this only be about one and a half years old at the time. Its inaugural Conference was held at Leicester in 1, 1906, its next last Whitsuntide, in London; and members of the League were present and took part in the discussion. Miss Willson, secretary of the Boot and Shoe Union, Leicester, gave the Trade Union side well.

No resolutions were passed; the subject was too big, and the method of dealing with it too undeveloped, for that to be possible in a non-party Conference. But the evils and the prevalence of unemployment and slackness in season trades. Other members of the League were present and took part in the discussion. Miss Willson, secretary of the Boot and Shoe Union, Leicester, gave the Trade Union side well.

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employment and wages from the State.

A League member points out to me that I did not mention the subscription to the League last month, and adds: "It is probably much smaller than readers of your article will imagine, considering the benefits to be derived from joining the Women's Labour League." Certainly we put it as low as we well can—2d. a year per member we put it as low as we well can—2d. a year per memoer has to be paid to the National League; and most branches fix their local subscriptions at id. per month, and pay the annual 2d. out of this. We know that many of the women whose work as members is valuable have not long purses, still, postage and meetings do cost something, and we have formen to supplement our subscriptions as best we can by sales ustrial of work, social gatherings, etc. If anyone is out of reach Miss of a local branch she can join the National branch by paying is. a year direct to the National Secretary, Mrs. Middleton, 8, Jedburgh Street, Clapham, London, S.W.

MARGARET E. MACDONALD

The Simple Life -- Walt Whitman. The True Atheism -- Russell Lowell.

Complaints and the Law.

Talks with the Doctor

MARY R. MACARTHUR. Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week,

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—I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed."

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ries the girl arment in her astonishing Five tucks and eeves. There's with feather-

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SHE'LL be fine company for you," said one of the callers. ness, replaced a photograph frame in an awry position or "Now that she's finished her studies, or her education, or whatever the nonsense is called, she'll be able to repay you for all you've laid out on her."

for all you've laid out on her."

"It's the least that can be expected," agreed another.
"You won't have to do hardly any work with her at home."
"Of course, if you'd had a lot of them, you couldn't possibly have done what you did for her. A rare bit of luck for a girl to find herself the only one of a family. She don't have to share with eleven others, like I did when I was young. We all left school when we were fourteen, and I don't suppose one of us has taken a book in our hand since. Whereas your daughter, Mrs. Wright, she's had advantages, and one can only hope—""

since. Whereas your daughter, Mrs. Wright, she's had advantages, and one can only hope——"

"I don't wish to hurry you," interposed the hostess, "but I'm expecting her now every minute; and, if you don't mind me saying so, I think you'd better clear out, soon as ever you can. Begin to start now."

They appeared in no way hurt by the pointedness of the hint, but rose at once, and said they were pleased to have hed the appearation of leaking result and inspecting the

with anything, it could only mean that she had become uncommonly hard to please. The ladies, before going, added reassuringly that there was no need to fear this, for, so far as they were able to judge—and they flattered themselves they knew as well as most people what was what—Elsie would be greatly delighted to find herself, after the absence of nearly twelve months, at home again, surrounded v comforts that none but a mother knew how to furnish. The visitors made their way through the passage by easy stages, and even when they arrived at the front door they

continued to throw encouraging remarks over the shoulder. "You've got everything just so, Mrs. Wright. Must

"A spicker or a spanner place I never wish to see."

"New linoleum, I notice. You're like me; you believe in doing things well, or not doing them at all."

"I'll take me oath there isn't a better-looking knocker in the whole street, from one end to the other. That's elbow grease, Mrs. Wright. Nothing else would make it ships like that."

'Give her my love, will you, and tell her from me that

"My best regards to her, and say she's got good cause to be thankful!"

They returned to ask whether they had correctly understood that the girl's father had gone to meet her at St. Pancras. The lady of the house had by this time secured Pancras. The lady of the house had by this time secured control of the door, and she answered rather impatiently—"Yes, yes; I kept saying so over and over again. Shut the front gate after you; good-evening!" giving a sigh of relief as they went. Hastening to the front room and peeping through the newly-starched muslin curtains, she noted, with gratification, that they were in close and deep discussion. Meeting a friend at the top of the street, they stopped to give vivacious information.

She opened the pianoforte, and, pulling down the music-rest, placed there "Hymns Ancient and Modern," clipping the page which contained her daughter's favourite. She smiled self-congratulatingly at this late touch of thoughtfulness. One of the visitors had, with unpardonable clumsi-

the mantelpiece; the disaster was recognised in time. A movement of soot in the chimney caused her to lose nerve for a few seconds; the noise did not continue, and with a "Bother the Tube!" she went on with the task of giving a final look round. Inspection over, she half-closed her eyes and checked a mental inventory of the other rooms, stopping suddenly with a shriek of dismay. A sharp rap on the window called the attention of a neighbour's child, who flew obediently with threepence halfpenny and a pre-cisely worded commission, returning breathless two minutes cisely worded commission, returning breathless two minutes later with a small packet of special soap that at once invested the house with a pungent odour which was in itself worth the money. The child received a rock-cake with instructions not to begin eating until he was well clear of the gate. Two of the hand-bills which do their best to make London an untidy town had flown into the front garden; these were picked up carefully and bunched and thrown well out into the middle of the roadway with a sharply-worded caution. A postman turned the corner and began a zig-zag course a-down the road giving sharp and began a zig-zag course a-down the road, giving sharp double-knocks at a few of the houses. She went indoors for fear that neighbours, aware of the important circumstances of the day, should feel she was giving signs of

"Tweet, tweet!" she said to the canary.

The canary opened its beak, but thought better of it.
"Soon be here now, dear," she went on. "Our little
Elsie will soon be home. Yes, dear, I know what you're going to say: you'll be as glad to see her as what I am. And we're not going to mind if she is a trifle high and mighty, are we, Dicky-bird? It's only natural she should look down on us just at first. We shall have to be careful about our aitches, and our knives, and our grammar; but about our atches, and our knives, and our grammar; but them are the only difficulties; there'll be no other troubles. Once we get over—" The postman's double-knock came at the front door. "Hullo, Dicky-bird," she said, in rallying tones, "who are you expecting a letter from?"

The canary took a turn on the wires, and, to show its apabilities as a blade, whistled a few bars in a dashing,

"If father was here," she said, returning with the letter, he could tell who this was from without putting on his glasses. It's a pity to put a match to the gas before they come. Suppose we open it, Dicky-bird, and settle it that

This course was not adopted until scissors were found, because to wrench open an envelope with the finger partakes of brutality. The scissors did their best for some minutes to elude her, being eventually run to earth at the very spot as she mentioned to the canary—the very spot where she last placed them. The operation over, the light proved not sufficiently good to enable her to read, and early intentions in regard to the time for lighting up had to be altered; this necessitated standing upon a chair, with a pre-liminary warning to herself to be careful. The task over, she mentioned to the bird that her joints were becoming no younger as the years went on, and that she was indeed a lucky woman to have a big, strong daughter coming home to help in domestic work—to stay on and help for many,

many years.
"Now let us see what this is all about," holding the

there at a precise distance from her eyes. "'My own riing girl!"' she read, and turned to the canary in a zed way for explanation. The bird refreshed itself at a lump of sugar fixed between the bars. "My own rling girl!" She turned hastily to the end of the closely-itten four-paged letter. "You're loving sweetheart, erbert!" The envelope was snatched up and inspected. "Opened by mistake, my dear," faltered the mother, when kisses finished. "Hope you don't mind. I didn't want to lose you, but—but—— I suppose everything's mapped out for us. Let's see about the kettle, shall we?" The Parable of the Jaunting Car.

By MARY R. MACARTHUR. overcome. A woman, they argue, cannot be made to overcome as words of the variation of the

her fellows to protect al interests. Women blamed for lacking a nt, so that they sel-glance ahead or provision for future is. Those who have need themselves that en cannot be organ-clinch their other

ents with the re--" What's the good asking women to join Trade Union? Their ads are filled with oughts of a different

Men who talk like this evidently imagine that the sentiments, emotions, and energies of all women find full vent noving, adoring admiration for their lords and masters. sometimes good-humouredly retort by quoting Mrs. over—"I'm not denyin' the women are fools," she said; God Almighty made 'em to match the men."

But, to be serious, I believe, girls, that you can recogise the advantages of unity quite as much as men canwoman, as a woman, is not blind to the benefits of nited action and collective bargaining, though she may

woman, as a woman, is not blind to the benefits of mited action and collective bargaining, though she may casionally be foolish enough to allow circumstances of personal nature to prevent her from taking up her duties not obligations as a worker. Often a girl will agree that not obligations are good and necessary—that all workers, except erself, ought to be inside. Questioned as to the reason or the exception, she wistfully eyes the third finger of er left hand and says—"Oh, I needn't join; I expect to leaving the trade soon."

I intend to show that the prospect of leaving the trade some future date is no argument against becoming a "Not at all," I replied, genially; "I merely want to tell you a little story."

"Once an English tourist was being driven in an Irish jaunting car, when the horse took fright and bolted. In vain the Irish driver pulled the reins and coaxed and commanded. The horse made straight for the top of a steep hill, on which a nasty accident could hardly be averted. Frantically grasping the side of the car, the terrified tourist cried—"Pat, I'd give five pounds to get out of this." "Save your money, sorr," said Pat; "you'll get out for nothing in a minute.""

"It was a chean outing" commented the shool occident."

some future date is no argument against becoming a ember of a Trade Union. But first I would point out at men as well as women are swayed in their attitude wards Trade Unions by personal considerations.

To prove this, let me relate a little experience I once ad when doing some organising work among shop sistants in a Lancashire town.

I was having a long argument with a young assistant a grocery store. He was a lanky, sickly-looking fellow, with a tired expression in his eyes as if he needed rest and



"I've got a rich uncle!

excuse I instinctively said
—"Oh, I suppose you're
going to be married?"
The young man looked

at me severely.
"No, madam, certainly

"Why do you expect to leave the trade, then?" I

uncle, and he is very ill."
"I am sorry to hear of your relative's indisposiwhat on earth has that got to do with your not joining the Union?"

"It was a cheap outing," commented the shop assistant.

"But I don't understand the moral."

"I hope you never may," I said cryptically, and left.

Six months later I caught sight of the same young man, mournfully surveying the traffic in a London street. He was looking down on his luck and thoroughly miserable.

"Good morning," I said to him, "how is your rich work?"

"Oh, he's better; but I've got the sack, and am up here looking for work," he explained, remembering our former meeting.

The True Atheism -

Talks with the Doctor

Dr. X.Y.Z. Trade Union Notes

Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week.

girls as Mr. Perret. He is the concocter of the specious advertisement and —I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should Day a personal visit to inspect the PORTIA.

MARY R. MACARTHUR. this brilliant scheme; that honour be ret, suavely. longs to a more prosperous competitor,

The Simple Life - - Walt Whitman. Complaints and the Law.

pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed."

Mr. Perret is not the originator of this hellight school that. It takes me tour hours and to do one, and then there's thread to pay for."

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"Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Per-

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ENNY.

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's busy time intents of their

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"Get even with her-why, I married her," was the reply, "and now she keeps me and herself as well." If the just rights of both men and women are to be safe-guarded the Union must be made strong. Suppose your own future be assured, have you no helping hand for your fellow-workers, to whom the present is full of care and

poverty, and the future dark and unknown?

So long as you remain at your trade it is your privilege and duty to strengthen the Trade Union movement, and thus help to improve the labouring conditions of all.

refrain from joining a Union because of the vague hope of escape from the trade at some distant date? Girls should not think too much or too early about marriage. If marriage prospects lead you to neglect your work or to shirk your responsibilities towards the other workers, you In the breast of every true woman beats the mother heart. No woman can calmly bear to think that the children of the present and the future will grow up amid squalid surroundings of darkness and shame—will suffer Even if you do marry, it is not certain that you will no longer be a wage-earner. The low wages, unemployment, and sickness of husbands compel thousands of wives to be daily breadwinners. Over one million married women are the hardships and privations which she herself may have endured. Every woman wants to feel that her children at present employed for wages in Great Britain. Every young single woman who, through lack of organisation, accepts low wages, competes unfairly with men in the labour market, and possibly helps to lower the wages of her future husband, thereby lessening her own chance of will have opportunities for happiness, culture, and self-development. Let each girl for her own sake, for the sake of her workmates, and, above all, for the sake of the little children, take her place in the organised labour movement, and thus help to usher in the dawn of a brighter day. Her marriage will not then be embraced as an escape from industrial drudgery. When it comes, it will be based on respect and love, and women will go forward to their new duties better fitted, physically and mentally, to be the mothers of the coming race.

You know the story of the Yorkshireman:

a comfortable home.

"Did you ever get even with that lass who took your job at half your wage?" asked a friend whom he had not seen for some time.

Then you understand now the moral of my story about

"Yes; I got out for nothing at a minute's notice. I wish I had joined the Union; I should have been getting unemployed benefit now, and been helped in looking for a

might find vourself out of the trade sooner than you expect.

Correspondence Circle and Postcard Exchange.

At the request of several readers we are prepared to open a Correspondence Circle and a Bureau for the exchange of Picture Postcards between our readers. All communications should, in the first instance, be accompanied by the coupon below, and addressed:

Circle Editor,

Woman Worker,

Club Union Buildings,

Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

Those who wish to correspond should enclose their name and address, with a nom-de-plume for publication, and state kind of correspondent required, and subject, if any, upon which correspondence is desired.

For instance, "Interested"—Woman (24), living in London, employed as shop assistant, wishes to correspond with someone interested in Trade Unionism, and to exchange experiences. Lancashire Textile Worker preferred.

COUPON WOMAN WORKER. DECEMBER, 1907.

Those who wish to exchange picture postcards should cut out coupon and send name and address, stating what kind

out coupon and senu
of postcards required.
Miss H. Flowers,
130, Rotherfield Street,
Essex Road, Isling Essex Road, Islington,

wishes to exchange picture postcards with someone in the Lake District. Would send Actresses.

Miss N. Claten,
53. Albemarle Road,
Taunton Someonet

Taunton, Somerset, would like to exchange picture postcards with someone interested in collecting rustic views, no particular district.

Original Poem by Walter Crane

Specially written for "THE WOMAN WORKER"

On Atlas' top how nots this round of pride or glitter gold anyound thow borne aloft with tril to tears With aching arm that still up brass.
The strain of stress of Labour bound? With dust of summer highway growns. or lot in winty shows, or found In Chairs that forces custom wars On Atlas tops. For you, Earth's children, earth disound, with hands of might but heads uncorrect For you through smake of toiling years

Deliverne brules in the new-found

on Attestop.

Walter (mul

[SYNOPSIS OF CHAPTER I.—The Committee of the "Morison Concert"—an annual institution held in a large hall lent by the directors of the great wholesale house in Ilchester—find at the last moment that one of the artistes upon whom much depended, has fallen a victim to influenza, and cannot attend. Anxious for the success of the concert, which holds a high place among the entertainments of the town, the committee eagerly discuss the possibility of finding a substitute. Harry Barclay suggests that they might ask George Hillyard, the Labour leader, who is in town on a visit to his mother. The suggestion is agreed to, though several members of the committee are doubtful whether Hillyard can maintain the high level of talent displayed at the Morison concert. Hester Fay, a very pretty shop assistant, employed at a millinery establishment is particularly dubious as to the result of the experiment. Hillyard, however, consents to come, and, on the eventful night, delivered recitations which held the audience spell-bound by their eloquence and power. Hester Fay finds herself strangely moved and swayed by the passionate lines and the eloquent voice. At the end of the concert she consents, on the invitation of her friend, Rose Meakin, to attend a meeting in the Town Hall next night, at which Hillyard is to speak on Trade Unionism and Labour questions.]

Our ..

New..

Serial.

CHAPTER II.

THEY came pouring into the wet, grimy, gas-lit street, some fifteen hundred men and women; and although they English born and bred, they forgot to grumble at weather. Umbrellas were opened indeed, and skirts ly gathered up, but the talk under the umbrellas was of the streaming pavements or the chance of catching ram up town. The spell of a great speaker was still that motley crowd of clerks and factory-workers and col-teachers and shop-assistants, with whom mingled, e and there, a doctor or two, a few parsons, and a inkling of well-dressed women of the "leisured" classes. e flame of enthusiasm which had been running high ide the Corn Exchange refused to be quenched by a re deluge of commonplace rain outside. There had been bobies when the meeting broke up; feeling had been, for moment or so, too tense to express itself in words; but bow, though some of the women were still engaged in nking away furtive tears, and more than one man had t wholly rid himself of an extraordinary choking sensaion in the throat which had affected him inexplicably at intervals during the past half-hour, the general use of longues had been recovered, and the said tongues were wagging furiously. All along High Street and across central Square there was an irregular chorus of excited

Ah, George is a great man! We shall see him in liament before he's much older."

I thought he was a bit hard on the workers.

Didn't he give it to the Churches?"

And to the selfish workers, too—don't you forget that!"

"He always is—if you call it hard. George is like me; I never could abide a selfish Trade Unionist. There are some about, though,"
"You bet there are—men who never look outside their

"PARTNERS"

CONSTANCE HINTON-SMITH.

own trade. Well, Hillyard must have made some of them

sit up to-night."
"I didn't know he was such a champion of women." "Poor souls! It seems they want a champion bad enough. Ever hear anything like those wage-figures he gave us?"

gave us?

"Women don't work for such wages in Ilchester. I saw some of the girls from Morison's nudging one another and laughing when George talked of four and threepence a week. They thought he was laying it on a bit thick, I

suspect."

"And what did you think of it all, Miss Fay?" Charles Maydew inquired of Hester.

Hester started at the question. She was of those whom even transition from the brilliantly-lighted hall, with its rows of eager upturned faces, to the dark and damp unloveliness of an Ilchester December night, had failed to bring down from the heights of an unwonted emotion. In her case the emotion was absolutely new, and therefore, perhaps, the more absorbing. She hesitated so long in replying, while she collected her scattered thoughts, that Rose Meakin, on her left, struck in with—

"What could she think—except that it was magnificent?"

"Magnificent! Yes, I daresay. But it wasn't altogether

"Magnificent! Yes, I daresay. But it wasn't altogether

Magnificent! Yes, I daresay. practical politics."

Maydew's cold fit was setting in. Full of the misgivings natural to an Englishman who has allowed himself to be betrayed into enthusiasm, he took

refuge in criticism.
"What do you mean?" said Rose.

"Well, we had him down to talk about our interests, not to discuss the wrongs of the sweated in London and Leeds."

"He thinks their interests ours."

Hester spoke for the

Hester spoke for the "Sheremembered it afterwards in the

"And you agree with him?" quiet of her own room."

"I? I don't know; I know nothing about the—the practical politics side of it. All I know is—"

She paused.

Walt Whitman. The Simple Life -The True Atheism -- Russell Lowell. Complaints and the Law,

Talks with the Doctor

Trade Union Notes

Dr. X.Y.Z. MARY R. MACARTHUR.

Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week,

trimmed."

Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour belongs to a more prosperous competitor,

There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women behind.

"Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Perret, sue waits a moment, but the girl's property was already want and be a selected with the same already want and be a selected with the same already want and be a selected with the same already want and be a selected with the same already want and be a selected with the same already want and the same already want

's busy time. wait in a row intents of their

ese 'ere gowns istomers, Mrs. to one of Why, it ain't artic'ler about

I don't maike ar for that lot, the woman

> lo with strite Perret with this time, Mrs. are there ?-a

nonev dazedly ie had counted at the door. lans, of her down with

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shilling.

s a shilling. over. The runts as much,

s lot-five and ire payin' too ires," he says. ire at two an

ries the girl arment in her three tucks Five tucks and eeves. There's en tucks and inderneath as

'This kind of Trade Unionism-the kind, I mean, that stands for the weak against the strong, and acts on behalf of the people who can't help themselves—surely it's the

The only right sort," a walker who had come up behind

"The only right sort," a walker who had come up behind the three young people struck in. "But what's this?" he went on.—"Hester Fay among the prophets? I thought she despised us, and all our works."

"I brought her, Mr. Gregory," Rose said, proudly.

Mr. Gregory laughed—a pleasant laugh. The sudden flare of a gas-lamp upon the faces of the little group to which he had joined himself showed him an elderly man, with thick being and mentages a leading store a hordern with thick hair and moustache already grey, a handsome face deeply lined with thought, and brown eyes of singular brightness that might have belonged to a boy—only no boy's eyes could have been at once so penetrating and so

'Oh, we all know you are a missionary of the cause, Rosy! I congratulate you on your-we can't call her a convert yet, I suppose-shall we

"If to be an inquirer is to feel interest," Hester said, with a smile, "I won't deny that Mr. Hillyard has interested me very much."

"Come to supper at my house and talk it out with him. He's coming on here straight with Bar-clay. Bring her, Maydew. You, too, of course, Rosy." And Mr. Gregory shot away into the dark-ness, at the rate of five miles an hour, without vaiting for an answer to his invitation.

There was a moment's silence, and then Maydew

said, in a slightly embar-rassed voice—"Will you go, Miss Fay?" Mr. Gregory's order, implying that he, Maydew, had some right to direct Hester's movements, was unhappily put from his point of view. The very fact that he ardently desired to acquire this right made him the more sensitive to the danger in which any premature attempt to assert it was likely to involve him. For Hester, though kind and to all other young men; and she was a proud maiden, who would certainly expect a good deal of wooing before she insented to be wor

So he felt relieved when she answered, without any symptom of displeasure—"I don't know; it's very kind of Mr. Gregory. Do you think he really expects us?"

Rose had no doubts on the subject; and Rose, as the

household, ought to know. Hester made no further diffi-culty, and again Maydew was surprised.

Afterwards, when he saw her change colour on being introduced to Hillyard—though she never lost her pretty composure of manner—and caught the expression of timid pleasure with which she responded to his first remarks when they had sat down to table, he called himself a fool for his surprise. He had never seen that look on her face before. Plainly she was taken with the fellow. Why, she listened to him almost reverentially!

Something of reverence in Hester's mental attitude towards her neighbour there undoubtedly was; it was this that Charlie Maydew saw reflected in her eyes and manner. ike most girls, she was a bit of a hero-worshipper; and, as she was a great reader, with a fine natural taste in the choice of books, her idea of a hero refused to attach itself to any of the football match-frequenting, comic song-singing young men who appeared to satisfy the other shop-assistants at Johnson and Farmer's as lovers or admirers. But in this big, quiet man of the wonderful voice, who had won redress so often for the grievances of his fellows, whom she had just heard pleading, in burning words, the cause of the sweated woman and the overworked child, she seemed to herself to stand at last in touch with greatness. It was

No thought of engaging less of deliberately trying to attract it, entered her head. When he talked to her, she simply thought him "very kind."

"You don't often go to meetings like ours to-night?" he said.
"No; I'm afraid I

shouldn't have gone to this one but for Rose— Miss Meakin. She's very keen, as I daresay you

'And you—are not?''
'I'm outside it all.'' A few hours earlier Hester would have uttered this remark with quiet pride; now her voice had

a tone of regret. It seemed a pity to be "outas Hillyard had described and foreshadowed. But she was honest, she would

"You've never felt the need of combination?"
"Not for myself. And—nobody ever made me understand—before to-night—that I ought to feel it for other people." people."
"One or two thought it was a case of too much 'other

people' to-night," Hillyard suggested.
"Oh, no! That was the greatness of it. That's why

She flushed, feeling that she had said too much;

Hillyard thought he had never seen anything so delightful as her shy, eager face.

"Did you like my speech?" he asked, simply. "I'm very glad." After a moment's pause, he added—"It's lucky I came down. I never wanted the meeting, you know; I just wanted a few quiet days with my mother." He paused again. Off the platform he was a deliberate, almost a slow, speaker. "And I'm very glad I came,

That "now" gave Hester a thrill of exquisite pleasure. And yet, when she remembered it afterwards, in the quiet of her own room, even while her cheeks glowed at the recollection, she half regretted that it had been spoken. It jarred upon her that a man who could put forth that great plea should be able to regard it afterwards as a mere speech to be admired.

(To be continued.)



Editor invites brief letters on subjects of general her only. Letters should be sent in not later than the day of each month, and should be addressed:—Editor, Vorker, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road,

SOMETHING RADICALLY WRONG.

TO THE EDITOR, "WOMAN WORKER."

bought a copy of the Woman Worker on my way home bought a copy of the Woman Worker on my way nome m work on Saturday afternoon, and it has meant a great of the meant a great of the present economic system. An unfair day's wage for a reday's work is the rule not the exception—at least, as as women are concerned. It is the modern rage to pay enceless girls as cheaply as possible for the toil of the tyears of their lives. A knowledge of Trade Unionism t years of their lives. A knowledge of Trade Unionism kes us realise what women lose by being isolated workers, know girls employed in factories making boxes. Their ge starts at 4s. per week. The maximum for the best lled workers is not more than 12s. a week. In London s means a very poor sort of existence. Between the fresh en cover of the Woman Worker there is a message of pe for poorly-paid women, and its pages breathe a ctical, helpful optimism which will stir them to fight ir battle.

MIMI BRODIE.

O Burghley Road Highgate Road N.W. , Burghley Road, Highgate Road, N.W.

EXCEEDINGLY GOOD.

DEAR EDITOR,—On Thursday last I went to Rushden, nd saw a copy of the Woman Worker for the present nth. I thing it exceedingly good. It ought to connd a great sale.

Lizzie Willson
(Secretary Women's Section National Union

of Boot and Shoe Operatives, Leicester, No. 1 Branch).

GOOD NEWS FROM LEEK.

The Woman Worker is a paper that has long been needed, ease send along twenty-five dozen copies. We intend to crease the sales. Your journal is just the one required educate women in Trade Union and Labour matters, e are going along here very well. Our membership keeps reasing—in fact, we made sixty new members during last onth. Last Saturday we succeeded in getting an advance nonth. Last Saturday we succeeded in getting an advance of 12½ per cent. in wages for eighteen women employed at local mill where rates were low. Have also been successul in obtaining another advance (agreement signed this morning) for 200 women employed at eight different mills. The advance equals about 10 per cent. Better still, we have concluded an arrangement by which all are placed on a uniform rate of wages from the time of entering the mill up to the time that full pay is reached (eighteen and a half wears of age). All this will show you that we are progressing in the right direction. ng in the right direction.

WW. BROWFIELD (Secretary Leek Women's Workers Union.) 27, Cruso Street, Leek.

[Bravo, Leek! Your report is indeed encouraging. It adds one more to the thousand instances of benefits received through Trade Union action. Your successes will encourage other Unions to press for improved conditions. Hearty congratulations and good luck to all your members.—Ed.]

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

I would suggest thom.

I would suggest branches of the Federation might advertise their meetings, socials, discussions, etc., in the Woman Worker. I notice, for instance, that the Reigate Women's Guild programme includes discussions and debates on Minimum Wage, Sweated Industries, and Labour questions. If these were advertised, some outside working women would take an interest and attend.

WANTED, A DEBATING COLUMN.

I think a "Debating Column" in our new magazine would be of great help to us working girls. It would permit is to air our opinions on various subjects.

A TELEPHONE GIRL.

[Very well. Will the "Telephone Girl" lead off the debate?—ED.]

WITH WOMAN'S HELP.

I write to wish you every success. I feel it is the duty of every man to take home a copy of your magazine to his wife as a means of interesting her in the Labour movement. Through ignorance a woman is sometimes a drag on the wheels, and disapproves of her huband's work for the cause. When the light of knowledge comes, many a woman, now ready to hold back, will urge her husband on to fight the battle of humanity. With woman's help the work will be done indeed.

(Secretary Forcest Hill Branch

(Secretary Forest Hill Branch Shop Assistants' Union).

12 Bevne Road, Sydenham.

HOPE FOR TOILING WOMANHOOD. Dear Editor,—All good wishes for the success of your little paper. Whilst it will cheer the drooping heart of many a factory slave, it will also lead every woman worker to realise the absolute necessity for unity within their ranks. I doubt not that in its pages toiling womanhood will likewise learn for the first time the why and wherefore of the cruel wrongs under which she drags out a weary and wretched existence. The advent of the Woman Worker means another step nearer to the Socialist goal.—Yours faithfully,

[Secretary Wishaw LL.P.] (Secretary Wishaw I.L.P.)

A SPLENDID LITTLE MAGAZINE.

Dear Editor,—Will you please send me a dozen order forms? I will do my utmost to get some more of our girls to subscribe. The Woman Worker is a splendid little magazine, and will, I am sure, do much good. It is the elementary principles of Trade Unionism and combination that want explaining. Once they are thoroughly grasped by a girl her enthusiasm is usually awakened, and she goes forward. Your magazine will help in this great work, and I send every good wish for its succes VIOLET APPLEBY.

St. James's Street Post Office, London

The Simple Life -Walt Whitman. The True Atheism -Russell Lowell. Complaints and the Law.

Talks with the Doctor

Trade Union Notes MARY R. MACARTHUR.

Women's Labour League Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD.

Women's News of the Week,

girls as Mr. Perret. He is the concocter of the specious advertisement and —I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed."

There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women helpind.

trimmed."

Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour belongs to a more prosperous competitor,

There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women behind.

"Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Perret, suavely.

He waits a moment, but the girl's

* N.B.—The facts contained in this article are vouched for. Names are of course, fictitious.—ED.

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Mode in the process of the process o

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF N.F.W.W. 27 Delegates Present. Representatives from Ireland and Scotland. REMARKABLE GATHERING.

Union Buildings was the scene of an eventful

thers was held. Last year the first annual conference attended by six delegates. This year the under-named aty-seven delegates attended, representing the following

nongst the visitors present were Mrs. Pete Curran, Elizabeth Glen, and Miss Mary Elvery. The Central e officials, Miss Macarthur (hon. president), Miss ges (secretary), and Miss Flowers (assistant-secretary),

liss Macarthur, in opening the proceedings, delivered presidential address. She said the organisation had

y reason to congratulate itself upon a most successful 's work. She specially welcomed Miss McCarron, the gate from Londonderry, as the first Irish representative, expressed her pleasure that two delegates from Scotland

ous concessions obtained through the organisation during year, and concluded with an appeal to the delegates eturn to their branches with a fresh determination to

on the work of organisation with renewed vigour.

letter was read from the Paisley Branch expressing ret at inability to send a delegate, and giving the opinion the Paisley delegates on the various suggested amend-

The SECRETARY then presented the annual report, which is considered by the delegates.

sulted in the appointment of an Assistant-Secretary.

Miss Hedges replied that the appointment had been made
the sub-committee, and notification had been forwarded

nch the General Secretary was greatly overworked, and stance should have been provided sooner.

On the paragraph in the report dealing with the affilia-to the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Presi-t explained the advantages of being connected with that

The General Federation of Trade Unions.

. LAMONT (Edinburgh) asked if the branches had been

WILLIAMS (Coventry) said that in the opinion of her

Letter from Paisley.

Presentation of Annual Report.

The President then alluded to the

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Coventry, Clerkenwell, Edmonton, Edin-

athering on Saturday, November 23rd, when the second annual Conference of the National Federation of Women

s busy time. ntents of their

ese 'ere gowns istomers, Mrs. oking women.
Why, it ain't partic'ler about

I don't maike ar for that lot.

lo with strite Perret with this time, Mrs. a penny-three are there ?--a

noney dazedly e had counted y at the door. down with

unties her the garments

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lot-five and ire payin' too ires," he says. ore at two an

ries the girl arment in her three tucks Five tucks and eeves. There's en tucks and inderneath as

PRIZE LETTERS.

MY DAY'S WORK.

To the Editor, "Woman Worker."

There are no two days of my life alike, therefore I cannot complain of monotony. Here is a sample of how I live the strenuous life. I catch the 8.8 a.m. train from Suburbia, and manage on the journey to the City to get in a half-hour's reading of something solid. Just now I am trying to understand Hobhouse's "Labour Movement." After threading my way through narrow lanes and dodging dripping boxes of mackerel, I arrive at my office, which has an outlook over Billingsgate Fish Market. Soon, however, I forget the "fishy" atmosphere, for I am absorbed in sorting out the correspondence which is ready for my attention. There are bills, receipts, letters for me to answer by the score, and breathlessly I work right on against time till my lunch half-hour, when I generally dash into a Lyons's and dash out again as soon as I have dash into a Lyons's and dash out again as soon as I have swallowed a cup of coffee and a lump of "mystery" pudding. Now on my return I have to plunge into what I call "life." For with the afternoon travellers come from all parts of the earth seemingly, and fight for orders and contracts till the entire hall of our buildings sounds more like pandemonium let loose than sane men doing business. What happens on Monday occurs again on Wednesday and Friday, and if there is one argument more than another in favour of Socialism, I think it is that this hideous race for orders and ugly battle for gold will be done away with. On some days I often see, in the space of a few seconds, brave men go to the wall for no fault of their own; they are victims of our Juggernaut system of Competition. I can watch it all, for I work on the "Exchange."

MIMIE BRODIE.

TO THE EDITOR, "WOMAN WORKER."

DEAR EDITOR.—It was 8.30 a.m. when I left home. DEAR EDITOR,—It was 8.30 a.m. when I left home. Unfortunately, my tantalising train was late, so it was with Atlanta-like swiftness that I jumped out at the City, and ran to the Head Post-Office, my destination, where I had to climb a hundred steps and more, murmuring "Excelsior" as flight after flight was left behind. Cries of "Hurry up, Mary!" greeted me as I tossed off my hat and jacket, and raced after my friends up the long corridor. The increasant sound of the instruments fell on your ages of The incessant sound of the instruments fell on my ears as I passed into the Telegraph Department, down the long, glass-roofed room to the Glasgow wire.

Then the business of the day began. Congratulations

to brides and bridegrooms, condolences to bereaved friends, urgent messages to brokers on the Exchange, vanished beneath my ever-busy fingers. Thus our telegrams travel "Over, under lands or seas,

To the far Antipodes."

Quickly old Father Time arrived at one o'clock, when my dinner-relief appeared. At that delightful repast parted friends meet, tongues are unloosed, and everything is discussed from the sublime to the ridiculous, from politics to the latest fashions. One-thirty p.m., recalled me to the instrument-room, where I continued my converse with the

I love my work and comrades, but there are many conditions which make the Service not entirely a bed of roses, so to redress our grievances and to maintain our rights, we have the "Postal Telegraph Clerks Association." Marriage may call some of us from the Service early. Others may serve long years for their pensions, but sooner or later, when our time for resignation arrives, it will be grand to remember that we have done our part to make the Service brighter, and the conditions better for those we have left behind us.

M. A. H.

HOME HINTS.

OUR recipe prize this month has been won by Mrs. E. SEWELL for the following—

Macaroni Cheese

 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. macaroni (previously par-boiled), $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. cheese (odd pieces will do), I large tomato, teacupful of milk, salt and pepper to taste. Cut tomato into slices, place in bottom of pie-dish, then layer of cheese cut in thin slices, then layer of macaroni, sprinkle bread crumbs on the top, add milk, small piece of butter on top. Bake two hours in

Mrs. FLORENCE E. SANT, 130, Longfield Road, Shaw Heath, Stockport, sends me the following recipe, and says that from personal experience she has found it to be tasty,

Haricot Rolls.

onion, I egg, herbs, pepper and salt. Soak the beans over-night, boil till tender, drain and mash. Mix in the herbs, boiled and chopped onions, pepper and salt, and butter. Add about half the quantity of breadcrumbs and roll into sausage shape. Dip the rolls in the well-beaten egg and then into breadcrumbs. Fry in boiling fat. These rolls may be served hot or cold.

I will now give some of my own special recipes.

Vegetarian Scotch Broth.

Put two quarts of water in a saucepan, add to it ¼ lb. pearl barley, well washed. Take two turnips, wash and pare them, cut them into dice, take two carrots and prepare them in same manner. Add these first to water. Then clean and prepare some onions and leeks, and cut them up finely. Add to broth, with some green peas if in season. Boil for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Ten minutes before dishing up, add 2 teaspoonfuls of chopped parsley, piece of butter, salt and pepper to taste. This can be made with stock from bones.

Chicken or Ham Omelet.

Beat two or three eggs thoroughly, add two teaspoon-fuls of minced parsley, and a similar quantity of minced cold chicken or ham, season with pepper and salt. Melt 1½ ozs. of butter in pan, and pour in mixture. Stir gently for a few minutes over moderate fire. When set, slip it from pan into a hot dish. Fold up sides and serve.

Potato Shape.

Heat up cold potatoes, or boil fresh ones for this recipe.

Mash smoothly, adding butter, pepper, also whisked egg if desired. Mix well. Butter a shape or mould, press potatoes well in. When cold and firm, turn out carefully and brown

Bachelor's Pudding.

One egg, 2 ozs. each of suet, flour, sugar, bread crumbs, minced apples, currants. Mix dry ingredients with egg, add pinch of baking soda. Boil in buttered mould for two

Irish Molly" writes that she has the best husband in rish Molly "writes that she has the best husband in the world, but he will persist in carrying a fountain pen which leaks. The consequence is that his handkerchiefs and linen are constantly stained with ink. She wishes to know if any reader will advise her as to the best method of removing these stains. Will some reader oblige? Personally, I should advise "Irish Molly" to confiscate the fountain pen

"The Woman Worker,"

Mrs. WILLIAMS (Coventry) asked to what extent the Federation was financially liable for the Woman Worker.

Miss Macarthur explained that in the meantime she had arranged with the sub-committee to be herself liable for any financial loss; her own services as Editor were to be free, and any profits which might accrue would be paid into the organizing fixed of the Noticeal Education of Wemen. the organising fund of the National Federation of Women

The Annual Report was then adopted on the motion of Mrs. Stevenson (Woolwich), seconded by Miss Murray

burnville, Coventry, Clerkenwell, Edmonton, Edinch, Halstead, Londonderry, Oxford, Preston, Silverth, Taunton, Woolwich, Whitechapel.
Iss Agnes Walsh, Miss Ada Newton, Miss Annie
Carron, Miss Emily Melsheimer, Miss Mary Davis,
Clara Hirsch, Miss Lilian Stanley, Miss Amy Fasham,
Mary Snowden, Miss Lucy Gardiner, Mrs. Williams,
Rose Kimber, Miss Florence Jarman, Miss Rosa
ary, Miss May Gillingham, Miss Ada Gurden, Miss
h Blake, Miss Maud Murray, Miss Esther Dicks, Miss
Lynch, Miss Louisa King, Mrs. Stevenson, Miss
sa Harding, Miss Emily King, Miss Isabella Milne,
Lamont, and Mr. Lewis Hunt.
hongest the visitors present were Mrs. Pete Curran. After several questions had been satisfactorily replied to, the Balance Sheet was unanimously adopted, on the motion of Miss Hillary (Clerkenwell), seconded by Miss Melsheimer

Election of Officials and Committee

The following officials were then elected:—

President: MARY R. MACARTHUR (London).

Vice-President: MRS. LAMONT (Edinburgh). Treasurer: Rosa Hillary (Clerkenwell). Secretary: Louisa Hedges.

Committee: Misses Newton, Murray, Toldridge, Gurden, Dicks, Leng, Jarman, and Mrs. Williams. Mr. Pete Curran, M.P., and Miss Martha

Auditor · Mrs. Stevenso It was also agreed that the books should be audited by Chartered Accountants.

New Scales of Contributions.

After a long discussion it was decided to add two new scales—viz., 1½d. weekly (same benefits as present Class A), with 7s. 6d. weekly in case of a strike or lock-out; 3½d. weekly (same benefits as present Class B), with 7s. 6d. weekly in case of a strike or lock-out.

It was agreed that strike pay in old classes should be raised to be weekly.

raised to 6s. weekly.

It was decided to abolish the present out-of-work scale, Class C, 4½d. weekly. (Members who have been paying under this scale, and who have not had out-of-work benefit, to have their additional subscriptions refunded.)

Miss Jarman (Taunton) moved that a month's benefit be

allowed married women in confinements.

After discussion this was defeated.

Mrs. Stevenson (Woolwich) proposed that no member shall be entitled to benefit for less than three days.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that no member should be allowed benefit until she had been absent

one week from work, but that after that a half-week would

Miss Walsh (Preston) proposed that a form for doctor's ertificate should be supplied to the branches. This was agreed to.
Miss Melsheimer (Whitechapel) suggested an alteration

in sick benefit, which was not agreed t Organiser for Birmingham.

A special offer was read from Bournville Branch, in which they guaranteed altogether (including a promised yearly subscription of £20 from Mr. Edward Cadbury)

The Simple Life -- Walt Whitman. The True Atheism -- Russell Lowell. Complaints and the Law.

Talks with the Doctor

MARY R. MACARTHUR. Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week,

girls as Mr. Perret. He is the concocter of the specious advertisement and —I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed."

Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour belongs to a more prosperous competitor,

N.B.—The facts contained in this article.

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£50 yearly toward the expenses of an organiser for Bournville, Birmingham, and district.

It was agreed to accept this offer, and to exempt Bournville and Birmingham from the National Organising Scheme.

National Organising Fund.

during the past year, and raising her salary to 30s. weekly, was passed unanimously, on the motion of Mrs. Stevenson (Woolwich), seconded by Mrs. Williams (Coventry).

The hope was expressed that the services of Miss Hedges might be more suitably recognised as the membership and financial strength of the organisation increased.

National Organising Fund.

It was decided to open a National Organising Fund, to which all members who can afford it be asked to contribute id. monthly. It was also agreed that the fund should be augmented by voluntary effort, and that so soon as sufficient ney had been collected a permanent National Organiser

Payment of Branch Officials and Collectors.

It was decided that the amount to be paid to branch officials and collectors should be left to local branches to decide in each case for themselves.

Federation Badge.

A general desire was expressed for a Federation Badge, and the officials were requested to get estimates.

Wives of Working Men.

It was agreed that the wives of working men in sympathy with the objects of the Federation should be eligible for membership, but should not be entitled to sick benefit.

Date of Next Conference.

It was decided to hold the next conference in the first

Secretary's Salary. A resolution thanking the secretary for her arduous work The was decided to find the flext conference in the first week of October, 1908. The conference then adjourned, and the delegates partook of a delightful tea, served at Club Union Buildings.

____ The National Movement.

Most of the reports have been crowded out this month,

LONDON.—London Tailoresses held a special meeting on Thursday, October 24th, at St. Annes Schools, Soho. We had some very good speakers, who advised all tailoresses to join their Union for their own benefit and that of their to join their Union for their own benefit and that of their fellow-workers. We are going to have a revision of the log, which may alter the present position of the tailor and tailoress. Most of our members are interested in the Woman Worker, and think it is very useful. We wish you

coventry.—Our November social went off very pleasantly, and though we had no applications for membership at the time, we hear of several who intend to join us when we meet again. We had songs, recitations, and a speech from Mr. Binks, who told us interesting things about a Trade Union which is fifty-six years old—the Amalgamated Society of Engineers—and impressed upon us the need for unity of action. We are almost one year old, and, after the Conference, the next thing we shall be thinking of will be a hirthday party. ing of will be a birthday party.

TAUNTON.—Arrangements are being made for a dance on December 25th, and we hope to be able to report a very successful time. We are keeping steadily on, but hope for a rush of new members soon. The Woman Worker has a good sale here, and is read with much pleasure and interest. A few are already eager to join the Postcard Exchange. We are pleased to see that other branches are making such good headway, and do not despair of over-

CLERKENWELL. -The meeting on November 6th was very satisfactory, resulting in the increase of the membership of the branch. We are rather afraid, from what we have heard from the "little bird," that there will not be sufficient room at the office at Club Union Buildings for all those who wish to come to the social on the 27th. We are all feeling very much encouraged and quite "fit" for the work which we have planned out for the winter months.

EDMONTON. - The much-talked-of Anniversary Social is now a thing of the past. We are glad to report that it

was a great success. Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., occupied the chair, supported by Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Miss Macarthur, Mrs. Pete Curran, and Councillor Hayday, Miss Tuckwell congratulated the members on their splendid position, dwelling on the fact that wherever the organisers of the Women's Trade Union movement went, they always referred to the Edmonton Branch of the Federation as a splendid example of the unity which should exist amongst the women workers. Miss Macarthur and Mrs. Curran both congratulated the members on their success. Then followed the event of the evening: Miss Ada Gurden, on behalf of the members, presented Miss Macarthur with a beautiful gold watch bearing her monogram and the inscription, "With love from Eley's girls." Miss Macarthur, in thanking the members for their kindly appreciation of her work, said she should value the inscription on tion of her work, said she should value the inscription of the watch even more than the watch itself. It was very pleasing to all present to hear the delightful speech which Mr. J. D. Macarthur—himself an employer of labour, who was paying a hurried visit to London—made in connection with the position of a Trade Union, and the benefits which both employer and employed gained through this medium. After the speeches were ended a concert, terminating with a dance, finished this most happy and delightful evening.

BATH.—A branch was started here as a result of the Trade Union Congress and Miss Macarthur's visit in September last, and since then the membership shows a small increase. We are looking forward to Miss Hedges' visit in December; the girls are working very bravely. The branch is much indebted to Miss Tollemache, a lady visitor, who helps in all possible ways to further the move-ment in Bath, and we are expecting great success by the

SILVERTOWN.—The Silvertown Branch had a very successful social, which was held at Tate Institute. We were disappointed Miss Macarthur being unable to take the chair for us, but welcomed Mrs. Curran, who gave a short address during the evening. We have some splendid artistes among our members who were very willing to do all in their power to please everybody. Everything turned out very satisfactory, and altogether a very enjoyable evening

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We offer a prize of nos. for the best bright and humorous ory, not exceeding 1,000 words in length. The story may

"MY AIM IN LIFE" PRIZE = 5s.

We offer another prize of 5s. for the best letter of not more than 300 words on above subject. Tell us about ourself, what your hopes and ambitions are, what you would like to be and do. Tell us your aim in life.

COOKING RECIPE PRIZE = 5s.

prize of 5s. will be awarded for the best cooking recipe

PRIZE AWARDS.

SHORT STORY PRIZE = 10s. tween Edith M. Baker, 2, Woodhouse Road, achley, and Annie L. Gardner, 82, Brunshaw

COOKING RECIPE PRIZE = 5s. been won by Mrs. E. SEWELL, 88, Queen's Road, Aston, mingham, whose recipe for Macaroni Cheese appears

"MY DAY'S WORK" PRIZE = 5s. Two prizes of 5s. each awarded to Mimi Brodle, 40, righley Road, Highgate Road, N.W., and M. A. H.,

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- A. ORGANISATION. The League is willing to send organisers to any London or provincial district to form new
- B. LEGISLATION. The League acts as the agent of omen Trade Unionists in making representations to Govern-ent Authorities, or Parliamentary Committees, with regard to their legislative requirements, or in bringing forward specific grievances in individual trades or factories, by means of questions and representations by Members of Parliament in Stephen Walsh, M.P.
- omplaints as to grievances and breaches of the Factory and Workshops Acts, when sent to the League, are investigated carefully, and referred to the proper quarters.

 Cases under the Compensation, Truck, and other industrial laws
- eferred to the League, are investigated, and advice given by the Secretary of the Legal Advice Department, and the
- SOCIAL WORK. The League arranges entertainments and weekly club nights, and social evenings for members and their friends.

GOOD NEWS FOR OUR READERS. Articles, Stories, Sketches,

Poems, etc.

Our list of future contributors includes the following well-known public men and women:

Meredith Atkinson, Keble College, Oxford.

Wm. C. Anderson. Geo. N. Barnes, M.P. (Secretary Amalgamated Soc.

Bishop of Birmingham.

Clementina Black. Robert Blatchford, Editor the "Clarion."

Margaret G. Bondfield (Assistant Secretary Shop

Herbert Burrows.

J. R. Clynes, M.P. (Secretary Oldham Trades Council). Pete Curran, M.P. (Chairman General Federation

Walter Crane. Rt. Hon. Sir Chas. W. Dilke, Bart., M.P. R. C. K. Ensor, M.A.

A. H. Gill, M.P. (Secretary Provincial Assoc. Spinners

Victor Grayson, M.P. Geo. Haw (Author "No Room to Live").

J. Keir Hardie, M.P. (Chairman Labour Party). Dennis Hird (Principal, Ruskin College, Oxford). Arthur Henderson, M.P. (Whip Labour Party).

Canon Scott Holland (Editor "Commonwealth") George Lansbury (Poplar Board of Guardians).

The Hon. Charles Lister (Baliol College, Oxford). L. G. Chiozza Money, M.P. (Author of "Riches and

C. F. G. Masterman, M.P.

Margaret Macmillan.

W. Pett Ridge (Author "Mord Em'ly," "Name of

Constance Hinton-Smith. George S. Street (Author "The Autobiography of a

Gertrude Tuckwell (Chairman Woman's Trade Union

Richard Whiteing (Author of "No. 5 John Street").

William Walker (Labour Candidate North Belfast).

Future issues will contain Prize Competitions for our readers, Home Hints and Recipes, Answers to Correspondents, Legal Advice, a Monthly Record of the Women's Trade Union Movement. Will our readers assist us in helping to make the Magazine more widely known, thus extending its scope and usefulness? To be obtained post free, 1/6 per annum from the publishers National Federation of Women Workers, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.; or can be ordered through any Newsagent. Wholesale Agents: W. H. Smith & Sons; Wyman's, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and John Heywood, Manchester. Special Agent for South London: Fred Carlton, 110, Summer Road, Peckham, S.E.

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Complaints and the Law. Talks with the Doctor

Trade Union Notes Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD.

Women's News of the Week.

resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed."

MARY R. MACARTHUR.

MIS. J. R. Macdonald.

J. Walt Whitman.

Girls as Mr. Perret. He is the concocter of the specious advertisement and lace at the neck. I tell you it can't be done, Mr. Perret, for less than three-pence halfpenny. It's dirt cheap at the trimmed."

There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women behind.

"Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Perret, savely.

He waits a moment, but the girl's passion has already waned, and he passion has already waned.

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THE CLAIMS OF IRELAND.

workers? Some light was thrown on this problem by a deputation which waited on Mr. Birrell at Dublin Castle on November 11th. The deputation, which represented 100,000 organised Irish wage-earners, visited the Chief Secretary for the purpose of acquainting him with certain of the industrial aims of the Irish Trade Union Congress. Their programme as unfolded by the various members of the deputation included (1) reform of the Poor Law and a scheme of Old Age Pensions; (2) reform of the railway system on the lines of State ownership; (3) enforcement of Fair Wage Resolutions and Abolition of Sweating; (4)

One of the deputation was Miss Galway, of Belfast, secretary of the Irish Workers Union. In introducing her, Mr. E. L. Richardson, hon. secretary Irish Trades Congress, remarked that the Irish Congress had gone ahead of the English in having elected a woman to the Parliamentary Committee. Mr. Birrell replied that he was very glad to hear it, and expressed his belief that women had been been given the place to which they were artifled in had not been given the place to which they were entitled in

Miss Galway urged the need for appointing additional Factory Inspectors, and for carrying out additional factory legislation. She complained of the sanitary conditions, accommodation, and ventilation in the mills and factories in the North of Ireland. Truck Laws should more stringently be put into operation, and living-in for shop assistants abolished. To the various points raised Mr. Birrell replied in guarded official language. He admitted, however, that the number of Factory Inspectors was quite inadequate, and promised to direct the attention of the Home Secretary to the matter.

THE CONFIRMED BACHELOR.

At Cupid's shrine I worshipped, But now I only scoff.
I fell in love with the telephone girl;

Alas, she cut me off! And then I met the chorus girl, As stylish as a queen.
I asked her to be mine; she said—

You're not on in this scene! The girl behind the counter next I tried without demur.
She smiled, but said—"I'm not in

The h'art department, sir!' I thought I'd booked the cycling girl (I'd chosen her at random, Being desperate). Alas! it seemed She didn't care for "tandem!"

I might have gained the typist's hand, But didn't try to win it,
Because I found she wrote—and talked A hundred words a minute!

The circus girl quite put me off. When we'd fixed up the thing She jilted me, but wrote to say She's sticking to "the ring"!

REGINALD RIGBY, in The Story-Teller.

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Dr. X.Y.Z.

- Walt Whitman,

MARY R. MACARTHUR. Women's Labour League

Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week.



VERHEARD BY THE·LITTLE·BIRD·

At Norwich.

That some of our members took part in the municipal elections.

At the same Place,

"Canvassing is good sport!"

At Edmonton.

The Anniversary Social was a grand success.

At the same Place.

Something always goes wrong with the Band.

At Eley Bros.

That some of the new patent machines are a profit neither to the firm or the workers.

At Jarrow.

That a town official has publicly stated that there are no hungry children in Jarrow.

At the same Place.

That the Women's Labour League has a good local branch and a most excellent secretary.

At Club Union Buildings.

The Annual Conference was a great success. The two most eloquent delegates came from Edinburgh and Coventry.

At the same Place.

That our branches ought to be proud of their representa-

That Miss McCarron came all the way from Derry, and was ill in consequence.

At Birmingham.

That a special organiser is to be appointed by the Federation for this district.

At Bournville.

"Let them all come."

At Oxford.

That we mean business.

At Banbury.

That the Manager and Manageress turned out to our meeting.

"The Tower of Babel" is not in it.

At the same Place.

That a strong branch of the Federation has been formed.

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