

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS

Japanese Mediævalism.

The House of Peers of Japan has thrown out a Bill which would have removed women from the classes, "vagabonds, robbers, and Liberals," who are forbidden not only to speak at political meetings, but to organise or even to attend them. Miss Tchikawa, the President of the New Women's Association, is not discouraged by the repeated rejection by a reactionary Upper House of a measure designed to withdraw women's political activities from the jurisdiction of the police. The whole Lower House supports the reform; the opposition comes from those whose interest it is to regard women as chattels, and as a source of family aggrandisement by means of commercialised marriage. This frame of mind is disappearing, and we trust that the New Women's Association will soon gain this very elementary step in the path of progress.

The Position of Women under Norwegian Law.

In Norway, the girl starts life on equal terms with her brother, as regards education. At the age of eighteen she can marry with the consent of her parents, but a son must wait till he is twenty. Under these ages, a special permit for marriage must be obtained from the King; but at the age of twenty-one both parties may legally marry without the consent of parents. Marriage gives a woman her majority, right to management of property, &c. Business rights are equal, and during the first years of the war many girls with clerical training and some business knowledge, made considerable fortunes by stockbroking. Marriage, or her legal majority, gives the woman equal rights with the man, except that a wife may not offer bail for her husband, though a husband may for his wife. At the age of twenty-five, both men and women obtain their full political rights, votes, both municipal and for State elections, and the right to sit as Member or as Proxy in the Storting. Actually no woman has yet been elected as Member, though there are women Proxies. Except in the Church and in the Army and Navy, all posts are now open to women equally with men, and women have taken Degrees in Theology.

Marriage Laws in Norway.

The Marriage Laws are interesting. They are equal for men and women, with the exception that a woman may not legally contract another marriage until ten-months after the death or divorce of the first husband. Lunacy and syphilis are recognised as absolute bars to marriage. Other diseases (epilepsy, gonorrhœa, deformity, &c.) must be declared before the Registrar, or the priest, but are not a final bar, and the existence of illegitimate children of either partner must be declared. Two witnesses of respectable status are required to vouch for both parties to any marriage. Divorce is absolutely equal. "By consent," both parties may appear before a magistrate, and on a variety of grounds may receive an order of separation for one year, which, if carried out, entitles to divorce. If the demand is from one party only, the case must come before the Court. As to the disposal of the children, there is no rule, the judge being empowered to make the best disposition possible in each case. The wife is entitled, but not obliged, to claim the expenses of education from the husband. All such cases must be heard "in camera," and are never reported in the Press.

Rights of Property.

A Bill is now before the Storting, applying to Scandinavia as a whole, regarding the Rights of Property in Marriage. With the exception of land, all property is regarded as common to husband and wife, unless one or other declares some part of his or her property to be "particular." Of the common

property, each owns half. At the death of either partner, the survivor may retain the use of the children's part of the common property for an indefinite time. Half the common property goes, by right, to the widow. Illegitimate children, if acknowledged, inherit name and property equally with the legitimate. To secure this, the mother must make an immediate declaration to the midwife, who informs the Registrar. If the reputed father wishes to deny parentage, he is obliged to prove his case in Court. It has been stated recently that the illegitimate birth-rate has decreased as a result of this law. It is now proposed that money on behalf of the illegitimate child must be advanced by the Court, who will reclaim it from the father.

The Elections in Northern Ireland.

The elections for the Parliament of Northern Ireland have been held, and have, of course, been held upon one issue alone. The Sinn Fein extremists provide an appalling list of outrages to point the moral, "If you split the Unionist vote by raising any issue of social reform, you will be submerged in a Dublin Parliament, and your civic and religious liberties will be lost." Meanwhile, the feminist may find some compensation for the general setback to all constructive work in the humour of the situation. In spite of Sir Edward Carson's warning against the admission of women to a share in "laying the foundations of the New State," official Unionism has felt it advisable to put forward two women candidates. From every platform come appeals to the women voters to vote solid for the official candidates, and make no difficulties about "things such as safeguards for child life, temperance, or so-called moral reform." Women are condescendingly told that great assistance is expected from the future women M.P.s in "minor matters, such as Poor Law." Finally, they are kindly reminded that if they feel any difficulty as to voting they should consult their husbands or brothers on the matter. It is sad to think of the woeful plight of those who happen to have no male relatives. At a mass meeting of women Unionists, Sir James Craig remarked that "women arrived by the short cut of instinct, where it took the men by the more laborious means of thought and more tedious method of reasoning to reach the same conclusion, but if the Ulster women had reached the same conclusion that he had, after thinking out the problem, then they and he would be able to go along the road together, guided by the star put up for them by Sir Edward Carson." The Women's Advisory Council has carried on a very active election campaign, and individual expressions of sympathy have been received.

The Southern Parliament.

In the Southern Irish Parliament six women have been elected, of whom one, Dr. Ada English, has been returned for the National University. She and Mme. Markievicz, who has been returned again for one of the Dublin seats, are at present in gaol. Other women elected are Mrs. O'Callaghan, widow of the Mayor of Limerick who was murdered some time ago, and Mrs. Pearse, the mother of Patrick Pearse who was executed after the Dublin rebellion.

Child Adoption.

The admirable Report of the Departmental Committee on Child Adoption recommends a system by which adoption should be legalised by application to a Judge of the High Court or of a County Court, the rights and duties of adopter and adopted after sanction being the same as those subsisting between a child and its natural parent. The adoption of children is recognised by almost every civilised State, including certain of H.M. Dominions, and the lack of such recognition in Great Britain has not prevented adoptive relations, but has stripped them of

all safeguards which parent and child have a right to expect. The Report points out that at this moment children may be handed from person to person, with or without payment, advertised for disposal, or even sent out of the country, without any record being kept. The Report suggests that adoption records should be kept at the County Court, that the Judge should have a wide discretion as to the suitability of the adopting parent or parents; that a married man or woman adopting a child should, unless legally separated from husband or wife, be obliged to obtain their consent to the adoption. Adoption once sanctioned should be revocable only by Order of the Court, and if adoption is annulled, the Court should see that the future of the child is provided for, and may order contributions towards the child's support. The Report also deals fully with the question of protecting children where complete legal adoption has not been asked for, and points out that though the Children Act provides for the inspection of institutions for the reception of children, it does not give powers for the withdrawal of children if the result of inspection is unsatisfactory. The signatories to the Report consider as urgent the legitimation of children by the subsequent marriage of their parents, an amendment of the Children Act, securing notification of adoptions which have not been legalised, and the passing into law of their recommendations as to legalised adoptions. These matters have long been crying for reform, there is no real opposition, and every reason for prompt action on the Report.

Carry the Cambridge "Compromise."

We exhort all our Cambridge friends to vote for the "Compromise" when the decisive day arrives. The potential strength of our friends must not become actual weakness as it did on December 8th. At that time men saw the splendid list of promised supporters, and, judging that victory was secured in advance, failed in many cases to make the needful personal effort. There must be no repetition of this blunder. Every member of the Cambridge Senate who does not wish his University to be further disgraced, must come up to give his vote in person for Scheme I. (the Compromise) and against Scheme II. (for the mere Titular Degrees which the women's colleges will not accept). There must be no shirking this time, no leaving the duty to more public-spirited men. And let it be remembered that *pairing is no equivalent for voting.*

Women on the Council of the Senate.

We have said, on previous occasions, that women must ultimately demand from Cambridge the complete equality of status and opportunity which Oxford, London, and the other Universities have already granted. The Compromise scheme will not give equality in absolute completeness. The scheme withholds membership of the Senate and of the Electoral Roll. But it gives almost everything else—in the student stage, membership of the University and full degrees; in the graduate stage, eligibility for all professorships and teaching posts, likewise eligibility for all University boards and syndicates. We keep for special mention the proposed admission of two women to the Council of the Senate, as representatives of Girton and Newnham. It is being pointed out by level-headed friends of our cause in Cambridge that this provision in Scheme I. is likely to be of great practical value. They remark that eligibility for a body or an appointment does not always fructify, and that women, if simply "eligible" for membership of the Council, might have waited a good many years to be elected. Yet here, they say, is an arrangement by which the Council must definitely have two women among its members. It is true that these women are to be styled "Assessors," rather than members, and may not vote; but they will be at liberty to express their views, and they will enjoy the advantage of knowing what is taking place at the centre of University government. Only those who realise how much Cambridge women scholars and teachers live secluded and excluded from University affairs can appreciate this new proposal at its full value.

Miss Adelaide Anderson.

The scheme of reorganising the Factories Department of the Home Office will be put into effect on August 1st, and the gradual amalgamation of the men's and women's branches of the inspectorate will begin. The new post of deputy chief inspector of factories is to be filled by Miss Constance Smith,

the senior lady inspector of factories. Miss Anderson, the present principal lady inspector will retire on August 1st, and her twenty-two years of splendid work in charge of the women's branch is to be rewarded by the title of Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. It is to Miss Adelaide Anderson more than to any other person in this country that industrial women owe the progress they have been able to achieve in this generation. She it is who has built up their legal safeguards, and who has achieved the reality of actual accomplishment for the vague, popular aspirations for industrial welfare and workshop decency. Without her wise leadership the women factory inspectors would not have attained their place as an essential part of the industrial machine; and without the women factory inspectors the condition of factories where women work would not be what it is to-day. There is much more still to be done, and we are sure that Miss Constance Smith will do it magnificently; but there is need for at least twice as many responsible women in the Home Office, and we could wish that the Home Secretary saw this as clearly as we do. Miss Anderson's retirement will be a great loss to the country, unless, as we hope, she will now bring her great stores of knowledge and experience into another field. As a Member of Parliament she would be able to carry on her great work with even more scope than she has had hitherto. It is up to one of our big industrial constituencies to elect her!

LEAGUE OF NATIONS RALLY.

Although the industrial crisis which has paralysed the country for the last two months has made it impossible to put into operation the original scheme of a League of Nations Pilgrimage, which, starting from all corners of the United Kingdom, was to have marched to London, and to have concentrated in Hyde Park on June 25th, nevertheless we are now in a position to announce with the greatest satisfaction, that the League of Nations Day will be celebrated all over the country. In London, as previously stated, there is to be a Rally in Hyde Park, at which there is every indication that large masses of sympathisers with the ideals of the League will be present, and to this Rally not only the members of the London Branches will march in converging processions, but also the members of many towns and municipalities within 100 miles of London. In fact, the Southend and Chelmsford Branches of the League of Nations Union assure us that the enthusiasm in Essex is so great that they intend to carry out the full Pilgrimage programme according to the original scheme. The procession will start from Southend on June 12th, and will proceed through Rayleigh, Wickford, Billericay, Shenfield, Brentwood, Ingatestone, Chelmsford, Romford, Barking, Stepney and East Ham, arriving in London on the day of the Rally. At each of these towns mass meetings will be held, and speakers will address the assembled pilgrims.

To coincide with the London celebrations (details of which will be available later), sympathetic Mass Meetings will be held in all parts of the country. In Edinburgh, the Scottish Council of the League of Nations Union is organising a special Demonstration, in co-operation with the Scottish National Council of Juvenile Organisations, in which young people will also take part. Meetings are likewise to take place all over Yorkshire, particular activity being shown at Wakefield, Ossett, and Dewsbury. Other towns from which very favourable indications of activity are forthcoming are Dartford, Weybridge, Reading, Staines, Bristol, Bradford, Great Malvern, Hanley, Barnsley, Cambridge, Watford, and Luton, to mention only a few. In all these demonstrations Women's Organisations, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, local bands and choirs will take a prominent part.

We therefore have every reason to hope and believe that League of Nations Day will be a great success. England is pre-eminently a country where great ideas and great ideals are received with popular enthusiasm that does not pass in a flash, and, in this case, the way in which this enthusiasm is expressed is a particularly British one. From the days of Chaucer Pilgrimages and Pageants have been the picturesque expression of popular feeling in this country. With songs from the heart, and banners streaming, the great mass of the people will make their will felt, and will show the world that the idea of the League is one which the British people have at heart. We sincerely hope the weather—that fickle god—will not damp this enthusiasm.

MARRIED MEN.

Everyone knows that there is most bitter trouble in the teaching profession and that it is all caused by the salary question. The position is a serious one from every point of view. There is an alarming shortage of teachers already; and recruits are not coming in in anything like sufficient numbers, and the whole atmosphere in our schools (as in our hospitals) is one of desperate anxiety. It is not good either for those who are ill or those who are young to be tended by overworked, embittered, and anxious people, and we ought to see to it that this state of affairs comes to a speedy end.

It is not only the shortage of teachers and the inadequacy of their pay which is upsetting the scholastic world to-day. Another disturbing factor is entering in, and that is the open hostility of the men and the women teachers. From every point of view this is a most disquieting matter, and it is worth while to examine the causes which are bringing it about. On the side of the women teachers it arises because they demand equal pay and do not get it. They do the same work after the same training: and they see better rates of pay, together with all the headships, and all the administrative work of the elementary schools handed unquestioningly to men. They do not like this state of affairs, and for our part we do not blame them. We do not like it either.

On the side of the men teachers it arises apparently from a most unexpected cause (considering the actual facts), namely, that they do not get enough advantage over the women. The differences in rates of pay are not marked enough to please them: women are paid too much, they say, and men are paid too little. This "approximation to equal pay" will, in their opinion, drive self-respecting men out of the profession—and so they do not like this state of affairs. For our part we do not like their state of mind.

At the present moment the chief cry against the women teachers is raised on the score of the families of the married men. "Is it fair," they ask, "that a spinster should receive the same money as a married man?" In solemn conclave and in public meeting, in Press and pamphlet alike, the schoolmasters blazon forth this question and think that by the asking of it they have for ever settled the question of equal pay.

There is more to be said about the question than just this! Is it fair, we ask in our turn, that a bachelor should get the same money as a married man? Is it fair that an unmarried specialist in Harley Street should get more than a panel doctor with a dozen children? These questions are exactly the same as the one with which the men teachers try to stump out the women. And yet the asking of them does not shake the foundations of the system of payment for work and not for needs, which has so long prevailed among the male part of the working community. If it is fair for one set it is not unfair for the other: if the bachelor can have as much as the married man then the spinster can also. We can see no extra element of injustice in the one case than in the other. The fact of the sex of the person who is said to be overpaid has nothing to do with the married men either way. If the men teachers dared to claim that women did inferior work it would be another matter; but they do not, and their only claim for objecting to equal pay seems to be this matter of the married men: and this is really not a question of men *versus* women at all. The question, really, is one of the distribution of pay, and one which can be approached in several different ways, but not with any justice from a sex angle. You can say that there is so much work to be done which commands a certain reward. All who can do it can get the reward, irrespective of who they may be or what their private circumstances are. That is one way. Or you can say (as Local Education Authorities and the Board of Education do, in fact, say) that there is so much work to be done and you must pay salaries just high enough to attract the different kinds of people you need to do it. The law of supply and demand is the law of justice, according to this view—only

in the case of the teachers an error appears to have been made somewhere in the calculations, for the supply is not forthcoming. That is, however, a second way.

There is a third way still—and one which it is most interesting to note has just been brought forward for the second time by the Government of New South Wales. This way is to take a profession as a whole, and say it commands so much reward if properly carried out. All the workers in the profession are then, as it were, pooled, and the total reward distributed among them in proportion to their several needs. Bachelors and spinsters fare alike, under this scheme, and so do widows and widowers with the same number of children. Married men with wives and children to support are paid the same basic minimum as the unmarried, and, in addition, an allowance from the common pool for the people who are dependent on them. And so, we should think, all the injustices are met, and harmony prevails. It will be most interesting to see how this plan works out if it comes into operation, and whether it does actually solve this most difficult question, or whether it gives rise to other new difficulties of its own. It is proposed to extend it, not only to the teaching profession, but to almost all industries as well, so that in effect it amounts to the establishment of family endowment. Married men, wherever they work, will be sure of a family wage. Single men and women without dependents will receive a basic minimum lower than the previous standard wage, but will be absolved from that anxious saving for the future which wears so heavily upon them. Marriage will be easier and safer, and will, presumably, take place at an earlier age. A forcible redistribution of wages according to needs will be effected, and the result ought to be greater uniformity in the standard of life. Large families will no longer be penalised by excessive poverty, and small ones no longer rewarded by comparative opulence. We cannot foresee what social results all this may bring; but, at any rate, it does seem to offer a complete answer to the present cry of the men teachers in this country, and we shall watch the progress of this bill with the deepest interest.

We gravely suspect, however, that there is more in the agitation of the British men teachers than they are willing openly to admit. We cannot but fear that under the cover of their talk of married men there lies the old bad feeling of sex jealousy. They do not like the thought that the world of education is to admit women on a really equal basis. They shudder away from the thought of an able woman as headmistress of a school with boys in it, although they look with complacency upon the reverse picture. And they talk wildly about the whole profession being "given over to women" to the lasting detriment of the manhood of the nation.

All this we believe is pure rubbish, or rather, impure rubbish. The teaching profession is too fine a thing, and the men teachers are, we trust, themselves too fine for any such result to follow. It may well be that if their special male privileges are taken away, the inferior men teachers may look to some other life work more protected from female competition. But let them go: they will be no great loss. And the good ones, the men who are teachers by vocation, not by misfortune, who take up the work because they love it, and not because they can think of nothing else to do—they will be teachers still. And we believe that were justice done in the teaching world, it would lead to an increase and not a decrease of men teachers. One of the things which prevents men from taking up this work is the unfortunate fact that it has been often the refuge for the weak-kneed and the unsuccessful. The really free competition of women would drive the standard up, and that in itself would encourage the entry of better men. We trust that the day will never come when it will be a female occupation only; but for our part we believe that the way to secure good teachers, whether men or women, is by doing justice. And the first step to justice in this matter is the establishment of equality of pay and opportunity for both sexes.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Whitsuntide adjournment gives opportunity for a political review. How do the different parties stand?

The Labour Party, in the House of Commons, is stronger than it was last February. At first sight this is strange; for there are many signs that, in the country, it is weaker. The explanation is due to two causes, one general, and one particular. It is a fact of general political experience that all Oppositions gain in strength from the close of the second year of a Parliament's life onwards. That general current has helped the Labour Party; and they have also received a particular stimulus owing to the superiority of Mr. Clynes' leadership over that of Mr. Adamson. In fact, there has been a general tightening up all round. The attendance of the Party has been better, they have taken more advantage of the opportunities of debate, and they have practised concerted action. But though that is true, the fact remains that the Party does not carry the weight to which its numbers and ability entitle it. It is not yet a united fighting machine. It lacks political discipline. Its members are still too prone to fight isolated actions.

To deal with individuals, no new figures have appeared. Mr. Duncan Graham has made one good speech, but more is required for a Parliamentary reputation. Except for Mr. Hartsorn and Mr. William Graham, who have both established themselves, the old hands are the best debaters. Mr. Clynes is always good. Mr. Thomas is good when he is there. Mr. Walsh, Mr. O'Grady, and others, can all make effective speeches. Among the new men, Mr. Cairns always delights the House with his humorous common sense, and his Northumbrian accent; Mr. White has the art of human appeal; and Mr. John Jones has happy flashes. But, looking round the back benches, it must be admitted that the material is better than the use made of it.

As in war, so in politics: leadership is everything. Better an army of stags led by a lion, said Napoleon, than an army of lions led by a stag. That maxim is equally true of politics. Just as good leadership has strengthened the Labour Party, so has indifferent leadership depressed the Independent Liberals. Sir Donald Maclean has been away ill; Mr. Asquith does not concern himself with the rough and tumble of debate; Mr. Hogge has been ineffective; and Capt. Wedgwood Benn seems to have taken less part than usual. Hence, in spite of the many opportunities given them, and in spite of the fact that they gain recruits and lose none, the Party does not stand high. A leader, that is what is wanted; a leader, who ought to be young. Looking anxiously round the political field, and weighing everyone who has a shadow of pretence to the post, two names alone stand out. Commander Kenworthy (if he classes himself as a Liberal) and Lady Bonham Carter. Commander Kenworthy has a long road to tread before he conquers prejudice and inspires confidence; the fate of Lady Bonham Carter is too much interwoven with that of the political future of women to be an easy problem; but both possess the two outstanding qualities of leadership and youth.

Now for the Coalition. Its decay, often foretold, has not set in. Two circumstances outside Parliament have increased its strength—the coal dispute, and the Silesian difficulty. Whether you think that the Government mishandled coal or not, and on this question opinion is divided acutely, it is certain that the industrial upheaval has added to the authority of the Government, just because it is a Government. And the Prime Minister's plain words on Poland are generally approved. Inside the House the assessment is more difficult. The Free Traders are alarmed at what they consider Protection, and some, such as Sir William Barton and Sir Godfrey Collins, have left the Party. But this is the only serious rift, and has not shaken the loyalty of the Coalition Liberals, who are, as has been said often, the keystone of the arch. And there is this factor, negative and imponderable though it be, which has to be taken into account: a Coalition, which is a union of difference, either splits or becomes more solid. Time runs in its favour, unless the elements are incompatible. In a marriage, if the couple are unsympathetic, time soon widens the breach and makes it impassable. On the other hand, if they agree moderately well, the passing years bring unity. And so it is with political alliances.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

LEGAL ADVICE FOR CLUB WORKERS.

"A law is like a wheelbarrow, which only goes when it is pushed."

There are still many people who come in contact with industrial workers day by day, who either do not know of the laws enacted for their protection, or who think that if a law has been made all is well, and that it will work automatically.

During the war the Young Women's Christian Association came very closely into touch with many thousands of girl munition workers whom they were able to house and feed. Other needs of the girls came to their notice which were not sufficiently met, and the Y.W.C.A. Committee for the Study of Social Questions expanded into a Social and Legislation Department, the objects of which are to promote social conditions more in accordance with Christian ideals than those which now prevail. Proposals for new legislation dealing with industry are considered by the Committee with a view to recommending the Executive as to the advisability of pressing for amendments either as an Association or in conjunction with other Societies. Information is constantly being sought from local branches, clubs, &c., as to the opinion of industrial workers with regard to proposed legislation likely to affect their conditions of work.

Prospective Branch Secretaries and Club Leaders at the Association's Training Centre receive definite instruction in Industrial Laws which affect women. Workers in branches, clubs, and hostels are encouraged to report all unsatisfactory conditions of work to the Committee. If these are found to involve breaches of the law, particulars are forwarded to the central or local Government Department concerned with the enforcement of the law which is being infringed. Articles are written in the official magazines, and lectures and study circles are arranged in order to inform members of the laws enacted for their benefit. A sixpenny booklet has been issued, entitled "Our Industrial Laws," containing information regarding laws safeguarding workers.

Members are not, for various reasons, encouraged to notify breaches of the law themselves, except through their Trade Union, or, if unorganised, through the Y.W.C.A., as, until they have a greater knowledge of laws than they at present possess, they do not always know whether they are being infringed. Even if they have the necessary knowledge they often need aid to put their case effectively.

Enquiries and complaints are constantly received, dealing with such matters as the following:—

- i. Legal hours of work.
- ii. Rates of pay in trades scheduled under the Trade Boards Act.
- iii. Compensation for accidents incurred at work.
- iv. The laws regarding the engagement and dismissal of domestic servants.
- v. Difficulties in obtaining sickness benefit.*
- vi. Breaches of the Factory Acts, such as:—
 - a. Unheated workplaces.
 - b. Concerning dangerous occupations.
 - c. Employment during the night.
 - d. Workplaces in an unsatisfactory condition.

In April, 1919, the Y.W.C.A. was allowed by the Ministry of Labour to take part in an arbitration case on behalf of nearly two hundred munition workers, who were owed several weeks' bonus by their employer. The case was taken under the Conciliation Act of 1896. No Society (other than a Trade Union) had ever before assisted in putting this Act into force. The Association was successful in obtaining nearly £400 for the workers, who were profoundly grateful.

In the spring of last year part of the work previously done by the Industrial Law Committee was undertaken. Courses of lectures on industrial laws which affect women have been arranged in various cities and large towns. Such lectures, and also the literature published by the Department, have been found very useful by many social workers, outside as well as inside the Y.W.C.A.

The Association is of opinion that, as a Christian society, it should no longer be content to stand aside while conditions inimical to the full development of personality are allowed to continue. It is anxious that all women and girls should realise that the Y.W.C.A. is prepared to come forward to help them in their material as well as in their spiritual life.

Enquiries should be addressed to Miss Mary E. Phillips, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1. All communications are treated as strictly confidential.

* The Association formed a Branch of the National Federation of Women Workers' Approved Society in 1920.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

This is the last of a series of articles written by Harold Cox, Dr. Marie Stopes, Dr. Scharlieb, &c., on Birth Control, which began in the number of April 22nd. Readers who are interested in the question should note that the first public meeting on this subject is being held at the Queen's Hall, on May 31st, at 8.30 p.m.

We would remind our readers that our object has been to offer a platform for the frank discussion of this very complex subject, which, with the related problems of marriage and venereal disease, form the most serious group of subjects demanding the attention of women to-day. We shall return to other aspects of the problem at a later date.

THE ATTITUDE OF FRANCE TOWARDS BIRTH CONTROL.

For the last fifty years France has led the European nations in control of the birth rate. Now she has taken fright. In a moment of panic, in a half-empty Chamber, she has thought better of her past and has passed a law to safeguard the future.

Hitherto, it has been possible, in France as in England, to discuss birth control in public meetings or in print, and to distribute information on the subject in any suitable way; nor has any embargo been placed on the commercial side of the question. The matter has been left to the good sense of the individual, to the doctor, and to the chemist. But now the position is changed, and a widespread custom has been censured. Openly to approve, or in any manner to advocate, the prevention of conception has become illegal. A question always intimate, and, to the poor, always urgent, has been driven underground and made suspect.

How far France can compel her present race of shrewd and thrifty citizens is another matter. There is a touch of unwarranted optimism in the mere suggestion. But whatever the law can do to alter and shape opinion and to discourage instruction is to be done. The clauses of the recent Act relating to birth control propaganda leave little uncertainty on that score.

On August 1st it was decreed that any and every act or attempted act which might in any way facilitate the reduction of the birth rate, if committed for the purpose of advocating such a reduction, was henceforth illegal and punishable by one to six months' imprisonment, and a fine of 100-5,000 francs.

It is forbidden to divulge, or describe, or offer to explain, any act designed to prevent pregnancy, or to facilitate the use of such act; and under this proscription are included lectures held in public places, or public meetings; the circulation of information by means of medical, or so-called medical, consulting rooms; and the sale, placing on sale, the offer, even in private, the placing on show, the advertisement or distribution on the public way, or in public places, or by house-to-house distribution, the forwarding in wrappers or in closed or open envelopes, by post or by any distributing or transport agency, of books, writings, printed matter, notices, advertisements, drawings, pictures, and emblems.

Those persons also come under the penalties of the law who sell, place on sale, or cause to be sold, distribute, or cause to be distributed in any manner whatsoever, remedies, substances, instruments, or objects of any kind, knowing they are destined for the prevention of conception whether or not the substances in question achieve their purpose or not and are in reality efficacious or not.

There is, however, one phrase which embraces all these forbidden acts, and which will materially affect the application of the law. These acts are condemned when they are performed "dans un but de propagande anti-conceptionnelle," and it is apparently intended that the courts shall discriminate between commercial acts and acts of propaganda.

When the Bill was drafted it was proposed to include and condemn, within certain limits, the traffic by doctors and chemists in birth control knowledge and appliances, but a group of doctors opposed the suggestion, and it was decided to frame a separate Bill dealing with their activities at a later date.

The origin of the drastic change of attitude, embodied in this law, is not far to seek. It is the result of the patriotic conviction that France needs numbers and can have them, and that, at this point in her history, size will avail her more than all

the benefits of prudence and moderation. It is the natural reaction after four years of extreme peril. It is the desperate remedy, the sacrifice of all else in the race for life itself. And no nation which has shared with France these years of fear and fighting will misunderstand the vehemence of her care for the future.

Only it is useless to throw away the life one hopes to save; and France may well ask herself if she is so certain of getting her finest defenders from her overcrowded homes. Will she even get the bigger armies she wants? Can she guarantee them the food they need in childhood? That is the question, and it is one on which the women who are nearest the heart of the problem have not the least shadow of doubt. They will tell you with an unsparing baldness of illustration just when and how they learnt that sanity lies in some balance between the food on the table and the number of mouths around it, and they will ask you how this saving balance is to be maintained if the knowledge of freedom of birth control is withheld from the heads of the household.

Possibly this law will prove powerless to check a practice which has been accepted and endorsed by so large a part of the nation as has the practice of birth control by the French; but it will not prove impossible to prevent the discussion of the subject, to discourage some very necessary research, and to deny the more timid section of the coming generation the knowledge and moral support they might otherwise have had; and that may turn out to be the chief result of the "Loi du 1er Août." A small result when all is said and done, and one which will hardly make an impression on the peasant, tenacious of his comfort and inheritor of much worldly wisdom, but to the needy and ignorant artisan a more serious matter.

For, strange though it may seem, there is a need for such instruction both in France and in England; the abortion rate alone proves it. The uneducated, unlearned woman needs to hear the subject reputedly handled and its mysteries explained. She wants the last word of science brought down to her and interpreted. But, for the moment, she must go without; all such instruction is impossible; the subject is taboo.

It is interesting to speculate whether it will remain even legally taboo. Is there in France a fanatical spirit, alive to the national importance of a restricted birth rate, which will defy the law? Are there any women to save this question for the overworked mothers in the slums from the stigma of the illegal and the furtive? Is there one to voice the hard-earned certainty of the *poilu's* wife that this knowledge is for her right and necessary, and for her family unquestionably good?

In *rentier* circles there cluster round the population question so many considerations—there is hardly a side of life that it does not touch: religion, morality, economics, medicine, statecraft—that the practical issue is overlaid. Talk ranges round the wheatfields of Canada, the developments of science, and the benefits of a change of economic system. All unessential to the question whether it is wise or not that parents shall hold the balance between income and numbers, all begging the question whether, in the meantime, it is well that mothers should be attempting the impossible, and children suffering for their attempts as they are in every back street in London and Paris.

There is an urgency about birth control in poverty that the economist may miss. Women handling 40s. a week, or less, do not debate its merits any more than they debate the merits of food for the hungry. They take its righteousness for granted; they endorse it with an arresting vehemence, and they claim the freedom and the progress that it brings within their reach.

They are the forgotten factor in the "Loi du 1er Août."

JANET CHANCE.

THE LEAGUE AND AFRICA (contd.)

By LEONARD WOOLF.

It is a remarkable fact that the hegemony of Europe over Africa has been established only in the last forty years. Where to-day 160 million Africans are subjected to the autocratic power of European States, forty years ago only about ten millions were so subjected. The methods by which the African empires of these European States were obtained cannot be completely ignored. The fact that a man has committed robbery and murder in order to obtain a sovereignty will probably have some effect upon the way in which he uses it, and most people believe that the same applies to States. For instance, it is difficult for most people to believe that if the Prussian militarists had obtained world-dominion by methods of frightfulness, they would have suddenly begun to use it in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount. The history of the way in which the civilised Powers of Europe conquered and partitioned Africa is a monotonous story of fraud, treachery, robbery, and murder. In this respect there is little to choose between the records of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium. We swindled, brow-beat, threatened, and jockeyed one another; we robbed the African of his territory either by massacring him in the cause of law and order, the slave trade and civilisation, or by the simpler method of inducing an African chief to put his mark to a document which he did not understand, but which, in fact, handed him and his land and people over to the inhabitants of Paris, London, or Berlin. It is true that British agents usually paid a bottle of rum or a piece of cloth as the price of an empire, but the German discovered that you could often save even that outlay, and that many African rulers would sign these kind of documents provided that you were willing to take a bath with them. Thus, while Stanley carved out an empire by means of demi-johns of rum, red cloth, and old cotton caps, Karl Peters was winning many miles of German East Africa by taking a few baths.

There is one other point with regard to the actual acquisition of these African empires which must be noticed, because in the near future it may assume considerable importance. Owing to various causes, Britain and France obtained much the largest share of African territory. In 1914 three-quarters of the whole African continent was in the hands of these two Powers. The war, by eliminating Germany, has, of course, greatly increased this Franco-British preponderance. To-day the British Empire and France enjoy what amounts almost to an imperialist monopoly over and in Africa. When the economic potentialities in the tropical products of this vast area are considered, and when it is remembered that its population of nearly 100 millions is subject to the autocratic government of these two States, it becomes obvious that this monopoly is a fact which concerns both the inhabitants of Africa, and the nations, particularly the industrialised nations, of Europe and America. The way in which the world will regard this Franco-British monopoly will naturally depend upon the way in which the European Powers have governed and are governing their African possessions.

The system hitherto applied in Africa has been imperialism. The question is what has been its nature and what its effects in and outside Africa. Have the great imperialist Powers administered their possessions on the principle—to quote the Covenant—that the well-being and development of the inhabitants is a sacred trust of civilisation?

European imperialism can, and does, claim with justice that it has given to Africa the blessing of law and order. Whether our laws are civilised may perhaps be doubted, but it is true that well-being, development, and civilisation itself are impossible without those settled and regularised conditions of life which we mean by "law and order." Such conditions were not present in Africa before its partition among European States. The African was accustomed to the sporadic anarchy of savage life, whereas to-day he knows that normally, unless Europe engages in a great war, battle, murder, and the raiding of wives and cattle will not be tolerated.

Imperialists sometimes assume that law and order are equivalent to well-being and development; but they are not, they are only conditions precedent to well-being and development. The Russian Government has succeeded in introducing law and order in Russia, but whether that is consonant with the well-being of the Russian people is a subject of acute controversy even among our own imperialists.

The real charge against the existing system of African government is that it is content with law and order, and takes no further thought for the well-being and development of the native inhabitants. Nay, more, the British and French administration in their African possessions works, for the most part, adversely to the well-being and development of the natives, and yet everyone agrees that the colonial administration of France and Britain is superior to that of the other Powers. This is the direct result of the imperialist theory and system, and it is essential that its operation should be understood if we are to substitute a better alternative in the mandate system.

The imperialist system in Africa results almost inevitably in the economic exploitation of the African in the interests of a few Europeans. Everyone knows that this took place with appalling cruelties in the Belgian Congo, the German colonies, and in Portuguese possessions. But, except in some British possessions on the West Coast, the process has been and is taking place, with more or less cruelty and injustice, all over Africa.

The inhabitants of tropical Africa are pastoral or agricultural people. Their economic existence is bound up with the land. Their material well-being depends absolutely upon the land system, and the way in which the Government deals with the ownership of land. They are backward peoples, for the most part living in primitive, tribal communities, and, if brought suddenly in contact with the complicated economic system and civilisation of Europe, they are unable to understand or to deal with it. It follows that a European Government, really concerned with the well-being and development of the natives, would begin with two primary objects: first, to safeguard the economic foundations of native life, access to and use of the land; and, second, to educate the natives so that they might be capable of development, to give them the knowledge without which it is impossible for them to adjust themselves to the new system and civilisation imposed upon them by force from Europe.

Imperialism has everywhere, except to some extent in British West Africa, pursued precisely opposite principles of government. First the native is reduced to a state of economic serfdom with the help of the Government. All the most fertile land is sold or leased to Europeans or European companies. The native is either left upon the land like stock upon a farm, or he is removed and penned in reserves, consisting for the most part of the less fertile land. Then comes the second part of this process. An enormous proportion of Africa, and nearly the whole of tropical Africa, is not colonisable by white men, and in any case the white settler cannot, or does not, perform manual labour. The land is, therefore, useless to the white settler, or to the European company, unless they can use native labour for its exploitation. But the native is not accustomed to the wage system of European capitalism. The agricultural or pastoral system to which he is accustomed is usually based upon communal ownership of land by the tribe. Suddenly he finds himself and his tribe dispossessed of their land in favour of a white man. He refuses to come back to the land and work upon it for the new owner and for a small wage. Then the European settler goes to the European administration and complains that the native will not work for him, that the native is a lazy nigger who should be made to work for his own good, and that, for the good of civilisation, he, the white man, must have black labour to cultivate his farm or to work his mine. And the administration decides that it is its duty to teach the native by compulsion what Mr. Chamberlain called the "necessity and dignity of human labour." The Government, in fact, sets out to compel the black man to work for the white.

(To be continued.)

DR. POLIXENA SHISHKINA-YAVEIN.

By ARIADNA TYRKOVA-WILLIAMS.

I should like to tell British women about the fate of one of the most energetic workers among the Russian suffragists.

Dr. Polixena Shishkina-Yavein took part in many international women's congresses. Probably members of such conferences will recall among their most prominent workers this tall, fine, alert-looking woman, with her handsome, expressive face, and her fiery, enthusiastic speeches in defence of women's rights.

She was one of the founders and the President of the Women's Equality League in Russia.

In Russia the emancipation of women followed a different course from that of Western Europe. We had no militant feminism. From the middle of the nineteenth century women in Russia took part in public life and stood much nearer to politics than their Western sisters.

From time to time, however, it was necessary to give battle, to fight down the prejudices against women's rights, which lingered on even in advanced Russian circles.

This had to be done, for instance, at the time of the Revolution of 1917, when the Provisional Government was drafting the Municipal and Zemstvo election, and determining the franchise for the Constituent Assembly. The question of votes for women had, as a matter of fact, been already settled by years of preceding work, and by the position which the Russian woman had acquired as doctor, administrative employee, nurse, and simply as a member of the community.

Yet, in order to dispel all doubt and hesitation, we quickly assembled a delegation of ten of the most prominent women-workers, and waited on the Prime Minister, Prince Lvoff, for the purpose of securing for the Russian woman her right to vote.

Dr. Polixena Shishkina-Yavein was a prominent member of this delegation. But, as a militant suffragist, she held the view that such negotiations were insufficient. She considered that the women must be raised *en masse*, and the voice of the future voters heard; the support of the Soviet must also be obtained.

With her impetuous energy she organised a huge women's demonstration after a crowded meeting at the Town Hall. A long procession of women walked through Petrograd to the Taurida Palace, where the Petrograd Council of Workmen and Peasants, as yet representing not Bolsheviks but Moderate Socialists, was sitting. Raw March snow fell thickly on the demonstrators, but failed to quench their enthusiasm, or the red flame of their placards and banners glowing with feminist and political mottoes. At the head of the procession marched Polixena Shishkina-Yavein, like a commander leading his troops.

Four years have passed. The Bolsheviks have seized power in Russia, and have long ago deprived both men and women of all political rights, and established the equality of slavery for all. Work became impossible. Life became a series of senseless and cruel accidents.

In a letter addressed to me, this is how Dr. P. Shishkina-Yavein describes the wandering life she was compelled to lead, together with her husband and children. Her husband, Professor Yavein, was director of a Training School for Women Medical Students, and was well known as an exceptionally good man and able doctor.

"In January, 1918, I was obliged to go to the Crimea to fetch my children, who were stranded there with their grandmother, and could no longer receive the money which we sent them. My husband was so impressed by the murder of Kokoshkin and Shingarev* that he also decided to leave Petrograd, were it only for a short time. Moreover, railway travelling was then rather dangerous, as the 'comrades' were returning from the front, and my husband was afraid of letting me travel alone with the children.

"We reached the Crimea safely, but the return journey was difficult. On arriving at Odessa we fell ill with influenza. Then Odessa was occupied by the French, and my husband did not want to leave, saying: 'The world victors have come; all will be over in a month's time.' Then came Petlura's bands and street fighting, and the French left Odessa, and the Bolsheviks arrived, then followed arrests and ill-treatment of the scientific men and professors. All this we lived through, crowded, cold and hungry, in one room. To reach Petrograd was difficult; one had to cross zones of spotted typhus, various fronts, and

*Two members of the State Duma brutally murdered by the Bolsheviks in a Petrograd hospital in January, 1918.

armed bands were roving all over South Russia. My husband decided to wait; he was loth to go to Bolshevik Petrograd. Later our daughter fell ill with severe typhoid fever, and Odessa was occupied by the Volunteer Army; again there was street fighting, and new fronts sprang into being. At last, before the second arrival of the Bolsheviks in January, 1920, we left Odessa for Bulgaria. Here I fell dangerously ill with spotted typhus, and escaped death only owing to my husband's wonderful nursing. He saved my life, but himself was overstrained by all he had undergone during these terrible three years of wandering life and the long journey across Europe. From Odessa, through Bulgaria, Serbia, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, and Germany, on July 13th we reached Esthonia, where we possessed a large, well-furnished villa. There we hoped to sell some of our belongings and rest. We found our villa absolutely empty, everything looted and destroyed; the building was used as a soldiers' billet and the filth was indescribable.

"When we left Petrograd in 1918, we planned to return shortly, so we brought nothing away. I took off my last ring, and left everything in our flat. We had no warm clothes, only two changes of underwear. According to information all our belongings were looted by the Bolsheviks, who settled down in our flat.

"So we were now quite homeless, though not disheartened, in spite of being weary of our three years' wandering life. My husband was offered a chair at the Riga University, and was elected to the Dorpat University; we hoped to settle down and rest a little. But on August 30th, on his way to his hospital, my husband, who the day before had played tennis and bathed in the cold sea, felt suddenly ill, sat down in the street, and died from a nervous spasm of the heart due to overstrain, overwork, suffering and anxiety for me and the children. Here am I and the children, left quite alone in strange Esthonia, homeless, without clothes, and absolutely destitute. At first I obtained a medical post here, but after four months' work I was dismissed together with all other Russian doctors. Russian medical men in Esthonia have no right to practise or to occupy any post. Nothing remains but to die of starvation. In six weeks my children will have finished college, and I am faced with the question—what to do next?

"The International Women's League somehow learnt of my plight, and sent me a small sum of money shortly after my husband's death. This enabled me to exist before I obtained work, while I held my post (the salary was insufficient for the three of us), and at present is my only resource. But what next?

"Having no warm things all the winter, I was continually catching cold, and coughing badly. As a result of this, and of all I have gone through, I have developed some chest complaint, have been in hospital several times, and am feeling very unstrung. Moreover, my heart has always been weak. When, in the course of our travels, we were obliged to carry our luggage, my husband always took the heaviest bag, saying: 'Give it me! You mustn't lift heavy things, remember your heart is not as strong as mine.' And now he, poor man, has overstrained his heart by carrying heavy bags. In Odessa, too, he had to carry water to the fourth floor, and firewood from the docks to our flat. In a word, we have gone through what many other refugees have experienced, and are now left quite destitute.

"I am not going to speak to you of my moral sufferings. Having given you an idea of our trials, I appeal to you—could not something be done to give my children the possibility of going on with their studies somewhere abroad? Is there no society which might assist them? My children's dream (my daughter is eighteen, my son nineteen) is to enter a polytechnic.

"That is why I appeal to you, for perhaps something might be done in England, and they might obtain an opportunity of continuing their education abroad."

All I can do is to appeal to British women on behalf of a well-known Russian suffragist, whom the Revolution deprived not only of means but, what is more, of health and work.

I am certain that my appeal will find a response among women, who will give her pecuniary assistance and help her to weather the storm as she and her late husband have many a time succoured all those who needed their help.

If she decides to educate her children in some country with a low rate of exchange, any sum collected in British pounds sterling will prove a valuable asset.

[All communications should be addressed to Mme. Ariadna Tyrkova-Williams, 47, Woodville Gardens, Ealing.—Ed.]

EFFICIENT HOUSEKEEPING.

THE EXPERIENCES OF A "LADY SERVANT."—IV.

By ANN POPE.

A great deal has been said about training girls in domestic work, but this training must not be confined only to girls who want to be servants. All girls must be trained, or we shall have a class of servants despising their mistresses. Mistresses often lose a great deal of kudos with their servants simply by showing their ignorance of the machine they are pretending to control.

A successful mistress is one who knows how everything should be done, the best way to do it, how long it takes, and how much strength it uses up. She knows how to arrange work and administer a household—how to make a household budget, so that each one's work, and the income, is properly apportioned. And this implies a good deal of thought and a good deal of training or experience. Such work is far from dull, it is most interesting, more so than the running of a large business, because the human contact is greater, and all human beings are interesting if we get near enough to their real selves.

There has been a tendency for some years to consider training in cooking a sufficient preparation for housekeeping. This is a great mistake; a girl may be a good cook, and good in many ways, but a very indifferent housekeeper.

The best mistress of a household is one who has taken the trouble to do every piece of work in the house herself. If she cannot do this, then she should engage an expert, watch her at work to notice her pace and method, and make a note of the length of time the task takes. If she tries to do it herself, afterwards, she will probably take longer on account of inexperience, but the expert will have provided the standard to be reached, and her own effort will teach her that slowness is not always idleness, it is often inexperience and fear.

Every task in the house should be measured and standardised. It should be studied to see if it has been done in the best way; that is, with fewest movements of hands, feet, and body. For in this way not only is time saved, but fatigue.

The home may be filled with machinery which saves and generates power; if its supervision is scientific there will be much saving of muscle and time, an elimination of drudgery and discomfort, a shortening of tasks, more time for recreation and self-development for both mistress and maid, and common interests will prove a bond between employer and employee.

Research in home knowledge and household science will raise domestic work to the level of other sciences, and we shall hear no more nonsense about students who work in the home holding an inferior position to those who work in any other laboratory—or business.

The proper organisation of the home, and the raising of the status of domestic service, would not only do much to solve the question of unemployment among women, but also help to lessen unemployment amongst men.

In our last chapter we promised to mention the biggest thing of all to be tackled. This is neither more nor less than the training of the mistress. There is a great deal of talk about training the servant, but we can only repeat the first and most important thing is to train the mistress of the household.

How is this to be achieved? Let us suppose the family to consist of father, mother, and two small children. The father out all day. No resident servant, only daily help for a short time every morning.

The mother must first make up her mind what her "ideal" is to be—that is to say, what is her principal aim. Is she going to aim at making a good impression on her neighbours and friends? Or is she going to aim at saving every penny? Does she want to have a share in some of the women's movements, political or otherwise? Or is it her heart's desire to provide proper food and care for her husband and children, with the intent that they shall be healthy, happy human beings, citizens of no mean city—and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven? We will take it that the last is her "ideal."

The first thing to do is to exercise "common sense." She—herself—is the pivot on which the household moves; her first business is to keep herself "fit." She must have sufficient rest and recreation, also a chance of developing any special talent. To do this she must organise her household work, and apply efficiency principles to all difficulties. Where she is ignorant let her learn by taking "competent counsel."

Experts will tell her to have as few "things" about the house as possible, and what there is should be conveniently arranged.

1. Let the table at which cooking is prepared, &c., and the sink where things are washed, be the right height; if the table is too low it is easy to raise it; if too high the legs can be cut down. The sink is more difficult to readjust, but it is rarely too high, and if too low the work can be raised by standing the bowl for washing up on an inverted bowl the requisite height.

2. Arrange all articles according to their use—group them. Near the frying-pan have the fish slice, near the flour bin have the pastry board, rolling pin, flour sifter, pastry bowl, and all requisites for making flour puddings, cakes, and pastry. This grouping will save many steps.

3. Sit down to every operation where it is possible; most things can be done sitting down, if one trains one's self to this way of working, and fatigue is lessened. Study the work you are doing, and make as few movements with hands and arms as you can. After a little thought, and some experiments, you will arrive at the best way of doing each piece of work, and the best conditions of working. Thus you will find the "standard operations" and "standard conditions" suited to your particular house, family, and circumstances. Carrying out standard operations and standard conditions is called *standard practice*. Begin with your method of clearing a table, washing-up, making a cake, &c. You will get very interested, and work will cease to be mechanical and become daily more inspiring.

4. Find out how long each task takes to "dispatch." Then make a table or "schedule" of the day's work.

5. Make notes and keep "records" for reference. For this purpose have a writing table (a double locker from war stock is excellent and cheap) kept exclusively for housekeeping purposes.

6. "Discipline" yourself, but do not forget to "deal fairly"—it is the truest unselfishness.

It is easy, by taking a little thought, to get an early cup of tea in bed without going downstairs or into the kitchen. The same apparatus that will heat a baby's food will boil a small kettle, and the little comfort is worth a great deal after perhaps a broken night's rest. And if a mother disciplines and deals fairly with herself, her babies won't be nearly so much trouble. Children are very, very sensitive to psychological or temperamental influences. Try it and see.

Always lie down for at least an hour after the mid-day meal. The babies must learn to lie down too! The gain in the evening is almost unbelievable.

7. The "efficient" handling of household problems will bring its own reward in renewed vigour, sustained interest, freshness, opportunities for culture, and the general well-being of the home—the realisation of the ideal.

Don't be afraid to do things differently from other people. For example, if you have no resident servant, don't dream of washing-up dishes after the evening meal; wash the silver and knives, fill saucepans with water, and pack up china neatly for the daily help in the morning. This is a wise "letting go"—just because a thing has always been done is no reason why it always must be.

Improve on old-fashioned methods—use labour-saving appliances if possible; if not, use your brains. These are the best labour-saving appliances. Learn all you can. Take lessons when possible. Study books, discuss things with friends. Form a small study circle for the purpose—just two or three friends, no more, who know each other well. Get your husband to help you with advice. He will be interested, and feel the home is more his own. He won't be bothered, he'll like it. It is one thing to be consulted about a plan, and quite another thing to be worried continually because things go wrong.

Ideals, common sense, competent counsel, standard operations, standard conditions, standard practice, dispatching, scheduling, reliable records, discipline, fair play, and efficiency rewards, are the twelve principles of scientific management that have revolutionised the business world. They will be found equally wonder-working if applied to home life and house-keeping.

THE END.

REVIEWS.

FANDANGOES OF NONSENSE.

The House of Commons and Monarchy. By H. Belloc. (Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.)

Equal Pay and the Teaching Profession. Official Memorandum of the London Schoolmasters' Association. (Evan Bros. 1s.)

The Glass of Fashion. By "A Gentleman with a Duster." (Mills & Boon. 5s.)

A political treatise is apt to be dull reading except to the author, but the two with which this review deals are anything but dull. One method of escape from dullness is excellence; another is wit; and the third, which is the one adopted by both these before us, is infatuation. Mr. Belloc cannot be called a stodgy writer, even at his worst; but he is certainly an aggravating one. He sparkles with a meretricious glitter of paradox, and tries to dazzle with the unexpected; but the effect, even by the end of the first sentence, is annoyance, and by the end of the book the sum total is exasperation. Not that it is not interesting, and even suggestive in its tiresome way. Thesis and exposition alike are provoking, and yet there are curious gems to be discovered in these pages which give us an unusual sensation. They trip us up, as it were, and give our thoughts a jolt, which is doubtless good for them, and us.

The object of the book appears to be to praise monarchical government. This, Mr. Belloc explains, is the only possible form of political equality; democracy is the embodiment of the rules of aristocracy, and the very antithesis of justice, and England is the leading exponent to the world of the hatred of political equality. We shall find no salvation until we go back to the good old rule of a Napoleon or a Nero, and to this we shall certainly return. The House of Commons, wrong at its best, is now obsolete and incredibly corrupt and "Words," says Mr. Belloc, "will not save it." He is right there; they will not, but neither will they kill it, especially if they are such words as his. We wonder, as we read all this stuff, why we should put up with it; and there is really no reason why we should. We forgive him much, however, when we come on some of his persistent perversities, because they make us laugh. Take this, for example, "Henry VIII. was the tool of a red, vicious, and very unwise woman." Surely Mr. Belloc has read history through spectacles as scarlet as the covers of this volume.

If Mr. Belloc sees red himself, however, the authors of the other volumes under consideration make us do so. "Equal Pay and the Teaching Profession" sets out to be a fair statement of the case from the men teachers' point of view, but we cannot say that it justifies the claim. The early chapters, which deal with the economic question, are not so bad. We disagree with them very completely, of course, and object very strongly to the imputations and implications which they contain. We object, too, to the very ingenious way in which the authors have selected quotations from Miss Rathbone's writings on this subject, and to the suppressed venom with which they write. But, after all, everyone is entitled to his own opinion on such matters. We do not "see red" because the men teachers have got hold of an economic fallacy, and we are indeed interested in what they say. They point out very clearly that the men in industry support equal pay because they think it will lead to the exclusion of women, while the men in the teaching profession oppose it because they think it will lead to the exclusion of men. For a frank admission of sex prejudice this would be hard to beat; but it is quite obvious that there is a lot of truth in it. It does not affect the rights and wrongs of the question one way or the other; nor, because men think so, does it follow that they think rightly; but, as a fact, it is an important matter.

As we said before, however, it is not the economic part of the book which makes us see red. It is the so-called biological chapter, and the sentimental stuff which follows it. Such things ought not to be published under the pretence that they are scientific truths. A little dressing of biological language does not change nonsense into anything better, and a book which might have been seriously read is put out of court altogether by the mistake of its inclusion. We do not propose to repeat all the stuff in these pages; when we tell our readers that the authors assert that women who do not marry are "a menace to the society in which they live . . . from them discord arises," and go on to say that this explains the unrest and turmoil in the teaching profession and the persistent agitation for equal pay, they will understand the drift of the whole thing. To make

it quite plain, we need only add that the authors very kindly hint (p. 51) that if only women would drop their agitation and let men teachers get more of the pay, some of them would be so kind as to marry some of these troublesome and dangerous surplus women. After this we are not surprised to find that they "gladly place woman first as a spiritual force," and "reverence her as the angelic part of humanity." They would.

But, after all, we need not be annoyed by this booklet. We refuse to believe that the Schoolmasters' Association is faithfully represented by this rubbish, or that the Association itself represents the majority of the men to whom the teaching of our children is entrusted. If it really did we should be, not angry, but alarmed. For men who think like that are not fit to teach the young of this generation. False sentiment and false biology and false economics are not a good foundation for the training of youth, and we should like to think that our children were imbibing something more sturdy and a little more up-to-date than the outlook represented in these pages. They are. There is no need to worry.

But what shall we say of the dust raised up by the "Gentleman with a Duster" in his new book, "The Glass of Fashion"? It is not nonsense what he says, but it is all very painful, and we wish he wouldn't say it. His thesis is that Mrs. Asquith and Col. Repington represent Fashion, and that what we want is a return to the good old Victorian manners of the aristocracy. He holds up to admiration the exquisite ladies who do not allow smoking in the drawing-room, and draws a delicately sentimental picture of ideal women (of the privileged class), exercising dead weights of influence and moral suasion which they lightly touch with humour. Now, for our part, we hold no brief for Mrs. Asquith or Col. Repington. We are as disgusted as need be with Fashion, Fastness, and Frivolity, and no doubt Society has fallen on evil days.

But the alternative is not what this old gentleman believes (he must be old to talk as he does). The alternatives to Mrs. Asquith and her set are women rather more robust in mind, and considerably more objective; women with a reverence for reality, such as this generation possesses, who know something of the world outside the privileged class, and who have not very much patience with sloppy sentiment disguised as morals. No doubt the "Gentleman with a Duster" does not like this sort of woman when he meets her; but we don't like his book.

R. S.

League of Nations Song Book. Words edited by Percy Dearmer. Music edited by Martin Shaw. (Published for the League of Arts by Stainer & Bell. Price 1s. 6d.)

No one likes to go on indefinitely carrying out in gloom plans conceived in moments of insight, unless they have some refreshment by the way. This Song Book provides refreshment. The names of Percy Dearmer as word editor, and of Martin Shaw as music editor, are a guarantee of artistic excellence. The word canon must be called in aid in describing the results of their collaboration, and, in the preface, it is stated that "a canon may be about any worthy object, but it must be suited to congregational singing." We venture to add that what a congregation can do an audience can do.

There are seventeen canons, some, in the cant phrase, "sacred," some "secular," others, the something in between that suits our modern ways. All are in their degree soul-stirring yet unsuspect of sickly sentimentality. First comes the late Hubert Parry's magnificent setting to Blake's "Jerusalem," which he dedicated to the Woman's Movement and first conducted at a great suffrage thanksgiving demonstration. Then, in exquisite contrast, Whittier's hymn named "Quietness"—"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, Forgive our foolish ways." The sweetness and tenderness of Martin Shaw's setting to this may safely be enjoyed, because he is a master of music. Among the others are "Cherterton's Hymn" and "The Battle-song of the Republic," with Martin Shaw's amazing tune, and last of all the vigorous humanity in words and in music of Arthur O'Shaughnessy's "Wonderful Deathless Ditties," set by S. H. Nicholson.

It only remains to say that there is hope of a cheap edition of words only, to show that in this publication, as in all its doings, the League of Arts shows its faith by its works, that the world will be won for goodwill only when the people of goodwill cease to be jingoes and pedagogues and become artists.

A. H. W.

DRAMA.

"Love Among the Paint Pots," at the Aldwych.

Miss Sydney Fairbrother is an extraordinarily good friend to Miss Gertrude Jennings. "The Young Person in Pink" owed its success almost entirely to her delicious acting of the old caretaker. "Love Among the Paint Pots" will certainly owe whatever success it may enjoy to her Miss Mittens. There can be little doubt that the part of Miss Mittens was written for Miss Fairbrother. The old maid is the heroine of the play, as clearly as Miss Fairbrother is the heroine of the evening. All the laughter produced by this light comedy is due to her. Her clothes, her walk, her bunches of flowers, her voice, her gestures, her coming in at the window through the geranium pots taking five minutes, her exit over the geranium pots taking another five, are the centre of attention, the only events of the evening.

Miss Fairbrother is amazingly successful in keeping our attention and making us laugh at her antics, but she obviously despises her part. She plays it, as is no doubt the only way to play it, with the frank buffoonery of the circus clown. She knows that she can make an audience laugh by grimacing and tumbling, and as there is very little else in the play which would make any audience laugh, she very properly grimaces and tumbles with a will.

The play itself has that rather peculiar amateurish quality of "The Young Person in Pink," but it has it more strongly. The whole thing is very much like improvised family charades. During the scene where the old men were painting the house, and again where the fat old woman was trying on her dress, I found myself on the point of guessing what was the word. The play has a strong vein of sentimentality which is generally absent from improvised charades. And it has Sydney Fairbrother, Mary Brough, and Owen Nares. But even three swallows do not make a summer.

D. E.

"Emma," at the St. James' Theatre.

The plot of "Emma" is nothing out of the common, except that it is perhaps feebler, and the construction is perhaps worse than the common run of plays. There is no freshness, no verve, no lightness of touch in it. It drags on in dreary monotony to its inevitable conclusion. The story is that of a wealthy young widow, Lady Emma Jones, who falls in love with Montague Leroy, an actor at a provincial town. She proposes to him, and after some little demur he accepts. Still, she is not quite sure of him, and decides to put him to the test by pretending to lose all her money. She has just made this decision, and written to her bankers about it, when she finds him rehearsing a love scene in her house with an attractive young actress. This makes her still less sure of him, and on some pretext she breaks off the engagement. Montague Leroy says he will sue her for breach of promise. The last act is a court of justice. Of course, Lady Emma, while pleading her own case, takes care to let him know that she is quite penniless and still loves him. And all is well. This rather pointless plot was not rendered bearable by either the dialogue, the setting, or the acting. The action was insufferably slow; scenes which might have been amusing had they lasted a few minutes, lasted a whole act. A joke which was slightly funny the first time, became boring when it had been repeated six times. For if a joke is to gain its point through repetition, it must be managed with skill and art. And there is very little skill and no art at all in "Emma."

Miss Amy Brandon-Thomas made Emma into a very tiresome young woman. Her acting was stilted and rather lackadaisical, and her movements jerky. Mr. Edgar Norfolk, as Montague Leroy, did not improve matters. His attempts at making love were absurd; his attempts at making a joke, pathetic. Some of the minor characters were quite good, however, notably Miss Joan Swinstead as Miss Adair, the actress, and Mr. Jevan Brandon-Thomas as Reggie Pierpont. Miss Alex. Fuzell, as the lady who devotes her life to her twenty-seven Pekinese spariels, was extremely good. She acted with ease and understood her part.

J. S. B.

Royalty Theatre: Mr. de Courville's Revue, "Pins and Needles."

Revue, as an art form, should be a series of witty, topical reflections, through which runs the connecting thread of a story. The latest revue, "Pins and Needles," has no story, and nothing particularly topical; it is a group of unrelated pictures and sketches, the only connecting link being performers who appear and reappear. Still, it is called revue, and as a crowning irrelevancy, the only connection with its pointless title is the punning statement on the programme that it is a revue with points.

Mr. de Courville's genius in the concoction of revue runs to ingenious scenic devices and the effective manoeuvring of chorus girls—a genius which is better displayed in a larger theatre than in a comparatively small house such as the Royalty. However, he has adopted the technique of the intimate revue to the extent of having a stage within a stage; the scenery is changed for the back stage, while the front stage remains unaltered; this method prevents delays, but limits the spectacular effect. Mr. de Courville has been lavish in expenditure, giving us many scenes and various and magnificent dresses. All this is good in its way, but it is not the way for any but the largest theatres in which most of the audience cannot and do not want to hear. A cheaper setting with more wit and brains in the book is preferable, at least, to my taste.

"Pins and Needles" is more entertaining in the first half than in the second. It starts well, with a little gentle laughter at itself, by showing the dress rehearsal of an unready revue. Later, there are scenes from Shakespeare, in which the players prove their talent by really getting their serious effects before switching off into burlesque. This is exactly the right sort of fun for revue; it is a greater tribute to Shakespeare than the earnestness of a multitude of bard-worshippers. As a finale to the first part there is an amusing scena called "The Road to Epsom," the inspiration for which has come from those seaside photographers' shops where the patient is invited to peer through painted canvas so that his face may be snapped adorning some grotesque body. It is elementary humour, but good enough.

At the Royalty, Mr. Edmund Gwenn makes his first appearance in revue, and makes good. His rather emphatic style is suited to this class of entertainment; he could easily develop into a first-rate low comedian, as long ago his playing of 'Enery Straker indicated. He sings a Harry Champion song about a man with a large mouth with great gusto. He is amusingly fatuous in a little burlesque called, "Maggie's Return," and is made up as a cross between Father Christmas and Ibsen. His Hamlet in the gravedigger scene is good at first, but on turning ventriloquist he belies his new calling by speaking too obviously from the lips.

Mr. Jack Morrison, no newcomer to revue, is an extremely competent actor. On the night that I was there, as well as playing his own parts, Mr. Morrison took on many of Mr. Alfred Lester's parts in his absence. I should like Mr. Morrison to cultivate his talent for burlesque. Another actor whom I have often seen in revue is Mr. Alfred Austin, and always I have been impressed by his quiet, humorous ability. In "Pins and Needles" he has little to do, but what he has is well done. Mr. Ewart Scott is good as the traditional vacuous dude. There seemed to be no outstanding personality among the ladies of the company. Miss Billie Hill, Miss Mai Bacon, and Miss Madge White caper and carol in the musical comedy style. Miss Fedora Rozelli has the best voice, and Miss Edith Kelly Gould is *première danseuse*.

The serious side of revue, so to speak, was represented by a Grand Guignolesque sketch called, "The Last Dance." I saw the same sketch last year in the revue at the Folies-Bergère. It is the tale of a French sailor whose girl is murdered, and he dances with the corpse to prevent a gendarme from finding out the truth. Mr. Edmund Gwenn as the sailor was not convincing, which may have been on account of bad writing of the sketch. Mr. Morrison, as a singing tramp, was very good.

The vagaries of fashion through the ages from B.C. to 1930, were illustrated by a series of *tableaux vivants*. I am inclined to think that the *tableau vivant*, or the ancient game of Dumb Crambo is really the foundation of Mr. de Courville's variety of revue. I hereby present him with the title "Dumb Crambo" for his next one.

R. A. A.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

THE PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

MADAM.—The question of self-disinfection is not so simple as it is sometimes imagined to be. To be successful, it implies three things: Provision of the means for self-disinfection; instruction as to their use; and proper application, *as soon as* the risk of infection is run. Moreover, self-disinfection is being urged, not simply as a method for securing individual safety, but for ridding the community of venereal disease. This implies, surely, that everyone who runs the risk must use disinfectants. And this implies that if disinfection is to be of any real use to the community, the provision of disinfectants and instruction as to their use must be made universal; and that those who are determined to run the risk and indulge in promiscuity (the great majority of men, as we are often informed) must be somehow forced to use the packets. Now, short of some legal provision which will make venereal disease, if a packet has not been used, penal, this can only be accomplished by resolute and wide-spread propaganda. We are told that the old moral propaganda has failed. It would be truer to say that it has never been tried on anything approaching an adequate scale; until quite recently it has been entirely tabooed. But now it would seem that the new plan of self-disinfection is also a matter of propaganda; and we may be permitted to wonder whether, if propaganda has hitherto been so ineffective, it will suddenly, in this new form, burst into efficiency. And I cannot but ask myself whether those who advocate the new plan have tried to imagine what will be involved in its serious application to society; the vast organisation by which every growing boy (and therefore, it would seem, every growing girl) will have thrown at his head, so to speak, the packets, the directions as to their use, and exhortations never to neglect them or leave them behind on going out, to enjoy himself. Granted that the old moral propaganda is "played out," is the prospect of the new much more hopeful or exhilarating, either for parents or teachers, or persons who have still a love of modesty and decency?

Well, perhaps it would be, if we could be sure that the use of the packets would be effective. But can we possibly be sure of this? Even supposing that no lad passes out of the stage of adolescence without being duly trained and equipped, who is to guarantee either that he will use the packet, that he will use it in time, or that he will use it effectively? Such a guarantee might not seem hopeless in the army, where all ranks can be lectured by the medical officer to his heart's content, and where the soldier can if necessary be "crimed" if he is found to be suffering from disease. But how can this be secured for the masses of our civilian population? The thing is really unthinkable.

And even the experience of the army renders no real assistance. The Inter-Departmental Committee on Infectious Diseases in connection with Demobilisation issued a special note, by the Chairman, Lord Astor, on Prophylaxis against Venereal Disease; the Committee had all the most important evidence before it, including that of Sir Bryan Donkin and Sir Archdall Reid; and they stated in conclusion that they were "not satisfied, that there has been sufficient evidence put before them of the beneficial results gained by the distribution of prophylactic packets in various Forces to prove the value of the system, or to justify them in recommending its official encouragement among the civilian population." Colonel L. W. Harrison, D.S.O., M.B., who was largely responsible for introducing the packet system into the army in 1917, came to the same conclusion in less than two years; his disillusionment can be read in the "Report on the Prevention of Venereal Disease" (Williams and Norgate, 1921), pp. 204, ff. This means that army authorities, who might naturally have been expected to put health before morality, deliberately prefer methods of instruction and warning and counter-attraction, as, in the long run, more effective. The verdict of the American army was the same. The "packet" system was turned down; and his experience of what is being done in the States among the civilian population had led at least one enthusiastic supporter of the system to announce in public that a great community seems to be getting on very hopefully in its campaign against disease without self-disinfection.

It is greatly to be wished that the champions of the system would do some clear thinking and tell us what their method really involves. They say that moral exhortation is a failure, and yet they believe in moral exhortation; they repudiate what they call the "packet" system, and yet urge that the simple apparatus for self-disinfection must be made available for everyone; they admit that abstinence from promiscuity is the only sure remedy for disease, and they announce that they have certain means for preventing it. Still more necessary is it that they should consider what it is that they are inviting the community to undertake. "The idea of a handy little remedy is, of course, attractive to everyone." "Take this simple packet with you, and you will be quite safe, whatever happens." We have most of us a sneaking respect for an amulet or a charm; and when the charm is blest, not by a witch-doctor or a fetish priest, but by a medical man, we are naturally irritated by people who throw doubt on its efficiency, and point out that medical opinion itself is far from convinced. Put in its simplest form, the crusade is to urge, "You cannot be chaste; you can and must be clean." Neither of its clauses is within measurable distance of proof; and if we could for a single moment imagine its being carried out on the extensive scale that will be absolutely necessary, its success for cleanliness will be as problematical as its results for morality will be appalling.

W. F. LOPTHOUSE.

MADAM.—May I be allowed to add a letter to this correspondence in my private capacity, and not as secretary to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene?

First, I believe Miss March to be right in her statement that there has been an increase of venereal disease since the Armistice, although I disagree that there are any reliable figures which prove this contention. I also agree with her view that there has been an increase of promiscuity and sexual laxity among women, and I agree with Dr. Hawthorne that the illegitimacy statistics are no guide whatever as to the morals of women, owing to the widespread knowledge of contraceptives. No one

closely in touch with women "on their own" to-day, could doubt that for a moment, although I qualify this statement by adding that the kind of mad, thoughtless, sex-licence of the war-period has, I think, practically come to an end.

Now I begin to disagree with Miss March and the others who support her. Is there really any carefully tested scientific basis for saying that self-disinfection with calomel ointment and permanganate does in actual fact always prevent venereal disease? Is Miss March or anyone else really entitled to say that they possess knowledge which, even when properly applied, will ensure freedom, *every time*, from infection after exposure? Neither Miss March nor Dr. Hawthorne admit in their letters the almost unanimous verdict of the Birth-rate Committee, that "self-disinfection for women is very difficult if not impossible even under medical supervision." Neither of them admit that in regard to gonorrhoea (the most prevalent and in some ways the most terrible of the venereal diseases) some medical experts who have been working all their adult lives on these subjects, think that, for men, disinfectants applied *outside* are useless, as they hold that infection takes place directly into the male urethra, which means that a syringe must be used for disinfection, involving a proceeding which is by no means a safe or easy operation for an unskilled person to perform on himself. There is also the view held by a number of practitioners in venereal disease, that urethral syringing for men is dangerous, as it may drive the infective matter into regions where it is extremely difficult to deal with it all. Then again, there is the question, which does not appear to have received much attention yet, as to the possible effect of corrosive disinfectants on the disease-resisting powers of the tissues. Used *once* a corrosive antiseptic may be useful, but used at all frequently it may possibly weaken the resistance of the tissues to disease.

We know that the British troops on the Rhine are provided, not only with Irrigation Centres, but with these disinfectants in tubes, and are instructed in self-application, yet disease has increased from 46 per 1,000 in 1919 to 68 per 1,000 in 1920. What is the explanation of that if these means are an effective preventive of disease?

To turn to Miss Rout's letter. How can she know whether or not men or women were "pushed on the downward path" by her issue to them of prophylactic packets? Miss Rout, however, goes even further than giving out prophylactic packets, although she did not mention it in her letter to the WOMAN'S LEADER. In a letter she sent from England to the "New Zealand Times," in February, 1918, she says:—

"If it were possible for me to run a properly conducted licensed house (*i.e.*, brothel) for our troops here, I would do it, for the sake of protecting the New Zealand nation against further invasion by venereal disease."

As to Major White's evidence before the Birth-rate Committee, quoted by Miss Rout, venereal disease is not going down in the Army at present. It is going up on the annual returns, as it always does after a war, and Colonel Harrison, the late Venereal Adviser to the War Office, said in his evidence, the result of self-disinfection in the British Army was "bitterly disappointing."

I do not quite know why Miss Rout quotes Sir Archdall Lane's discourteous treatment of Mr. G. W. Johnson as evidence against Mr. Johnson. It appears only to illustrate how impertinent even an eminent medical man may become when carried away by a sense of his own importance rather than a desire for truth.

Let me end by impressing upon your readers, that no one wants to prevent the "self-disinfection" supporters from doing propaganda work. They have an open field just as we have. All their opponents say is that we see no reason why it should be paid for out of rates and taxes by public authorities. We believe their methods to be medically unsound and morally undesirable, and we do not propose to pay for their advocacy. That is all.

ALISON NEILANS.

MADAM.—I agree with Lady Askwith that there is no more vital question to women than that we should move in the right direction in this matter. All the evidence she quotes is in reference to strictly disciplined and instructed men, and even there opinion as to results is absolutely divided. In the case of the civilian population detailed instruction to boys and girls is an essential part of the self-disinfection campaign. Are women prepared to advocate so short-sighted a policy? Is that the new way of safeguarding the sanctity of our homes—or those of other people?

Lady Askwith was one of the signatories of the famous letter in *The Times* of October 23rd, 1916, which, if it meant anything at all, meant the rounding up, compulsory examination, detention, and treatment of the girls between fifteen and eighteen then frequenting the Horseferry Road. Such American methods do not appeal to British sense; they are unmoral, and demoralising. "How can we wait," says the letter, "for the educational methods being advocated?" More and more doctors and social workers are realising that education and a high moral standard is the only method of prevention. There is plenty of scope for women's work in that truly right direction.

EDITH BETHUNE-BAKER.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND THE COAL STRIKE.

MADAM.—Last week I made an appeal for expectant mothers in the South Wales mining district, who are suffering acutely these days. I have no thought of entering into details. I had an account of the mental as well as physical sufferings of pregnant women during strikes, from the lips of one who had been a collier's wife, and who, breast dry and ill-fed, had gone through the agony of seeing her first-born die through lack of nourishment in a previous strike. Even if the strike were over to-morrow, the mines are in such a condition that thousands of men will be unable to return for months.

Every penny sent me will go direct to relieve the sufferings of expectant mothers; not a penny will be spent in organisation.

EDITH PICTON-TURNERVILL, 14, Gayfere Street, Westminster.

BIRTH CONTROL AND WOMAN'S LIBERTY.

MADAM.—May I say another word in this discussion? I should like to protest against the view which some of your correspondents seem to hold that chastity in the single life is on a par with celibacy in the married, and that a firm belief in the former is incompatible with grave doubts as to the latter. Speaking generally, single people have still the hope of marriage before them, and there are men even yet who cherish the old ideal that the single life should "be faithful to his future wife." Again, a man may lose the woman of his desire, either through her own refusal or through death, and remain faithful to her memory to the end of his life. But surely a very different case is presented if the beloved gives herself to him, and then withdraws into married celibacy, while still remaining within constant sight and touch. In his book, "Adventures in Marriage," Mr. Ward Muir has dealt with this very situation with great force and delicacy, and the fact remains that, as the cynical epigram says, marriage does afford "the maximum of temptation together with the maximum of opportunity." No one maintains that abstinence is *impossible*, and women must work for "the highest possible ideal," but no good will come through shutting one's eyes to the disagreeable facts of life. There is no doubt that many married men excuse their own unfaithfulness on the grounds of their wives' repugnance to sexual intercourse, or that in the Divorce Court a judge will usually exercise his discretion in favour of a petitioning husband who admits infidelity on his side also, but pleads that he had been "denied marital relations."

HELEN M. NIGHTINGALE.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

At the Annual Conference the National Union of Women Teachers, whose first day's proceedings we reported in last week's issue, continued their public sessions on Monday and Tuesday, 16th and 17th. Many important resolutions were carried; the necessity for women jurors, a protest against false economy in education, on the supply of teachers and the size of classes, on pensions, that marriage should be no disqualification from the permanent teaching service, &c., &c. Miss Dawson moved that "The School Teachers' (Superannuation) Act, 1918, should be so amended as to grant the ten years' relief, 'in consequence of marriage,' to all married women who have continued in recognised service for not more than five years after marriage, and to all married women who retire in consequence of motherhood at any time after marriage."

The Superannuation Act, Section 1, Sub-section (3), reads: "In case of a woman teacher, who, after ceasing in consequence of marriage to be employed in recognised service, has subsequently returned to recognised service, and satisfies the prescribed conditions, such number of years, not being less than twenty, as may be prescribed, shall be substituted for thirty years as the qualifying period of service."

It was just that "in consequence of marriage" that simple-minded folk have been unable to interpret. Most teachers had accepted the term in its literal sense, and believed that members who left the service and returned again in time to put in twenty years' service before they were sixty or sixty-five years of age would be eligible for a pension at either of these ages, but this is not so. It is left to the Board of Education to decide its meaning as each case presents itself, and the married teacher who has to wait till the time of her retirement to know whether she would receive a pension is in an unenviable position. The motion was carried unanimously without debate.

A resolution demanding Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities for women with men and girls with boys was carried, and the Conference repudiated the Second Report of the Burnham Committee on Teachers' Salaries.

A COMMEMORATION OF THE WORK OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER familiar with the history of the Scottish Women's Hospital will remember that, during the war, Dr. Louise McLroy was the head of the unit attached to the French Expeditionary Force, which was first stationed at Troyes, and afterwards moved with the army to Salonica, and remained there for three years.

Dr. McLroy has lately been appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal Free Hospital, a post which was open to both medical men and women. The appointment is especially important, as Dr. McLroy is the first woman in England to gain a medical Professorship, and she will inaugurate the "Unit" system of teaching in the Royal Free Hospital, hitherto unknown in England.

Five other London Hospitals have created teaching Units, of which the Royal Free Hospital is the only one to have a Unit in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and, as women exclusively are trained at this Hospital, it follows that they are to receive the most advanced form of teaching in these branches of medicine. The "Unit" system of teaching, by the payment of adequate salaries to its staff, enables them to devote their whole time to the work of treatment, teaching, and research.

The University of London requires from 60 to 100 beds to be devoted to any branch of medicine to which a professor is appointed. For this reason, it has been necessary to add twenty-three new beds to the existing number for obstetrical and gynaecological cases at a time when the Hospital's funds are already quite unable to meet current expenses. These beds will be available for paying patients, and also for necessitous cases, and it is for these that an appeal for annual subscriptions to the Royal Free Hospital is being made. To the readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER there is an additional reason for such a step. Dr. McLroy hopes to form an Association which will support a ward, or part of a ward, in her department, and would be named after the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and would be a commemoration of their war work. The Association will be open to friends of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and its formation will be discussed at a meeting to be held at the Royal Free Hospital on Monday, May 30th, at 3.30 p.m. The Countess of Selborne will take the Chair, and the speakers will be Miss Ivens, M.S., Mrs. Russell, M.D., Miss Palliser, and Sir Courtland Thomson, K.B.E., C.B. Anyone interested in the scheme is cordially invited to attend or to write to Miss Dorothy Willis, Secretary, Special Appeal, Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. 1, who will be glad to receive subscriptions or donations.

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To obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

LECTURES ON PARLIAMENTARY AND ELECTION WORK.

We ask the help of readers of this page, in and within reach of London, in making this course of Lectures known to as wide a circle as possible. Women are taking an increasing interest in Parliamentary matters, but are still a little vague about what actually goes on behind the scenes at Westminster. We have been fortunate in securing Captain Bowyer, M.C., M.P., one of our good friends in the House, and the champion of the Bastardy Bill which has just passed its second reading, to give the lecture on Procedure in the House. Mrs. Oliver Strachey, formerly Honorary Parliamentary Secretary to the National Union, will describe the best means of bringing pressure to bear on Members of the House from outside; and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, from the point of view of a Parliamentary candidate, and Mr. Rivers from the point of view of an experienced Party Official will lecture on the methods of an election campaign. The lectures take place on Tuesdays, June 14th, 21st, 28th, at 5.30 p.m., at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, and will be preceded by tea at 5 p.m. A Syllabus, with full particulars, may be had from Headquarters. Tickets, 5s. for Course; 2s. for single Lecture.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF OFFICERS, JULY 15th and 16th, 1921.

As announced in last month's letter, a Conference of Officers and Workers of Societies will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 15th and 16th. The following arrangements for the Conference have been made. The place will be announced later. Friday, July 15th, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.—Conference on Parliamentary Work at Headquarters and in the Societies. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C.

The discussion will be introduced by Mrs. Oliver Strachey, late Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, and Mrs. Hubback, Parliamentary Secretary.

Not less than one hour will be devoted to discussion, and Societies represented will be invited to state their experience and difficulties.

4.45 p.m.—The Executive Committee and Officers invite those attending the Conference to tea to meet Mrs. Fawcett, who will give a brief account of her journey in Palestine, and her experience of the Women's Movement in the East.

Saturday, July 16th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Conference on Organisation: Press Work; Meetings; Methods of increasing membership and raising funds; How to interest young people.

Societies are invited to send in beforehand suggestions of other subjects for discussion under this heading, and five-minute speeches are invited.

Each Society is entitled to send two representatives, preferably Officers or those in close touch with the work.

The latest date for sending in names has been fixed for June 20th, but the Officers will be grateful if Secretaries of Societies sending representatives can let them know as soon as possible in order that they may have some idea of how many to expect.

The Parliamentary Secretary will be glad to arrange deputations to Members of Parliament on Thursday afternoon or evening.

EDWARD WRIGHT AND CAVENDISH-BENTINCK LIBRARY.

A circular has just been issued by the Honorary Librarians, Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck and Miss Gordon Brown, calling attention to the facilities offered by the Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library attached to our Headquarters.

This Library is divided into two parts—a Lending Library and a Reference Library. The Lending Library is for the use of Societies and individuals who need books on subjects of interest to women and citizens. It includes, therefore, books on Infant Welfare, Local Government, Women in Industry, the Professions, the Woman's Movement, Public Health, Labour Questions, Education, Penal Reform, &c. The Library makes a special point of keeping up to date, so that new books are added very soon after publication; it also contains Government Reports and Pamphlets. It makes a special feature of supplying several

copies of the same book for the use of Study Circles, &c., and arrangements have been made by which Social Students may be helped by advice in the selection of suitable books. It supplies both single books and book-boxes under the following rules: For individuals, 10s. 6d. per annum, or 4d. per volume per week; Book-boxes, containing twenty books, 5s. per month. For Societies of the N.U.S.E.C., 15s. per annum, or 5s. per book-box per three months. For Societies other than those of the N.U.S.E.C., 15s. per annum, or 7s. 6d. per book-box per three months. Carriage both ways must be paid by the subscriber.

The Reference Library contains a unique collection of historical and other books on feminist questions too valuable for lending purposes. These can, however, be consulted on the premises by appointment.

WEEK-END SUMMER SCHOOLS.

We would remind members of Societies of the following Summer Schools to be held shortly:—

1. *The Yorkshire Council for Equal Citizenship*, at Cober Hill, Cloughton, near Scarborough, May 27th to 30th, 1921.

2. *Liverpool Women Citizens' Association* is holding a short Week-end Summer School at the Pavilion Field, Greenbank, Setton Park, from Friday, June 17th, to Monday, June 20th, 1921. All details from Miss E. A. Parry, Hon. Secretary, Equality Committee, W.C.A., 6, Lord-street, Liverpool, to whom applications should be made as soon as possible.

3. *The Chester Women Citizens' Association* is organising a Week-end School from July 1st to 4th, 1921, at Chester. Lectures on subjects connected with our programme will be held, at which the formation of an area group and general organisation will be discussed. Full particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Mott, Kingsley Hey, Newton-lane, Chester.

4. *The Proportional Representation Society* holds its first Summer School at Oxford, July 22nd to 25th, 1921. Accommodation will be provided for men at Balliol College, and for women at Holywell House. Applications should be sent to *The Secretary, Proportional Representation Society*, 82, Victoria-street, S.W. 1, as soon as possible. Special Meetings and social gatherings will be arranged for members of the N.U.S.E.C. attending this School. All those intending to be present should send us their names at an early date.

Malvern Society for Equal Citizenship hopes to hold a week-end School in September. Full particulars will appear later.

All the above schools will afford pleasant opportunities for recreation, sight-seeing, and social gatherings, as well as study and business, and we hope that they will be well-attended by members of our Societies. Other schools for the early autumn will be announced later.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The first annual meeting of the Scottish Federation of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and Other Societies affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C., was held on Wednesday, May 4th, at 11 a.m. There were thirteen present, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Ayr, and Paisley being represented.

Miss M. C. Morrison took the Chair. Miss Buchanan proposed Miss Simson as Chairman. Miss Simson refused to allow herself to be nominated, and proposed Miss Buchanan, pointing out that this would be a good means of bringing home to Societies in the area the fact that the old system of Federation had come to an end, and that a change of Chairman would make them realise this better. Miss Buchanan then took the chair, and Mrs. Taylor proposed Mrs. Robertson (Hon. Secretary, Edinburgh S.E.C.) as Hon. Secretary of the new Federation Committee. Miss Morrison seconded. Agreed.

Miss Buchanan read the new Constitution. The Areas were then defined. Miss Bury had made out lists of towns in the East and West of Scotland, according to the usual political division of the country, and showing the Societies which already exist. It was agreed that a Conference should be held in the autumn, towards the end of October, and any Society could send Resolutions to the Hon. Secretary for the meeting. It was agreed to arrange details of hour, &c., later on.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

MAY 27.
At Watford, St. John's Hall.
Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 7 p.m.

MAY 29.
At Edinburgh, United Free Assembly Hall.
Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P. Evening.
At Northwood, Middlesex, Cinema.
Speaker: W. Graham, Esq., M.P. 3 p.m.

MAY 30.
At Eltham, The Institute, Cinder Patr, Well Hall Road.
Speaker: Miss Brodie. 3 p.m.

MAY 31.
At Wednesbury, Town Hall.
Speaker: Mr. A. Short, M.P. 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

JUNE 1.
In the Minerva Café, 14, High Holborn.
Subject: "Saving Schemes."
Speaker: Miss Edith Beesley. 3 p.m.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Three Lectures organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, on "Parliamentary and Election Work" by Captain Bowyer, M.C., M.P., Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mr. F. C. Rivers, at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, Tuesdays, June 14th, 21st, and 28th, at 5.30 p.m. Admission 5s. for Course; 2s. Single Lecture. Tea 5 p.m.

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

MAY 31.
At East Ham, Women's Co-operative Guild.
Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E. 2.30 p.m.

JUNE 1.
At Tonbridge, Women Citizens' Association.
Debate: State Purchase of the Liquor Trade.
Speakers: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E., Canon Masterman. 8 p.m.

"CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL."

MAY 31.
In the Queen's Hall, at 8.30 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Jane L. Hawthorne, Aylmer Maude, Esq., H. V. Roe, Esq., Adml. Sir Percy Scott, K.C.B., Marie Carmichael Stopes, D.Sc., Ph.D., &c.

THE PIONEER CLUB.

MAY 31.
Subject: "That the Government's Land Settlement Policy is Inadequate."
Debate opened by Mr. Eustace Hervey.
Chair: Miss Violet Firth. 8.15 p.m.

YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

MAY 27-30.
A Week-end School will be held at Cober Hill, Cloughton, near Scarborough.
Lectures by Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc., and Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF GIRLS' CLUBS.

MAY 28.
At the "Old Vic," Waterloo Road, at 3 p.m.
A Grand Display will take place.
Miss Violet Vanbrugh will preside.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

JUNE 3.
At Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, at 10.30 a.m., and in the afternoon, a Conference will be held on the Consequences of an Army of Occupation.
Speakers: Miss Alison Neilans, Mr. George Young, &c.

ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE.

JUNE 7.
Public Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, at 5.30 p.m.
Subject: "The Moral Environment of British Troops: with Special Reference to the Rhineland."
Speakers: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Rev. B. C. Hopson (late Chaplain to the Forces), the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln, Mr. Douglas White.
Chair: Dr. Helen Wilson, J.P.

COLLEGE OF NURSING (Birmingham Three Counties Centre).

JUNE 2-11.
In the Bingley Hall, Birmingham, a fair will be held, to place the Centre on a self-supporting basis, to establish a lecture room and hostel for trained nurses, to found scholarships for nurses trained in the Three Counties, and to pay 10 per cent. on the entire takings to the Endowment Fund of the College, and to the Nation's Tribute Fund for Nurses.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

JUNE 1.
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.
Musical Evening. 8.15 p.m.

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Dr. KILLICK MILLARD. Adml. Sir PERCY SCOTT, K.C.B.
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Tickets (Numbered and Reserved) 5/- and 2/6 from Messrs. Keith Prowse & Co., Ltd., 162, New Bond Street, and all Branches.

Free tickets will be allotted to Secretaries of Societies and individual women who desire them for the use of those who cannot afford to buy them, by sending a stamped and addressed envelope to Dr. Marie Stopes, 61, Marlborough Road, Holloway, London, N.

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Central Hall, Westminster.

Speakers: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.; Rev. B. C. Hopson (late Chaplain to the Forces); The Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln; Dr. Douglas White, (late R.A.M.C.)
Chair: Dr. Helen Wilson, J.P.

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