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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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Women's Rights in Bulgaria.

A Bill dealing with the political rights of women was submitted last week to the Sobranje by the Communists. We await further news with hopeful interest.

#### The Nationality of Married Women.

Sir John Butcher presented a Bill last week, which passed its first reading, to amend the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Acts of 1914 and 1918, so far as they affect married women. The Bill was also backed by Major Hills, Lady Astor, Mr. Pennefather, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Lord Robert Cecil, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Colonel Penry Williams, and Mr. Cowan. Sir John Butcher explained that it will amend the law, by which a woman, whether she desires it or not, has to take the nationality of her husband on marriage. This statute law, he explained, is of comparatively modern date. By the common law of England marriage does not affect the nationality of a woman, and it was only in 1870 that an Act provided that a British woman, on marrying an alien, lost her British nationality and became an alien. This provision was continued in the Act of 1914, but much has happened since then. The new Bill restores to married women the right they lost in 1870 of retaining their British nationality on marriage with an alien, and it further provides that women who have lost their British nationality by marriage shall regain it, unless they desire As regards alien women, the Bill provides that they should not by marriage to British subjects become, ipso facto, British subjects, but that they should, if they wished apply in the usual way for naturalization certificates. is supported by fifty-nine women's organizations in the United Kingdom, the Dominions, Southern Rhodesia, and East Africa. Of these organizations twenty-nine are in the United Kingdom.

#### Lady Rhondda's Claim.

After Lady Rhondda's victory with the Committee of Privileges, the House of Lords' decision to send back her petition to the Committee for reconsideration is disappointing. The Lords wish the whole matter reopened, gone into afresh, and thrashed out by a specially constituted tribunal, at least quasijudicial in character. The Lord Chancellor did his best to show

that the Committee's report had been framed on imperfect knowledge and on the basis of a one-sided argument. He recapitulated the progress of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, and showed how it embodies an obvious intention, acquiesced in by both Houses, to exclude peeresses, and in particular peeresses under patents already issued. Another point was that the patent of Lady Rhondda's peerage entitled not her, but her male heirs, to a seat. Finally, the House agreed to strengthen the Committee by inviting as many Peers with legal experience as possible to assist in its deliberations, the Lord Chancellor suggesting that he should join it himself, and the whole matter will be gone into afresh. With the battle half won, this set back is discouraging, but we hope Lady Rhondda will be victorious once more.

## Women Barrister's Costume.

The Committee of Judges and Benchers of the Inns of Court have decided that the dress of women barristers in Court shall conform to the following rules: Ordinary barrister's wigs are to be worn and must completely cover and conceal the hair; ordinary barrister's gowns must be worn; dresses must be plain black or very dark, high to the neck, with long sleeves, and not shorter than the gown, with high, plain white collar and barrister's bands; or plain coats and skirts may be worn, black or very dark, not shorter than the gown, with plain white shirts and high collars and barrister's bands. This matter (which has no doubt been a serious affair for the Judges and Benchers to make up their minds about) being out of the way, the women barristers can now go on from strength to strength.

## Women Barristers and the Circuit Dinner.

A question is bound, sooner or later, to arise, which, for women who wish to become practising barristers, may be a very serious matter. This question is whether women will be allowed to join circuits on the same terms as men. The circuit is technically a club, and it has certain powers to make its own rules. It is possible, for instance, that women may be allowed to come to the circuit lunch, but not to the dinner, and as this latter is the place where the practical business of the circuit is discussed,

exclusion from it would be a serious handicap. It is certainly worth the attention of women M.P.s, and our other supporters in the House, so that when the time arrives the Attorney-General may be urged to put pressure on "die-hard" leaders of the circuit and make them act justly towards the women.

#### Women in the Legal Profession.

The first woman to be called to the Bar in the Vienna courts is Fraulein Mulzi Meier, who finished her legal studies some time ago, and is soon to take her degree as a doctor of law. Frances Marion Brandon is the first woman to become an assistant corporation counsel of New York City. She took the whole law course in New York night schools.

#### Teachers' Pensions.

Mr. S. Walsh (Ince, Labour) made a valiant fight for teachers' pensions in the debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill last week, but he got no satisfaction. He asked if the 5 per cent. cut of teachers' salaries in respect of pensions could be made departmentally. Mr. Fisher said that a Bill would be required. Mr. Walsh said that "when the House saw that the 5 per cent. cut in the salaries was really, if not recommended by Mr. Fisher, supported by him, they had a right to ask his further consideration, not merely on the ground of the relatively poor position in respect of salaries that teachers had so long occupied, but because of the question whether a Bill such as would be necessary would not be a breach of the contract entered into by the nation with teachers". Even now, he was told, many local education authorities were dismissing their teachers and that many were increasing the size of the classes. As a consequence, heavier duties were being inflicted upon a class of workers who had always been miserably underpaid, and education was bound to suffer.

#### Education and Women Voters.

In the debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill last week, Mr. John Murray said: "If there is any section of the people in the country which deserve special praise unknown to themselves (for the defence of education), it is the women voters. I believe that no Government which had eventually to go to the country with women having votes, would have dared to adopt the Geddes proposals in bulk regarding education." Mr. Murray evidently had his eye on the women in his constituency (Leeds W.) while making this little speech.

## The Board of Control and Women.

The Board of Control has appointed a committee to consider the dietaries in county and borough mental hospitals, and to report what changes, if any, are desirable, and whether a minimum dietary scale should be fixed. If ever there was a committee of inquiry on which a woman was competent to work this is one. The Board of Control, however, thinks otherwise, and no woman was appointed.

#### Borstal Girls.

Our readers will remember that some time ago we drew their attention to the punishments, recorded in the Prison Commissioner's report for 1920-1 in the Borstal Institution for girls at Aylesbury. The solitary confinements and the use of handcuffs needed investigation and the State Children's Association took the matter up and addressed a letter to the Prison Commissioners, in which they pointed out that experience proved that violent conduct could not be remedied by means of violent repression. The better way to effect an improvement in the offenders would be "to awaken in them those spiritual forces which are the root of reformative impulses". In reply, the Prison Commissioners, while sharing the general view as to the treatment of young offenders, explained that a number of the girls sent to Aylesbury during 1920-1 had been leading wild and dissolute lives under war conditions and their treatment presented extraordinary difficulties. Of the 33 cases in which the body belt with swivel handcuffs had been employed, 23 concerned 8 girls who were mentally deficient and were removed to a special institution at the earliest opportunity. The other 10 cases were of girls who were influenced by the atmosphere of violence which spread in the institution owing to the presence of the mental deficients. With regard to the 74 cases of confinement to cells, the Commissioners stated that "as the result of recent consultations between themselves and the Governors and Medical Officers of all the Borstal institutions, an attempt is being made to do without the punishment of confining to rooms altogether, and to rely entirely on the prospect of loss of privileges and reduction in grade for maintaining the standard of conduct". The officers of the Association in returning thanks for the explanation, suggested that the girls should be provided with occupations which would interest them and bring out their creative instincts. The Commissioners replied that they were already carrying out the Associations' suggestions, and said that they had recommended that no child should be sent to Borstal institutions who was incapable of mental progress and of receiving trade instruction. A sinister passage which shows that all is not right in the management at Aylesbury is as follows: "The other ten cases were of ten girls who were influenced by the atmosphere of violence which spread in the Institution, owing to the presence of the mental deficients." Comment seems unnecessary, but some reform is obviously urgent.

#### Mui Tsai.

Fairly satisfactory answers were given to questions asked in the House last week as to the proposed steps for preventing the removal of Mui Tsai to other parts of China, and for meeting the risks to which the girls will be exposed by the issue of the official proclamation. Commander and Mrs. Haslewood are to be greatly congratulated on the result of public pressure, which originated with them. They have had the courage of their convictions, and have made great personal sacrifices to achieve their ends, and we are delighted to publish the telegram they have received from Hong Kong, which reads as follows: "Anti-Mui Tsai Society at its first general meeting unanimously passed hearty votes of thanks to you and all sympathizers including the English Press for efforts on behalf of Mui Tsai in Hong Kong.—Wong, Chairman."

### The Co-operative Wholesale Society.

A woman has, for the first time, been elected to the board of management of the C.W.S. Miss M. E. Cottrell, of Selly Oak, Birmingham, has filled various positions in the co-operative movement, and is a member of the Birmingham Town Council. She has also served on the Consumers' Council, the Travelling Milk Commission, and the High Prices Committee set up by the Trade Unions' Congress Parliamentary Committee.

#### Child Labour in U.S.A.

The following facts from the American National Child Labour Committee are illuminating: One child out of every eight from the age of ten to fifteen is gainfully employed outside the protection of Federal or State Laws. Every year a million of these children leave school to go to work. The Federal Child Labour Tax law does not apply to agriculture, domestic service, street trades, stores, messenger and delivery service, restaurants, hotels, moving pictures, and other occupations. In most State laws agriculture and domestic service are exempted, while other fields are overlooked in many States. From two to three times as many children as adults in proportion to the number employed are killed or injured in industry. The health of children is beyond all doubt seriously affected by many forms of child labour. Only twenty States require a physician's certificate of physical fitness before a work permit is issued, and no State provides follow-up examinations of children who have gone to work. According to the census of 1910, a million and a half children from ten to fifteen were engaged in agricultural occupations, especially in the sugar-beet regions, the cotton country, the onion fields, the truck gardens. And aside from evil physical effects, rural child labour in vast areas of the United States carries with it a virtual denial of education. The women are working hard to get this state of affairs altered; we wish them every success.

#### In Mamoriam

A commemorative service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Emily Davies will be held in St. Martins-in-the-Fields on Thursday, 4th May. It was regrettable that last year, at the time of her death, no memorial service was held, but this will give people the greatly desired opportunity for doing honour to one of the great Englishwomen of her age.

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.

## "LITTLE DROPS OF WATER, LITTLE GRAINS OF SAND"

APRIL 7, 1922.

Every movement of human reorganization or human progress is many sided, made up of innumerable different details, and recognizable under innumerable different aspects. The movement for the equality of men and women, generally called the Woman's Movement, is such a one, and in the last few days it has been in evidence in several Parliamentary directions, not all of them marking advances, but all tending to show the fact that the movement is on the move, and that it is becoming an increasingly considerable factor in the consideration of domestic legislation.

In the House of Commons Lady Astor raised the Women Police question on the Consolidated Fund Bill on Tuesday, and was supported by Sir Arthur Steel Maitland and Mrs. Wintringnam. All that the Home Secretary would say in reply, however, was that the work the women police patrols do will still be carried on by women (he even suggested that they would be the same women) out of uniform. If the coats and skirts of 110 women s the sum total of the saving to be effected by the Geddes Report as regards police, it hardly seems to have been worth so much commotion, from the economy point of view. From the public standpoint, however, it is of far greater importance. Our readers know the value of the official co-operation of women in the police force well; we need not labour the point. But we must call attention to the fact that the Home Secretary in pretending that all he meant to do was to put women police nto plain clothes was certainly misleading the House. What ne does mean to do, we fear, and what he must be stopped from doing, is to sweep away all chance of women being sharers in the nner affairs of the force. An odd female here and there may be taken on at so much an hour for a special piece of work; but any regularizing of their co-operation, standardization of their pay, or any question of their coming under the Police Act, is to be finished with once and for all. And the idea of women in any legree of authority in the force is to be for ever banished. Well, Mr. Shortt and Sir Frederick Banbury may think they can accomplish this under cover of the magic word economy. But we know better. The little drops of water flow perpetually under Westminster Bridge, and the little grains of sand blow about in the Welsh mountains, and whatever vicissitudes our movement has it does not diminish.

In the House of Lords the question of Lady Rhondda's dmission was discussed, and the fury and opposition of the Lord Chancellor caused it to be sent back once more to the Committee of Privileges, with a scolding for not having properly considered (in Lord Birkenhead's opinion), and an injunction to do it gain. No wonder the poor Lord Chancellor has to work fourteen and fifteen hours a day, if he won't take anybody else's word for anything, and if the Attorney-General and Lord Haldane and e others are mere amateurs in law compared to himself! However, save for the loss of time and the exhibition of prejudice, t does not much matter. Whoever considers the matter honestly s likely to come to the original conclusion, and if they don't he case for immediate legislation will be strong. We feel no measiness at all on this head. In spite of their apparent objection admitting women within their sacred precincts, the members of the Upper Chamber seem to be more open-minded upon social reform questions than, we will not say the Commons, but the Government. It is not the Members of the Lower House who obstruct and demolish, session after session, the Bills we have at heart; it is the Government, controlling the time of the House, which refuses to allow them to be proceeded with, and no doubt if the same authority and weight attended the decisions of the Lords, we should meet with the same difficulties there. It is, nevertheless, encouraging to find that we do not have two lions to face, but that our measures get on the whole fair and sympathetic consideration somewhere. We must not forget, however, that an election is not very far off. The Peers go on for ever, but the electorate is the creator of each successive Government. And our next one, even if it is the same one, must have a clear mandate for our reforms.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

#### By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

This week the position of the Prime Minister is stronger than ever, and, in spite of all the talk of all the newspapers, that is very strong indeed. The Die-hards are feeling the cold blasts very noticeably. Their feet, presumably, are not cold, but their heads are not quite so hot as they were. Some of them have visited their constituencies, and have come back to Westminster wiser and sadder than they went. The truth is, no doubt, that they are a very noisy and obstinate set of people, but in their extreme manifestation they only represent a small section of the population.

Lloyd George will go to Genoa, with all the outward appearance of a solid nation behind him, and perhaps it is not only outwardness either. This House and its division lists cannot settle that point, which only an election will show. But, anyway, he will go. It is obvious that he himself looks for great things from this conference. Commercial circles are more doubtful, and, of course, the attitude of the French and the Russians is as yet unknown.

The Engineering lock-out continues to be one of the danger signals of domestic affairs. It proves, beyond a doubt, that our industrial system is one of thinly concealed warfare, and it takes an eye of very serene faith to see any progress towards industrial co-operation in the alternate attacks of employers and employed upon each other. The strong position is with the employers this year, as last year it was with the workers.

The condition of Ireland is undoubtedly worse. Large tracts of the country are in the hands of the Republicans, and what is wanted seems to be strong measures for establishing control by Collins and Griffiths, which, so far, are lacking. The conference held last Thursday between the Provisional Government and Ulster was undoubtedly a step forward, but the real key to the situation lies outside. All the world hopes that Collins and Griffiths may pull through, but in this last week things have been going against them.

In the House nothing of first-class importance has transpired. Last Tuesday, 28th March, was notable to the readers of this paper for two things; first the introduction by Sir John Butcher of the Bill to give back to married women the nationality rights they had up to 1870, and second the discussion on Women Police, which Lady Astor opened with one of her best Parliamentary speeches. The Nationality Bill has a chance of becoming law; the women police matter is still in suspense. Mr. Shortt was on Tuesday stupidly reactionary. But there is hope of a division on this matter next week, and then he may have to see reason.

On Wednesday Dr. Macnamara had a turn with his Unemployment Insurance Bill, which is practically a continuation on the old terms. The Labour Party, while sharply critical of the measure, did not force a division.

On Thursday there was a further discussion of this Bill, various short Bills were also taken, and a London measure occupied most of the evening. Late that night Mr. Chamberlain read out the terms of the Irish agreement, which were received with general

Friday saw the consideration of the Lords' amendments and the final passing of the Irish Free State Bill, the Die-hards being conspicuous by their absence.

On Monday the Prime Minister made his Genoa speech, and the much-heralded vote of confidence was given him. The future remains obscure, but, at any rate, Genoa is to have its chance, and meanwhile the House rises on Wednesday, the 12th, and reassembles on Wednesday the 26th.

A very curious incident took place last week, when a deputation of women, headed by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, were refused admission to the Houses of Parliament by the police at the door. There is, it appears, a black list of persons not to be admitted in formal deputation, and it is composed of the old militant suffragettes. With characteristic British love of tradition, this black list has remained untouched through all the changes of the last few years! It has been touched now, however. Mrs. Wintringham at once appealed to the Speaker, who as quickly put an end to the anachronism, and the black list is no more. We hope to be able to publish it next week for the edification of the present generation.

[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.]

## THE KINDNESS OF WISDOM AND THE WISDOM OF KINDNESS.

#### By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

The Y.M.C.A. are organizing a world conference of the workers among boys to be held in May, 1923, in Geneva. In preparation for this they have circularized a number of those with expert knowledge and experience, sending them a questionnaire containing a detailed inquiry into the causes of juvenile delinquency and the best means of tackling the problems which it involves.

One of the recipients of this questionnaire is Mr. Clarke Hall. who presides at the Old Street Police Court, E.C. He must be well known to many of our readers on account of his ready generosity in placing his knowledge and experience at the service of the newly appointed women magistrates. He has shown his helpfulness again by placing at the disposal of the Woman's LEADER his replies to the questionnaire sent out by the Y.M.C.A. They are of deep interest and illustrate in nearly every sentence the kindness of wisdom and the wisdom of kindness.

In reply to the questions on the chief causes of juvenile delinquency, which, by the way, he finds in his district to be more than eight times more frequent among boys than among girls, he puts first of all lack of money owing to unemployment. Delinquency resolves itself into petty larceny in a very large proportion of cases. The boys of 14, 15, and over who are employed have money to spend, and the slightly younger boy who has none feels the lack of it, all the more from the contrast with boys who are only a little older than himself. Next as a cause of delinquency, Mr. Clarke Hall puts "The absence of facilities for healthy recreation", and cheek-by-jowl with this

These two causes of juvenile crime make a strong call not only on magistrates but on every reasonable human being throughout the country. They can be remedied, and therefore should be remedied. Petty larceny caused by unemployment is in another category; it is largely one of the unfortunate consequences of the huge destruction of capital, and the suspension of its gradual accumulation, brought about by the war. It is already recognized as a national responsibility and endeavours are properly being made, nationally as well as individually, to distribute the burden by the grant of out-of-work allowar and also by individual voluntary effort. There is no means of measuring the extent of this last; but the national effort to meet it should include a mention of old age pensions as well as military pensions; the last item alone represents a national expenditure for the year just ended of about £100,000,000. Old age pensions and pensions for the blind account for a further annual distribution of nearly £20,000,000, so that it cannot be said that nationally we have failed to recognize that the burden of unemployment should be spread as far as may be over the whole community and not concentrated on the individuals whose names are registered in the employment exchanges. We cannot fail to see that this is another instance of the kindness of wisdom and the wisdom of kindness.

But in the matter of the other causes of juvenile crime mentioned by Mr. Clarke Hall, want of "reasonable facilities for healthy recreation" and "friendlessness", it is obvious that these cannot be dealt with so effectually by governments as by private individual effort. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements have been quite invaluable in helping to satisfy the want of healthy recreation in the open air for our boys and girls. Everyone knows how that movement has been built up by a soldier of genius, and how by this brilliant example he has produced it has spread all over the world. There are many related movements as girls' and boys' clubs. Local authorities might probably be stimulated to do more than they have hitherto done to provide open spaces within fairly easy distance of overcrowded districts where boys and girls can play open-air games. The need of recreation, though not, of course, of exercise, is met to a certain extent in towns by "the pictures". These are often accused of being absolutely provocative of crime on account of their apparent delight in the representation of crimes of violence; ut their possibilities and often their actual performance prove that there is another side to this question, and the films can and do produce at the cost to each member of the audience of a few pence thrilling stories such as we all delight in as told us by Dickens, Dumas, and other great writers. If the character of the films can be satisfactorily supervised by sensible people who know the difference between a real thrill of adventure and lurid representation of horrible crime, "the pictures" may become, and in many instances have already become, means of almost un-

The real difficulty arises when one is faced with the problem of producing "friendliness" to order as it were. Let us look at the question as Mr. Clarke Hall presents it in his reply to the Y.M.C.A. questionnaire. He puts "friendlessness" at the head of his list of the causes of juvenile crime, and recommends by way of meeting it an extension and development of the probation There are now attached to the juvenile courts professional probation officers, men and women who devote their whole time to the work and are in receipt of a salary, but the system is capable of almost unlimited extension if it can attract the help of bands of voluntary workers who would act in loyal co-operation with the salaried official.

"The delinquent child," says Mr. Clarke Hall, "is in most cases the friendless child. Given a real friend, whom a boy can trust and look up to and consult his delinquencies will cease. Every child on probation should have the advantage not only of the supervision of the official probation officer, but of the personal friendship and sympathy of a particular worker." And again, "The life of a child in a certified school tends in equitably to become an exceedingly monotonous one. If every tends inevitably to become an exceedingly monotonous one. If every such child had a triend outside who could take an interest in him, write to him now and then, take him out sometimes, and befriend him generally, it would not only give him greater interest in life, but enormously benefit his character. Such a friend could also, possibly, help to get him employment and continue to take an interest in him after his discharge. I have found that the mere sending of a birthday-card or of a circular letter at Christmas gives an amount of pleasure quite disproportionate to the trouble."

In Mr. Clarke Hall's district the probation officer has the assistance of no fewer than seventy voluntary workers. This is probably due largely to his own energy and enthusiasm in promoting the probation system.

It is not perhaps known as widely as it should be that the Probation Act can be put into operation with offenders of any age, when the court is of opinion that such a course is desirable. I witnessed its application by the judge (Sir Robert Wallace) at the Newington Sessions this year in the case of a man of 50, hitherto of good character, who had been led into crime by age and chagrin at losing his employment. I shall not easily forget the impression produced on the whole Court, and not least upon the man in the dock, by the judge's wise and kind words. Judgment was postponed. The prisoner was put under probation with the order to come up for judgment at some future time. Here, evidently was a case in which the work of the probation officer would be greatly aided by the voluntary assistance of a friend who would see the man from time to time, help him to find re-employment, and gradually build up again his self-respect.

My own experience of sitting as a magistrate in a children's court is so minute that I hesitate to refer to it; but such as it is I will briefly relate it. I sit in a Court which has jurisdiction over a block of Central London, bounded on the north by the Euston Road, on the east by the boundaries of the City of London, on the south by the Thames up to the Houses of Parliament, and on the west by St. James's Park running up to Buckingham Palace. I do not know its population, but I imagine it must be well over a million. During the month of October, 1921, when I was attending this Court, we had before us no girls at all, and only four little boys, three of whom were brothers; not one of the four was charged with anything that could be called crime; one had been found by the police betting in the street; the other three little brothers had "obstructed the traffic" in Oxford Street by singing, dancing, and collecting the ensuing pennies. These three were bright, attractive children, with a good school record. There is an excellent probation officer attached to the Court, and she found places for these boys in an industrial school in the country, the father contributing to their support. Here, was an instance in which a kind and wise friend could do almost anything with these lads in the way of placing them on the road to become good citizens. Their abilities are good, and the charge which brought them into court was in itself entirely innocent and natural. The probation officer will keep in touch with them; but she would naturally appreciate helpers if her work becomes more extensive than it is now. Here is a vacancy for any one wishing to try an experiment to test the kindness of wisdom and the wisdom of kindness.

## THE RUSSIAN FAMINE AND THE HEALTH OF EUROPE.

The problem of the health of Eastern Europe has become very threatening, owing to the spread of the famine in Russia. The situation is rendered even more serious by the fact that large masses of men who, during the war had taken refuge in, or had been driven into Russia, are now endeavouring to return to their homes. The figures for the Polish quarantine station, Baranowiczo, show the magnitude of this tide of refugees moving from Russia towards the eastern districts of Poland; 301,287 refugees passed through this station between March and December, 1921. A few other figures will give an idea of the sanitary condition of the repatriated refugees when they reach the frontier. Of the 50,981 refugees who passed through Baranowiczo in October, 809 had to be taken to hospital, and 497 died (368 of whom died before reaching hospital). During the winter, in November, of 59,843 repatriated prisoners, 1,227 were taken to hospital and 1,405 died (1,131 of whom died before being admitted to hospital).

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It is feared that the situation will become increasingly serious when the famine has reached its climax, which will probably be about August. The famine, which up to the present was considered to be limited to certain regions of Soviet Russia, is, in reality, according to the latest information, spreading to the south-east and south of the Ukraine.

The refugees have brought cholera with them, which had disappeared in August, 1921, but which is now reappearing at various points throughout the Ukraine. Cases of cholera have been notified at Kharkoff during the last three months. Kieff, no less than 239 fresh cases of cholera were notified for the period from the middle of December, 1921, to the week ending January 11, 1922. The wave of returning emigrants has lready caused a breakdown of the Polish sanitary cordon so that in November and December the cases of typhus and relapsing fever increased considerably in Poland. The Polish authorities have, however, taken energetic measures; they have appointed former Prime Minister Repatriation Commissioner and have appointed a special Epidemics Commissioner for the city of

In December, 1921, and in January, 1922, typhus appeared in localities which up till then had been practically immune. It has spread, for instance, to Lithuania, where the Government has been compelled to mobilize the whole medical staff. Repatriated German colonists, who had returned to the Eastern provinces of Prussia, have brought the epidemic into the neighbourhood of rankfurt-on-the-Oder. The convoys of repatriated prisoners which have arrived at Riga and at Narva during the last two nonths included an extraordinarily high proportion of cases of typhus and other epidemic diseases. In short, all the measures previously adopted to combat epidemics along the whole of the rontier, between Russia and the Ukraine on the one hand, and Central Europe on the other, appear to be inadequate to avert the dangers with which Western Europe is threatened, and which are becoming greater every day.

Poland, therefore, has summoned a sanitary conference at Warsaw with the authority and under the auspices of the League of Nations. It is composed of representatives of the public health authorities of the following countries: All European members of the League, and the non-European members of the Council, Brazil, China, and Japan, together with Germany, Soviet Russia, Soviet Ukraine, Hungary, and Turkey. The attendance of Soviet Russia is particularly interesting in view of her repeated refusals in the past to co-operate with the League of Nations. Her delegation, which consists of five members, is the largest present at the Conference, and has brought a large number of locuments and information and is taking the Conference very

During the whole of last year the League has been co-operating on a large scale with the Polish health authorities. The League Epidemics Commission, set up by the Council in pursuance of a resolution of the first Assembly was composed of: Dr. Norman White, a British public health officer of long Indian experience, and Colonel Dr. Gautier, of the French Army Medical Service, both appointed by the Council of the League; Major FitzHugh, appointed by the League of Red Cross Societies; and Rajchman, Medical Director of the Secretariat of the League Health Organization. This Epidemics Commission is thus linked up with the Bureau International d'Hygiène Publique in Paris (through the standing Health Committee of the League, several

of the members of which belong to the Bureau International), the League of Red Cross Societies and the Council Secretariat and Health Organization of the League

The members of the League have contributed £130,000 for anti-epidemic work, and as much more has been promised. The League of Red Cross Societies has contributed £10,000, and also 280,000 suits of underwear and 38,000 pairs of rubber gloves.

This campaign began late in 1920 in Poland. The Commission worked with the Polish Health authorities, to whom it delivered clothing, medical supplies, and motor transport. In addition it provided fifty-bed hospital units completely equipped. The direction of the campaign, the management and staffing of the hospitals, bathing, de-lousing, medical and transport services were undertaken by the Polish authorities.

The situation in 1920 was very serious. The breakdown of administrative machinery in Russia, the civil wars, the revolution, and the war against Poland which followed it, brought about a spread of typhus and relapsing fever through the whole length nd breadth of Russia, which was being carried over the frontiers of Poland by the flood of returning refugees and expatriated populations. Typhus and relapsing fever are spread by lice. The populations of these regions are of a low standard of living, and harbour lice; and where migrations of such populations occur epidemic outbreaks cannot be avoided.

By the summer of 1921 the situation was better. The amount of disease seemed to be lessening, and the stream of refugees and re-immigrants was not greater than could be handled. Last autumn, however, the effects of the Russian famine were shown both in the increased susceptibility to disease of the populations in Russia and in the swollen numbers of refugees crossing the frontier. By next August the famine will have reached its height and the number of immigrants will enormously increase with the return of warm weather. The warm weather will almost certainly cause an epidemic of cholera, which has already appeared in many places in the Ukraine. The situation is thus seen to be very threatening, and it is a situation that must be dealt with before the question of the economic revival of Russia can be handled, for the revival of trade is impossible in public health conditions such as these

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#### GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON COERCION.

The Executive Committee is approaching this Committee asking that the Expert Committee promised by the Lord Chancellor on this subject should be widened, so as to include a woman member, for which Miss Chrystal Macmillan's name has been sent forward, and that its terms of reference should be widened so as to deal with all questions relating to the married woman under coverture.

Members are reminded that our pamphlet on the legal position of women as wives and mothers can be obtained from the Literature Department, price 3d.

#### GOVERNMENT RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF FAMINE IN RUSSIA.

Our members will have shared the general disappointment in the announcement that the only help that is going to be given by the Government on behalf of the sufferers is £100,000 worth of goods, most of which, we understand, was in the form of bully beef, an article which, by itself, without fresh food of any kind, is most unsuitable for the purpose. We are informed on very good authority that there is reason to hope that if adequate ure is brought to bear on the Government, a fresh grant, possibly a money grant, will be made. Some new figures have just been compiled by the Friends' Relief Committee as follows: 7,000,000 victims have been helped by America, 2,000,800 by the Soviet Government, and 500,000 by English voluntary associations. This leaves 9,000,000 starving people absolutely unprovided for, and a far larger number who are suffering verely from privation. Unless a large sum is immediately forthcoming from this country, even the small number of 500,000 for whom we have made ourselves responsible will not be able to live until the harvest. We are also informed that many of the earlier transport difficulties have now been overcome. A concerted effort is to be made by a large number of organizations interested, to ask the help of their members in the constituencies in approaching their Members and to send resolutions to the Prime Minister and to the Government Whips begging the Government to give credits, which could take the form of sending goods in exchange for grain. This would have the effect of providing work for our own people who are at present unemployed. Many Members will be in their constituencies during Faster, and it would be most useful if they could be approached either by letter or by means of a deputation on this subject. Literature giving the most recent information on this subject can be sent on application, from Headquarters.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS.

Meetings and conferences have recently been arranged by Headquarters at Chingford, Maidenhead, Croydon, Bristol Exeter, Plymouth, Lewisham, and Hertford. Arrangements are in progress for a very active campaign in connexion with our weaker societies, as well as in places in which no society exists, during May and June. A number of speakers in close touch with the work at Headquarters will be available to visit different parts of the country, and societies or any friends of the N.U. desiring to revive a former society or form a new one are asked to make application as soon as possible.

#### NEW SOCIETIES.

We are glad to be able to report the revival of a Society for Equal Citizenship at Newnham College. We hope before long that similar societies may be found in every university or college. We also welcome the affiliation of the Federation of Women Civil Servants.

#### PHOTOGRAPH OF PUBLIC LUNCHEON,

A photograph of the public luncheon published in the Daily Mirror may be had from Headquarters, price 2d. post free.

#### EDWARD WRIGHT AND CAVENDISH BENTINCK LIBRARY.

We announced recently that the list of books for women citizens had now been published, price 1s. We have long felt that one reason why the number of new subscribers to the library has been less than we should like is that it has not been possible to send them any catalogue of what is in the library. This omission is now rectified.

Our societies are therefore asked to make known to their members and others the existence of the Edward Wright and Cavendish Bentinck Library, and are reminded that the terms of subscription to this library are as follows:

For individuals, 10s. 6d. per annum or 4d. per volume per

For societies of the N.U.S.E.C., 15s. per annum, or 7s. 6d. per box of books for three months.

For societies other than those of the N.U.S.E.C., 25s. per annum, or 10s. 6d. per box of books.

Those of our societies who are intending to form study circles, or who know other organizations intending to form study circles, should note that the book-boxes referred to can contain, if desired, several copies of the same book.

Unless the number of subscribers is materially increased the work of the library must necessarily be curtailed, as it will not be possible either to buy new books or to get the necessary expert assistance. You are therefore begged most earnestly to help in securing new subscribers.

#### WHAT TO READ ON OUR PARLIAMENTARY WORK.

Speakers and others interested in the present crisis in the Women Police movement, should see Hansard for 28th March, which may be procured from H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, W.C. 1, or from Headquarters, 1s. 3d. post free.

#### GLASGOW S.E.C.-USEFUL PRESS WORK.

An interesting Press correspondence with regard to women jurors and Women Police has been carried on as the result of a speech delivered by the Lord Provost at the dinner of the Association of Deacons of the Fourteen Incorporations of Glasgow, of which the following is an extract :-

"It was a great pain to him to see young ladies being called to the jury to listen to all the abominations that had to be told. He thought the system of female jurors altogether wrong. Women were very useful in many avenues of public service, but in many cases for respectable ladies to be put on the jury was a shame. He also thought the introduction of women police wrong. Women police were no use at all."

As the result of this speech women jurors were reminded of their right to withdraw, and several did so in the case of Contravention of the Immoral Traffic Act (Scotland), in which little girls were involved.

The Glasgow S.E.C. sent an excellent letter, which led to a long leader in the Glasgow Herald on the subject of women jurors, which refers with some sarcasm to the displeasure of the Glasgow Society. This leader was followed up by an excellent letter from our Society, which stated the whole position clearly, and the entire correspondence must have had an educational effect in elucidating the subject and clearing away misapprehensions which are too prevalent.

#### NEWPORT W.C.A.—AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT—FUN AND INSTRUCTION COMBINED.

The meeting of the Association held on Monday, 27th March, took the form of a mock election to illustrate the working of proportional representation. Seven candidates, three of them members of the W.C.A., appealed for the votes of a crowded and appreciative audience in the respective characters of "The Man in the Moon," "The Man in the Street," "The Early Victorian Woman," "The Modern Woman," "Mr. Anti-Feminist," "Mrs. Feminist," and "Mr. Punch." So good were the speeches of the candidates, that there was a tough fight for the four "seats" available. After the election on P.R. lines, the following candidates were declared "in." "The Modern Woman," "The Man in the Street," "Mr. Anti-Feminist," and "Mrs. Feminist." During the counting of the votes, Mr. Spencer Jones' Male Voice Choir gave selections, and afterwards Miss Morton, of the P.R. Society, gave a short address on Proportional Representation. Mr. T. Baker Jones took the chair. The meeting of the Association held on Monday, 27th March, took the

#### DUNFERMLINE SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

A meeting of the above branch was held in the Lecture Hall of the Women's Institute, Dunfermline, on Friday, 24th March. Sir William Robertson, Lord Lieutenant of Fife, presided over a large and representative audience. Mrs. Beardmore, J.P., of Glasgow, gave an interesting and instructive address on "Women in Parliament". Discussion followed in which the gentlemen present took part.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

APRIL 7, 1922.

#### THE RUSSIAN FAMINE

Madam,—Your correspondent, M. Edith Jones, makes statements on this subject which require proof. She says: "The whole trouble has been brought about by the insaine Government of the present administration in Russia." But impartial witnesses of high authority take a very different view. Thus, Dr. Nansen, speaking on 5th February last, at a meeting in Manchester, said that "whatever one's view of the Soviet Government might be, he was persuaded that the famine arose from causes over which the Russian people had no control, notably war and the drought". Mr. Bertrand Russell, in a letter to the Nation on 17th December, 1921, wrote: "Although I have been a severe critic of the Bolsheviks, particularly as regards their agrarian policy, I am convinced that they have had only a small share in causing the famine, and that even that small share is due to past mistakes now rectified. The main cause is the drought. Tsarist Russia was equally liable to famine; so is China. When I arrived in China last autumn many millions of peasants were starving, but no one attributed the calamity liable to famine; so is China. When I arrived in China last autumn many millions of peasants were starving, but no one attributed the calamity to the Government. When in the summer of 1920 I travelled down the Volga the peasants were obviously well-fed, in spite of Bolshevik rule. Famines occur periodically wherever there is peasant agriculture, with inadequate transport facilities."

Your correspondent says: "Apparently there seems no shortage of money in the country." But of what kind, and what is the purchasing rower of the Russian paper rouble inside and outside the country.

ower of the Russian paper rouble inside and outside the country-

your correspondent concludes by asking why English women don't Your correspondent concludes by asking why English women don't first champion the cause of their own countrymen who have fallen on evil times? I agree that all who are in "trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity" have a claim upon us. My life-long experience has been that as a rule people who are really in earnest are willing to help sufferers at home and abroad. But those who are in the greatest need should be helped first, and I doubt if in any other part of the world such suffering exists as that in the Russian famine area at the present time. Therefore we should redouble our charitable efforts on behalf of the starving Russian peasantry, and at the same time cease not to put pressure on the British Government to reconsider its recent refusals and to grant a substantial national credit. substantial national credit.

## A GUIDE TO THE USUAL METHOD OF PROCEDURE FOR JURIES IN SCOTLAND.

We have been asked to state that copies of the article printed in our saue of 24th March may be got, in pamphlet form, from the Hon. Secretary, Child Assault Protest Committee, 40 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each, or at a reduced rate per 100 copies.

#### EMIGRATION OF WOMEN.

Madam,—I am asked to urge on you the imperative need of advising all young women to use great caution in considering any proposals from Government officials or other agents to emigrate to Australia at the present time without ample funds to ensure their return if they are stranded, or else an assurance of safe shelter with friends or relatives.

The Commonwealth Government proposes spending £250,000 this year on securing immigrants, and a large portion of this sum no doubt will be spent on publicity work. From paragraphs which have appeared in English papers, it is clear that great skill is used in describing very attractive conditions, but drawbacks and disadvantages natural to life in a strange country, far from familiar scenes, are not mentioned. These disadvantages and drawbacks are very serious at the present time owing to increased unemployment, due to the gradual closing down of the few industries there are here.

few industries there are here. Domestic service is represented as being a particularly desirable occupation at f1 and f1 10s, per week; f1 is the average. At the present price of clothing, etc., this is not a living wage for any self-respecting girl, whatever well-paid judges in arbitration courts may determine. Many of the posts advertised for domestics are in bush public-houses, but termed hotels here, or in small townships in the bush, under conditions very distasteful to girls with the least claim to refinement.

Unhappily many of the girls who have come from Britain have remained in the large towns and cities, and are now numbered among the social outcasts, the prostitutes. I would earnestly beg that you use your influence to save our girls from the degradation that awaits them if they are not prepared economically and morally to stand the strain which emigration entails at this present time.

M. Gordon,

Hon. Sec. Labour Women's Vigilance Organization, Brisbane.

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#### COMING EVENTS.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

APRIL 7. Education Guild Offices, 9 Brunswick Square, 8 p.m. Speaker: G. P. Gooch, Es<sub>t</sub>, M.A.

APRIL 10. Leicester, Cossington Women's Institute, 6.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss E. Powell.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

APRIL 7. Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn, 3 p.n., "American Women v. British Women." Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

#### THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE.

APRIL 12. 3 Upper Woburn Place, W.C. 1, 8.30 p.m. "The Abolition of the Death ntence." Speaker: Captain A. J. Hounsheld. Chair: H. B Pratt.

#### FEMINIST LEAGUE.

APRIL 10. Upper Mortimer Hail, Mortimer Street, Regent Street, 6.30 p.m. "Purity. Be ye perfect; 'Likeness to the Divine." Speaker: Miss Abadam.

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

APRIL 10. Rugby Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of Liquor de." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

Plumstead Baptist Women's League 3 p.m. "State Purchase as a step towards Temperance Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

APRIL 11. Leicester Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "State Purchase of Liquor Trade," Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

Erith Co operative Guild, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

APRIL 12. Bury St. Edmunds Co-operative Guild, 7.3:) p.m. Lantern Lecture Carlisle speriment. Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

Dulwich Women's Section Labour Party, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

### CAMBERLEY BRANCH OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

APRIL 8. Y.W.C.A. Hut, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Frederick Whelen. Specially for APRIL 9. Drill Hall, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Frederick Whelen. Public meeti

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, 2nd April, 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "Our Lord Christ."

NTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members £2 2s. Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. £d.) per annum. Entrance lee, one guinea. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners a la Carte.—All particulars, Secretary, Tel.: Mayair 3030.

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UNITED SUMMER SCHOOL at the Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire, 4th July till 11th; subject: "The Christian order of Society,"—For full particulars write, Miss L. Gardner, 52 St. George's Square, S.W. 1.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1. Telephone, Museum 418. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

ANTI-SLAVERY AND ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.—Will you help to abolish slavery by joining this Society? Subscription 10s. 6d.—Denison House, 296 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W. 1.

THE FEMINIST LEAGUE.—Miss Abadam will lecture at the Upper Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, Regent Street, at 6.30 p.m. (Music at 6 p.m.); Mon., 3rd April, "Purity. Be ye Perfect. Likeness to the Divine." Admission free. All women welcome.

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Admission free. All women welcome.

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