

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVI. No. 7. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS  
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, March 14, 1924.

### CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER	51
THE LEGITIMACY BILL. E. Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E.	51
WHAT I REMEMBER. By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.	52
THE WOMAN'S PROFESSIONAL YEAR. By Philippa Strachey	52
REVIEW: THE TRUE ROMANCE. By I. B. O'Malley	53
THE LAW AT WORK	54

Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and Abroad, 6/6.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Debate on Unemployment.

The debate on unemployment on 10th March for the most part covered old ground. There was considerable discussion on the progress of the development schemes and other methods of preventing unemployment, though little that was new emerged from the speeches. It was amusing to hear a Labour Government criticized for not having done enough on these lines, but there is certainly a great amount of truth in their defence, that they had been in office too short a time to do more than develop existing schemes. Nevertheless, the Government speeches rather suggested that its members are seeing more clearly than they did when they were in Opposition, the difficulties involved. It is in connexion with the relief, rather than the prevention of unemployment, that the Government have adopted a new line of policy. They have abolished the hated gaps and extended the right to uncovanted benefit. The most important statement from the Minister of Labour was that in the course of the next few weeks he hoped to introduce a Bill "of a rather extensive character" by which unemployment benefits would become "a right not a charity." Everyone will await this Bill with interest, but at present it looks as if the Government, in spite of past Labour outcries, are finding it easier to provide benefits than work, though the benefits may be more extensive than heretofore.

#### Adoption of Children Bill.

Two Bills "to make further provision for the adoption of children by suitable persons" have been presented. The first was presented by Sir Malcolm Macnaughten, and supported by the Duchess of Atholl, Mr. Harney, Miss Lawrence, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Colonel Rudkin, Mr. Stranger, and Mrs. Wintringham; the second presented by Sir Thomas Inskip, and supported by Sir Leonard Brassay, Sir Robert Newman, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Mosley, Colonel Courthorpe, and Mr. Simon.

#### Offences against the Person Bill.

That good friend of our cause, Mr. C. G. Ammon, has presented to the House an Offences against the Person Bill, which is backed by Miss Bondfield and Miss Lawrence. It contains 89 clauses, and cannot be described in a single paragraph. Parts of it are highly controversial, as, for example, the proposal to abolish capital punishment except for a second murder committed while the criminal was undergoing punishment for the first. Homicide is not to be regarded as murder, except where there was intention

to kill or to do grievous bodily harm with indifference as to whether death ensued or not. Except for the crime of murder no sentence of penal servitude is to exceed ten years, and no one under 19 is to go to penal servitude at all except in rare instances. Perhaps the point of most interest to readers of this paper is that the age of consent for girls is raised to 18, with corresponding protection for boys under the age of 18 against women over the age of 18. Another provision which recalls many a hard struggle is that in no case where the criminal character of any act depends upon the age of a boy or girl is it to be any defence to prove that the accused had reasonable cause to believe that the boy or girl was of or over that age. Maximum punishments are increased for the offence of an assault on a girl if the offender is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form, for the procurement of a girl or woman for sexual purposes and in certain cases of incest. At the same time, the punishment of flogging for robbery with violence is abolished. One's impression is that the Bill is overloaded, including as it does such subjects as poisons, explosives, railway accidents, in addition to those mentioned above, and many others.

#### Lady Frances Balfour on Equal Suffrage.

It is strange to find so distinguished a suffragist as Lady Frances Balfour opposing the granting of votes to women on the same terms as men. In a letter to *The Times* on 6th March, she writes:—

It is utterly against use and wont that the franchise we now possess should be plucked up by the roots and examined anew. We have barely tested the working of the franchise that we have. It used to be said that it took ten years before the voters of 1884 used and appreciated their votes. The present state of things regarding women is not logical, but that suits their sex: they have always been called illogical. But it works.

Mrs. Hubback, in her reply, which was published in *The Times* on 7th March, after acknowledging the magnificent work Lady Frances has done for women, continued:—

"It is unfortunate that Lady Frances Balfour, herself safe in the possession of a vote, should not have realized that to turn down equal franchise will in effect prevent her more humbly placed sisters from obtaining the responsibilities of citizenship and the protection of the vote. . . . Lady Frances Balfour will forgive me if I suggest that it does not contribute to clear thinking to repeat vague generalities with regard to the nature of either sex. 'Homo sum' is the only possible motto where citizenship is concerned."

#### Guardianship of Infants' Bill.

The Cabinet has decided to appoint a small Committee to consider the Guardianship of Infants, and to confer with members of both Houses of Parliament who are interested in the above Bill, which has been re-introduced by Mrs. Wintringham this Session, and will be coming up for its second reading on Friday, 4th April. Until we know the composition and the personnel of the Committee and its exact terms of reference, it is impossible to express an opinion as to whether this Committee will be able to produce a really satisfactory agreed measure, or whether it will have to be regarded merely as a time-delaying instrument, which will prevent any effective progress with regard to this subject this Session.

#### The Controversy on the Legitimacy Bill.

We call the attention of our readers to the article by Miss Picton-Turbervill this week on the Legitimacy Bill at present before the House of Lords, in which she opposes the views expressed by Miss Susan Musson (Secretary of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child) in her article last week. We propose to place both views in juxtaposition as a "Burning Question" in next week's issue, so that readers can think out the question before the Bill is proceeded with in the House of Commons.



**A Musical Event.**

The performance at the Queen's Hall on Saturday last of Dame Ethel Smyth's Mass in D was a brilliant success. The Hall was crowded, and a large number of professional musicians and amateurs were observed among the huge audience. For the Mass had not been performed in London since 1893. It is something of a scandal that this great work by an English musician should have been left neglected for 31 years. The performance on Saturday was what it was largely through the combination of Sir Henry Wood's Queen's Hall orchestra and the Birmingham Festival Choir. But surely London ought to be able to provide a choir capable of taking the place so ably filled on Saturday. Have we not a Bach choir and a Philharmonic choir? Either of these, or better still both combined, could surely do what Birmingham has done. There was but one voice among the crowd which met after the Concert at the Langham Hotel. One and all, everyone demanded that the Mass should be performed again in London soon and often, and agreed that it was a most impressive work magnificently performed.

**The St. Hugh's Affair.**

For some months it has been common knowledge among those interested in woman's university education that a situation of unprecedented peculiarity ruled at St. Hugh's College, Oxford. The dismissal of a very widely respected senior member of the staff on a charge of "disloyalty" to the Principal, endorsed by a 9 to 8 majority of the Council, had been followed by the angry resignation of practically the entire teaching staff of the College, together with six members of the Council. Apparently the action of these persons in resigning received the hearty approbation of the great body of women tutors in other colleges, not to mention a considerable section of men tutors who joined with them in refusing to co-operate with any teachers appointed in place of those who had resigned. It was felt by outside observers that a situation of this kind could not long endure. It has endured, however, and at the present time St. Hugh's is carrying on its work in academic and moral isolation from the rest of the University, with a staff hastily recruited and, judged by Oxford standards, inadequately qualified for the task which it is attempting to perform. Meanwhile a state of incipient warfare reigns between the students and their Napoleonic Principal. The latest development, one which is no doubt connected with the outburst of local Press publicity which overtook the affairs of the College a fortnight ago, is that Lord Curzon, the Chancellor of the University, has been asked, and has consented, to hold a private inquiry into the whole affair. We shall await the publication of his conclusions with keen interest. There is no doubt that the story of this troubled passage in the history of Sir Hugh's College, culminating in the active intervention of so great a statesman, if told in detail and without restraint by a competent novelist, would prove a narrative of absorbing interest, not without a considerable measure of humorous relief.

**British Empire Exhibition—Women's Societies.**

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.**—The International Council of Women is making good progress with its arrangements for the Pavilion it is erecting at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Seventeen nationally organized societies have taken the second room in the Pavilion for one or more weeks each, while a number of other Societies are helping with stewarding, so that exhibits on almost every subject will at one time or another be in attendance, ready to give all possible information to inquirers from overseas and the provinces. The Council is also organizing visits to institutions of all kinds; these will be arranged from the Pavilion, and will form a special feature throughout the period that the Exhibition is open. It is expected that a great many visitors will be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to see something of the social and educational work that is being done, and which is not usually open to the public. A comprehensive list of women's societies in London with their hours for interviews is in course of preparation, and will be available for visitors.

In co-operation with other International Societies, the Council is organizing a Conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War, which will be held in one of the Conference Halls in the Exhibition grounds from 5th to 8th May inclusive. The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair will preside, and quite a number of foreign delegates have already sent in their names as proposing to be present, so that the discussions promise to be of unusual interest. The speakers include among others, Dame Rachel Crowdy and Dr. Nitobe of the League of Nations, Dr. Rene Sand of the League of Red Cross Societies, and

Madame Avril de Sainte Croix of the French National Council of Women. The fee for representatives of Societies and for Individual Members of Conference is 15s., including entrance to the Exhibition grounds and a Report of the proceedings.

In connexion with the Conference three Public Meetings will be held also at Wembley at 3 o'clock on 2nd, 6th, and 8th May. The Chair at these meetings will be taken by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., 1st Vice-President of the International Council of Women, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, J.P., President of the International Council of Women. A very attractive programme has been arranged, and all interested in international questions will be welcome. Tickets for the Conference and Public Meetings as well as further particulars about arrangements in connexion with the Pavilion, can be obtained from Miss Elsie Zimmern, I. C. W. Conference and Exhibition Office, 26 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.**—The British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which has representation from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and the Women's Freedom League, has taken a small site at Wembley and is erecting an attractive cottage-like pavilion which it is hoped will form a useful centre of information, where women visitors may meet and get information on the work of the Alliance and on the objects and progress of the National Auxiliaries. There is a special sub-committee sitting to discuss the subjects for small round-table conferences. It is hoped to get a small group of Members of Parliament who will promise to help in the difficult matter of getting tickets for debates in the House. Receptions are to be arranged to introduce overseas women to representative women of political importance. The British Overseas Committee is in touch with the International Council of Women, and hopes to share with them in providing facilities for visits to factories, schools, public offices, and institutions, etc. Suitable literature from the various Societies represented will be on sale or for distribution, and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is producing a series of special pamphlets to bring the various aspects of the woman's movement up to date.

**Questions in Parliament.**

**WOMEN IN POLICE CELLS.**—Mrs. Wintringham drew attention to the case of a woman in the Vine Street police station who was found with her clothes on fire. Following on Mr. Henderson's explanation that the woman had been searched in the ordinary way by the matron, Mrs. Wintringham inquired whether the appointment of women police would not have been useful in this case. This was supplemented by Lady Astor with the suggestion that a police woman would be more satisfactory than the ordinary matron. Mr. Henderson replied "the Department has shown its sympathy with the appointment of women, but I am not ready to go further than that."

**WIDOWS' PENSIONS.**—Mr. E. Simon asked whether when unemployment becomes normal there would be a sufficient surplus from the Unemployment Fund to include pensions for widows and their children amongst the benefits.

Mr. Snowden pointed out that under the existing statutes the rates of contribution would fall as soon as the Fund was in a sound financial position. He would not express any opinion on the advisability of varying these arrangements so as to make the introduction of widows' pensions possible.

**OUR WOMEN M.P.s.**

The most important contribution to the debates of the week was the speech of Miss Margaret Bondfield, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, in the debate on unemployment which arose on the Civil Service estimates. Miss Bondfield announced that the Government had decided to abolish the test formerly required from unemployed women undergoing home-training classes that they would take up domestic service. She pointed out that 50 per cent. of the unemployed women to-day are connected with our textile industries, and stated that since 1st January, forty new classes had been started. In dealing with juvenile unemployment, she hoped that no benefit would be paid to young people between the ages of 14 and 18 unless they were prepared to undergo some form of training, and urged that the age of a child should be raised until trade is prepared to absorb it. Mrs. Wintringham urged further grants of the Queen's Work for Women Fund. Lady Astor pressed the claims of some compulsory scheme for unemployed juveniles of 14 to 16 years of age.

**NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.**

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Apparently the construction of the Singapore Naval Base is to be postponed indefinitely. Technically, of course, the Government's decision to scrap the whole plan is held up pending discussion with the Dominions. But we all know what the Dominions (Australia in particular) think about the matter—thus the proposed consultation with them amounts to little more than a courteous acknowledgment of the fact that they have a moral right to be told first. So, indeed, they have, considering the part which their representatives have played in the matter! But what else could the Government have done? Quite apart from the fact that they have, no doubt, convictions on the matter, the Treasury bench contains hardly an occupant who is not, personally, committed up to the hilt. For months past the Labour Party has thundered from its platforms and through its Press against the Singapore project. Any weakening would see a more solid and better informed revolt than the one which pin-pricked Mr. MacDonald in the matter of the five cruisers—and in combination with a more compact and logical Liberal minority. It is no use arguing about the matter any more: the fate of the Singapore scheme is sealed. Only the collapse in chaos of the Ministerial bloc could unseat it.

But little revolts continue to occur from time to time. There was one on Wednesday of last week, when the Clydeside fraternity took the initiative in dividing the House against the Government and carried forty-three dissentients into the division lobby against a proposal to guarantee a final instalment of three and a half million to the Sudan Syndicate under the Trade Facilities Act. Of course, this is an old grievance of Mr. Johnston's, and one was not surprised to find him as one of the Opposition tellers in company with Mr. Maxton.

But all this doesn't help the Government to get on with its business, which is getting desperately congested. As things stand at present honourable members are expecting to get away for their Easter recess by 17th April, returning in time for the introduction of Mr. Snowden's first Budget on the 29th. But it is quite on the cards that this generous holiday may be whittled down by pressure of work (mainly financial), and this possibility provides the Government with a most valuable threat which can be held over the heads of the intractable on both sides of the

**THE LEGITIMACY BILL.**

It is not very likely that a Legitimacy Bill will pass into law without the amendment moved in the House of Lords by the Archbishop of Canterbury and supported, amongst others, by Lord Parmoor and Lord Cave, that "Nothing in this Act shall operate to legitimate a person whose father or mother was married to a third person when the illegitimate person was born." As long as the Legitimacy Bill confines itself to making it possible for children born out of wedlock to be legitimized on the subsequent marriage of the parents, provided they were both unmarried at the birth of the child, it will meet with practically no opposition at all. This is a measure long overdue, and it will remove the stigma of illegitimacy from a large number of persons whose parents, though at the time of their birth had not gone through the marriage ceremony, subsequently married. Indeed, in certain country districts to refrain from marriage until it is clear that the union of the man and woman is fruitful and "blessed" is looked upon almost as a pious duty. It is therefore quite understandable that the marriage frequently does not take place till after the birth of a child, and it is monstrous that in these cases the child should through life bear the stigma of illegitimacy.

But to legitimize children born of adultery is a very different matter, for here there is a third person to be considered—the legitimate wife or husband. The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child is a body of what we might term specialists who exist for the purpose of the protection of the unmarried mother and her child. Now all specialist bodies are very apt, when seeking to apply the result of their conclusions on society generally, to overlook the claims of other sections of society. Putting aside the religious and moral aspect of the subject, though there is no reason why this should be done, to pass the Bill without the proviso referred to would be disastrous from the social aspect. It is necessary, of course, to consider the welfare of every child born into the world, but not to the entire exclusion of all other considerations. If it should be made possible for a man *already married* to beget an illegitimate child whom the law will permit him to subsequently make legitimate it is bound to introduce an unhappy sense of insecurity in many a childless household. Of course when marriages are made in heaven and are supremely happy this would not happen, but

House. Meanwhile, we are all looking forward to the first Labour Budget. Strictly speaking, it is not going to be a Labour Budget at all, since the keystone of Labour finance, the fabulous Capital Levy, will not, for reasons which are familiar to all of us, stand part of its structure. Still, Mr. Snowden will have a considerable surplus to play about with, and no doubt he will try a few characteristic experiments for the relief of the indirect taxpayer. But it seems unlikely that he will do anything very drastic this time. On the whole, the Chancellor of the Exchequer receives a better inheritance than any of his colleagues. Successive post-war Coalition and Conservative Chancellors have kept the shield of British public finance bright and unspotted. We are accustomed to such finance at Westminster, so much so that we forget to boast about it, and about the incomparable administrative machine on which it rests. Looked at from the angle of Paris or Berlin, it becomes impressive. One forgets to be patriotic about the things which Britons are usually patriotic about, and visualizes John Bull—dear John Bull, noble John Bull, honest, self-restrained, forbearing John Bull, as an incomparable dual personality—a man who imposes taxes and a man who pays them.

Tuesday saw the eagerly expected full-dress debate on unemployment; and nobody envied the Minister of Labour his task. With the best will in the world it was impossible for his hearers not to be struck by the lamentable contrast between Labour boasts and Labour plans—for in no instance did the Government indicate any development whose roots are not firmly established in Coalition or Conservative initiative. In vain did Mr. Shaw attempt to claim originality for the suggestion that insurance benefits constitute a right rather than a public charity. His programme was as impotent as Sir Montague Barlow's. Nobody blames him for his impotence—only, one thinks a little bitterly of those confident Labour criticisms which played like lightning round the heads of Mr. Shaw's predecessors.

*[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.]*

all marriages are not of this quality, and the childless wife would frequently find herself in a terribly insecure position—as for the matter of that would the husband who had given no child to his wife. Most women have a longing for maternity, and, let it not be forgotten, men for paternity. Imagine the position of a childless wife whose husband had begotten an illegitimate child. The child's mother would know, her relations would know, that if only the wife would die or divorce her husband the child could be made legitimate. The mother of the child would have an interest in the death of the wife, which would be strengthened where there is entailed property; for in Lord Buckmaster's Bill the legitimated child would only have no right of inheritance under entails created *before the Act comes into force*. The position of a childless wife would often become a miserable one, with pressure brought upon her from many sides to divorce her husband in order that he might legitimate his child. The situation would be no better if the wife had conceived an illegitimate child and wished to legitimize it: the husband would then suffer.

It will be said by some that these situations are not likely to arise, but the very possibility of their arising might well bring wrong-doing, unhappiness, and a sense of insecurity to many a childless home.

To return to the religious and moral aspect, which of course cannot really be put aside, for every human soul has a nature that is not material but spiritual, and man is incurably religious; also no one wishes morality to be ignored in our legislation. The Bill without the Archbishop's amendment if it became law, would in some cases be an incentive to immorality; moreover, considerations of vital importance to men and women would be ignored. It has been suggested by some that if the amendment is carried the majority of illegitimate children would not benefit, because it has been asserted that children born of adultery are more numerous than those born of the unmarried. This is a preposterous suggestion; there are no figures whatsoever to support such a statement. By all means let us work for a Legitimacy Bill which will bring relief to thousands of children, but such a Bill will make for the best welfare of the nation only if it is carried with the amendment moved by the Archbishop of Canterbury. EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILL.



WHAT I REMEMBER.<sup>1</sup> XXVII.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

## EARLY SUFFRAGE WORK : SOWING SEED (continued).

It will be in the remembrance of some of my readers that our first Suffrage success in the House of Commons was won by Mr. Jacob Bright in 1870. He had charge of a Women's Suffrage Bill in that year, and got a second reading for it by 124 to 91 votes, but further progress was blocked by the Liberal leaders. In 1869 Mr. Jacob Bright had succeeded in passing, in all its stages, in both Houses of Parliament a Bill to open the Local Government Franchise to women. The next year saw the passing of the first important Government Education Act; and Mr. W. E. Forster, who had charge of it, though an opponent of the political franchise for women, embodied in his Act a clause giving them the education franchise and also rendering them eligible to sit upon the newly created School Boards. From this time forth all local representative bodies were elected by the male and female rate-payers of each place, and the disqualification of sex gradually disappeared from the local government electorate. When some people make the assertion that we worked for Women's Suffrage for nearly fifty years without making any progress, they forget these things that were really of the utmost importance in paving the way for victory in wider areas.

Another of the events of 1870 indicates the hold which the principle of equality between men and women had made at that time. The elections for the first School Boards took place in 1870. The women who were returned were the very same women who were most identified with the movement for Parliamentary Suffrage, namely, Miss Elizabeth Garrett, M.D. (afterwards Mrs. Anderson), and Miss Davies for Marylebone and Greenwich respectively; Miss Becker for Manchester; and Miss Flora Stevenson for Edinburgh. Miss Garrett had an immense majority in the big, undivided borough of Marylebone. It was said at the time, and I think it is probably true even now, that she polled more votes than had ever been bestowed on any candidate in any election in Great Britain. The number was over 47,000. She and Miss Davies, Miss Becker, and Miss Flora Stevenson had all identified themselves with Suffrage work. Miss Becker retained her seat for Manchester until her death in 1890, and Miss Flora Stevenson was also continuously re-elected for thirty-three years until her death in 1905. She acted as convener of some of the most important committees of the Board; she constantly came up to London on their behalf to transact Parliamentary and other business, and was unanimously elected their Chairman in 1900. Miss Rosamund Davenport-Hill sat for many years as member for the City of London on the London Board. All these things prove, I believe, beyond doubt that the general good sense of the electors endorsed the value of women's services in public work, and that the man in the street was entirely unconvinced by the anti-suffrage talk about the "immeasurable injury of bringing women into the conflict of political life." An amusing aspect of the controversy was found in the fact that the very same ladies who stated with so much emphasis that women were totally unfit to take part in political life were always ready to take part in it themselves; they wrote and spoke on political platforms, canvassed electors, published election literature, and even started classes intended to train young women in the art of speaking, so that they should be able to proclaim on public platforms that "woman's place is home." One of the more active of these anti-suffrage orators had written and published as follows: "For social purposes, now and always, Man is superior to Woman. Organized society rests on him. It would go on quite comfortably if every woman retired to her own wigwam and did nothing but breed." As soon as Suffrage was carried, however, this lady elected herself for a seat in a Colonial Parliament, and was elected! There was no real sincerity, no conviction, in the stuff they talked on what they erroneously conceived to be the winning side. I make an exception of Mrs. Humphrey Ward, for she was so constituted as to be able to believe at one and the same time that women were fundamentally incapable of taking a useful part in politics, but that she herself was an exception to the rule, for she took a deep interest in the whole political life of her country as it developed before her, and sought, both by speech and by writing, often with considerable effect, to influence its direction.

At the same time, it can easily be conceived how useful the Suffrage workers found the frothy nonsense of which a specimen

<sup>1</sup> This article is one of a series which will extend over several months.

has just been quoted, for it continually provided our speakers with telling illustrations of the weakness of the anti-suffrage case.

With our five centres in London, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, and Edinburgh, and the work which each was doing in forming societies and influencing opinion in its own neighbourhood, we had, as it were, the framework ready made of what afterwards became the "National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies"; but this did not come into actual existence until later. Our five chief societies soon learned the importance, indeed the necessity, of joint parliamentary action, and we practised the art of working together before we formulated the rules for doing so. My speaking was done from the 'seventies onward, chiefly in connexion with these large societies; a group of meetings would be arranged in a given geographical area, and the obvious economy in labour, and also in railway fares, recommended the plan to us all. My work with my husband prevented me from giving as much time to speaking as I did later; it was not until the 'nineties of the last century that I really made it my chief occupation. Of course, one gets (at least, I got) frightfully weary of constant speaking on the same subject, and I had to refuse to speak more than once a day or more than four times a week. I tried to get home for week-ends, not always successfully. I could not have kept it up as long as I did without the constant stimulus of the anti-suffrage speeches, and, as it was, I could only do it for about four months in the year, February and March, October and November. My pleasures and refreshments were from various sources. I formed intimate friendships with delightful people all over the country. Moreover, the great poets were ever with us: Chaucer, Shakespeare, Keats, Shelley, the Brownings, and later, many of the moderns, such as Flecker, Rupert Brooke, and Walter de la Mare; and I also enjoyed to the full the relaxation of foreign travel. In this way I have seen the main places in the world whence our own roots have been nourished. Rome, Naples, and Sicily, Athens, Egypt, and later, Palestine. It is of incalculable interest to look into "the rock whence ye are hewn and to the pit whence ye are digged." And these excursions were not without their usefulness to the main purpose of my life. For instance, I noticed in those countries, where the type of civilization placed women on the very lowest rung of the ladder of freedom, so far from their womanly duties being better performed than with us, they were infinitely worse performed; an Egyptian mother, I noticed, would allow her infant's face and eyes to be covered with flies and never even raise her hand to brush them off.

## 1923,

## The WOMAN'S PROFESSIONAL YEAR

By PHILIPPA STRACHEY.

The year 1923 has been a black one for British Industry and Commerce, and the misery of widespread unemployment has filled the minds of political and social workers alike. Amongst professional and semi-professional women-breadwinners distress has been very common, for when once a job has for any reason been lost it has frequently been impossible for proficient workers with good training and experience to find another in the overstocked market.

Against this sombre background of wasted energies and heart-breaking anxieties we may see, however, the continued progress of individual women making their way forward and opening fresh fields of work for their successors in the future, and from the steadily increasing record we can draw courage to hope that when the national situation at last improves, women will suddenly be observed to be in a very much more satisfactory professional position than they were before the passing of the Representation of the People Act.

The one serious discouragement of the year has been the backward tendency seen in so many directions to prevent the employment of married women. The action of the London County Council in regard to its married women teachers has been paralleled in many other areas, and there is no disguising the fact that the right of the married woman to earn her living is very seriously impaired. For this, as for so many other evils, the present dearth of employment is responsible. But it is undoubtedly a point upon which further organized effort will soon be required.

Accounts of the actual developments in each of the professions appear from time to time in this paper, and very full and accurate summaries of progress up to July, 1923, appeared in the *Woman's Year Book* in the course of the year. Perhaps, therefore, instead of re-stating these facts profession by profession, it would be of more interest to present a sort of professional calendar for last year. In this way readers will be able to form an idea of the general rate of progress over the whole field: and for the collected facts and summaries in regard to any one profession we would refer to the *Year Book* mentioned above.

We must enter the caveat, however, that the calendar here presented is incomplete. Reasons of space and limitations of knowledge are both responsible, and we hope that many interesting and hitherto unpublished additions to the list may be sent in by correspondents:—

1923.	
January.	Results of first open competitive examination for higher Civil Service posts (Income Tax Inspectorate). One woman, five men appointed.
March.	Appointment of woman Assistant Secretary, Royal Astronomical Society.
April.	First woman Municipal Commissioner in Bengal, appointed by Government.
May.	Woman wins Postmaster-General's 1st Class Certificate in Government Examination for proficiency in Wireless Telegraphy.
June.	Woman appointed glazier to Exeter Cathedral. First Woman Lecturer before Royal Institution. First woman passed examination for membership of Institute of Actuaries.
July.	Woman wins Freshfield Fellowship for Metallurgical Research, Royal School of Mines. Woman elected President of Geological Section of British Association. Women (Members of Surveyors' Institution) employed on Crown Estates. Woman appointed Minister of Congregational Church.
September.	Woman admitted member of Exeter Stockbrokers' and Shareholders' Association.
October.	Woman elected Chairman, Trades Union Congress. Woman Jockey in race for Newmarket Town Plate. Woman appointed Town Chamberlain, Fort William.
November.	First woman appointed City Sheriff, Canterbury. Woman appointed Entomologist, South Sea expedition.
December.	First woman Associate Member of Institute of Railway Signal Engineers.

## THE TRUE ROMANCE.

*Shelley and the Unromantics* is a delightful, stimulating, provocative, absorbing book. Shelley is apt to be a passion to anyone who has once grown interested in him. Mrs. Campbell herself says: "If we come within reach of any knowledge of his life it will not let us go." Her book shows signs of passion, but it is a passion which never overcomes her sense of humour or her sense of proportion. She treats Shelley as a whole and does not attempt to separate the man from the poet. In this she is undoubtedly right, and it gives a living quality to her book which is not often found either in plain biography or in purely literary criticism.

She has, an unrivalled subject. The greatest of the psychological novelists, whom Mrs. Campbell makes us so angry by despising, has never portrayed a stranger group of egoists than those who surrounded Shelley, and no writer of falsely romantic fiction has invented more surprising adventures. The author paints it all with vigour and intensity, and in the midst of it she makes Shelley stand out in radiant greatness, as different from most of his contemporaries as "Prometheus Unbound" is from "The Mysteries of Udolpho." He took part in it all; they were his adventures and his friends, but in life and work he was a real Romantic in a world of Unromantics, and therefore while he was in it he was never of it. Two other real Romantics influenced mankind at the same time, Wordsworth and Keats. All the others were, in our author's view, somehow unreal or got led away into unreality. There are moments when Mrs. Campbell does not seem quite sure even of Wordsworth; but of Shelley and Keats she is sure: they would have gone on producing greater and greater poetry and expressing the romantic attitude even if they had not so terribly soon "outsoared the shadow of our night."

In order to understand this, it is necessary to realize exactly what Mrs. Campbell means by romantic. She herself shrinks a little from attempting a precise definition. "If we ask ourselves what is romance in history, in art, and in the individual

*Shelley and the Unromantics.* By Olwen Ward Campbell. Methuen, 16s. net.

life, we shall no doubt get a vague and oracular answer, for its manifestations have been varied. But we shall find, I think, that romance is inseparable from a certain kind of faith in man, a mystical faith perhaps, not depending upon mundane manifestations of his power, but upon some sense of the inherent greatness of his soul—a hope, perhaps, that he is more than mortal." This belief in the soul of man leads to an exaltation of the soul's chief faculty—love, which "is raised from a mere incident of ephemeral mortality to the pre-occupation of eternity." Since this is her conception of romance, Mrs. Campbell naturally finds the best expression of it in Christianity. "Christ was the first Romantic, and the greatest."

Shelley would no doubt have shuddered to hear himself spoken of as a Christian—at moments. There were often moments when, gazing at the green peace that surrounded a country parsonage, he proposed to enter the Church, and very justly remarked: "Of the moral doctrines of Christianity I am a more decided disciple than many of its most ostentatious professors." Christianity was hidden from him, at any rate for a time, by the strange aberrations of those who called themselves Christians; it became synonymous with that cruel intolerance which pursued and persecuted him as, through the mouths and deeds of the Pharisees, it had pursued and persecuted Christ. He condemned it as Christ had condemned the same force, and for exactly the same reason: because it is the opposite and the perpetual antagonist of the love which is the creative power of the universe, the Love which is God.

This doctrine of love creating and sustaining and expressing itself in all things visible and invisible was the inspiration of all Shelley's great poems. (As Mrs. Campbell points out, he wrote nothing to count when he was under the domination of Godwin and "Pure Reason.") It was also the inspiration of his life.

"Common as light is love,  
And its familiar voice wearies not ever.  
Like the wide heaven, the all-sustaining air,  
It makes the reptile equal to the God:  
They who inspire it are most fortunate,  
As I am now; but those who feel it most  
Are happier still, after long sufferings,  
As I shall soon become."

Thus Shelley sang in "Prometheus," and he acted up to the belief. This was especially the case after he escaped from the "Pure Reason" blight, under the influence of which he committed various unreasonable actions, the consequences of which trammelled him through the too short remaining years. Nevertheless, as Mrs. Campbell well shows, he developed more character during those eight years than most men do in eighty, or would if they lived till eight hundred. She has only space to refer briefly to some of the good actions he crowded into them, but anyone who has followed his personal relations through the mass of Shelley literature—or even one set of relations such as his behaviour in the tragic business of little Allegra, will agree with her judgment of him. He became (or was becoming when he died, still under thirty) one of those profoundly dependable human beings who give to all who come into close contact with them a deep sense of comfort and sustenance in the troubles of their private life. She indignantly rejects the theory that he was a bright, ineffectual angel, or that his gentleness was allied to weakness. He "was a strong man... it was through the power of his will that he triumphed: the will to love, the will to hope, the will to create. . . . Among men so worldly and headstrong as Hogg, Byron, Trelawney, he was the undoubted leader, and he was honoured as much as he was loved."

Mrs. Campbell supports her view of Shelley's character with well-chosen evidence. If the scope of her work had permitted, she could have brought forward much more to the same effect. The present reviewer writes as one who agreed with her to begin with, but it seems likely that in reading these vivid pages even an unbeliever might be convinced. The parts of her book in which she may be considered as provocative are not these, nor those in which she illustrates her conception of true romance and of great literature, which is not in her sense romantic, from Shakespeare, Mallory, and the Greeks. It is in her references to English literature between Shakespeare and Wordsworth, to the Victorians, and to the moderns that she rouses contradiction. At moments she would seem to imply that there has been no true romance in European literature since "the Ariel" was lost in the blue Mediterranean. It would be a fascinating subject to discuss, but alas! there is no space here!

I. B. O'MALLEY.



## THE LAW AT WORK.<sup>1</sup>

### THE BORSTAL GIRL.

The Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury, now under the kindly rule of Miss Lilian Barker, is far from full, the number of inmates being 88, where there is accommodation for 400. There is no doubt that there are girls between 16 and 21 who are serving long sentences in local prisons who would be better at Aylesbury, and in that respect the low numbers are to be regretted, but in so far as they indicate a diminution in crime or humane methods of dealing with young offenders they are a matter for sincere congratulation. We wish to go a step further and ask whether the existing numbers can be decreased.

There are girls in Borstal whose "crime" has been that they have run away from Reformatories. The law on the matter is that if a girl over the age of 16 escapes from a Reformatory School she may be apprehended without a warrant, brought before Justices, and sent to a Borstal Institution for not less than two or more than three years. The minimum time was originally one year, but for some reason was extended to two in 1914. It thus may happen that a girl of 14 may be sent to a Reformatory for some not very serious offence, may remain there for years, and then in a fit of depression or a desire for adventure may run away, and then find herself sentenced for two or three years to a Borstal Institution. A punishment more hopelessly out of proportion to the crime can hardly be imagined and must be felt by the girl herself as a gross injustice and give rise to feelings of intense resentment. And what sane person would recommend it as wise treatment apart from the question of punishment? The Reformatory has had the girl and has done for her what an institution can do; no doubt in some cases it has done her much good, but the girl has turned against it in the end. She is not likely to gain by a further dose of medicine of the same kind but stronger, coupled with association with those who have dipped much deeper into life than she has done in her Reformatory, and knowing that when at last she does start her free and independent life she will do so branded as a Borstal girl.

It is true, of course, that a sentence at Borstal does not necessarily involve that the full term must be served in the Institution. The Prison Commissioners have power after the expiration of three months to discharge a girl on licence if they are satisfied that she is likely to abstain from crime in future, but it is clear from the instructions issued by them that they do not contemplate the licensing of an inmate until she has passed into the special grade, that is at least twelve months after she has entered the Institution. The licence is granted, when it does come, on condition that the girl places herself under the supervision of the Borstal Association until the end of one year after the expiration of the sentence and during that time she must observe certain conditions as to work, residence, companionship, etc. If she fails to do so her licence is revoked, and she must return to a Borstal Institution for any time up to a year, even if the period of supervision has expired before that time.

The difficulty is, to what Borstal Institution are these girls to return? There are apparently drawbacks to their return to Aylesbury, as it is better that the girls there should feel that they have their chance given to them to make good when they leave, and that if they fail they cannot return and have just the same chance over again. The present system at Aylesbury is intended for those who are serving a long sentence within the Institution, and it suffers if it is made to include those who have had a few weeks or months of freedom and then are compelled to return through their own misconduct. The plan has therefore been adopted of placing these girls whose licences have been revoked in a separate wing of Holloway Prison where a sort of Borstal regime is carried on. This cannot be satisfactory. It has long since been acknowledged that no Borstal worthy of the name can be established in an ordinary prison; the whole atmosphere is hostile to it. It is hardly fair to those who send girls for Borstal treatment, still less to the girls themselves, that part of their sentence should be served in a huge and notorious prison like Holloway, with all its gruesome associations. The Prison Commissioners must surely be able to devise some arrangements more satisfactory to the public conscience than this.

C. D. RACKHAM.

<sup>1</sup> Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crafts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P., Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY, Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM, Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK, Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 26th, 27th, and 28th March, London Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C. 1.

We shall be very glad to welcome to all Council Meetings visitors who are interested in any aspect of our work. The Gallery of the Hall will be reserved for them. Visitors' tickets may be obtained in advance from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1, or at the Hall (price 1s. a day, or 3s. for all business meetings). A leaflet giving particulars of meetings, etc., may be had on application. The business meetings of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 26th March, Thursday, 27th March, and Friday, 28th March, 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Thursday, 2.45 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.). Secretaries of Societies will receive a copy of the final agenda and also a copy for each of their delegates. Further copies may be had on application (price 4d.). The time allowed for application for delegates' tickets has been extended to 18th March, but the Secretary would be glad to receive applications as early as possible.

PUBLIC LUNCHEON.—A luncheon will be held at the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday, 27th March, at 1 for 1.15, at which the guests of honour will be Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., J.P., and the following members of Parliament: Mr. W. M. Adamson, Lord Askwith, Lady Astor, Miss Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence, Mr. Foot Mitchell, Lord and Lady Terrington, Mrs. Wintringham, and others. Invitation cards (5s. for delegates, 7s. 6d. for non-delegates) may be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard. Application should be made early. The Secretary would be glad to hear if delegates from any one Society wish to be placed together at the luncheon.

RECEPTION.—An evening reception will be held at Bedford College, Regent's Park, by kind permission of the Principal, on Friday, 28th March, at 8.30 p.m., at which the guests of honour will be Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Miss Rosa Manus, of Amsterdam, and others. Invitation cards for non-delegates (2s. 6d.) may be had on application to Headquarters.

OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.—An Officers' Conference will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, 29th March, in the drawing-room of the Y.M.C.A., at which questions of organization will be discussed.

### HOSTESSES WANTED.

Offers of hospitality are still wanted for the coming Council. We are deeply grateful to those friends who have already offered this. Many delegates have heavy fares to pay, and we are therefore very anxious to be able to offer them hospitality in London.

### CITY OF LONDON.—MEETING TO FORM NEW AFFILIATED SOCIETY.

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th March, at 6.30 p.m., at St. Stephen's Chambers, Telegraph Street, E.C. 2, by kind permission of Mrs. Hoster, at the request of certain women voters in the constituency, with a view to forming a Society for Equal Citizenship. The need for such a non-party organization was felt by many during the recent by-election. It will be remembered that the former Member for the City division, the then Sir Frederick Banbury, was one of the greatest obstructionists as regards legislation specially affecting women and children in the House of Commons. It is possible that one reason for his attitude may have been that as far as we are aware there was no non-party organization among his women constituents to keep him informed on their views. It is felt that an Equal Citizenship group in the City would be able to keep the present Member in touch as regards these questions. All City women voters interested are invited to attend the meeting. We hope that our members will make this known among their friends.

### WESTMINSTER BY-ELECTION.

Deputations of women voters in Westminster have been organized by the N.U.S.E.C. to the candidates in this division. A report will be given in our next issue.

### THE LEGITIMACY BILL.

Our members are urged to read the articles by Miss Musson in last week's issue and Miss Picton Turbervill's in to-day's, as resolutions at the Council meeting will deal with this subject. A few copies of last week's issue may still be had on application.

### OBITUARY.—LADY ILBERT.

Our members will wish to extend their sympathy to Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher on the death of her mother, Lady Ilbert, wife of Sir Courtenay Ilbert, formerly Clerk to the House of Commons.

### NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

The Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship has been specially active during the past fortnight. During the last week of February and the first week in March, Hillhead Constituency Committee had the services of Miss Emily Foggo as organizer in that district. Her efforts were most successful, and as the result of drawing room and other informal meetings, fully thirty new members were added to the list. On Thursday, 6th March, at the invitation of Mrs. Park Barrie, a most enjoyable and successful meeting was held, at which Mrs. Spiers, a former member of the Executive, gave an account of her experiences crossing the Sahara. Mrs. Jas. Currie proposed a vote of thanks and briefly outlined the various aims and activities of the Society. Several new members joined, and the substantial collection taken at the meeting will be a grateful addition to the funds.

On Friday, 7th inst., an interesting meeting was held in the Central Halls, at which the speakers were Miss Dobson, B.D., and the Rev. Alex. Spark, Minister of St. Matthew's, Elythwood, Mrs. Albert Gray took the chair, and Miss Eunice Murray proposed the vote of thanks. Tea was served by the kindness of Mrs. Harkness, and the whole proceedings were greatly enjoyed by the large company assembled.

## NORTH-WESTERN GROUP. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AND DISTRICT W.C.A.

Arrangements have been made for a series of meetings on local, national, and international questions. These are to be held fortnightly, and are divided into groups of three on each subject. The national meetings are chiefly taken up by the study of Bills and the furtherance of the Equality programme. A regular supply of speakers has been promised by the Manchester Branch of the Women's International League, who will keep the Society informed on European questions such as the Disarmament of Nations, etc. It is hoped that under this grouping there will be less tendency to concentrate on one set of questions to the exclusion of others, which is one of the real difficulties which associations in small towns have to contend with where it is impossible to run separate societies for the study of the different questions in which women are interested, and where the efforts of one organization to deal with all subjects are apt to begin and end in confusion. Support is being asked from other local societies for the Equal Guardianship of Children Bill.

### CHESTER W.C.A.

A well attended meeting listened with much interest to Miss Helen R. Needham on "The Work of a Poor Law Guardian." Miss Needham is herself an ex-Guardian, and gave an historical account of the origin of Poor Law, and traced its judicial development up to the present day, concluding with her own experiences of the work. An interesting debate on "The Employment of Leisure" was opened by Mrs. Blagden, and several speakers took part. Organized by Miss Lancaster and the Ward Secretaries, a most successful whist drive was held in the Town Hall, at which about 200 were present.

### FARNWORTH AND KEARSLEY W.C.A.

The Committee having undertaken to form a local branch of the League of Nations Union, an inaugural meeting was held last Friday, and a representative committee appointed.

### LIVERPOOL W.C.A.

A Standing Committee for Social and Industrial Reform was appointed in 1923 "To work for all such improvements in the Housing and Social conditions of the people as are necessary to enable women adequately to discharge their functions as citizens." The following inquiries have been undertaken up to date: (1) Hours of work of waiting-room attendants at the local Railway Stations. (2) Local conditions of employment of married women teachers. (3) Housing inquiry into the older property in fourteen wards of the city. (4) Inquiry into conditions of money-lending. Articles describing the conditions found in the Housing Inquiry and urging progress were published in the *Liverpool Daily Post*, and have since been reprinted for sale. A deputation waited on the Housing Committee of the City Council, and a Conference has been arranged for April, when the principal speaker will be Major H. Barnes, ex-chairman of the Independent Housing Committee. The "Money-lending Inquiry" was undertaken at the request and with the help of the Personal Service Committee. A large number of both borrowers and money-lenders were seen and records kept of the interviews. Conclusions, so far, point to the need for further legislation on the question. Valuable help on legal points has been given by Mr. W. H. Darbishire and Mr. S. Scolefield Allen, Barrister-at-law.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

(British Section: 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.)

At a meeting held on 6th March in the Eccleston Guildhouse, by kind permission of Miss Royden, to consider "America and World Co-operation," two points of special interest were raised in Mrs. Swanwick's speech. In the Assembly of the League of Nations the British Empire has seven votes, one for each Dominion as well as one for Great Britain. Is it fair to assume that if the United States joins the League she will have one vote? Mrs. Swanwick did not suggest that each state of the Union should have a vote, or make any other definite proposal. She stated the problem. The other point raised was one which has been discussed ever since a League of Nations was projected, viz. is a League more effective (a) with a threat of force behind it? or (b) relying entirely on the justice of its decisions and the strength of public opinion? Mrs. Swanwick rejoiced that in practice the League is moving towards (b), and that amendments in the constitution have been suggested tending in the same direction. The American chairman of the meeting, Dr. Dunnaway, was in favour of (b) for the not very convincing reason that "there is some devil in all of us." Both subjects need much study and thought.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE COMPLEAT CHILD.

MADAM,—I read Sheila Kaye-Smith's article entitled the "Compleat Child" with great interest and considerable misgivings.

I certainly agree with her that the spirit (understood in the fullest sense of the word) should be developed equally with the mind and body.

But when she gives as one of the reasons for the failure towards the modern child "the confounding of the spiritual with the moral" I cannot follow her. Surely, right conduct and morals can and should be taught from a spiritual standpoint, otherwise they would be presented as mere matters of expediency.

The question of religious training in schools is a difficult one for parents and teachers alike. The "Scripture Lesson" is often nothing more or less than a Biblical History Class; in addition to this perhaps a minister of religion comes once a week and gives a short address after prayers. The children are taken to church on Sundays, and that is often the sum total of religious training given.

To me it would seem ideal to first teach children to think for themselves, and then gradually to unfold for them the beliefs and practices of the various religions, leaving them quite free to adopt the creed most suited to their natures.

What right have parents to conclude that because certain beliefs and practices have been the "true faith" for themselves, they will be equally true and right for their children? I think it is wrong to impress one's own

religious views on the impressionable mind of a child, and perhaps thereby pave the way for a religious complex in later life, when the child has developed other views.

A PARENT.

MADAM,—I read Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith's article on the spiritual education of children, in your issue of 29th February, with immense interest; but I wish she had developed her theme more fully. In her first sentence she admits that modern psychology has rejected the definition of man as a being composed of body, mind, and spirit. She assumes, however, that most modern parents would admit the existence of "spirit" in their children, apart from mind, and apart, even, from the moral faculties of the mind. I doubt whether this is true. I think the great difficulty in the way of the spiritual education of modern children is that a very large number of modern parents are sceptics, or, at any rate, agnostics, about the very existence of the spirit, and cannot therefore be expected to see the necessity of training it. To ask "the mother who does not herself believe in anything, or believes very little" to "bestow good gifts" upon her children by introducing them to "the full life of prayer and faith and a participation in the Sacraments," is begging the question. Such a mother does not believe that these are good gifts; she does not believe in the truth of the religion that is expressed in them. How can she be expected to put her child in the way of learning things which she does not believe are true, with the pretence of developing a part of him which she does not believe exists?

I cannot think that Miss Kaye-Smith's pleading will have any weight with her. I wish, therefore, that the article had been addressed exclusively to mothers who do believe that the spirit exists and that the training of it should be the most important part of a child's education. Speaking as one of these, I should have been very glad if Miss Kaye-Smith had written in more detail about the practical steps we can, and ought, to take. Perhaps she will do this in a further article?

MARGARET CLARE.

MADAM,—I trust you will allow me to protest against the assumptions and similes used by your contributor Sheila Kaye-Smith in the bit of special pleading you published last week. The writer said that children need spiritual education, and forthwith assumed that the only conceivable kind was "the life of faith and prayer and participation in sacramental forms of religion." She added: "I will merely ask the mother who does not herself believe anything, or believe very little, what she thinks of those parents who, because they have not been properly educated themselves do not wish their children to be so." As one of these mothers myself, I should like to put the question otherwise. What does Miss Kaye-Smith think of a mother, herself trained to mispronounce the English language, who has by long effort achieved correct speech, but who, nevertheless, insists that her children shall begin life, as she did, with their h's in the wrong place?

Cannot orthodox people understand that they have no monopoly of "the spirit" and that "disbelief" is as irresistible a conviction as "faith"? X. Y. Z.

### MARRIED WOMEN AND THE POOR LAW.

MADAM,—(1) I am glad to see the remarks in your issue of 29th February as to married women and the Poor Law. It is most important to emphasize that a married woman, if "deserted" or rather "necessitous," has a right to relief on her own application. She is not merely her husband's wife; she is a human being with her own rights and as a destitute individual has a right to relief.

(2) Under Sir A. Mond's Poplar Order an attempt was made to lump not only the whole family but the whole household together, and he forbade the Guardians to give any of the group out-relief if the total income of the household exceeded a certain sum. He did not even make a reservation for a sick person or woman in her confinement.

In my opinion the Order was illegal, for reasons I have given in *The Times* of 21st and 25th ult.; the *Star* of the 25th; and *Evening Standard* of 26th. And I see the editors of the *Poor Law Officers Journal*, who are well-skilled in Poor Law, agree with me, though giving different reasons. May I suggest that one of your Societies should take the opinion of its legal adviser on the subject, because though the Order was rescinded, it still remains as a most dangerous precedent?

(3) I should also like to call your attention to a reply of the Poor Law Department—made through Mr. Wheatley—on the 27th ult., when the question was asked whether certain Boards "received and considered applications made by the wives on their own behalf for medical out-relief." The reply was "that applications may be made by a wife on behalf of her husband," which is quite a different thing. The question and reply are too long to quote in full, but they should be carefully considered.

(4) It is now suggested that legislation based on the Maclean Report should be introduced. The serious defect of this Report is that while it proposes abolition of the Guardians and suggests repeal of forty-third Elizabeth and all the other Poor Laws, it makes no provision for preserving the legal right of all destitute persons to relief given by the above Statutes. Indeed, it indicates an intention to drop it. The abolition of the legal right is fraught with special danger to married women. I suggest that now, before any Bill is brought in, your Societies should declare their strong opposition unless both the right and the present legal remedies are preserved. It is specially important that the independence and responsibility of the Relieving Officer shall be fully maintained.

J. THEODORE DODD.

### AN INTERESTING APPOINTMENT.

Readers of this paper will wish to congratulate Mr. J. L. Stocks, of St. John's College, Oxford, on his appointment to the Sir Samuel Hall Chair of Philosophy in the University of Manchester. It may be remembered that Mr. Stocks took a leading part in promoting and carrying through the recent statute which opened the privileges of the University to women. His continuous interest in the education of women is shown by his active membership of the Council of Lady Margaret Hall, and by his connection with Beckenham Working Women's College, of which he is President.



## COMING EVENTS.

## GUILDHOUSE, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W.1.

APRIL 5. All day Conference on "Housing." (Preliminary notice.)

## GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

MARCH 17. 3-4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. "Town Gardening. Mrs. Margery Allen, London Gardens Guild.

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

MARCH 20. 8 p.m. Informal discussion.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

APRIL 7. Jumble Sale to be held at Bosworth Hall, Bosworth Road, Kensal Road, N. Kensington, W. 10, in aid of funds of British Overseas Committee at British Empire Exhibition. Parcels marked B.O.C. Jumble Sale to be sent to Miss Hoe, 75 Hereford Road, Westbourne Grove, W. 2.

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MARCH 18. 4.30 p.m. Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. Mrs. Alys Russell on "International Friendships."

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

EALING W.C.A. MARCH 21. 3.30 p.m. Miss Elkin: "What Women have gained by the Vote."

LEEDS S.E.C. APRIL 7. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. "What is an Educated Man?" Opener: Mr. A. W. Hodgson (Head Master, St. Mark's Schools).

TUNBRIDGE WELLS S.E.C. and W.C.A. MARCH 18. 5.30 p.m. 7 Church Road. Miss Beaumont on "Bills before Parliament."

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

MARCH 15. 4.30 p.m. Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. Meeting on the Legitimacy Bill. Speakers: R. Mitchell Banks, Esq., K.C., M.P., The Hon. E. A. St. Aubyn Harvey, K.C., M.P., F. W. Sherwood, Esq. (Recorder of Worcester). Chair: Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A.

## SIX POINT GROUP.

MARCH 18. 8 p.m. Mass Meeting in Queen's Hall on Widows' Pensions, Equal Guardianship of Infants and the Rectification of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. Speakers: Professor Winifred Gulles, O.B.E., Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P., Miss Ada Moore, Mr. Henry Snell, M.P., Dame May Whitty, D.B.E. Chair: The Viscountess Rhonda.

## TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

## TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

## TO LET AND WANTED.

NORTH DEVON.—Two ladies would like to hear of a married couple (gentlefolk) to share refined, comfortable country cottage. Sea and country; large garden; poultry; room for dog-breeding and car. Near market town.—Apply, Box 1,049, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

SMALL HOUSE, near House of Commons, to let, furnished, for April. Four bedrooms, labour-saving arrangements, with or without housekeeper, very low rent to good tenant.—Apply, Box 1051A, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

COMFORTABLE, well-furnished flat to let; 3 rooms and bathroom (geyser). Good garden. Well situated, close to trains, omnibus, and trams. Careful tenant required. 3 guineas. Seen by appointment.—Loovey, 80 Grosvenor Road, Canonbury, N. 1.

SMALL furnished flat wanted, July. London. Two bedrooms, one sitting-room.—Box 1052, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

LARGE, comfortable bed-sitting-rooms for lady workers and students at "The Quest" Settlement House, 85 Clarendon Road, Notting Hill, W. 11. Moderate terms. Meals by arrangement.

ACCOMMODATION for worker in gentlewoman's flat near Hampstead Heath. Quiet, economical, homely. Every convenience. Box 1053, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

FURNISHED BEDROOM and SITTING-ROOM, 25s. a week, or bedroom only, to let until 8th April, in High Street, Hampstead; no meals.—Box 1,054, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Holborn 2346. (Established 1908. Founded and managed entirely by women experts.)

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

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1, the only Income Tax Agency owned and managed by a woman. Telephone: Holborn 377.

WANTED, Lady (young), to train under fully qualified Naid and nurse; three boys, 6, 4, 2. Good salary. North Hampshire.—Box 1,051, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

REMNANT BUNDLES DRESS LINEN.—Remnant dress linen for Ladies' dresses. These bundles contain two dress lengths, 4 yards each, 35 ins. wide, in any of the following colours:—Hello, Light Saxe, Mid Saxe, Pink, Olive Green, Strawberry and Grey. Two dress lengths in bundle, 20s. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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

THE HAT DOCTOR, removed to 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W. 1, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

## DRESS.

MISS MALCOLM'S DRESS ASSOCIATION, 239 Fulham Road, London, S.W. 3. Bargain Gowns, Evening and Afternoon, at 21s.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sara, 163 Ebury Street (2 min. Victoria Station) Tel., Ken. 3947. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Women's service Tuesdays, 4.30-6.30, 12th February to 18th March. See "Coming Events."—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, Westminster.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 16th March, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Our Christian Faith: The Fall."

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

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 75s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 20th March: Informal discussion.

## HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10.  
Tel.: Kensington 5213.

On and after December 14th, 1923, the Employment Registers of the Centre will be closed and work will be concentrated on its second and third objects:

"(2) To encourage training and interest in Domestic occupations."

"(3) To do everything possible to raise the status of Domestic Service, as Florence Nightingale did that of Sick-Nursing."

As this will entail much outside work the office will only be open for interviews once a week—on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., except by special appointment.

ANN POPE, HON. SECRETARY.  
(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

HOME-MADE CAKES, made with butter and eggs (no substitutes), can be obtained from Nan's Kitchen, 15 Farnham Street, Holborn, London, W.C. Layer cakes, éclairs, meringues, etc. Regular orders undertaken. A room for tea and light luncheons. Recommended by Ann Pope.

THE SHIELD CO-OPERATIVE RESTAURANT, 1 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, has an excellent French cook. After 3 o'clock there are two rooms on the 1st floor which can be engaged for private tea parties. Tea and lunch served daily in the restaurant. Smoking-room.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **1½d.** including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

Name .....

Address .....

PREPAID CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS 1d. a WORD, 6d. EXTRA FOR BOX NUMBER.

Printed by STEPHEN AUSTIN & SONS, LTD., 5 FORD STREET, HERTFORD, for the PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 15 DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1, to whom all communications should be addressed.