

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS IN INDUSTRY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE HOME IN LITERATURE AND ART IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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

NOTES AND NEWS

Women's Societies in Birmingham.

On October 4th the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham (Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cadbury), who have held office for almost four years, gave an official reception in the Council House in honour of the two chief women's societies of the city, namely, the N.C.W. and the N.U.S.E.C., which have recently amalgamated. It was, we hear, a magnificent entertainment, and to our friend and recent colleague, Mrs. Alfred Osler, the place of honour was accorded on the right hand of the Lady Mayoress at the supper table. It is pleasant to know how Mrs. Osler is honoured in her own city, and the whole incident may be regarded as significant of the new recognition now universally accorded to the importance of the women's movement.

To Cambridge on Thursday.

Cambridge University, on Thursday, October 20th, takes once again an important vote on the women's question. Members of the Senate who desire that women at Cambridge should obtain full degrees and a much greater measure of equality with men than they now enjoy must strive, even at some personal sacrifice, to go up and vote *placet* for Grace I. and *non-placet* for Grace II. Grace II., it will be remembered, is a device for giving women "titular" degrees, that is to say, degrees which must necessarily carry with them an air of inferiority. Grace I., for which members of the Senate are earnestly asked to vote, is far short of the scheme for equal treatment which was unhappily defeated in December of last year. It excludes women from membership of the Senate, which is the Cambridge academic parliament. But in other respects it gives membership of the University, and if it is carried women students will know that they are inside the University in the same sense as undergraduates now are. Women graduates will be eligible for membership of the syndicates and boards of studies—the bodies which advise upon the general trend of study, and two of them will (though without voting power) serve as members of the University "Government," namely, the Council of the Senate. They can also, under Scheme I., be appointed to professorships and other University teaching posts.

Fear of the Commission.

The fear of the Commission is the beginning of wisdom where Cambridge is concerned. Grace I. would never have been proposed, nor would its merits be now so warmly advocated by former reactionaries, were it not that the report of the Royal Universities Commission is almost due, and that it is the last hour for Cambridge to do its own reforming. Men who have made equality of treatment their lifelong faith find themselves temporarily associated with persons of a very different type who have become extremely zealous. The tail is wagging the dog, and with the utmost vigour. These human phenomena are amusing; but we must concentrate attention on the business in hand. We must remind our readers that Grace I., if carried, would mark a great step forward and would do a good deal to remove the discredit which Cambridge has latterly inflicted on herself. If Grace I. (the "Compromise") is defeated, Cambridge University would find itself in the foolish position of defying public opinion and its own women voters, for the sake of a cause which has only disguised selfishness to commend it. So let members of the Senate rally to the support of Scheme I. on Thursday, and not forget at the same time to throw out Scheme II. The voting will take place at intervals in the Senate House throughout the day, and hospitality will be found for those who come from a distance.

Burma Suppression of Brothels Act, 1921.

The following is a summary of an Act that has recently been passed in Burma "to make better provision for the suppression of brothels, of the traffic in women, and of the practice of solicitation and of other practices of a like nature." It abolishes the "segregated area" in Rangoon and other places in Burma. It strengthens the law against solicitation, but in so doing adopts the reform long advocated by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene by abolishing the word "prostitute" and substituting "person." Clause 4 (sec. 1) begins: "Any person who in any street . . ." &c., instead of "Any prostitute. . . ." This is a step in the right direction, for it brings the prostitute under the common law instead of legislating for her as a class

apart. It punishes by fine or imprisonment, or whipping, or any two of these punishments, any male person who lives on the earnings of prostitutes, or "is proved to have exercised control, direction, or influence over the movements of a prostitute in such a manner as to show that he is aiding, abetting, or compelling her prostitution with any other person or generally. . . ." (It is to be noted that this is much more thorough than the English law dealing with the same matter.) It punishes with fine, imprisonment, or whipping, or any two of these punishments, anyone who attempts to procure or import women or girls for the purpose of prostitution. It punishes with fine, imprisonment, or whipping, anyone who detains a woman or girl against her will for the purposes of prostitution, or withholds from her any property, jewellery, or wearing apparel belonging to her, or threatens her with legal proceedings if she takes away with her any jewellery or wearing apparel lent or supplied to her by or by the direction of such person. No proceedings will be taken, either civil or criminal, against any woman or girl found in possession of jewellery, wearing apparel, money, or other property lent or supplied to her by the person by whom she has been detained. (This is a very important provision of the new Act, as it was often impossible for girls to leave brothels where they were detained owing to the fact that their clothes, &c., were the property of the owner, or were claimed as such.) It punishes severely anyone keeping a brothel; or any tenant, lessee, occupier, or person in charge who allows premises or parts of premises to be used as a brothel; or any landlord or agent of a landlord who lets any premises with the knowledge that such premises, or a part thereof, will be used as a brothel.

Brothels in Egypt placed Out of Bounds for British Soldiers.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has received the following from Mr. Arthur T. Upson, of the Nile Mission Press, Cairo:—"For three years and a half I have been agitating and trying to get all brothels out of bounds to British soldiers. Two years ago we succeeded in getting the dirtier and more native lanes put out of bounds (about twenty of them), but some of these were small and there was nothing like the traffic there that there was in the Ezbekia district of Cairo. These five or six streets contained a number of European women, but also an overwhelming majority of native ones. In October, 1920, S. A. Morrison, Esq., a new missionary, just out from Oxford University, undertook the secretaryship of the Alliance of Honour. At the back of us, and as our chief source of inspiration, has been Bishop Gwynne. We worked through the winter and then tried to get the Chaplain-General to hold meetings here; this he did in the first days of April this year. On at least two nights he went out with me and spent considerable time in investigating the conditions, and—man of the world as he is—he was very much shocked when he realised what is going on now. How many times worse were conditions when the Australians were here in 1915-16? We formed a small sub-committee to wait upon the high authorities, and the G.O.C. very kindly sent three of his highest officers, including those responsible for medical services. Prolonged negotiations followed, but during July the high authorities decided:—1. That all brothels be put out of bounds on August 1st. 2. That all secret places, unregistered, and so forth, be similarly treated. 3. That the taking of venereal disease should be a military offence rendering the victim liable to be court-martialled. This is an experiment for six months, and as it is not yet quite two months since the thing was started, we are not worrying ourselves to inquire as to the statistics, even if we could get them. Personally, my position is that the reduction of disease will follow as one of the products, but the main thing I am after is moral righteousness."

Kenya Colony.

Our readers will remember that we recently printed a resolution passed by the European women in Kenya Colony, calling attention to their difficult position if equality of status between English and Indian inhabitants is granted. We now publish a telegram from the Indian women of the Colony, which runs as follows:—"Indian women's meeting passed resolutions on August 21st. The first records their regret, and protests against the European women's hostile attitude towards Indian rights, and says the facts do not warrant their Resolution. Secondly, they accord whole-hearted support to the Indian resolutions passed on July 10th, and, thirdly, they request the Government to grant Indian women the same form of franchise as enjoyed by European women." The whole question is a very difficult one. Last year the Colonial Office gave the white settlers

thirteen elected seats on the local legislature, and the Indians, who are more numerous and pay more taxes, only two members, nominated by the Governor. The Indians now demand the vote on the same terms as the whites, who reply that if this is done they will be swamped by the more numerous Indians, who alone will get into the Legislative Council. The difficulty of the situation will be understood when it is realised that the community consists of 5,000 white settlers, 30,000 Indians, and 2,000,000 African negroes. The Government of India demand "equal political status" irrespective of caste, creed, or colour, but the application of such a general principle is not easy in a triangular controversy of this kind. A great deal of "colour" feeling has been engendered during the past few months, and the solution is more than usually difficult.

The Employment of Married Women.

From all sides come instances of the dismissal of women workers on their marriage. "Let her husband keep her, she is married," is the invariable male dictum, and valuable women doctors, health visitors, and teachers are dismissed and replaced by the new young girl who has just left college, or more frequently by the man who cannot replace her at all. As a correspondent writes: "When they become of value, they marry, and are dismissed, and the nation's children suffer." Even when, in some cases, everyone acknowledges that a particular woman is too valuable to lose, she rarely receives the same pay as men. Their work, according to the reactionaries, is "different and can never be equal." Women must realise that they have it in their power to alter this state of things.

Unemployed Women.

Although unemployment is one of the burning questions of the day, and all sorts of plans are being made to solve this vital problem, few schemes are afoot to find work for unemployed women. Domestic service is the one alternative, and people who repeat that parrot cry seldom realise that it is just as impossible for some women to become good servants as it is for others to become skilled operatives. At a conference on unemployment at Wigan last week it was discovered that no plans had been made to solve the problem of the unemployed woman, although there are 1,500 out of work and 4,000 only partially employed. Wigan hopes to provide for its women by providing for the men, and "requests" that married men should be employed. But what about the single woman who is out of work and starving? Even out-relief at the rate of 10s. a week is not going to keep a woman from hunger and want. Women Poor Law Guardians and Municipal Councillors should do their utmost to see that something is done to help the unemployed woman.

Gwyneth M. Bebb.

By the death of Gwyneth Bebb (Mrs. Welford Thomson) this country loses one of the most brilliant of its younger generation of women. Not, perhaps, known to a very wide circle, her exceptional gifts and depth of character left a deep impression on those with whom she came into contact. She had both great brilliance of intellect and sound practical ability, combined with a sane and balanced judgment—qualities only rarely found together. She achieved her unvarying successes in everything she undertook with an effortless ease that left the beholder gasping. Gwyneth Bebb was probably best known as the outstanding member of the small group of women who worked to obtain the opening of the legal profession to women. She took a brilliant first in the School of Jurisprudence at Oxford—it was stated on good authority at the time that had the tests been published in order of merit her name would have been placed at the top. On leaving Oxford she was appointed inspector under the newly formed Trade Boards, and was for some years Senior Woman Inspector. It was during this time that she joined with three others to bring the case *Bebb v. the Law Society*, claiming that under the then Acts the Law Society had no right to refuse to examine a woman or to register her articles. The case was taken to the Court of Appeal, but judgment went against the women on a technical point. The struggle was then transferred from the Courts to Parliament. It was hoped to get through an enabling Act in the summer of 1914, but owing to the war it was postponed till the winter of 1919, when the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act was passed. During the war Miss Bebb acted as Enforcement Officer for the Birmingham and Midlands Districts under the Ministry of Food. At the time of her death she held an important post with an American bank in the City, and was at the same time reading for the Bar. She had quite recently taken a first class in the Criminal Law Bar examination.

GENEVA AND WASHINGTON.

The meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations is over, and successfully over, and the time for the Washington Conference is drawing near. It is therefore important to examine the relation between these two great events, and to see how far the two of them, taken together, carry the world along the path of peace.

Undoubtedly the League of Nations is strengthening its position. The achievements of this year are very great: the establishment of the International Court of Justice is in itself one of the most hopeful events of world history, and the adoption of the Mandate principle and the actual voluntary undertaking of great Powers to submit to each other reports on their administration of their uncivilised territories, is one of the most wonderful achievements of the League. In addition to these two far-reaching principles, the Council of the Assembly have shown great vitality, and have had considerable success in quieting the acute controversies of Poland and Lithuania, and Hungary and the Burgenland. It is too much to expect that League intervention can instantly solve every knotty problem; but already it is clear that it does greatly mitigate the fury of the combatants and make possible negotiations upon a less fiery basis. The same thing is working with regard to Silesia, and although we do not as yet know the Council's decision, there is already more hope in that direction than there has ever been since the Treaties of Peace were signed.

Now to all this there is the important addition of real and useful international co-operation going on day by day under the auspices of the League. The Labour Convention, and the new Traffic in Women and Children Convention, set up a habit of co-operation over things of mutual interest which leads to understanding, and thus administratively as well as theoretically the League is functioning well.

This is a solid and a steady thing, and it has been accomplished by a League as yet imperfect in membership, with America and Germany still outside. It gives, therefore, real ground for hope. But what is to be the relation to it of the Washington Conference, of which the United States is the author? Are the two peace efforts to clash and be opposed to each other, or are they to use their strength to reinforce each other's powers? Upon the answer to this question a great deal depends; indeed it is not too much to say that our hope of immediate limitation of armaments depends upon this point.

The forces making for peace in the world are greater to-day than they have ever been, and the enfranchisement of women over so large a portion of the globe undoubtedly strengthens them greatly. But if the forces of peace take to warring with each other the hope of triumph will dwindle until it is dead.

Fortunately, however, there is no need for any such conflict. The two great international movements can easily work together; and, indeed, if they follow the lines of wisdom they may well lead to the ultimate inclusion within a League or Society of Nations of all the countries of the world. This outcome, however, is in the hands of America, and even if that nation continues to view with distrust what we here believe to be the hope of salvation, even so there is no need to despair. The League can go on along the path it is now marking out, and there can always be room for much useful work in special conferences like this one which include States not yet members of the League.

The thing to do, therefore, at this juncture, is to turn upon the forthcoming Conference all the public goodwill it is possible to secure; and to this end it is important to understand what are the problems with which it will deal. The mere studying of a large-scale map of the Pacific will do much to indicate what they are; and, when this is taken with the many expert articles appearing in the Press, an idea of the magnitude of the task before the Conference can easily be acquired. We do not all of us have to be delegates to Washington. But we are, all of us, members of the public, and as such we must be intelligent members, and face up to the situation in which our country stands to-day. It is not an easy or a cheerful prospect. But it is not hopeless; and if the forces of goodwill and of courage are alert we may yet live to see prosperity and peace in a world which to-day looks like the gaping ruin of civilisation.

WOMEN AS PREACHERS.

By ONE OF THEM.

It must have been natural enough for the Children of Israel to have accepted the ministry of the prophetess Miriam, for in their long sojourn in Egypt they would have become accustomed to seeing the respect paid to the priestesses of Isis. And the idea of being led by a woman did not cease among them for a long time, so that we find them, after they had settled into the Promised Land, entrusting their national affairs, both civil and military, to Deborah, the woman who also ministered to them in religious matters. Thus, it is not surprising to find that at the time of the Presentation in the Temple, Anna, the aged prophetess, preached to all those who were looking and longing for the redemption of Jerusalem, of the work that would be done in the future by the Baby the carpenter's wife had just brought to be presented.

It was in the Middle Ages that women were thrust entirely into the background in the public ministrations of the Churches, though they still held important positions, and sometimes exercised great power as Abbesses, both in England and on the Continent. But in these fierce and unsettled times, when war and brigandage on land and piracy on the sea were the common order of the day, women who could not fight became more and more regarded as menials on the one hand, and protected pets on the other. And they slipped out of all offices except those of domestic service.

Yet even from the mediæval point of view the ministry of women should not seem strange. To visit the aged and the sick, to soothe the dying, to comfort the sorrowful, and help the poor, to baptise infants, and teach little children; what womanly services these are! And why should it seem more unsuitable for a woman, who may be the mother of sons, to train boys in religious subjects, than for a man to minister to the shy religious instincts of a girl?

When a woman congregation (and it is always admitted that the majority of most congregations are women) listen to a male preacher, they know that the greater half of their lives and experiences are completely hidden from his understanding, especially if he be a young, unmarried man. Why should they have to hear his interpretation of life only, and why should not men sometimes listen to the interpretation of life and religion by women?

When the major part of the service is over, and one stands in the pulpit, and the lights are lowered, as one looks into the eyes of the waiting listeners, the maternal instinct of the woman preacher is strongly appealed to. Those grey-headed men, disappointed with life and its thwarted ambitions, sadly conscious of never having realised the hidden divinity they felt lay within them, who meant to be knights and heroes and have found it too hard; those sad-faced women, each one alone with the inevitable loneliness of her sex, who must suffer so much of which no one knows, and who have the most difficult part of the struggle with poverty; those lads and lasses, full of high hope and the restlessness of youth, who will probably give a rather divided attention, yet who can be caught by some rousing ideal, some vivid truth, which shall prove a help and a guide, it may be, in years far ahead; the tired hearts of the old; the wistful hearts of little children. What a special meaning they all have for a woman; what a privilege to bring them some message of hope, encouragement, cheer, from the Great Source of all inspiration and comfort, with Whom, we are told, "there is neither male nor female!"

Men and women must live, and work, and suffer, and die side by side; why should their religious life be kept in separate compartments? Surely each can learn from the other, the vigour of the man's striving for goodness, helped by the patience and inner light of the woman's more contemplative spirit. There can be no reason why the trained woman preacher should have less to bring to a mixed congregation than the trained man preacher.

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BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

A REVIEW OF THE RISE AND GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN POLICE—(continued.)

As much confusion still exists between patrols and police, and the different bodies promoting them, it may be well to recapitulate briefly. There are:—

(1) *The Voluntary Part-Time Patrols* belonging to the N.C.W.—These were the only body of volunteers working with official recognition. They wore no regular uniform, but all had the official armet and card. They were called into being for a time of emergency, and that being over the majority have given up, though there are still a few at work in the provinces.

(2) *The Official Metropolitan Police Women Patrols*.—These are attached to Scotland Yard and are confined to the metropolitan area; they are the direct outcome of the work of the N.C.W. Voluntary Patrols in London.

(3) *Whole-Time Paid Patrols*.—These are again an evolution from the Voluntary Patrol. They are in uniform, have the official card and badge, but are usually paid by voluntary funds. In some cases, however, they are subsidised by the police authorities, the most notable instance being Liverpool, where the Watch Committee makes a large annual grant to the Patrol Committee for their services.

(4) *Official Policewomen*.—Appointed and paid by police authorities, but not sworn in.

(5) *Official Women Police Constables*.—Appointed and sworn in by police authorities. As a rule policewomen and women constables are in uniform, but there are some in plain clothes attached to the Criminal Investigation Departments.

(6) *The Women's Police Service*, now the *Women's Auxiliary Service*.—These women are in uniform and available for employment in various directions by voluntary bodies, but since their munition work has ceased have no official status, but are very generally confused with the policewomen proper. They may now be distinguished by red on the shoulder bands.

Neither the women in classes 3 nor 6 can be considered as permanent, as their work depends on voluntary funds, and those in No. 4 cannot be regarded as satisfactory because they have the restrictions of police constables imposed upon them without their privileges or standing.

Realising the generally unsatisfactory position, the Committee of the Federated Training Schools left no stone unturned to get women police officially recognised, and the recent Home Office Inquiry was largely the result of a deputation organised by it in co-operation with the N.C.W., which was received by Major Baird on behalf of the Home Secretary in August, 1919.

That Committee of Inquiry has reported, as is well known, in favour of policewomen and of the standardisation of pay, and the Home Secretary has recently advised Chief Constables employing them to pay them at the rates suggested by it, but here to all intents and purposes the matter has ended, and the whole movement seems for the moment rather on the downward than the upward grade. Scotland and Bristol have ceased to train, being unable to assure candidates of posts; voluntary patrols are giving up, and there is a tendency among police authorities to dispense in the interest of so-called economy with their policewomen.

So much for the past. The history of the movement shows how much has been accomplished in a short time, and that these different societies had from the start a common aim—the creation of the official policewoman—though their avenues of approach to this end were different.

Some confusion still obtains as to what are police and what patrol duties, and some people contend that a patrol cannot do police work. Speaking broadly, if we retained the two bodies the work of one should end where that of the other begins, and each should be in close touch with the other. But in practice we find the official policewomen engaged on preventive and welfare work such as is commonly considered as patrol duty, and patrols doing police work, i.e., dealing with cases that have come within

the arm of the law. The word "patrol" is really a police one, and is found in Acts of Parliament, and is used in the Service at the present day. Except perhaps in very large centres of population it is obviously impossible to have two classes of official women, and whichever is chosen must be official. It will probably be found best to aim at the appointment of policewomen, but to urge that the scope of their work should include duties generally connected with patrols.

Secondly, there is a tendency, both in the Report of the Committee and amongst the public, to urge their appointment in large centres of population, but to think there would not be enough to occupy them in small towns or country areas. Greatly as policewomen are wanted in towns, the need is even greater in those smaller places where there is absolutely no one else to do this kind of work. In towns we have often a rota of women Police Court Visitors, Police Court Missionaries, Probation Officers (who are often women), Rescue Workers, Welfare Workers, &c. In the country there are none of these, and no trained women to deal with the variety of social problems which, in proportion to the population, are as numerous and as insistent, if less obvious than in towns. It is a disgrace to the womanhood of England that it should still be possible for cases dealing with women and children to be heard in a Court composed of men only.

How the regular employment of women in police forces is to be secured is a matter that demands immediate consideration. One line suggested is the education of local authorities, and that the women of the country should be roused to the necessity for this work. But however vigorous the campaign, the probability is that a very long period would elapse before all authorities were sufficiently enlightened to appoint women police, and it must be remembered that where we have the most backward authorities there is probably the greatest need.

It is a question whether the better course might not be to try and get Parliamentary powers to make their employment statutory on all authorities. Opposition might occur at first, but in a few years they would be accepted by local authorities as part of the natural order of things, whereas, if left optional, not only is there a likelihood of no appointment being made in many places, but also of their services being discontinued at any time if a retrograde authority succeeds an enlightened one.

But whatever steps are taken, those interested in the social well-being of the country should join hands and take no rest till the manhood and womanhood of our land are so roused that there shall be no resisting the demand for the general appointment of policewomen, whose services shall be available in every part of the British Isles.

F. C. J.

THE END.

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

TWO CONFERENCES

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THE NURSING PROFESSION TO-DAY.—V.

SOME POSSIBILITIES.

Posts under the different municipal authorities—school nurse, health visitor, &c.—are eagerly sought after by trained nurses. The work is interesting, the pay fairly adequate, and the nurse has an agreeable amount of leisure time. The same thing applies to district nursing; although the district nurse works harder, and is liable to be called out at any moment, day or night. In each case a decent degree of education is an advantage; the nurse must know whom to apply to in the numerous emergencies with which she will be called upon to deal; and there is a certain amount of clerical work to be done.

The training given at our Poor Law hospitals is now so much in line with that given anywhere else that it hardly calls for special mention. When these institutions are finally absorbed by the Ministry of Health, the nursing staffs will all, let us hope, be greatly increased; but few other changes will be necessary to place them on an equality with other training schools.

Fever hospital work is also a branch of the profession which comes under the control of local authorities. It is not, at first sight, attractive; the nurse who undertakes it must inevitably resign herself to a good deal of social isolation. But it must be remembered that the majority of patients at a fever hospital are children, and few of them are seriously ill. The woman who likes nursing and caring for kiddies, and who has sufficient motherly feeling to appreciate their rather pitiable position during this enforced and entire separation from their own friends, may find the duties of a fever hospital singularly "worth while."

I have dwelt upon all these varied and widely differing branches of the nursing profession—it is impossible, in the space allotted to a series of newspaper articles, to deal fully with them all, and the army of nurses under the authority of the Red Cross may only receive a passing mention—because I fancy their great diversity is apt to be overlooked by those reformers who seek to improve the nurse's lot by some sort of Trade Union organisation on conventional Trade Union lines. It is difficult to see how such an organisation could be made practicable. Moreover, the strength of a Trade Union lies in its power to strike; and a strike of nurses is not a possible thing. I am not for a moment denying the value of Trade Unionism in those trades to which it is applicable; but I very much doubt if it will ever be a really effective weapon for the reform of the nursing profession. Nor is this necessary now that we have so much legislative power in our hands if only we choose to exercise it.

The eight-hours' day for nurses is already spoken of as a possibility. It should be made compulsory by law. This would, of course, entail a three-shift system at every hospital; but this need cause no more inconvenience than the present two-shift system. One set of nurses would go off and the others go on, precisely as the night and day staff do now.

But accommodation for nurses would have to be trebled? Certainly it would; and what is more, granted sixteen hours of leisure and freedom for each nurse daily, it would be no longer worth while to board and lodge her on the hospital premises. If her own home lay anywhere within a reasonable distance, she could live at home, as the V.A.D. nurses did during the war. If not, a suitable hostel or boarding house, with quiet, airy bedrooms, a good library, and a garden, should be opened—not necessarily by the hospital authorities—for her collective benefit.

There is no reason why she should not escape altogether from the hospital atmosphere whenever she is not actually on duty. Her own health would benefit enormously, her outlook would be broadened, and she would probably be a much more satisfactory worker in consequence. If the authorities are actually so doubtful of their nurses' moral character that they dare not trust them off the lead for a moment, day or night, then it is high time that the present staffs were dismissed and replaced by a more reliable set of women. Needless to say, this is not actually the case: it is merely what is implied by the perpetuation of an outworn and irksome system. Obviously, the hospitals themselves would benefit financially by the change. Even if, at the

same time, a Minimum Wage Act were introduced, raising the nurses' salaries to a figure sufficient to cover the cost of board and lodging, this would still be less expensive than the upkeep of their living-in quarters in accordance with modern requirements; and all the building space at present occupied by the nurses would be available for extra patients. Nor would any hospital again be restricted in its good work by the reflection that every new ward means an increase of staff, and that there is nowhere to put the increase of staff.

And once nurses ceased to "live in" at general hospitals, they would cease to "live in" at private nursing homes, at sanatoria and asylums, and all the other cheerful places where they must, at present, pass their hours of rest and recreation. For the first time on record, the most completely self-reliant and level-headed section of women workers would be treated as if they were really quite grown up; and can we doubt that the whole community—including their patients—would be the better for it?

Remember, especially, that at present we are deprived of the nurse's counsel and aid over innumerable important public questions. She has literally no time to concern herself over "outside" affairs, and no opportunity to take part in them. Instead, she must remain silent and hear, with what patience she may, occasional stray echoes of some discussion on a social question about which her own practical work has given her full authority to speak, carried on by people who can know next to nothing about it. We want a nurse on every Board of Guardians, on every Town Council, on every Welfare Committee, on every branch of the Women Citizens' Association. We have not got them, because they have not a moment to spare for us. And even when they eventually rise to some position of authority bringing greater freedom with it, they have got so out of touch with everything outside the bounds of their own profession that they are rarely available. This ought not to be the case.

We must raise the whole status of the nursing profession; cease to pay sentimental lip-service to the nurse's "devotion" and "courage" and "self-sacrifice," and show her, instead, that we consider her a responsible and valuable citizen, and are prepared to treat her as one. And, incidentally, the next amendment to the Franchise Acts should be so framed as to give her a vote!

MADGE MEARS.

THE END.

[We welcome correspondence on this subject, and will do our best, as far as space permits, to publish letters received, reserving space next week for the writer of the articles to answer any criticism directed against her.—ED. "W. L."]

Feminist League

Miss Abadam will lecture at the Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, Upper Regent Street (Oxford Circus Buses and Tube), at 6.30 (Music at 6), on the following Tuesdays:—

- Oct. 25.—"The New Era: Reversal of Accepted Ideas." "Value of the League." "France and Spain."
- Nov. 1.—"Link between Feminism and Reincarnation." "Woman's Longer Past."
- "8.—"Revelations of Modern Science."
- "15.—"Has any Religion its full chance under Male Administration?"
- "22.—"Future Reform of Marriage Conditions." "Recent Sex Heresies." "Surplus Women."
- "29.—"Evolution and Parthenogenesis."
- Dec. 6.—"Secrets of Power." "Responsibility of Magnetic People." "Triumph of the Spirit."

All Women Welcome. Free Admission. Collection for Expenses.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telephone Museum 6910.

OPENING OF MEMBERSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TO WOMEN.

The help of our members is asked for in urging members of Cambridge University to go up to Cambridge on October 20th in order to vote in favour of the scheme Grace I., the consideration of which was postponed from June 16th. The following circular is being sent out by the Women's Colleges asking the help of all interested in this reform to approach members of the Senate:—

"Last December many votes were lost through an erroneous belief that a favourable result was assured. It is of the utmost importance that this mistake should not be repeated. Voters may be assured that the Women's Colleges are very desirous that Grace I. should be passed. Although it does not give them all that was asked for last December, it would materially change the position of women in the University, since it would admit them to membership, throw open to them all degrees, and make them eligible to Boards of Studies, Professorships, Lectureships, Examinerships, &c., as well as to Prizes and Studentships.

"We must add that all members of the Senate interested in the position of women at the University should vote against Grace II., which proposes to confer titular degrees. There is no doubt that this would be a step in the wrong direction and would not touch the main reasons for the present discontent."

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

We are anxious to have reports of what work our Societies are undertaking in connection with Municipal Elections. The following is a copy of the Questions to Municipal Candidates which are being drawn up by Headquarters. Copies of these can be obtained from the Office, and it is hoped that any member or reader interested in these points will take an opportunity of putting them to municipal candidates during the election:—

1. Will you support equal pay for equal work for all men and women employed by your Council?
2. Will you support the application of the principle of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that a woman shall not be disqualified on account of her sex from any post or office in your Council?
3. Will you oppose the compulsory retirement on marriage of the women employees of your Council?
4. Will you oppose any systematic dismissal of women in favour of men, other than men who have returned from Active Service?
5. Are you in favour of providing an equal number of scholarships in every kind of education and equal facilities in technical education for girls as for boys?

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHILDREN'S COURTS AND THE PROBATION ACT.

MADAM,—The number of women magistrates who inquire for information on various aspects of police court work, and especially the work of Children's Courts and Probation, emphasises a need to meet which no adequate provision appears to exist. Pending the formal inauguration of the Magistrates' Association—the object of which is to collect, collate and distribute information of the work of Justices—will you kindly make it known that, so far as possible, I shall be glad to collect information on any question relating to her work which any magistrate requires? Meaning, in reply to the letter in a recent issue from "A New Justice of the Peace," it may be helpful to say that where children are charged with adult offenders, some courts find an advantage in hearing these cases in the Children's Court after the child offenders have been disposed of. Many courts have a special rota of magistrates for the Juvenile Court.

CECIL LEESON,

Hon. Sec., The Magistrates' Association.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

MADAM,—Recently I attended a Conference of Local Councils and Poor Law Guardians on the question of unemployment. The schemes were outlined, but not one word was said about providing work for women. I was told that there are 1,500 wholly unemployed and 4,000 partially so. At the same time it was admitted that no schemes were being considered for providing any work for them. "Domestic service" is always given as the one solution for women's unemployment. Mention was made at the Conference of the demoralising effect of doles, &c., on a man. I wonder what kind of an effect there will be on the women when they know that no effort is to be made to remove the demoralising effect from them. It would be interesting to know whether there is the same lack of provision for women in other districts.

HELEN G. WHITTON.

THE NURSING PROFESSION TO-DAY

MADAM,—As a private nurse Miss Mears' article in your issue of October 7th interested and amused me very much. She takes no notice at all of the co-operative system, which must employ many hundreds of nurses in this country. I have worked for a co-operation of nurses for the last five years and have found it perfectly satisfactory. In my case the nurse receives her own fees and expenses. She gives up $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. of the former and retains all the latter. The "office" usually finds the

6. Will you urge your Watch Committee to carry out the recommendations of the Report of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, 1920, and appoint women police in your Borough?

7. Will you support the appointment of an adequate number of women on all committees (especially on Housing, Health, and Education Committees) and sub-committees of your Council on which women can sit either as elected or co-opted members?

8. Are you in favour of representatives of organised women being consulted as to the kind of houses to be built by your Council?

9. Will you help to promote a scheme of Widows' Pensions for the widows of all municipal employees?

10. Will you do all in your power to urge your Council to support the "Local Elections (Proportional Representation) Bill, 1920" (to be re-introduced next Session), in order that the principle of Proportional Representation may be applied to Borough Council Elections?

WEST HOUGHTON BY-ELECTION.

A very successful and largely attended meeting of women voters, organised by Mrs. Blincoe, Secretary of our Bolton Society, was held at Hindley, a large mining centre in the Division, on Tuesday, October 4th, the evening before the poll. Both candidates gave a satisfactory account of themselves with regard to our questions, though Mr. Davies (Labour) was more definite in his support of the franchise to men and women on equal terms. The presence of Mrs. Tyson Wilson, the widow of the late Member, with whom we co-operated over the Widows Pensions Bill, added greatly to the interest of the meeting. The audience showed no inclination to disperse when the candidates took their departure, and interesting speeches on our programme by Mrs. Agnew and Mrs. Blincoe, of the Bolton Society, were followed with the closest attention, and at the close, several of those present expressed a desire to form a local Society.

LARGS WEEK-END AUTUMN SCHOOL.

A brief account of this delightful School will appear in our next issue. Speaking from the point of view of Headquarters, we are greatly indebted to our Glasgow Society for this opportunity of discussing the work for the forthcoming winter in such attractive surroundings.

CORRECTION.

The name of Miss Philippa Strachey was inadvertently omitted from the list of helpers in connection with the Louth By-Election. Miss Strachey's help was of special value owing to her own practical experience of an Election Campaign.

cases, but the nurse is at liberty to do so herself, so long as she obtains the consent of the "office" before taking it, and gives up $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. of the fees. The nurse lives where she pleases between her cases, but there is a hostel belonging to the co-operation for any member who cares to use it. Since 1916 I have had sufficient work to get along quite comfortably, take reasonable holidays, and also to prepare in some measure, for the future. I started training in 1911 in a large London hospital, so my training experiences are doubtless very much out of date. I was there for nearly five years and I look back on my training time as one of the most strenuous and interesting I ever spent, and in spite of all its hardships I enjoyed it.

MADAM,—One has read with little enthusiasm Miss Mears' articles on the "Nursing Profession of To-day" in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, owing to the fact that they lack the inside knowledge that alone can make them convincing, and the matter is presented in half-truths, which are ever most misleading and even dangerous.

In a recent issue a lady has written giving her "day's duty." The lady is indeed a wonder, with a dual, I may say quadruple personality, as on her own showing she is probationer, first year staff nurse, second year staff nurse, Sister, and last, but not least—wardmaid and scrubber. One trembles to think of the fate of those patients—so callously described as "emergency appendix"—on their reception and subsequent treatment in the Ward. It would be interesting to know the number of patients under the care of this unique specimen of the nursing profession! For myself I have had experience in several hospitals of unquestionable standing, but never has it been my fate to hear the expressions and slang used by "E. E. Evans," and one can only hope that she may soon realise she has missed her vocation.

Is it not possible to bring to the notice of the public what the nursing profession has stood for and what we hope it will again rise to? Great Britain is the cradle of the nursing world. In the past British women have given of their best to it. Is it too much to hope the best of British womanhood will once more rally round the standard and offer themselves for training, in the full realisation that they are equipping themselves to fight the country's battles in the ranks of its hospitals, its public health services, social and preventive, and say with truth, "for God, King, and Country?" But—and here I pause—it needs educated women to restore the work to what it was in the past—to carry out Miss Nightingale's ideals, and to stamp out the element of trade, not found in medicine, art, or literature.

A NIGHTINGALE NURSE.

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

The Licensing Act (No. 2), 1921, has been put upon the Statute Book. Government hastened forward this measure at the end of a long session and felt that a thorny question was settled for many years to come. But no party of progress can view such an Act as a lasting settlement—certainly it does not fulfil the Government's pledge to make "a proper adaptation to peace conditions of the experience which, during the war, we have gained in regard to the traffic in drink." The extreme gravity of the problem is just as vital as in 1914, when the Prime Minister realised that our licensing system was a national danger. This Act is no solution because it leaves the fundamental problem untouched, that problem being how to reconcile the national interest in securing a reduced consumption of intoxicants with the personal interest of private profit-making in increasing their consumption.

As we stand at present there is no restriction on the strength of spirits, nor the gravity of beer, no restriction on their price or their output—the opening hours for the sale of intoxicants are increased from those found so beneficial in 1914-1918, with special "supper" privileges for licensed premises and clubs. And although the hours are admittedly shorter than the pre-war hours, yet the lucrative hours of sale are still left to the Trade—and increased convictions for drunkenness was the experience at many police courts immediately on the passing of the Act. To abolish the "long pull" and the *bona fide* traveller, "hawking," and certain sales on credit are mere palliatives in reform. The public house remains in the possession of private competitive firms, and until there is disinterested management, with counter attractions to the mere sale of alcoholic drink, the liquor problem cannot be said to be approached.

The Bill introduced, and temporarily withdrawn, by the Bishop of Oxford goes some way towards real progress, and is a Bill we shall hear of again. It is a Bill that proposes "that areas should determine for themselves the mode in which and the extent to which the Liquor Trade should be carried on." It avoids, however, the failure of the Scottish Local Option Act by giving the moderate drinker an opportunity, while keeping on the public house, to cast his vote in favour of public ownership instead of "no change," which was the unsatisfactory alternative to "no licence" in Scotland.

For the first time, moreover, the principle of Trade compensation is adequately recognised in a Local Option Bill, thus avoiding the long time limits rendered necessary by the 1904 Act. The areas proposed would be sufficiently large and representative to secure successful working.

Constructive licensing legislation is yet to come, and such measures as the Bishop of Oxford's Bill should be studied by all who are on the side of progress.

For literature and speakers for meetings apply Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E., Parliament Mansions, Victoria-street, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

OCTOBER 14. Croydon, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

OCTOBER 15. Hull, City Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.

OCTOBER 18. At the Mansion House. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Viscount Grey.

COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

OCTOBER 18 & 19. In the Central Hall, Westminster, 2.30-4.30 p.m. Lord Robert Cecil will speak on Wednesday instead of Tuesday, as previously announced. On the 18th, the speakers will be Miss Maude Royden and Mr. John Harris.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OCTOBER 17. In Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 7 p.m. "Women's Playtime." Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.

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

OCTOBER 17. At Folkstone, W.C.A., 8 p.m. "The Future Public House." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

OCTOBER 18. At Nelson, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

OCTOBER 19. Swarthmore Institute, Plymouth, 7.30 p.m. Lantern Lecture, "Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Miss F. L. Carter.

OCTOBER 20. At Colne, Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

OCTOBER 17. Leeds, Wesleyan Guild Rally, 3 p.m., at Hanover Place Chapel. "The Good Comrade." Speaker: Miss Hartop.

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMEN CITIZENS' UNION.

OCTOBER 16. At the Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn. The Committee at Home, 3.30-5 p.m., to meet the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Stout, K.C.M.G., P.C., Chief Justice of New Zealand, and Lady Stout, and Miss Johnstone Scott. There will be a discussion on Family Endowment.

PIONEER CLUB.

OCTOBER 18. 8.15 p.m. Reading of Original Poems by Mr. Alfred Noyes. Chair: Mrs. E. S. Willard.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

OCTOBER 19. At 37 Russell Square, W.S. 1, at 4 p.m. "Problems of Industrial Hygiene." Speaker: Sir Thomas Oliver, M.D., D.Sc., D.C.L., F.R.C.P.

N.U.S.E.C.

OCTOBER 11. Hertford, 5.30 p.m. "How Women can Prepare for the Forthcoming Election." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

OCTOBER 18. Hereford, 3 p.m. "Parliamentary Work in the Constituency." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

OCTOBER 21. Purley, 3 p.m. "Equal Pay for Equal Work." Speaker: Miss Ward.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

OCTOBER 19. 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. Subject: "Self Expression through Poetry." Speaker: Mr. R. Dimsdale Stocker. Chairman: Miss Vera S. Loughton, M.B.E.

WESTMINSTER COALITION LIBERAL GROUP.

OCTOBER 17. 8 p.m. First of a series of Ten Economic Lectures, by Mr. Marshall J. Pike. Admission free.

KINGSWAY HALL.

OCTOBER 16. 3.30 p.m. "Galileo Yesterday and Europe To-day." Speaker: Miss Pictou-Turbervill, O.B.E.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE WOMAN'S LEADER when ordering goods.

C B C

THE SOCIETY FOR

Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress.

Established at the Inaugural Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th August, in the Hotel Cecil.

President: Marie Carmichael Stopes, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S.

Vice-Presidents: William Archer, Esq., Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., Sir James Barr, C.B.E., M.D., Edward Carpenter, Esq., The Rev. Dr. H. Corner, M.A., Harold Cox, Esq., M.A., The Lady Glenconner, Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins, M.A., Councillor E. King, J.P. (Mayor of Islington), Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bart., C.B., M.B., Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, The Lady Constance Lytton, A. Baldwin Raper, Esq., M.P., Sir Archdall Reid, K.B.E., F.R.S., Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, J.P., M.P., Mrs. Alec Tweedie, F.R.G.S., H. G. Wells, Esq., B.Sc., J.P., J. Havelock Wilson, Esq., C.B.E., M.P.

Hon. Secretary: Councillor H. V. Roe.

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Hon. Solicitors: Messrs. Braby & Waller, Dacre House, Arundel St., Strand. A General Executive Committee, and Special Committees are formed.

TEMPORARY OFFICE, at the Mothers' Clinic for Constructive Birth Control, 61, MARLBOROUGH ROAD, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.19.

OBJECTS: The Objects of the Society are (a) to bring home to all the fundamental nature of the reforms involved in conscious and constructive control of conception and the illumination of sex life as a basis of racial progress; (b) to consider the individual, national, international, racial, political, economic, scientific, spiritual and other aspects of the theme, for which purpose meetings will be held, publications issued, Research Committees, Commissions of Enquiry, and other activities will be organised from time to time as circumstances require and facilities offer; (c) to supply all who still need it with the full knowledge of sound physiological methods of control.

MEMBERSHIP: Shall be open to all who approve of the objects and subscribe to its funds, without regard to Nationality, Religion or Politics.

Apply for Membership Forms to the Hon. Secretary, at above address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 8.30, Miss Maude Royden. "On Keeping Sunday."

KINGSWAY FELLOWSHIP SERVICE, Kingsway Hall, Kingsway. Sunday, October 16th, 3.30, Miss Pictou-Turbervill, "Galileo Yesterday and Europe To-day."

THE STATE AND SEXUAL MORALITY, 1s. 9d., post free. Order this constructive Report from Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Great Smith-street, S.W. 1.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover Street, W. 1. Object 1. To obtain support of Conservative M.P.s for well-considered Reforms.

ACTORS, Artists, Authors, Advertisers. — The Depiction of Character, by D'Arcy Denny, D.D., 2nd November (6 to 7.15). Tickets 1s., free to professionals.—The Garret Studios, 235, Euston-road, adjoining Warren-street Tube Railway Station.

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PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Miss MARION MCCARTHY. Specially arranged Course of Instruction ensuring efficiency, re-opens Monday, October 3rd.—For particulars apply 16, Hallam-street, Portland Place, W. 1.

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