

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE PAST SESSION	227
AT LAST!	227
FOREWORD. By Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.	228
HOT WEATHER ROMANCE. By M. O. I.	228
REVIEWS :—	
DR. MARY PUTNAM JACOBI. By I. B. O'Malley	229
HYPATIA. By M. D. S.	229
THE LAW AT WORK: THE HOME OFFICE AND CHILDREN. By C. D. Rackham, J.P.	230

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Policy of Postponement.

In the course of last week Mr. Baldwin explained to the House of Commons, and, in the opinion of a majority of critics, justified his last and desperate expedient of averting an immediate coal stoppage by the offer of a Government subsidy. In view of the obdurate determination of both parties to the dispute to force matters to an open and desperate conflict, three broad alternatives lay open to him: to throw the weight of the Government behind the owners as Mr. Lloyd George did in 1921 and mobilize the public services to enable the country to carry on without the service of the miners; to take over the direction of the mines and enable the country to carry on without the service of the owners; or to concede the demands of both and so avert the catastrophe at the expense of the public purse. A wholly reactionary Conservative Government, uncritical in its support of capitalist business and ignoring the findings of the most recent Industrial Court of Inquiry, would have chosen the first alternative. A Labour Government with a solid majority and an electoral mandate for nationalization would have chosen the second. Mr. Baldwin, who represents neither the one nor the other, and who is reasonably susceptible to public opinion, chose the third; and the Parliamentary majority, comprising Conservatives, Labour Members, and Liberals, which endorsed his action, shows that it was generally regarded as, for him, the only way out. But in spite of the temporary respite thus obtained we can see, as we look into the immediate future, no real prospect of peace. A new inquiry may, though it is an unlikely supposition, fail to endorse the charge of inefficiency which two public inquiries have levelled against the present generation of coal-owners. Their failure to do so would not damp the men's fighting ardour to achieve a wage greater than the industry will, under present conditions, bear. It may, on the other hand, reiterate that charge. But such a reiteration would have to be overwhelming and unequivocal indeed to induce a Conservative Government with a solid majority to establish a large measure of public control over a large and strongly organized industry. Meanwhile, whatever economies may be achieved by drastic reorganization, whatever measure of agreement in an inadequate wage bill the miners

may be forced to accept—we see no sense in distributing that wage bill according to a system which ignores the existence of wives and children.

Equal Pay and Family Allowances in the Irish Civil Service.

The Minister of Finance in the Irish Free State has sanctioned a new scale of Civil Service salaries for the clerical grades, which will be hailed in the English, Scottish and Welsh parts of this country with excitement and joy. For the scale says that unmarried men are in future to receive the same pay and increments as women, and that if they marry (after the age of 25) they are to receive the increased men's increments; and further that if they have children they are to have allowances on their behalf; and further still that men as well as women Civil Servants are to receive a bonus on marriage. This method of cutting the Gordian knot of the increased expenditure involved by "equal pay" is one Mr. Winston Churchill would do well to look at with attention and it commends itself to justice and commonsense, to economy, efficiency and the approval of the public conscience. We hope to discuss the actual scale of payments approved by the Irish Government in an article next week; and in the meantime we invite our Civil Service readers to meditate upon the scales under which they work in this part of the Empire.

A Fair Field in the Civil Service.

How many of our readers are aware that this summer, for the first time, thirty-four university women are sitting for the competitive examination which gives entry to the Class I Administrative Grades of the Civil Service? Here, at least, if they are successful, they will receive equal entry with their male colleagues. We sincerely hope that they will receive at the same time equal opportunities for advancement. We await the results of the examination with keen interest, extending meanwhile to the thirty-four women entrants our very best wishes for shining success.

International Prison Congress.

Hundreds of persons interested in Prison Administration, men and women from all countries in Europe and also from the United States of America, Japan and China, officials and otherwise, have thronged the Imperial Institute the whole of last week. Each morning session opened with an address from some distinguished man, learned in the law, who spoke on the general theories and principles of punishment. Different sections have dealt with such topics as the indeterminate sentence, possible substitutes for short terms of imprisonment, and preventive measures. Each afternoon after the Congress closed a fleet of charabancs was waiting at the door, each bearing the name of a London prison. These bore the members of the Congress away to inspect the prison of their choice—Holloway, Pentonville, or whichever it might be. Perhaps the most valuable part of the Congress has been the opportunity for members of the various countries to meet one another. Frenchmen and Americans have been able to compare their widely different systems and at the same time to study the British methods, which are in some ways a compromise between the two. The Howard League for Penal Reform gave a reception one evening at which Miss Margery Fry spoke on the aims of the League. The League also provided a bookstall at the entrance of the Hall, so that the reformer's, as well as the official view of the prison world, was presented to our visitors.

The Prisoner's Wife and Family.

One interesting point emerged during the Congress. A resolution was passed recommending that pecuniary payments be made to prisoners for work done by them, "such payments to be utilized for the purpose of repaying the liabilities of the prisoner both to the State and to his victims." This was amended, on the motion of Mrs. Commissioner Lamb, of the Salvation Army, by the additional words "after reasonable provisions have been made for the prisoner's wife and family." One of the American delegates remarked to us that the presence and interest of women magistrates was one of the most striking features of the occasion, and we are glad that there was a woman magistrate there to remind the great gathering that behind the male prisoner there is often, suffering unseen, the prisoner's wife and family. We hope to return to this important Congress in subsequent issues.

What is a Living Wage.

The Australian Government is engaged in a reconsideration of the machinery by which a minimum living wage is enforced in industries falling within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth authorities. One factor which has been responsible for bringing the matter under discussion is the difficulty of overlapping between the State and federal courts. This, however, is not the only matter demanding attention. The difficulty of defining a "living wage" and reconciling that definition with "what the industry will bear" has never, as readers of Mr. Piddington's famous pamphlet "The Next Step" will remember, been satisfactorily solved. In December, 1924, the Queensland Court appointed a small expert Commission to consider this very question. Its report, which declared unequivocally that the first principle in determining a standard basic wage should be "the capacity of industry to pay wages," has been received with mixed feelings by employers who resent the methods indicated for ascertaining their capacity. Incidentally it faces up to the inevitable problem of who is to live on a "living wage," and recommends "a modified scheme of discrimination between wage-earners, according to family needs." We are delighted to hear that such discussions are in progress, as we are well aware that they can only serve to accentuate the practical absurdity of the existing assumption that all workers represent equal human units. Meanwhile, as a result of the Queensland Commission's last mentioned recommendation, the State Premier outlined last week a scheme of family allowances which he proposes to operate from July, 1926. It involves a weekly payment of 5s. per week for the second and all subsequent children up to 14 years, provided the father's annual income does not exceed £400. We have not yet seen details of the scheme, but we gather that the burden will be shared between industry and the State, the latter contributing at least £500,000, the former something in the neighbourhood of £2,000,000.

The Celibate Service.

Widespread disappointment has been caused by the Government's announcement before the adjournment of Parliament that marriage allowances for naval officers are not after all to be granted this year, in spite of the fact that money for this purpose was included in the Navy Estimates. The Admiralty assures the public, in an official statement issued on August 6th, that this reversal of policy is in no wise connected with the economies resultant from the new Cruiser programme. Meanwhile, Mr. Baldwin explained to the House of Commons on the same day that though naval officers are alone in the Services in receiving no marriage allowances, this cannot be regarded as a hardship, since their economic position, taken as a whole, is not inferior to that of officers in the other two Services. Cold comfort this to the naval officer's wife living with her family in furnished lodgings in the neighbourhood of some seaport. Cold comfort to her husband in the intervals of his scanty leaves ashore, saving on his mess-bill for the expenses of the most expensive and uncomfortable kind of home life. When will the Government realise that human beings cannot live on arithmetic averages, however satisfactorily these averages may work out on paper? The nature of their occupation makes it in any case not easy for a naval officer to marry. The present competitive scramble for promotion makes it exceedingly difficult for a man with outside domestic interests to avoid getting shelved. Now the abandonment of the marriage allowance fastens the burden more heavily on the married officer's back. Why not frankly face the fact that the Senior Service must be a celibate service

recruited from the narrow ranks of men who are prepared to forswear domestic ties and renounce the possibility of handing on the tradition of the sea to children reared in its atmosphere?

New Wine in Old Bottles.

We note the inclusion among the resolutions of the National Minority Movement prepared for its annual conference on August 29th of a resolution calling for the establishment of an eight hour day "for all women workers, including domestic workers". The italics are ours. We do not question the good faith of the National Minority Movement nor the beneficence of its intentions on behalf of women workers. But we take the opportunity of pointing out that the principal domestic occupation of women, that of conducting a home in the capacity of wife and mother, is not one which can be satisfactorily dealt with in terms of industrial phraseology or subjected to the standards and safeguards of industrial occupations. Thus, while we would welcome the establishment of an eight hour day for men and women alike in the great mass of wage-earning occupations, we should welcome even more heartily some serious attempt to establish a secure and independent economic basis for the occupation of home-making and such improvement in housing conditions and the public services as would make that arduous, unspecialized, and necessarily irregular occupation compatible with some measure of personal freedom and wider social contact.

Sir Henry Wood on Women's Work.

Sir Henry Wood, recently returned from a musical tour in the U.S.A., has been communicating to the Press some of his views upon his experiences and upon orchestral work in general. He has incidentally some emphatic opinions to deliver in regard to the orchestral capacities of women. Speaking of his own orchestra, he says, "I brought them in in 1912 and I have never regretted it. Of course there is a very large number of women string players to choose from. For eight positions I heard a hundred and seventy-six candidates! It is all nonsense to say that they can't produce as big or as good tone as men. They are every bit as good, and sometimes better. But American orchestras do not yet admit women." Of course there is "a very large number of women string players to choose from. . . ." That is the old story in cases where an interesting and decently remunerated professional occupation is open to women. "Of course there is a very large number of women teachers to choose from," an education authority might say. Or, it might be, women doctors. And why? We know that it is because so many alternative occupations are still closed, barred, boited and shuttered. And we know that herein lies the primary cause of unequal pay for equal work as between men and women. Doubtless if an American conductor, defying the constraints and conventions of his fatherland, were to advertise for a woman string player he would find a very, very, very large number to choose from. Thus do we, our American cousins, waste our national resources.

The Unsocial Socialists.

Early last week the Belgian Chamber adjourned until November 10th, and the Catholic members once more took occasion to lodge a protest on behalf of Woman Suffrage. Once more the question was discussed in relation to the forthcoming provincial Council elections. Once more, with a combined Liberal and Socialist "anti" vote, the enfranchisement of women was shelved by a majority of 71 to 56 votes. The Liberals took occasion to point out the desirability of first passing legislation of greater utility to women, such for example as the improvement of the married women's property laws. How strangely international is the political language of the "anti"! Almost as international—though less consciously international—as the response of the women's movement. We offer greetings and good cheer to the Belgian women. Doubtless they know as well as we do that the reply to these specious promises of their own Liberals is: Seek ye first the power of the vote, and all these things shall be added unto you.

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.

THE PAST SESSION.

At last we can look back over that part of the Parliamentary Session which was completed last week with a pleasing and unusual sense of something accomplished. For once the Bills in which we have been chiefly interested were introduced early in the session. To whom is the credit due? The honours, we think, must be shared between the Government, who embodied in Government measures so many of the reforms in which our readers are interested, the two parties in opposition in the House who supported them, and the Women's Organizations all over the country who initiated certain of the measures in the first place, and who have carried out that spadework in the constituencies which is the necessary preliminary for Parliamentary support.

The measure which stands out as a giant among the minnows is of course the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act. To those of us who have watched the gradual acceptance of the need for pensions for widows with dependent children spread from the Women's Organizations to the Labour party, from the Labour party to the Liberals, and thence at long last to the Conservatives, it was a great surprise that this particular rabbit should have been fetched out from Mr. Churchill's hat at a time of alleged financial stringency and when the foundations of the National Health Insurance Act, on which the Bill is based, are being overhauled. As a contributory scheme the Bill both goes further and not so far as the original advocates of Widows' Pensions wished. It went further in that it included in its scope widows of all insured men, whether with or without dependent children. It did not go so far, as it left outside the widows of all men not qualified to be insured persons yet economically unable to make proper provision for their widows. The rate of pensions proposed, moreover, 10s. for the widow, 5s. for the first, and 3s. for subsequent children, will not prevent the widow with no other resources from being forced to apply for parish relief or from entering the labour market. The fact that the scheme is a contributory one, and that hard and fast distinctions are consequently undesirable, accounts for the inclusion of the childless widow. All are in sympathy with the grant of pensions to elderly widows, and even those who deplored the inclusion of the young childless widow acquiesced when the smallness of her numbers was realized. In its passage through the House many gaps and omissions in the Bill were filled in, thanks to the determined efforts of the Opposition in Parliament and of certain women's organizations outside. These we indicate elsewhere in our columns; they can be summed up under the three following headings:—(1) those which made it easier for elderly people to qualify for old age pensions whether as insured persons or as voluntary contributors by reducing the number of annual contributions; (2) those which knocked out the special conditions and certain of the disqualifications attached only to widows' pensions; (3) those which allowed hitherto insured women married to uninsured men to gain some advantage from their contributions; and (4) those which raised the age during which allowances can be paid to children of widows from 14½ to 16 if still attending school.

To turn next to the Guardianship of Infants Act, which is at last safely to port: "What do they know of harbours, who toss not on the sea?" and what do those unyielding upholders of the pure milk of Equal Guardianship who belittle the new Act reckon of the long struggle to obtain the substantial improvements provided in the Act. Equal rights of mothers and fathers in any disputes affecting the child brought before the courts, equal rights with regard to the appointment of guardians after death; the right of a mother to receive maintenance from the father

for the child when given its custody; the right to bring cases in the summary courts, a preamble which lays down the general principle of equal rights and responsibilities over their children between parents—all this is going a long way to remove existing hardships.

The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill has also become law. This useful little measure gives to either husband or wife the right to apply for a separation order on the grounds of cruelty to the children or habitual drug taking; it gives to a wife the right to apply for a separation order on the grounds that her husband has forced her into prostitution or has insisted on cohabitation whilst suffering knowingly from venereal disease; it provides that a wife need no longer leave her husband before applying for a separation order on certain grounds. The loss of the amendment to allow a court to make an order for the division of furniture is too recent history to require stressing here to-day; it will be heard of again next session.

A notable disappointment from the point of view of women arose in connexion with the debate on the *Representation of the People Amendment Bill* to promote equal franchise introduced as a Private Members' Bill early in the Session. It was perhaps too much to expect a new Government to further a franchise Bill so early in its history, and it certainly marked a definite advance to hear the creed of equal political rights for men and women emerging from the Conservative Benches. But there was something ominous in the Government's refusal to state the age at which it considered equal voting rights should be indicated; the promised conference next year to arrive at an "agreed measure" appears unnecessary if equal franchise at the age of 21 is contemplated, but would provide a splendid smoke screen to prevent anything being done if the Conservative Members advocate equal voting rights at the age of 25, to which proposal neither Liberal nor Labour representatives will be able to agree.

Several different aspects of the status of married women have been before the House. Major Harvey's resolution to give a married woman the same right to retain or change her nationality as a man was carried, and has forced an unwilling Government to communicate with the dominions on the subject.

The Married Women (Torts) Bill, to abolish a husband's liability for his wife's "torts," has passed through the House of Lords, and is, we hope, the forerunner of the removal of many other anomalies arising from coverture. The recent decision in the courts that a local education authority cannot dismiss its teachers on the ground of marriage should have a far-reaching effect on the employment of married women. Various useful little measures went through some of their initial stages this session and will, we hope, be heard of again next. Lady Astor's Public Places (Order) Bill, which seeks to abolish legislation relating to prostitutes as in law, and to require more than police evidence as a proof of annoyance, was acclaimed by all parties. Mr. G. B. Hurst's Bill to regulate Nursing Homes attempts to deal with a long-standing abuse. Lord Astor's Parliament (Qualification of Peers) Bill was defeated on its second reading in the House of Lords by only one vote. Sir Geoffrey Butler's Adoption of Children Bill and Lord Carson's and Mr. Wells' Moneylenders' Bills have been made the subject of special inquiries which should result in legislation next year. The Government's Legitimacy Bill, to legitimate a child in the subsequent marriage of its parents, represents a hope frequently deferred. It has, however, passed through all its stages in the House of Lords, and its passage through the Lower House has been promised in the autumn.

AT LAST!

Widows' Pensions at last! As we write the words we rub our eyes and wonder if it is really true that the reform for which we have laboured so long has at last found its way on to the Statute Book. It is true that its form is so changed from that for which we have striven, so whittled down here, so padded out there, that we scarcely recognise it and are inclined to question whether even the term "pension" is justified at all. Nevertheless, with all the Act's defects—amounts inadequate, burdens placed on the wrong shoulders, provision made for some who questionably need it, and withheld from others whose need is profound—for all that, and all that, we recognise fully and gladly that a great thing has been accomplished. The widow and the fatherless

child have been given a niche of their own in our economic structure—a narrow niche, it is true, but a secure one; a niche which they will hold for ever by right and not by charity, and which as time goes on will assuredly be broadened.

In another column the Parliamentary Secretary of the National Union for Equal Citizenship gives a brief answer to a question which applies to this Act as to the other fruits of the Session: "To whom is the credit due?" While accepting her distribution of honours, we would like to single out some names, in and out of Parliament, as among those for whom "more especially are we bound to pray". First of all, there is the official parent of the Act, the Minister of Health, Mr. Neville Chamberlain. We

have wrestled with him and criticised him over clause after clause. All the more gladly do we acknowledge not only the immense care that has been given to the preparation of a very difficult measure, but the courtesy with which criticisms have been met and the considerable concessions which have been granted. The defects of the Bill are due mainly to limitations laid down by the Cabinet collectively and the Chancellor of the Exchequer especially. There can be no doubt that, so far as the limits of the cloth measured out to him have permitted, Mr. Chamberlain has done his best to cut his coat on shapely and generous lines. Next, there are the numerous Members of Parliament of all parties who have battled with us to improve the Bill—Lady Astor, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. Lees Smith, Captain Wedgwood Benn, Com. Kenworthy, Sir Robert Newman, and others too numerous to mention. Lastly, there can be no doubt that the untiring spade-work of the N.U.S.E.C., of its Parliamentary Department as incorporated in its Parliamentary Secretary, Mrs. Hubbard, and of its societies scattered over the constituencies, has been a real force in improving the Bill, by inspiring not only destructive criticism but constructive amendments, and that this is recognized throughout the House.

We have not done with Widows' Pensions yet. Much social legislation is ineffective just because those who have laboured to secure its passing make the mistake of assuming that once passed their task is over. It is important that women all over the country should know exactly what the benefits of the Act are and what they are not, so that no chances may be missed and no false hopes raised. Already social workers and others in touch with possible beneficiaries are being beset with anxious inquiries: "And shall I get a pension?" Further, we know that the Government expect to be obliged to introduce amending Bills probably annually for some years, so that it is important that everyone concerned with women's interests should be watching the working of the measure, noting hard cases, and preparing themselves for the effort to secure a remedy. At the risk, therefore, of boring some of our readers who are not interested in this measure (we have no pity for such readers; they deserve to be bored) by the large amount of space we have been giving to the subject, we propose in our next issue to publish a closing article, summarising in simple language the main provisions of the Act.

FOREWORD.

TO MY SUFFRAGE FRIENDS,

I wish to commend to your help and support the recently formed British Commonwealth League, of which you will find an explanation in the papers circulated from its office, 17 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2. It is a development of the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union which was originated by Miss Newcomb and Miss Hodge several years ago; these ladies heartily approve its new development. It is in no sense in rivalry with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, a fact which is emphasized by its President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, also being the President of the British Commonwealth League, and by her having worked earnestly from the outset for the latter as well as the former.

It has been found by other nationalist groups of women that their work is more effective if they are linked together, and with this in view the women of the Scandinavian countries, and also the women of the Little Entente have founded Leagues which have served as examples for the British Commonwealth League.

I personally hope for two results from the influence of the British Commonwealth League. It would tend to give greater effect to the views and wishes of women in the future meetings of the Imperial Conference, for women, though enfranchised in the greater number of the British Overseas Dominions, have not been able to obtain as much effective representation as they would wish in these important gatherings. Moreover the British Commonwealth League would probably strengthen the full consideration of questions in which women take a special interest in the Assembly and Council of the League of Nations.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

HOT WEATHER ROMANCE.

I don't know why it is, but hot weather always seems to me more romantic than cold. The opinion is not original, it was suggested to me years ago by a fellow-worker for Women's Suffrage. When she said it we were on our way from a dark, dusty, stuffy office in Victoria Street to a by-election at Bethnal Green, where hot weather and politics are for ever associated in my mind with the pungent smell of not very good fried fish. We were toiling all day and half the night at the time, and we never got away from smells, and dust, and noise and the heating obligation to do things that I, at least, *could* not do, such as creating an open-air meeting by shouting alluringly, from a cart, to two distant boys and a preoccupied dog: but when I sighed at the thought of wasting such weather, and she replied that, even in London and in the circumstances we were in, hot days were more romantic than cold, I instantly agreed. Since then no hot summer days have ever come and found me in London without reminding me of her remark and strengthening my conviction that she was right.

Why is it I wonder that in these glowing summer days one becomes so conscious of the beauty that is in the world that one's own immediate surroundings do not seem to matter half as much as at other times. Is it merely that one's vitality is increased, and that imagination, which, as Ruskin noted long ago, is the most easily tired of all the faculties, revives into fresh life? Or is it that even in London there are enough tall trees and green spaces to remind one of all the magic woods one has ever dreamt of? Or is it that this kind of weather is associated in one's mind with the happiest moments of one's life when one has seen eternal beauty shining through the veils of earth? I think there is something of all these things in the hot-weather feeling, but that there is something more too. It is not only our own golden moments that are associated with summer days. Some of the most delightful things in literature happened in hot weather. It was on an Italian summer morning that Dante escaped from the "dead air" of hell to the wonderful freshness of the sea-shore at the base of the mountain of Purgatory. It was before sunrise and, although in the Eastern sky, the morning star veiled all others by her light in mid-sky, he could still see those strange constellations which none had looked on since the primæval men. The air was full of the colour of sapphires. It had the infinite blueness, which one only sees at the beginning or end of a Southern night. Afterwards, when he had met with Cato and been directed by him how to wash away the stains of hell, dawn came and he recognized "the trembling of the sea." All the glory as well as all the freshness of a summer morning, in a land where summer is always hot, is in that landscape.

It was on a summer night that Romeo declared his love for Juliet, by the light of "yonder blessed moon"—

"That tips with silver all the fruit-tree tops."

Who can imagine that immortal love scene in rain or chilly mist?

It must have been a hot night too, though only in mid-May, when Keats heard the nightingale which enabled him to fly to the most enchanted of all the enchanted woods in which the troubled spirit of man ever took refuge.

Perhaps all these glorious moments of human experience are somewhere in our minds and come nearer to the surface when the sun shines upon us in summer. Perhaps, too, they are for ever associated with the English and Italian country which we have loved best in hot weather: Devonshire lanes where the scents of the honeysuckle and of the sea grew stronger as the twilight deepened; cliffs covered with white and rose-red Cornish heath, above coves where the water was all peacock and violet under the black rocks; dark cyprus woods, with the towers of Florence showing in the distance clear as in a crystal and unreal as in a dream. Suddenly, as we feel the summer weather, we realize those things are there and *that they are looking like that now*; and then more slowly comes the feeling that Dante's mountain and Juliet's orchard and the nightingale's wood are there now and looking as they did when the poets saw them, and that some day, in this kind of weather, we shall perhaps see them too.

I seem to have got a long way from Bethnal Green and even from my Hampstead back garden where the clothes are hanging out to dry, but there is enchantment in the heat.

M. O. I.

DOCTOR MARY PUTNAM JACOBI.¹

Mary Putnam's struggle to enter the medical profession was almost contemporaneous with that of Elizabeth Garrett and Sophia Jex-Blake. It is curious that after reading the biography now before us one hardly thinks of it as a struggle at all. This is not so much because of the circumstances as because of the character of the protagonist. Mary Putnam was clearly a woman of great courage and immense perseverance, with devoted affections and a most thorough mind. Her career up to the time when she completed her medical training was interesting. It included many difficulties successfully overcome, and some incidents which, judged merely as incidents, might be called romantic. But she herself was not romantic. Judging from her letters, a great number of which are included in this book, she was curiously matter of fact, an admirable and a pleasant character, but without those gleams and mysteries which give enchantment in the retrospect, though they may often be disconcerting in daily life.

All this, however, may be partly owing to the fact that her life, after her twentieth year, is told almost entirely in letters to her family, from the various places where she was pursuing her studies, and these are not after all the kind of letters in which the romantic elements of a character are most apt to appear. All the solid, sensible, admirable elements, on the other hand, are most fully and clearly expressed. We see her determination to prosecute her studies in spite of all obstacles, her enjoyment of her work, her desire to serve, her devotion to the reserved and sometimes rather unaccountable father, to the mother so little older than herself, who was working hard, bearing and bringing up babies at home while she was working hard at medicine, to those babies themselves, following each other so fast and constantly, adding to the weight of responsibility which Mary had begun to feel about them when she was still a child.

Mary was born in 1842. She took a degree at the New York College of Pharmacy in 1863, and after some interruption and adventures in the Civil War she tried to study in Philadelphia. But she soon became convinced that, for women at any rate, the opportunities for thorough scientific training in America were not good enough. She determined, therefore, to go to Paris, and took up her abode there in 1866. With some difficulty, but not so much as one would have expected, she secured admission to the famous Medical School of the University, and, once in it, her evident "seriousness" secured the interest of her teachers and the respect of her fellow students. She met with none of the jealous opposition and violence which her contemporary women students at Edinburgh had to face. Paris and the French treated her generously, justly, courteously, and she responded with sincere affection for the city and the race. The Franco-Prussian War broke out just when she was about to do her final thesis. She had no illusions about the Empire, but was full of deep sympathy with the people. The declaration of the Republic, in the midst of disaster, moved her quite out of herself. "I feel really quite ready to die in its defence," she wrote. But no excitement prevented her from going on steadily with the business in hand. "I inquired yesterday at the Ambulance Society if there were any place, but they had already 4,000 more names than places; so I went back and dug at my thesis." Through the siege she continued "to peg at her thesis" and to study in the hospitals "in spite of the Prussians." When the thesis was finished she volunteered for surgical service, and continued it, without salary or ration, until after the capitulation, when, on hearing her chief express monarchial opinions, she indignantly resigned. The thesis was a brilliant success, and she returned to New York crowned with laurels in the summer of 1871.

All the time Mary studied in Paris, she more or less kept herself by journalism, and when she returned to her own country she meant not only to practise medicine but to lecture and to write and to help educate all her younger brothers and sisters. How far these objects were promoted or hindered by her marriage in 1873 to Doctor Abraham Jacobi, President of the New York Medical Society, and a German by origin, it is difficult to tell. She certainly did a great deal of valuable scientific and human work, and whatever she would have done, less or more, if she had not married one cannot tell. No detailed record of her life after marriage is given in this book, only a few scattered letters. We

(Continued at foot of next column.)

¹ *Life and Letters of Mary Putnam Jacobi*. Edited by Ruth Putnam. (G. P. Putnam & Sons.)

HYPATIA.

Mrs. Bertrand Russell has written a brief restatement of femiaism, to some extent from the social, but mainly from the domestic and physiological point of view; and she has called her book *Hypatia*.¹ Why *Hypatia*, our readers may inquire? The matter is explained in a challenging foreword. Hypatia was "denounced by Church dignitaries and torn to pieces by Christians. Such will probably be the fate of this book." As a matter of fact, if our memory serves, poor Hypatia was actually scraped to death with oyster shells. But what of it? Neither Mrs. Russell or her book are likely to share so calamitous a fate. There are passages here and there which many Church dignitaries will not like—they will not like its general tone which assumes a critical reevaluation of what the Church would regard as authoritatively revealed morality. And there are passages (we refer to one on p. 63) which are needlessly offensive to the Episcopacy. But the great mass of ordinary liberal minded feminist Christians—seeing that Mrs. Russell's conclusions, whatever their line of approach, after all roughly coincide with their own—will "take it lying down." The fact is, of course, that Christians are in a peculiarly safe position with regard to the analytical excursions of public spirited and thoughtful agnostics. The painful approach to an ordering of human affairs along the lines of reason, virtue, and the maximization of happiness invariably leads to precisely the same ethical standards which flash with the majesty and romance of divine revelation from out the ancient and original philosophy of Jesus Christ. Therefore, oh Christian readers, you have really nothing to fear from Mrs. Russell (though it may please her to think that you have) and we venture to assure her on your behalf that she has really nothing to fear from you (though if the sight of an oyster shell affords her a pleasurable sense of creepiness we can doubtless find some old ecclesiastic who will be glad to flourish one in her face).

Mrs. Russell's main thesis is not unlike the thesis propounded by Dr. Marie Stopes in the pages of *Married Love*. But it is propounded over a wider field and with more elaborate insistence on its social implications. It embodies a passionate plea for the recognition of the woman's needs, the woman's claim to happiness and self-expression, in the relationship of the sexes. It flings a violent challenge against the traditional asceticism which would concentrate a woman's part in those relations solely upon the unquestioning fulfilment of the maternal function. It submits our still current conception of the marriage contract with its legal and social obligations to a stinging cascade of criticism. And it exalts unto Heaven the willing and supreme partnership of sex love, with equal insistence upon the physical partnership and the spiritual unity of which that physical partnership must be the spontaneous and natural expression. There are many amongst us who will question the valuation which Mrs. Russell accords to this particular form of expression in a world where human tastes and human language (we use the word language in a very wide sense) differ most profoundly. There are even some amongst us who will feel that in the exuberance of her ideal, she overrates the possible frequency of the occurrence of that rare and wonderful coincidence—the mutual discovery of two people who together and alone can scale the heights of human experience which she describes. We agree that our social and economic system of to-day provide a host of unnecessary barriers to its occurrence. But there are barriers other than those imposed by man-made institutions and traditions whose nature we have not at the moment space to elaborate, but whose presence Mrs. Russell unduly ignores.

Meanwhile there is one aspect of her book to which the Upper House of Convocation itself could not deny a gracious benediction. It is most beautifully written. Its author marshals her words and phrases in shining battalions, sabres flashing, and banners waving. Her sentences have edges of sharp tempered steel; her bursts of passion ring out like silver trumpets.

M. D. S.

(Continued from previous column.)

learn that she had two children, a boy and a girl, and lost the boy, and we gather that she was as devoted a mother as she had been a daughter and sister. She published a good deal, attained a high place in her profession, and was respected and loved by other doctors, by students, and by patients. Unfortunately she broke down in health when she was about sixty, and died in 1906.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

¹ *Hypatia*, by Dora Russell. (Kegan Paul, 2s. 6d.)

COMING EVENTS.

CONFERENCE OF MODERN CHURCHMEN.

AUGUST 24-31. Conference at Oxford. Subject: "The Faith of a Modern Churchman." Speakers: The Dean of St. Paul's, Professor Caldecott, D.D., Miss Maude Royden, Professor Bethune-Baker, Professor Sorley, Dr. Douglas White, Mr. W. M. Pyrie, and others. Particulars from Miss Dora Nussey, Upper Ewe Croft, Ilkley.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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