

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVII. No. 21. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, June 19, 1925.

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

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

NOTES AND NEWS.

Empty Property and the Housing Shortage.

A question asked by Mr. Ammon in the House last week raises an interesting point. He asked the Minister of Health if his attention had been called to St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, which has been unoccupied for the last four years. He stated that there were 500 rooms within the hotel and asked if he would introduce legislation to enable this hotel and similarly unoccupied premises to be utilized to reduce the housing shortage. The reply was that the expenditure necessary to adapt this particular building for working class occupation would be prohibitive. We do not, of course, know the special circumstances but we hope that the recently formed and energetic Westminster Housing Council will make investigations. The housing conditions in the City of Westminster, as reported at a recent meeting of the Council held in Westminster School, are a disgrace to our civilization. It is doubtless true, as was given as a reason for the state of affairs on that occasion, that certain streets formerly occupied by the working classes have been captured by well-to-do people and transformed into better-class property. But if it had not been for this influx of people with a higher standard these parts of Westminster might never have been discovered or effectively resented. So far from deploring this diffusion of middle-class standards we should like to organize the colonization on a larger scale of Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Stepney, and Bermondsey.

The Common Sense of the "Evening Standard."

More news comes in this week concerning the penalization of married women by local authorities. The Aberdeenshire Education Committee has joined the reactionary throng by deciding that married women teachers whose husbands are in employment shall cease to serve as teachers at the end of the current school session. One member of the Committee declared, in support of the measure, that it would be "nothing short of a scandal to retain those whose husbands could keep them in comfort." With the feminist aspect of this persecution we have dealt repeatedly. Meanwhile, the point of view of the rate-payers is concisely put by our non-feminist contemporary, the *Evening Standard*: "One need not be a feminist," it remarks, "to ask what any education authority has to do with the procedure of husbands or with anybody's domestic finances. Surely its only duty is to see that it gets the best possible teachers."

A Woman Candidate Hits Back.

An interesting libel action has recently been tried before the Lord Chief Justice at the Devon Assizes, resulting in an award of £200 damages to the plaintiff. Miss Kate Spurrell is a Plymouth school teacher and Labour candidate for the Totnes Division at the last General Election. Miss Spurrell complained that the defendants, two ladies, who apparently did not appear in court, had described her in print as an atheist, a revolutionary, and a disseminator of Bolshevik propaganda. Miss Spurrell was able to prove to the satisfaction of the Court that she was neither an atheist nor a believer in violent revolution, and that it was no part of her political activity to disseminate Bolshevik views among the children entrusted to her professional care. In his summing up, Lord Hewart remarked upon the gravity of the charges and upon the persistence with which they had been followed up without plea of justification and without either defendant having the courage to go into the witness-box. "If you find the defendants liable," he said, "you may think it right to give plaintiff such damages as will not only make it perfectly clear to everyone concerned that the attack was unjustified, but that English men and women are not prepared to countenance the kind of attack practised in this case." We sincerely hope that the assumption contained in this last sentence will be justified by future events and that no other election will witness a recrudescence of the ignorant, malicious, and indiscriminate accusations of sympathy with Bolshevism, atheism, and free love which played so conspicuous a part in the last.

The International Council of Women.

Last week was full of interesting international gatherings, social and otherwise, in honour of the British and Overseas delegates from the recent Conference at Washington. On Thursday the Children's Charter which was drafted by the International Council of Women and the Save the Children Fund, was formally signed by representatives of over forty societies at a meeting held in the Caxton Hall. On Friday a meeting of great interest was held, when reports of the recent conference were presented by delegates from Great Britain, Denmark, Esthonia, and New Zealand. Lady Aberdeen and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon reported on the general work of the Council. The next meeting will be held in 1930 in Austria. A head office has been established in London and a branch office in Geneva in order to keep in close touch with the League of Nations and the International Labour Office.

Workmen's Compensation.

An interesting case has recently been heard at York in which a judgment was given on the question of extra compensation for a child dependent. The child in this case was a grandchild and admittedly illegitimate, and the point at issue was whether she could be included in the definition of dependent children laid down by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, i.e. whether this definition included all children under 15 years who are "members of the family" or whether it covered only the workmen's own children. His Honour Judge McCarthy, in giving a judgment of great importance to workers and their families, said that the object of the Acts was to provide compensation on the death of the bread-winner, and for that purpose a class of persons known as dependents was created. The special object of the Act of 1923 was to give enlarged compensation where there were children, and in his opinion the word covered all children dependent on the workman, and not only his direct issue. This case is of interest at the moment not only for its own sake, but also in view of the current importance financially of

the dependents of those who cannot claim industrial compensation at death, but who are no less the victims of circumstance. Incidentally, does not consideration of the whole matter show up the piecemeal way in which we tackle these problems and impel us along the road that leads to some reasoned form of Family Allowances?

Honorary Degrees for Women.

The degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Miss Annie Cannon, of Harvard University, at Oxford, on Tuesday. Miss Cannon is one of the comparatively small group of women who have won distinction in the field of Astronomy. Miss Ethel Hulbalt, Warden of the Royal Victoria College, McGill University, Montreal, and Miss Lillian Faithfull, late Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College, received the honorary M.A. degree. It is a gracious act on the part of the University of Oxford to recognize the services not only of distinguished members of its own Colleges but of women who, like Miss Cannon, have achieved success in different departments of learning or public work.

A Girton Pioneer.

The Government is to be congratulated on its inclusion in the Honours List of Dame Louisa Innes Lumsden, LL.D. Few women have done pioneer work in so many different directions, or had so much influence on the progress of women both in education and politics. Dame Louisa was one of the first students of Girton College, Cambridge, commonly called "the Girton pioneers." She was the founder and first head-mistress of St. Leonard's School, St. Andrews, the first school to be started and run on modern lines, when games were first substituted for "crocodiles" for girls. Her methods of treating girls as fully responsible human beings with the right to intellectual as well as physical exercise have been followed by all modern girls' schools, not only throughout the United Kingdom but throughout the Empire. As the first mistress of University Hall, St. Andrews, Dame Louisa influenced students who, scattered all over the world, carried her ideas into their future work. Her name is not perhaps so well known in modern political circles as in the world of education, but she was at one time an untiring worker and speaker in the Suffrage movement: all the more convincing because of her outstanding and original work in the field of education.

Coming Events—Please help to make known.

As usual, June and July in London have an embarrassing wealth of interesting and delightful conferences and functions of special importance to women. We wish to attract the special attention of our readers to a few of these which claim their support. There is no better way of helping the causes for which we stand than by voluntary publicity given to conferences or public gatherings, and we hope readers of our paper will give this form of help by spreading details of the meetings announced among their friends in, or likely to be in, London at the time.

Women in the British Empire.

A very interesting development of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is to be found in the recently formed British Commonwealth League "to secure equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women in the British Commonwealth of Nations." A two days' conference has been arranged, which will be held in the Council Chamber of the Caxton Hall on 9th and 10th July. At the opening meeting the speaker will be Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, whose subject is "Existing and possible bases of consultation on Imperial policy, with special reference to the political rights of women." Other speakers include Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Lord Astor, Lady Rhondda, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, and speakers representing different parts of the Empire. At a public luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant the principal speakers will be Lady Astor, the Right Hon. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., and Lady Chatterjee. It is difficult to overstate the educational value of a conference when the position of women in other countries so closely related to us will be under discussion.

Women in Science, Industry, and Commerce.

The programme of the international conference of women convened by the Women's Engineering Society in co-operation with the several other societies representing the interests of women in industry has now reached us. The conference, which

will be opened on 15th July by the Duchess of York, will take place at Wembley, where a special exhibit of women's work has been arranged. One session will deal with engineering, chemistry, and research; another with industrial welfare and factory inspection; a third with commerce and salesmanship; and a fourth with electricity and domestic science. All sessions are open to the public.

"The Son of Heaven."

We congratulate the London Society for Women's Service on a form of money-raising which will excite attention far beyond its own circle. The Civic and Dramatic Guild, revived after sixteen years, will present Mr. Lytton Strachey's first play on Sunday evening, 12th July, and Monday afternoon, 13th July, in aid of the London Society. Nothing could have been more appropriate than the appearance of a play the scene of which is laid in China, at the present moment. Curiosity as to Mr. Lytton Strachey in the new rôle of dramatist and interest in China, stimulated by recent events, will combine to make this one of the most interesting dramatic events of the season.

Penal Reform.

Two very different types of events will be of equal interest to our readers. The annual meeting of the Howard League for Penal Reform takes place at Caxton Hall on Wednesday, 24th June, with Lieut.-Colonel Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck in the chair. The subjects deal with the treatment of boy offenders, education in prisons, and penal reform in Parliament, and the speakers will be Mrs. Le Mesurier, Professor Peers, and Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence. In this connexion the International Prison Congress, which will this year be held in London from 3rd to 8th August, should not be overlooked. It gives an opportunity of meeting men and women from other countries who are interested in penal questions. Offers of hospitality will gladly be received by the secretaries of the Howard League for Penal Reform, 18 Savoy Street.

Questions in Parliament.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.—Major Crawford (for Mr. Livingstone) asked the Prime Minister when he proposes to set up a Committee to inquire into the reform of the franchise. The Prime Minister said that he could make no statement of the subject at present. Mr. W. Thorne asked if, in consequence of the very large number of women who voted for the Tory party at the last election, the Prime Minister would be prepared to extend the franchise so as to extend the number of women. The Prime Minister promised to bear this in mind.

MATERNITY MORTALITY.—Mr. Groves asked the Minister of Health if his attention had been called to the printed statement of the chief medical advisor to the Ministry on the annual medical report, 1924, that in respect to the proportion of maternity mortality England and Wales compares unfavourably with Germany, Norway, Italy, Sweden, and Holland; and whether he contemplates any special and immediate measures to raise the standard to the level of these countries. Mr. Chamberlain stated that he did not consider the position satisfactory and referred to his reply to a similar question on 20th May, when he had enumerated the steps taken to reduce maternal mortality in this country.

CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS BILL.—Mr. Lees Smith asked the Minister of Health what part of the contribution paid by or on behalf of insured women under the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill represents the expense of insuring them in their own right for old age pensions at 65; and what part represents the expense of insuring them for widows' and orphans' pensions and for old age pensions at 65 as wives of insured men if the latter are entitled to pensions. Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, stated that the expense of insuring women, whether for pensions in their own right or for widows' and orphans' pensions and pensions at 65 as wives of insured men is not represented by the contributions paid in respect of women. He referred to paragraph 5 of the report of the Government Actuary, which shows that contributions paid in respect of women are no more than payments towards the cost of the benefits to which women will be entitled, and are fixed at one-half of the contributions payable in respect of men, which are also devoted largely to the provision of benefits for women. In these circumstances, no particular part of the woman's contribution can be assigned to a particular benefit.

TOWARDS NEXT SEPTEMBER.

Many tons of water have flowed under the bridges of Europe since M. Herriot and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, accurately reflecting, one would have surmised, the moods of their respective peoples, met at a League Assembly to determine the conditions of effective disarmament. Never before had the two peoples been represented thus, by two Prime Ministers. Never before had such harmony of tradition and aim appeared to animate the two representatives of France and Great Britain. Never, in fact, had such high hopes brooded over any League Assembly as over this Fifth Assembly of September, 1924, whose prelude was the London Reparations Agreement, whose outcome the draft Geneva Protocol. Well—let us say no more about those old hopes. The Assembly came and went. The hopes rose and fell: M. Herriot and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald disappeared from the international scene. The Geneva Protocol went the way of its predecessor, the Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance—slain by the successors of its original parents. As Mr. MacDonald repudiated the Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance because it seemed to him to provide no sure and permanent guarantee of Peace, so did Mr. Austen Chamberlain slay the Geneva Protocol—and presumably for the same reasons. But Mr. MacDonald made what amends he could. In removing one hope from a war-ridden continent, he strove as best he could to provide it with another more to his taste. Is Mr. Austen Chamberlain (with the securer opportunity of a firm parliamentary majority behind him) going to do likewise? Is it the intention of those who will represent Great Britain at the Sixth Assembly next September to hammer out of the debris of past failures any coherent and constructive plan for effective disarmament through the machinery of arbitration? We do not know. All we know is that the proposed Security Pact upon which negotiations are proceeding between London, Paris, and Berlin, admirable as it may be, in no way provides an efficient substitute for the elaborate plan of checks and balances, incorporated within the framework of the League Covenant, which emerged from last September's deliberations at Geneva.

At any rate, if an impatient and apprehensive public opinion can make itself felt, Mr. Chamberlain will have to set to work between now and September next to provide us all with a fair equivalent for the thing which he has helped to destroy. And the League of Nations Union, as representing such an opinion, is already on the war-path—or, one should doubtless say—on the peace-path. Indeed, we have already, in our preceding issue,

ROTTEN PATCHES IN THE WIDOWS', ETC., CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS BILL.

By ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

During the opening debates on the Bill it was represented according to the party bias of the speakers, now as the rarest and most refreshing fruit, now as the most heartless and cruel fraud ever offered to a thirsty proletariat. To the impartial observer it is clear that the Bill is neither of these things, or perhaps that it is both of them. With all its faults, it will refresh some millions of mouths. With all its merits, it has rotten patches which will mock the thirst of many who hope to participate. A few weeks ago I tried to defend the Bill in this paper for some criticisms which seemed to me unjust. May I now point out some of its demerits.

The injustice to the permanent spinster.—The Government Actuary's memorandum admits (page 5), as indeed is obvious from his figures (page 10), that the major part of the contributions levied goes to pay for widows' and orphans' benefits and that the 4d. paid weekly by or for insured women is considerably more than is necessary to meet "the slight possibility that they will themselves continue in insurance to the age of 65, and then become entitled to a pension in their own right" (page 5). The possibility is slight because "few women of such advanced age as 65 are employed in industry." The justification offered by implication for this (page 5) is that the insured women, being mostly "young and unmarried," will be paying for benefits which they may themselves enjoy in their capacity as wives between 65 and 70, widows or widowed mothers. This sounds reasonable, but what about the women who have passed the age for probable marriage or possible motherhood? Is it justifiable to compel them to go on insuring at a rate considerably higher than is necessary to cover the value of the probability that they will ever benefit? It may be said that the same argument applies to the permanent bachelor. To some extent, perhaps, but first, there are far fewer of them, and there being

to some extent foreshadowed its intentions. It contemplates the immediate effort of six weeks' intensive campaign of propaganda and agitation to insist "that the British delegation at the Sixth Assembly shall either accept the Geneva Protocol with such reservations or amendments as the British Government, in consultation with the Dominions, may regard as indispensable, or else propose a new plan for reaching an all-round reduction and limitation of armaments by way of security and arbitration." The immediate aim of the campaign will be "to educate and rally public opinion regarding the immense importance of securing a return to real peace in Europe by the acceptance of some scheme which makes possible the settlement of all disputes by arbitration and the general reduction and limitation of armaments, accompanied by the guaranteeing of security against aggressive war." In this effort it proposes to call upon the active co-operation of all the women's organizations represented on its Women's Advisory Council for the holding of meetings throughout the country, and for the exercise of pressure on Members of Parliament—co-operation which has, as we recorded last week, been unanimously promised. It will, as our readers are aware, receive its send off at a great Queen's Hall demonstration on 25th June, to be addressed among others, by Viscount Cecil, Viscount Grey, and Mr. J. R. Clynes—a meeting at which a resolution will be passed urging the Government to act as described above—a meeting which may, the L.N.U. hopes, "have a decisive effect on British Policy."

But there is a more definite element in the resolution than the general demand for the Geneva Protocol or an effective substitute. The opening phrase of the draft which lies before us "urges upon His Majesty's Government to sign the Optional Clause (Article 36) of the Statutes of the Permanent Court of International Justice"—thus the campaign of the L.N.U. will synchronize with the campaign of the Women's International League to urge the Government "to accept forthwith the principle of Arbitration in all international disputes, and to sign the clause for the obligatory submission of certain classes of dispute to the Court of International Justice."

Thus it is to be hoped that, when the British Representatives depart for Geneva in September, they will carry with them the consciousness of a live and watchful public opinion, together with the knowledge that no subsequent change of Government will shake the determination of the British public to co-operate with the world at large in a supreme effort for peace by fair and reasonable methods of arbitration.

no large excess of men over women, but the contrary, they are not a statistically necessary class as the spinsters are; secondly, the probability that they will remain in insurance till 65 is much larger; thirdly, the probability that they will marry and have children lasts much longer; fourthly, they receive wages ostensibly based on the needs of a family and so may be reasonably asked to share in its charges. It may be said that twopence a week is not much. No, but it is really fourpence, since the employer's share comes out of resources which might otherwise be available for higher wages. Fourpence, even twopence a week, is not negligible when it is paid throughout one's working life out of a wage which has never been enough to cover even bare necessities, and the hardship seems the greater if one believes that the money is helping to subsidize one's competitors in the labour market and making it easier for them to supplant or undercut one. It is only fair to say, however, that I believe this last difficulty tends to be exaggerated. In the days when I used to take part in industrial investigations, we often noted that, contrary to our expectations, the married women who might have been expected to undercut their poorer sisters were in fact less willing than they to accept sweated rates, and more spirited in resisting unfair exactions. Having something to depend on beside their earnings, they were less abjectly terrified of losing their work than the spinsters and widows to whom unemployment meant starvation.

The best way of remedying this difficulty would probably be to make it easier for the unmarried woman to continue in insurance till 65, either by allowing her, if she quits employment, to become a voluntary contributor at fourpence (at present she cannot do so for less than 1s. 1d., which includes health insurance); or by permitting her if she falls out before 65, to receive her pension then on a reduced scale, or by some similar

device which will give her a fairer chance of reaping the value of her contributions.

The injustice to the contributor who marries an uninsured man.—Imagine the case of a woman who, after contributing for twenty years, marries an uninsured man, say a hawker. If she goes out of employment she forfeits the whole of her contributions, not being permitted to become a voluntary contributor even at a 1s 1d. rate. If she goes on working, she pays her twopence as before, but if her husband dies she gets no pension for herself or her children, though part of her money goes to pay for other widows. Here again the remedy seems to be to strengthen the probability that every woman will be able to reap the value of her contributions when she reaches the age of 65.

The risk of husband hunting.—In pre-Victorian days the main interest of unmarried women, especially of those who felt their youth slipping away, was assumed to be husband hunting. No doubt there was some truth in the jibe. Economic considerations made it inevitable. Many women shared the view of Charlotte Lucas in *Pride and Prejudice* :—

Without thinking highly either of men or matrimony, marriage had always been her object. It was the only honourable provision for well educated young women of small fortune, and, however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservative from want.

Unless this Bill is amended, some women may see in its provisions a way of procuring a "preservative from want" without saddling themselves with the incumbrance of a husband for more than a very short time. If they can persuade some man suffering from an incurable disease to go through the ceremony of marriage with them, possibly for a money consideration, they will be permanently provided for. Matrimonial agencies will flourish as never before, and will no doubt keep their eye on patients discharged from sanatoria and cancer hospitals. The nursing profession, which has lately been deploring its lack of recruits, may find that it has tapped a new source of supply, but of what a quality! Some women who contract marriages of this sort may even obey the suggestion that :—

Thou shalt not kill but needst not strive
Officiously to keep alive.

The Bill already guards against this danger in the case of a man over 60. His death does not qualify the widow for a pension unless she has dependent children, or has been married at least five years. This precaution should certainly be extended to all men. Apart from the danger of sordid marriages, a marriage which has lasted less than five years and has produced no children cannot be said to have caused any serious interruption to the wife's wage-earning career. Indeed, if it is desired to cut down the expenditure on childless widows without causing serious hardship, the safest way would be to extend this duration of marriage qualification up to at most fifteen years. A woman who has been married less than this cannot have children over fourteen, and if she has none below that age, the probability is that her marriage has been altogether childless and has thus not caused any necessary interruption to her own industrial career.

The inadequacy of the children's allowances.—I have left this point to the last, though it is obviously one of the greatest defects in the Bill, because it has already been so much discussed. But to those who are urging drastic cuts at the expense of so-called "childless widows," many of whom are not childless at all though their children have passed the age of fourteen, in order to secure more money for children's allowances, I would point out that every step that is taken in the direction of making children's allowances a greater burden on workers' contributions is a step away from the objective which most women's societies have hitherto set before themselves, i.e. State pensions for fatherless children. And once this burden is bound upon the backs of the workers, it will indeed be difficult to get it off again.

OBITUARY—MR. JAMES WIGNALL, M.P.

We wish to join in the regrets which have been universally expressed at the death of Mr. Wignall, Labour Member for the Forest of Dean. Mr. Wignall's kindly and hearty disposition and his passionate protection of the weak and needy was appreciated by all parties. His record as regards the causes for which this paper stands is as white as snow. We cannot recollect a single measure among those in which we are interested to which he did not give his whole-hearted and frequently active support. In addition to his great interest in overseas affairs, the social problem in this country with which he chiefly identified himself was that of the unmarried mother and her child, and in 1922 and again in 1924 he presented an "Illegitimacy Bill," wide in its scope, but which never reached its second reading.

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

CHAPTER XXVI.—THE THREE RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS: EASTER, NEBY MUSA, AND PASSOVER.

EASTER.—One of the first things newly arrived tourists in Palestine discover is the great importance attached by officials and other residents to the date of the ecclesiastical festivals recurring every Spring in the three chief religions, Christian, Moslem, and Jewish. The Christian festival of Easter may almost be regarded as two, because the Greek Church, to which the majority of Palestinian Christians belong, has a different method of computing the date of Easter from that adopted by the Latin and Protestant Churches. An instance of the awful saturnalia of murder which occasionally in former years attended the display at Easter in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre of the supposed miracle of the descent of the Holy Fire was recorded by the Hon. Robert Curzon in his *Monasteries of the Levant*, quoted on an earlier page. This, however, was nearly ninety years ago, it may be hoped things could never be as bad now. However, when we were in Jerusalem in the Spring of 1921, almost everyone who knew the country said something to express satisfaction that in that year the Greek and Latin Easters were separated by almost the longest interval possible. This, it was hoped, would reduce the risk of religious fanaticism degenerating into murderous rioting. This confidence, however, was misplaced and in the following month the riots at Jaffa and the neighbourhood took place during which 95 people were killed and 219 wounded. The Greek ceremonies had nothing whatever to do with this savagery. The spark which lighted the subsequent conflagration was struck by the fierce resentment of a small group of communists or Bolshevik Jews against their Jewish neighbours in Jaffa and Telaviv, who had repudiated all sympathy with extremist views. These men, whether representing capital or labour, would have nothing to do with Bolshevism, and regarded its representatives with unfeigned hostility.¹

The dates of the Christian Easter and of the Jewish Passover being regulated by the movements of the heavenly bodies are definitely fixed in a manner to secure them against even the suspicion of political intrigue. But this is not the case with the Moslem festival of Neby Musa. This is a Moslem festival in honour of the prophet Moses; it is a movable feast, and its date can be fixed according to political convenience. In Turkish times the Governor, if not "favourable to a riot" would sometimes forbid it altogether. When he was "favourable to a riot" the date could be arranged when it was most likely to produce one.

In Jerusalem in 1922, the Latin and Greek Easter, the Passover, and Neby Musa all came within a few days of one another. There was some anxiety on the part of the Government, and some unostentatious preparations were made and precautions taken, but the anxious time passed in perfect peace and quietude. We were told that there had been an armoured car outside the Jaffa and Damascus gates but they were not conspicuous; on Palm Sunday an aeroplane sailed backwards and forwards over the City when the Christians were on their way to and from Church. Nothing else that was unusual occurred. Our Easter in Jerusalem was very much like an Easter at home.

NEBY MUSA.—Our greatest interest was in seeing Neby Musa. During the week which included this festival, the Temple area was closed to all but Moslems, so that they had their mosque quite undisturbed by strangers, and the risk of possible irreverences was therefore removed. We had lately had an extremely interesting two days, first in Nablus to the North and afterwards in Hebron to the South of Jerusalem; these two cities are said to be the most fanatically Moslem in the whole of Palestine; and as fanatical Moslems are almost as likely to fight with each other as they are with the "infidel" it had been arranged that the Neby Musa procession from these places should not arrive in Jerusalem at the same time. This materially reduced the chances of a collision between them. The Hebronites naturally entered at the Jaffa Gate on the North side of the city, and the Nablusites at the Damascus Gate on the South side.

On Friday, 7th April, we had gone the first thing in the morning to see the exhibition of Syrian arts and industries in the citadel, only a stone's throw from our hotel; as we were coming out a stream of excited Moslems was passing in by the Jaffa Gate, making their way towards David Street and hence to the Temple area. These were the Hebronites. To get back to our

¹ See Haycraft Report.

hotel we should have had to cross this stream. So instead of attempting this we went into Cook's office hard by, where as usual, Mr. Salammeb made us welcome, and we watched the procession from there. It was a most extraordinary sight. It consisted entirely of men, and mostly of old men, apparently under almost uncontrollable excitement. They formed themselves into large circles, holding hands as children do in "round and round the mulberry bush," one or two standing in the centre of each circle with cymbals, drums or flutes, the whole company dancing, leaping in the air, and yelling like mad creatures. When we were staring and wondering at this strange sight, one of our friends reminded us that David had not only played the harp and sung before the Lord but had also danced; and my sister replied, "if David danced like that no wonder his wife despised him." As we watched and watched one could see how it was possible for a Moslem crowd to go absolutely mad with excitement. We were told that the processionists sometimes fell down in epileptic fits brought on by their passionate enthusiasm. It must be remembered that this was not the Neby Musa procession, but only the preparation of the Hebron section of it. The procession itself is from the great Mosque in the Temple area to an official tent near Government House, on the top of the Mount of Olives, where it is received by the High Commissioner, the Governor of Jerusalem, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and other leading officials. The best place to see the procession is where it issues from St. Stephen's Gate; and Mr. and Mrs. Vester, of the American Colony, had most kindly arranged for us to go there under their auspices. We took luncheon with them first at the American Colony house and this in itself was an interesting experience. The house was charmingly comfortable and home-like and showed in all its details every sign of a cultivated woman's taste and refinement. About thirty of us sat down to luncheon, only a very small proportion of whom were guests like ourselves, the others being members of the community. A rather long grace was well sung in harmony; and I had the opportunity of again having some interesting talk with Mr. Spafforth, the adopted son of the one survivor of the original founders of the Colony, whom I had met in Jericho the preceding year. He told us a good deal about the former very defective water supply of Jerusalem and about the efforts which are now being made to supplement the good supply brought in by General Allenby by restoring the Pools of Solomon to their original use. We had lately seen these Pools and we were therefore able to tell Mr. Spafforth of their present appearance. The two largest were full of water but the smallest was still under the plough. Our motor driver had explained the situation to us in these words: "Turk he no good; he no spend money. He lose water. British come, he good. He spend money, water come." The Pools had been repaired by Pontius Pilate. But the Turkish administration, with its usual indifference to the well-being of the people of the country, had neglected to keep in repair the system of canals and aqueducts which brought the water to the Pools and conducted it thence to the city, and it was these centuries of neglect that the present Government was endeavouring to remedy by the skill of modern engineers. When we were on the spot we were told that the work of restoration had been undertaken by the American Colony; but Mr. Spafforth said that this was an error and that the work was being done by the Government. Archaeologists are, I believe, disagreed about the date of the original work. Popular tradition ascribes everything great in the way of building or engineering either to Solomon or Herod; and modern research, it is said, here, as in Rome, has rather strengthened the credit of tradition. The first interim report of the Civil administration, published in 1921, speaks of these Pools as "ancient reservoirs of vast capacity, named the Pools of Solomon but of unknown date, possibly Herodian." In 1923, the water of the Pools was once more brought into Jerusalem, to the great advantage of the whole city.

FEATURES NEXT WEEK.

Miss Rathbone will contribute a second article entitled "Results of the Pensions Bill—Fifty Years After." Miss A. R. Caton will deal with the Money Lending Bill, which has just been referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. A review of Lady Constance Lytton's letters by Mrs. Oliver Strachey will also appear. Among correspondence we will publish a valuable letter from Captain Reiss which unfortunately arrived too late for this week's issue, in reply to Miss Scott's recent criticisms on the Carlisle experiment.

ARCHITECTURE AND LABOUR SAVING.

By SYDNEY M. BUSHELL.

Before the War most small houses were designed by the builder, and judging by the results, he made them up as he went along. Like Topsy they "jest growed." For his model he took the kind of house occupied by the well-to-do, and by cutting down all he possibly could, yet leaving it as pretentious as possible, he produced a house which he managed to let. Whether his tenants liked it or not was another question. They took what they could get. The few cottages in which the architect had a hand were built mainly for their appearance, comfort for a negligible consideration. The gate-lodges of many country houses are examples of what not to do when planning for comfort.

The Addison Act changed all this. Architects who had sympathy and imagination enabling them to realize the kind of lives lived by those who occupied the houses they planned were asked to design the new cottages; and the result is that we are evolving a new type of house. Hitherto only factories have really been built for use, but nowadays houses are also being built for the purpose they are to serve.

And after all! What is a house for? It is first of all a place where people may live good and happy lives. The more mechanical housework should be reduced to a minimum, in order that the woman who is responsible for the bodily health of her family should also have time for its mental and spiritual welfare.

A labour-saving house is one which does not get dirty, is easily kept tidy, and in which everything needed for cooking and housework is conveniently to hand. It will have smooth surfaces for its walls and floors, and plain, simple mouldings on its woodwork. The rooms must be large enough to hold the necessary furniture without being too crowded for cleaning. The real labour-saving apparatus is the house itself, and to arrange bricks and mortar to form a labour-saving house need cost no more than to do the opposite.

In cottages where the kitchen is also the living-room, the housewife would rather work in the scullery, and does not like to run backwards and forwards to the cooking stove. She would rather have this in the scullery close at hand, and where there is a gas cooker she invariably uses it. Nobody wants to have the ordinary kitchen range, for it is dirty and extravagant, especially where a gas cooker is used as well. In the living room, a sitting-room grate with a boiler behind it for hot water is a popular arrangement, but an independent boiler for hot water supply placed in the scullery where it would dry the washing, with an ordinary grate in the living-room, is much more efficient and probably as cheap to run. More care should be given to planning the working scullery than to any other part of the house. The position of windows and doors in relation to the sink and stove are of the utmost importance. The wall space in most sculleries is so badly arranged that there is little room for shelves. No door for instance, should open right back against a wall, there should be space left behind it for shelves. Cupboards need not be placed in the scullery, but shelves for everything in constant use are absolutely necessary. The sink, with a good drainer on either side of it should be placed at a window, and shelves for crockery should be as near it as possible. The larder should open off the scullery and should not be combined with the store-room. It should be a cupboard, ventilated with air bricks, really a built-in meat safe for keeping milk and perishable foods, other stores being kept in a cupboard elsewhere.

A bathroom is a real labour saver. It should always have a lavatory basin and hot water, and it should never open off the scullery. When these conditions are observed, everyone will wash in the bathroom, and much daily labour will be avoided.

No house can be kept tidy unless there are cupboards, and their positions are very important. If in a living-room they should not be beside the fire as chairs will have to be moved every time they are opened. Cupboards in bedrooms are another matter. The most important thing in planning a bedroom is to have a proper place for the bed, and the position of the cupboard, as indeed of the fireplace, door and windows also, will be subordinate to this.

Although a house built for utility seems to many of us also to imply ugliness, yet the very exigencies of the design will create new and beautiful forms in architecture.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

JUNE 26. 7 p.m. The Guildhouse, Ecclestone Square, S.W. (entrance: 12 Berwick Street). Members of the W.C.S., assisted by the Guildhouse Play Centre, present a little play suggested by Robert Browning's "Pied Piper of Hamelin." The Piper's tunes specially composed for the occasion by Martin Shaw. Incidental music adapted from Sir Hubert Parry's "Pied Piper." Admission, adults 2d., children 1d. Men, women and children welcome.

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM.

JUNE 24. 8 p.m. Fifth Annual Meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. Speakers will include Mrs. Le Mesurier on "The Classification and Treatment of Boy Offenders at Wandsworth"; Professor R. Peers, M.A., on "Education in Prisons," and Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., on "Penal Reform in Parliament." Chairman: Lieut.-Colonel Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

JUNE 25. 8 p.m. Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. Demonstration in favour of Arbitration and Security. Speakers: Viscount Grey of Falloden, K.G., Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, K.C., the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., and Professor Gilbert Murray, D.Litt., F.B.A. Doors open 7 p.m. Organ recital 7.30 p.m. Admission by free ticket, to be obtained at 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. 1. A limited number of reserved seats at 2s. 6d. After 7.45 all unreserved places free without ticket.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

JUNE 27. 5.30 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. Sir Stanley Leathes, K.C.B., on "The Civil Service Commission."

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF WAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

JUNE 20. 8 p.m. Arbitration Demonstration in Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. Speakers: The Right Rev. Bishop Gore, Mrs. George Cadbury, the Right Hon. Charles Trevelyan, M.P., Mr. Rosslyn Mitchell, and the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P. Chairman: Earl Beauchamp, K.G., K.C.M.G. Songs by John Goff, Jean Sterling Mackinlay, and the Cathedral Singers. Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s., and a number of free seats.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

JUNE 25. 4-6.30 p.m. Garden Party for members and friends of the N.U.S.E.C. now in London and for Overseas visitors, at 31 Bracknell Gardens, London, N.W. 3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Stein).

Mexboro' Group. JUNE 22. 7.30 p.m. Meeting at Public Library. Miss Bury on "The Aims and Work of the N.U.S.E.C." Chair: Mrs. Cook.

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

Plumstead Branch. JUNE 30. 3.30 p.m. Miss Whately on "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

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LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Weekly "At Homes," Tuesdays in June at 5.30 p.m. See "Coming Events."

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Ecclestone Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 21st June. 3.30, Music; Lecture: Sir Owen Seaman on "Parody," 6.30, Maudie Royden: "What is the Christian Faith?"

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