

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### The Opening of Parliament.

The Prime Minister's speech was listened to by a crowded House eager to learn what was in store for it. The impression it created was distinctly favourable, and there was general agreement that it was his intention to charm rather than to alarm his audience. In this he undoubtedly was successful, but at the cost of a certain lack of definiteness in many of his statements—inevitable perhaps, in view of the shortness of the time he has had at his disposal, but none the less tantalizing for many who were hoping for an opportunity to rejoice or to blaspheme as the case may be. Most interesting from the constitutional point of view was his announcement that his Government does not intend to resign except if defeated on a real point of principle, and his warning that a defeat on a snap division will be ignored. We stated some weeks back in these columns that this course of action appeared to us inevitable in a House in which no one party has a majority over the other two. To turn to the most important points in his speech, reference as was expected was made to foreign affairs, in the course of which a statement was made with regard to France and the Ruhr, which, though quite indefinite, was distinctly hopeful. Reasons for the recognition of Russia were given, and an announcement made that the recommendations of the Imperial Conference are to be left to the decisions of the House. More definite statements were made with regard to Housing, which we refer to in another column. Unemployment is to be dealt with by measures for the revival of trade and by more generous provisions for relief by abolishing the "gap" and the selection of uncovenanted benefit. Agriculture was referred to at some length, and is to be helped not by tariffs and bounties, but by reforms with regard to rating and by the encouragement of co-operation and by wages boards. All these questions affect women equally with men, but at the same time it is definitely a cause for regret that so little mention was made of points in which women are specially interested. Not a word was said about Equal Franchise, Widows' Pensions, Guardianship of Children, and other similar points in the Labour Party's programme, though the Government's intention to tackle legitimization was indicated. It does not follow these will not be dealt with in other ways, but it is disappointing that "plus ça change plus c'est la même chose" and that once again Equal Franchise, Widows' Pensions, and the Guardianship of Infants are left to be dealt with as Private Members Bills or motions.

#### Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment (4) Bill.

We are informed that the above is practically the same as the Representation of the People Bill introduced on behalf of the Labour Party as a Private Members' Measure in 1921. Our readers will remember that this Bill passed its second reading triumphantly, but was killed in its Committee stage. In moving the second reading of this Bill, Mr. Grundy, who was in charge of it, described its provisions as follows: "It is to confer the franchise on women on exactly the same terms as it is given to men, first by removing the age limit of 30 years and substituting the same age limit as applies to men, that is to say, 21 years. The Bill also seeks to secure equality between the sexes of all classes, first by abolishing the occupational qualification and the qualification of women as wives of local government electors; and, secondly, by placing the whole franchise for both sexes for Parliament and local government bodies on the single basis of residence, with the exception of University electors." We must confess we are much disappointed that no mention of a Government measure on Equal Franchise was made in the Prime Minister's speech, that this Private Members' Bill should be overloaded with other matter which may tend to confuse the issues. Its second reading is likely to be successful but it is difficult to know what chances there are of facilities being given for its later stages. Possibly as before all clauses except those relating to Women's Franchise may be dropped. The Government's method of handling this Bill will be an indication of the seriousness of its intentions in this respect.

#### Reparations and the Eight-hour Day.

On 30th January, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office devoted two of its sittings at Geneva to discussing the ratification of the Washington Convention on the Eight-hour Day. The representatives of the French and German employers and of the German Government expressed the view that in order to increase production for reparations purposes Germany should be allowed temporarily to extend the hours of work over and above those permitted by the Washington Convention. This suggestion was strenuously opposed by the workers' representatives of both countries, by our own Government representative, Miss Margaret Bondfield, and finally by the Director of the I.L.O., who pointed out the impossibility of asking his Office to acquiesce in a departure from the limits fixed by the Washington Convention—more especially as there was no guarantee that the anticipated increase in production would be used for the payment of reparations. The proceedings closed with a unanimous resolution from the Governing Body calling on the Director to continue his efforts to secure ratification of the Conventions throughout the world. In the course of the discussion Miss Bondfield emphasized the resolve of her Government to secure ratification of the Eight-hour Day Convention by this country.

#### Women M.P.s and International Labour.

The International Labour Office of the League of Nations has issued a unique non-party document in the form of a short pamphlet, entitled "A Message to Women," and signed by the eight British women M.P.s. We venture to quote it in full: "The benefit of a higher standard of working conditions has often in the past been conceded to those bodies of workers who by the strength of their organization have been able to make their claim most forcibly heard. The Labour part of the Peace Treaty, which proclaims that 'universal peace can only be established if it is based upon social justice,' created an International Labour Organization to bring about the improvement of the conditions of the workers throughout the world by agreement, irrespective of the lever of force. Some of its most



prominent achievements have been on behalf of women and children. Thirteen of the thirty-eight Conventions and Recommendations passed by its five annual conferences, where are gathered together representatives of Governments, employers and workers of over fifty countries, deal specially with the conditions of working women, young persons, and children. The International Labour Organization of the League of Nations has given a strong impetus to the realization of many of the aspirations of the women's movement and should be actively supported by the women of all countries and of all classes." On the back of the "Message" the I.L.O. has added a brief summary of the work already achieved by it in connection with the welfare of women and children.

#### Women's Freedom League.

On 6th February the Women's Freedom League held a crowded meeting in the Essex Hall to demand equal franchise for women. Mrs. Mustard took the chair, and said that it was exactly six years ago since a certain number of women had been enfranchised, but much work yet remained to be done before full equality would be established. Miss Jewson, M.P., spoke chiefly on the position of women in industry and women in the home. It was fifteen years since she had first joined a militant suffrage society, she said, but now, at last, we had a Government pledged to equality of the sexes, from which great things might be hoped. Miss Jewson remarked that among others Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence should be privy councillors. Miss Savage (National Union of Women Teachers) made a short speech representing the point of view of the women under 30. Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., who was greeted with much enthusiasm, made a vigorous and at times humorous plea for the unfranchised woman and finally the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That this meeting of representative women calls on the new Government to introduce and pass through all its stages into law without delay a Bill which will enfranchise women equally with men at the same age and on a short residential qualification."

#### Ministry of Health—New Policy.

We are glad to learn that the Government have considered the position in regard to the public health services (maternity and child welfare, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, welfare of the blind and port sanitation) which are directly aided by grants from the Exchequer, and have decided that the time has arrived for removing the present restrictions on grants for the development of these services. The Minister has accordingly issued a circular to Local Authorities informing them that he will be prepared, with the approval of Parliament, to make grants on the prescribed basis for such further development of these schemes as is considered advisable by the Authorities and is within their existing powers, subject to the ordinary process of approval of particular proposals by the Ministry.

#### National Baby Week.

In connection with National Baby Week, which will be taking place as usual the first week in July, the National Baby Week Council is holding competitions for Women's Institutes, Co-Operative Guilds, and other Women's Organizations. Two prizes (value 2 guineas and 1 guinea) are offered for essays on "The Needs for Child Welfare Work in Your District—How these have been met—and what effects you can trace to it." The essays may be either the composite work of all or some of the Members of the Institute or organizations, or of selected representatives. The prizes, however, will be awarded to the Institute or organization competing. An Open Competition, which will attract those who have artistic interests, is for the best design for a Baby Week Poster for use throughout the British Empire. Letterpress or design, or both, may be employed. The first prize is 10 guineas, second prize 5 guineas. In addition to these there are competitions announced for school girls and boys, for Girl Guides, Members of Girls' Life Brigades, the Junior Red Cross, and Junior V.A.D.s. Particulars of all the competitions may be obtained upon application to the National Baby Week Council, 117 Piccadilly, London, W. 1.

#### Capital Punishment.

A Bill for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, promoted by the Howard League for Penal Reform, is among those which have obtained a place in the Ballot for Private Members' Bills. Mr. Climie, the Labour M.P. for Kilmarnock, who has the Bill in hand, has it down for second reading, on Friday, 4th April; and the very wide support received in answer to a questionnaire on

this and other matters of penal reform sent out by the Howard League during the General Election, suggests that the Bill will be very well received by the House. The Howard League is at the same time promoting a petition for the Abolition of Capital Punishment on the ground that the deliberate taking of human life in cold blood is not a task which it is right to lay upon any citizen, that the morbid interest attaching to the capital sentence tends to accentuate public interest in murder trials and even to arouse something like sympathy with the murderer, that the knowledge that a sentence of death follows automatically upon a verdict of guilty increases the unwillingness of juries to convict in murder cases, that other countries comparable to our own in conditions and culture have abolished or discontinued capital punishment. Copies for signature can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, at 18 Savoy Street, Strand, W.C. 2, the new offices of the League.

#### University Women and Crosby Hall, Chelsea.

The appeal for the proposed International Hall of Residence and Club House for University Women at Crosby Hall, Chelsea, makes steady progress. The fund has now in sight £15,000 of the £30,000 required as a free gift to make the scheme self-supporting. Last week the very successful reading of Shaw's *Devil's Disciple* in Crosby Hall, generously given by the Kensington Shakespeare Society, marked an interesting occasion, the completion of Chelsea's special effort to raise £1,000. This £1,000 involves also the donation of another £1,000 promised conditionally on Chelsea's success by the Directors of the University and City Association. The Chelsea Fund is the first of several local £1,000 funds to be completed. Its success was assured in March of last year by the matinee organized by Mrs. Godfrey Whitworth, which was honoured by the presence of H.M. the Queen.

#### The National Union of Women Teachers.

We have received a copy of the Annual Report of the N.U.W.T., the organization which represents the "aggressive" wing of the Women Teachers in opposition to the infinite tolerance of the mixed National Union of Teachers with the present inequalities as between men and women. As the report points out, "Women teachers are realizing the wisdom of concentrating on the Union which has their interest at heart and the folly of dissipating their energies in trying to achieve their objects through a mixed organization where a determined internal opposition must be overcome before any forward step can be made." Among the year's activities of the N.U.W.T. has been a persistent (though we regret to say, unavailing) protest against the inequitable practice of dismissing women teachers solely on the ground of marriage. The President and Council of the N.U.W.T. are holding a reception to members and their women friends on 15th February at 5.30 in the London University Building, South Kensington, to meet the women M.P.s. Speeches, music, and dancing will be among its attractions, and tickets (4s., including tax and refreshments) are obtainable at the Union headquarters, 39 Gordon Square.

#### Son of Adam.

A correspondent has called our attention to a recent report in the *Western Mail* of an address delivered by the Chaplain-General, Bishop Taylor Smith, before the Llandaff Diocesan Rescue and Preventive Work Association in the City Hall, Cardiff. In the course of his remarks, the Chaplain-General dwelt upon the increased moral temptation to which men are subject at the present time as compared with forty years ago. "Solicitation, too," he said, "was different. It used to be said that men seduced women, but he would say that to-day women seduced men, and not on the streets only, but under all circumstances and classes in life." We should like to ask the Chaplain-General whether he really believes that wholesale, ill-disposed, and unsubstantial charges of this kind are likely to increase the respect of men for women and promote the purity which he professes to advocate. We are inclined to think that his charge represents not so much a reasoned argument in the cause of purity, as an atavistic reflection of the cowardly plea which has complicated the masculine psychology since the beginning of creation: "The woman tempted me . . ."

*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 NEW BROOM.

One of the most interesting and spectacular of the new Government's activities during its three weeks' "honeymoon," has been the effort of the Minister of Health, Mr. Wheatley, to get to grips with the housing problem. It has been carried forward so far in a harmoniously non-party atmosphere—doubtless because the aspect of it which has first claimed attention is the problem of how to secure an adequate supply of skilled labour. And it is generally agreed that with this particular aspect a Labour Government is peculiarly fitted to deal. Some among our readers, recalling the reputed stubbornness of the building unions, will no doubt justify their contentment by the cynical dictum: "Set a thief to catch a thief." But there are more polite, and we think more accurate grounds for its justification. We do not believe that trade unionists are, by their nature, more altruistic than other sections of producers. Nevertheless, we are of opinion that the non-wage-earning public, misled very largely by its Press, fails on the whole to give due weight in its judgments of trade unionism, to the two-headed bogey which broods eternally over the waking lives of so many wage-earners, colouring their whole social outlook: the bogey of trade fluctuation entailing unemployment, or short time, conditions which are bound to weaken bargaining power and open the way to a reduction of standard; and the cutting of piece-work rates which as hard experience shows so often follows a speeding-up of output by individuals or an improvement of process.

And so far as one can judge by the meagre information to hand, Mr. Wheatley and his colleagues seem to have made hopeful progress in their negotiations with the building operatives. On 30th January he met the Executive of the Building Trade Unions. On 1st February the Minister of Labour put his shoulder to the wheel and summoned a conference of building employers and employed. On 6th February it was announced that the three parties to the business: the employers, the workers, and the Government, were assured of one another's co-operation, and that the two first had agreed to meet immediately "to formulate definite proposals."

So far so good—presuming the "definite proposals" capable

## LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES EN FRANCE—LE VOTE FAMILIAL.

Hélas! l'année 1923 s'est écoulée sans grand changement pour l'obtention du droit de vote par les Françaises. Certes, cette année ne fut pas une année perdue et nous pouvons dire avec quelque fierté qu'elle semble avoir marqué la conquête définitive de l'opinion publique. Que nous fassions des conférences à Paris ou dans nos plus lointaines provinces, part out nous trouvons maintenant l'accueil le plus sympathique, et souvent même le plus enthousiaste.

L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes crée sans cesse des groupes nouveaux, et toute la presse rend compte largement de toutes nos manifestations. Mais sur la question du suffrage des femmes, comme sur tant d'autres questions, le Parlement est en retard sur l'opinion publique et . . . les élections de 1924 ne verront pas encore les Françaises aller aux urnes avec les Français.

Et cependant, au début de Décembre, nous avons eu le succès tout proche. La proposition de loi de Monsieur Justin Godart, accordant aux femmes l'électorat et l'éligibilité à partir de 30 ans, allait être discutée et nous savions qu'elle serait votée sans aucune difficulté et à une énorme majorité. Mais, par une manœuvre de la dernière heure, les partisans du vote familial lièrent cette question à celle du suffrage des femmes, entraînant ainsi, après de longues et vaines discussions, l'ajournement des deux propositions de loi. Cet ajournement est sans doute très momentané, et nous espérons que la Chambre reprendra très prochainement le débat sur le suffrage des femmes. Mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que la confusion des deux questions nous a fait perdre, avec un temps précieux, nos dernières chances de réussir pour les élections du mois de Mai.

Il est évident, pourtant, que le vote familial et le vote des femmes sont deux choses absolument différentes. Le vote familial, selon la toute dernière proposition de loi de Monsieur Rouleaux-Dugage, reconnaît bien le principe du vote féminin, mais, s'il donne à la mère une voix, il donne au père toutes les voix des enfants, c'est-à-dire autant de voix que la famille compte d'enfants. Si cette proposition était adoptée, c'est une nouvelle inégalité qui serait créée au profit du père.

La conduite des féministes est donc toute tracée. D'une part elles demandent que les deux questions soient étudiées séparément. D'autre part, en tant que féministes, elles ne peuvent pas se prononcer sur le principe même du vote familial, mais elles sont prêtes à combattre l'inégalité nouvelle qu'introduirait la loi Rouleaux-Dugage, si elle était votée. Elles ne peuvent se

prononcer sur le principe même du vote familial car nos associations féministes, qui ont pour but de "lutter contre toutes les inégalités entre l'homme et la femme", n'ont pas qualité pour combattre un vote familial qui partagerait les voix des enfants entre le père et la mère. Mais la grande majorité des femmes est unanime à réprouver le vote familial comme profondément anti-démocratique. Donner plusieurs voix au chef de famille c'est ouvrir la porte au vote plural car, comment refuser ensuite de donner au savant plus de voix qu'à l'illettré, au grand industriel plus de voix qu'au simple manœuvre? D'ailleurs le vote familial semble voué à un complet échec . . . et c'est sans doute pourquoi il tenta de s'accrocher au vote féminin afin de bénéficier de la popularité de celui-ci.

Quoi qu'il en soit, les féministes françaises sont bien décidées à profiter des prochaines élections pour poser devant tous les candidats et devant tous les électeurs la question du suffrage des femmes. Et il faudra bien que nous atteignons enfin ce résultat que nous sentons si proche, et plus que jamais si nécessaire à l'intérêt de notre pays!

G. MALATERRE-SELLIER.

[We publish the above article in the form in which we have received it, feeling that translation might deprive it of its freshness. For the benefit of those readers who may not be familiar with the French language, however, we append the following brief summary: The author calls attention to the very favourable development of public opinion with regard to women's suffrage during the past year, and points out that it is considerably ahead of Parliament. At the end of December last, a measure of women's suffrage, which promised to be successful, was torpedoed at the last minute by the attempts of the "family vote" advocates to combine the two issues. In the end both measures were adjourned, with the result that nothing can now be done before the May elections. Women's suffrage and the "family vote" are two totally different issues; and the latter, though it enfranchises the mother, confers upon the father the right to vote on behalf of the children—thus creating a new inequality. Feminists are precluded, *qua* feminists, from pronouncing for or against the principle of the family vote, and could not oppose a measure which involved an equal division of the children's votes between the two parents. As a matter of fact, however, the great majority of women condemn the "family vote" as anti-democratic—as opening the door to plural voting.—ED.]



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

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

## A NEW HOME IN LONDON.

Left alone after seventeen years of happy active married life, having been the partner and friend of my husband, sharing in all his activities (except fishing, which I could never endure), I might have fallen into a lethargic melancholy if it had not been for the help I received from many of my husband's old friends, and also in a very high degree from all the members of my own family, father, mother, sisters, brothers, and also from my own daughter. These all stood by me and helped me at every turn. My brother Sam, of whom of course I had seen a great deal during his undergraduate life at Cambridge, then became the first and foremost among my men friends. His was a remarkable character, for he possessed a wonderful combination of qualities: first-rate brain power, an absolutely selfless nature, a keen appreciation of public duty, and added to all these, a strong sense of humour, which made me save up every amusing incident I met with in order that I might tell him and hear his explosion of hearty laughter. Sam's second son, born about a year after my husband's death was named after him, Henry Fawcett. He was my godson, and I watched with special interest the development of his strong and lovable character. He became an artist by profession, and had already shown great promise when his life was cut short in the great war. He fell at Gallipoli in September, 1915, one of the ten dear young men, sons, sons-in-law, nephews, and cousins, who were lost to our family through the war.

After my widowhood, Sam became among my brothers my closest friend and adviser, while Agnes occupied this place among my sisters. We three were as nearly as may be of an age. We had had our youth together, a very strong bond. Agnes, in 1882, had lost her dearly loved friend and housemate through the death of our cousin Rhoda. We had thus each received a heavy stroke of personal sorrow, and it seemed very natural that we should henceforth live together, and make our joint home in her house. My Cambridge home was broken up, and my London home with its pleasant garden was only a shadow of what it had been; but I had always loved the Gower Street house and all its associations, and so had Philippa, who had been as much devoted to Agnes and Rhoda as a child could be.

Up to the present I have told little of Philippa, but, of course, this is not because I remember little. At first, when she was a baby girl, I delighted in her rapidly developing mind, in her curiosity, and in her quaint expressions. She was always asking "Why?" Someone at Cambridge said to her, "Do you always say 'Why,' Philippa?" She replied, "No, sometimes I say 'Why, oh! why?'" Her "why" often took me out of my depth so to speak. For instance, she would ask, "why was it wrong to be cross, to tell lies," and so on; and I started trying to explain that, for instance, in the matter of truthfulness, if we couldn't depend on one another all satisfaction and happiness in one's life would be gone. Then she continued, "If I told lies would you leave off loving me?" This was rather a poser, and I fenced. "Well, no, not at once, of course: but if you went on telling lies and being cross, I should not love you so much, and gradually, perhaps, I should leave off loving you altogether." Then she looked up, and said, "Would you? Well, I should love you if you was ever so naughty." I felt that she had thoroughly bested me, and that we had better have a game or run races on the Trumpington Road. Once, on this same road, we met a nurse wheeling a perambulator, and Philippa piped out: "I know that person in that perambulator." Of course, I laughed, but she gave no explanation until quite a long time after, when she said that if she had used the word "baby" it would have implied that she did not know she was a baby herself. One of her questions asked of her nurse, was "What was the real colour of the flowers? Was it the colour they seemed to have when the sun shone on them or was it the colour they looked when it was cloudy?" Her droll expressions and thoughts were a constant pleasure to us. Like many other children, she always had an hour sacred to herself just before our dinner, and she intensely resented callers at this time. Once, when a very great friend, Dr. Henry Sidgwick, came in and was stealing part of her hour from her, she fetched a large sheet of white paper and a very black pencil, and lying down on the hearth-rug wrote in capitals (the only letters she had mastered at that time) WEN WILL

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

HE GO? Of course, he saw this, and with much laughter all round, at any rate from three of us, cut his visit short. Another time, at the end of this special hour of hers, her nurse came for her, and she was running off when I said, "Oh, Philippa, you are forgetting your doll." She looked very grave, and holding up her little hand said, "Ssh, don't call her a doll. I don't want her to know she's a doll." It would be interesting to know if such great consideration for the feelings of a doll is frequently shown by children. I very much enjoyed teaching her myself at the very beginning of her baby lessons. It was intensely interesting, and I had received some useful hints from my friend, Mrs. R. W. Dale, wife of the well-known Birmingham scholar and divine. Mrs. Dale was a connexion by marriage of the Fawcett family at Salisbury, and a very staunch and dear friend to me. When Philippa was a little girl we acquired a dog, a Dandie Dinmon, named Oddo, to whom we were all devoted. Philippa's affection to him was unbounded. She said triumphantly, "Now, if people ask me if I have a brother I shall say yes." When she was about 15 we thought we ought to take advantage of living for several months of each year in Cambridge to get her some really good mathematical teaching, and a Trinity Hall friend of my husband, Mr. G. B. Atkinson, undertook to give her short lessons once or twice a week. She used to bring work from him to do at home. No sooner had she finished it than she would dart out of the house to post it in a pillar-box about 200 yards away. I inquired why she did this, it would reach Mr. Atkinson, I said, just as soon if it were posted at the regular time with all the other letters. She replied, "I don't feel comfortable as long as it is in the house." I did not know whether this was a good or bad symptom, but it was not at all long before Mr. Atkinson told my husband that barring accidents he considered it a certainty that she would be a high wrangler. It is hardly necessary to mention here that in 1890, when she took her mathematical tripos she was above the senior wrangler, and that in 1891, when she took the second part of the tripos, she was in the first division of the first class. There were only two men so placed, Mr. Bennett, of St. John's, and Mr. Crawford, of King's. Mr. Bennett had been in the same mathematical classes as Philippa at University College, London, so those who taught them were quite prepared for their running neck and neck. Once, when I asked her how many were in her class at University College, she replied, "Two white boys, two black boys, and me." One more little story of her must be told. After she had finished her tripos and was on the resident staff at Newnham College, she was calling one Sunday afternoon on Dr. and Mrs. H. A. Morgan. He was then master of Jesus, and had been sixth wrangler in his time. He showed Philippa a mathematical puzzle which had been going the rounds among his friends; he had not succeeded in finding the solution of it, and he said to her: "Don't break the Sabbath, Philippa, by working at it to-day, but look at it to-morrow, and if you find the answer send it to me on a post card." She did find it, for she solved the problem in her head on her way back to Newnham, so that the master received it on a post card the next morning. He was very pleased about this, and told me about it the next time we met.

## LEGAL AID TO POOR PERSONS.

The Committee appointed by Lord Cave in July last to inquire into the work of the Poor Persons Rules in the High Court which had postponed operations has now been requested by the Lord Chancellor to continue its investigations.

Mrs. Philip Snowden has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be a Member of the Poor Persons' Rules Committee in place of Mr. W. Leach, M.P., who on his appointment as Under-Secretary to the Air Ministry has resigned.

As soon as this Committee has presented its report it is the intention of the Lord Chancellor to conduct a similar inquiry into the position of the Poor Litigant in the Petty Sessional Courts.

It is hoped by those who are interested in giving Legal Aid to Poor Persons that a larger Committee consisting of representatives from the National Council of Social Service and other bodies will be appointed to investigate the whole field of legal aid for those who cannot afford to pay for advice. It is understood that the National Council of Social Service and the Federation of Settlements are working for this object.

## "MARCHING ON":

By RAY STRACHEY.

This is an intensely interesting book. If it were written by one who was a stranger to me, I should not hesitate to call it a "great" book. But I do hesitate, lest I should by my affection be beguiled: so I must ask all readers to judge for themselves. What seems to me "great" in the book is the power of the writer so to visualize in her own mind every detail of the narrative that the whole thing lives before us; one does not think of it as a story, but as a detailed account of some of the most interesting years in the history of the world, the years which immediately preceded the Civil War in America, and determined once for all whether the great Republic was to be a Slave or a Free State. I will only say here that Mrs. Strachey has, in my judgment, the same power which Defoe had of imagining all the details, both preceding and following extraordinary events, and thus makes the whole series of situations living realities.

I have called the period of the story one of the most important in the history of the world. The Northern States were for freedom: the Southern States were for slavery; every kind of compromise and dodge had been suggested with the view of reconciling these irreconcilables. The fiercest struggle was going on over Kansas, then a territory and not a state, but it was a free territory; and the fight was to keep it free so that slavery should not gain another foothold. Each side was pouring settlers into the sparsely inhabited territory with the view of influencing the election when it came. This is why Kansas is still known as the Key State. The presidential struggle was going on between Abraham Lincoln, then little known, and Senator Stephen Douglas, then at the height of his fame as orator and political strategist. At the very outset of the contest, Lincoln uttered words which have since become memorable: their clear-cut common sense swept away clouds of mystification and compromise:—"A house divided against itself," he said, "cannot stand. I believe this Government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

Into this world of intense antagonism over a vital human problem, Mrs. Strachey introduces her heroine, Susan Bright: and the interest lies in watching her part in it and her strong, simple, vigorous character; we see the extraordinarily unfavourable atmosphere by which the girl was originally surrounded, a peevish, foolish mother, a harsh, tyrannical father; no education, no church, no newspapers, the mail fetched once a month from the station 40 miles away; no outlet for the really noble qualities of her mind and character. Susan is devoured by a desire for education. Her elder brother is being sent to college, with the view to his becoming a Baptist minister, but he gives her neither sympathy nor aid. Her duty was to marry and bring up children, "and pray the merciful Lord, Susan, that he curse you not with children like yourself," said her father, while her mother added, "What have I done that she should be a child of mine? God knows I am sorry for the day she was born."

Finally she runs away, penniless and forlorn, and gradually gets absorbed in the Abolitionist movement and also in the movements for Women's Education and Women's Votes. The three dove-tailed into each other; Susan is no longer lonely and forlorn: she makes friends, and they quote to each other Hosea Bigelow's:—

Wy it's jest ez clear ez figgers,  
Clear ez one and one make two:  
Chaps that make black slaves o' niggers  
Want to make white slaves o' you.

Susan marries and has children, and there is a chapter describing the pain and peril of childbirth, far surpassing Tolstoi's efforts in the same direction in *Anna Karenina*. The book is brought to a close with the John Brown escapade at Harper's Ferry. He had murdered five men in cold blood a few weeks earlier, and now he had taken up arms against the United States Government and had to pay the penalty. One of the characters in the book pronounces the verdict: "John Brown was a good man, in spite of all. What he did was wrong, but he himself was right." The last words of the story quote the marching song of the Northern armies:—

John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave,  
But his soul goes marching on! M. G. F.

<sup>1</sup> *Marching On*. By Ray Strachey. Joniathan Cape. 7s. 6d.

## THE RING AND THE BOOKSELLERS.

An incident has occurred in Oxford which vividly recalls recent developments in our own career. For some weeks past Mr. Frank Gray, Liberal M.P. for Oxford City, has been engaged in arranging for the publication of a weekly penny paper—*The Oxford Ariel*. On Wednesday of last week it appeared and straightway enjoyed a large sale at the hands of street sellers. The local newsagents, however, have refused to handle the newcomer, stating that it is their fixed and agreed intention to boycott any new weekly paper issued at a lower price than 2d. As a consequence of this action, Mr. Frank Gray has suspended the publication of his paper. It appears that the threat of such a boycott had been before him for some time past—and this in spite of an offer on his part to safeguard the newsagents against any pecuniary loss resulting from a low margin of profit on a cheap paper. Mr. Gray's refusal to acquiesce in the higher price urged by the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, Booksellers, and Stationers, is based on the belief that an eight-page paper such as he proposes to issue would not be saleable at 2d. This incident is of peculiar interest to us because, as our readers will remember, we were ourselves confronted with a similar position in October, 1922, when we reduced our price to 1d. Owing to the steadiness of our existing circulation and the fact that many of our subscribers already obtained their copies by post from our office, we did not see fit either to suspend publication or to bow to the ruling of the syndicated traders acting, in our opinion, "in restraint of trade." As our readers know, we reduced our price, and from that day to this have been the victim of a trade boycott. "People of the same trade seldom meet together, even for merriment and diversion," says Adam Smith, "but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public, or in some contrivance to raise prices." We have learned to our cost that this profound truth is not solely relevant to the conditions of Adam Smith's own time.

## A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

NATURE AND MEN. By Arthur McDowall. (Chatto & Windus. 7s.)

A study of men's feelings about nature. Readers of Rousseau and Thoreau will find this work sympathetic. *The Times* Literary Supplement calls it "a charming book on a perennially charming subject."

STREAKS OF LIFE. By Ethel Smyth, D.B.E., Mus. Doc. (Longman. 6s.)

A new edition of this amusing book, containing an extraordinary variety of experiences ranging from visits to the Empress Eugénie to chance encounters and conversations in a railway carriage.

THE DIARY OF LADY ANNE CLIFFORD. By Victoria Sackville West. (Heinemann. 7s. 6d.)

The story told by herself of the struggles of a great lady of the 17th century for justice and her "rights," her solitary life at Knowle, and her stately journeys, not to mention her various marriages.

WILBERFORCE: A NARRATIVE. By R. Coupland. (Milford. 16s.)

Professor Coupland has given us a very interesting life of the reformer, attractively as well as clearly and judiciously written.

RICEYMAN STEPS. By Arnold Bennett. (Cassell. 7s. 6d.)

Though Mr. Bennett has abandoned the Five Towns for Clerkenwell in this novel, it is nearer *The Old Wives' Tale* than most of his later work. The stage is smaller and less crowded, the atmosphere more grey; but it is warmed and lit by the character of the servant Elsie—a great achievement.

## WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

We venture to call the attention of our readers to the existence of a pamphlet by D. M. Northcroft, entitled *Women at Work in the League of Nations*, recently published by Page & Pratt, Ltd., price 6d. It is prefaced by a short introduction by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who calls attention to the importance of Clause 7 of the League Covenant: "All positions under, or in connection with, the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women." The thirty-two pages which follow constitute a valuable and completely matter of fact statement of the part which women have actually played in the work of the League, including brief biographical accounts of the leading women concerned.



## BORSTAL AND YOUNG OFFENDERS.

I view with alarm the suggestion reported in the WOMAN'S LEADER to increase the existing powers of local Benches by enabling them to commit young offenders direct from Petty Sessional Courts to Borstal instead of, as at present, sending such cases to Quarter Sessions.

Mr. Chapman, the author of the suggestion is looking at the matter through the eyes of a highly trained Stipendiary Magistrate. With great respect I submit that the composition of the local Benches taken as a whole makes his suggestion a dangerous one. For over three years I have been sitting regularly as a Magistrate in a Police Court and at Quarter Sessions in a county containing a huge industrial population, in my own Court always, and at Quarter Sessions usually, the only woman on the Bench. I am appalled at the power now placed in the hands of local Benches—such, for instance, as that by which any two Magistrates may order the removal of a child for a long period of years to an Industrial School, against the will of its parents, on police evidence that the child is "out of control of the parents." Can anyone suppose that if this power had been exercised against the children of well-to-do parents it would have remained without safeguards against arbitrary and hasty decisions? I say such power should not rest in the hands of untrained men and women, and that it should be the duty of the State to provide parents threatened with the loss of a child over a period of years (up to the age of sixteen) with free legal aid in order to ensure that there is no miscarriage of justice.

It should be remembered that the vast majority of Magistrates are men who are totally untrained for the work of a Justice on appointment, who have usually been selected for reasons other than a special aptitude for dealing with offenders, and that the local Benches are ill-supplied with Women Justices and with representatives of the working class.

It is to such Benches that it is now suggested to confide further powers of taking children away from their homes! At present young offenders whom they desire to send to Borstal can only be committed to Quarter Sessions. This, at least, ensures that the boy or girl remains for a period under observation (and my experience goes to show that it is a sympathetic and skilled observation) whilst awaiting Sessions, which observation is vital, since offenders who are mentally or physically abnormal are totally unsuited for Borstal treatment: it ensures that a report of the case by the Prison Governor is in the hands of the Bench, it ensures that the case is heard by a Bench of which the Chairman at least is a trained Justice of wide experience, and it ensures that the parents have time to get legal aid—and cheap legal aid—since for a guinea a "dock brief" will secure one of the barristers present in Court to act for the defence. I should view the day when all these safeguards were swept away, and any two Justices could hail a boy or girl off to Borstal for any period up to the age of 21, as a black day for those who desire to see the liberties of the subject safeguarded. Rather would I press for the establishment of Remand Homes to which local Benches could send young offenders committed to Quarter Sessions, thereby removing the odious necessity of sending them, as at present, to a prison.

Mr. Chapman makes the further suggestion that every boy and girl in a Borstal Institution who has worked well should be released at the end of six months. This again seems to me open to grave objection. These Institutions (and I am not here discussing whether they do not call for improvement and reform) are specifically provided for young recidivists, guilty for the most part of acts of larceny, undisciplined young creatures drifting towards a career of crime, often with a story of bad heredity and home conditions as contributing causes to their downfall.

I am struck by the fact that over and over again in cases brought up for committal to Borstal the boy or girl has no mother—of four boys sent to Borstal at the Court at which I was sitting in January three had no mother living and the fourth had been deserted by his mother.

Many who have studied the psychology of the adolescent will feel that six months is too short a period for the laying down of a new character which will stand the test of return to a freedom that involves contact with temptations. For the young offender Borstal should be the last resort—as Probation should be the first—but when boys or girls have reached the stage where there is nothing but Borstal left then let us beware of laying it down as a definite principle that their treatment must be brought to a close at the end of six months in all cases where it is showing good results.

WINIFRED COOMBE TENNANT.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT (1918), AMENDMENT (4).

Members will find in another column a reference to the second reading of the above Bill on 29th February. It is important that all Members of Parliament should be asked to be in their place on that occasion in order to support those clauses in the Bill giving franchise to women on the same terms as to men. All our Societies and Members are asked to communicate with their Members of Parliament by resolution or by individual letter in order that there may be a big attendance and a large majority for the Bill.

### WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

A Private Members' Motion dealing with Pensions for Widows will be moved on 20th February, by Mr. C. Dukes (Lab.), and on 26th February by Mr. F. Gray (Lib.). Members of Parliament should therefore be approached by our Societies and members asking them to be in their places when these motions are discussed in order to discuss the principal. It is, of course, probable that Mr. Gray's Motion will be withdrawn if it is too much like Mr. Dukes'.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING. 26th, 27th, 28th March, King George's Hall, London Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C. 1.

The Public Luncheon has been arranged to take place at the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday, 27th March. The eight women Members of Parliament and other Members of both Houses who have helped our cause notably during the year will be invited as guests of honour. The following have already accepted invitations: Lady Astor, the Duchess of Atholl, Lord Askwith, Miss Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Philipson, Lord and Lady Terrington, and Mrs. Wintringham. The price of tickets is 5s. to Members of the N.U.S.E.C., 7s. 6d. to non-members.

An Evening Reception will be held at Bedford College, Regent's Park, by kind permission of Miss Tuke, on Friday, 28th March. Women from the Overseas Dominions and foreign countries who are interested in our work will also be invited.

### FORMATION OF SAFFRON WALDEN SOCIETY.

A meeting was held to inaugurate a new affiliated Society at Saffron Walden on 30th January at the Town Hall. Miss Varley presided, and after a short speech on the need for active citizenship among women, read the rules of the new Society, which were unanimously adopted. The following were elected as officers:—Chairman, Miss Varley; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. E. Walker; Assistant Secretary, Miss P. Marshall; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Horner. Mrs. E. M. Lowe, J.P., L.C.C., gave an address to the meeting.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF CROYDON (N. WARD) W.C.A.

The annual meeting of the Croydon (North Ward) W.C.A. was held on Friday, 25th January, at 3 p.m., in the Wesleyan Lecture Hall, Pollard's Hill North.

The Secretary (Mrs. Davies) gave a report of the year's work, and the Treasurer (Councillor Miss Musselwhite) submitted the financial statement, reporting a satisfactory balance in hand.

The meeting was followed by a musical entertainment and a presentation to Mrs. Job, retiring secretary of the Association. Mrs. Simcox, visitor for Croydon under the Children's Act, 1908, gave a short speech on her work, and after short speeches by members the meeting closed with thanks to those who had helped to make it successful.

### GLASGOW S.E.C.

A crowded meeting was held at 8 o'clock in the Central H. Hs, Bath Street, on 6th February, under the auspices of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship, at which Dr. Douglas White gave a comprehensive address on "The Equal Moral Standard and the Health of the Community." He pointed out the ineffectiveness of the Notification of Venereal Disease as practised in the Colonies at present unless accompanied by much more drastic legislation than anticipated by those at present in favour of Notification. He raised the whole subject on to a very high level in urging the adoption of a single moral standard, which, he maintained, could only be brought about by education and not by compulsion. Dr. Katherine Chapman's short speech was listened to with great interest, as she spoke from the point of view of a medical woman—like Dr. White, she laid great stress on the importance of the educational aspect of the problem. After some questions had been answered, Dr. Marion Gilchrist, who was in the chair, put the following resolution to the meeting:—

"That this meeting is of opinion that, while it is obviously desirable that all persons suffering from communicable venereal disease should remain under treatment until non-contagious, no obvious benefits would accrue from compulsory notification and compulsory treatment,

while the introduction of such methods would have a disastrous effect on the present non-compulsory system of free confidential treatment; and further, this meeting holds that the introduction of the compulsory notification of venereal disease, whether by name or number, would tend to the introduction of the compulsory examination and detention of women, and this meeting therefore condemns any such proposal, whether in the form of criminal legislation or public health measures."

This resolution was carried *nem. con.* Mrs. James Taylor moved the vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers, and this concluded the meeting.

### N.W. FEDERATION.

BIKENHEAD AND DISTRICT W.C.A.

The annual meeting was held in January in the Town Hall, with the Mayor in the chair, Mrs. Corbett Ashby as speaker. Her address dealt mainly with women in International Relations. This Association held four members' meetings; the first an introductory one on party politics, followed by three which will deal respectively with Capital Levy, Free Trade, and Protection. With the object of forming W.C.A.s in the Wirral Parliamentary Division, drawing-room meetings were arranged in both Heswall and Hoylake. Mrs. Paget spoke on "Citizenship" and the work of W.C.A.s in general, and Mrs. A. C. Abraham dealt with the work that had been accomplished by the Birkenhead and District W.C.A. In Heswall fifty members were enrolled, and a committee and hon. secretary appointed, but in Hoylake the matter is still in abeyance.

CHESTER W.C.A.

An address on "Cinematograph Regulations," from Mrs. Paget, drew a large audience interested in the various regulations in force in several large towns in this country. "Women's Work in Parliament" was the subject chosen by Miss Macadam for a largely attended meeting held in the Library of the King's School. An interesting account was given of the various Bills affecting women and children, which one may hope in time to become law. Prior to the meeting the Executive Committee were invited to meet Miss Macadam at Mrs. Beckett's house. Meetings on "The Work of a Poor Law Guardian," addressed by Miss Needham, and on "Methods of Preventive Work," by Miss Higson, have also been arranged, and two meetings under the auspices of the Speaker's Class, when it is hoped to have a good debate.

NEW BRIGHTON W.C.A.

In January a very successful drawing room meeting was held in the Presbyterian Lecture Hall, addressed by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C. She dealt with two urgent reforms—Pensions for Civilian Widows and the Guardianship of Infants. Her clear and lucid statement of facts was most informing, and delighted a very appreciative audience.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

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

The recognition of the Soviet Republic by the British Government marks the beginning of a new epoch in the relation of our country with foreign powers. Mr. MacDonald lost no time in granting to Russia the full rights which had been long denied her, for his Note of recognition was dispatched within ten days of his taking office. The value of this first act of the Labour Government is greatly enhanced by its promptness and by the fact that recognition was granted without first imposing conditions as to debts. It was a gesture of friendship which will count for much among people who realize that the workers of the world have a common interest, and that true internationalism is that which places no barriers between the nations.

The friendly tone of the Prime Minister's letter to M. Poincaré brings hope of a readjustment of the relations of England and France. The Women's International League has always worked to bring about a renewal of the unhesitating friendliness which should unite the two countries, knowing that there is a growing weight of sympathetic public opinion in France.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### PRESIDENT WILSON'S "FAILURE."

MADAM,—I find myself at issue with your article on President Wilson in two matters. Of course, our action in tricking Germany into surrender on the strength of the fourteen points and then making no attempt to incorporate those points in the Treaty is absolutely indefensible from an ethical standard, but is it not ungenerous to excuse ourselves from this sin by saying we caught the habit of treaty-breaking from the enemy? Surely we are capable of taking the blame for our own iniquities, without putting responsibility on the shoulders of a beaten Germany.

Equally unjust and ungenerous it seems to me to blame President Wilson for his "failure," when he could only have succeeded by mastering with his single arm those two terrific and unscrupulous personalities Lloyd George and Clemenceau. It was not he who failed, but his allies, because they could not rise above what you so truly describe as their "financial and territorial ambitions." Any unprejudiced person must see now that if they had followed his lead Europe would not be in her present terrible position, and, incidentally, our unemployed problem would not be so acute as it is four and a half years after the armistice. You admit he was "morally and intellectually isolated" in the Council Chamber. Does not this explain the whole tragedy? It was only failure in the sense that the Crucifixion was—but you would not blame Christ for the Cross.

THEODORA FLOWER MILLS.

### BREWSTER SESSIONS, 1924.

MADAM,—With reference to the above in the WOMAN'S LEADER, 1st Feb., Equal Citizenship, one of the planks of your platform, calls for equal rights for all. It is due to the influence of the Temperance Party that the closing hours differ at present, also that the different theatres are on different footing as regards their drink licences. If your readers back the Temperance party in their efforts for a general 10 o'clock closing,

the theatres with no licences will be penalized, as people who consider they should have the freedom to have a drink if they wish, will go for entertainment to theatres where they need not curtail their amusement. Your policy "real equality of liberties" is in direct opposition to pushing either side of the drink question. Clean bread and milk and meat are more important for women than Brewster's Sessions. M. BETTRIDGE.

### "AFTERTHOUGHTS ON LOCAL VETO."

MADAM,—As a woman who has lived in Ontario, Canada, under Local Veto and Prohibition, I must join issue with your contributor in describing L.V. as an "attempt at freedom or progress." And it is not the "Trade" but the Temperance Party who brought America and "Pussyfoot" methods into British politics. The alcohol question is an American plank quite out of place in British political platforms. I see the Local Veto wedge is to be introduced into Parliament this session for Wales. You drew attention the other week in your columns to the strong temperance bent in Parliament; the result will be worth watching.

H. W. THOMAS.

### THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN.

MADAM,—In the Notes and News in the issue of the WOMAN'S LEADER of 1st February it is stated that "Miss Collins is the first woman to take full advantage of the opportunities extended by the Congregational Churches, and assume sole official charge of a church."

This may no doubt be true of the Congregationalist body, but the sentence seems rather to imply that she is the first woman to assume sole official charge of any of our churches, which is far from being the case. The first woman to do so in the Unitarian Churches was Miss Gertrude von Petzold, who in, I think, the 'nineties, was the first woman student at Manchester College, Oxford, and afterwards had a charge at Leicester (I think it was) for some years before going abroad. She has been followed by others, of whom the Rev. E. Rosalind Lee (Rhondda) is now the most prominent.

Perhaps, however, you did not intend to claim absolute priority of ordination for Miss Collins.

(Miss) I. P. SCOTT.

[We are glad to print the enclosed, in case any of our readers got the impression, which we did not intend to convey, that our statement applied to religious bodies other than the Congregational Union.]

### THE BELGIANS IN AIX.

MADAM,—Allow a Belgian reader to send a reply to the paragraph inserted by the Women's International League in the WOMAN'S LEADER of 11th January. In this paragraph it is asserted that it was "specially due to the influence of the English Consul at Aix that the Belgians turned the Separatists out at last, and so was a help to the 'terrorized' population, etc." This assertion misrepresents the facts which took place as follows:—

When the band of armed roughs arrived at Aix to attempt to take possession of the Rathaus, which was still in the hands of the regular German officials, the Belgian High Commissioner, in accordance with the Belgian General in command, and under no outside influence of any description, edicted measures for the disarmament of the Separatists. These measures were put into force at once. It is right to add that in the course of the afternoon the English Vice-Consul called on the High Commissioner and asked him to protect, if necessary, the safety of the British subjects. At that moment, however, as I said before, the proper measures had been taken and were already beginning to take effect, which fact the British Vice-Consul recognized. This arises from the High Commissioner's report, the accuracy of which was recognized by the British Consul.

The German correspondent of the Women's International League, therefore, distorts the facts when she says that the Belgian authorities acted under influence when they put a stop to Separatist activities in Aix-la-Chapelle. Belgian authorities know where lies their duty and know how it must be fulfilled.

D. M. W.

### THE CAUSE OF THE WIDOW.

Miss Rathbone forwards us the following letter, recently received by her:—

MADAM,—Re your article in *The Times*—the Widows' Pension. I have been a widow now for two years. My husband died very suddenly, through privation, unemployment, and heart trouble, leaving me with four children, the eldest 13, the youngest 6. We were left stranded, and had to go to the workhouse for nearly 12 months. Through the Vicar of our parish interesting himself in us, he got my children in homes where the Guardians are paying for their support. They sent my three girls down to Stafford—right away from me; my boy, the eldest, in Kent. The only alternative I had was to go to service (which I had never done before, but which was not overcrowded), cut off from all I loved. I did not know how sometimes to contain myself, robbed of my children—that is the way I looked at it. Why, I asked one of the Guardians, could they not allow me what they were paying for them, and let me look after my own children. Oh, they would not allow that, she said. No one knows only a mother what a lonely empty life mine seems now, never one of the strongest, and weakened by child-bearing. I have to take a post as cook-general on account of my age, 45, not a soul to speak to hardly, after having the love of my darling children. I hope and trust that they will bring in Widows' Pensions, and hope you will pardon me for unburdening myself to you. Thanking you,

A WIDOW.

### MRS. NORMANTON AT THE OLD BAILEY.

We are glad to record that the Old Bailey incident recorded in our last issue resulted in a triumph for Mrs. Normanton, who, as Judge Atherley Jones remarked, conducted her case in difficult circumstances with considerable skill and much urbanity. She was engaged in the defence of a man who, in company with two others, was accused of obtaining goods under false pretences. Mrs. Normanton's defendant was acquitted, his two fellow defendants being found guilty and condemned to terms of imprisonment.



## COMING EVENTS.

## GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

FEB. 18. 3-4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. "Two Things Women Want this Session—(a) Votes for all Women over 1 twenty-one; (b) Widows' Pensions." Speaker: Miss Helen Ward.

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

FEB. 21. 8 p.m. Mrs. Hodson, of the Eugenics Education Society.

## INDUSTRIAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

FEB. 21. 5.30 p.m. Conference at Fellowship House, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster: "Christ and Money." Speaker: Mr. John Lee, M.A. Chairman: Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.M.G., C.B.

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

FEB. 10. 4.30 p.m. Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P. (Hon. Secretary, Howard League for Penal Reform), on "The State and the Offender."

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

BARNESLEY S.E.C. FEB. 20. 5.30. St. Mary's Parish Room. Miss Cicely Brown, M.B.E., on "Widows' Pensions." Chairman: His Worship the Mayor.

EXETER AND DISTRICT S.E.C. FEB. 15. 8 p.m. Small Bamfield Hall. "Widows' Pensions." Speaker: Miss Eleanor Rathbone. Chairman: Mrs. F. D. Acland.

KENSINGTON S.E.C. FEB. 10. 5.30 p.m. Annual Meeting at 15 Upper Phillimore Gardens. Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "Election Work."

REIGATE and REDHILL W.C.A. FEB. 19. 3 p.m. Miss W. Elkin on "Methods of Taxation."

## JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

FEB. 20. 3.15 p.m. 43 Belgrave Square, S.W. "Widows' Pensions." Speakers: Mr. Broad, Mrs. Hubback.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

FEB. 10. 8 p.m. Central (small) Hall, Westminster. An International Meeting on "Child Life in Germany To-day." Speakers: Sinclair Lewis, Esq. (America), M. Pierre Hamp (France), Fr. Dr. Hertha Kraus (Germany). Oswald Mosley, Esq., M.P. (Great Britain), in the Chair.

## SIX POINT GROUP.

FEB. 18. 5 p.m. Committee At Home, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Miss C. Maguire (Women's Secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association) on "The Position of Women in the Civil Service."

## WESLEYAN METHODIST EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

FEB. 18. 2.30 p.m. Wigton Wesleyan Church. Mass Meeting for Women: "Temperance and Citizenship." Speaker: Rev. Henry Carter.

7.30 p.m. Public Assembly. "Is Local Option Just?" Speaker: Rev. Henry Carter.

FEB. 10. 7.30 p.m. Bold Street Wesleyan Church, Warrington. Public Assembly. Speaker: Rev. Henry Carter.

## WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

MARCH 4. 3 p.m. Council Chamber, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1. Lecture on "Wealth from Waste," by Mr. Chas. Jackson (Supt. City of Birmingham Salvage Dept.). Chairman: Miss S. M. Smees, J.P., T.C. Admission by ticket (1s.), to be obtained beforehand from W.L.G.S. Office, 19 Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

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TWO professional women (Wimbledon) offer FURNISHED BED-SITTING-ROOM; gas fire, gas ring, electric light; attendance to room only, no cooking; 25s. weekly, inclusive; suitable lady, not elderly, out during day.—Box 1,050, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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

## PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908.

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

INCOME TAX recovered and adjusted. Consult H. M. Baker, the only woman Income Tax Expert.—275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Telephone: Holborn 377.

A FEW vacancies in class for ORCHESTRAL PLAYING (elementary) held on Monday afternoon; 30s. a term, 15s. half term.—Apply, stating instrument and experience, to C. Souper, Esq., 48 Albany Street, N.W.

## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

PILLOW COTTON.—Remnant bundles of pillow cotton, superior quality, to make six pillow-cases, 20 x 30 ins., 9s. 6d. per bundle, postage 6d. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work; monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,017, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## DRESS.

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

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, 9 Lower Regent Street, W. 1, 4th floor (Lift). Tel. Gerrard 908. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.-4 p.m., or by appointment.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Women's service Tuesdays, 4.30-6.30, 12th February to 19th March. See "Coming Events."—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, Westminster.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 17th February, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Our Rational Faith."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 161, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 21st February, Mrs. Hodson, of the Eugenics Education Society.

## HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

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

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

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

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

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

ANN POPE, HON. SECRETARY.

(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

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

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

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

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