

THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

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

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., 62, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1

Vol. XIII. No. 30.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1921.

PRICE 3D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Defeat of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

After all our high hopes, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was defeated on the last night of the Session. This is a grievous blow, and the matter is so important that plain speaking is called for. We do not hesitate to say that the Bill was deliberately wrecked by those men in the Commons who are determined not to give to girls under sixteen effective protection against seduction. The real bone of contention in the Bill was Clause 2, which proposed to abolish the defence a man now has of "reasonable cause to believe" that a girl was over sixteen when the offence was committed. The Commissioner of Police has stated that, in his experience, this defence is generally a "dishonest defence." Sir John Dickinson, the Chief Magistrate, says he believes this defence "has led to very many miscarriages of justice," and practically every women's and religious organisation in the country has asked that this defence of "reasonable cause" should be abolished, and the sexual immaturity of a young girl absolutely protected up to her sixteenth birthday. There were a group of members in the House who were determined to retain that defence in the law, and, as they were defeated on a straight vote on this clause, they resorted to another way of killing a Bill, namely, by moving a new clause of a purely wrecking character concerning certain offences by women. It was introduced at midnight on August 4th, without consulting any of the Law Officers and without any serious consideration having been given to it. As lawyers they must have been fully aware that the Law Lords could not possibly pass without the fullest investigation and amendment a clause which made a new crime for women of an almost unintelligible and unprovable nature, and one which would offer the most certain opportunities for blackmail of a peculiarly revolting kind. In an effort to save the Bill and promote agreement, Major Farquharson, who was in charge, accepted the clause. If he had not accepted it, the Bill would probably have been wrecked that night as the opponents would have declared it "contentious," and held the Government to its pledge not to introduce any controversial Bills. The Bill was killed in the Commons by Mr. Macquisten, Sir Ernest Wild, Mr. Rawlinson, and a few others. There is only one thing to be done now. The proper legal protection of girls must never again be left to the mercies of a handful of obstructionists. The fifty-eight national organisations supporting the Bill must ask the Government to adopt the Bill and give a pledge that it shall have an early place next Session, and that the Government will use all the means at its disposal to secure the safe passage of the Bill.

The Children of Unmarried Parents Bill.

This Bill passed through all its stages in the Commons and went up to the Lords on Thursday, the 18th, and then, owing to the inattentiveness of their lordships, it was killed. We do not suppose there was any malice about it, but it is a most regrettable thing that after all the care and pains necessary to pass it through the Lower House the Lords should have "postponed consideration" (which involved beginning all over again next Session), because, in the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, "He was not hostile to it so far as he understood it, but he had only just seen the Bill, and it contained a vast amount of legal language which required a great deal of explanation." Really, what with the Upper and the Lower House, it is hard to remain patient. The millstones are nothing to them.

Civil Service Dinner.

The Joint Committee on women in the Civil Service entertained their Parliamentary friends in the House of Commons on Thursday last, and spent a very interesting and enjoyable evening. Major J. W. Hills, M.P., presided, and the toasts were: The Civil Service, proposed by Sir Donald McLean, M.P., and Mr. Graham, M.P., responded to by Miss Smythe (Federation of Women Civil Servants), and Miss Herring (Union of Post Office Workers); The House of Commons, proposed by Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and responded to by Sir Philip Lloyd Graeme, M.P.; and Major Hills, proposed by Miss Otter (Standing Joint Committee of Women in the Higher Branches of the Civil Service). Through all the speeches, which were of the very best "after dinner" form, there was an undercurrent of seriousness, and it was very clear to all those present that the Parliamentary victory meant the beginning of a real co-operation of men and women, on wide and just lines, in the administrative work of the State. Such gatherings are not only pleasant, but they are useful, for they give expression to those underlying beliefs the faith in which inspires all pioneer work.

Westminster By-Election.

The Deputation of women's organisations arranged by the N.U.S.E.C. and the London Society for Women's Service to the Westminster candidates took place on Thursday, August 18th. The Societies represented were as follows:—National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, London Society for Women's Service, National Council of Women, Women's Freedom

League, Women's Political and Industrial League, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Proportional Representation Society, National Women Citizens' Association. The candidates' answers to the questions are reported on another page; but their attitudes to the deputation were very different, and instructive. Colonel Applin is clearly one of those thoroughly anti-feminist men who have not a glimmering of understanding of what the whole movement is about. He thought to please the deputation by saying that he did not approve of women police because their uniform was so unbecoming, and his statements on more important matters were equally wide of the mark. Mr. Lupton, who did not see the deputation at all, is an old friend of the movement, and his refusal to be interested in the later developments was the more disappointing. If returned, he will, of course, still be a believer in equality. General Nicholson is clearly one of those men who have not thought much about women's questions, but who, when he does think, thinks right. He had a poster in his committee rooms which is a new and welcome feature of elections. "General Nicholson will fight for equal rights for men and women." If it is he who is returned he will have to live up to it! We write before polling day, and in ignorance of the issue. But whatever comes of it, we cannot but hope that Colonel Applin will find himself at the bottom of the poll.

Naval Marriage Allowances.

The absurdity of comparing the salaries of naval men with those of civil servants in the hope of demonstrating that naval officers need no marriage allowance should need no comment. The wife and children of a navy man must live ashore while he is at sea; the expenses of the household ashore, combined with the husband's messing bills, must be higher than those of a family all living together—and unless this household is frequently removed from place to place, the husband and wife will seldom meet without undertaking ruinously extravagant journeys. It is not the risks of a life at sea, but the break-up of family life that is its main hardship, and the marriage allowance would to a great extent soften the lot of the sailor's wife, either by allowing her to travel and meet her husband, or by permitting him to go home even for short leaves. It seems incredibly short-sighted not to grant this.

Women Suffrage in Chile.

The women of Santiago, Chile, have formed a Women's National Progressive Party, whose programme has in its forefront universal suffrage for both sexes, excluding only men and women whose profession is the traffic in vice. The Association, which is non-party, also demands the revision of the civil and criminal code of Chile. That country, which has a great future before it, is beginning to wake up to the responsibilities imposed by its size and influence, but its women have a high barrier of prejudice and custom to surmount on their way to equal citizenship.

Cheaper Houses.

The Director-General of Housing has stated that the drop in the cost of building working-class houses amounts to about £250 a house. This means that cottages built now can be let at an economic rent of 25 per cent. less than that appropriate to those built at the most expensive period. If costs can be even a little more reduced the building of houses for the poorer members of the middle classes will again become a business proposition, and the pressure on small houses will be relieved without expenditure by Government. There are 76,000 Government houses still unfinished, 23,000 of which are delayed for lack of plasterers; 60,000 Government houses which are planned have not yet been begun, and the rate of building is 7,500 a month. This is, perhaps, a small number when one thinks of the terrible scarcity of living accommodation, but the prospect of 7,500 men every month being free to live near their work, instead of at a wasteful distance, will add up to a considerable amount of extra happiness within the year. For a new house is not just a roof over one's head; it is a clean, healthy house, situated where its inhabitants wish it to be.

Lunacy.

The dyer's hand, we know, is subdued to what it works in, so we should not be surprised that the London County Council's response to the ever-increasing demand for skilled dealing with the mentally deranged is to leave the magnificent neurological hospital, called after Maudsley's name, empty, and to suppress the office of Mental Pathologist, held with such success by Sir

Frederick Mott, who is on the eve of retirement. There remain, it is true, ninety public asylums in the country devoted to the detention of the insane, but nothing they are able to do obviates in the least the need for research, for the training of investigators, or the cure of insanity. Sir Frederick Mott has a European reputation, and the failure to appoint an eminent man of science to carry on his work will be a matter of European concern. This, perhaps, will not distress the L.C.C.

The Channel Swim.

Mrs. Arthur Hamilton's courageous attempt to swim the Channel, which entailed her remaining for twenty hours in the water, is a reminder that women are not so lacking in the manlier virtues as anti-feminists like to imagine. Endurance is, in fact, a physical, as well as a psychological, strong point in the feminine make-up, and it is hardly fair that this strength, so essential to the race, should be ignored whenever its possession might be advantageous to the woman herself. But there seem always to be Members of Parliament anxious to rise and remark that a woman (who can swim for twenty hours) is unequal to the strain of something or other which she wishes to do; and Colonel Applin, one of the candidates at the Westminster by-election, told a meeting of women electors that women have not the physical endurance to be judges. He ought to try Channel-swimming, or a day's wash, himself.

Death of Mrs. McLaren.

The death of Mrs. Eva McLaren removes from the scene another of the women who fought the double battle for Women's Suffrage and Liberalism and found, as did women ardently attached to other parties, that tradition usually counts for more than principle, even with the most progressive of platforms. Before her marriage Mrs. McLaren was associated with Miss Octavia Hill's work; she was a Poor Law Guardian for Lambeth in days when women guardians were pioneers in an almost unexplored region. After her marriage she served on the Bradford Board of Guardians and did not a little to enhance Bradford's reputation for enlightenment where children's welfare is concerned, and for many years was chairman of the Women's Liberal Federation. Her husband, the late Walter McLaren, was one of our very real friends, and their work together in politics was an example of co-operation with independence which was rarer thirty years ago than it will be in the future.

Sir Alfred Dale.

Our cause has suffered a severe loss in the death of Sir Alfred Dale. He has consistently, all through his life, with all the force of a very forcible character, stood for women's freedom, whether political, educational, or professional. An incident early in his career revealed the value of his support. While he was still quite a young man, a resident don at Cambridge, he was a member of the Liberal Party, and also of the local Women's Suffrage Society. The then Liberal Member for Cambridge town, a man of some note, was taking a very unsatisfactory line upon Women's Suffrage; a deputation to him was arranged of which Alfred Dale, then a member of his election committee, took part. As the conversation between the M.P. and the deputation proceeded the unsatisfactory character of the former became more and more pronounced: a deadlock seemed inevitable, until Alfred Dale struck in in a loud firm voice which resounded through the room saying, "If 'Mr. W. F.' has such very great difficulty in applying the principles of Liberalism to the case of women, I feel I can no longer remain a member of his election committee." The effect was instantaneous; the whole atmosphere changed, and Mr. "W. F." began to see that there was something in the women's claim: his eyesight improved rapidly and steadily, and we were able later to rely on his Parliamentary support. No wonder the Cambridge suffragists entertained a high opinion of Alfred Dale's support.

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.

LOSS AND GAIN.

The end of the session has come, bringing with it two bitter disappointments and one considerable success. The loss of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, at the eleventh hour, when it seemed perfectly safe, and when the vigilance of some of its friends was relaxed, is a very serious blow to the forces of decency in this country. It is a strong thing to say, but we believe it is true. The volume and the nature of the support behind the Bill proved incontestably that the country was ready for such legislation, and yet a handful of members of Parliament, avowedly ignorant of social questions, and notoriously hostile to women's interests, were able by clever obstruction and unscrupulous tactics to overthrow this Bill, as they will undoubtedly try to overthrow any other such measure in the future. This is a serious matter, and one which women voters should seriously consider. The presence in the House of members of this description is a real menace to social reform, not only along the particular line touched by this class of legislation, but along every one of the directions which are dear to women. These members can be relied upon to oppose measures of education, and health, as well as public decency. They are sure to vote against social progress in every shape and form, and to obstruct that sort of progress which is aimed at improving the conditions of life of the people. They are the familiar old "anti-feminist" type—which still exists here and there among us. But now that women are enfranchised these men must be made to realise that whatever backwater they may choose for their home, the House of Commons is no longer the place for them. Among such men in the present House are Sir Ernest Wild, Major Christopher Lowther, Sir Frederick Banbury, Sir Henry Craik, Sir Bertram Falle. Constituents take notice.

The failure of the Equal Guardianship Bill to secure time for discussion was, as we said last week, a real misfortune. In this case the obstruction came at the end, from Sir Frederick Banbury alone, although in the earlier stages he was helped by Sir Bertram Falle. It is really a disgrace to our Parliamentary machinery that such a state of affairs should be allowed to exist, and we can only hope that the long promised and long expected reform of the Second Chamber may be accompanied by a readjustment of business which will allow the Commons greater freedom of action in non-party and private members' business. The difficulty of getting any such measures through at present is out of all proportion to their worth, and it is harder to secure time for the most reasonable of measures than it is to convert the members to the most unreasonable ones.

So much for the losses of this session, which are very grievous—and the more so because in both cases the Bills came so very near to success. But we cannot leave the subject without expressing our deep gratitude to Lady Astor for the valiant and vigorous part she played in both of them. The attention they received, and the success which must surely come to them both next session, is in a very large measure due to her exertions: whoever was absent or timorous, it was not "the lady member": whoever lost courage or faith it was not she; when silence was wisdom she was silent, and when plain speaking was called for she hit out. Although we grieve over the temporary set-back these causes have suffered, we thank her for the good fight.

There have been two gains in this session, one a small and one a very great one. The smaller one was the successful passage through all its stages of the law which allows the same right of remarriage to a widow as to a widower. It was one of the curious anomalies of the pre-suffrage days that the law allowing a man to marry his deceased wife's sister did not equally allow a woman to marry her deceased husband's brother. But now that anomaly is remedied, and the law stands equal in that respect.

The other gain, namely the Civil Service victory, we have recently commented upon fully in these columns. Its importance was emphasised again last week, in the dinner given by the Joint Committee to their friends in the House of Commons, which we refer to in another column. As Miss Smythe of the Federation of Women Civil Servants truly said, the equal opportunity which we have won is the necessary preliminary to the equal pay which we shall presently secure. We do not ask for equal pay for unequal work, but now, when the doors of the Civil Service must at last stand wide, and the paths within it lie open to all comers, equal pay will not long be delayed. The victory of August 5th, 1921, is not itself the starting point for economic equality—for the suffrage victory was, of course, the starting point of it all. But it is a landmark on the way, and one for which we are profoundly thankful.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Session ended quietly. The Prime Minister spoke three times during the week: on Silesia and Russia, on the Imperial Conference and the relations of the Dominions with this country, and on Ireland. All the speeches were pitched in a sober key, and were more effective than some of Mr. Lloyd George's more eloquent utterances. It is no good concealing the fact that the Irish situation is as bad as it could be. There seems to be a conspiracy on the part of the Press to paint it in rosy colours, but anyone who reads the speeches delivered in Dublin must be sick at heart. Whether Mr. de Valera is bluffing or not is hardly the point, for he has put himself into a position from which, bluff or no bluff, he can hardly withdraw. While it is not true to say that all hope has been abandoned, general opinion is pessimistic. It is felt that Mr. de Valera is a formalist, who looks at one side of the question only, and that from a narrow standpoint. Of all men in the world the honest formalist who has to deal with a big situation is the most dangerous.

Mr. Lloyd George's statement is generally approved; indeed, no other attitude could be taken up. No Government which mentioned separation would live for a week. The Labour Party, it should be said, have made their views abundantly clear, and a special envoy was sent to Dublin last week to say that independence was unthinkable. The only opponents the Prime Minister has are those who think he has gone too far, and they, as far as the House of Commons is concerned, are not important.

The formal business of the Session was got through without difficulty. The solution of the deadlock on the Safeguarding of Industries Bill was easier than appeared probable. It was said last week that, under the Parliament Act, this Bill could be passed over the head of the House of Lords, but an even easier road was found. The House of Lords introduced amendments which profoundly modified the Bill, and the Speaker ruled that these were privileged amendments. They infringed the ancient liberties of the House of Commons, and denied their right to be the sole arbiters on the raising and spending of money. When challenged, the Lords gave way, as they always do on questions of privilege, but not without protest. And, indeed, protest was necessary, for the Bill, besides levying taxes, revolutionises our commercial practice, as Lord Emmott said. It is difficult to imagine any matter more fitted for the consideration of a Second Chamber, and yet it is ruled out. The whole question of Money Bills needs thinking out afresh; and this, by the way, will be one of the many difficulties to be solved when the Reform of the House of Lords comes forward. But at the moment there are quite enough rocks in the political river to keep our minds off those which we have not yet reached.

On Monday, August 16th, many small Bills were got through. On Tuesday and Wednesday the Appropriation Bill was passed, and the usual general discussion took place; and on Wednesday, August 17th, the Labour Party started a debate on Housing and Unemployment. It must be confessed that little progress was made. On Thursday, August 18th, by arrangement, the Imperial Conference was discussed, and the Prime Minister, again in sober mood, carried the House with him.

By Friday, August 19th, it was clear that the Irish situation was so black that prorogation of Parliament until next February was out of the question. Accordingly, a hurried change was made, and instead of proroguing the House adjourned until October 18th, with power for the Speaker to call it together earlier.

Thus ends a most critical Session; a Session during which political values have altered and party lines been readjusted. It will probably be noted by the historian as a turning point of wide significance. Something will be said on these deeper issues in the notes for next week.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

BURNING QUESTIONS.

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

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—III.

By M. FRIDA HARTLEY.

The main fact demonstrated by the discussion upon Clause 3 is that we have placed the working girl in a false position from the start, and that we cannot rectify it by placing her under criminal law. We are intensely domestic and primitive, some of us, in the affairs of our own daughters, but where the working girl is concerned we are strangely content, as a mother put it the other day, "to let loose on her our own pet theories on legislation." Why do we fight shy of controlling our "flappers" before evil comes to them, and why are we so insistent upon a liberty for which both they and we must pay so dearly? Are we really deceived by the reply of the young loafer who, in the foolishness and the gaiety of her heart, patrols Regent Street or Blackfriars Road at night "to see what will happen"? "Oh, I'm all right, I know how to take care of myself! I don't want any help, I'm only walking up and down!" Those who, in the disheartening knowledge that they have no legal control, have received this reply not once, but many times, and have watched the poor little "subject" turn her back and walk on to trouble, can hardly be blamed for a lack of enthusiasm for the preservation of her misused "liberty."

It is not the compulsion, not the discipline, if carried on from childhood and relaxed gradually as she is able to do without it, that will make a girl obstinate; it is rather the manner in which it is applied, and the personality who applies it. We do not oppose extended education because it exercises compulsion. The girl of sixteen and seventeen over whom control has once been lost, and who is drifting on to the streets, is in so dire a need of renewed simplicity of outlook, of religion, and of normal surroundings, for she is so much nearer childhood than we know; we are not wise in our efforts to take her more seriously than she takes herself.

To sum up, then, for the aftermath of the new realisation brought by the great contention over the Criminal Law Amendment Bill can only be the bitter consciousness of the greatness of the talk for the smallness of the gain! Clause 3 has been "scrapped" to ensure that one sex shall not be protected or punished (according to individual conception of the compulsory Home) at the expense of the other, that her liberty shall not be infringed by punishment for prostitution, or by being placed for this purpose, in the hands of the Magistrate, and that no new Law shall be built up upon the violation of these principles. All this is equitable from the constitutional point of view, but the principles are those which apply to responsible men and women, and not to "young persons."

And, meanwhile, so far as the immediate and urgent needs of the girl herself is concerned, what we have done is to condemn her to a continuance of the indisputably hardening punishment of imprisonment, from which those engaged in Rescue

EDUCATION AND THE DALTON PLAN.

By HELEN PARKHURST.

There is great need, in the world to-day, of strong men and women who are able to lead us out of the chaos which confronts civilisation at every step. Many people are not yet awake to the fact that the civilisation of to-day is a very different civilisation from the old. Our old ways and ideas cannot cope with the changes.

The moulding of our leaders takes place in the schools. We must face the situation, and prepare men and women so that in the future they will be capable of mastering situations regardless of what they may be. This means men and women who are peculiarly fitted to make rapid adjustments to changing conditions; men and women who are intelligently resourceful in taking things as they find them, and leaving the world improved. It means that they must not only be able to use the resources of others, but that, first of all, they take stock of their own resources and develop them as much as possible. This is a process of organisation.

and Reformatory work have for so long laboured to save her. We have retained the fact of the punishment of prostitution, of the infringement of the liberty of the subject said to be contained therein, and, with it, the power given to magistrates to sentence to punishment of a kind which no one is able or anxious to uphold as possessing reformatory power. We are, therefore, walking upon a treadmill, and our only course is to work together to forestall criminal legislation by provision for education, protection, and control of the right kind. Conferences should be held between women's associations and those women engaged in the organisation and the personal side of Rescue effort, and the first-hand experience of the "rank and file" of the work (matrons of Homes and outside workers) should not be lost. There is need for a far closer co-operation between the personal workers and those mainly interested in the Parliamentary side of the question. It is time, indeed, that Rescue work should be placed upon a much sounder and a more national basis.

We have the machinery for a better protection and control of young girls in the Education Act of 1918, and in the amendment of the Children's Act of 1908. The possibilities of the provisions of the former Act have already been touched upon in these articles, and we have, or could have, the means wherewith to apply the machinery of the latter, the importance of which means is even now so curiously under-estimated. To the women police powers could be given to exercise the amended Children's Act and detain (there should, of course, be no such word as "arrest" for juveniles) girls under eighteen obviously out for no good purpose, as being "found wandering and having a parent or guardian who does not exercise proper control," or as being "exposed to the risk of seduction or prostitution with the knowledge of parent or guardian." The respective clauses would have to be so amended as to adapt themselves to the case in point, but the principle of control is contained in them, and there is no reason in the world why such powers should do away with that personal influence on which women workers justly set such value.

We persist in applying to these children principles which presuppose full responsibility when we should rather be giving that personal and individual care the lack of which has sent them astray. *If we desire to check the evil of prostitution from its root we must rid the streets of the juvenile loafer!*

[Since these articles were written the Criminal Law Amendment Bill has met its undeserved and unearned fate. It is therefore the more necessary that all those interested in the welfare of the working girl should stand together for new measures which shall place her in a sounder position.—M. F. H.]

living, and therefore it is applicable to the work of pupils from eight to twenty years of age. It may be instituted without any change in teaching staff or curriculum, and it has been successfully tried in rural, elementary, public, private, and secondary schools in both England and America.

The word "Dalton" is the name of the American city where the plan was first tried in a secondary school. "Laboratory" was chosen to indicate the academic workshops in which the children experiment—the emphasis is placed upon the experimenting of pupils; they are not to be experimented upon.

The Dalton Laboratory plan attempts the solution of school problems by getting at them from the view point of the learner; by enlisting the genuine co-operation of the learner by changing his mental attitude and increasing his mental activity; by permitting him to look upon his education from the standpoint of a "real job," and he a contractor responsible for it; by enlisting his will in such fashion that it becomes a faithful ally to his tasks; by permitting him all the joy of an experimenter.

Aim of the Work.—To have the pupils individually graded in ungraded groups in their progress through a graded curriculum; to teach the children to study; to create conditions favourable to arousing the initiative, interest, and personal motives of the pupils; to create conditions in the curriculum and administration which shall make possible the desire to learn under the impulses of self-initiative; to permit the individual pupil to progress through his chosen graded curriculum as rapidly as his mental ability allows; to permit pupils to work uninterrupted in the completion of the task in order that they may have a proper valuation of time; to develop a sense of personal responsibility towards their education; to consider the laboratory head as a guide and helper; to gain in power to survey a subject; to cultivate a desire to be well informed and intelligent rather than to attain a passing mark; to regard education as a pleasure and as a necessary adjunct to advancement.

Each pupil contracts a portion of work corresponding to what any average boy or girl could be expected to do in a month. The pupil requests his work, and he signs a contract for it. To do his job he is permitted twenty days—twenty days corresponds to a school month.

Academic laboratories are created for each subject of the curriculum, to take the place of form rooms. The subject instructors remain in the subject rooms. The pupil is permitted to distribute his twenty days in ways best suiting his subject needs. If he is weak in a subject, he devotes more time to it. The contract in its entirety consists of a month of each subject that a pupil in any form would have to do.

A pupil remains a member of a form group in order that there may be an opportunity to measure his progress with others, and so that there are natural groupings for oral lessons. The morning time is devoted to work in laboratories; the afternoon session is used for oral lessons, games, or excursions. What he as a member of a form is to do is mapped out in the form of assignments in each subject, which are hung on notice-boards outside each subject laboratory. The pupils move about among the subject laboratories, sometimes working as individuals, and sometimes in groups. They work upon the subject they are most interested in. Often pupils are inclined to waste the time of an instructor, but they never waste their own time. There are checking-up graphs and also contract or curriculum cards for the pupils. The contract cards serve as time balance-sheets.

The pupils are not obliged to have permission to go into a laboratory nor to leave one. They are voluntary agents, each set upon accomplishing his contract. Our success in life depends upon our ability to make rapid adjustments, and our achievement depends upon our ability to organise the time at our disposal so as to accomplish the work before us. The Dalton plan gives these advantages. On a card especially designed for the purpose, each pupil makes a graph of his daily progress, showing the amount of work covered in each subject during the twenty-day period, i.e., the school month. The plan as tested to date, shows that the children are much interested in their progress, and that they elect to begin with the most difficult subjects rather than the easier ones; that when left to dispose of their own time they accomplish more because they advance at their own individual rate of progress; that the children are keenly interested in the progress of their companions, and have much in common to discuss; that the twenty-day assignment is often covered in fifteen days, and sometimes in ten days, giving more time for research. The bright pupil and the slow pupil have equal opportunities, but are permitted to progress without handicapping each other. Progressing at their own rate of speed means thorough work. At any time a pupil may receive help upon his own subject difficulty.

When a pupil completes all of the work of any one contract job, he may request the next contract. It is given to him if, after inspection, he is found to have satisfactorily completed all of the work required in each subject of the contract for the month.

A pupil naturally does not find all subjects equally difficult, but the difficulties of all are equalised if he divides the entire time at his disposal according to the several subject needs. More time given to a subject helps to eliminate that subject's difficulties. A child in pre-adolescence has many difficulties. What we desire to do is not to help him to escape these difficulties, but to solve them, so that later when he selects a vocation he will have a firm foundation for his talent.

PETITIONS AND COUNTER PETITIONS.

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH.

When the English Church Union sent forth its petition for women communicant members of the Church of England to sign, stating their belief that "women were incapable" of the grace of Holy Orders, many were astounded at the attitude of mind which was displayed by willingness to support such a statement. Some, however, felt they could not quite associate themselves with the counter protest sent forth by the League of the Church Militant, which they felt interpreted the Lambeth Resolutions in too liberal a spirit. Such objection is met by a memorial to the Archbishops and Bishops of the Provinces of Canterbury and York being circulated by the Manchester Church League for Women's Service, which became a separate organisation when the Central Church League for Women's Suffrage developed its policy and took up further work under its new title of the League of the Church Militant.

The memorial runs:—"We, the undersigned, communicant members of the Church of England, desire to assure the Archbishops and Bishops of our hearty support in any steps they may take to put into practice in the Provinces of Canterbury and York the Resolutions of the Ministry of Women adopted at the Lambeth Conference of 1920." Forms for signature can be obtained from the M.C.L.W.S. at Stanford, Rusholme, Manchester.

The Convocations of Canterbury and York, both Houses, which comprise Bishops and Clergy, have given their assent to the principle of the readmission of women to the Diaconate "formally and canonically," and a joint committee of both Houses in the Northern Province and a similar committee in the South, is drawing up recommendations concerning the functions of the woman deacon.

With regard to the lay position, the York Convocation has passed resolutions in both Houses which are practically identical with Resolution 53 of the Lambeth Conference. In the South the matter is rather more complicated. The Upper House, on February 23rd, passed a resolution that such lay ministrations "should be, on occasions, other than the regular and appointed services of the Church, and are intended normally for congregations of women or of children." The Lower House postponed discussion on this, and it will presumably come up again during the autumn session. The Upper House, however, drew up regulations as to qualifications of, and rules to be observed by, women desiring to take part in this public ministry. These regulations are somewhat on the lines of those now in existence for male lay readers, and were sent down for "information only" to the Lower House.

The general feeling is that individual Bishops, even in the Canterbury Province, can still give permission if they so wish for individual women to preach on specific occasions, even to mixed congregations, as the discussion regulations were more concerned with parochial Church workers and women messengers than with individuals giving occasional addresses with the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Numbers of Bishops have expressed their willingness to give permission to women to speak in church, notably Ely, Chester, Manchester, Gloucester, Sheffield, Worcester, Bristol, and some apparently are not limiting such ministrations "normally" to women and children.

The question is to be officially discussed at Birmingham in October, during the Church Congress, and the League of the Church Militant will need all the help it can possibly get during its campaign while the Congress is being held. Offers of help will be gratefully received by the Secretary at Church House, Westminster. Meanwhile, it is hoped that the resolution welcoming the Lambeth Resolutions to be proposed at the N.U.C.E.C. Council in September will receive warm support.

E. LOUIE ACRES.

REVIEWS.

The Vicar's Dilemma. By F. S. Hallows. (The Athenæum Press. 1s.)

"The Vicar's Dilemma" cleverly carries the war into the enemy's camp in the matter of the literal interpretation of Scriptural texts upon which a good deal of the case against the ministry of women in the Christian Churches is built up. Many will be touched by the serious love interest of a sanctified kind which runs through the little tale, but even those whom this leaves unmoved cannot fail to be entertained, if they possess a lively imagination, at the inward vision of a "statutory service" in a High Anglican Church, which concludes by each of the faithful saluting his or her brethren and sisters with a holy kiss. A fantastic idea, but not more fantastic than the idea that St. Paul's admonition to the women of his time and place to keep silence "in the Church" meant that though a woman of the twentieth century may address a rural conference, or a Church Congress, she may not "preach" to the congregation of twenty-seven women, nine boys and girls, and five men, who adorn the pews of the parish church of Little Puddington. The author's point is a good point—the unenlightened conscience is responsible for much evil and much absurdity. The vicar's dilemma is, in brief, if one text is to be interpreted literally, why not all, including that one most often neglected by preachers and by the English Church Union, "Greet one another with a holy kiss"?

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WESTMINSTER BY-ELECTION.

Below appear the questions put by the deputation of women's organisations to the candidates in the Westminster By-election and their answers.

I.—Will you urge the Government to bring in a measure to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same residential qualifications, and from the same age as men, and to pass it through all its stages next Session?

Both candidates in favour. As an old anti-suffragist Colonel Applin only supported this because he considered the present state of affairs is such an anomaly.

II.—(a) Are you in favour of full professional and industrial freedom and opportunity for women, with equal rights of training, entry and promotion?

General Nicholson was in favour. Colonel Applin was against the entry of women to the Church, Bench, Army, Navy, and all occupations involving heavy work.

(b) Are you in favour of giving men and women Equal Pay for Equal Work, i.e., that men and women should be paid at the same rate whether this is to be computed by time or by piece in the same occupation or grade?

General Nicholson—Yes. Colonel Applin—In certain cases, but said he had not considered the whole question.

III.—(1) *Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants Bill, 1921.* Will you urge the Government to bring in this measure, which gives to women equal rights and responsibilities with men, as regards their children, and to pass it through all its stages next Session?

General Nicholson—Yes. Colonel Applin—No; he did not believe in dual control of the home.

(2) *Widows' Pensions.* Are you in favour of giving pensions to Civilian Widows with Dependent Children, and will you urge upon the Government the necessity of introducing legislation to this end next Session?

Both candidates considered this too expensive a reform.

(3) *Summary Jurisdiction (Married Persons) Bill.* Will you support this Bill which strengthens the machinery enabling a wife and her children to obtain maintenance from a neglectful husband, and press the Government to give facilities for its passage into law next Session?

Both were in favour.

(4) *Nationality of Married Women.* Are you in favour of giving to married women the same rights as regards nationality and domicile as have single women and single men?

General Nicholson was in favour. Colonel Applin held that the nationality of a woman must be that of her husband.

(5) *Children of Unmarried Parents.* Will you support legislation which will seek to make the father of an illegitimate child equally responsible with the mother for its maintenance, which will render a child

legitimate by the subsequent marriage of the parents, and which will provide that the sum payable for the maintenance of illegitimate children shall be fixed according to the financial position of the parent ordered to make payment?

General Nicholson was in favour. Colonel Applin was in favour in principle.

(6) *Divorce.* Will you support legislation which will insure that the grounds for Divorce, Nullity, and Separation shall be the same for women as for men?

General Nicholson—Yes. Colonel Applin—No.

(7) *Taxation of Incomes of Married Persons.* Are you in favour of the separate taxation of the incomes of married persons?

Both were in favour.

IV.—1. Will you support any legislation which makes for an *Equal Moral Standard* between men and women?

General Nicholson was in favour. Colonel Applin was against; he held that it was impossible.

2. Will you support a *Criminal Law Amendment Bill* based on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1921?

General Nicholson was in favour. Colonel Applin refused.

V.—Will you support legislation which will extend the liability to Jury Service to wives of men qualified to serve as Jurors, and which will prevent the exclusion of Women Jurors from cases in which women and children are concerned?

General Nicholson was in favour. Colonel Applin was against, on the whole, though certain cases he said he would like to see tried entirely before a jury consisting only of women.

VI.—Will you support the League of Nations, and do all in your power to secure that it shall be developed on democratic lines with equal opportunity for men and women within it?

General Nicholson was in favour. Colonel Applin said he was of the opinion that it was the greatest farce ever foisted upon a foolish world.

VII.—Are you in favour of Proportional Representation? Neither were in favour.

Mr. Lupton had refused to receive a Deputation.

As a result of the above interviews the organisations concerned published two leaflets for the women voters of Westminster, calling their attention to the views expressed by the different candidates.

Since then Mr. Lupton has sent us further information. He now states that he will vote for equal franchise for men and women, a question in which he is particularly interested, and that he will give careful and friendly consideration to matters concerning women's rights.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

AUGUST 26.
At Albert Hall, Workington. Speaker: E. T. John, Esq.
At Workington. Speaker: J. H. Clyne, Esq.

AUGUST 30.
Lecture Hall, West Wickham, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. G. Skelton

SEPTEMBER 1.
At The Schools, Newgate Street, near Hertford, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Muriel Currey, O.B.E.

SEPTEMBER 2.
Outside St. Mary's Church, Stoke Newington, 3.30 p.m.

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