

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVI. No. 8. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, March 21, 1924.

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

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

NOTES AND NEWS.

Great Britain Please Copy.

Among the first seventeen clauses of the Turkish Constitutional Charter passed by the Grand National Assembly at Constantinople on Monday, is one which confers the parliamentary franchise on every Turk, male or female, of eighteen years and upwards. In pre-war years we used to flatter ourselves that Great Britain was ahead of Germany in her social and political treatment of women. The equal franchise conferred upon German women by the Weimar Constitution shook that faith. Since then we have flattered ourselves that we were at least well ahead of the Turks. We earnestly appeal to our present Government to see to it that we remain so.

The Matrimonial Causes Bill.

The following note was omitted owing to pressure on space last week:—

The Matrimonial Causes Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords on 11th March by a majority of 88 votes to 51. Lord Buckmaster explained that the Bill was practically the same as the measure which he himself had brought forward four years ago. The two main principles of the measure were the provision of extended grounds for a declaration of nullity of marriage and extended grounds for divorce. He asked that nullity of marriage should be granted if a man married a woman whom he found at the time of his marriage to be pregnant by another man, and that a marriage should be dissolved not only for adultery, but for desertion, cruelty, drunkenness and incurable insanity. The only new grounds for divorce introduced into the Bill was imprisonment under a commuted death sentence or confinement in a criminal lunatic asylum. He also asked that gross acts of indecency with male persons should be regarded as adultery. Lord Haldane speaking on behalf of the Government said it was impossible to do more than leave it to Parliament to decide the question. He could not promise that the Government would give facilities for the Bill in "another place."

Northern Ireland and Legislation for Women and Children.

Our Irish correspondent writes:—

Among the Bills read for the first time in the Parliament of Northern Ireland this week is the anxiously expected measure establishing the equal responsibility of both parents of illegitimate children. The Belfast Advisory Council may fairly claim the credit for the introduction of the Bill, while public opinion was mobilized in support of the principal embodied in the Bill, and a pledge was obtained from the Minister for Home Affairs in November last. Until now it has been practically impossible

to compel the father to make provision for these children. Should this Bill become law, as is confidently expected, a very great advance on all previous legislation in Northern Ireland will have been made.

Standing Committee A—Women Voters Please Note.

Standing Committee A is the Committee of the House of Commons to which Private Members' Bills are being referred. At the present moment acrimonious discussions are ranging round the Rent Restriction Bill, which progresses so slowly that it threatens to occupy the whole time of the Committee till Easter. Should, however, the tactics of the opponents of the Bill continue to be largely of an obstructionist order we are informed that the Bill will be withdrawn and a Government Bill introduced. Immediately after the Committee has finished with this Bill, whenever this may be, it will proceed to the consideration of the three following Bills, all of particular interest to the readers of this paper—the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill, the Legitimacy Bill, and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill. In order to give our readers an opportunity of approaching Members of the Committee, we propose to publish next week a list of (1) the permanent members of the Committee, (2) the fifteen members specially added for the consideration of the Representation of the People Act.

Peereesses in the House of Lords.

A Bill to enable Peereesses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords will be introduced by Mr. Briant on 25th March. It has the backing of Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Sir R. Newman, and Mr. Wignell. Its provisions are simple. Women holding peerages in the United Kingdom in their own right will be enabled to sit and vote in the House of Lords as fully as if they were men, whether the Charter creating the peerage expressly confers this right or not. Women holding in their own right Scotch or Irish peerages will be entitled to vote for the representative peers, or to be elected in that capacity in exactly the same way as men. This would do away with one of the most glaring instances where the principle of Sex Disqualification Removal Act has been ignored, though, in this case it was not so much ignored as deliberately overridden. Most women will remember Lady Rhondda's attempt to maintain her right to sit in the House of Lords, and the elaborate legal subtleties which were produced against her claims. If the Bill should become law twenty peereesses in the United Kingdom would be qualified to take their seats in the House of Lords; there are in addition five women holding Scottish peerages in their own right, of whom one, however, is still a minor.

The Contentious Proviso in the Legitimacy Bill.

Instead of summarizing the arguments for and against the proviso relating to the legitimation of children whose parents at the time of their birth were legally unable to marry, we open our columns to correspondence on the subject, and a letter from Mrs. Helena Normanton appears to-day. Our readers will remember that this proviso has been inserted in the Bill introduced by Lord Buckmaster during its Committee stage in the House of Lords. A curious situation is created by the fact that Colonel Campion's Legitimacy Bill, which passed its second reading after 11 o'clock, therefore with no debate, has been referred to a standing Committee, contains no such proviso. It is difficult at this date to foretell what procedure will be adopted when Lord Buckmaster's Bill reaches the House of Commons. In any case there is bound to be a lively debate and it is imperative that women voters should make up their minds on the subject.

Westminster Elections Past and Present.

By the time this paper is in the hands of our readers the result of this remarkable election will be known. In 1710 Swift writes of the part played by dead cats in a riotous Westminster election; in 1784, as Mr. Humphrey Ward reminds us in *The Times* this week, took place the famous election in which Georgina, the Duchess of Westminster canvassed indefatigably for Fox—"the fiercest and longest contest of history." We met recently a veteran suffragist who recalled her experiences in canvassing for John Stuart Mill in the 'sixties, when women's suffrage was for the first time brought before an English electorate. The present election may seem tame compared to such historic occasions in the past, but there is certainly enough rowdiness and excitement to justify Westminster traditions, and we hear with interest that women's questions have been kept prominently before the candidates. A report of deputations of women voters and representatives of the various Westminster societies to the four candidates will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Meetings of Interest to Women.

The Annual Council meetings of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship will be held on 26th, 27th, and 28th March at King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road. These meetings promise to be of special interest in view of the Parliamentary situation with regard to several of the Bills for which the National Union is working at the present time. On Thursday evening of the same week the Freedom League has announced a well-timed public meeting at Essex Hall to demand from the Government equal facilities for Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill. On Thursday, at the Holborn Town Hall, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship will entertain at luncheon Members of both Houses who have given help during the year, and on Friday at a reception of the National Union at Bedford College Mrs. Corbett Ashby, the newly elected President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will be its chief guest, with other representative women from overseas and foreign countries. Two important meetings were held this week, of which we have not yet received reports—one organized by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance on the Legitimacy Bill, and the other by the Six Point Group in Queen's Hall on Widows' Pensions and Equal Guardianship of Infants. An all-day conference on Housing is announced at the Guild House, Eccleston Square, for 5th April.

Single Women's Votes.

The large number of single women living at home whose claim to be placed on the electorate register have been disallowed by the revision courts, show how seriously this class is affected by the law as it stands at present. The registration officers are insisting rigidly on evidence as to the payment of rent in these cases. The mere payment of a fixed sum towards the expenses of the household is not considered to give a woman the right to be regarded as a joint occupier unless the payment for rent is distinct from that for board and lodging. Even where the woman is mainly responsible for the financial upkeep of the home she shares with her parents, unless she can definitely show that she is paying rent, apart from general expenses, she may find her claim disallowed. Presumably women will learn to safeguard themselves against objections of this kind, and will definitely call a part of their contributions to the joint expenses a contribution to the rent; but in the meantime they find themselves disfranchised. The reports of the proceedings in the revision courts make a convincing case for the extension and simplification of the woman's vote, and they entirely disprove the theory of certain opponents of equal franchise that the women are content with the present position.

Proportional Representation—the New Bill.

After the last General Election in Great Britain there was a general consensus of opinion that a measure of electoral reform was a necessity of the immediate future. Among the proposals mentioned were the second ballot, the alternative vote in the present constituencies, and proportional representation. The second ballot has been universally rejected after long experience in continental countries and among British nations overseas. The real choice lies between the alternative vote and P.R. The friends of P.R. have already taken the field with a private member's Bill, introduced by Mr. Athelstan Rendall, M.P.,

which will be discussed on the first Friday in May. In view of this debate the new issue of *Representation*, the journal of the P.R. Society, is very opportune. In two articles on the general election of December, 1923, and the last general election of the Irish Free State, it compares the results of the present system and of P.R. The first-named article further discusses the probable effect of the "alternative vote" if adopted in our electoral system, and also the Governmental problems of a three-party system which have at length arisen in this country, as they have already arisen in nearly every foreign country and British Dominion.

Welsh Women at White House.

The *South Wales Daily News* gives a graphic account from Mrs. P. H. Griffiths of the visit of the group of Welsh women to Washington with their message of peace to the women of America. At a dinner in their honour, the memorial signed by 400,000 women of Wales was presented to Mrs. Raymond Morgan, President of the Council for the Prevention of War. The deputation was received by President Coolidge at the White House, and by Mr. Charles E. Hughes, Secretary of State, who is a fellow-countryman of its members. Mrs. Griffiths states that she and her fellow delegates were astonished at the number of agencies at work in the United States on behalf of peace.

A National Acquisition.

On Monday Mlle. Nadejda Stancioff, daughter of the Bulgarian Minister, became a British subject by her marriage to Sir Alexander Kay Muir. Mlle. Stancioff has, during recent years, taken an active part in international affairs, and has lived in no less than six European capitals. In 1919 she acted as Secretary to the Bulgarian Delegation in connection with the Treaty of Neuilly, and later as Secretary-Interpreter at the Genoa Conference, the Lausanne Conference, and various meetings of the League of Nations. The *Observer* has described her as "one of the most gifted young women in Europe—not only a wonderful interpreter, but highly capable of forcible and balanced statement on her own account." We offer our congratulations to Sir Alexander Kay Muir, together with our gratitude for his personal initiative in securing an important acquisition to the intellectual strength of Great Britain.

Chairman of the L.C.C. Education Committee.

We congratulate Mrs. Wilton Phipps on her re-election as Chairman of the L.C.C. Education Committee.

Mrs. Barbara Wootton.

We note with satisfaction that a woman has been appointed to serve on the Committee appointed by the Government to inquire into the National Debt and the effects of taxation on the industries of the country, and that that woman is a brilliant young economist, Mrs. Barbara Wootton. Mrs. Wootton is still ineligible for a vote, though she can sit on a Government Committee, being only 26 years of age. She was educated at Girton, where she won first-class honours in economics with special distinction; she is on the staff of the Research Department of the Labour Party, and is already well known as a writer and lecturer.

Mme. Gerhardt in London.

Elena Gerhardt is paying one of her rare visits to London next month. Her stay, which is always eagerly looked forward to by music lovers, will this year be marked by three concerts. The one that she is giving at the Queen's Hall on the afternoon of 8th April will be in aid of the Mosley Committee of the Save the Children Fund. Harold Craxton, whose recent recital was so successful, will be at the piano. Tickets for this recital will be at the ordinary concert prices, and may be had on application from the Save the Children Fund, 42 Langham Street, W. 1, the Queen's Hall Box Office, or from the usual agencies.

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 MINERS AND A NATIONAL MINIMUM.

The position in the Miners' Dispute has fortunately improved, and it is hoped that negotiations will be re-opened. If these fail it seems probable that a special inquiry will be instituted by the Government. The miners naturally hold out for a Minimum Wage Bill, which they consider they have had reason to expect. A situation full of exciting possibilities for the future of Industry and incidentally for the present Government is thus created. We all know the kind of solution that the latter would like to apply, but the formula which at first sounded so strangely from the lips of the present holders of office that "the matter must be considered in relation to the financial situation of the country," will doubtless again be heard, and the Government may once more find it difficult to reconcile this formula with their past professions of faith. Further, in the miners and mine owners they will have a constituency harder to put off with formulas than in the case of widows with fatherless children. We shall all await with breathless interest the issue of their efforts to reconcile the establishment of a national minimum for miners with the interests of the industry in face of foreign competition as set forward by the mine owners.

Readers of this journal should not need to be reminded that on the Continent a solution of the above difficulty is being sought through a system of supplementing wages by family allowances. A memorandum just issued by the Family Endowment Council shows that this system has now become universal throughout the mining industry of Belgium, France, and Austria and most of Germany and Czecho-Slovakia. The memorandum shows that the system is finding increasing favour not only with employers who were responsible for its inception but with the wage-earners who at first regarded it with suspicious if not hostile eyes. The leading Trade Union organization of France and Belgium still bitterly resent the control of the system by

the employers, but they have definitely committed themselves to acceptance of the principle of family allowances and are demanding that they should be made universal and compulsory and placed by the State under the control of bodies representative both of employers and employed.

An interesting fact from the woman's point of view is the increasing prevalence of the custom of paying the allowances not to the wage-earner himself but to the mother or acting female guardian of the children. This is now the generally accepted method throughout the mining industry of Belgium. In France, where at first payment was made as a matter of course to the father, the other practice was found so much more satisfactory that (according to a French writer in the February Bulletin of the International Labour Office) payment to the mother is becoming general. It is found that in this way the allowances are more certain to be expended for the benefit of the children for whom they are intended. Further, the jealousy of the single man is less likely to be aroused when allowances are paid through the Post Office to the mother than when he sees his fellow wage-earners drawing a payment from which he is excluded.

Without expressing any opinion as to the merits of the family allowances which obviously have other aspects besides that of a contribution towards the problem of a living wage, it is clear that this country cannot afford to neglect the study of any solution which might offer a prospect of averting a disaster so frightful as that of another coal strike. Such a strike would mean not merely cold hearths and shivering women and children; it would mean extinguished furnaces and idle machinery. The industry of the country is showing signs of revival, but it is by no means in a condition to stand such a blow at its heart. This is no mere metaphor, for the coal industry is in actual fact the centre of the circulatory system of this country's trade.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Apart from the breeze on Thursday night, which involved the defeat of the Government on its proposal to suspend the eleven o'clock rule, last week finished fairly quietly in the Commons. On Friday Captain Ainsworth moved the Second Reading of his foredoomed Trade Union Act (1913) Amendment Bill, by which he sought to place the initiative of "contracting in" for political payments upon those who positively wish to pay, instead of (as at present) leaving the initiative of "contracting out" of political payments with those who positively don't. The motion for the rejection of the Bill was eventually carried by 211 votes to 129. Everybody knew it would be. No doubt members of both Houses will learn in time that Parliamentary attempts to remove from Trade Unionism legal and political rights which it has once secured, becomes every year an increasingly forlorn hope. The thing hasn't been done since 1825, and subsequent developments in political and economic history make it highly improbable that it will ever be done again. Conservative Peers and Members of the House of Commons would therefore be well advised to cease all attempts to amend the Trade Union (1913) Act or repeal the Trades Disputes Act, and get on with a few "constructive ideals."

The defeat of the Government on Thursday afternoon was not without piquancy, the pained bewilderment of the Leader of the House being well matched by the anarchic whipping and counter-whipping of the Liberal Party, whose members were entreated, like visitors to a fair by gesticulating rival showmen at the entrances of competing booths. The incident had, moreover, a certain inner significance—connected, of course, with the situation in the mining industry. The substitution of Private Members' time for the wearisome midnight deliberations contemplated by the Government means that Mr. Guest's Bill, which was down for its second reading on the 21st, will be shelved. This gave rise to the belief that the Government would itself introduce a Bill of similar intent in the near future to satisfy the aspirations of the miners. On Monday night, however, Mr. MacDonald announced that it is hoped to arrange a joint conference of the owners and miners on Friday, but he made no mention of any possibility of a Government Bill. As things stand at present it seems very unlikely that the Government will introduce any legislation on the subject, though they may find time for the second

reading of the Private Members' Miners' Minimum Wage Bill. Mr. MacDonald's new attitude is understandable enough, for his position is an embarrassing one. The biggest, and in many ways the most powerful section of the ministerial bloc—the miners—is dead set on a living wage representing something in excess of the owners' latest "final" offer, but it is far from certain that the Government would be able to pass any Bill to bring this into effect.

The present readiness of the owners to submit to inquiry regarding the financial capacity of their industry suggests that they have a case which will prove as convincing to the non-Labour sections of the House as it proved last summer, when a somewhat similar measure was defeated. Really, Mr. MacDonald is between the devil and the deep sea, and though last week's adverse vote on procedure did not affect the fundamentals of this difficult situation, which were there all the time, it may well prove to be the incidental preliminary to a defeat which will fall outside Mr. MacDonald's definition of an acceptable rebuff. The debate on disarmament on Monday night passed off without much excitement. An amendment for a limited reduction in the size of the Army would probably have given rise to much greater antagonism, but the proposal to reduce the numbers by 150,000, which would leave this country with an Army of just over 10,000 men, is clearly not within the bounds of practical politics. The debate, as a result, was carried on in an absolutely academic atmosphere, and engendered very little more heat than might be expected at a discussion on disarmament at a college debating society.

The announcement of the decision of the Government to abandon the scheme of development of the Singapore Base was the most engrossing subject on Tuesday, when the Navy Estimates were under discussion. Whatever views one may hold on this subject, it was impossible not to be impressed by the Prime Minister's speech. This matter is not yet closed, as Mr. Baldwin announced that he intends to bring it upon the Report stage of the Vote, when it is hoped that the White Paper containing the communications from the Dominions will have been issued.

[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.]

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXVIII.

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

EARLY SUFFRAGE WORK: SOWING SEED (continued).

Even when I was in the full rush of Suffrage work at home, the work itself often brought me into contact with interesting and charming people whom I should not have otherwise have known. Dr. Martineau was one of these. We were preparing a booklet giving opinions favourable to our movement from leaders of Religious Thought: we had telling passages from Dr. Temple, Bishop of London, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rev. F. D. Maurice, the Rev. J. Llewellyn Davis, the Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, Dr. Clifford, and many others; we wanted to be able to add some expression favourable to our aim from Dr. Martineau. He was then our near neighbour, living in Gordon Square, and I was familiar with his beautiful head, as I had frequently seen him with his daughter at the Saturday Popular Concerts, but I had never been introduced to him. However, I wrote explaining my object, and asked leave to call, which was most courteously granted. I had a deeply interesting interview with him, and he was good enough to write something for us, expressing his sympathy with our movement. This was not very long before his death, in 1890. I was thankful to be able to carry away with me for the rest of my life a vivid recollection of his noble and beautiful personality.

Sometimes calls were made upon me of an unusual nature. The then Lord Denman, the second Baron, appeared one day at my house. He had lately, and as we thought with more zeal than discretion, introduced a Women's Suffrage Bill in the House of Lords. Possibly he had heard that we had not smiled on his efforts in our behalf; anyway he came to explain and expound his own point of view. He said: "My object was that my then widow should have a vote." I liked him for this, which was rather different from the way many men regard their "then" widows. He went on to talk on general politics. Of one thing he was quite assured, and that was that Mr. Balfour was not the man to lead the Conservative Party. I naturally inquired "why?" and he at once rejoined: "He says he don't take any pleasure in killin' things." A rather curious reason, I thought, for considering a man disqualified to lead a great party. Sometimes callers were of an equally unexpected and delightful character. I was sitting at home, rather tired and rather cross, after a long, exhausting committee. A new little maid, named Martha, came in and said: "A lady to see you m'm. She won't give her name, but she wants to see you on business." "Now, Martha," I replied, "that is what beggars always say. You must learn to know when people are beggars and not let them in." Then I went downstairs and found the supposed beggar standing on the doormat. I saw at once that she was a lady, and asked her in, and was I hope, welcoming to her before she spoke. Her first words were: "I have brought you £1,000 to use in any branch of your Suffrage work which you may think most needs it." She gave me her name, but said I must not make it known. The generous gift was, she assured me, not from herself, but from a friend whose name she was not allowed to reveal. Imagine my joy. It was the first time that such a magnificent gift had been made to our cause, and its unexpected arrival made it all the more welcome. I am glad to say that immediately the front door had been shut upon this ministering angel, my first thought was at once to find Martha. "Martha, Martha!" I cried, "It was not a beggar, it was a lady who brought us a thousand pounds for our work." Even now these delightful things happen from time to time. On 1st October, 1923, I had £1,000 brought to me for the N.U.S.E.C. in the same totally unexpected way, and in November of the same year another thousand pounds for our London Society for Women's Service, from an entirely different source. I look upon these wonderful events as just my luck, and I now am beginning to expect £1,000 once a month.

1883 and 1885.

These were notable years in the history of the women's movement. In 1883, after long and intensive work in the country, carried on with never failing devotion and thoroughness, Josephine Butler had her first great victory in her campaign against the C. D. Acts. The operation of these Acts was suspended by Parliament in 1883, and they were totally repealed in 1886. A vivid report of the scene in the House of Commons on the earlier date is contained in the *Life of Josephine Butler*, by G. W. and L. A. Johnson, pp. 170-85.

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several months.

Mrs. Butler and her more active workers, on the night the division was expected, had hired a room close to Palace Yard, and here they kept up continuous prayer for the success of Mr. Hopwood's motion condemning the Acts. A venerable lady from America rose at this prayer meeting and said, "Tears are good, prayers are better, but we should get on better if, behind every tear there was a vote at the ballot box." A little earlier, John Morley had entered the house for the first time to take his seat after his election for Newcastle. Mrs. Butler alludes to this in a letter to her son, saying that the first thing he did, after taking the oath, was to sit down by Mr. Hopwood and say, "Now tell me what I can do to help you to-night, for the thing our Newcastle electors were most positive about was that I should oppose this legislation." There was a most strenuous worker in Newcastle against the C. D. Acts, Mrs. Spence Watson, whom John Morley knew intimately. Years after, when the expression "The beauty of Holiness" was used in his presence, he remarked that he did not know exactly how to define it, but he recognized it when he saw it in the face of Mrs. Spence Watson. (See *Quarterly Review* article on Lord Morley, January, 1924.) When the day of the actual fight in the House came, in 1883, Mrs. Butler was sitting almost breathless in the Ladies' Gallery, when the Steward of the Gallery crept quietly behind her chair and whispered, "I think you are going to win." Such a course was most unusual, as the officers of the House are supposed never to show any political bias or to belong to any party; nevertheless, Mrs. Butler says she could see the irrepressible pleasure on the man's face when he said this. The figures in support of the motion condemning compulsory examination were 182 to 110. The actual repeal of the Acts, as already related, took place in 1886. Mrs. Butler's victory was due to her own spiritual power and her capacity for awakening it in others, both men and women; therefore, although of course at that time there were no women voters, the men of the country in large numbers had taken an active part in her crusade against the Acts, and there were consequently many M.P.'s who, whatever their own personal opinions might be, were constrained to vote for the suspension, and three years later for the repeal, of the Acts. Mr. Hopwood said that, as the division approached, several members came to him and said they must vote with him although their own feelings with regard to the Acts were unchanged.

One said, "It is a strange thing that people care so much about this question. All my leading constituents have asked me to vote with you." Another, a military man, said, "Well, you have extraordinary support from the country; it is evident that yours is the winning side." The victory, however, always seems to me the most miraculous ever won in Parliament. The Principles and Powers and the rulers of the darkness of this world were all against Mrs. Butler. But she justified the great passage here in part quoted, in that she took upon her "the whole armour of God and was able to stand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand."

OUR WOMEN M.P.s.

The woman M.P.s have not during the last week taken any part in the debates, but various questions have been put by them. Lady Astor inquired as to the number of houses built under the Housing Act; Lady Terrington as to the supervision exercised over the emigrants from Dr. Barnardo's Homes; and the Duchess of Atholl inquired whether approved service given by teachers in the Dominions could rank for purposes of salary and pension. Her Bill to make provision for the adoption of Children in Scotland has been laid before the House. It is interesting to note that a Bill dealing with the Adoption of Children has been introduced into the House of Lords by the Duke of Atholl.

Outside the House we have only space to mention a thoughtful article by the Duchess of Atholl on "A Women's Party in Parliament" in *The Spectator* of 15th March, and the speech made by Miss Bondfield at the London Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment, in which she emphasized the need for further knowledge as to the opportunities for apprenticeship and the possibilities of different industries for absorbing juvenile labour.

REVIEW.

P.R.

Mr. Humphreys has made an important and practical contribution to the literature of electoral reform in his most recent book on Proportional Representation (Practical Aspects of Electoral Reform, a study of the General Election of 1922, by John H. Humphreys: P. S. King and Son, price 1s.). In the course of it he argues and most lucidly explains the case for P.R., of which he is perhaps the most ardent living exponent. And his argument has the additional weight of being closely related to the political grouping of the present time. We heartily commend it to all those who are making a serious study of the question. But in doing so we would point out that upon one large aspect of the question, its political philosophy, Mr. Humphreys barely touches. What are the fundamental implications and assumptions of his system? Has he not over-emphasized that part of the business of government which concerns the framing of "Measures" at the expense of that part which concerns the continuous direction of administration? Does his system, in absolving the electors from the painful necessity of grouping themselves under one of two or three party banners inscribed with a vague but all-inclusive programme of government, absolve them at the same time from one of the most difficult and responsible acts of democratic citizenship? Is his system calculated to stimulate those political forces which have given us a three party system, and blunt those which are at this moment operating to force us back into our time-honoured mould of "ins and outs"? And if so, what of it? All these are profound and very questionable aspects of the programme which he so ably expounds.

M. D. S.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

MY NATIVE DEVON. By the Hon. John Fortescue. (Macmillan. 10s. 6d.)

An intimate record of old times and old types in North Devon, of sport and village life, and the history of the Devonshire Regiment. Personal reminiscence is linked with tradition, and the sense of continuity is vividly brought home to the reader.

TALES OF TIRAH AND LESSER TIBET. By Lilian A. Starr. (Hodder & Stoughton. 6s.)

In this book, written for the benefit of her missionary hospital, Mrs. Starr tells the story of the rescue of Miss Ellis. There are forewords by Lord Rawlinson and Sir John Maffey, who asked her to undertake this dangerous quest at a moment when no armed force could have availed.

MEDIAEVAL ENGLAND. Edited by H. W. C. Davies. (Milford. 21s.)

This is a new edition of Barnard's *Companion to English History*. It contains some important new material, including chapters on Monasticism, the Mendicant Orders, and the Secular Clergy by different authors. The illustrations are excellent.

THE BAZAAR. By Martin Armstrong. (Cape. 7s. 6d.)

A collection of short stories. The author has a natural sympathy with those whose lives are thwarted, but he can also be humorous and analytical. Many of the stories are written with great charm.

WOMEN ENGINEERS.

The second International Conference of Women Engineers will take place in Manchester from 2nd to 5th April of this year. British, American, and Belgian Women Engineers will read papers to the Conference, and visits will be paid to local engineering works and a cotton mill. A special trip on the Manchester Ship Canal has been arranged for the Saturday morning. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress are giving a reception at the Town Hall in honour of the guests.

NEXT WEEK.—A NEW FEATURE.

Next week we propose to print in full the names of the members of Standing Committee A with the fifteen members added for the consideration of the Representation of the People Act. We also announce a review on Miss Rathbone's book, published to-day, entitled *The Disinherited Family*. Other articles will deal with the Separate Taxation of Married Persons and new publications of interest to women. Those desiring additional copies should communicate at once with the Manager.

THE LAW AT WORK.¹

A LEAGUE OF HONOUR.

We cannot leave the subject of the Prison Commissioners' Report without some account of the League of Honour which has been started in Nottingham Prison by Mrs. Dowson, J.P. The idea originated with a lecture given in Nottingham by Mr. Mott Osborne, the well-known prison reformer, who has himself been Governor in succession of two of the largest American prisons. He spoke of the Mutual Welfare League which had been started under his auspices at Sing Sing Prison, New York, and as a result of the interest aroused, and with the support of the Prison Commissioners, two Leagues of Honour were formed among the prisoners in Nottingham gaol, one for Star and Second Division men and one for ordinary prisoners. Mr. Mott Osborne believes in one League for all, as he values the help of the better prisoners in raising the level of the worse, but English ideas have gone on the lines of classification, and a rough division has been adopted in the hope that thereby the younger men, and those with good antecedents may be saved from contamination by the more hardened offenders.

The Governor's authority is supreme in all that pertains to the League, but, subject to this, it is managed by a committee of prisoners who make themselves responsible for good order at the meetings, which take place weekly for an hour or two after tea; the committee also recommend to the Governor those whom they consider should be admitted as members of the League. Membership involves an obligation to observe all the rules and regulations of the prison, and the privilege of membership is to attend the weekly meetings. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the meetings (bearing in mind the usually accepted view as to prison discipline) is that neither the Governor nor a single warden is present. The Chaplain is there, and a Clerk who gives out books and games, and Mrs. Dowson, the founder, attends from time to time. She is always present at the monthly meetings of the committee, to which she has been elected as Chair man by the members. At the weekly meetings of the League the men can converse, or play quiet games, and occasional lectures and debates have also been held. It is satisfactory to know that the men have proved worthy of the confidence placed in them, and the Chaplain says, in speaking of their conduct, "Nothing better can be seen in any Club outside." The League gives the men something to look forward to in the weekly hour of recreation, and the interest that they take in the League and its management keeps up their mentality and prevents that loss of initiative and even of memory which is in many cases a marked feature of prison life.

The League is, we believe, unique in this country, with the single exception of Dorchester Prison, where something on the same lines has been started. It owes its success largely to the energy of Mrs. Dowson, and may be spoken of as one of the first fruits of the appointment of women as magistrates. There seems no reason why something on these lines should not be started in all prisons where voluntary helpers can be found to co-operate with the Governor and Chaplain.

There could perhaps be no greater condemnation of our prison system than the fact that we have to describe such an effort as this as something striking and unprecedented. It shows what a short way we have gone and what a long way we have to travel. To make the prisoner an active agent in his own rehabilitation is our aim; he is at present the passive recipient of the ministrations—often quite kindly—of those who are placed over him. As a result of the latest reforms he now has small comforts such as a collar and tie, a looking-glass, a shelf for photographs, and the use of a safety-razor. We heartily welcome these concessions as tending to remove some of the degrading influences of prison life. But how far do they serve to brace and strengthen a man's will so as to give him more courage and self-reliance and ability to keep on the straight road? The task of achieving this is a difficult and risky one, and is going to make many demands on the faith and courage of those who undertake it. At least the League of Honour at Nottingham, even though its activities are confined to an hour or two in the week, is a definite step—in the right direction.

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Ruckham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

PENALISING MOTHERHOOD.

The truth has been dinned into us during late years from Press and pulpit and platform that children are the greatest asset of the State, and the ideal is held up to us of a city full of girls and boys. Yet singularly little is done to render the position of the mother easier, and much is done in the contrary direction. A striking instance of this has recently occurred in Northern Ireland. The employment of married women teachers has always been recognized here, and the young women choosing that profession do so with the knowledge that marriage will not be a ground for dismissal. The Education Code has provided that a married teacher may engage a substitute for a month before and a month after confinement, and therefore does not consider that contingency a ground for dismissal. Yet in October last a married teacher in a country town was dismissed on the ground that motherhood rendered retention of her service undesirable, though she had complied with the rule as to engagement of a substitute. The new Education Act also provides for an inquiry in cases where unjust dismissal is charged against the manager, but this inquiry has been refused by the Ministry without reason being given. It is a case of special injustice, as the lady's husband, owing to ill-health, cannot fully support wife and child, and before marriage the lady herself supported a widowed mother. The matter is being pressed by the teachers' organization and by the Advisory Council, an instance of co-operation between a professional and a purely feminist organization.

BELFAST WOMEN CITIZENS' UNION.

This Union held its twelfth annual meeting, a figure which includes the years when it was known as the Belfast Women's Suffrage Society. The work of the Society has greatly increased, as legislation dealing with social reform will now be mainly in the hands of the Northern Parliament. At the same time, Northern Ireland sends fifteen members to the Imperial Parliament, and it is therefore necessary to keep constant watch on the voting lists. Some idea of the work of the Union will be gained from a list of the three first-class measures passed by the Northern Parliament during last year—the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the Education Act, and the Intoxicating Liquor Act, this last containing a clause prohibiting the sale of drink to young persons under eighteen. The Education Act provides for the first time for an educational service in Northern Ireland, thus opening the way for women to administrative posts and to take their share on the Education Committees. The restriction of opportunity still existing can be guessed from the fact that, in spite of all possible pressure, the Belfast Education Committee, charged with the entire reorganization of primary education in the city, only includes two women among its twenty-one members. This led to the appeal made at the annual meeting for greater solidarity among women. The proportion of those who do not exercise the franchise is still far too high. The members were urged to exert themselves to remedy this grave defect and to realize the first duty of citizenship, while the duty of the woman citizen as such is to do all in her power to aid the struggle for equal opportunity.

At the same time the graver questions, which affect more than Ulster, have also been studied. Meetings have been held in connection with the Belfast branch of the League of Nations Union, and the developments of the feminist movement in Great Britain are closely watched through addresses by special speakers. The Union has also taken an active part in the work of the Advisory Council, which it was instrumental in organizing when enfranchisement rendered such a step possible. A marked change in the attitude of the local Press was reported, as full space is now given to matters of concern to women. Here, as elsewhere, the need for such an organization of women citizens is becoming more and more evident, as women learn slowly that only by organization and co-operation can progress be made.

THE WESTMINSTER BY-ELECTION.

Deputations of Women Voters arranged by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship were received by all four candidates on Tuesday and Wednesday, 11th and 12th March, on which the following organizations were represented: the National Council of Women, the London Society for Women's Service, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Westminster Women's Co-operative Guild, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Guildhouse Women Citizen's Association, as well as

individual voters. The views of the candidates were asked on certain questions, on which there is a large amount of unanimity among organized women, including Equal Franchise for Men and Women, Equal Pay and Opportunities in the Professions, Pensions for Civilian Widows with Dependent Children, Equal Guardianship of Children, and other matters providing for equality in the law between men and women.

Mr. Fenner Brockway, who has for many years been a warm supporter of the women's movement, answered every question in the affirmative and showed a considerable knowledge of the issues involved. Mr. Winston Churchill agreed to the principle of Equal Franchise qualifications for men and women, but considered that it was too soon to add a large number of women to the electorate "in view of the fact that the electorate was still so disorganized." Mr. Churchill gave favourable replies to all the other questions, with the following qualifications. He is in favour of Pensions for Civilian Widows with Dependent Children, if the financial position of the country permits. He is against raising the age of consent to 18, but in favour of the alteration of the present Solicitation Laws. He is in favour of legislation to make compulsory the appointment of Women Police in areas where necessity is shown. Mr. Scott Duckers is in agreement with all questions, except that in the case of Pensions for Civilian Widows with Dependent Children he must be satisfied that it would not mean a financial burden to the country. He gave no definite pledge with regard to the complete abolition of the Solicitation Laws. Mr. Otho Nicholson is prepared to vote for Equality in the Franchise, but prefers that the age for both sexes should be raised to 25. He is prepared to give pensions to Civilian Widows with Dependent Children when the financial condition of the country permits. He is not in favour of full powers for Women Police, nor is he prepared to support legislation to make illegal the compulsory retirement on marriage of women employed by the State or by Local Authorities. He is, however, in complete agreement with all the other points raised.

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. HUBBARD.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th March.

Applications for delegates' or visitors' tickets (1s. per day or 3s. for the whole Council), or for cards for the luncheon or reception, should be sent in as soon as possible. As will be seen from the agenda, matters of great importance to the future of the Union, including the extension of its object, will be under discussion, and a record attendance of delegates and visitors is hoped for.

The Public Luncheon.

There are still some vacancies for the luncheon, and we hope suffragists from all parts will rally on this occasion in honour of Mrs. Fawcett, our new Women Members, and others who have given us distinguished help in both Houses of Parliament during the past year. (Cards for members, 5s.; non-members, 7s. 6d.; coffee and speeches only, 1s.)

The Evening Reception—An International Party.

We hope all members of the Council will remain for the reception on Friday, 28th March, at Bedford College, at 8.30 p.m., when Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, and distinguished representatives from overseas and foreign countries will be guests of honour. We hope this gathering will afford an opportunity for members of different Societies to meet each other, and suggest that all delegates should wear a card with their name and that of their Society, and that no introductions will be necessary. All interested, whether members or not, will be warmly welcomed. (Invitation cards for non-delegates, 2s. 6d. on application.)

The Council Time-table.

For fuller particulars see "Forthcoming Events." Copies of the agenda, with the approximate time for discussion of particular subjects marked, may be had on application (4d.). Our members will be interested to note that Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., as member of our Executive Committee, will herself move

the resolution on Equal Guardianship at the close of the morning on Thursday, 27th March, immediately before the Public Luncheon.

The Officers' Conference.

The Officers' Conference, to which all members are invited, will mainly consist of short reports from Societies of the successes and difficulties of the year. We earnestly beg all our active Societies to see that they are represented on this occasion.

BARNESLEY S.E.C., 12th March.

Mr. George Glover Alexander kindly gave his postponed address on "The Improvement in the Position of Women since the days of Queen Elizabeth." He traced clearly the developments in Women's Economic Freedom up to the present time, and gave interesting examples from his personal professional experience to illustrate the working of the various Acts which have secured to women their present "Semi-emancipation." Dr. Francis kindly presided.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

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

More information has now been received about the Congress of the Women's International League, to be held in Washington from 1st to 7th May.

The general subject will be "A New International Order." Actual conditions in Europe will be presented, and methods to break the present deadlock will be discussed, leading to plans for permanent peace and a new International Order. A tentative programme is announced as follows:

Thursday, 1st May, 9 p.m.—Reception in honour of the International Board of Officers, to which the President and the Government and Foreign Embassy officials will be invited.

Saturday, 3rd May, 7 p.m.—Dinner in honour of delegates, followed by speeches.

Sunday, 4th May.—Open-air meeting, "International Ideals of Youth," organized by the young people.

Wednesday, 7th May.—Closing mass meeting of the Congress, with resolutions presented and a forward message from our International President, Jane Addams.

Business sessions of the Congress will be held each morning from 10 to 1 o'clock. The afternoons will be open for committee meetings and social functions, when members from all over the world may become better acquainted with each other.

Miss Jane Addams will preside throughout the Congress, and the meetings will be held in the Hall of Nations, Washington Hotel, which is at the disposal of the W.I.L. through the courtesy of the management.

The Congress will be followed by an International Summer School at Chicago, 17th-31st May, at which the general subject will be "Human Factors in Internationalism."

Further details about the Congress and about the Summer School, travelling arrangements, etc., can be obtained from the Secretary of the British Section, 55 Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CONTENTIOUS PROVISOR.

MADAM.—Permit me to add to Miss Picton-Turbervill's able article upon the Legitimacy Bill a few observations. There is, as she states, much difference between legitimizing the offspring of a pre-nuptial unchastity, a child conceived in the expectation of a marriage and the legitimization of what the law very bluntly calls "the adulterine bastard"—the child born where one of the parents (and sometimes both) has been unfaithful to the marriage tie.

Perhaps those who, like myself, are engaged in the practical aspect of the dissolutions of marriage can better than most others estimate how enormously strong would be the pressure applied upon a barren wife whose husband had become a father by another woman to free him and enable him to legitimize the child. I need not stress this much, for Miss Picton-Turbervill put it so plainly. But I will presume to carry her argument a step further. Have those who favour, as Miss Musson appears to do, the legitimization of the adulterine bastard visualized the probability where the husband has successfully concealed his amours from his wife and has no intention of jeopardizing the reputation of his mistress by making her adultery subject to open evidence in Court in order to divorce his wife? To put the matter plainly, we are providing a new motive for murder. In my opinion it would not be a slight one and it would not long be an unused one. The passion for paternity in men is far stronger than many women can be got to realize or admit. (There was a curious illustration of this recently at the Old Bailey, where the hero of three concurrent marriages, and a fourth contemplated one, persisted in alluding to the second "wife" as his "real wife"—because she was the mother of a child by him. The bigamist often takes this view.)

There is, however, small open satisfaction to be gained from the paternity of an illegitimate child. It will be far safer for barren married women to make their sterility after an agreed period of years an open and legal cause for divorce by their husbands than to pass a law for the legitimization of the adulterine bastard by a subsequent marriage of its parents. Such a law seems to me to be against public policy.

Miss Musson stated (if I remember correctly) that England lived under Roman Law until 1264 or some such date. This is not true. England has never lived under Roman Law, and when at a great Assize at Merton the Bishops tried to induce the English barons to introduce the Canon Law practice of legitimization of children born before wedlock by a subsequent marriage the barons all refused, saying, "Nolumus leges Anglie mutare"—(We will not change the laws of England). The possibility of legitimizing the adulterine bastard could hardly have entered the bishops' heads, for two reasons. One was that divorce did not exist

(only the annulment of marriage); the other was that the Church looked upon the marriage of the unmarried parents as an act of reparation to herself and to God for a sin committed—little, if at all, in the light of the welfare of the child. In many countries to-day where subsequent marriages legitimize offspring two other conditions are often present—either divorce is an unknown institution; or if it is allowed, the marriage of an adulterous pair as a sequel to a divorce is prohibited.

Legitimization is at best merely a legal fiction, for if children have been conceived before wedlock, they have been; and when they grow up a comparison of the dates of their birth certificates and of their parents' marriage will soon reveal the truth. I agree that it is better, as a rule, that such parents should marry, and wise to arrange that even illegitimate children may have a reasonable share in what their fathers and mothers may leave. But the illegitimacy statistics of this country compare favourably with those of the rest of the world, particularly with those countries which legitimize by subsequent marriage, such as Scotland. It is very easy for those who like Miss Musson hear continuously the stories as from one angle to overlook what a very real deterrent the stigma of illegitimacy is in keeping a large number of people chaste for fear of bringing unwanted children into the world.

Nor need one enlarge how much easier legitimization legislation will render the seduction of too-trusting girls.

HELENA NORMANTON.

THE COMPLEAT CHILD.

MADAM.—Last week I wrote from the point of view of one who thoroughly agrees with Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith about the necessity for spiritual education, and suggested that, from the point of view of those who do not agree, she had rather begged the question. This week I see, not, I confess, without a slight feeling of relief, that those on the other side are quite as apt to fall into question-begging as we are. Your correspondent, "A Parent," urges that children should be brought up with perfectly open minds in regard to the "various religions," so that, when they grow up they should be perfectly free to adopt the creed best suited to themselves. Would she also advocate that they should be brought up with perfectly open minds as to whether the world is round or flat, whether fire burns and whether stealing is, or is not, a good thing? If not, it is absurd to urge us, who believe that Christianity is true as we believe that fire burns, to bring up our children with an open mind about it.

Your other correspondent, "X.Y.Z.," complains that "orthodox people" cannot understand "that disbelief is as irresistible a conviction as faith." I fear that the attitude of some Christians gives ground for her complaint; but, on the other hand we Church people sometimes find it hard that so many Agnostics will not understand that we really believe in our Belief.

MARGARET CLARE.

HOUSING FINANCE.

MADAM.—Miss Neilans in her letter of 29th February referred to Mr. Wheatley being quoted as saying "that the houses needed could be built by municipalities borrowing capital without interest," and goes on to say, "but possibly what Mr. Wheatley said was credit without interest—a different thing."

Like many other citizens of Glasgow, I have heard Mr. Wheatley speak in no uncertain voice on capital being used without interest, and of those who owned investments as "usurers." M. J. B.

MADAM.—I must thank you for your editorial note on my letter re a Government credit for housing, but should like more information.

You state that if the Government were to create an interest-free credit to finance the initial outlay on housing this would be inflation even if the houses remained the property of the Government or Local Authorities. May I ask in the first place what is inflation? The gold standard no longer functions. What, then, is the test of inflation? Mr. McKenna says "as soon as there is sufficient money to carry the full volume of production of which the nation is capable no more should be created." Have we reached that limit?

The houses we need will mostly be built by loans in any case, so that new purchasing power will have to be issued before the goods and services materialize. Presuming that the necessary credits are repayable, why is it inflation for the Government to create housing credits and not inflation when the banks create credits?

When one of the most responsible and experienced bankers of the day tells us that the present terrible unemployment and the trade slump is largely due to our monetary policy, ought we not to study these questions and try to understand what is meant by "inflation" and "deflation." As Mr. McKenna has pointed out, the creation of a self-liquidating credit "as a result of which more goods are brought into existence and placed upon the market" is not inflation and he goes on to say "whatever name we give to this expansion of credit, it is indispensable to the proper functioning of our commercial system, and is imperatively needed when trade is depressed and unemployment general." ALISON NEILANS.

VOTES FOR WOMEN NOW!

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold a PUBLIC MEETING at ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, on THURSDAY, 27th MARCH, at 8 p.m.

to demand that the Government shall give immediate facilities to Mr. Adamson's

EQUAL FRANCHISE BILL

Speakers:—LADY TERRINGTON, M.P. (Parliamentary engagements permitting), MISS URSULA WILLIAMS (Women's National Liberal Federation, and Candidate for Consett, Durham, at last General Election), DR. HANSON (League of Church Militant), MISS HORAN (National Union of General Workers, Women's Section), MISS MARGUERITE FEDDEN (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), MISS F. E. JAMES (Federation of Women Civil Servants), MISS ANNA MUNKO (Women's Freedom League), and others to be announced later.

Chairman:—MRS. MUSTARD.
Come in Crowds! Reserved and Numbered Seats, 2/6; Reserved, 1/- Admission Free. Collection.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W.1.

APRIL 5. All day Conference on "Housing." (Preliminary notice.)

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

MARCH 31. 3-4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. "The Future of the Backward Races." Mr. F. W. Walker, Managing Director of the Papuan Industries, Ltd.

INDUSTRIAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

MARCH 26. 5.30 p.m. Fellowship House, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster. Third Conference on "Women and Girls in Factories." Subject: "History of Factory Legislation." Speaker: Miss Constance Smith, O.B.E. Chair: Lady Astor, M.P.

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

MARCH 27. 8 p.m. Informal discussion.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

APRIL 7. Jumble Sale to be held at Bosworth Hall, Bosworth Road, Kensal Road, N. Kensington, W. 10, in aid of funds of British Overseas Committee at British Empire Exhibition. Parcels marked B.O.C. Jumble Sale to be sent to Miss Hoe, 75 Hereford Road, Westbourne Grove, W. 2.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, 10.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m., 26th, 27th, 28th March, at London Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. Wednesday, 26th March, Urgency Resolutions; 10.30 a.m., Presidential Address; 2.30 p.m., Resolutions on Equal Moral Standard. Thursday, 27th March, 10.30 a.m., Equal Guardianship introduced by Mrs. Whittingham, M.P., etc.; 2.30 p.m., Resolutions on Women Police. Friday, 28th March, all day, Resolutions, Discussions of Policy, etc.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

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ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

TO LET AND WANTED.

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.

NORTH DEVON.—Guests received beautiful old manor house; special terms workers. In reach all noted beauty spots. Farm produce.—Tabor, Lee House, Marwood, N. Devon.

SMALL HOUSE, near House of Commons, toilet, furnished, for April. Four bedrooms, labour-saving arrangements, with or without housekeeper, very low rent to good tenant.—Apply, Box 1051A, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

SMALL furnished flat wanted, July. London. Two bedrooms, one sitting-room.—Box 1052, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

COMFORTABLE BOARD RESIDENCE, lady's own house, near New Cross; terms moderate.—H., 1 Shandon Place, Vesta Road, Brockley, S.E. 4.

A LADY with Office (W. 1.) would share with another lady.—Box 1,055, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PICTURESQUE BRITANNY.—Comfortable home for paying guests or children. Beautiful country, quaint costumes and customs; good French, good schools. English, Scotch, French references. Terms from 10 gns. monthly.—Address, Madame E. Masson, Route de Talcoët, Pontivy, Morbihan, France.

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, Holborn 2346. (Established 1908. Founded and managed entirely by women experts.)

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, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1, the only Income Tax Agency owned and managed by a woman. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

IRISH LINEN PILLOW-CASES.—Plain linen pillow-cases made from real good quality of Irish linen, which we can recommend. Four plain cases, size 20x30in. for 14s. 0d. Hemstitched linen pillow-cases, real good quality, size 20x30ins., 2 cases for 13s. 0d. 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, trousers, 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.)

THE HAT DOCTOR, removed to 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W. 1, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

HOUSES FOR SALE.

BUNGALOWS, summer or permanent; 3-5 rooms; one ready, £300. View, water, bath, conveniences; freehold land; sandy, healthy; golf; buses. London, 80 miles.—Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

DRESS.

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

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sara, 163 Ebury Street (5 min. Victoria Station). Tel. Ken. 3947. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, S.W. 1. Office closed March 21st-31st. Then address: 16 Marsham Street, Westminster. Opening of Members' Centre to be announced later.

PUBLIC LUNCHEON, 1 for 1.15 p.m., Thursday, 27th March, at the Holborn Restaurant High Holborn, W.C.

EVENING RECEPTION, 8.30 p.m., Friday, 28th March, at Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

OFFICERS' CONFERENCE, 11 a.m., Saturday, 29th March, at London Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C. 1.

LEEDS S.E.C. APRIL 7. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. "What is an Educated Man?" Opener: Mr. A. W. Hodgson (Head Master, St. Mark's Schools).

WESLEYAN METHODIST EDUCATIONAL TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

MARCH 27. 8 p.m. St. John's Hill Wesleyan Church, Wandsworth. Public Temperance Meeting. Speaker: Rev. A. Gordon James. Chairman: W. A. Rushworth, Esq.

MARCH 28. National Conference and Demonstration at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C. 2 p.m. "The Drink Evil in Missionary Lands." Speakers: The Revs. W. J. Noble and Henry Carter. "The United Christian Advance against the Gambling Evil." Speaker: The Rev. E. Benson Perkins. Chairman: The President of the Wesleyan Conference (The Rev. T. Ferrier Hulme, M.A.).

7.30 p.m. Great Temperance Demonstration. Speakers: The President of the Wesleyan Conference (The Rev. T. Ferrier Hulme, M.A.), Lady Astor, M.P., Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P., Mr. Arthur Henderson, Jun., M.P., The Rev. Henry Carter. Chairman: Mr. J. Crowlesmith, J.P.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MARCH 27. 8 p.m. Public Meeting on Equal Franchise at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. Speakers: The Lady Tarrington, M.P., Miss Ursula Williams, Miss Horan, Miss Marguerite Fedden, Miss Anna Munro. Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.

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, 23rd March, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Our Christian Faith: Evolution."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 16L, 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. 27th March: Informal discussion.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.). Entrance Fee, £1 1s. Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10.

Tel.: Kensington 5213.

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"(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.

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