

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
 IN THE HOME

IN INDUSTRY
 IN LITERATURE AND ART

IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

Leagues of Women Voters in America.

Women voters in America are becoming so very active that some politicians are alarmed. President Harding has told the National League of Women Voters that he does not believe in the political organisation of women into a particular group "any more than I believe in such an organisation among any other classes." The President need not worry about this. There will be no political organisation of women as a sex unit, unless it is forced by circumstances. The answer to the President's fears is to give women participation in existing political organisations, for enfranchised persons demand a way for expression. The leagues of women voters are the natural expression of newly enfranchised persons to learn quickly what generations of men have been trying to learn. These organisations meet a demand. They will fulfil it. They will not supersede, and they will not antagonise, existing political organisations—unless those older organisations commit the blunder of closing the doors against women. Wise politicians will commit no such blunder.

Protective Legislation for Women in Brazil.

Sweeping reforms in the conditions of work of women and young persons in Brazil are proposed in Government Bills which have passed their first reading in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies. These Bills are intended, *inter alia*, to give effect to the Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the First International Labour Conference at Washington in 1919 on the subject of the employment of women and young persons. According to the Bill on the employment of women, women's work is prohibited in :—(a) Mines. (b) Establishments for manufacturing inflammable materials, or where specifically unhealthy materials are used, or where the work is prejudicial to feminine constitution. (c) Occupations which, by their nature, are such as to be offensive to modesty or morality. (d) Sunday or holiday work. (e) Night work. "Her wages shall be the exclusive property of the woman, and shall be paid to her direct." Hours of work may not exceed eight a day, which must be broken by a minimum rest of half-an-hour, while each worker is to be entitled to a rest of thirty days before, and forty days after, childbirth at two-thirds wages. During the first month mothers shall have fifteen minutes every two hours for nursing a child. Factories

and workshops where more than ten women are employed shall possess a crèche or nursing room, not more than 200 metres away (100 metres if the road is up hill), "fitted with all necessary comforts and under scrupulously hygienic conditions." The upkeep shall be paid by contributions from the worker who places her child there, and from "the adult unmarried male workers who do not support either a widowed mother, or sisters who are either unmarried or minors." A committee of men and women workers are to administer the crèche or nursing room, and two women who have children there are to be selected, at full pay, to care for the children. "Female young persons shall not be employed as actresses, chorus girls, &c., in circuses, café concerts, or theatres; in dangerous exercises, or exhibitions of strength; as contortionists or acrobats; as strolling players; as animal trainers, or in other callings which might endanger their lives, or injure their health, or which may be of a nature such as to be offensive to morality."

Education Economies.

The Board of Education is doing its best to meet the demand for economy, but any cut in expenditure in this direction is sure to be deplorable. It is said that the Board is in sympathy with the National Union of Teachers' decision to resist any cut in teachers' salaries, especially in regard to the Burnham scales for secondary school teachers. The sympathy, however, does not amount to very much, since it is stated that the Board has decided that if a salary cut is applied by the Geddes Committee to civil servants, it will not hold out against a cut for teachers. The Board of Education's other methods of economising will probably be the exclusion of children under five from the primary schools; the fixing of the admission age for secondary schools at ten; the empowering of local authorities to economise on material for handwork, &c., and the abolition of dual inspection of schools. The L.C.C. Education Committee is also economising, and has decided to discontinue its school journeys. The value of the journeys and their enormous influence for good on poor children in the schools were realised, but it was decided that the cause of education would not be injured materially by dropping the journeys for one year. Opposition to the rumoured reductions is springing up on every side. The General Council

of the Trades Union Congress and the Executive of the Labour Party has passed the following resolution: "That this joint meeting views with profound disappointment the apparent intention of the Government further to reduce expenditure on education, and in particular condemns the decision of the Treasury to reduce the annual universities' grant from £1,500,000 to £1,200,000, which can do virtually nothing to relieve the national finances, but which will be a serious blow to higher education." We shall hear much more of this protest when the Geddes Report is out; and, for our part, we join wholeheartedly in it.

New Children's Courts.

An Order in Council published last week sets up three new Children's Courts in London, making a total of seven in separate buildings from Police Courts. The three new ones are to be the offices of the Bermondsey Guardians, 283, Tooley Street, S.E.; Vernon Chapel, Vernon Square, King's Cross; and Fulham Town Hall.

Indian Women.

Lady Reading has started a fund with the threefold purpose of raising additional income for the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women, of starting a hospital for Indian women and children in the Hills, and of creating an All-India Nursing Association for Indians. We hope she will be successful, for all these things are very necessary in India.

The Needs and Dangers of Youth.

That juvenile delinquency has fallen to pre-war level is one of the encouraging statements made in the just-issued Report of the State Children's Association (53, Victoria Street, S.W.1) for 1920-21. Among the reasons for this decline in youthful wrongdoing the Association notes the activities of the Juvenile Organisations Committees, who seek to provide healthy occupation for the eager minds and physical energies of adolescents (it is in adolescence that most juvenile delinquency takes place) and a general advance in thought, which now seeks for the causes of anti-social acts in youth and desires rather to remove them than to visit affliction upon young offenders. The Association looks with abhorrence upon the sending to prison of boys and girls between 14 and 16, as well as the committal to prison of juveniles—persons between 16 and 21. "Except the sending of an innocent person to prison," says the Report, "there is no greater mistake than the imposition of these sentences of imprisonment, often for a month or less, which can have no possible effect on the offenders save to thrust them further into wrong-doing. The Association will not be satisfied until the prison door is permanently barred against these amateurs in life, whose circumstances have impeded their recognition of the right way." The numbers of Poor Law children reared under various methods, the growth of the Scattered Homes system, which gives to such children some experience of home life and training, the means taken by some Boards of Guardians to mitigate the monotony of institutional upbringing, and the advantages of emigrating suitable rate-supported children under careful supervision to Canada are amongst the subjects dealt with in the Report, which also touches on the need for the legalised adoption of children, at present impossible in this country.

A Woman Rent-Collector.

The Amersham Rural District Council may be congratulated on having made a fresh departure by the appointment of a woman as Rent Collector and Estate Manager under their new Housing Scheme. This scheme provides for the erection of over two hundred houses in nine different parishes, about one-third of which are now ready for occupation. The post was advertised in one or two papers, no mention being made as to the sex of applicants; there were sixty-four replies, three of which were from women; of these candidates five were selected for interview on the strength of their qualifications, including two of the women, and finally the choice of the Rural District Council fell upon Miss Sarah Geldard, who began her duties last month. The appointment indicates that the Amersham Rural District Council recognises the value of training for the work of cottage property management, which the Association of Women House Property Managers has been insisting upon for some years. Miss Geldard, who is a member of the Association and holds their Assistant's Certificate, was trained chiefly on the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' estate at Walworth, and worked afterwards for the Ministry of Munitions Temporary Housing Scheme. The two other women applicants are also qualified members of the Women House Property Managers' Association, 48, Dover Street, W.1.

Milk and Municipal Dinners for Mothers.

The Minister of Health has asked local authorities to submit a statement showing the expenditure which it is estimated would be incurred during 1922-23 on the supply of a mid-day meal to expectant and nursing mothers. No supplementary expenditure is to be incurred in providing premises, and the cost of the meal to the local authority should not as a rule exceed 6d. per head; the women are to be required to attend with reasonable regularity, and meals must be consumed on the premises except immediately before or after confinement. As regards the supply of milk for expectant and nursing mothers, the circular states that the estimated expenditure for the present year will be £400,000. On the administrative side the Minister is not satisfied that the milk now supplied to mothers is always consumed by the person for whom it is intended, and he is doubtful whether the general administration of the service is as strict as it might be. Care in administration is all to the good; but we trust nothing will be done which will lessen the benefits the mothers get from this form of help. If the mothers are underfed and weak what chance can the next generation have?

Pensions Advisory Committee.

The Minister of Pensions has appointed a Central Advisory Committee under the War Pensions Act of 1921. Miss E. Kelly, C.B.E., J.P., one of the non-official members, is the only woman on the Committee, of which Mr. Ian Macpherson is President, and Major G. C. Tryon is Chairman. There are nine other non-official members and six officials of the Ministry. We congratulate Miss Kelly on her appointment.

Nursing Diplomas.

In spite of opposition from the Poor Law Guardians, the nurses in the employment of local authorities are getting the higher education they demand. The University of Leeds has conferred its diploma upon Miss E. S. Innes, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent of the Leeds General Infirmary, and the first examination for the Nursing Diploma is being held this month. The course and examination will cost a nurse £10.

Motherhood Endowment.

The Motherhood Endowment Bill has been formally introduced by the Labour Government in the New South Wales Parliament. Where the income of the parents is in excess of the living wage, plus an addition of 6s. for each child above two, no payment will be made; but where the income and the added money do not reach the amount provided for, the difference is to be made up. Payments are not to be made in respect of children not maintained by the parents. In the event of the mother dying, payments may be made to an approved person. Payments will be made to meet the cases of children whose mother is dead or who are not being maintained by the mother. Widows who are the mothers of one or more children, provided their incomes do not exceed an amount laid down under the basis already referred to, are to receive 6s. a week in respect to each child. The term widow will include deserted wives or a woman whose husband is incapacitated from work by physical or mental disability, or is imprisoned.

Ourselves.

The third list brings our gifts over the first £100, and it is with great gratitude to the donors that we print it. Now we hope that our fourth list will touch the £150 mark, and we beg our readers to keep us in mind when settling up their money affairs at the end of the year!

	THIRD LIST.	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	...	91	19	0
Miss Trigelles	...	0	5	0
The Misses Hertz	...	2	0	0
Miss M. S. Walters	...	0	5	0
Miss M. A. Taylor	...	0	5	0
Mrs. Peter Bennett	...	1	1	0
Bradford S.E.C.	...	5	0	0
Mrs. George Cadbury	...	5	0	0
Miss A. E. Dumbleton	...	0	2	6
		£105	17	6

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.

WORLD PEACE.

This is the Christmas season, when peace and goodwill should be in the air. It is the time when our public and our private thoughts most turn towards sympathy and good fellowship, and when we most want to believe that all is well with the world. Can we, at the end of this year, 1921, really believe that it is?

If we look at the political, the social, or the economic state of the world to-day, we can hardly say that it is good. Chaos and famine prevail over great portions of Europe. Two great nations are entirely bankrupt, and a third is but tottering on the edge. War still smoulders in the Near East, and murders and massacres are still of frequent occurrence. Whole peoples live in disorder and dismay, and everywhere the heavy aftermath of the war presses upon mankind. The social order seems to be on the brink of upheaval; the poor and the unemployed are rightly discontented; the rich and the powerful are rightly afraid. Capitalism is so hard hit that it scarcely operates; labour is so disturbed that it barely works. And amidst all this, mankind struggles, apparently without making much headway, to preserve the civilisation that it has known.

The old jealousies and the old fears are alive, and the old interests are working upon them. Corruption and selfishness, bullying and oppression, are plain to be seen, and, looking about at the actual facts of the world, it is difficult to believe that it is good.

Nevertheless there is another aspect, and there are other things to be seen. For the whole world has been touched with a new ideal since 1914. In spite of the chaos, the ruin, the violence and the wickedness which are all around us, this ideal has been steadily gaining ground, and it is, of course, the same ideal as that of the first Christmas. "Peace on Earth" is what humanity longs for to-day, and "Goodwill to men" is now known to be the means by which to find it. And the actions of the world have begun, tentatively and timidly, but quite definitely, to turn their steps towards it. Slowly as yet, but quite obviously, they are turning away from the dangerous strife-producing expedients of the Balance of Power, of Secret Treaties, of inconsiderate expansions; slowly, but quite genuinely, they are replacing these things by open conference, by mutual consultation, and by a measure of international trust. The Washington Conference, with its great promise for the East, and the League of Nations, with its tried and serviceable machinery, are both evidences of this new spirit, and the Irish settlement, which is the greatest of all Christmas gifts to these islands, is a brilliant example of the same thing. War and bloodshed, which were the natural consequence of serious political disagreement before, are now so hateful and so bitterly repugnant that every effort is made to understand and to compose the dispute. When this practice spreads, as it will spread, from the peoples within one family of nations to all the nations within the human race, then the reign of peace will have begun. Understanding breeds goodwill among peoples of honest purpose, and even if their interests genuinely clash, goodwill is the antidote to war.

There are some who say that, be goodwill as prevalent as it may be, so long as armaments exist men will use them. To these materialists also, this Christmas brings hope. Through the success at Washington a serious effort at world disarmament has now begun, and although it has as yet gone but a little way, and that little along the easiest road, yet it is always the first step which counts. For the Great Powers of the world to recognise a duty to each other in this respect is an almost unbelievable advance, and with public opinion as active, and finance as pressing as it is throughout the world to-day, there is every reason to expect real progress during the coming year. We can, therefore, rejoice this Christmas, and take heart, and it is even our duty to do it. Not that the world is good, nor even that peace is here; for neither of these things are true. But the way of peace lies open before us, and our faces are turned in that direction, and if we will, and if we insist, the peace of the world may yet be secured.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The brief session of Parliament which was devoted to the Irish resolutions was of historic importance. Opening, as it did, with all the pomp and panoply of the Speech from the Throne, it was carried on at a pitch of sincerity and eloquence not often concentrated into three Parliamentary days. In the House of Lords the outstanding event was Lord Carson's attack upon the settlement and upon Lord Curzon for promoting it, which, for sustained violence and venom, has seldom been equalled even within those plain-spoken halls. The reply of the Lord Chancellor was eagerly awaited, and members from the Lower House crowded in to hear what proved in the event to be a very sober and temperate answer. In the Commons Mr. Winston Churchill easily carried off the palm of eloquence, making one of those fine flights which he reserves for great occasions. Mr. Bonar Law, who was welcomed back with very genuine satisfaction on all sides, contributed a careful unenthusiastic speech which, by its support for the settlement, removed the last hope of the Die-Hard group. These people, however, continued to talk, and the House continued to listen, as in duty bound. But everyone knew that they and their cause were already doomed, and it was but funeral orations they were making. Throughout the brief session, however, news from Ireland itself kept coming in, and the prospects of the agreement of Ulster and the Dail both seemed in constant jeopardy. The situation has been, and is now, grave enough in both sections of the country; but unless they are all mad together the thing is substantially done, no matter how fierce a blast blows from the trumpets of Erin. Without the English Unionists Ulster cannot be utterly recalcitrant; without American gold Sinn Fein cannot hold out; and Christmas brings not only the hope but the real expectation of a peace that will last. It is one of the biggest things this country has ever achieved, not because of the intrinsic importance—though that is great—but because of the extreme difficulty of the Irish temperament.

The other political news of the week is almost equally important, though as yet less dramatic. It is now quite clear that Germany must default in her next reparation payments, and that if she is allowed to do so, the French will advance under cover of the Sanctions, and will occupy the Ruhr. How they think this will get money for them is hard to see, but that they do think it is all too clear. The Prime Minister's "Chequers Conference" with M. Briand may have done something, but everyone knows that the only real help the situation can have must be from America; and America doesn't see why she should do it. Some hopes are entertained, however, of a staving off of the trouble for a few months, and then a possible world economic conference in April or May, in which America would be interested. If we could then show that Europe was really helping itself—not just marching and counter-marching its armies about—all might be well. But the position is undoubtedly very grave.

A minor, and yet very important matter, is the report of the Geddes Committee, the substance of whose first report is now known. It is causing a violent tempest in Whitehall, and no wonder! Its attacks upon the military and air establishments will be greatly resisted (as each one of its findings will be), but not, I fancy, by the readers of this paper. I am not sure about the Labour Exchanges, but I am on safe ground in assuming that its proposed reduction in education will be met by violent (and in my judgment well justified) indignation. To go backwards in this particular in the name of economy is pure madness, and we can only hope that Mr. Fisher will have courage enough to fight to the death for what we have still got left—which is so lamentably less than what he promised us during the war. Economy is very easy to talk about, and very hard to effect; but there are good and bad economies, and this is a very bad one.

Parliament has had a chequered year; it ends on a note of achievement and anxiety. It is the note of the post-war world.

[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.]

THE CHILD IN THE MIDST.*

By EDWARD FULLER.



A RUSSIAN WAIF.

One morning a few weeks ago, in the Russian city of Saratov, in one of the streets which clamber up the banks of the Volga—a place of poor, wooden houses, and congested population, where life is an eternal struggle with death—I came across a touching example of a woman's devotion in the midst of famine.

With an official of the local relief committee I was visiting a two-roomed basement dwelling—a miserable place, barely furnished, with its broken windows closed with pieces of board, for there is a famine of glass, too, in Russia. This travesty of a home, I found, was inhabited by a married woman of some refinement and her husband, her younger sister left an orphan and destitute some months previously, and three children.

"Your children?" I asked.

Oh, no. They were not her children—they were dead. These belonged to a neighbour, a widow woman, who had been stricken down with rheumatic fever several weeks ago. The father had been dead two years, and life had been a terrible struggle for the widowed mother and her little ones. Then came the crowning disaster of her being laid aside. The children were left alone in the world—to beg, to steal, to starve, to die.

"I could not leave them like that, now could I?" said their neighbour simply.

So she had brought them into her own rooms and was sharing with them the scanty famine rations earned by her husband, rations already far too small for anything like the proper support of herself, her husband, and her young sister. Day by day they were parting with some of the household goods to eke out the meagre allowance of food—an allowance which the authorities were powerless, owing to the widespread famine, to increase with the increased responsibilities incurred by the woman's kindly act.

As we talked, two of the children—boys of thirteen and twelve—came into the room. They were bright-eyed little fellows, but pinched and starved by long privation. They told me they had been trying to get work, but as usual had had no luck.

"And what do you do all day?" I asked.

Oh, they said, they spent most of the time on the river bank, and if they were lucky they were able to find enough food to eat, and sometimes some to bring home. They admitted that it was often necessary to steal.

"Sometimes," they added, "when the fish is too bad to sell we get it given to us, and—oh, yes—we eat it. You can eat anything when you are always hungry."

The appeal of those unhappy children to that Russian woman was a human appeal, and it did not go unanswered. "She of her want did give all her living." It was an appeal that no mother-hearted woman could resist were it made to her personally—yet such an appeal is being made, day by day, and hour by hour, but because it comes from a distant land we are content, women and men alike, to shut our ears and to harden our hearts against it. Yet how nearly it touches us! The future, not only of Russia, but, in no small degree, of Europe and the world, depends on the fate of the children of Russia to-day.

I do not think I have ever come across a large community of people that has seized more completely on the importance of the child in human life than have the people of Soviet Russia. In the office of the Director of Education in one of the uyezds (or counties) in the famine area on the Volga, I found a large

* See page 559.

coloured cartoon hanging on the wall. It represented a chubby child—an unknown creature, alas! in the real life of famine-stricken Russia to-day—sitting under the Doric portal of "The House of the Future," and the legend underneath was "The children are the future." It is one of the glories of the women's movement that it has never failed to recognise this salient fact of life. In fighting for a proper recognition of the rights of women, it has insisted no less on the rights of the child. It has in some respects led the way towards making eternal Christmas by placing the child in the midst. All child relief work tends to the same end, and work for the children of an alien and remote land may be taken as a supreme example of such efforts. Geographically, culturally—politically too, if children can be charged with having political opinions—the children of Russia are remote from us. But emotionally they are as near to us as those little waifs were to the poor Russian woman who gave them the shelter of her home and the warmth of her love. Whether we will or no, the suffering children of famine-swept Russia will be in our midst this Christmastide.

Not many weeks ago, I was among hordes of these unhappy people—men, women, and children. I found them on the banks of the Volga before that great river became icebound, in the



ENJOYING BRITISH FOOD IN A SAVE THE CHILDREN RELIEF FUND KITCHEN, SARATOV.

railway stations, in great desolate buildings designated "homes" for refugees. There they lay in their rags and dirt—for cleanliness is an impossibility for the famine refugees in Russia to-day—listless and almost silent save for the sob of a child or the muttering of a distracted mother, waiting and longing for death. Often as I have walked among these throngs—a self-conscious intruder among scenes which belong, of human right, to the privacy of the home, but which in this land of tragedy are brought out into the glare of the day—I have seen the living and the dead lying side by side, and little children possessed of a nameless fear calling to those whose ears are sealed in their last long sleep.

That kind of thing is still going on in Russia this Christmastide. For the children, there is a gleam of light and hope. "The English must be very good people," said a little girl to me as she enjoyed the English food provided for her in one of the feeding centres opened by the Save the Children Fund in the Saratov Province. Yes, it is on the "goodness" of the British people that hundreds of thousands of these little ones rely not only for their Christmas dinner, but for the one daily meal which until next harvest will stand between them and death. Can we, among our Christmas joys and luxuries, show less charity than the kindly Russian woman who out of her poverty gave "even all her living?" Can we refuse to hear the call of the Child in the Midst?

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN HOLLAND.
(Concluded.)

With regard to payment, the position of our women is rather worse than some years ago. It is true that a large number of women earn wages which they would never have dreamed of earning in former years, and doubtless Holland is one of the countries where the unjust principle of unequal pay is least practised.

In January, 1920, we obtained the principle of perfect equality for men and women officials in the State service; but not for manual workers in the service of the State. The skilled labourers of both sexes are to get the same salary, but we fear, in practice, they will be few! The unskilled and semi-skilled women (servants and charwomen, seamstresses for mending work) are to earn from 5fl. to 6fl. and 12fl. a week less than the totally unskilled men. Actually, however, even the officials do not receive equal pay, for the lowest grade married man begins with some 300fl. or 400fl. a year more than his female colleague. And in three other ways society is trying to remunerate its women workers on a lower scale than its men workers, without openly forsaking the equal pay principle adopted with so great an enthusiasm during, and directly after the war: (1) By raising the salary of the married officials more frequently than those of the unmarried officials, which means that the salary of the majority of women remains behind that of the majority of men. Sometimes, as in the case of the teachers, a special increase is granted to men when married, widowed, or divorced; to women only when widowed or divorced, and not when married. (2) By granting a low minimum salary to everyone, with additional allowances for married people and (or) for those who have children; a system which tends to make the salary of the single official lower than it would otherwise be. (3) And this is particularly the case in industry and agriculture—by keeping men's and women's work carefully apart, with the intention of paying for the latter on such an inferior scale that, in several of our most important industries the skilled woman earns less than the unskilled man.

Dutch women workers are not very strongly organised; the trade unions of women only are small in membership, and not numerous—with one exception, the society of housewives. In the mixed trade unions the female members, forming but a small percentage, cannot have much influence. Besides that, a great many women, far more generous to their male colleagues than the men are to them, co-operate with the men often to their own detriment. In contrast with the collective conventions in agriculture and industry, where the Social Democrats as well as the religious trade unions demand a different scale of payment for the labourers of either sex, stand the collective conventions in the trading branches and for office work, claiming equal pay for equal work, and, where the work is unequal, at least 80 per cent. of the men's salary for the women.

The vote has not yet brought us any improvement in the economic sphere, but the legal position of women is a little more hopeful, although at present the position is not very favourable, especially for the married woman and the mother. The Dutch wife is still subject to marital authority; for nearly every action she needs the explicit or tacit consent of her husband; she cannot dispose of her property; she may only dispose of her earnings on the understanding that she uses them for the benefit of the family; the parental power is exercised by the father alone.

Moreover, the female citizen, having the vote and being eligible for the Chambers of Labour, has only the vote, not the eligibility, for the Courts of Appeal for the Insurance Laws ("Raden Van Beroep"), and neither vote nor eligibility for the Chambers of Commerce. In our numerous bodies of survey and jurisdiction of the dykes ("Waterschappen"), each autonomous in its own province, a woman hardly ever has the vote.

In the drawing up of authentic deeds she may not be a witness. But this last inequality will soon be remedied, as our Minister of Justice has already taken the necessary preliminary steps. The reform of the Marriage Laws will probably be one of the principal tasks of the next Parliamentary session, which begins in the summer of 1922. All political parties agree that alteration is absolutely necessary, though they certainly differ in the solution of the problem.

In a word, the position of women in Holland is politically all right; socially, tolerably satisfactory; legally, it leaves much room for improvement; economically, worse than ever. What are we feminists to do? To work and wait!

ANNA POLAK.

AN EXTRACT FROM THE DIARY OF
ANOTHER WOMAN IN THE HOME.

Diaries may be trusted to give a far truer picture of the times in which they are written, and of the character of the people living at that time, than any history or biography. Margaret Clare, for instance, has recently given us the secret history of the transition period between the Great War and . . . ? a great deal more clearly than blue books will ever give it. Pepys is not unique. There are others. There is, for instance, a diary locked up in Drummond Castle that is well worth reading, even although it is hoary with age. It is the Journal of one Elizabeth Woodville, written before she became the wife of Sir John Grey, and years before she became the wife of Edward the Fourth and the mother of the little Princes who were murdered in the Tower. She naively describes herself as a virtuous maiden in the house of her parents, and unconsciously shows us that combination of homely wisdom and housewifely skill, learning, and discretion, shrewd sense and sharp tongue, such as have characterised our English women at home in all generations.

"Monday morning: Rose at four o'clock and helped Catherine to milk the cows—Rachel, the other dairymaid, having scalded her hands in so bad a manner the night before; made a poultice for Rachel and gave Robin a penny to get something from the apothecary. Six o'clock: The buttock of beef too much boiled, and the beer a little stale. Mem., to talk with the cook about the first fault, and to attend to the other myself, by tapping a fresh barrel directly. Seven o'clock: Went to walk with the lady my mother in the courtyard; fed twenty-five men and women. Chid Roger severely for expressing some ill-will for attending us with broken meat. Eight o'clock: Went to the paddock behind the house with maid Dorothy, caught Thump the pony myself, and rode a matter of six miles without saddle or bridle. Ten o'clock: Went to dinner."

John Grey was evidently a guest at this dinner, and Elizabeth admits that he was "a most comely youth," but thereafter checks herself by saying that a virtuous maiden should be entirely under the direction of her parents. Still the journal records that: "John ate but little and stole a great many tender looks at me; said women would never be handsome in his opinion who were not good-tempered. I hope my temper is not intolerable? . . ."

"Eleven o'clock: Rose from table, the company all desirous of walking in the fields. John Grey would lift me over every stile, and twice he squeezed my hand with vehemence. . . . I cannot say I should have any objections to John Grey; he plays at prison-bars as well as any of the country gentlemen, and is remarkably dutiful to his parents, my lord and lady, and never misses Church on Sunday. . . ."

"Three o'clock: Poor Farmer Robinson's house burned by accidental fire. . . . John Grey proposed a subscription among the company for the relief of the farmer, and gave no less than four pounds with this benevolent intent. Mem., Never saw him look so comely as at this moment. Four o'clock: Went to prayers, after which my weekly meeting with the farmers' wives and maids. The spirit of Brotherhood makes labour but a joy. Mem., To speak at my next meeting on how love lightens labour and softens pain. Women well combined maketh for knowledge and giveth strength to the nation. . . ."

"Six o'clock: Fed the hogs and poultry. Seven o'clock: Supper on the table, delayed until that hour on account of Farmer Robinson's misfortune. Mem., The goose-pie too much baked, and the pork roasted to rags. Nine o'clock: The company fast asleep; these late hours very disagreeable. Said my prayers a second time (John Grey distracted my thoughts too much the first time). Fell asleep and dreamed of John Grey."

Elizabeth Woodville married Sir John Grey, and it seems to have been a very happy union, but he was killed at the battle of St. Albans. Soon afterwards Elizabeth appealed to Edward the Fourth to restore her husband's estates. The monarch fell in love with the very winsome widow and married her, and she gave him five daughters in addition to the little princes, Edward and Richard. One daughter became the wife of Henry VII.

The value of Elizabeth's diary is in the picture it gives us of the English girl of her time, able to feed hogs and poultry, milk cows, administer a household, discourse to her servants and retainers about philosophy and religion, and take part in local affairs. This brings her into line with Margaret Clare . . . "these opportunities of ours are, after all, only a means to an end. If we really want our children to grow up self-supporting in every sense, we must desire for them that strength of soul without which all equipment is a mere shell." L. H. Y.

A SUSSEX SING-SONG.

By ELEANOR FARJEON.

THE DOWNS.

The Downs are ups as well as downs.
Down they run to the fields and towns,
But up they go to the endless sky,
Where kites and clouds and peewits fly.

CHANCTONBURY RING.

Ring-a-ding Chanctonbury!
What shall I sing?
Beeches on a hill-top
All in a ring,
Green in the morning,
Black in the night,
And burning in the autumn
Like a beacon-light.

THE EWES.

The black-nosed Southdown Ewes do keep
The Southdowns cropped as any lawn.
The grazing of the Sussex sheep
Begins upon the Downs at dawn;
But when the evening sky grows gold,
The Ewes come down again to fold,
And sleep.

THE FLINT.

The Caveman of Sussex he lived on the Chalk,
And "Umph! Umph! Umph!" was his manner of talk.
His tools and his weapons he fashioned of Flint,
Which said as he chipped it, "Chint! Chint! Chint!"
The Caveman of Sussex is long ago dead,
But you'll find if you're lucky his Flint Arrowhead.

THE LONG MAN OF WILMINGTON.

You Long, Long Man of Wilmington,
How long have you been there?—
Before your grandsire's grandsire's grandsire's
Grandsire's sire was seen there.
You Long, Long Man of Wilmington,
How long will you be there?—
Until your grandson's grandson's grandson's
Grandson's son see me there.

THE QUARRIES.

When along the Downs you walk,
You'll find Quarries in the chalk.
Some are caves with treasure strown,
Some are like a white half-moon,
Some are forts and kingly halls,
Some are Moorish city walls,
And one's the cliff o' the world to me,
With tides of grass instead of sea.

THE TUMULUS.

All round the Tumulus
The four winds do blow.
Whom did they bury there,
'Twas long, long ago?
Was it the Roman
Who came as our foe
And tried to conquer Sussex,
'Twas long, long ago?
But the Downs took his heart
Into their heart, so!
And turned it into Sussex dust,
'Twas long, long ago.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Telephone: Museum 6910.

WOMEN IN HOSPITALS.

Our members are asked to assist by promoting a campaign in the Press on the question of Women in Hospitals. The question is many-sided. In the first place, one big Medical School after another is shutting its doors to women students. These students were welcomed during the war when the men students were away and were hard to get, but now that the normal number of men students have returned, women are being shown the door. It is not suggested that women students are in any way unable to maintain the necessary standard. Where this occurs in hospitals with which any of our members are in touch, they are asked to raise a protest, especially in the columns of the Press.

In the same way there are many hospitals taking women and children patients which still have no women either on their governing bodies or on their staffs. Publicity should also be given to these cases, and many may wish to divert their subscriptions elsewhere until this matter is put right.

LONDON AREA GROUP.

A meeting of the recently formed London Area Group was held at Headquarters on December 7th. Representatives were present from Brighton, Farnham, Redhill and Reigate, Islington, Kensington, Croydon, Purley, Canning Town, Godalming, Norwood, Lewisham, Hendon, Union of Jewish Women.

The following provisional constitution was adopted:—

That the London and District Area Group shall consist of affiliated Societies in London, Surrey, Middlesex, Berkshire, or Essex, and two representatives of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Its objects are:—

(a) To hold occasional conferences on methods of organisation, Parliamentary work, &c.

(b) To help in the formation of new Societies or Groups or where these are not possible, securing Local Correspondents.

(c) To supervise the Parliamentary Divisions in the Area and, so far as possible, see that some affiliated Society or Local Correspondent undertakes responsibility for keeping in touch with Members of Parliament, Prospective Candidates, &c.

SALE OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A small Sale of Christmas Presents made by Mrs. Soddy, Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Sutherland, held at Miss Sutherland's house, together with a small private sale held at Headquarters, realised the sum of £46.

GLASGOW S.E.C.

(HILLHEAD CONSTITUENCY.)

On Friday, November 25th, a Drawing-room Meeting, on the invitation of Mrs. Scott (member of the Hillhead Constituency Committee), was held at 8, University Gardens. Miss F. H. Melville, B.D., J.P., was in the chair. Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc., spoke on "Equality of Opportunity in the Professions and in Industry as between Men and Women," and questions and discussion followed. At the close of the meeting a collection was taken for the funds of the Hillhead Constituency Committee, and tea was provided by the courtesy of the hostess.

SCARBOROUGH W.C.A.

The Scarborough W.C.A. commenced its winter campaign by a special service of intercession in Christ Church, conducted by Canon Cecil Cooper, on November 9th. On November 19th, a social evening was held in Walter's Café, when Councillor Miss Brown and Councillor Mrs. Catt gave short addresses on their work on the Town Council. During November, a "White Crusade for Social Purity" week was held in the town, organised by the Scarborough Interdenomination Union. The W.C.A. were asked to arrange the meetings for women, and six successful meetings were organised, the speakers being Dr. Margaret Sharp and Miss Pickard, both of Bradford. The Association has now moved into its new office, 13, Elders Street.

CARDIFF W.C.A.

On Tuesday, November 29th, a well attended meeting of the Cardiff Women Citizens' Society was held at the Friends' Meeting House, when Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, J.P. (Neath), gave a most interesting address on "Prison Reform." The chair was taken by Lady Cory. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant pleaded for an efficient prison system, one that did not work towards a dead end, but that did something to improve our criminals. She contended that though there was little to complain of on the physical side of prison life, yet there was much unnecessary and harmful mental suffering, due principally to the "silence" system and to the monotony of the occupations provided. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant expressed the hope that before long there would be a women's prison with a woman governor and women medical officers.

THE PROFESSIONAL LABOUR-SAVER.

The need for saving all the labour, time, and energy possible in performing the innumerable tasks that fall to the lot of the modern housewife, has paved the way for the latest branch of domestic economy—scientific labour-saving!

A practice in this art has been started in London by Miss Gwynne Howell, a fully qualified teacher of domestic science. This lady devotes her time to the study of ways and means of lightening housework and of planning household management on really businesslike lines. She keeps in touch with all the labour-saving appliances which come along, and personally tests and examines the machines and devices, noting just how efficient they are from the housewife's point of view: whether they are simple in design and in mechanism; easy to keep clean, and whether they do the work better and more quickly than it could be done by any other means. After due testing under ordinary household conditions the appliances are listed as efficient or otherwise, and the approved ones are recommended for use.

The utility of such work is shown in the fact that Miss Gwynne Howell is frequently consulted by the manufacturers of household appliances and her advice sought by professional demonstrators and salesmen. In several instances, sellers of up-to-date washing machines, for example, have had the wisdom to recognise the value of a practical woman's opinion, with the result that they now have a real knowledge of laundry lore, and no longer issue instructions which any housewife would scorn!

This, however, is but one branch of Miss Gwynne Howell's business. She considers that methods of work and practical time tables are as important as the implements in use, and suggestions for eliminating such tasks as scrubbing, superfluous brass cleaning, &c., and hints as to how to get through the most work with the least personal effort are welcomed by her clients.

Miss Gwynne Howell numbers amongst her clients housewives in India and America as well as from all parts of the British Isles, and her tasks vary from house planning and equipment to the recommendation of efficient soaps and floor polishes!

Besides her consultation work she runs a special department for supplying household equipment and can thus fit up her clients with the implements they require without delay. She looks upon housewifery as a business of the first importance, and therefore entitled to the same scientific management and equipment as any other business, and it is with this object in view that she specialises in progressive methods of housecraft.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS.

MADAM,—The writer of the article "Health and Hospitals" in last week's *WOMAN'S LEADER* is right when she speaks of a spirit of sex antagonism, which is at present making it difficult for a young qualified woman to obtain hospital appointments.

At the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, for example, no women are appointed to resident House posts, although vacancies are not advertised as for men only. I think I am right in saying that the City of London Lying-In Hospital does not even give women the chance of being refused appointment.

The reason, of course, is, as your correspondent states, the fear of competition, more especially in the special fields of work among women and children.

"I don't object to women doctors individually, but I object to women coming into medicine for the same reason that I do to niggers coming in—they overcrowd the market." Such was the reason given to me by one medical man. I think that point of view should be clearly recognised, as it is half the battle to know what we are out against. Surely it is the subscribers to a hospital who have the real power in their hands. The Lay Board of Management represent the subscribers and are responsible to them. If anyone transfers his or her subscription from a reactionary hospital to a hospital whose resident and visiting staff appointments are genuinely open to both men and women, nothing probably will happen. But if many subscribers take this step and state publicly their reasons for so doing, Boards of Management will begin to think, and, presently, act. A protest, such as was made by the Lady Mayoress of Manchester the other day, deserves the gratitude of every medical woman.

MEDICAL WOMAN.

REPORTS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

An appeal has reached us from the International Woman Suffrage Alliance for funds to maintain the Alliance. At Geneva sufficient money was raised to carry on for two years, but at the Board Meeting in July, 1921, it was decided that the Congress should be postponed until 1923, which means that the Alliance has to run for three years instead of two, and without the coming together of a Congress it is no easy matter financially to maintain the Alliance.

The Treasurer asks that members should add to their subscriptions "as large a sum as possible, in order that the work of the Association may go on, and also that its activities may be extended into several fields where it is so greatly needed—fields in which it really ought to be working to-day.

"I do not need to call your attention to the desirability of further organised effort in the Latin countries," she says. "In France and Italy the political trend has shown itself lately to be favourably inclined towards progressive legislation for the enfranchisement of women. It is evident that help there would be most timely, and might, if given now, weigh the balance definitely in our favour. To maintain the Association as it operates to-day until June, 1923, it is necessary to raise £800 in addition to our usual receipts from members' dues, congress pledges, &c. To expand sufficiently to meet certain pressing needs for enfranchising women we should have £1,000 more. In short, to operate with a moderate but much needed increased efficiency until the next Congress, we require in all £1,800. This we must raise. If we must—we shall—PLEASE HELP."

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

DEC. 28. Dundee. Speaker: Dr. Barbour.

DEC. 29. Hounslow, Douglas Road Institute, 8 p.m. Speaker: S. Sherman, Esq., B.A.

JAN. 1. Westcliffe Brotherhood, New Palace Theatre, 4 p.m. Speaker: Canon H. Bickersteth Ottley.

Bethnal Green, Excelsior Hall, 3 p.m. Speaker: W. J. Squire, Esq.

JAN. 2. London, Botanical Theatre, University College. Speaker: Prof. Gilbert Murray.

JAN. 4. Bracknell, Victoria Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq.

JAN. 5. Birkbeck College, 4.45 p.m. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.

Finchley, Public Library, 8 p.m. Frederick Whelen, Esq.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

JAN. 6. New Gallery, 12, Shandwick Place, 8 p.m. "The Problem of the Working Mother." Speaker: Prof. Louise McIlroy, M.D. (School of Medicine for Women, University of London).

LEAGUE OF ARTS.

DEC. 29-31. Miss Maude Royden will take a leading part in the Nativity Play, "The Soul of the World," which the League of Arts is to produce at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, at 8 p.m., on the last three days of December. The Play, which is being stage-managed by Miss Mildred Hodges, was written by the late Mrs. Mabel Dearmer, and was last produced in London before the war. Dr. Orchard will give an opening address, and the Bishop of Kensington will speak before the second performance.

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LAKE OF GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.—To Let, middle January to middle September, furnished flat; 2 bedrooms, 2 sitting rooms, kitchen; bathroom; balconies; magnificent view; £2 5s. weekly.—Apply Miss Watson, Villa Violetta, Territet-Montreux.

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WANTED by woman artist, small artistically furnished flat, for three months; moderate rent.—Dismoor, 95, Addison Road, W.14.

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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.

HIGH-CLASS HOME-MADE CHOCOLATES for XMAS, 4s. 1b. Fondants, Caramels, &c., 3s. 1b. Reduction for Bazaars. Lessons given. Postage extra. — Write Miss Martin, 93, Chelsea Gardens, S.W.1.

DRESS.

COSTUMES, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings wanted. Specially good prices given.—Hélène, 361, New King's-road, Fulham, S.W.6.

THE HAT DOCTOR, 3a, Little Sussex-place, Hyde Park-square, W.2. Re-blocks and makes hats, toques; own materials used if required; re-covers shoes, satin, thin kid, or canvas; own material if preferred. Furs altered and re-made at lowest possible price. Shoes toecapped, providing satin.

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SECRETARIAL TRAINING combined with practical office work; fees according to subjects taken.—Miss Trotman, 36, Victoria-street, S.W.1.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, Social Workers, Approved Society. Deposit Contributors; Exemptions; New entrants cordially welcomed.—Secretary, 16, Curzon-road, London, N.10.

GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN at Heden College, Kingstone, near Canterbury. 300 ft. up. Practical comprehensive training, individual consideration. Gardening year begins mid-September.—For illustrated prospectus apply Secretary.

TO GENTLEWOMEN.—Courses in PRACTICAL Gardening, Poultry Management, Dairy Work. Beautiful old Manor House and grounds N. Devon. Expert Teachers.—Apply Principal, Lee House Training Centre, Marwood, Barnstaple.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston-square, S.W. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "The Spirit of Christmas."

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Town members, £5 5s.; Country and Professional members, £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro. tem.).

VENEREAL DISEASES AND DISINFECTION. Is this question coming before your Local Council? — Write for details to the Secretary, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Gt. Smith-street, S.W.1.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover Street, W.1. Read December number Monthly News (price 2d.) for article on "Naval Disarmament."

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 158, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Christmas Sale, 56, Victoria Street, S.W.1, remains open daily.

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