

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Women's Parliament.

The Annual Council Meeting of the National Council of Women opened on the morning of the 19th with all the omens favourable. The Mayor of Westminster in his robes, preceded by his mace, was the outward visible sign of the place of the N.C.W. in civic life, and the brilliant unclouded sun, shining through the ecclesiastically minded windows of the Church House gave that touch of poetry sometimes none too evident in similar conventions. Mrs. Franklin's presidential address was well attuned to the glorious beauty of the weather, for she said, in effect, that no one wholly unversed in music, literature, or art could be a perfect member of the society. Declaring herself a human being first and foremost, for whether of the "old" or the "new" feminism she refused to divulge, though pressed thereto by the journalists, she made an eloquent plea that the zeal of the reformer should never cause that exclusive obsession with reform which all too often defeats the object it seeks to attain. A certain inward vision, she seemed to hold, alone gives value to the activities of even the most worthily active. Nearly a thousand delegates listened to her observations. A report of the meetings will appear in next week's issue.

Family Allowances and Purchasing Power.

Opponents of family allowances are fond of depreciating the value of the French experiment by saying that the allowances paid there are so small as to be quite insignificant. They reach this conclusion by translating the amount of the allowance in French francs into their value in British money at current rates of exchange. This is quite misleading, as it ignores the fact that the purchasing power of 100 French francs is always considerably higher than its exchange value indicates. The actual value at the latest date for which figures are available measured by purchasing power within the two countries has been calculated by an expert of the International Labour Office. It is as follows:—

	Average amount of allowances paid by French equalization funds in April, 1926.	Approximate British equivalent based on relative purchasing power in Paris and London at same date.	
		s.	d.
1 child	25 francs per month.	5	0
2 children	63 " "	12	6
3 " "	109 " "	22	0
4 " "	123 " "	34	6
5 " "	240 " "	48	0
6 " "	318 " "	63	6

It is explained that in districts other than Paris, prices being lower, the value of the allowances would be greater than here estimated. In some equalization funds the amounts are much above the average and in the mining industry and public services, which do not pay through funds, the allowances are on a considerably higher scale. But we do not think that the working-class mother would consider "negligible" even the sums given in the above table, though of course they do not pretend to be more than a contribution towards the cost of child maintenance.

Is the Guardianship of Infants' Act Unjust to Fathers?

Considerable publicity has been given during the week to the case of a father who before the magistrate at Marylebone Police Court, applied for access to the child who was living with his wife from whom he was separated. Although conflicting accounts of the case were given in the Press, they unite in stating that the magistrate told the father he was unable to apply under the Guardianship of Infants Act, although in similar circumstances a mother would have been able to apply. The fact is that owing to the draftsmanship of the Government's Guardianship of Infants Act, an inequality against fathers, unnoticed at the time, crept in. It will be remembered that the Act amended the 1886 Guardianship of Infants Act, which in its turn only dealt with the rights of application of the mother. As therefore the father's rights of application were not specifically mentioned in the new Act, he was given no new rights and until the 1925 Act was passed questions relating to the guardianship of children other than in connection with the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act, and the Children Act, could not be dealt with by the Summary Courts. A father, therefore, still has no right to apply for the custody of the child in the Summary Court, though he can do so in the High Court or County Court. This inequality has been brought to the notice of the Government, who reply that they are watching the working of the Act, with a view to amendments later if necessary. If the Act had been worded as the original Guardianship of Infants Bill initiated by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, no such inequality would have crept in. It is, of course, quite out of the picture to suggest, as did the magistrate in question, that the present inequalities against the father equal the old inequalities against the mother. There is no comparison whatsoever, in that the mother's position under the old law was relatively far worse than the father's is now. Even now the father is still held to be responsible in the first instance for all rights and duties in connection with the child, although the mother has been given rights to dispute his position in any court.

Equality in the Divorce Laws.

An interesting precedent has been established in a recent divorce case in which, for the first time, a woman was cited with the guilty husband as respondent. Seventy years ago it became legal to make a woman co-respondent in a divorce case against her will, but the power had never been used until this case, when a wife successfully asked for another woman to be made liable for costs with the unfaithful husband. The object of joining her as respondent was to make her equally liable for the costs of the action with the husband. Hitherto the section of the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857, which enabled this to be done, had only been used by women charged to avail themselves of their full rights to defend such charges, and not with the object of making them parties to the suit against their will. All equalitarians will agree that there is no reason why men and women should be treated differently in these respects, and that when a woman has money she should be made liable for costs

equally with a man. It is still impossible for a wife to get damages, apart from costs, from a woman co-respondent, although a husband may claim damages from a man co-respondent.

Oxford and Cambridge—Limitations of Number of Women Students.

The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University has been suggesting that the number of its women students should be limited. According to our contemporaries considerable discussion has been aroused both in Oxford and Cambridge over his suggestion. One-fifth of the students at Oxford are women, and apparently the growth of the number of students to this proportion has caused a flutter in some of the doves. No reason is given for the proposed restriction, beyond the question-begging phrase that Oxford is a "man's University." Surely the best means of keeping up the finest traditions with regard to scholarship and other matters in any University is to admit the best students, whether men or women. It is generally admitted that nearly all the women students come up for purposes of serious study, and not, as is still the case with many of the men, for social reasons only. Would it not be advisable before limiting students on the lines of sex, to limit them on the lines of scholarship? No doubt our readers will remember that a limit of 500 women students was imposed on the Cambridge University at the passing of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act. We deplored it at the time for exactly the same reason as we now deplore that any restriction on these lines should be applied to Oxford. The women's colleges both at Oxford and Cambridge have stated that they do not wish to be any greater than at present. We agree that it is a mistake that individual colleges should be made too large, but what should follow is certainly the establishment of more women's colleges.

The Primate and Birth Control.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has addressed a letter to the Central Organizer of his Advisory Board for prevention and rescue work on the subject of birth control. In it, he disclaims as "grossly misleading" a Press announcement to the effect that he approves of birth control, denying that this is "a reasonable attempt to summarize his attitude to an anxious and difficult subject upon which it is peculiarly difficult to dogmatize briefly in a cut and dried manner." He goes on to criticize as "lamentable and mischievous" the advice given in print by Dr. Marie Stopes, which constitutes, in his opinion, a dangerous and harmful element in our social life. But he is not prepared "to denounce as necessarily sinful all and every method of birth control." At this point he associates himself with the manifesto of the Mothers' Union calling upon normal married persons to accept the duty of a family, condemning a "selfish refusal of children," indicating "self-control as an ideal," and calling for the consideration of birth control in the light of these principles. This advice he regards as "excellent in form and matter," and he concludes with an emphasis on the need for "taking a stand against mischievous modes of propaganda of birth control in State-aided clinics." It is regrettable that all this does not really carry us very much further towards an understanding of the Primate's views, which remain as the House of Lords Debate left them, nebulous in the extreme. With the above-quoted portions of the Mothers' Union manifesto we cannot fail to agree. Of course a selfish refusal of children is wrong. But the word selfish begs the question. Is it selfish for a couple to have more children than their wages will adequately support or their house-room decently accommodate? Of course, "the ideal for Christian men and women in this matter is self-control." But self-control is a question-begging word too. Does it mean mutual consideration and moderation, or does it mean the complete separation of married persons? More than ever do we feel that this is a matter upon which the individual married woman must be given freedom of judgment and choice—as indeed the Mothers' Union appears ready in principle to admit. But the question is, how can this freedom be conferred? The last sentence of the Archbishop's letter we are wholly unable to understand. To what "mischievous modes of propaganda of birth control in State-aided clinics" does he refer? There is no propaganda of birth control in State-aided clinics. Nobody, so far as we are aware, has ever proposed that there shall be. There is, however, a growing demand that individual information given by qualified medical officers shall be available to those married women who ask for it at maternity and infant welfare centres. And indeed, how otherwise is the freedom of individual judgment which we advocate, to be achieved?

The New "Points."

We welcome the announcement that in future the Six Point Group will include equal political rights for women on its six-point programme. The remaining five points are equal occupational rights; equal pay and opportunity for men and women teachers; equal pay and opportunity for men and women in the civil service; child assault; the unmarried mother and her child. Up to the present the first places on the programme were allotted to satisfactory legislation on child assault, pensions for widows and satisfactory legislation for the unmarried mother and her child, and the remaining three covered equal guardianship; equal pay for teachers; equal opportunities for men and women in the civil service.

The Homeless Woman.

We are pleased to be able to follow up Mrs. Chesterton's article by some comments from Miss Frida Hartley, whose articles some years ago on the subject of lodging houses for women in our pages will still be remembered. Miss Hartley has had some useful experience abroad in recent years and her views will carry weight. We regret that shortage of space compels us to hold over until next week a statement from Mrs. Hylton Dale, who was closely identified with the efforts of the National Association for Women's Lodging Houses which unfortunately was disbanded in 1918. Other expressions of opinion will be welcomed.

Women and Broadcasting.

In *The Times* last week it is stated that Mrs. Philip Snowden will be one of the first group of Commissioners which will be shortly appointed under the new scheme of control for British Broadcasting. Lord Clarendon has been announced as Chairman of the Corporation which will take the place of the British Broadcasting Company, and there will be no fewer than five and not more than seven commissioners who will hold office for five years. We are on the threshold of remarkable new developments in broadcasting, and we hope that women will give serious consideration to its almost infinite possibilities instead of regarding it as a plaything for idle hours.

A Woman Ship's Engineer.

A correspondent recently returned from Canada has sent us a copy of the daily news-sheet of R.M.S. *Montclare*, in which a considerable portion of space is allotted to the achievements of Miss Victoria Drummond, the first woman who has been granted a Board of Trade Certificate as a fully qualified sea-going engineer. Miss Drummond served as ship's engineer on a liner recently returned from Australia. An officer writing of her says "she never once missed duty even when high seas were running; she worked as hard as any man; she wore overalls just the same as the rest of the engineers, and did not ask for any distinction because she was a woman or request any easy jobs."

A Serious Menace to What?

We read in the *Daily Chronicle* that the Earl of Shaftesbury will move a resolution at the coming Salisbury Diocesan Conference "that this conference views with great concern the inception of a practice of extending invitations to women to speak in the pulpits of our churches and urges the bishops to take such action as would bring this practice to an end."

Well Done Weymouth.

The Weymouth debating society, consisting of both men and women, passed a resolution "that men and women performing the same work should receive the same pay," by sixty-seven votes for to forty-two against. A woman moved the resolution and a man opposed, but the speeches in the debate for and against were by no means divided by sex as some women spoke against and some men supported the motion. We commend this incident to the notice of other mixed debating societies.

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.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Day by day during the past few weeks the Press has busied itself with the reports of eulogistic references to business girls. There is almost a boom in business girls. No longer do they make tea in office hours, titivate their faces, and disturb the serenity of their male colleagues as they appeared to do after the war. To-day, to quote the remarks of Sir Charles Higham to the *Soroptimist* Club last week, they are emphatically better employees than men. They are more loyal. They work well together. They are neater and cheerier. They do not shirk. They study their task and try to get on. They will never adopt a 'ca'ny policy. They realize the responsibilities of the managing director and seek to help him—working for him and for him alone. They are discreet and do not brag about what they hear in the office. That is why managing directors nearly always employ women secretaries. And for all these reasons (we continue to quote Sir Charles Higham) if men don't pull themselves together, in twenty years' time women will dominate all branches of the business world. In fact, he adds, "In my own business I am placing women in positions formerly occupied by men. Eighty per cent. of my employees are women. I believe in an equal wage for women and men."

And so does Mr. Henry Ford. Speaking of his Phoenix generator plant, where 145 women and nine men are employed, he says, "The women are paid at the same rate as the men would be, and of course the six dollar a day minimum is in force." One woman with a sick husband and four young children is able to provide the family with an income by working a five-day's week at eight hours per day. This is equal pay in very truth—not equal pay with a mythical man on a job which no man would look at, but equal pay for a woman employed on the kind of job which a man might do for a wage which a man might be glad to earn. And presumably, when Sir Charles Higham refers to the equal pay of women who have been given jobs formerly held by men, this is the kind of equal pay he means. At any rate we hope it is.

Here then, we appear to be dealing with two types of work where the work is equal and the pay is equal in the fullest sense. How can we reconcile this phenomenon with the existence of certain disabilities with which women are habitually credited when attempts are made to show that their work is not really quite as equal as it looks: muscular inferiority and early withdrawal from the labour market owing to marriage? Clearly in the case of Mr. Ford's job marriage mortality is a sort of disability. The job on which the women are employed is wholly unskilled and as he says "in this factory there is not a task which cannot be learned by anyone of ordinary intelligence within a week." This is the case with most of the jobs which go to the making of that simple standard trade article, the Ford car or tractor. Indeed the chief disability from which the worker is likely to suffer is listlessness bred of monotony and this Mr. Ford has on occasions been led to circumvent by constant changing

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

By MARION FITZGERALD.

It is commonly said that there are no votes in smoke abatement. If that is true, it is a sad reflection on the intelligence of the electors. They are generally supposed to desire economy, and it is notorious that they are influenced by a candidate's promise (however impossible of fulfilment) to reduce the rates. But the saving that would be effected by abolishing smoke would be of far greater financial benefit to the ratepayers than knocking a few pence off the rates. Let us suppose, for example, that Manchester, which has just been celebrating a civic week, became a smokeless city. The citizens would then keep in their pockets something like three-quarters of a million sterling, which they now spend each year in washing, cleaning, and otherwise repairing the damage done by smoke. At the end of ten years they would be £7,500,000 to the good, and they would have in addition the benefit of clear skies, pure air, better health, and cheerful spirits—not to mention the luxury, now unknown, of feeling and being clean!

A candidate in a municipal election, even if the main plank in his platform is economy, usually pledges himself to support such public health work as has proved its value and passed beyond the sphere of controversy, such, for example, as school clinics, child welfare centres, and tuberculosis dispensaries. To

carry on these activities in a smoke-polluted atmosphere is to lose half their value, and we ought to clean up the air in order to get the full benefit of the money we are now spending on public health. A cynical observer of British municipal methods might urge that it seems hardly worth while to save people from dying of typhoid by means of a pure water supply, obtained through costly engineering achievements, only to let them die of respiratory diseases caused by breathing impure air.

Now is the time, when the elections are upon us, to do something to give clean air its proper place in the scheme of municipal reforms. Women's organizations have taken up smoke-abatement very keenly, and they should try to ascertain the views of candidates on the subject. As a matter of fact, they will usually find that they have none at all! The question will, however, prove the first step in their education, which will be all the more effectual if some members of the association will really get up the case, and be prepared with statistics as to the economic loss and the damage to health caused by smoke, and also be prepared with facts as to how the local authority is enforcing the law against smoke. A well-informed heckler of candidates will know the local methods and frequency of making inspections, the number of inspectors and their qualifications, how many warnings have

round of jobs and workers. Here, then, a relatively quick turnover of workers inspired by hopes of marriage is not a disability at all. It may even be a positive advantage. Nor does the disability of muscular inferiority appear to play a more significant part. "The work is light," says Mr. Ford, "excepting for a few operations." Indeed in the factory in question the driving power is conveniently supplied by the proximity of a 21 foot head of water and 100 horse-power. Similar statements can be made concerning many other engineering processes of our time. Thus there is no reason to suppose that the work of Mr. Ford's women employees is not every bit as equal as it looks.

But what about Sir Charles Higham's? As regards muscular power little need be said. Fortunately for some of our captains of industry muscular power is not required on the business side. Here, therefore, the women stand at no disadvantage. But marriage mortality is another matter. It is a tiresome thing to be obliged continually to change the personnel of an office, worse still to lose a confidential secretary, and have to initiate a new one into all one's peculiar habits. Moreover, office work is a particularly well-worn stepping stone to matrimony. Here, then, we should expect a feminine disability to translate itself into a veiled but very real economic inequality. But apparently in the case of Sir Charles Higham's employees it doesn't—and one can only suppose that this is because the tendency of women to get married and throw up their jobs is counterbalanced and, indeed, overbalanced by all those other elements of superiority which Sir Charles himself has indicated: faithfulness, neatness, discretion, adaptability, even including a superior sense of values which expresses itself outside office hours in a pre-occupation with vital and practical matters, such as "love, marriage, and dress," rather than with the continuous passive criticism of other men's achievements which is expressed in the endless concern of men with horse-racing, league football, and test cricket. So all said and done, their work is equal after all.

But there is another element in the situation, which we offer for the consideration of all just-minded employers who are disposed to offer equal pay for equal work. They are at present to some extent in a position to skim the cream off the labour market. If our education authorities were in a position to raise the salaries of all women teachers to the level of the men colleagues with whom they are doing equal work, the average man teacher would find himself in competition with an exceptional woman; because the relativity of women's salaries (to use Lord Weir's expression) would be disturbed in favour of teaching. It is quite possible that Sir Charles Higham's happy experience with his own business women may reflect a similar disturbance. We will not say long may he continue to enjoy the benefits of such a situation, for that would be to desire the perpetuation of a discrepancy of pay outside his charmed circle. We would say, rather: may other employers seek by similar means to flatten out his present advantages!

been issued in the past year, and how many prosecutions undertaken. A special watch should be kept on the chimneys of establishments belonging to the local authority, such as baths, hospitals, power stations, for there is scarcely a municipality in the kingdom whose own chimneys are blameless. Candidates should be urged to promise that, if returned, they would give this matter their special attention. This, by the way, would be a pledge they could quite easily fulfil and it is in an entirely different category from the specious promises in which they so often indulge. If one were to believe what is written on posters, one would expect that if Jones were elected a new heaven and a new earth would come into being the day after, and that Robinson, alone and unaided, would succeed in reducing the rates to vanishing point. A sober, businesslike undertaking to see that at least the council's own chimneys should set a good example would be a refreshing change from these others, and would have a popular appeal. There is far more indignation felt amongst working-class women about the heavy, domestic drudgery caused by smoke than most candidates realize. A pledge to do his or her utmost to reduce it would commend a candidate more to them than the vague and high-flown promises in which so many indulge.

There is this further consideration: The domestic chimney is outside the reach of the law at present, but women's organizations which demand that the local authority should deal more drastically with industrial smoke will impress upon their members that in common fairness they must do what lies in their power to reduce the smoke from their own houses.

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WOMEN AND THE ANNUAL LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE.

By L. L'ESTRANGE MALONE.

The Annual Conference of the Labour Party, assembled at Margate from 11th to 15th October, dealt with a number of questions of immense importance to women as well as to men. The crisis in the mining industry, foreign policy, the question of war resistance, the dangerous situation in China, the whole problem of the reorganization of agriculture and village life, the question of the minimum wage—these and many other matters affecting the lives of women equally with men—formed the subjects of debate and resolutions.

There is, however, no doubt that the burning issue before the Conference for women was the question of Birth Control. It stirred the whole Conference, was most keenly debated, and provided the great surprise of the Conference, being the only matter on which the delegates rejected the decision of the Labour Party Executive.

It may be recalled that the women of the Labour Party at two successive Annual Conferences, by an almost unanimous vote, declared that information on birth control should be made available to working-class mothers at the Ministry of Health Clinics and Maternity Centres, on which they are forced by their economic circumstances to rely for advice and help on all matters relating to maternity care. Resolutions on the same lines were put on the agenda of the Annual Labour Party Conference held at Liverpool in 1925. But the Executive Committee, instead of allowing these resolutions to be discussed, recommended to Conference "that the subject of Birth Control is in its nature not one which should be made a political Party issue." This recommendation was carried at the Liverpool Conference by a narrow majority; and following on this decision the birth control resolutions put down were not allowed to come up for discussion. This year a number of birth control resolutions were again excluded from the agenda, on the ground that they reaffirmed a principle upon which the Liverpool Conference declared the Party's policy in 1925. The Executive Committee, realizing that that action had aroused great feeling, endeavoured to explain their position in a paragraph in their report to this year's Conference; and it was on this paragraph that issue was joined. After a short but tense and most interesting debate, a thoroughly roused Conference voted, by a narrow majority, to refer back the paragraph—that is to say, it rejected its Executive's decision on this point. It was the only defeat which the Executive sustained throughout the Conference, and was the more remarked because the Leader of the Party himself was their spokesman.

The speakers who put the case of those who are working for the removal of the embargo on the giving of birth control information at Maternity Centres—Mrs. Russell and Miss Dorothy Jewson—were quite admirable. Their speeches were models of lucid argument, moderation and the quiet eloquence that is inspired by earnestness and conviction. But what carried the Conference was undoubtedly the feeling among the well-nigh thousand men present that their women have a right to decide in this matter, which so intimately concerns their well-being; that it is no use "throwing bouquets" at the women (as they had done, earlier in the proceedings, in applauding the splendid work done by the women of the Movement for the miners' wives and children), and subsequently thwarting their most earnest desires; and that the attempt to burke discussion on the straight demand put forward by the women, and the pretence that the Party had already declared its policy, when actually the resolutions dealing with Birth Control had twice been removed from the agenda, was both unfair and ridiculous.

Subsequently the Executive, interpreting the "reference back" carried against them, announced that "the vote did not commit the Party on the principle involved," and that the whole matter would be further considered. The position is therefore this: The Labour Party Conference has rejected the view that "the subject of birth control is in its nature not one which should be made a Political party issue." This leaves the way open for a straight discussion by the Party Conference next year on the question itself, namely whether the existing embargo on the giving of information on Birth Control to mothers of the working-class, by the medical officer at the Ministry of Health Maternity Centres, should or should not be removed.

Later on the Conference decided by a two to one vote "that the Labour Party appoint a Committee to consider the question

of Family Allowances and its bearing on and working out in various industries." The feeling of the Conference was quite obviously in favour of the principle of Children's Allowances and Family Endowment, but in face of various objections raised, it was not quite ready to declare itself in favour of the proposal put forward, that children's allowances to working-class mothers and guardians should be paid out of direct taxation of high incomes.

There remains in the memory, amongst many impressions of the Conference, the gaunt figure of Mrs. Tait, wife of a miner from the Don Valley, revealing in her own haggard person the tragedy now being enacted in the coalfields, pleading for help for the suffering miners and their families.

On the whole, a great conference, and full of hope for the women; showing how their power has grown—showing them also how much work still remains to be done.

A NEGLECTED ASPECT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The Model Bye Laws (VI Slaughter-houses) issued from the Ministry of Health, 1925, reprints a statement from the Secretary of the Local Government Board, January, 1915, drawing attention to the powers given to Urban and Rural District Councils under the Public Health Act, 1875, to "make regulations for licensing, registering, and inspection of the . . . slaughter-houses . . . and preventing cruelty therein." The statement above referred to contains also the following important paragraph, "It is hardly necessary to urge that all animals be slaughtered by the most painless and effective methods, but it may be desirable to point out that the prevention of cruelty in slaughter houses by means of bye laws is one of the specific duties which has been imposed upon local authorities by the Legislature." In this connection it must be remembered that the Admiralty Committee (1904) to which reference is made considered the question of the humane slaughter of animals and recommended that "all animals, without exception, must be stunned or otherwise rendered unconscious before blood is drawn." At that time, in this country at all events, the mode of stunning was by the pole axe and hammer, which, of course, were only employed on beasts and large pigs, while the smaller animals, sheep, pigs, calves, etc., were, and still are in a large number of cases, subjected to the knife while in full consciousness. Since then, however, happily for the animals, various mechanical killers have been invented—the R.S.P.C.A. Killers, the Greener Safeti Pistol, the Cash Captive Bolt, the Temple Cox, the Swedish, for example—which render the animal unconscious before the throat is cut, not with the acquired skill that is necessary in the case of the pole axe, but with the mechanical skill and certainty of a machine, as proved in recent experiments undertaken by the City of London Corporation officials.

There are approximately 2,000 local authorities in Great Britain, of which 214 have so far adopted Clause 9b of the Model Bye Laws, which provide that no animal shall be slaughtered in a slaughter-house "until the same shall have been effectually stunned . . . with a mechanically operated instrument." It is certainly time that the local authorities in the remaining places which have not adopted this Bye Law should—guided by the practical experience of the localities which have enforced it—avail themselves of the specific power given them by the Public Health Act, 1875. This, too, applies to Bye Laws 10, 11, 12, and 13, which were framed with a view to preventing unnecessary suffering but which in a large number of places are a dead letter.

One of the main difficulties which prevents the proper enforcement of the Bye Laws is the lack of sufficient officials with time enough to inspect the scattered slaughter-houses, and so ensure that the Model Bye Laws are respected when they have been adopted. It is not, of course, that local authorities are callous about the suffering of animals but that the men, whom they appoint to see that the various Bye Laws and Regulations—relating to a hundred and one different aspects of Municipal Government—are carried out, have more work than they can do. These serving officials have to deal with the many important and varied questions of housing, health, sanitation, etc., and they are striving to do their duty. They are, however, often expected to do the impossible, and while for instance in many places they are occupied in bringing about the very necessary abolition of slum dwellings (with its consequent increase of rates) they

are bound to overlook the fact that animals are killed, or carcasses are dressed, within sight of other animals! Yet Bye Law 11 specifically forbids these practices which go on, unchecked, in hundreds of slaughter-houses. They will go on indefinitely too, until slaughter-houses are open to the inspection of those other bodies whose business it is to see that the laws of the land and the Bye Laws of the locality are being carried out. It is an anomaly that places where animals can be badly treated—and therefore should be open to the custodians of the laws, are private places where entrance is forbidden—except by a search warrant or invitation, when naturally the advantages of surprise visits will be lost. It is anomalous also that the question of the healthy condition of food animals and of the meat should be left to those who are, or could be, fully occupied with the sanitary or insanitary conditions of the dwelling-houses, shops, and other matters dealing with the health of the humans in their areas. Until the country becomes universally vegetarian, one of the important aspects of public health is the meat supply, and that should be in the hands of men whose professional training has made them accustomed to animals in health and in sickness. If meat inspection is to be properly carried out—and this includes also the conditions under which the animals, killed for public food, are housed and slaughtered and their carcasses dressed—this important subject must not be treated as a side issue, but rather as one of the vital questions on which the health of the public largely depends, and the Bye Laws—termed model—must be compulsory and not depend upon the personal views of the Local Council of the moment. If these Bye Laws are, by the Ministry of Health, deemed worthy of being drafted as models for adoption by local authorities, and after they have been successfully administered in many localities, it may be well asked why they are not included as legal enactments?

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WOMEN'S WORK IN NORTH WALES.

By M. G. THODAY.

The women of Caernarvonshire have to congratulate themselves and their county on the election in the last few months of three additional women on their County Council. Mrs. Griffiths of Pen-y-groes, Mrs. Price White of Bangor, and Mrs. Marks of Llandudno are all women whose names were familiar in the women's suffrage movement and who are distinguished, now as then, by that keen and disinterested desire to serve the community which alone can produce lasting results in public work. They all had stiff fights for their seats; Mrs. Griffiths succeeded by nine votes after her second contest in a very scattered district consisting of farms and quarry settlements.

In Denbighshire, the present Chairman of the Colwyn Bay Council, Councillor Ethel Hovey, was extremely active at the time of the general election, and gave a very forward and conciliatory lead in that difficult time.

All the women were most active in the Women's Peace Pilgrimage, each taking a leading part in her own area; Mrs. Price White and Miss Ethel Hovey presided over the large open-air meetings at Bangor and Colwyn Bay. Women of every religious denomination, social organization, and political party co-operated so vigorously in the Peace Pilgrimage, that it has certainly been the most outstanding effort made in North Wales for any cause in recent times. Three delegates from the Pilgrimage Committees of Bangor, Llanfairfechan, and Menai Bridge went up to London to attend the Peace Pilgrimage Conference called on 13th October to consider the "next step" towards arbitration.

A number of delegates have also been attending the annual meeting of the National Council of Women (19th to 21st October), where the second resolution on the preliminary agenda stands in the name of the Llangollen Branch, and has been very widely discussed and considered by women's organizations in North Wales. This resolution deals with the need for the compulsory inclusion of a suitable number of women (not less than two) on the committees directly responsible for the administration of public mental hospitals, and there has recently been much work done to influence public opinion in this direction in North Wales, where the permissive inclusion of women on such Boards has not been put into practice. At Denbigh there is an asylum containing more than 400 women, and no woman is on its administrative board, while repeated efforts to obtain the appointment of one of the older women members of the Carnarvonshire

(Continued on next page.)

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

NOVEMBER 1, 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Musical Afternoon arranged by Miss Dott and Miss Ethel Fox. Lesson in Folk Dancing by Miss Elizabeth Wood.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

OCTOBER 27, 5.30 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. Lecture by the Rev. Claud Hinscliff on "A Chaplain's Life in the Near East."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Hornsey Branch. OCTOBER 28, 3 p.m. North Hill Mission Hall, Highgate, N. 6. Conference on "Maternal Mortality." Speaker: Dr. Boyd-Mackay. Chairman: Councillor S. G. Goulding, supported by Dr. W. W. Jameson (M.O.H. for Hornsey).

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

NOVEMBER 3, 5 p.m. Reception at Old County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W. 1, to meet the Right Hon. The Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, K.C., and Dame Edith Lytton, D.B.E.

Bristol S.E.C. OCTOBER 29, at 8 p.m. Meeting on Equal Franchise at Elmdale House, Queen's Avenue, in conjunction with the Women's International League and Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Mrs. F. W. Hubback. Chair: Mrs. Burrow Hill, J.P.

Tunbridge Wells W.C.A. OCTOBER 28, 7.3 p.m. 7 Church Road. Miss Beaumont on "The Passage of a Bill through Parliament."

SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF W.C.A.

OCTOBER 29, 2.30 p.m. Town Hall, Dumfries. Council Meeting. 8 p.m. Civic Reception.

OCTOBER 30, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sixth Annual Conference.

WANDSWORTH LABOUR PARTY.

OCTOBER 28, 2.30 p.m. 142 Garratt Lane. Mrs. Aldridge on "Restrictive Legislation for Women."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OCTOBER 22, 7.30 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Public Meeting on "Equal Franchise."

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

NOVEMBER 10, 3-8 p.m. Annual Fair, at Mrs. Laurence Binyon's house, British Museum. Particulars from Secretary, W.I.L., 55 Gower Street, W.C.

Kensington Branch. OCTOBER 28, 4.45 p.m. Drawing-room Meeting at 30 Hyde Park Gate, S.W. 7. Miss Jeppe on her work at Aleppo. Chair: Miss Adela Coit.

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TO LET.—Large unfurnished BED-SITTINGROOM in pleasant part of Hampstead. Use of kitchen and bath. Other rooms available if required.—Apply, in writing, to Miss O'Malley, 6 Steeles Road, N.W. 3.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 24th October; 3.30 p.m. Dr. W. A. Bone, F.R.S. on "The Economic Aspects of Coal." 6.30 p.m. Maude Royden on "A Third Order."

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