

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The "Poor Man's Budget."

Budget forecasts are a permissible mental dissipation at this time of the year, and we venture to call our readers' attention to the current belief that Mr. Snowden intends to devote his available surplus to the reduction of duties on sugar, tea, and entertainments, and possibly of the "McKenna duties" on motor-cars, clocks, and watches, musical instruments and cinema films. At present the entertainments tax brings in £9,600,000; the "McKenna duties" £3,000,000 odd—together these two luxury taxes yield well over £12,500,000. The estimated cost of a workable scheme of Widows' Pensions is in the neighbourhood of £14,000,000. Comment on this juxtaposition of ideas will be found below.

The Widow and the Budget.

We call the attention of our readers to the following letter, which appeared on the centre page of *The Times* of 19th April:—

SIR,—Mr. Snowden's reply last week to a question concerning widows' pensions, though ambiguous, is being reasonably and widely interpreted to mean that provision for this reform will not be made in this year's Budget. It is equally widely rumoured that he does intend to remit the entertainments tax, lower the sugar tax, and remove the income limit on old-age pensions. The two latter at least are excellent reforms, but if they, and especially tax-free entertainments, are to take precedence of widows' pensions, how does the Labour Party reconcile this with its basic principle "Distribution according to need," or with its slogan "No cake for anybody till everybody has enough bread"?

Will you permit me, as a non-party woman and head of one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the country, to say how the matter strikes organized women? Irrespective of our individual political views, our hopes blazed high when the Labour Party came into power. No other party is so completely pledged to this reform not only by three successive General Election manifestos and innumerable official declarations, from 1911 onwards, but by its whole creed and social attitude. It is true that the conditions under which the Government took office—its dependence on other parties for support, and financial stringency—limit its activities in many directions. But here is a measure on which it would be certain of an overwhelming majority in the House. And here is a session when the receipts have shown such an unexpectedly large surplus over the estimates that it is impossible to plead a real necessity for what it has repeatedly denounced as the worst and most shortsighted of economies—economy at the expense of the child-life of the nation.

It is true that the Government has promised attention to the reform—some time. But as every one knows, this session may be its last opportunity of bringing it to fruition. In that case it will probably be succeeded by a party which has often succeeded in reaping where others have sown. A well-known Unionist member of Parliament told our organization that he thought his advocacy of widows' pensions had won him at least 500 votes. He seemed surprised. But we, who for years have been working at the subject, know well its immense and well-nigh universal popularity with the electorate. If the attention of politicians has not been attracted to it it is doubtless because (in the words of a member of the Government)

the widowed mother of young children "is too busy to proclaim her grievances." Is that perhaps the reason that her claim is being passed over in favour of more clamant sections of the electorate? We should not like to think this of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, who has shown himself in the past a generous friend to women. But a party in office must be judged by its fruits, and women have long memories.

Yours faithfully,

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE, President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

15, Dean's-yard, Westminster, S.W.1,
April 18.

The Importunate Widow.

In addition to this letter a second appeal, addressed more particularly to Labour readers, appeared under the same signature in the *Daily Herald* of 16th April. What conclusion, its writer asks, would the women of the country be likely to draw from the shelving of Widows' Pensions on the plea of no time and no money? Would they not be likely to draw the conclusion that "the Labour Party is, after all, much like other parties, prolific of promises, grudging in their fulfilment, apt to reserve its time and its favour for those who are likely to be more insistent in their demands and more formidable in their resentment than fatherless children and their widowed mothers?" We think that in both cases the President of the N.U.S.E.C. puts her case with considerable, though perhaps in the circumstances not undue restraint. It is difficult to say with any degree of moderation what the women of the country will think about the Labour Party if it fails to provide in the coming Budget for the removal of the widow and her children from dependence on the Poor Law. In fact, we might well borrow for the occasion a few selected expressions of opinion employed by members of the Labour Party in connection with the shortcomings of other parties in this respect. However, let there be no mistake about this; though the widow herself may be precluded by the double burden of child-minding and wage-earning from a continuous effort of importunity on her own behalf, she has importunate champions who will not hesitate to weary those in authority "by their continual coming."

Two Conferences on International Affairs.

Two interesting Conferences on international affairs will be held in May and June respectively. In May, a Conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War, which is being organized under the auspices of the International Council of Women and other Women's Organizations, is being held on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th in Hall No. 1 at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, London, under the Chairmanship of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. The subjects to be taken include education; the International Mind in Individuals, in Trade and in Finance, and in Governments; Existing International Conventions and their Application. The speakers come from all parts of the world, and include Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Miss Cornelia Sorabjé, Dr. Marion Phillips, Professor Gilbert Murray, M.A., and Dr. Nitobe. Admission to this Conference will be by ticket, to be obtained free from the International Council of Women's Conference and Exhibition Office, 26 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

The second Conference will be held in Geneva, and is the Annual Conference of the International Labour Organization. The chief items on its agenda are as follows:—(1) Developments of facilities for the utilisation of workers' leisure; (2) Equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards the workmen's compensation for accidents; (3) Night work in bakeries. The League of Nations Union is arranging to take a group of people to this Conference. Further particulars may be obtained from the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. 1.

The Remuneration of Nurses.

In a letter to *The Times* last week, the Secretary of the College of Nursing calls attention to the low rate of salaries paid to nurses, especially those serving as health visitors and school nurses. A helpful editorial comment points out that financial anxieties necessarily distract from efficiency in a profession which calls for a mind at rest, and appeals for the more generous remuneration of all classes of nurses. The under-payment of nurses has always seemed to us an astonishing piece of inconsistency. The public demands a high degree of scientific training with special personal qualifications; the services rendered to the community can hardly be overstated, yet the status and conditions, as well as the payment of all branches of the profession, are utterly out of proportion to both training for and social value of the indispensable work they undertake.

Mentally Defective Children.

Miss Evelyn Fox, the Honorary Secretary of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, on behalf of the Board of Educa-

tion, has organized a short course of lectures in July for teachers of mentally defective children. The Course will consist of medical, psychological and pedagogical lectures on mental deficiency; of classes in manual work; and in rhythmic training and visits of observation will be arranged. The number of teachers admitted is strictly limited and application should be made as soon as possible to the Secretary, Board of Education, Whitehall. Maintenance grants and travelling expenses are given under certain conditions. This is an instance of admissible and helpful relations existing between a Government department and a voluntary organization which is a hopeful sign of the times.

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.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Since we wrote a few weeks ago on pledges and persecution, an interesting discussion on the Parliamentary questionnaire has taken place at the annual council meetings of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, when a resolution to reduce the questionnaire to a minimum of immediate pressing problems was defeated. As often happens, the resolution, though defeated, served an extremely useful end in provoking discussion, especially in view of the fact that the matter it dealt with has attracted a good deal of attention lately. We have already stated the arguments in favour of the questionnaire generally, and we have only to add the case for the inclusion of reforms which are not necessarily "immediate or pressing." Let us imagine a society which stands for some special object covering many different aspects, such as the League of Nations, Equality between the Sexes, Penal Reform, or Temperance. At the time of the election some particular aspect of the desired reform may not appear to be immediate or pressing, but it is impossible to tell when by some unexpected twist of circumstance it may suddenly burst into prominence. If it has not been included among the questions submitted to candidates, the promoters of the reform find themselves with no available record at their disposal of the Members of the House who are most likely to help them in promoting legislation, and much valuable time is lost. Further, the individual voter has not the satisfaction of knowing the opinion of his representative on the question at issue, and when the discussion takes place in the House of Commons it is not uncommon to hear Members plead as an excuse for opposition that there is no interest in the matter in their constituency. We maintain, therefore, that the questionnaire, even the long questionnaire, is justified, but, like everything else, it can be well or badly done.

Several useful points drawn from the personal experience of the victims as well as the promoters of questionnaires emerged from the discussion referred to above. In the first place, it was pointed out that all candidates do not appear on the scene at the last moment; many have been nursing constituencies throughout the country in preparation for the next General Election. The education and examination of a candidate should begin as soon as he or she is announced as prospective candidate, and it should not be forgotten that education should precede examination. The organization which wishes attention for some particular reform or group of reforms will do well to seek an interview with each selected candidate long before the hurry and scurry of the election contest begins, and in the first instance only attempt to place their views before him with suitable literature in order to enable him to study their case. The replies to the questions should follow in due course, and, whether favourable or unfavourable, will mean much more than in the case of a hasty and ill-considered personal and immediate answer. Nor should the questioners regard their time wasted in the case of a candidate whose chances are considered to be *nil*. Mr. A. or Mrs. B. may not be successful in X, but they will try again in Y, and even Z, and ultimately, when they do arrive at Westminster, they will be well-informed on the questions which have been so persistently and emphatically brought before them. Moreover, such interviews, or in some cases public meetings, at which future candidates compare notes with their possible constituents long before the overcrowded period

of the election, are not only valuable from an educational point of view to the candidate, but they give exceptional opportunity for publicity and propaganda in the local Press on the desired reform.

The questionnaire directed to the unfortunate last-moment candidate must obviously be presented quite differently, and here we think we can accept a hint from the drafters of the resolution quoted above. Matters of immediate and pressing importance must not be jumbled together with detailed and technical points. Questions of fundamental principle must naturally occupy the first place, whether the prospects of immediate legislation on their behalf are good or bad. Proposals for reforms actually before the country must necessarily have a conspicuous position. But we do not suggest that other issues of a narrower if not less important character should be omitted, though it is desirable to make a distinction between them. We have known wily candidates at public meetings anxious to cover their shortcomings on some vital matter by labouring painstakingly and lengthily with some relatively minor point.

In our opinion a questionnaire should always be accompanied by a courteous and considerate letter with the offer of suitable publications on the subject matter. This letter should indicate that the questionnaire has behind it the views of actual voters. A manufactured questionnaire without a body of opinion behind it is the worst form of abuse that can be found. If the candidate be successful at the election, the questionnaire will probably only be the beginning of communications with the questioner or organized group of questioners, and success depends as much on the establishment of friendly and mutually helpful relations as on a series of bare affirmative answers. We know at least one lifelong friend which a woman's organization accidentally stumbled on at a by-election.

Another means of lessening the extent of the plague of questionnaires which was discussed at the recent meeting was the issue of joint lists of questions by groups of societies. It was pointed out that a good deal of overlapping existed at present. We think this a matter that can only be decided according to local circumstances, but we fail to see that the duplication of questions is an objectionable form of overlapping. Take Equal Franchise or Equal Guardianship, for instance. If a large number of societies which do not exist solely for either of these reforms include them in their list of questions, we think this will have the effect of increasing the weight of their importance in the eyes of the candidate. Such combination of forces as was proposed, is, in our opinion, more effective when one great issue is in question, as when a Bill embodying some specific measure of reform is in peril on its passage through the House of Commons.

Lastly, we suggest that the questionnaire becomes almost an abuse of confidence in the case of Members of Parliament who have shown themselves tried friends, and who are in close touch with the organized bodies in their constituencies, representing different aspects of reform. In this connexion we welcome the payment of travelling expenses of Members of Parliament to their constituencies. The questionnaire is a means, not an end, and though imperfect, like all human agencies it plays its own special part in making representative government more truly representative.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

THE OVERTURE OF THE SESSION.

The more the House of Commons changes the more it remains the same. This House is, like its predecessors, intolerant of failure and bad form, and willing to listen to any member who has something to say. The overture to the present session has come to an end with a statement on Housing by the Minister of Health, and to judge from Commons Paper 2104 the next movement seems likely to produce a new "Robbers' March" in the shape of a great Housing Trust.

A TIMID GOVERNMENT.

The outstanding feature of the Session has been the timidity of the Government. Its difficulties have mainly come from fear of its own left wing, and it has left too many big questions to Private Members' Bills and to the free vote of the House. The study of the proceedings as to Rent Restrictions will provide the student of politics with a clue to much that seems obscure in the last three months. A comparison between the progress, in a backward direction, of Mr. Ben Gardner's Bill with that of Mr. E. D. Simon's more moderate design will show those who read all the various debates that the Government were afraid to trust the House to help them face the fact that the demands of their extremists could not be granted, and that fear caused them to make a series of humiliating surrenders which might easily have been avoided.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS.

These have naturally been small, as Mr. MacDonald has been forced to spend most of his time surveying the foreign affairs of the country, and in trying to make wise gestures to our neighbours and competitors in armaments.

Meanwhile the Ministers of the Crown have been carrying out the commitments of their Conservative predecessors. This has been, at times, an unwelcome task and has smashed many perfervid perorations. In the sphere of foreign affairs Russia has been recognized, a new approach made to France, and the Treaty of Lausanne has been ratified. At home school classes have been reduced in size, the provisions as to the feeding of children revised, the "gap" has been lessened for the unemployed, selection among applicants for uncontracted insurance benefit has been wiped out, and a beginning has been made with a new Housing policy about which the House will want much more light, especially as to finance, after Easter. So exaggerated hopes, like exaggerated fears, are disappearing as responsibility settles down on the shoulders of those who previously had only to promise!

SOME PERSONALITIES IN THE MINISTRY.

The Prime Minister exercised a great influence in the Commons until a fortnight ago. Since that time a series of casuistical speeches on the ex-ranker officer problem, the Treaty of Lausanne, and more particularly his deplorable performance over Mr. Wheatley's ill-starred Evictions Bill, left the House uneasy as to his public statements. The outstanding figure on

the Treasury Bench is the Financial Secretary (Mr. Wm. Graham). If his delivery were a little more animated he would really grip the House. Always informed as to his case, always courteous and patient under cross-examination, he has been the household drudge of the Treasury Bench, and unlike so many of his colleagues he does not read his speeches and, indeed, rarely uses notes. Mr. Snowden is as yet untried, but has shown flaws in his handling of question time, while Mr. Wheatley has claimed the attention of the House, but Members have not yet made up their minds about him. Mr. Sidney Webb is being ironically compared to Demosthenes, and many jokes are current about pebbles! He overflows with facts at question time, but as nobody sitting three yards away can hear him, he ought either to circulate his facts or get a loud speaker put down on the Board of Trade estimates.

THE TRIANGLE IN POLITICS.

The Three-Party system is having all kinds of unexpected reactions in all parties, and if the Liberals show the effects most it is because they are neither in office nor in opposition. Their benches are, however, full of talented young men, and it has been a good thing for the Prime Minister that the Liberal Housing group had done some constructive thinking and tabled their Bills as to the Rents problem. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George have spoken infrequently; the former is heard with eagerness, and the latter is getting into his stride again. Of the Opposition, Mr. Baldwin is a favourite in the Commons, but Mr. Austen Chamberlain seems the biggest figure on the Opposition benches, and members of all parties like him and trust him. The Party Triangle with its sudden crises has ended in frayed tempers in many parts of the House, and those tempers found a passionate expression in the Amery-Buchanan incident near midnight the other evening.

AFTER EASTER.

When the recess ends old commitments will no longer claim the Government's attention, and we shall expect positive politics from the Labour Party. With the Budget to come on the 29th and a great Housing Scheme to follow, it is quite possible that the triangular situation may react in an entirely different fashion. Standing Committees A and B are choked with work, and there is not, at present, much prospect for the women's measures which have received their second readings. As it rose the House was still chuckling over two supplementary questions, viz. Col. Woodwark's innocent query as to whether the five new cruisers would be named after the pacifist ministers who voted for them, and Mr. Foot's instantaneous capping of Mr. Walsh's Shakespearean quotation as to "the laws delays" with "and the insolence of office."

GREEN BENCH.

[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.]

A DANGEROUS OCCUPATION.

(Continued.)

We dealt last week with some of the outstanding facts contained in Dr. Janet Campbell's report on Maternal Mortality.¹ This week we propose to concentrate upon one of her recommendations which appears to us to be of immediate importance to our readers—to the ordinary woman citizen who has no expert concern with or knowledge of the matter under discussion. Speaking of the hygiene of pregnancy, Dr. Campbell points out that much of the necessary education of the mother "can and should be given by the professional attendant or through hospitals, maternity clinics, etc., but as long as doctors and midwives do not themselves practise ante-natal examination as an invariable rule, much teaching must come through other channels. The health visitor and the staff of infant welfare centres are the most obvious agencies. Both have hitherto concentrated mainly upon the infant; both could do far more to bring home to the women the dangers they invite and the risks they run through neglect of themselves." "But," she continues, and it is here that we invite our readers most attentively to sit up and take notice, "there are other bodies not directly concerned with health which might also render invaluable service—for example, the Women's Co-operative Guild—which has already done so much to rouse the community to the need for a good maternity service; there are Women's Institutes, there is the Mothers' Union, to mention a few

associations primarily concerned with women's interests, all of which might, if they wished, do much to create that informed public opinion without which no substantial progress can be made." We would add that there are Women Citizens' Associations and Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Now what, one is inclined to ask, is the kind of public opinion which Dr. Campbell wants these ladies to create? This and subsequent passages suggest that she has in mind the education of the mother: nor is she oblivious to its difficulties, among them, no doubt, that "instinctive desire to escape notice during pregnancy," of which Sir George Newman speaks in his original report. We have in mind something more. And we would ask our readers to picture to themselves the relative proportion of attention and discussion that such a preventable mortality and casualty rate would have aroused had it occurred in connection with some military or industrial process vital to the national well-being, carried on by enfranchised men. The history of the coal-mining industry points our moral. Week after week, year in year out, the records of Parliamentary debate are interlarded with questions concerning the responsibility for fatal accidents underground. We have no doubt that financial considerations did in fact play their part in retarding the development of safety regulations and appliances. But any employer who deliberately and openly pleaded economy as an excuse for inadequate safety provision, would have drawn down upon himself the odium and execration which he deserved.

(Continued on page 105).

¹ Reports on Public Health and Medical Subjects, No. 25: "Maternal Mortality," by Janet M. Campbell, M.D., M.S. H.M. Stationery Office, 1s. net.

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXXIII.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.
THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899-1902 (contd.).

For the most part we found the women in the camps gentle and friendly in their manners. In the camp at Harrismith I was calling on two Boer ladies, mother and daughter; after preliminaries they told me that in their own home in a well-known village they had heard of the expected arrival of a considerable body of British troops, and they said: "We were terrified because we had heard dreadful things of them. Then they came and remained five months, and we did not, all that time, hear even one rough word from them." And they wound up their narrative by saying "and now we will stick up for the British till we lie in our graves." Of course, we did not always hear such pleasant things, and sometimes attempts were made to impose upon us by exhibiting strips of meat half converted into biltong, the sun-dried preparation which the Boers use on commando, and pass it off to our ignorant eyes as the meat that had been served out to them as fresh that morning. Sometimes, too, Boer women would rush out upon us as we passed their tents and call out in their broken English: "De British not having been able to conquer de men are now making war on de women and children." This we at once recognized as a quotation from party oratory imported from Great Britain. It did not make us angry; but we rejoined that they too must have had experience in making war on various native tribes, and when they had done so we had never heard that they had provided the women folk and other non-combatants among their enemies with food, clothing, and education, besides church services and hospital attendance. We found that nothing preserved our own equanimity so much as the constant endeavour to put ourselves in the place of the people we had come out from England to help. We had the pleasure in several places of coming across a party of Quaker ladies who had been sent out from home by the Society of Friends on very much the same mission as ourselves; in one of them I discovered an old friend, Miss Hogg, of Dublin. Her party had come to much the same conclusions about the camps as we had, and they had cabled their committee at home to cease sending out cases of condensed milk, for instance, because everything of that sort was already being amply supplied by the Government authorities. Their committee chose not to believe them, and they were being pursued by huge packing-cases filled with the best brands of condensed milk. They took counsel with each other what they had better do with it, and came to the conclusion that to prevent waste and confusion it was best to hand it over to the Government authorities. General Sir John Maxwell was the head of the camps administration in the Transvaal. He learned their errand, and received them, of course, most courteously. He sat at his desk making out a formal receipt to be sent to the Friends' Committee in England, and as he handed it to the ladies he said: "And pray thank your committee for their handsome contribution to the cost of the war." Miss Hogg told us this, and was quite Irish enough to see the joke of it.

All through the camps we found almost without exception that the schools were a great success. There had been no attempt whatever by the Boer Government in the Transvaal to provide education for their people, and they availed themselves eagerly and in considerable numbers of the facilities for education which the camp schools afforded. It was rather touching to see grown-up young men and women sitting among the children and learning with them; the most popular subjects with these adults were English and arithmetic. Dutch teachers were, in many instances, appointed in the schools. It interested us on one occasion to hear a Dutch schoolmaster instructing his class how to grapple with the pronunciation of the English G. He wrote on the blackboard the letters D, T, Z, and then ended with a half-suppressed sneeze, which he could not express by letters of the alphabet. We had never realized before that our poor English G presented such difficulties to foreigners; though we knew how curiously difficult the Dutch G was to us.

In this journey through the concentration camps I first came to know and value the extraordinarily lovable qualities of the British Tommy. He was kindness and gentleness itself to every child and woman among the refugees; he was also generous to a fault. He would give thoughtlessly and profusely to those he came across, and although he was a good grumbler on his own

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

account when things were going smoothly, his spirits always seemed to rise when he was in acute discomfort and misery himself. I have seen our Tommies bivouacking on a station in the pouring rain, and have heard no grouting from them under what must have been physical misery. A lady with whom we made friends at De Aar told us of the recent floods there owing to the rapid rising of the river after torrential rain. The men were ordered to save the forage supplies, and were working for hours up to their waists in water, shouting at the top of their voices some soldiers' chanty, such as: "Oh why did I leave my nice little 'ome in Bloomsberree? Where for three and six a week I lived in Luxuree."

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

ESSAYS ON EARLY CHRISTIAN HISTORY. By E. T. MERRILL. (Macmillan, 15s.)

Dr. Merrill has made a serious and impartial study of this difficult subject, especially difficult because the Early Church kept no archives, and the accepted story of its martyrdom comes down to us unsupported by any contemporary documents other than those of official Rome. Under Dr. Merrill's careful sifting of this body of tradition, some of the persecutions go the way of many of the most cherished legends of the Saints. Doubt is even thrown on the stories of the martyrdoms of St. Peter and St. Paul. Be this as it may, enough remains to invest the revered sites with all their dignity.

A CONSUL IN THE EAST. By A. C. WRATISLAW. (Blackwood, 15s.)

The "East" of this particular Consul's service varies between Constantinople, Basra, Tabriz, and Crete. He seems to be at each place when something important was going on, and he sets down these events with unflinching point and good humour. Not the least interesting episodes are connected with Mr. Venizelos, and "A Consul in War-time" is the title of the chapter which brings this entertaining book to an end.

PROHIBITION INSIDE OUT. By ROY A. HAINES, Prohibition Commissioner. (Fisher Unwin, 10s. 6d.)

Translated into English the title of this book would read "Prohibition from the Inside." It is an account of the immense machinery involved in the effort to enforce prohibition in America with the obvious aim of stirring up a sense of their civic responsibilities in his readers. Unfortunately the most picturesque sides of the campaign are put forward, while readers from other countries would have benefited by a precise statement of the legal aspect of the case.

LA GUERRE DES FEMMES. PAR ANTOINE REDIER. (Paris, édition de la vraie France, 8 f. 50.)

This touching record of the devoted service rendered by women in the occupied territories during the war is written in a spirit of indignant revolt against the lower standards of conduct prevailing since the peace. It is to the credit of our military intelligence that the value of Louise de Bettignes and the help she could give were instantly recognized. How she served and was taken prisoner and died in German hands is told in this touching little book.

RURAL INDUSTRIES INTELLIGENCE BUREAU.

By Mrs. VAUGHAN NASH.

Among the duties of a small Government Office called the Development Commission is the encouragement of rural industries; and first let it be made clear that the greatest rural industry of all, agriculture in all its varieties, is not included. That is a different story, and a very long one, to be learnt in another Government Office. But it is not the whole story of the countryside. There are other country people besides farmers and farm labourers. Blacksmiths, carpenters, and wheelwrights are still to be found in villages; there are women and young people in farms and villages who are not all or entirely destined for agriculture, and scattered about the country there is an increasing number of educated people, many, or perhaps most of them, women, who live, or try more or less hopefully to live, by some handicraft, generally of an artistic kind. The encouragement of industry for these people sounds at first perhaps a counsel of despair. We have all heard that the village artisan's skill is dying out in competition with the factory, that the married

women have no free time, that the children want to go into the towns, that the English craftswoman, with a few exceptions, is lacking in skill and taste and persists in trying to sell an article of half-a-crown attractiveness and finish for 12s. 6d.

What first put a more hopeful colour on the problem was the fact that in other countries, where the same forces have been at work, an effective system of Government help has been devised. Germany in particular owed to the careful fostering of her country industries a good deal of her supremacy in such trades as toy-making and the manufacture of little objects like buttons and combs out of queer substances made of superfluous milk and other waste products, and known by such names as ivorite, ivorine, celluloid, galactine, and so forth.

Things are not possible in England that were possible in pre-war Germany, but in one respect at least Germany gave an example that could be followed—there was a Government advisory office, though, indeed, in Germany it was something more than advisory. Such an office now exists in London—the Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau, 258 Westminster Bridge Road. This Bureau is ruled by a body formed by representatives of various Government Departments, the Labour movement, the British Legion, and other bodies concerned with country questions. It has a grant from the Treasury through the Development Commission, and the Ministry of Agriculture takes a special interest in its work. It has already got together a good deal of information about existing conditions, and with the help of its technical experts has published pamphlets on a number of trades. The staff is kept busy in advising country correspondents of various kinds—public-spirited people who want to preserve an old local industry or start a new one, or to deal with problems of training and unemployment, workers or aspirant workers who want technical advice, country producers who wish to hear how to set about extending their sales or where to buy machinery and materials. In technical matters, the staff can call upon some of the best experts in the country to advise on their correspondents' problems.

But it soon became clear that advice was not the only thing needed. An agency was wanted which would act as a disinterested, reasonably cheap and business-like middleman, and deal with difficulties of marketing. This could, of course, not be done by Government means. An independent co-operative society (Country Industries, Limited) has accordingly been set up at the same address, to help by (1) wholesale buying and retailing of raw materials; (2) supplying appliances and machinery, which in some cases is sold on the instalment system to village artisans; (3) where possible, marketing the products of country workers if these are adapted for sale outside the locality of manufacture.

The village blacksmith is one of the most interesting people the Bureau have come across. He is not dead, and very far from it. And, what is more, the old skill is alive in his son, too. The members of the Master Farriers' Association are enthusiastic about their ancient craft; they are found all over the country in the village smithies and forges, and they have warmly taken up and carried out at the suggestion of the Bureau a series of village demonstrations of the working of welding plant. At these demonstrations smiths turn up and offer to the welder bits of iron which have suffered hopeless-looking breakages. The machine deals with these puzzles triumphantly, and the result is often the purchase of a welding-plant by a smith who had no idea before how useful and practical such an addition to his resources would be. Such an increase of the blacksmith's powers of repairing motors and agricultural machinery should do much to make up for the disappearance of a great part of the shoeing trade. An attempt is also being made to bring architects into relation with village smiths who are prepared to do wrought iron work. There are still skilled men who can and do turn out anything from the traditional door-latch that Red Riding Hood opened at her grandmother's instructions to the most elaborate fire-grate or church screen, and the work done of this kind could be largely increased. The village carpenter, again, can buy an oil engine and a circular saw by instalments, a purchase which, in at least one case known to the writer, has given village life a new attraction for a carpenter's boy who did not care for the prospect of spending the whole of his winters in sawing by hand as his father and his grandfather did.

An industry which has a vital connexion with arable farming is the manufacture of straw-ropes and straw envelopes (for bottles). Machines for such work have been introduced into this country by Country Industries, Ltd., and are now made here. They will convert the rows of stacks of unwanted straw which are to be seen on large arable farms into rope, for which there is an almost unlimited demand in metal casting works. (Castings are stuffed with straw rope, which, of course, only lasts out one firing.)

Farmers are not hasty men, and a new idea spreads slowly among them; but the fact that Country Industries can dispose of the whole product of many more machines than it has yet sold is reconciling some of them to the surprise of being able to add several pounds an acre to the incomings from their arable land. Demonstrations of the straw-rope machine will be arranged where there is a suitable demand.

Women's industries are, of course, largely catered for by the Women's Institutes, with which the Bureau acts in close concert, Lady Denman, their President, being a member of the Committee of the Bureau and also of the Committee of Country Industries, Ltd. One of the pamphlets published by the Bureau deals with weaving and spinning, and another with the breeding of rabbits for fur production. A women's industry which is being started with good prospects in Scotland is the making of filet lace. Good old designs will be used, and a highly skilled expert is training the workers. It is calculated that, without any sweating, a lace of high quality can be produced at a very moderate price, which will compete with the often rough and ill-designed lace produced abroad. Another pamphlet advises the owner of fowls on the treatment and value of poultry feathers. Feathers are quite a useful by-product if you can contrive to sort as you pluck, especially if they are duck's or goose feathers.

As to the marketing of the produce of women's crafts, there is no royal road. Good quality, reasonable price, and some regularity of output should be the worker's first objects. She must know how to make, and make well, before she begins to decorate; and decoration without a feeling for design or for the combination of colours can be dispensed with. Fine plain basket work, for instance, can be exquisite, but it is difficult, and few there be who will take the trouble to accomplish it, while unfortunately there are many who are capable of turning out loose-woven shapeless affairs ornamented with coloured silk buns. The best raffia work is very beautiful; but most raffia work is worthless. Embroideries may be a multitude of sins, or they may be such a joy as the Fisherton-de-la-Mere white work, which finds its own demand, like other highly artistic work. Good marketing will not remedy bad production; but the standard is improving, and Country Industries, Ltd., is beginning to build up a useful market for some of the country crafts.

A DANGEROUS OCCUPATION (continued from page 103).

The miners' representatives were vigilantly and continuously "on their feet," and the House of Commons had no peace. Or take the case of our soldiers during the recent war. How generously the Government, the medical profession, the individual owners of country houses, gardens, and motor-cars, gave of their best to ease the sufferings and palliate the worst effects of the ordeal which was regarded as necessary for the nation's salvation. Sometimes there were lapses. There was the distinguished London surgeon (for his credit we will leave him unnamed) who said in response to criticism of a wounded officer's treatment, "well, anyway he's getting it all for nothing." But taking it all in all, how little money counted as against the life and health of men who had fallen in the performance of a duty which by almost universal consent had to be performed for the common good.

It is something of that kind of public opinion then, which we wish our women's societies to create: an opinion which will treat with the contempt which they deserve those "financial considerations which have prevented the maturing of schemes for ante-natal work"; a public opinion which will put mothers' representatives in the House of Commons and keep them vigilantly and continuously "on their feet" so long as these preventable casualties continue; a public opinion which will mobilize the best resources of public authorities and private individuals to the support of those who are performing so arduous and painful a service for the nation's survival; above all, a public opinion which shall dissipate like clouds those mists, old taboos, and flippancies which inspire in the mother "an instinctive desire to escape notice during pregnancy." M. D. STOCKS.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

The article on "The Grievances of Midwives—By One of Them," in our issue of 4th April, has attracted some attention, and we hope to publish in our next issue the views of another certified midwife with great experience and wide knowledge of the whole question. Miss Helen Fraser will contribute an article on "Equal Rights in U.S.A." and in the section "The Law at Work" Mrs. Rackham will deal with the provision for an improved Probation system in the Criminal Justice Bill now before Parliament.

A WOMAN TEACHER WHO WON THE NOBEL PRIZE.

England has been strangely indifferent to Selma Lagerlöf, the woman teacher of Sweden who presented herself as a maker of fairy tales in a critical and sceptical age when realism had a distinctive and forceful activity. In 1909 Selma Lagerlöf won the Nobel Prize for literature—the prize awarded to Kipling, Maeterlinck, Tagore, and to others with whose works we are much more familiar as a nation. She is the only Swede to whom the award has been made, and she is the only woman who, during the two centuries that the Swedish Academy has been in existence, has been admitted to that fellowship of "the eighteen immortals." Born in Marbäck in the heart of Varmland, she early became imbued with the charm of her native land. She taught for ten years in a girls' school in Stockholm, graduated in course of time, and later became a governess in a private family at Landskrona. In 1907 the University of Upsala conferred on her the doctor's degree, but it was not until she was in her thirtieth year that she took up literature as a serious work. One of her first magic stories—*The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*, which is based on legendary tales, and which shows the national character of the Swedish people in reference to the various landscapes visited by the wild goose in its flight—was promptly chosen as a text-book by the Teachers' Association, and was taken into use in all the schools of Sweden. The characteristic simplicity of *Christ Legends*, a series of biblical and other stories, is also splendidly adapted for children, and a great and abiding love for little ones shows itself through the great majority of her works. She won instantaneous popularity by the publication of *Gosta Berling's Saga*—a story philosophical, legendary, human—in which the life of the province of Varmland is graphically depicted. The tale is that of a priest of a generous and idealistic turn of mind who sinks to the lowest depths of degradation through an overwhelming love of drink; one is taken through regions of haunting beauty, where weird and magical customs linger. The story, which goes back about 130 years, is a modern treatment of old legends with a mystical undercurrent and an idealistic aim. Symbolism and allegory are blended with the most realistic pictures of ordinary everyday life, and from the descriptions of even the humblest scenes there is always a lesson to be learned and a moral to be drawn. The work of Selma Lagerlöf has been likened on many occasions to that of George Eliot, and, so far as she makes each humble life reflect some great moral truth, this is so. Miss Lagerlöf's next great work, *The Miracles of Anti-Christ*, was an eloquent appeal for Christian socialism, and is placed in a southern town, Diamente. The story, unlike her others, has a distinctly southern atmosphere, and it is said that the plot occurred to her whilst viewing the frescoes in the cathedral at Orvieto. For her third great book, our authoress returns to her native place. *Jerusalem* is a work of extraordinary fascination, and is founded upon certain facts relating to a religious pilgrimage from Delacarla in the last century. The first part of the book, "In Delacarla," gives a striking picture of the life of the stalwart landed peasantry in a province of Sweden where the rustic and patriarchal habits of a primitive age still prevail. In the opening chapters the reader is introduced to a powerful farmer family, and the story develops to include the whole parish life with its varied farmer types. A powerful and moving drama is gradually evolved—the workings of a religious revival on the imaginative impulses of a simple and unsophisticated people, and their final departure *en masse* to Jerusalem to work out their own salvation. The underlying purpose of the book is to analyse the conflict of idealism with the love of the homeland and the home environment, and to show that, great as is the Swedish peasant's love of his land, yet when the call of religion or mysticism is heard he will abandon everything. The intensity of the narrative is relieved by the humour of different situations as they arise, and with the author we feel the futility of fanaticism more keenly and more particularly as we realize the humour and the humorous situations of the plot. The actual departure of the pilgrims is told in a wonderfully magnificent style—our laughter is mixed with tears at the little ones' cry of "We don't want to go to Jerusalem, we want to go home." The second part of the book shows the pilgrims in the Holy Land, describes their various adventures—how they were finally disillusioned and quitted Jerusalem seeking real peace and quietude in their own countryside. Selma Lagerlöf reminds one strongly of Hans Andersen in her simple childlike outlook upon life. She is an idealist in the highest sense of the word, a lover of children—a teacher and writer of whom her country is duly and justly proud.

G. MORRIS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

LEEDS S.E.C. TAKES ACTION ON GUARDIANSHIP BILL.

We congratulate the Leeds Society on their prompt and well advised action in connection with the opposition of their Member of Parliament, Sir Charles Wilson (Leeds, Central), to the Guardianship of Infants Bill introduced by Mrs. Wintringham. The Society is writing to Sir Charles Wilson pointing out that he had promised, in his answer to the N.U.S.E.C. questionnaire, to support this Bill. We hope that all affiliated Societies are equally careful in scrutinizing the Parliamentary behaviour of their Members, comparing it with their election promises, and taking action promptly when it falls short of that ideal.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NOTTINGHAM S.E.C.

The Annual Report of the Nottingham Society for Equal Citizenship shows how much efficient and effective political work can be done in the constituencies on comparatively short funds—for like all other Societies engaged on work for equal citizenship, this Society feels its activities only limited by the extent of its funds. The activities have included a mass meeting in 1922 for all candidates on the eve of the General Election, and continual watchfulness on the action taken by Members of Parliament for the constituency throughout the year. Unfortunately, a similar meeting was not possible in 1923, but we cannot but believe that the devoted work already done had its effect, and we heartily congratulate the officers and members of the Nottingham S.E.C.

A DISTINGUISHED NEW VICE-PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Helen B. Taylor, one of the new vice-presidents of the N.U.S.E.C., has been a strong supporter of the Women's Movement for many years. She was born on 1st August, 1834, as they were ringing the bells that announced that there were to be no more slaves in the British Dominions. On her 90th birthday, this year, she will be able to look back on a life which has watched almost all the notable events in the emancipation of English women, and to think with pride that she has championed that cause throughout.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

BIRKENHEAD W.C.A. (N.W. GROUP).

Expeditions for members are being arranged to various works, social institutions, and other places of interest in the neighbourhood, and will be commenced shortly after Easter. A Library has been started at the Office, books of social and economic interest are being gradually collected, and a box has been sent down from the N.U.S.E.C. Headquarters. Books are lent out at a charge of 2d. per week.

CHESTER W.C.A.

In addressing a meeting on "Methods in Preventive Work," Lady Thurlow urged that educational preventive work should begin in every home, and as early in life as possible. At a meeting held early in the month, the Delegates to the Annual Council Meeting gave their reports. Five delegates were present, and were listened to with much interest. On 6th May Miss Rathbone will address a meeting on "Widows' Pensions," and the summer programme also includes an excursion to the Flannel Works at Holywell, and a Garden Party.

PRESTON W.C.A.

"Education and the Citizen" was the subject of an address given by Mr. Perkins (chief organizer for Technical and Continuation Schools in Lancashire) who described the process by which our present system of education had reached its present form. While referring to the difficulties in the way of upkeep for the voluntary schools, he pointed out that their presence made for a diversity in education which was valuable. The desirability for smaller classes and the needs of children of 13 to 14 years were touched on, and the suggestion made that they should be transferred to one school rather than scattered in small numbers over several. In reviewing the work of the local education committees, and the part hitherto played by secondary schools, he suggested the need for devising another curriculum if secondary education should be widely extended or made free.

ROCHDALE W.C.A.

A large number of members and friends attended a meeting on "Birth Control" addressed by Dr. Maude Kerlake (Southend-on-Sea), who gave an interesting account of Dr. Marie Stopes' Clinic at Holloway, at which she (Dr. Kerlake) attends weekly. She gave a detailed list of various classes of people who, in her opinion, might with advantage learn of a safe system of Birth Control, and cited many examples out of her own experience. She declared that the public ignorance on the subject was appalling, and that at present there was practically no means by which anyone desiring information could get it. The following resolution, to be sent to the Minister of Health, was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting of women urges the Minister of Health to allow instruction in Birth Control, when necessary, at Infant Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics."

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

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

There has been some misunderstanding with regard to the appointment at the recent Council Meeting of the League of Nations of the representative of the Saar Valley on the Governing Commission of that district. Up to 1923 the Saar Valley representatives were a dismal succession of French nominees. In December, 1923, Lord Cecil, the British representative on the League Council, proposed a man who was named by representative Saar Valley opinion as a suitable person. Herr Kossman, an ex-miner, has represented the Saar in the Reichstag, and is the chairman of the elected Saar Valley Advisory Council. The French member of the League Council agreed to his appointment, subject to a delay of three months, and to make all sure Lord Cecil secured a note of this concession in writing. In March, 1924, the Saar Valley political leaders put forward another candidate. Lord Parmoor, however, felt that he must abide by the bargain made by his predecessor, hence Herr Kossman was nominated unanimously by the Council. Next year it must be hoped that British pressure may secure that the Saar elected body may be allowed to submit a list of names from which the League Council may choose. The Treaty does not forbid it, and it would obviously be the just solution.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES,

17 Evelyn House, 62 Oxford Street, W.1.

At the annual meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses held on the 31st March, 1924, the President, Councillor Beatrice Kent, struck the dominant note of freedom and self-government for nurses, and complete control of their own affairs. In order to hearten them in their very uphill fight to escape from lay control and the domination of limited liability companies, she quoted an inspiring sentence from an address given in the early days of the Suffrage Movement at Massachusetts by one of the oldest American Suffragists then living. Speaking of Freedom this lady said:—

"No experienced Suffragist is ever discouraged under any circumstances; the spirit of liberty is never defeated, whether in chains or in laurels."

The Union passed several resolutions regarding the affairs of the profession, it being now a recognized fact that enough suitable women are not coming forward to be trained owing to the conditions under which they have to work.

The members present pledged themselves to strive for the betterment of the profession.

MAUDE MACCALLUM, Hon. Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GRIEVANCES OF MIDWIVES.

MADAM.—The writer of "The Grievances of Midwives"—by One of Them"—implies but does not state the great grievance of the public in this matter—perhaps because these grievances interact so completely as to make a vicious circle which neither the law, the victims, nor the midwives are able to break. Midwives are not the fashion among the well-to-do, are mistrusted by the medical profession, and kept behind the grille of the law because they are not adequately trained. They are not adequately trained because the majority of the trainees are not of the intellectual calibre either to profit by scientific training or to be trusted to exercise scientific judgment in emergency. Because the profession is so largely stocked by ill-educated entrants, it has little status as such. And, so long as the status is apparently low in the eyes of society—quite apart from economic considerations—women of the intellectual calibre of science and medical students will leave it severely alone, except in those comparatively rare cases when they are urged thereto by vocation, charity, or the missionary spirit. So here we come full circle again, and so long as the profession is not entered in any great numbers by this sort of candidate there will be no irresistible demand for scientific training and that full professional responsibility that can be based only on adequate qualification. Hence the law will remain as it is—to protect the public from the ignorant midwife—midwifery in its scientific sense will remain the province of the physician, and the practitioner will not be employed by the well-to-do.

It is a moot point which segment of the circle it would be wisest to break. Could not pressure be exercised at each segment in succession? Women can do their part.

The public should realize that the reproductive cycle is a normal physiological process, and that assistance round about the time of delivery is strictly outside the province of a physician. Even though the association of medicine-men with midwifery goes back to the days of magic, the medicine-man did not interfere with the physical act. That was left to the wise woman—the midwife. The intervention of healers of the sick in the deliverance of pregnant women dates from the day when a mistaken idea of civilization, with its unfortunate sequels, induced in the pampered woman the notion that to be pregnant was to be ill.

Let the woman get rid of this notion, and demand in the practitioner of midwifery that she (it is unnatural that it should ever be "he") be trained fundamentally, not in pathology, but in physiology, anatomy, embryology, and biology with the same theoretical and demonstrative thoroughness that a student of natural science is trained, and in nursing mother and infant at a moment when they are physically and psychologically weak with the same thoroughness that sick nurses or teachers are trained. Sound knowledge of the normal is the best foundation for recognition of departures from it and the best starting-point for inducing a return to it. Medical training is too often oriented in the opposite direction. Heaven forbid that midwifery should remain forever a branch of pathology. Let us rather hope that some day medicine will have the grace to regard itself as a sideline on the main study of biology.

V. C. C. COLLUM.

EQUAL GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILDREN.

We print below a letter which appeared in the Press last week, calling attention to the Parliamentary situation with regard to the Equal Guardianship of Children.

MADAM.—We desire, on behalf of our respective organizations, to call attention to the critical parliamentary situation with regard to the question of equal rights and responsibilities for parents with respect to the guardianship, maintenance, and custody of their children. We desire further to urge on the Government the importance attached by the women of the country to its giving practical effect to the Labour Party's statement that "Labour stands for equal rights and privileges in parenthood."

Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, initiated, as were the other Bills on the same subject which have for several years been before Parliament, by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and supported by our own and many other organizations, contains the principles (1) that mothers and fathers shall have equal rights and responsibilities with regard to their children, and (2) that both parents shall maintain their children according to their means. Your readers will remember that this Bill on the occasion of its Second Reading on 4th April, secured the support of all parties, and was passed without a division. The Government, while expressing its adherence to the principles of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, announced its intention of introducing a Bill of its own, embodying these principles.

When the proposed Government measure was outlined it became apparent that it no way embodies the principles of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, but provides instead only certain minor reforms. It fails to give a mother the legal status she now so pitifully lacks with regard to her child by making her joint guardian with the father; it fails to increase these rights of application to the Courts in case of disputes with regard to the child which a mother now possesses, and which, for the most part, are limited to cases in which the mother actually is or wishes to be separated from the father; it fails adequately to provide for the proper maintenance of the children when the parents are living together. We, therefore, appeal to the Government either to give further facilities for Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, or to widen the provisions of the proposed Government measure so as to contain, in fact, the principles of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill. The failure to follow one of these courses would inevitably be regarded as a breach of faith on the part of the Government, not only by the organizations we represent, but by a great number of the mothers of the country.

E. NOEL BARCLAY, Mothers' Union.

EDITH C. MORGAN, National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland.

E. M. WHITE, National Federation of Women Civil Servants.

G. DENMAN, National Federation of Women's Institutes, ELEANOR F. RATHBONE, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

RHONDDA, Six Point Group.

RUTH EICHHELM, Union of Jewish Women.

A. H. ALLEN, Women's Co-operative Guild.

ALICE SCHOFFIELD COATES, Women's Freedom League.

BERTHA MASON, Women's Local Government Society.

VIOLET BONHAM CARTER, Women's National Liberal Association.

H. M. PROCTER, Young Women's Christian Association.

THE POOR LAW AND THE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

DEAR MADAM.—So great is my interest in the subject of "Poor Law," I venture to write you on a point which I trust will be dealt with in the Reforming of the Poor Law, and that is the "Unmarried Mother and Out-relief."

Many of these women are making a brave effort, and no doubt are successful, but when sickness attacks them they are not eligible. I have known of a case where, because the child was illegitimate, the mother could not be assisted as it is against the law. After much discussion she obtained an Emergency Order a week after her application. One must remember it is three days before the Health Insurance counts, and one does not give up immediately on not feeling well, therefore it is at least six or seven days before help arrives. It is somewhat astonishing how these Boards of Guardians vary. Surely it is more economic to give out relief than to insist that such a mother should enter an institution. Please forgive me if I have put this point badly. Your articles are so exceedingly helpful one looks anxiously forward to each issue of the WOMAN'S LEADER.

EDITH USHER.

WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

News of three more women on local authorities which have hitherto had no women members has reached us. Miss Banning has been elected a Councillor of Shoburyness; Mrs. Briggs headed the poll at the Methley Urban Council Election, and Mrs. L. R. Fletcher is the first woman member of the Leigh Urban District Council.

THE MARCHIONESS OF ABERDEEN & TEMAIR

WILL HOLD

A RECEPTION

AT THE LYCEUM CLUB, 135 PICCADILLY, W.

In connection with the work of the

CANNING TOWN WOMEN'S SETTLEMENT,

ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH APRIL, 1924, AT 3 P.M.

SHORT SPEECHES BY SETTLEMENT WORKERS. TEA, 4.30.

A Collection will be taken in aid of the Funds.

COMING EVENTS.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

MAY 2, 6 and 8. 3 p.m. Conference Hall 1, at British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. Public Meeting on "The Prevention of the Causes of the War." Chair: The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair.

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

MAY 1. 8 p.m. Informal Discussion.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

CHESTER W.C.A. May 6. Miss Rathbone on "Widows' Pensions."

EDINBURGH W.C.A. MAY 14. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. Discussion, "Scottish Hospitals: Should they be Voluntary, or State-Aided and Rate-Aided?" Speakers: Sir George Beaton, M.D., K.C.B., and Mr. John S. Fraser, M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

HORSHAM W.C.A. APRIL 20. 3 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "The Programme of the N.U.S.E.C."

HORNSEY GROUP FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP (in conjunction with Hornsey Women's Conservative and Unionist Association). MAY 7. 3 p.m. at S. Harringay. Meeting on "Women Police."

LEEDS S.E.C. MAY 5. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. Annual Meeting.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

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

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SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.
ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

TO LET AND WANTED.

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

NORTH DEVON.—Few Paying Guests received; comfortable cottage, sea and country, interesting part; terms moderate.—Pottery, Fremington.

FURNISHED BED-SITTING-ROOM and small BED-ROOM to let; as paying guests, or without attendance. Denny, 44 Granville Park, S.E. 13.

BED-SITTING-ROOM to let to business lady, Gloucester Terrace, W. Gas fire, electric, fitted h. and c., use bathroom; 25s. weekly. Another room available.—Miss Fuller, 99 New Bond Street, W. 1.

WEST OF ENGLAND.—Wanted to rent, preferably unfurnished and near sea, COUNTRY COTTAGE.—Ryan, "Rustington," Mulgrave Road, Sutton.

FURNISHED COTTAGE (May), pretty village, 2½ miles Maidenhead; 2 sitting, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, bath; indoor sanitation; ¾ acre garden; 2½ guineas.—Davy, Fairview, White Waltham, Berks.

PROFESSIONAL.

LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Mauresa Road, Chelsea, S.W. 2. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1, the only Income Tax Agency owned and managed by a woman. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

LINEN REMNANTS.—Remnant Bundles of pure Irish Linen for making aprons. These bundles are made up of pieces of snow-white linen of strong durable quality for Housemaids' aprons. Useful lengths. 13s. 6d. per bundle. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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

HOUSES FOR SALE.

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

DRESS.

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

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

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sara, 163 Ebury Street (5 min. Victoria Station). Tel., Ken. 9347. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 16 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Interviewing hours, 10-1 (except Saturdays), or by appointment. Members' Centre to be opened in May.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 20th April, 3.30, Music; Lecture, Rev. Hudson Shaw, "Life and Works of John Ruskin." 6.30, The Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard.

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 16L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 1st May: Informal discussion.

HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

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

The Employment Office connected with the above Centre was closed on December 14th, 1923, but the office has been open for interviews on as many Fridays as possible. Every Friday has been impossible, owing to illness, and the office will be closed altogether for interviews until further notice, except by special appointment made by letter three days at least beforehand.

ANN POPE, HONORARY SECRETARY.
(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

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

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

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

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

Name

Address

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