

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

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.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Mandates.

The Assembly of the League of Nations is over; its forty-two members from five continents have met and parted in amity, we come to a measure of agreement on many questions about which it would have been easy to quarrel, and have set up an International Court of Justice, though they have refused to compel resort to it. The question of Mandates was delegated to the Council of the League which has now begun to "define" mandatory power. It has been unanimously agreed that at least one woman should be appointed on the Mandatory Commission, a permanent body which exists "to advise the Council on all matters relating to the observance of mandates," and this decision is one of great importance to women, both in mandatory and mandated lands. "The definition of mandatory powers directs the mandatory "to supervise the suppression of the slave trade, and forced labour, and the control of arms and munitions. It shall forbid the supply to the natives of alcohol, and ensure them freedom of conscience and religion." The Commission will have no sinecure in observing and reporting on the manner in which mandatories "supervise" and "forbid"; one cannot help thinking that many a mandatory power will have to begin its work at home.

The Italian Municipal Vote.

The secret ballot on the Municipal Reform Bill, which took place on November 30th, confirmed the public voting of November 19th, although there were many defections among the delegates. Italian women now have the municipal vote, and it is not likely that much time will elapse before they secure the Parliamentary vote as well.

Children's Courts.

At half-past two in the morning of Friday, December 17th, the House of Commons restored the women magistrates, who are to sit in the Juvenile Courts of London, to the position of equality with the stipendiary magistrate originally contemplated in the Juvenile Courts (Metropolis) Bill. It will be remembered that in Committee the status of women sitting in Metropolitan Courts was by amendment reduced to that of assessors. This term, familiar in oversea Courts, was explained at the Conference of Women Magistrates as indicating a person who could say what she liked, but need not be listened to. The Home Secretary described as vital to the Bill the clause destroyed by amendment in Committee, but several members attempted to interpret it as an insult to the stipendiary magistrate, who, being a professional, could brook no rival near his throne, and quoted at least one stipendiary who takes this view. Lady Astor, in a vigorous, and even more than usually witty, speech (which was much appreciated by the House), dispelled the mists of make-

believe which were hanging over the question. She begged the House to treat the matter not as one relating to the status of women, or the dignity of magistrates, but as one affecting the welfare of children. She ridiculed Sir Ernest Wild's picture of a stipendiary overwhelmed by the "talking women," and declared that there was no Member of the House who, if his own child came before the Court, would not want a woman on the Bench. She foresaw that the best women would not be available as assessors: "You will get some women, because women will always go where there is need, but we want the very best women." Referring to the plight of the Government with "a progressive programme, and a lot of reactionaries to put it through," appealing to the House to "look at the honourable Members who are opposed to it, and to their (Parliamentary) past," and asking "why hon. Members should be so opposed to the sex of their mothers," she treated this thrice-argued question with plainly-expressed commonsense, and carried the House with her. We owe Lady Astor a special debt of gratitude for her work in all the stages of this important Bill.

Unemployment.

The growing unemployment in this country is so serious that every suggested remedy put forward from any quarter deserves to be seriously considered. When families are tramping the streets and men and women are going hungry, it seems as if it should be no time to quibble over the details of out-of-work schemes; and yet that is just what is happening on every hand. How far the Government schemes are being held up by obstruction from the Building Trades Union it is very difficult to make out, but either the inherent difficulty of the matter, or a stoppage somewhere is, as yet, making the official efforts rather futile. The out-of-work insurance, too, meagre and unsatisfactory as it is, only applies to those who have been to work up to now, and altogether the situation is deplorable. The Labour Party, which has secured a day for a full-dress debate on the subject, threatens "to take matters into its own hands" if something immediate and substantial is not done; but it is very hard to see what they could do with it if they had it in their own hands. Their official proposals, so far, are, from our point of view, terrible. Forty shillings a week out-of-work donation for a single man and twenty-five shillings a week for a single woman, with dependants' allowances, in each case, does not strike one as justice at first sight—it is, indeed, the unequal wage reduced to its barest nakedness, with all the "family wage" talk cleared out of the way. Forty shillings worth of warmth and food and houseroom is, apparently, the living wage for a male human being, and five-eighths of that sum the living wage for a female one. We protest that this is not so. Women will go cold and hungry on this scale of benefit. It is, of course, easy to see why the Labour Party has fixed this scale, and difficult to see

how they can do otherwise, for any scale of out-of-work donation must be no higher than the current rate of wages, unless it is to tempt more people out of employment than are there already. The fault, therefore, really lies not with the Labour Party but with the labour market—not with these scales of pay, but with the current rates of wages where the inequality and the injustice have their root. But for all that we cannot feel any great enthusiasm for the Labour proposals. What a complex and terrible state the world is in!

Women and the Ministry of Pensions.

Sir T. Bramsdon asked the Minister of Pensions whether only one woman is included in the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Pensions Administration which has recently been appointed, and whether, in view of the fact that a very large proportion of the recipients of pensions, whether as widows, or as the wives and mothers of disabled men, are women, and as a large proportion of those who have been engaged in administrative work in connection with pensions have been women, he could see his way to increasing the representation of women on the Committee. Lady Astor said that as this is a very important question as affecting women she would ask Mr. Macpherson to consider seriously the question of giving them an equal chance on this Committee which deals so largely with women and children, instead of waiting until the eve of an election to put women in their right place. Mr. Macpherson's only reply to the assaults of Lady Astor and Sir T. Bramsdon was that a most efficient woman member was on the Committee, which could not be enlarged, and that women were indirectly represented by the representative of the Association of War Pensions Committees. To Lady Astor's inquiry as to what would happen if the efficient woman member was temporarily absent, Mr. Macpherson remarked drily that she is always there. Still, there is no equality about the matter, and Mr. Macpherson's answer proves it. If "the woman who knows more about the subject than any other in England" feels that, no matter how difficult or inconvenient it is, she must be present, because otherwise British women would go unrepresented on this most important Committee, we wonder where the indirect representation comes in?

Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses.

Viscountess Astor asked the Secretary of State for War whether Army Schoolmasters already in the Service are, under the changes recently introduced, all ranked as certified teachers, while among Army Schoolmistresses similarly situated, only those in Class I. are so ranked, those in Classes II. and III. being graded as uncertificated, however long their service, unless they pass the Board of Education examination for teachers; and if so, why there was this differentiation between men and women. Mr. Churchill explained that the conditions of service, pay, and pension of Army Schoolmistresses has been much improved, and in return they are called upon to obtain the Board of Education certificate. Those serving in the First Class are not called upon to pass any new examination, and it is under consideration whether those who have served as Class II. and Class III. Army Schoolmistresses for a certain number of years should be treated in the same way. He did not, he said, consider that Army Schoolmasters received preferential treatment; they are necessarily treated differently, as they are enlisted soldiers, and must possess qualifications of a high standard before they can be granted commissioned rank, and prior to appointment their training has been subject to inspection by the Board of Education, while that of the Schoolmistresses has not. Still, in spite of lengthy explanations from the Secretary of State for War, there is a very obvious difference between the status of the Army Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses, and it should not be forgotten that to prepare for a certificate examination in the midst of other work is no easy thing. Really, one grows tired of all these circuitous answers.

The Lord Chancellor and the Equality of the Sexes.

Those who used to say that "Suffrage would not make any difference," must, if they still retain this opinion, resolutely determine to keep their eyes very tightly shut. Take, for instance, the Lord Chancellor's recent letters to the Press on legal reform, with special reference to the Law of Real Property Bill now before the House of Lords. Detailing the more important feature of this measure, Lord Birkenhead (formerly the sternest and most unbending of anti-Suffragists) says: "It has been found necessary to make elaborate provision for the devolution of land upon intestacy so that, as far as possible, the sexes may be placed upon an equality." So far as our memory serves no former Lord Chancellor has ever made a similar attempt.

The First Woman Law Agent in Scotland.

Miss Madge Easton Anderson, M.A., LL.B., has won her petition for admission as law agent in Scotland, which is equivalent to a solicitor in England. She began her three years' apprenticeship in May, 1917, but the Registrar refused to accept intimation of the indenture, since Miss Anderson's apprenticeship started prior to the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act (1919). She asked the Court to hold that her apprenticeship was valid from the date of its commencement, and although there was no opposition, there was some doubt as to the statutory requirements as to service under indenture. In 1917 no woman could qualify as a law agent, and the 1919 Act was not expressly made retrospective. The Lord President decided that Miss Anderson was entitled to be admitted in respect of the qualifications which she possessed, and that since the 1919 Act put her in the position of a man after the Law Agents Act of 1873, and since she had complied with the conditions of that Act, her application should be granted. This case is the first of its kind, but other applications are pending.

A Woman J.P. on Guy Fawkes Day.

The appointment of women J.P.s has already borne good fruit in one of our cities. Here a woman magistrate, foreseeing the usual crop of cases in the Children's Courts which usually spring up about the 5th of November, bethought her that bonfires and squibs are essential to little boyhood and cannot be suppressed by fines and warnings. So she persuaded the Boys' Clubs of the city, already federated for various beneficent purposes, to organise fire work clubs on a satisfactory basis. Result:—Better Guy Fawkes Day celebrations, and no cases in the Children's Courts.

Mock Trials.

The Acton Women Citizens' Association is holding mock trials for the instruction of women jurors, and the most recent one was conducted entirely by women. At the first mock trial a solicitor and an ex-policeman were in court, but although the recent trial was more or less impromptu, it was none the less in absolutely orthodox form. The case concerned the alleged theft by an "irresponsible unmarried woman" of a woman's watch and chain while the parties were travelling up from Exeter to London. The prosecutrix, absorbed in knitting a jumper, gave the wrong person in charge, but the jury, showing much keenness in unravelling the case, found the guilty person, who turned out to be a married woman. These mock trials undoubtedly give the new women jurors confidence and a knowledge of court procedure.

Women in Charge.

A very strange thing has happened in Yoncalla, Oregon. The women of the place had grown tired of the way men were running things in their town and decided that, if they wanted efficient municipal government, they must take the matter into their own hands. The women complained that the men were not sufficiently progressive; that the streets were left unrepaired, that the lighting of the town was inadequate; that no effort was made to check dangerous motor driving, and that affairs in general were unsatisfactory. All preparation and plans for changing this state of affairs were made in secret, so that no effective opposition from the men, *en bloc*, could be made. When the returns were in on election day, it was found that an entire feminist administration had been elected. The women of Yoncalla are proceeding cautiously, feeling that their success or failure will be watched with eager eyes by all the newly enfranchised women in the other parts of the country.

The General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture.

At the recent meeting of this Assembly in Rome one of the members of the delegation from Great Britain and Ireland was a woman. This is the first time that a woman has been selected to act in this capacity. The lady in question was from Dublin, and was one of the official representatives attending on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and she enjoyed all the privileges of the occasion in common with other delegates. An interesting feature of the meetings of the Assembly was the really remarkable work done by Madame Agresti, of Rome, who acted as interpreter to the American Delegation. Her wonderful memory and outstanding capacities as a linguist enable her to reproduce in another language, extempore speeches of quite considerable length. Her remarkable performance won the admiration of all delegates to the conference. Madame Agresti's services as an interpreter are

being increasingly sought after in these days of International Congresses. She is equally at home in English (her mother tongue), Italian, and French, and her exceptional knowledge of affairs and her familiarity with matters agricultural and economic make her an invaluable assistant at any international gathering.

The Education of Soldiers' Children.

The Federal Government of Australia has devised a scheme for the continued education of the children of killed, or permanently incapacitated soldiers, which will come into force on January 1st. After leaving the primary schools at thirteen, they will continue their education until they reach twenty. The scheme includes industrial, agricultural and professional training, and about 12,000 children will be involved. Annual maintenance grants will be given of from £26 to £130 for those following the professional courses, which will be varied to meet the cases of children living at, or away from, home. The Government has £1,100,000 in hand, and of this, about £200,000 has been contributed privately.

A Boarding School for Workers' Children.

The East Suffolk County Education Committee is making an interesting experiment with regard to the education of boys and girls over fourteen. The Fisher Bill makes it compulsory for children over fourteen to attend a continuation school for one or two hours every day, and the East Suffolk Committee's scheme is to add all these hours together, and to provide a boarding school on the sea coast where boys can be sent for six or eight weeks in the winter, and girls in the summer. The school will be run on the most modern lines, and *esprit de corps*, one of the good features of big boarding schools, will be fostered. The boys will be taught wood and metal work, and the girls will learn domestic economy, while a love for literature and history will be encouraged, and practical mathematics will be taught. Games, swimming, and gymnastics will be a special feature, and, after leaving, each ex-scholar will be kept in touch with the school by means of circulars sent out by the head master. It will be interesting to see what the success of this interesting scheme will be. We can't help cherishing a somewhat perverse wish that the boys might learn domestic economy and the girls metal and woodwork, it would do them each so much good; and why should the girls have all the summer time? We hate inequality either way.

Women's Success in British Columbia.

At one time the air was thick with prophecies of the speedy repentance which would overtake those who elected women to legislative bodies. This change of heart is unaccountably delayed in British Columbia, where Mrs. Ralph Smith, widow of a former Minister of Labour, has been re-elected to the Legislative Assembly for Vancouver, by a majority of 4,000 votes over her nearest competitor, a figure which is astonishing in a constituency that cannot claim to be populous. Mrs. Ralph Smith is to have a seat in the Cabinet, probably as Minister of Education. We congratulate her, her constituents and the Canadian Government.

Unequal Pay in Holland.

In Holland there are great differences between the wages of men and women in hotels, restaurants, cafés, and similar trades. On September 11th the Central Authority of the Union of Employers in these trades decided on scales of salaries, and sent their decisions to the four kindred organisations of employees. The following figures are taken direct from this communication. The salaries are divided into grades of workers in these trades, e.g., a hotel cashier gets 150 to 200 gulden per month; a woman cashier, 50 to 75 gulden per month; a buffet waiter, 75 to 85 gulden per month, and a second buffet waiter 75 to 85 gulden per month, whilst a buffet waitress gets 40 to 50 gulden per month, and this even where the work of the woman is exactly the same as that of the man. A second buffet waiter gets 300 gulden per annum more than the head buffet waitress. This distinction is still more glaring in lower grades, where, for instance, silver cleaners and washers-up get 20 gulden, and cooks and cook's helpers get 10 gulden. In agriculture, where "collective contrasts" have also been made, the same differences obtain, and even young boys receive more than women, at the rate of 33 cents per hour for boys, and 25-31 cents per hour for women. Even the staunchest advocate of unequal pay can find no reason for this difference in payment for work in potato flour factories, where the 21-year-old skilled workwoman receives 13.25 gulden a week less than her infirm masculine colleague.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

A good deal has happened, but nothing very cheerful. The break in the Irish clouds, heralded last week, is now not visible, even to the eye of faith, and a peace conference seems to get no nearer. There is still hope, and Mr. Lloyd George may be right in what is his obvious belief, that time is on his side, but, on the other hand, if you do intend to confer, it is hardly worth while boggling about forms and names, and there is much to be said for open negotiation with Dáil Éireann, excluding, of course, such of its members as are guilty of murder.

Oddly enough, the biggest move towards peace is believed to be the enforcement of martial law. Its merit is that it will stop reprisals. These have never been the work of the army; all honour to them for their splendid discipline and courage in terrible times. It is understood that the soldiers have always set their faces against reprisals, General Sir Neville Macready in particular. They will probably cease.

The week saw the final stages of the Home Rule Bill. The only serious amendment which the Lords have secured is the creation of Second Chambers in South and North, an amendment, be it noted, which the Government promised in the House of Commons by a pledge which they did not carry out. The other Lords' amendments were either unimportant or were not insisted on; and the Bill becomes law substantially as it was introduced. It has had throughout the approval of the vast majority of the Coalition, though it is doubtful if there are a dozen of its supporters who could stand cross-examination on its contents. Its opponents, who are by no means confined to the Opposition parties, disbelieve in it utterly. To them it appears to have been framed to meet Parliamentary and dialectical difficulties, not political and social fact, and they are convinced that another has been added to the dreary list of lost opportunities. Time will show which is right.

Ireland occupied Thursday, December 16th, and part of Saturday, 18th. For the rest of the week, Monday had its usual programme of small Bills. The Draft Rules under the Government of India Act went through with hardly any discussion, and the Roads Bill got through Committee by midnight, and through Report and Third Reading on the following night. On that day, Tuesday, December 14th, the Navy and Air Supplementary Estimates were taken. The discussion on the Navy was inadequate. Mr. Walter Long is ill, and Sir James Craig, his painstaking deputy, was not more than departmental. By far the best speech was made by Commander Kenworthy. The Air debate was more fortunate, for Mr. Winston Churchill, if not at his most brilliant, was possibly at his best. One wonders who will do for the Navy in this its time of stress and possible transition, that acute and imaginative thinking which that brilliant mind is doing for the Air. Both Mr. Walter Long and Sir James Craig are capable and trusted by the House; but surely the sea service, during a period when old traditions are being questioned and new ones not established, requires something more. It should have as its political head a statesman who is both sane and imaginative, both critical and receptive. It is not possible to find such a one.

On Wednesday, December 15th, the Opposition delivered a general assault on the occasion of the Supplementary Estimate for the Army. The immense sum asked for, forty millions, gave them their opportunity. But there was also Mr. Winston Churchill to be considered, and certainly he had a good deal to say. The debate ran on the lines of economy, until Mr. Devlin switched it off on to Ireland, and the atmosphere became rather heated. On the whole the Government had much the best of the argument, and in the minority of eighty-two who voted against them, there were not more than a dozen Coalitionists. After that the House sat up late to pass the Juvenile Courts Bill. In Committee the opponents of the Bill had succeeded in carrying an amendment reducing the women magistrates to assessors, an amendment which, it need hardly be said, would have wrecked the Bill. This amendment the Government asked the House to strike out, which they did, after an acrid debate recalling suffrage times. Lady Astor's speech was full of good things, of which, perhaps, the best was: "The Government has a very progressive programme, and a lot of reactionaries to put it through," which might well go down to history as the label of the Coalition. The Dyes Bill got through on Friday against vigorous obstruction. The House will rise before Christmas, until February 15th.

PEACE ON EARTH.

The Christmas season coincides this year with the first great effort of the nations of the world to secure peace on earth. Now, if ever, when we talk of goodwill and think of charitableness, we should realise the true significance of the meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations, and back up by every means we can find, its great and difficult task. It is, of course, inevitable that the results so far achieved should seem small. How can any human agency meet the need, when we consider the truly appalling state of affairs prevailing in the world? Nothing can put us back to the material prosperity we had in 1914, and even were the League full grown and powerful it could not do it. And it is far from such a state as yet. It is confessedly imperfect and immature, and therefore it is inevitable that each nation and almost each individual, too, should be somehow disappointed in the apparent results of the first meeting of the Assembly. But we are wrong to be disappointed. We may, everyone of us, point, indeed, to grievous faults and sad omissions. Some may feel that the continued absence of Germany and of the United States is alone enough to stultify the whole League. Others may feel that the timid and ineffective utterances of the Assembly on the question of armaments is enough to discredit the whole great idea. Others may feel that the secrecy suggested for mandates, or the postponement of so many other great matters leaves the world as chaotic and hopeless as it was before. But, indeed, these dismal feelings are wrong, and doubly wrong. For not only did the League do much, of a positive and constructive kind, towards future settlement, but it also left much undone, and so left room for its own development, and it was its very imperfections that insured its own life. It may seem paradoxical, but it is undoubtedly true, that had the League expressed all that its supporters hoped, had it verbally resolved all the great questions of the world, then it would indeed have sounded the knell of civilization. For it would have been a dead letter from that day forth.

We all know that we are yet imperfect. Not only is each one of us, individually, full of grievances and faults, jealousies, angers, and self-interests, but each nation, too, has the same characteristics. No deliberative body, however famous or important, that presupposed that nations were perfect could have any real life. It would take but academic decisions, and its influence would be small indeed. It might perhaps have been easy for a band of idealists to have met at Geneva, and to have passed there a number of ideal resolutions for the establishment of an ideal world. Such conferences are sometimes held, but little ever comes of them; and they are never attended by people who bear the real responsibilities of the world. They are held by people who talk and people who dream, and though, no doubt, such words and dreams are the forerunners of accomplishments, they are not, as yet, translatable into fact.

What we want of the League, above all things, is that its decisions should be translatable into fact. We do not want it to say this or that *should* be; we want it to say that this or that *can* and *shall* be, and to be able to see that henceforward it is. And, therefore, it is true that the League must move slowly, and that its progress must disappoint us again and again, just as human nature and human performance disappoints us. But so long as it does move forward, and so long as its great ideal stands out clearly as the goal to which it tends, we have no right to grow discouraged.

On another page we print a short impression of the first sessions of the Assembly, written for this paper by Mrs. Anna Wicksell, one of the Swedish delegation. The question of armaments had not yet been taken when she wrote it, nor had that of mandates; but, imperfect and even disastrous as the

treatment of both these matters may seem to us, we agree with her that we, none of us, have the right to grow discouraged. If the nations of Europe intend to re-arm themselves for another war it is infinitely better that they should say so within the League than that they should go to the League talking disarmament and return home to pass swollen army and navy estimates. As things stand they may, and they will, do better next year; as they might have stood there would have been no hope. And without the League that lasting peace which we pray for at Christmas time and must long for as long as our memories last us, will never be seen on this earth.

Christmas time brings us other thoughts as well as thoughts of peace and goodwill, for it is, above all other holiday seasons, the children's time. This year, like other years, we fill our children's stockings if we have anything to put in them, and give them all the pleasure and enjoyment we can procure for them, regardless of the political sorrows and the industrial dangers which surround us. We have to do this, and there is no harm in it; for we cannot live even our own lives, and still less, let our children live theirs, upon an unceasing pitch of public duty. It is, indeed, as much a public duty, in its way, as any civic solemnity, to give the children of to-day their share of the fun of childhood. But while we indulge in this most agreeable aspect of good citizenship, and while, instead of toiling off to committee meetings or wrestling with local authorities, we light the candles on the Christmas tree or pull snapdragons from the flames, we must not forget the other thousands upon thousands of children to whom this Christmas brings no pleasures and no gifts. There is no country in Europe that has not a very heavy proportion of such children; and to have one is to have an undue proportion. Austria, Germany, and Central Europe, Russia, Poland, Armenia—thousands of children in these countries will have no Christmas dinner, and perhaps no dinner at all on the day this paper comes out. Nor is it in these countries alone that children will be lacking their proper Christmas atmosphere. In France and in Belgium there are great regions of devastated land, there are destitute and unhappy families, there are homeless and wandering people. And in England and Scotland, too, the same miserable conditions are to be found. Unemployment is so bad, housing is so scarce, food is so dear—it seems as if this great aftermath of the war would have no end. And there is Ireland. There is an anxiousness about this Christmas there! If we know all this, and we do know it, then we have no right to forget it. But if we do remember it, what are we to do? The answer, of course, is for each one of us to determine. Some of us, perhaps all of us, will realise that we must give, even if we cannot afford to do it, to those funds which are feeding the starving children of Europe. We must do this at least quickly, before Christmas passes away from these unhappy children, leaving them as cold and as hungry as before. And we must do it not only now but whenever and as often as we can. But when that is done it is not enough. We must, indeed, alleviate suffering as we can, and we must save the children first, but beyond that, surely we must struggle with every power that we possess to prevent the causes of this dreadful state. It is not enough, in this generation, to pray that we may escape war in our time. We have not escaped it, and we know that the prayer we must now pray is to escape war in all time. And to this end we must work, building up behind the one great peace engine that we have all that determination and public opinion without which it cannot live. The League of Nations really is our greatest task, and to its support we must devote all the energy and all the wisdom that we have, so that we may bring back and for ever keep among us that Peace on Earth for which we pray.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

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

WORKHOUSE MEALS.

The Ministry of Health, in issuing an order to medical officers under the Poor Law requiring them to report any case where they are dissatisfied with the dietary of an institution, evidently contemplates a revision of the workhouse dietary. It is said that besides securing an adequate ration of fats and fresh vegetables (the point to which they direct the attention of their medical officers) they are considering the question of giving individual Boards of Guardians more liberty than they at present possess in arranging workhouse menus. The prominence given to food problems during the war, the progress lately made in research in matters connected with nutrition, and the practical experience gained in army and civilian life of the effects on health of specific diets make this a good moment to ask whether food in workhouses is in fact adequate in quantity, good in quality, suitably chosen for the various classes catered for, and properly varied. It is interesting also to discuss how far the present method of dividing responsibility for workhouse meals between the Ministry of Health (in succession to the Home Office) and the Guardians of the individual Poor Law area is successful.

The system now obtaining is that the Ministry divides the inmates of a workhouse, other than the sick and children under three years into six classes. It provides the Guardians with a list of suitable menus for each of these classes for each of the three daily meals, and furnishes official recipes for all the dishes and beverages mentioned. All that the Guardians may do is to select from this list any complete meal. Having decided on twenty-one meals for each of their six classes of inmates, they get this selection sanctioned by the Ministry and repeat it, in the same order, for the fifty-two weeks of the year. Certain general rules are given them as guides in their choice, and there is a recommendation of slight variations between winter and summer diets.

How does this system work? It secures, of course, a certain uniformity. The Ministry is assured that every inmate of a workhouse has enough food set before him, that no one will be asked to eat pease-pudding more than once a week, that no dinner shall consist of two liquids, such as broth and rice-milk. But while the Ministry limits the choice, as it does at present, it presents the worst dietary courses of an inefficient Board at the price of handicapping a really capable and efficient authority. It is obvious that the present scheme gives little scope for considering traditional local taste in food, though in arranging meals for the aged this is even more important than attaining a high standard measured in terms of calories. Finally, the recent circular addressed to medical officers leads one to conclude that the official recipes do not always secure that a meal, theoretically adequate to bodily needs, shall prove to be so when carried out in practice.

An indication of the lines along which improvement is not only possible but easy, can be got by studying a schedule of diets which the Guardians at B— were permitted to substitute for the official table during the war.

By this arrangement identical meals were served to all the six classes which are officially supposed to be severally catered for. The object of this was probably to save labour in cooking, serving, and book-keeping. It does not appear that any inmates were worse fed than was contemplated by the original diet tables, uniformity being obtained by allowing the two classes of adults described as "not infirm" to have the more attractive menus usually reserved for the infirm and for children. The economy of serving only one menu instead of six probably outweighs the extra cost (if any) of the more palatable food. To descend to detail. The official breakfast for able-bodied men is ordered to be chosen from a list of ten alternatives. B— ignores all of these, and provides a breakfast permitted to able-bodied men

only on Sundays, though infirm men, women of both classes, and children both over and under eight may receive it on week-days with the official blessing. The universal breakfast at B— is bread 8 ozs., margarine $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., tea 1 pint. The able-bodied man (able-bodied is no longer the official term, but is convenient) never has on week-days bread, margarine and tea at the same meal. According to the official schedule he is allowed bread, porridge, tea; or bread, margarine, cocoa; or bread, broth, cheese; or even bread, porridge, treacle, tea for breakfast or supper. These are perhaps more nutritious than the B— breakfast, though much less comforting and customary to the south country poor. The children's "tea" must, by standing order of the Ministry consist either of half a pint of milk or a pint of tea, half of which is milk, so that their meal is more nutritious than that of the adults. Apparently B— falls in with this rule.

For supper B— gives the same menu as breakfast, but twice a week substitutes jam for margarine. This jam is made in the House from fruit grown on the premises. Jam never appears on the able-bodied adult menu officially prescribed, except as a Sunday treat. We may agree that many of the officially prescribed suppers are better than that chosen by B—, and in an ideal dietary they would be used several times a week. But experience shows that though bread, broth, margarine sounds a good supper, it is not considered so by people who have had no tea. You cannot reconcile the workhouse inmate to deprivation of his favourite beverage by calling his afternoon's meal supper, and the official schedule recognises this in the case of women, even if they are not infirm.

Coming to dinners. B— departs from rule by giving all classes the same, and by permitting able-bodieds to have currant pudding twice a week in addition to a first course of, in one case, half a pound of fish and six ounces of potatoes, and in the other, $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. of boiled mutton and the same allowance of potatoes. On Mondays, Thursdays, and Sundays they have 12 ozs. of vegetables and $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 ozs. of bacon. Saturday is a thin day, when $\frac{1}{2}$ pints of pea soup with 4 ozs. of bread and 2 ozs. of vegetables must suffice. Tuesday gives meat pudding and potatoes, a pound of pudding for men and two ounces less for women. This last is chosen from the official list, but the bacon dinners are unorthodox except for children. The schedule does not contemplate bacon for adults except in company with haricot beans or pease pudding, and when it gives soup allows no vegetables.

It would be interesting to learn the present practice of the Ministry in dealing with the diets selected by Boards and sent up for sanction. A rule to which no exception is permitted is that at least two dinners a week shall consist of boiled or roast meat in the able-bodied class, while children or infirm persons must have three. This did not prevent the sanction (in pre-Ministry days) of three meals of boiled meat. One Union, at least, never gave roast meat, having no means of cooking more than the small quantity eaten by the staff. This piece of ancient history illustrates the lapses possible under the centralised scheme.

The disadvantages of complete uniformity were illustrated soon after an elaborate revision of the diets. It was found that if official recipes for puddings were rigorously carried out, the country workhouses with large gardens, which had given all their inmates fruit puddings of various kinds under the official designation of "suet-pudding," must sell their fruit and buy currants for all puddings but the children's and infirm persons'. The rule was subsequently relaxed, and it became permissible to class many inmates, once reckoned able-bodied, as infirm. But general rules very suitable for large institutions, where the members of the different classes are reckoned by

BANNED FILMS.

The general public hears much discussion in abstract terms of the virtues and vices of the cinematograph film, and will welcome the contact with actual fact afforded by the Report of the British Board of Film Censors. Here we have the "principles" upon which cinema films are certified or refused the Board's certificate—all unimpeachable, all somewhat difficult to relate to practice, and some at least recalling the subject matter upon which mediæval casuists based their eternal arguments. But following the declarations of the Board that they endeavour to distinguish between "departure from virtue" and "depravity," and to insist on "restraint," we have a list of seventy-eight reasons given for the rejection, restriction, or alteration of 1,110 films out of the 2,311 examined. First of all we may turn to the reasons given for total rejection of twenty-eight films.

- 1.—The drug habit in connection with a notorious case.
- 2.—Insistence on the inferiority of the coloured races.
- 3.—Advocacy of the doctrines of Free Love.
- 4.—Scenes calculated to inflame racial hatred.
- 5.—Preaching anti-social and revolutionary doctrines.
- 6.—Realistic executions.
- 7.—Effect of venereal disease inherited or acquired.
- 8.—Materialisation of the Deity.
- 9.—Illegal operations.
- 10.—Seduction of girls and attempts thereat treated without restraint.
- 11.—Predominance of crime, and sympathy enlisted with the criminal.

This list, at a first glance so shocking, does not on examination disclose very much that *must* be unsuitable for public exhibition, though these titles may, and no doubt did, cover films whose degrading influence is undoubted. No. 3 might rule out Jane Eyre, and No. 10 Clarissa Harlowe, No. 5 most pictures of the French Revolution, and No. 8 all forms of the St. Christopher legend.

The 253 films to which the examiners took exception were put back for alteration and are described with more particularity, and we are given to understand that series of pictures relating a story otherwise unobjectionable were rejected temporarily, because they contained incidents inadmissible for sixty-seven reasons. Omitting, for lack of space, the somewhat question-begging "reasons," such as "disparagement of the institution of marriage," and "excessive revolver shooting," and some which show timidity in dealing with politics, we reproduce this list without comment, except the trite remark that if the Board of Censors prevented the display to a mixed audience of this kind of thing, they serve a useful purpose. That they also find it profitable to avoid disgusting a majority of their audience is no ground for suspecting their good faith, or hinting that if things were otherwise they would alter their opinions. To argue that censorship of things seen can be conducted on the same principles as that of things spoken is to shut one's eyes to realities. Words may be counteracted by words, but what argument can wipe out a visual memory?

Indecorous and inexpedient titles and sub-titles. Cruelty to animals or children excessive cruelty to adults. Irreverent treatment of religious observances and beliefs. Making young girls drunk. Excessive drunkenness. Brutality and torture to women. Commitment of crime by children. Criminal poisoning by dissemination of germs. The practice of the Third Degree in U.S.A. Murders with realistic and gruesome details; gruesome incidents. Executions and crucifixions. Actual scenes of branding men and animals. Women fighting with knives. Doubtful figures exalted to heroes. Impropriety in dress; nude figures; improper exhibition of feminine underclothing. Indecorous dancing, offensive vulgarity, and indecent gestures. Harrowing details in death-bed scenes. Attempted criminal assaults on women. Salacious wit. "First Night" scenes. Indelicate sexual situations. Holding up the sacrifice of women's virtue as laudable. Infidelity of husband justifying wife's adultery. Bedroom and bathroom scenes of an equivocal character. Prostitution and procreation. Disorderly houses. Confinements. Medical operations; illegal operations. Dead bodies. "Clutching hands." Animals gnawing men and children. Suggestion of incest. Realistic scenes of epilepsy. Trial scenes of important personages that are *subjudice*.

(One must hope that the trials of unimportant persons are equally banned while they are before the courts.)

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hundreds, are not adapted for small country workhouses. Here, insistence upon six separate diets, besides those of the staff and patients in the infirmary wards, is expensive and wasteful in the extreme, and the alternative of choosing only diets common to all classes results in excessive monotony.

Some Guardians now do very well, indeed, under the centralised system, but many of them do, in fact, vary the diets with the sanction of the Ministry, and if they had a freer hand in initiating menus and recipes they would probably obtain better results than at present, at the same, or less, expense, if cost of labour as well as of materials is considered.

If the Ministry decides to issue recipes as a guide and to sanction numerous special meals as it now sanctions a choice from its own list, a good deal of expert advice will be required at headquarters.

Reformers will probably find but little to criticise in the food of the few children who are provided for in workhouses. They are to be fed "according to appetite," and not in conformity with any prescribed scale. Errors in feeding them, if such there be, have had their rise in an ignorance of the science of nutrition which research has hardly yet dispelled. The deficiency of fat in their food, which the Ministry suspects, is probably a deficiency in animal fat which margarine does not make up for. The deficiency in green vegetables, which is suggested, is not unusual; a good many workhouses give green vegetables as well as potatoes at every dinner where vegetables are ordered. But the regulation which permits of potatoes alone being supplied between September 30th and March 31st, should be amended without delay. Moreover, recent research has shown that vegetables in soup, or subjected to prolonged cooking, may entirely lose those qualities which make for growth in children, and protect both children and adults from deficiency diseases such as scurvy. Methods of cooking, as well as of lists of ingredients, should be mentioned in the recipes advised or prescribed.

Space forbids any discussion of the cost of workhouse meals, but it may be said that, as a rule, it is not low. The quantity of food served to each adult inmate is, perhaps necessarily, rather large. This avoids penalising inmates with large appetites, but inevitably results in much waste. In workhouses where prescribed quantities are issued to every member of the staff separately, the cost of staff food is often much higher than suffices for a liberal diet in well-to-do families. On the other hand, the mess arrangements for nurses in some infirmaries are excellent.

The attempt to keep to a deterrent régime in the case of inmates able to work might be reconsidered. But we cannot ignore the fact that many diets which are highly unpopular stand high in the scale of nutrition, and that if an inmate is to do work in the House, he, or she, will be more efficient on the hated porridge than on the desired bread and jam, as well as more willing to seek employment in the world outside. The deterrent diets are not especially economical.

It has been suggested that the allowance of three-quarters of a pint of milk for children over eight is unnecessarily costly. But children do not remain long in general workhouses, and when admitted are often ill-nourished.

This brief account has omitted the diet of patients in the infirmary, for which the medical officer is responsible, though the workhouse master or the nurses frequently have the most say in it. The bread and cheese lunches allowed to inmates doing heavy work are additional to the official three meals. There are also special diets allowing an extra meal of milk-pudding, bread with margarine, cheese, or dripping, or plain cake to infirm men and women, who are not able to eat the large portions served for dinner; their dinner allowance is reduced in consequence. Reduced quantities may also be served to infirm persons without the allowance of an additional meal.

To sum up. The quantity of workhouse food is, as a rule, adequate, even excessive, but where no additional meal is permitted the interval between meals may be too long. The quality of the ingredients is good, the cooking sometimes faulty. The division of diets into six classes constantly leads to monotony in any one class. The regulations, while permitting considerable variety, nowhere insist upon it sufficiently. It is probable that what dissatisfaction exists is attributable chiefly to (1) disregard of local tastes; (2) serving food half-cold, which is difficult to avoid when rations must be weighed; (3) serving to aged inmates either food requiring good teeth and appetite or insipid invalid diet. The allegation sometimes heard that "the food is so bad that half of it goes into the pig-tub" is less a demonstration of bad catering than an indication that the amount of the ration exceeds that demanded by the average appetite.

EVERYDAY COMMODITIES AND THE TREND OF PRICES.

Shopping is one of the ills that woman's flesh is heir to. Would it not be possible to mitigate the ill to some extent by taking a more intelligent interest in the sources and production of the somewhat dull commodities with which, at least every week, and sometimes every day, many of us deal—not without grumbles at the quality and the cost? This and the following articles are intended to help towards such interest. Space will only allow a brief account of the more important essentials of food, textiles, and fuel.

Before these days of high prices much less time and thought were given to the saving of pennies and sixpences. Now in very many households this saving has become not only important but essential if ends are to be made to meet even with a greatly lowered standard of living.

Women are the principal buyers in the retail markets, but hitherto few of them have taken any interest in trade movements, yet the buyer can, to a certain extent, regulate trade, can, to some extent, prevent profiteering by refusing to buy when goods are priced too high, and, on the other hand, by buying when and where goods are sold at a reasonable price for to-day, can help to prevent slumps, with their consequent horrors of unemployment.

The commodities with which women have chiefly to deal are foods, textiles and fuel, and the retail price which she pays for these depends mainly on the wholesale price—that is to say, that as the wholesale price increases or decreases so should the retail price increase or decrease, though it must be remembered that the change in the retail price will generally lag behind that in the wholesale price on account of stocks bought at the higher price. The average time that elapses before any effect is felt on the retail price is from three to six months.

The wholesale price of a commodity is largely dependent on the supplies of that commodity. It is proposed, therefore, to deal briefly with the existing supplies, and with the estimates of supplies in the near future.

Food.

In "Food Supplies in Peace and War" Sir Henry Reed estimated the approximate pre-war percentage of home supplies of our chief foodstuffs to our total requirements as follows:—

Wheat and Flour	19 per cent.
Meat	60 per cent.
Butter and Margarine	40 per cent.
Cheese	20 per cent.

Poultry, eggs, milk, vegetables, and fish, were largely home products.

These figures, together with the fact that tea, coffee, cocoa, and, as yet, sugar, are all imported, serve to show how great is our dependence on overseas supplies, and how necessary it is in consequence that women should have some knowledge of the world's market and the state of production, in order to buy intelligently.

The explanatory table, which will be found on page 1,011, compiled from returns issued by the Board of Trade, shows our imports of staple foods, comparing those of the first half of 1913 with those of the first half of 1920.

From this table wheat is seen to be by far the largest and most important food commodity in our international trade. The chief sources of its supply now are the United States, Argentina, Canada, Australia, and India—Russia having dropped out since the beginning of 1915. Concerning the production of bread-stuffs generally (i.e., wheat, barley, oats, rye) reports from all the grain-producing countries from which statistics are available (Russia, Hungary, Austria, Turkey and Egypt, are the exceptions) point to the fact that the world outlook is decidedly favourable, and the yield of the 1920 crops distinctly good.

Of the six chief countries importing wheat before the war it was reported that the United Kingdom had on the whole fair prospects, though the later reports of the Ministry of Agriculture say that the crops are rather below the average, having suffered from a cold, sunless summer, which has meant a slow ripening. The total production of England and Wales is estimated at

6,677,000 quarters (480 lbs.), that is less by 1,300,000 quarters than last year. Scotland and Ireland have average crops. Germany's crop varies between good and average; France's crops promised excellently but have proved somewhat disappointing; the climatic conditions of Belgium are very favourable and the crops are estimated to be almost as good as last year. Large purchases are being made in Yugo-Slavia; Italy's crops were poor in the south but good in the north.

The chief exporting countries estimated that the yield of their wheat crops would compare with that of last year as follows:—

	1919 Million quarters	1920 Million quarters	
United States	117.6	101.1	loss of 16%
(Crops of other cereals excellent.)			
Canada	24	36	gain of 50%
(Surplus of over 22 million quarters crops of other cereals excellent—all estimates exceeded.)			
Australia	Actual figures not available (surplus of 10 million quarters)		gain of 55%
Argentina	21.4	26.7	gain of 25%
(Shipments have exceeded all estimates of available surplus during 1920.)			
India	34.5	47.1	gain of 36%
(Harvest of 1918-19 exceptionally bad and no wheat exported. This year's crop very good.)			

These facts must eventually influence the cost of the loaf.

A second factor which plays an important part in prices, present and future, is the movement of exchanges. In America the pound sterling is at a serious discount, and much of our bread is made partly from American wheat. In the first ten months of this year we have obtained over half of our total wheat imports from America, who, however, are making reductions in the price. The effect of this has already been felt slightly by the consumer, for the Government, instead of selling flour to the baker below the world price, is now selling it above that price, though the difference between those two prices is not nearly large enough to bring an appreciable benefit to the consumer.

A third factor is the high cost of freight; this is rapidly falling owing to the increase of shipping. Finally, a fourth, and perhaps in the long run the most considerable factor in the price of bread, is the cost of production. With flour at 26s. 6d. a sack, the pre-war 4-lb. loaf was sold at 6d. With subsidised flour at 44s. 3d. the loaf was sold at 9d. With flour at 63s. 6d. at 1s., and the present price of flour is 82s.

But the bakers say that baking and selling costs have not decreased with the price of flour, and they contend that wages, coal, &c., have risen during this year.

The return to the pre-war price of bread would seem to belong to a very distant future. Nevertheless, the fact of a falling American market, which may continue if the Wheat Commission pursues its present policy of restricting its purchases in that market, together with the fact that abundant supplies are available in Canada, Australia, and India, cannot fail to bring about some reduction in the price of bread, and, incidentally, of biscuits and cakes, in a much nearer future than we hoped for even a few weeks ago.

H. E. W.

FRAU ANNA WICKSELL.

To every woman and to all men interested in the woman's movement, the name of Frau Anna Wickzell is one to conjure with, and our readers will be amongst those who congratulate her most heartily on having been appointed as Swedish delegate to the League of Nations Conference. She has a wonderful record of brilliant work behind her, and was for years the leading spirit in the Swedish Suffrage organisation.

After the Suffrage had been won there, Frau Anna Wickzell was one of the first to protest against a woman's party, and to advocate co-operation between men and women. At the Geneva Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance she said:—"It is not good for women and men to be separated, but it is important that women should have such an organisation as we are continuing in Sweden, and as there is in the United States in the League of Women Voters, to supplement our work in parties and to stand for the legislation which is women's special responsibility."

At the Geneva Congress Frau Wickzell was urged to sit on every Committee, where her clear thinking, direct way, sound judgment, and calm manner were invaluable. In the choice for the new board of the International Alliance she received one of the largest votes and was subsequently elected one of the vice-presidents.

The precedent created by her appointment to the League of Nations Conference will make the appointment of other women a foregone conclusion, and her pioneer work there will set a standard for the women who follow after.

THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By ANNA WICKSELL.

There is one thing in this first Assembly which reminds me of the convention of the I.W.S.A. this spring. The hearts of men, within and without the Assembly, are filled with the need of the world, with world poverty, sickness, lack of work and production that is lessened, not because there is less need for it, but because the peoples who most need the products have nothing with which to pay for them. And then we have this great international gathering of the most prominent men of all nations, who—this Assembly being the first of its kind—must spend their time in organising work, in slowly digging the League's own ground and building its own basement. This is, no doubt, a tedious and uninteresting operation in the eyes of the man in the street, who feels all the need, and is looking to this world Assembly for a ray of hope. But it is an essential operation if hope is ever to be realised, and, after all, public opinion has got something. The debate about typhus in Eastern Europe gave a strenuous impulse, which was followed by promises of immediate subscription from countries which have not themselves all they want, and I have no doubt that the little committee which was appointed to get definite promises of help from the different Governments, will be able to report success before we all go away.

We have had debates on the economic and financial problems. I am afraid it was not grandiloquent enough for the man in the street. Public opinion seems to love grand words, and there were no grand words. There were some earnest expressions of the general need, but no touching or inspiring eloquence. And yet I think the League has done its very best to solve these economic and financial problems in calling together the ablest experts of the world and giving them opportunities to work out one scheme, or several schemes.

In my eyes it is the uninteresting organisation work of the Assembly which is the important thing for the future. Of all the decisions come to at this moment I believe the most far-reaching is the first article in the rules of procedure, stating that the Assembly shall meet once every year, on the first Monday in September. Think of it! Once every year it will be the duty of practically all countries in the world—for it will take a very short time now before they are all in, I believe, with, perhaps, some reservation for Russia—to send representatives to Geneva in order to discuss world politics, world demands, world needs. This fact alone must bring home to every man or woman who cares to think of it, that world politics has ceased to be a thing of particulars, treated by the States two and two in their private chancelleries; it has become a wider and a safer thing, namely, a common international concern, where every national interest will get a hearing, where international problems

will all be discussed in public and decided, not always wisely, I am afraid, but still, by common consent. I am perfectly aware that it will take time before several States will mend their bad ways and bad habits, but by and by, as years go on, and session follows upon session, it will creep into our consciousness that the world is one large family, that international controversies have to be reconciled, and must be neither shirked nor decided by main force. Perhaps one must have been doing peace work for thirty years, like myself, to understand fully what an immense step has been taken by the creation of the League, and by this first little rule in the articles of procedure of the Assembly.

Another great thing! The commission that has had to deal with the International Court of Justice has come to a unanimous understanding; and long before you read this article you will know that the League has got its judicial machine. It is not perfect, that is true, but it is, and that is what counts.

On the other hand, the Assembly has not succeeded in working out satisfactory rules for the composition of the Council, and the election of its four non-permanent members; but it has done the next best thing, that is, it has not created bad rules, but has adopted a simple rule for the election of this year and sent the general problem to a committee which will be set up by the Council itself to study the matter and submit amendments to the Covenant.

Before we leave, three great questions will be discussed—the admission of new States, disarmament, and mandates. All these questions are in committee as I write; they are all very political questions, and I have no doubt that the results will be in many respects unsatisfactory. Still, something has been done for the ex-enemy States; Austria and Bulgaria will become members of the League and, in time, the rest will follow. As for disarmament, I am afraid very little will be done; I shall be perfectly satisfied if goodwill could be manifested and the work of preparation begun. It is the most difficult subject of all. The sub-commission about mandates has only just begun its work; a demand from the Board of the I.W.S.A. to get a woman on the commission on mandates stipulated in art. 22, par. 9, in the Covenant has been handed over to the commission, and I sincerely hope it may be granted. We have a Swedish member on the sub-commission, and he has promised to do as much as is in his power. It certainly is a very natural request, taking into consideration the particularly helpless position of women in the mandatory areas.

This is a difficult time for a League of Nations to come into being. It is not fair to ask of it the solution now, and at once, of all the difficult problems which are racking Europe and the whole world; it is much, if the different Powers are willing honestly and peacefully to grapple with those difficulties. The disastrous consequences of a world-war of more than four years' duration cannot be overcome in a short period; it always takes more time to mend than to rend. But even the mending can be done if only you begin with a good will. I think the League has begun with a good will; it is our business, every one of us, to set that good will growing.

Mlle. HENNI FORCHHAMMER.

Denmark's delegate to the League of Nations is well known in England, as is her interest in women's position and work in society, and she has ever been an ardent supporter of the Peace Movement. Mlle. Henni Forchhammer is second Vice-President of the International Council of Women, and President of the Danish Women's National Council. She was a delegate to the Peace Conference in Stockholm in 1916, and was present at the Women's Congress at Zurich in 1919.

Nor do her activities cease there, for she is the author of several text books in English, German, French and Dutch.

Mlle. Forchhammer is the first woman to make a speech during the Assembly of the League of Nations, and she spoke in excellent, clear English, was brief and to the point, and won her case. The subject under discussion was the traffic in women and children, and it has been decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry into the present situation in Armenia, Asia Minor, Turkey, and neighbouring countries, in regard to the deported women and children. The Commission is to consist of three members, selected from among the best qualified residents of the districts involved, and at least one member is to be a woman.

Mlle. Forchhammer, in her speech, mentioned that at least 20,000 Armenian women were still in captivity, and said that the traffic in children was still a shameful blot upon our civilisation.

WOMEN AND THE MILK SUPPLY.

By WILFRED BUCKLEY, C.B.E.

(Chairman of the National Clean Milk Society).

The hygienic quality of our milk supply is a subject that is, or should be, of particular interest to all women, because it is they who have most to do with feeding and rearing children. Young children that cannot be breast-fed have to depend entirely on cow's milk, and for older children it is the most important food. On the whole the quality of our national supply is extremely unsatisfactory. The reports of our Health Authorities show that about 8 per cent. of the milk that reaches our large cities contains living tubercle. Practically all of it contains evidence of manurial and other forms of contamination. It cannot be known too widely that more disease and deaths amongst young children are caused by dirt than by tubercle and other pathogenic bacteria that may be found in milk.

The comparative unwholesomeness of milk as it reaches the consumer is very largely the result of ignorance on the part of those who produce and distribute it, therefore the problem that we have to solve is how we can educate the producer and distributor. This can be done comparatively easily, if we set about it in the right way. Coercion and drastic legislation cannot do much good, but a direct incentive to those who sell milk will ultimately go a long way towards bringing about the desired effect.

Up to the present time (with the exception of Grade A Certified and Grade A Milk, of which there is an infinitesimal, although an increasing supply) all milk sells at the same price irrespective of whether it is tubercular or non-tubercular, clean or dirty. Consequently the producer or distributor, who, through carelessness or slovenly methods damages the milk he produces or handles, gets more profit on his sales if his methods cost less, than does his competitor who takes trouble over the milk he handles or produces. If a producer eliminates from his herd tubercular cattle, or installs a boiler so as to sterilise the utensils with which the milk comes into contact, he is just so much out of pocket. Similarly, if a dealer installs machinery for thoroughly cleansing the milk cans that are to be returned to the farmer, he has just so much additional cost to bear which has not to be borne by his competitor who fails to carry out that operation, which is essential if the farmer's milk is to reach the distributor in a proper condition.

When a woman buys clothing materials, hats, pocket-handkerchiefs, meat, vegetables or almost anything, she pays for it according to quality, with the result that the consumer gets what she is willing to pay for, and the manufacturer constantly strives to offer the public the best value that he can for the money. Not so with milk. Unfortunately it is an opaque fluid, and by looking at it one cannot tell whether it is good or bad. To the average consumer milk is just milk, and to the average producer milk is just milk—it is produced on his farm in the cheapest manner possible, he gets the same price for it whether his utensils are clean or not, whether his cows are clean or not, and whether his milks are clean or not.

If the consumer could determine the quality of the milk he is offered, the hygienic quality of our milk supply would be totally different from what it is. The consumer would refuse any but reasonably clean and wholesome milk, and in consequence the distributor would make a similar demand upon the producer, who, for the first time, would have a direct incentive to turn out the best article that he could. And what would the producer discover? That the production of clean milk is not so much a question of buildings but almost entirely one of methods, and that with proper care and particular attention to certain details he could produce clean milk instead of inferior milk.

In most of the large American cities milk is classified or graded by the Public Health Authorities. The case of New York is an interesting example. There all milk is classified into grades A, B, and C, and every milk vendor is required to display in his shop his licence which denotes the Grade of Milk he sells. When on January 1st, 1912, this plan was first put into operation, forty per cent. of the city's supply was classified as Grade C, but eighteen months later Grade C had ceased to exist. The demand for milk increased but the public did not want Grade C, and those responsible for the supply of milk found out that it was not difficult to turn out Grade B instead of Grade C, and that it cost little if anything more. At present the *per capita* consumption of milk in New York is more than double that of London, and is *forty per cent. greater in the poorer than in the richer quarters.*

Our Government has introduced into Parliament a Milk and Dairies Bill to amend the Act of 1915; by the terms of this Bill all persons who sell milk will have to obtain a licence, which can be revoked by the Health Authorities if it is advisable in the public interest, whereas a milk-seller now (with the exception of those in London, where they can be removed from the register), if he is once registered, cannot be prevented from selling milk, no matter what offence he may commit. The most important clause in this Amendment Bill is that milk may be classified by the Ministry of Health, either by a "General Order" that will cover all England, or by a "Special Order" which will embrace any particular district. Thus, if London, Manchester, or Birmingham wished to classify the milk that is sold in their area, the Ministry of Health could, by order, give such Local authority power to do so.

Parliament is very fully occupied, and it may be that, whether or not the Government will find time to push the Bill through its final stages, will depend on the public demand that it should become law.

Every woman can do a great service to the country, if, when she reads this article, she will just take the small amount of trouble necessary to sit down and write a note to her Member of Parliament, asking him to urge the Government to push the Bill and to support it in the House of Commons. I can assure her that if she will perform this little service it will have the greatest effect, and she will then be doing her share to improve the health of the nation. If she does not do it she will be doing her share towards leaving things as they are, and will be neglecting an opportunity to "do her bit."

NEW LIGHT ON THE DARKNESS THAT CAN BE SMELT.

By DR. C. W. SALEEBY, F.R.S.E.

In pursuance of my long campaign against the shameful "smog" of our cities, I have made at least one thousand-mile journey within the United States, and many shorter ones, for first-hand knowledge bearing on our present great opportunity. The Departmental Committee appointed by the Minister of Health is still continuing, under Lord Newton's chairmanship, the valuable work which has already given us the Interim Report* of last summer; and the readers of this journal, who know what is involved—above all, for woman in the home—will allow me to carry the discussion a stage further.

Thinking in headlines is well enough as a preliminary but very ill if it goes no further. Many people who like the coal-fire have been content to accept a headline in the *Times*—"In defence of the coal fire"—as meaning that Dr. Margaret Fishenden, in a recent report, had vindicated or exculpated their favourite form of heat. When, however, we go so far as to read what she has actually demonstrated, we find it to be simply this—that the ordinary coal fire is much less inefficient, in the engineer's technical sense, than had been supposed. To this it may be added that certain forms of coke are very much more efficient than coal burnt in the same grate. To interpret these results as constituting a defence of the coal fire is, of course, preposterous. The chief offence of that fire against public health, happiness, and efficiency, is its production of smoke—as to which Dr. Fishenden's careful and interesting research is entirely irrelevant.

However efficient the coal fire, no defence is available against the further argument that to burn our soft coal is to waste it, because, even if no smoke were created, such burning involves the loss of the countless precious things which the coal contains—above all, the sulphate of ammonia which should go into our soil to grow our food instead of into the air to defile our skies and poison our lungs with the darkness that can be smelt.

In America, by personal enquiry of Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner of New York City, I learnt that the beneficent regulation which prohibits the production of smoke there came into force about fifteen years ago as part of New York's Anti-Consumption Crusade at that time. Thanks, no doubt, partly to that regulation, New York has in recent years achieved by far the most rapid fall in the consumption death-rate anywhere recorded.

In Boston they enjoy regulations similar to those in New York, and there these regulations go by the perfectly happy name of "The Blue Sky Law."

The case of Pittsburgh is most important of all, for its bearing on the industrial chimney. Pittsburgh was once the smokiest city on earth. At last the inhabitants rebelled and took action. The finest enquiry anywhere conducted into this subject was inaugurated by the University. Pittsburgh had an appalling death-rate from pneumonia, higher than that recorded in any other city, and the distribution of pneumonia was highest in the smokiest sections of the city, and lowest in those which, being on the hillsides, were least smoky. Under the Bureau of Smoke Prevention, Pittsburgh has in very large degree cleaned itself to the advantage of all, not least in respect of health. If Pittsburgh could do this with her unique combination of disadvantages, industrial, geographical, and meteorological, any city anywhere can do it.

Lastly, I made purposeful visits to very many American houses, widely various in size and equipment, but only in the city of Niagara Falls did I find an exception to the rule that the American woman cooks by gas. In Niagara Falls electricity was used, and if we had such water power available in our country, of course we should use electricity too. As for soft coal fires, for any domestic purpose whatever, I saw and heard of none.

For comfort, cleanliness, economy of labour, and general enjoyment of what I will call simply hygiene—we in this country have not yet lispd the alphabet of these things as compared with America. If now, British women, when a million houses are to be built, cannot say a word in their own defence, but are to continue to be domestic slaves like their mothers and grandmothers before them, let them at least not charge their plight to any lack of evidence or of effort on the part of their very humble and respectful servant, the present writer.

* Price twopence, H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway.

A DIARY OF WORK.

By SIR LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST WOMEN.

The "Labour Gazette" for November shows how greatly unemployment increased in October. On October 1st there were 274,277 Out-of-work Donation Policies or Unemployment Insurance Books lodged. Thirty days later the number had grown to 471,675. As to women only, the corresponding figures were 34,901 and 60,991. Women's employment is mainly in the uninsured trades.

THE LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES SAVED.

The workers, and certainly not least the women workers, are to be congratulated upon the complete vindication of the Employment Exchanges by the Government's Committee of Enquiry. The facts of the case should not be easily forgotten. A Press stunt war was waged on the Exchanges, the officials of which, men and women, were charged with being wasters of the public money, and even guilty of "criminal fraud." The Committee have dismissed the charges, and neatly disposed of those who made them. It may be remembered that Mr. A. Thompson, the "Labour Correspondent" of the "Daily Mail," was one of the chief critics. He was asked by the Committee to give evidence before them, but coyly declined. The Committee put it:—

"Mr. Alexander Thompson, who has made a number of charges in the Press against the Employment Exchanges, declined to give evidence upon the ground that *his information rested upon hearsay only.*"

Precisely. It is invariably the case, in my experience, that charges against Government workers rest upon hearsay only. And, curiously, it is not merely that the calumniators are a little wrong. Usually they utter the very reverse of the truth. For example, a charge was made against the Ministry of Food that it had imported bad bacon. The fact was that bad bacon was indeed imported, but by the very private interests which made the false charge!

COST OF LIVING FIGURES.

A number of writers in the Press are endeavouring to rob the workers of advances in wages corresponding to the increases in cost of living recorded by the Ministry of Labour. They indict the gifted civil servants who prepare the index numbers with knowingly false calculations. One paper charged them with deliberate fraud. Here again the charge is a false one. The index number used is a scientific one, which does proper justice to the various expenditures, from bread to rent, and from meat to clothes. The charge against it is of the same character as that disposed of by the Committee on Employment Exchanges when they say:—

"Mr. Harold Cox, who had stated in the Press and repeated in his evidence to us, that the statistics of the Ministry of Labour upon these matters were deceptive to the point of criminal fraud, could not give us data upon which we could examine his charges. In all cases in which we have been placed in a position to examine such charges, we found that they were without foundation."

Unfortunately, those who make such charges are never found to apologise for their mistakes. They cover their tracks with a fresh charge—against some other department.

176 PER CENT.

Let women workers consider the "Labour Gazette" figures which are now attacked:—

Taking Retail Food Prices at July, 1914, as	100
At July, 1916, the Index Number was	161
At July, 1917, " " "	204
At July, 1918, " " "	210
At July, 1919, " " "	209
At July, 1920, " " "	258
At Nov., 1920, " " "	291

That is to say, retail food prices, having due regard to the varying proportions of different foods used, are now 191 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. Rent, clothes, newspapers, &c., have not risen so much, and taking everything into account, the cost of living in November, 1920, is 176 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The meaning of this is that if now a working class family, bought the same quantities of the same things as in July, 1914, they would have to pay 176 per cent. more for them. To put it in another way, a wage of 35s. is now required to buy what a wage of 20s. bought in July, 1914. Yet how many women are asked to exist on 35s. a week?

THE INSTITUTE.

CHAPTER IV.

HIGH LIFE ABOVE STAIRS.

Our first promotion from the Low West ward is to a separate bedroom in the adjacent corridor. Here, although we still join the other ladies on the verandah during the day, we sleep alone, use the bath-room alone, and, under supervision of the charge-nurse, resume possession of our own clothes. When we go up to High West or Mid-West we retain all these privileges and have, in addition, a general sitting-room with an unguarded fire; and we have our meals at "the table d'hôte."

This sounds, at first, a leap into positive luxury; and, indeed, the dining-hall would contrast favourably in appearance with that at a good many first-class hotels. But the meals are the familiar old meals of the admission ward; the same bread and margarine, the same stodgy suet pudding, the same tapioca. Only, now, our six o'clock high tea consists of bread and margarine and marmalade; and as there is nothing more until the eight o'clock breakfast next day, the guests may be observed rising from table d'hôte and stealthily pocketing every surplus slice of bread they can lay hold of; some of "the gentlemen" collect quite a formidable pile and carry it off in triumph.

The gentlemen sit at one side of the dining-hall, the ladies at the other. The majority of ladies and gentlemen both are well over fifty. The ladies, as a rule, are thin, with a tendency to wear their hair down their backs; the gentlemen, as a rule, are fat, and bald, and bearded. Presumably the ladies are not always to be trusted with hairpins; the gentlemen are not always to be trusted with a razor. Female nurses are employed in the male admission wards; they take three months of night or day duty there, alternating with three months of night or day duty amongst the ladies. And from a conversation that I overhear upon the verandah one day, I gather that they are strongly of the opinion that male attendants might be dispensed with altogether. They say, rather surprisingly, that it is "no job for an able-bodied man; he should think shame of himself not to find something better to do." Also, the rate of pay for a male attendant is much lower, compared to what he might receive in any other occupation, than it is for a woman. It is very difficult for him to marry and support a family, unless his wife is working too. One nurse details the case of a friend of hers who "goes with" an attendant, but flatly refuses to marry him until he can find some more profitable employment.

We are now taken out for walks about the grounds, or about the adjacent countryside; little parties of three, or four, or half-a-dozen patients, under the escort of a nurse. I then endeavour, no doubt unsuccessfully, to hang behind the others, and look as if I didn't belong to them. We all try to do this at first; after a while, I suppose, we become indifferent.

There are also drives once a week—a large party in a waggonette—and on Sunday mornings church services are held in the chapel attached to the Institute. Both these outings I am, fortunately, able to avoid; so I can give no account of them. But I hear that one lady has disgraced herself by screaming out a vivid description of her daily life to the passers-by as she drives through a neighbouring village; and that two other ladies have had a little combat over the question of their respective right to a particular seat in church.

When parole is granted—all the ladies from High West and a few from Mid-West have parole—we may walk alone in the grounds, or outside them, in company with another patient. As we still have not a penny of ready money, our chances of escape are certainly reduced to the minimum. There are pianos in the upstairs sitting-rooms, and one in the recreation room, which is generally locked; but permission to practice may be obtained, of course on payment of a fee. Many of the patients are quite accomplished pianists, and though there is a great scarcity of music, and a consequent monotony in their daily programme, they certainly make the most of their accomplishment. I am told that on one evening a week during the winter months a dance is held in the recreation room from seven to nine p.m. After an impartial view of the gentlemen and ladies as they appear at table d'hôte, I find it difficult to imagine anything more grotesquely pitiful than such an entertainment.

They have been carting potatoes from the farm, and a number of potatoes have fallen off the carts and been left lying

about the roads. A little Irishwoman from High West takes advantage of her parole to go out and collect these treasures, which she roasts secretly in the evening at our sitting-room fire; and she brings me one to eat after I am in bed—a very practical piece of kindness. But all the ladies of the High West are from twenty to thirty years my senior; and all are inclined to pet me in an abrupt, unexpected, very human, and benevolent fashion.

CHAPTER V.

SOME PATIENTS.

Miss A. is the ideal patient. When she is expected to lie in bed she lies there all day long without moving, obediently eats what is brought to her, rises and washes herself when she is told to rise and wash, swallows her medicine without a murmur, never speaks a word. When presently she is told to get up and dress, she does so; when she is told to go for a walk, or to take her meals at table d'hôte, she does so; and still she never speaks a word. She is thin, and delicate, and plain, and is, one guesses, still in her early twenties.

Yet one day, on the exercise green, I find Miss A. walking by herself, unobserved for once, and crying quietly and very bitterly.

Miss F. lives up in the High West. She is big and stout, with red hair in a plait; she was once the go-ahead daughter of a sporting county family, and delights to recount how her father's groom would say of her, "The chestnut filly needs a strong bit." She has led a vivid, adventurous, and, apparently, a rather racy life, both in England and on the Continent. An early and disastrous love affair flung her into the arms of the Roman Catholic Church; she once had a private audience with the Pope, and she writes to him—and to the Prime Minister, and various members of the Royal family—periodically, at considerable length. Generally these letters are to warn them of some impending calamity revealed to her through the medium of astrology, in which she is a devout believer. She is talkative, outspoken, often highly amusing; and she is stopping, as a voluntary patient in the Institute in order to avoid the Bolshevik revolution which she is firmly convinced is in full swing outside. "This is the one place," she remarks cheerfully, "where they never will want to break in!"

Poor Mrs. C. was the capable, middle-aged wife of a Presbyterian minister. His sudden and tragic death was followed by her own nervous breakdown; and now she is in a pitiable condition, suffering acutely both physically and mentally, and getting very little help or sympathy from anyone. Except for occasional bursts of tears, like a frightened and unhappy child, she is very good, and exercises extraordinary self-control; but she seems to have no friends, in the Institute or outside it. The doctor makes her troubles the subject of his feeble jocularity; and the charge-nurse scolds her more vehemently than she scolds any other patient, and for less reason. Yet, placed in friendly and quiet surroundings, with a little care and attention, and suitable diet for six months or so, she would probably make an excellent recovery; for she complains only of such obvious bodily symptoms as headache, sleeplessness, and indigestion; her sole mental trouble is a very natural depression and anxiety, augmented by the circumstances in which she finds herself. She suffers very much from the continual noise and disturbance which is an inevitable feature of institutional life; from the dietary, not at all fitted for her own case; and, one may easily guess, from the total lack of privacy. One pictures the quiet, comfortable, respectable routine of every-day life at the manse; and one is very, very sorry for Mrs. C.

Mr. XYZ. was, at one time, a magistrate. He still clings to the thought of his departed official dignity, and wherever he goes he carries an ordinary bent-wood chair with him, to represent the Bench. It is impossible not to wonder what were the last decisions he gave in the course of his duties, before the Institute absorbed him.

Old Mrs. T. has been here for years and years. She is small and thin, with a singularly clear and melodious voice, and a singularly happy and contented disposition. All day long she sits murmuring to herself; she admires the beautiful view, she admires the beautiful weather—especially on a pouring wet day

THE MEMOIRS OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN.

(Continued.)

—and she has a delightful faculty for bestowing unexpected and surprising names upon us all. Poor Mrs. C. is suddenly introduced to us one day as Princess Marie Victoria Louise; and for some reason or other I am John Beresford. Meal times are a great event to Mrs. T. A quarter of an hour before they are due, with extraordinary punctuality, she begins a little liting song: "Breakfast time!" "Dinner time!" "Tea, tea!" The sight of a few chocolates being handed round (all the patients make common property of such trifling presents if they are fortunate enough to receive them) will draw her from the far end of the exercise green to claim her share. Mrs. T. is, without a doubt, the only really enviable person in the Institute. She has probably outlived all her own relatives; she has become a part of the place, and the nurses are fond of her, and, upon the whole, very kind to her.

Mrs. Mac is the young wife of a business man in the North of Ireland; she has three little children and broke down after the birth of the youngest. All her life, in her own home, and in her husband's house, she has been spoilt and petted and made much of; she is very affectionate and lovable, and has her share of innocent, girlish vanities. As her health improves, her loneliness and home-sickness increase; and her sense of just how far she still falls short of the normal standard becomes more acutely painful to her.

"My husband said he didn't want me to go home until I could look after myself—and I don't feel, not to speak quite truthfully, that I can look after myself yet. I can't understand about money and things—but then, they never teach me anything here, they never let me try to do anything; and I know that if I'm ever to get well I've got to be educated all over again! If they would let me do sewing, or anything, it would help; but they won't, and I'm just getting worse and worse, and more and more stupid; I'm sure of it."

Her delight when I allow her to help me in darning the weekly bag of socks and stockings from the laundry, her tremulous eagerness over the little task, and her pleasure when I praise her, is extremely pathetic. She takes the humblest view of her own claims; and often declares, even with tears, that "it's being married like this that makes it so dreadful; if only my husband could get another wife, a really capable woman who would take care of the children and be useful to him, I wouldn't mind a bit—I've written and told him so!"

Miss M. is a charming, highly cultured, and remarkably intelligent Jewish lady, the victim of an unfortunate heredity, who has had considerable experience, poor thing, of different Institutes in various parts of the country. She is perfectly frank, as the best type of patient invariably is, about her own affliction; but she says: "I have always been so thankful that it fell upon me instead of upon my brother; it would be so much harder for a man!" She is a keen observer, and the soul of candour and truthfulness, but she is disinclined to trust her own judgment, and the questions she puts in the course of a morning's conversation are singularly penetrating and—for the authorities of the Institute—uncommonly difficult to answer.

"Nurse, dear, they said I was to come here for the treatment, but what is the treatment? Just to lie in this bed, and think? For I am sure—of course, I couldn't rely upon what my poor, stupid brain thinks about anything else, but I am sure about this—that it is just making me worse. They can't want to make me worse, surely?"

"Nurse, dear, is the doctor really a specialist in mental diseases? I mean, has anybody ever heard of him? I know he is the head of everything here, but does he really know a great deal about mental trouble? Has he studied it? How often do I see him? But if he only sees me for a minute, twice a week, how can he tell whether I am better or worse? And the other doctor—nurse, dear, do you think he is a clever man?"

Miss M., however, is supremely fortunate in having a very devoted cousin who accompanies her to the Institute, takes lodgings close by, and obtains permission to come and see her every day. There is an amazing difference in the position of a patient whose friends come to see her every day!

I learn from Miss M. that there is a real need for a small and well-managed mental hospital for middle-class Jewish patients in this country. At present there is nothing of the kind available; and their sense of loneliness and unhappiness under affliction is much increased by being cut off from everyone of their own race and forced to ignore or abandon many of their most cherished religious customs. There seems an opportunity here for some influential member of the Jewish nation to do a real service to his fellows by establishing and endowing such a place.

(To be continued.)

Godwin was scarcely more popular than his wife. He was a radical and an atheist, both more unusual and heinous offences then than now. Though he had many warm friends he was a man who made personal enemies, and had the reputation of being of an irritable temper, with cold and reserved manners. Moreover, in his "Political Justice" he had openly opposed marriage and had put forward propositions about free love and divorce which came then with a shock of almost complete novelty. His connection with Mary Wollstonecraft had further alienated public sympathy. He had deferred marriage until Mary had been pregnant for some months, and then had married under protest. He had explained carefully to all his friends that neither he nor his wife felt in the least bound by the ceremony which they had gone through in compliance with public opinion. Moreover, even after marriage, he had refused to live properly at home like any other man, or, as he put it, "entirely to cohabit." He had "hired an apartment" twenty doors from his wife's house where he spent the greater part of his time. Altogether, he was considered a cold-hearted, wrong-headed man, and his memoirs appeared to prejudiced eyes the sort of book which might have been expected from such a man about such a woman.

Godwin and his wife were so far in advance of their own generation that it is natural that they should have been misunderstood and disliked by contemporaries. To the less prejudiced eyes of a later generation this book appears one of the most beautiful books ever written by a man about a woman.

The form of Godwin's book is characteristic. He begins with the day of his wife's birth and ends with the day of her death. He maintains throughout his curiously stiff and guarded manner. But his book is no mere record of events. He had obviously brought the whole force of his mind, imagination and passion to bear upon his wife's story. He had understood her in a way only possible to a thoughtful man.

The keynote of his wife's history to Godwin was the strength of her affections and her difficulty in finding an outlet for them. He sees her life as one long search for some one on whom to lavish her love. Time after time she was disappointed, and, as he puts it, "a new pungency given to the sensibility that was destroying her."

Her life had been singularly unfortunate. She had been unhappy as a child. Or, as Godwin puts it, "she experienced in the first period of her existence few of those indulgences and marks of affection which are principally calculated to soothe the subjection and sorrows of our early years. She was not the favourite either of her father or mother. Her father was a man of a quick and impetuous temper, subject to alternate fits of kindness and severity." His "fits of severity" often took the form of blows, directed not merely against Mary, but even against her mother. "When that was the case Mary would often throw herself between the despot and his victim, with the purpose to receive upon her own person the blows that might be directed against her mother. She has even laid whole nights at their chamber-door, when, mistakenly, or with reason, she apprehended that her father might break out into paroxysms of violence."

Her mother died after a long illness when Mary was twenty-one. The next few years of her life were spent in struggling to maintain a home for herself and her younger sisters, apart from their father. Mary was not happy with her sisters, and her only salvation at this time was a passionate friendship for a young woman of her own age. This, of course, did not satisfy her, and came to an early and unhappy end. Within a few years of their meeting Fanny Blood married and went out to Lisbon, where she died in childbirth. Mary, with heroic devotion, had borrowed money to go out to Lisbon and nurse her friend. She returned within a few weeks to an almost complete loneliness in London.

(To be continued.)

BOOKS FOR "THE GENERAL READER."

- The Passion of Labour.** By Robert Lynd. (Putnam. 6s.)
The Uses of Diversity. By G. K. Chesterton. (Methuen. 6s.)
Stray-Aways. By E. C. Somerville and Martin Ross. (Longmans. 16s.)
Can Grande's Castle. By Amy Lowell. (Blackwell. 6s.)

What is the general reader?

In the passionate days of youth the writer of this article was once accused by an indignant friend of "never reading only to amuse, but always to instruct or to debauch" her mind. This meant that she spent her days reading what are often called "musty chronicles" in the Bodleian, and her evenings absorbed in detective stories which were considered by the friend to be beneath the notice of an intelligent person: in short, she was not at this time "a general reader." For the characteristic of the general reader is that his reading is not "work," on the one hand, and is not a mere substitute for sleeping or smoking, on the other; but is a serious and pleasant occupation like intercourse with friends with whom one has no special business and who are not themselves in any special trouble. To all but those whose work is among "musty chronicles" or the equivalent, general reading is as necessary as that intercourse, and really as necessary as eating, though, of course, they do not all recognise it. It is to be presumed that a good many do, however, or the majority of books would not be written, as they certainly are written, almost entirely for the benefit of the general reader.

The first three of the books before us certainly have him in view, and do not profess any other objective. They are collections of articles which have, or might have, appeared in newspapers, and newspapers (except the journals of societies, which are somebody's work, and those papers or portions of the paper which one reads as a debauch), are all intended for the general reader.

Mr. Robert Lynd is the ideal kind of journalist, because he quite plainly cares passionately both for politics and for literature. The first passion makes his essays good propaganda, at least from the point of view of those who share his attitude, the second makes them worth reading, even for those who do not. He is a serious and at times a brilliant writer. He himself calls his essays "appeals to reason," and it is a good description of them. They are written from the point of view of a radical and a socialist who is not a revolutionary. They do not lack scathing touches, such as the remark that "not to know where you are going is apparently the acid test whether you are fit to belong to the Coalition Government," but on the whole they seek to explain and convince rather than to startle. They deal with such subjects as Labour and the Middle Classes, Profiteers, Parliament, Irish Republicanism, Political Corruption, Prohibition, the Wrongs of Birds, &c., and while they are never written without emotion, it is on reason and not emotion that their argument rests.

The same cannot be said of Mr. Chesterton's most diverting "Uses of Diversity." Mr. Chesterton's writing, whether it deals with spirits or with pigs, with lamp-posts or with divorce, is always inspired and controlled by emotion, and the emotion is always of one kind. This gives a certain sameness to all his brilliant writings, which makes them too often read as if each fresh one were a caricature of all the rest. It is not that he does not reason; he reasons with a rapidity that is dazzling; but there are moments when he reminds one not only of all his former dazzling reasoning, but of something he once wrote, at a moment when he was, as he so often is, not merely dazzling but really luminous. He said, if I remember the passage correctly, that it was a mistake for people to suppose that a madman does not reason; he does nothing but reason, only, he always reasons in a circle. He is like a passenger on the Underground railway who goes round and round the Inner Circle, and is never able to get out at Gower Street. I think Gower Street was the station Mr. Chesterton named—if I am right, there is perhaps a certain symbolism in it. Gower Street station has, I believe, ceased to

exist. On certain subjects Mr. Chesterton goes round and round on the Inner Circle; presumably he forgot to get out at Gower Street while he could still have done so, and now as he cannot find it he will go round and round for the rest of his life. His readers (and who is not his reader?) will know at once what those subjects are; they will find most of them dealt with or covered in this book. But let no one who knows these subjects and knows Mr. Chesterton's opinion on them, and knows his general style, be misled into thinking that he knows exactly what Mr. Chesterton will say this time, and so refuse to read. If he does he will miss many brilliant thoughts and strange appeals to the imagination, for when all is said, Mr. Chesterton's Underground Inner Circle is not the same as ours; it is mysterious and full of queer shapes and entrancing suggestions; in fact it is rather like the railway Alice got into when she reached the Third Square. There are moments when Mr. Chesterton certainly seems to belong to "Looking Glass Land."

The authors who have long been known to us as E. C. Somerville and Martin Ross are not propagandists in the sense that Mr. Lynd and Mr. Chesterton are. Their writings are not intended as propaganda, yet it is probable that they have in the past done as much to further good understanding between English people and Irish people as a good many politicians have done to prevent it. In "Stray-Aways" are collected all the writings of Martin Ross that are not already collected in one of the earlier books of these authors. And also a good many sketches by the friend who survives her. They are very various, but most of them full of the familiar charm. The two short stories, both by Martin Ross, called "The Dog from Doone" and "Two Sunday Afternoons," are both striking. In the second the sinister atmosphere is very well conjured up in the midst of the May sunshine.

"Can Grande Castle" is quite a different kind of book from any of the above. Its author might very probably deny that it is intended for the general reader, while the general reader who looks at the preface and learns that the small volume before him is written in "polyphonic prose," and that polyphonic prose is "an orchestral form" with a tone "not merely single and melodic as is that of *vers libre*, for instance, but contrapuntal and various," may very probably be moved to cast it aside in terror. He is all the more likely to do so when he reads the author's statement that "some knowledge of how to approach" polyphonic prose is necessary before he can understand the book. We have indeed travelled some way since the days when the *bourgeois gentilhomme* was assured that he could only express himself in prose or in verse. This is no doubt an advantage for authors, but it may seem at first to be a drawback for readers who have to "approach" such various and portentously named forms of speech. I hope, however, that the general reader will not be frightened away from this book, for I can assure him that if he only has the luck to miss the preface he will find himself reading polyphonic prose, as M. Jourdain spoke ordinary prose, quite without noticing it. And the book is worth reading, and impossible to describe. It consists of several series of scenes, or perhaps we should call them visions, since they are looked at through the mind and coloured with emotion. Whatever they are, they are beautiful, and the book, excepting the preface, is full of enchantment. The effect it produces is rather like that of seeing pictures in a magic crystal ball. The pictures melt into one another. It is as impossible to pick a bit of one out for quotation as it would be to copy a bit of what one sees in the crystal with pencils and paint. The preface may perhaps be taken as the intentionally mystifying introductory remarks of the magician who seeks to impress us with the solemnity of his art while we only desire to enjoy the magic.

The general reader can certainly pass some happy hours with the above books. He will certainly not feel "debauched," and though he will have gained some knowledge, he will not feel "instructed" either.

I. B. O'M.

DRAMA.

"The Grand Guignol" (2nd Series) at the Little Theatre.

For the second time the Grand Guignol has fulfilled the purpose of its existence and made a blasé audience shiver. Other theatres so often try to do this and so often fail that it is with pleasure, surprise, and a touch of annoyance that most people feel the beginnings of those symptoms which accompany a fright in real life.

By far the most successful is the first of the new pieces, "Before 8 o'clock." It is short enough and concentrated enough to keep the attention gripped in a painful vice throughout. It is a relief when the fall of the curtain sets us free. The scene is laid in the cell of a condemned man on the morning of his execution. The warder wakes him to eat his last breakfast, the clergyman is kind to him and prays with him. The gaoler brings him a letter from his wife which raises false hopes of a reprieve. The governor, the doctor, and the hangman come, and he is led up the steps to the gallows. That is all that happens. There is no story, no surprise, nothing unforeseen. It all moves forward in the straight line of a deadly certainty. The whole thing is curiously un-theatrical. It is all on that subdued note which for most people is one of the characteristics of real life. The characters, even the prisoner himself, are all very quiet, and everyone tries to be as kind to the prisoner as possible. Yet their very kindness forms a system of torture more effective than the most elaborate and wanton cruelty.

Perhaps the best written, and certainly the best acted parts were those of the clergyman and the warder. It is difficult to see how these parts could have been better played than they were by Mr. Lewis Casson, and Mr. Stockwell Hawkins. Mr. Lewis Casson's clergyman was very kind, very stupid, very professional. Though quite sincere in his pity for the man and his horror at the situation, he was also very conscious of how kind, reverent, and helpful he was being. Mr. Casson was as completely identified with the part as it is possible for an actor to be. He never lapsed from it and he never caricatured. Kindly, helpfully, reverently, he tortured his victim till the last moment.

The warder was more intelligent, though uneducated and entirely unpretentious. In a bluff, silent, straightforward manner he did all he could to spare the wretch under his charge. What is most wonderful is that neither in the writing nor the acting is the part in the least sentimental. A sympathetic but unsentimental gaoler has surely never been seen on the English stage before. Mr. Reginald Berkeley and Mr. Stockwell Hawkins have done this between them.

Mr. Russell Thorndike, as the prisoner, had an extraordinarily difficult part. A high and almost unvaried pitch of emotion had to be maintained throughout the play. The prisoner was from beginning to end in a state of fear. Mr. Russell Thorndike succeeded on the whole very well. He was not monotonous, and he was very restrained. Even the last struggle with the hangman was effected without any shrieking yet was almost unbearably painful. The whole thing was singularly intelligent. Nevertheless there were times when Mr. Russell Thorndike as it were fell out of the part. There were moments when one was reminded that he was only acting—a thing which never happened with Mr. Lewis Casson or Mr. Stockwell Hawkins.

The second horror play, "Private Room No. 6," by André de Lorde, was not nearly so frightening. One saw the end from the beginning, namely, that the beautiful mistress would murder the wicked Russian General Grigorief. It was also quite clear how she would do it, as we had repeatedly been told that when the General was drunk he lost the use of his legs. One expected her to do it with a revolver as she had one with her. But at the last moment she strangled him from behind with her long kid gloves. The play was so well acted that it was exciting, though nothing could make it seriously frightening. Miss Sybil Thorndike as the heroine was very beautiful, very sinister. Mr. Stockwell Hawkins as the waiter, and Mr. G. Bealby as the General, were extraordinarily good.

The last play, "The Tragedy of Mr. Punch," by Reginald Arkell and Russell Thorndike, did not look promising. In the prologue the showman explained that the Punch and Judy Show has in it more than meets the eye. The curtain then went up on a scene acted by real people as Punch and Judy figures. It seemed as if it was to be an attenuated, Anglicised version of "Petrushka." It was not. The setting was reminiscent of the Russian ballet it is true, but the allegory, though not profound, was original. Mr. Punch armed with the big stick killed all who came in his way, the baby, the beadle, the mayor, the doctor, the pretty little servant. He could not kill Scaramouch, however, and in the end was frightened and lonely, and wished he had not killed all the others. He was left at last banging on the table with the big stick and crying, "What a pity, what a pity, what a pity!" The most original piece of satire was Mr. Punch making his famous mixture. He poured the contents of two very small bottles in a large bowl. He then added a great deal of sugar, a very large kettle of hot water, and "stirred to taste with the 'big stick.'"

In this play again the acting was very good. The most interesting thing was its consistency. Almost without exception the actors maintained throughout the play the very peculiar movements of the figures of a Punch and Judy show. This, of course, was much more difficult in a play than it would have been in a ballet where the dancers have nothing to attend to except their movements.

This technical finish, however, was characteristic of the whole performance at the Little Theatre. A performance is rare in which all the actors take their work so seriously, and have obviously spent such pains in perfecting every detail. The whole thing was evidently played by intelligent people, and what is even more rare, for intelligent people.

As a general rule there are few places more re-actionary than the stage. The Everyman Theatre at Hampstead and the Lyric at Hammersmith are, of course, exceptions. But they differ from the Grand Guignol in many ways—chiefly in being far more serious. The Grand Guignol does not profess to produce masterpieces. None of the plays so far produced are in the front rank of literature. But they are good of their class. They are free from false sentiment and conventionality. They are never dull and are extraordinarily well acted. It is not often that one can say this of a play in London which is not a recognised masterpiece.

D. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VENEREAL DISEASE IN THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

MADAM,—This Bill as it has emerged from the Committee of the Lords and Commons has retained with unimportant modifications its two most dangerous Clauses. These are Clause 3, which extends the solicitation laws, now condemned as being based on the unequal moral standard, and which makes it possible compulsorily to detain young girls in a new type of prison to which the name "home" is given.

The other dangerous Clause, Clause 5, now Cl.7, is that which makes it an offence for any one with venereal disease in a communicable form to have sexual intercourse with any other person "or solicit or invite" another to such intercourse. It also provides that the person charged with the offence shall be informed that he or she may ask for a remand for a week in order to be medically examined for venereal disease. It is, indeed, the notorious Regulation D.O.R.A. 40D, made applicable to the whole population. This Clause, 7, deals with all classes of case in the same way, and fails to take into consideration the very different conditions existing in these very different types of case. The Clause may be applied to sexual intercourse:—

- (1) In marriage.
- (2) In cases of assault on young persons under the age of consent.
- (3) In cases of promiscuous sexual intercourse.

First, with regard to marriage, it is very doubtful if the danger of infection here is better dealt with under the Criminal Law than under the Civil Law. If a husband infects his wife and she successfully brings a charge against him, she herself, if he is sent to prison, suffers through lack of money. The matter should rather be dealt with under the Matrimonial Causes Act. The having or attempting to have intercourse while with disease in a communicable form might be made a ground for legal separation.

Secondly, in the case of having intercourse or inviting to it young persons under the age of consent, the Criminal Law already provides for the charging and punishing of such persons. The having of disease in a communicable form might very well be treated as an aggravation of the offence and be a special ground for the increase of the punishment. The fact that the ignorant are still affected by the superstition that intercourse with a healthy young girl is a cure for the disease, points to the need for a special method of dealing with such cases.

Thirdly, there is promiscuous sexual intercourse. No doubt this is the class of case which the promoters of the Clause have chiefly in view. To its application to these cases we are entirely opposed for the following reasons:—

(a) When Regulation 40D was in force it was found impossible to prove, in the great majority of cases, which of the two parties to the intercourse had indeed infected the other.

(b) The provision that the accused party is to be informed of his or her right to a week's remand in order to be medically examined, implies that the accused is to be considered guilty until she or he provides proof of innocence. Now it is a fundamental principle of British Law that the accused person is considered innocent until the accusing party produces the evidence of guilt. This provision is therefore entirely repugnant to our whole system of law. This subsection, too, if it does not verbally provide for the compulsory medical examination of the person charged would work out so as to produce an indirect compulsion.

(c) Such legislation would tend to prevent sufferers from applying for early treatment or to send them to quacks. They would fear that the doctor might provide evidence against them. Its introduction might therefore be a factor in increasing instead of diminishing disease.

(d) It is inappropriate that the Criminal Law should be set in motion on behalf of one of the two parties who take part in conduct so essentially unhygienic and irresponsible as promiscuous sexual intercourse.

(e) Since the solicitation or invitation to sexual intercourse while suffering from communicable disease is included in the offence, the Clause becomes an extension of the present solicitation laws which are notoriously based on the unequal moral standard and which ought to be repealed. Solicitation, except when agents provocateurs are used, is hardly capable of proof, and this is so much recognised by the courts themselves that a proof which is no proof is constantly being accepted. To accept this type of proof in cases coming under this Clause would be merely to use it as a means for the medical inspection of prostitutes and so bring in one of the worst practices of the C.D. Acts by a back door. This bringing in of solicitation notwithstanding that the Clause is verbally equally applicable to both sexes would cause it to work out very unequally as between men and women.

Members of Parliament should be urged to oppose Clauses 3 and 7 of the Bill in its present form.

CRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) H.L. (AS AMENDED BY JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE).

PROTEST AGAINST CLAUSES 3 AND 7.

MADAM,—While welcoming Clauses 1 and 2, the Council of the Women's Local Government Society desire to place on record their opposition to Clauses 3 and 7, and call upon the Members of both Houses of Parliament to delete these Clauses from the Bill for the following reasons:—

CLAUSE 3.

(1) The Clause is unjust because it is directed solely against girls. If prostitution is to be made a crime in law, both parties in the transaction should be legally liable, otherwise encouragement is given to the dual standard of morality for men and women.

(2) It gives power to a Summary Court, sitting without a jury, to sentence girls to compulsory detention for a possible period of three years, whereas at present no Summary Court can give sentence of more than six months of imprisonment.

(3) We hold that no girl under eighteen should be legally and publicly branded with the stigma of being a common prostitute.

(4) By providing special penalties against the alleged immoral girls, the legislature encourages the belief that immorality is a crime in girls and not in men.

We are of opinion that the expedient and just procedure in what is termed "ordinary immorality" is to protect boys and girls alike from assaults and solicitation of adult persons.

CLAUSE 7.

We oppose as strenuously Clause 7, and especially the words on page 4, lines 24 and 25 of the Bill, "or solicit or invite any other person to have sexual intercourse with him or her."

We consider this Clause is a wrong way of dealing with the communication of venereal disease from one person to another, and in practice, according to the best medical opinion, no examination can prove the infection of either person.

(Signed) FEONA HOWARD (Chairman of Council),
MARGARET ROSS (Hon. Secretary),
MARIAN BERRY (Secretary),
Women's Local Government Society.

The following draft manifesto has been circulated for signature amongst the leading women's organisations:—

PROTEST AGAINST CLAUSES 3 AND 7.

We, the undersigned organisations of women, desire to place on record our solemn protest against certain clauses in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) H. L., as amended by the Joint Select Committee.

CLAUSE 3.

We are unalterably opposed to Clause 3, both in principle and in the letter, and call upon the Members of both Houses of Parliament to delete this clause from the Bill for the following reasons:—

(1) The clause is directed solely against women.

(2) It extends the operation and terribly increases the penalties against "common prostitutes" under eighteen soliciting, by making them liable (under Sections 1 to 4 of the First Schedule to the Bill) to compulsory detention for a possible period of three years, whereas at present they are liable only to a month's imprisonment.

(3) It gives these powers at the discretion of a Summary Court sitting without a jury, whereas at present no Summary Court can give a longer sentence than six months' imprisonment. Therefore, in districts where non-stipendiary justices sit, it is open to untrained justices to commit young women for these long periods, thus depriving prisoners of their proper legal safeguards.

On general grounds we oppose this clause because we consider:—

(a) That no girl under eighteen should be legally and publicly branded with the stigma of being a "common prostitute."

(b) That the whole procedure and administration of the laws in regard to "prostitutes" is unjust, immoral, and ineffective in improving public order in the streets and ought to be forthwith abolished, instead of being extended.

(c) That by providing special penalties against alleged immoral women (which special penalties rest almost entirely on the discretion of the police as to whether a woman is or is not a "prostitute") the Legislature educates and encourages men of all ages in the belief that immorality is a crime in women and not in men.

(d) That the assumption underlying the clause, namely: that a prolonged detention in a penal institution or "Home" will reform a girl who has been used by men for the purposes of prostitution, is quite unjustifiable and rests on no known basis of fact.

CLAUSE 7.

We also record our protest against this clause generally, and especially against the words in lines 24-25 of the Bill, "or solicit or invite any other person to have sexual intercourse with him or her."

We consider this clause is a futile and wrong way of dealing with the communication of venereal disease from one person to another. It creates a new offence incapable of proof if the person charged refuses a medical examination; it will expose men and women to blackmail; and it

may have a disastrous effect on the free treatment scheme by undermining the assurance of patients as to the confidential nature of that scheme.

We believe that the communication of venereal disease should be dealt with variously according to the circumstances of the cases; infection in marriage by the amendment of the laws relating to Marriage, and the infection of children by amendment of the Children Act. Infection in promiscuous intercourse is always a possible risk of such intercourse, and we see no reason for penalising one partner where both should be well aware of the danger to which they submit themselves in such relations, and expose themselves to that danger by their own free choice.

It has been reported to us that it is possible this Bill may pass through all its stages before Christmas. Such a procedure would, in our opinion, deservedly arouse much indignation on the part of organised women, as it renders it well-nigh impossible for them at this season of the year to voice the protest which the principles of this clause aroused all over the country when it first appeared in 1918.

We are, yours faithfully,

(Signed) Society.

THE CHILDREN OF GERMANY.

MADAM,—As one who has just returned from Germany, and whose testimony will, at least, not be mere "hearsay," may I crave the hospitality of your valuable journal to answer some of the points raised by your correspondents?

It is true that there is in Germany, as here, a profiteer class who flaunt their ill-gotten wealth. This class is heavily taxed by the German Government, who have imposed taxation amounting to 98.5 per cent. on incomes of £10,000. That taxation cannot be further increased without hindering production is shown by our own experience of E.P.D.

The profiteer class, however, is but a minute section of the community, and it is grossly untrue to say that Germany is revelling in luxury. Because a small section of the German people are doing a great wrong to these children, surely it is not justice for us to follow their bad example: it amazes me that anyone can fail to see the hypocrisy of such an attitude.

If a "Child-loving Londoner" will examine the trade returns, she will find that, taking into account the depreciation of the currency, German imports into England are but a small section of her pre-war trade.

Production in Germany is very low: everywhere one sees unemployment and factories closing down. That Germany is able to sell goods at a less price than similar English manufactures is not a proof of plenty in Germany. On the contrary, what underselling there is due to the low value of the mark—a proof of Germany's grave financial position. A "Child-loving Londoner" asks how it is that Germans can produce and live under conditions of semi-starvation. Production has been enormously reduced by these conditions. The German no longer "lives"—he exists—one may well ask how.

"A Child-loving Londoner" with that lack of logic which characterises her letter, considers it just to help the children who have been brought over here from Central Europe, but wrong to send help to those who remain in the famine area. It is probably more economical to avoid the expense of transport, of the camps, and of allocation, and to benefit by the exchange, by sending food and clothing out to the famine area. In any case only 1,400 children have so far been helped in this way, and there is not a child in Germany or Austria who is not under-nourished.

Christian charity demands that we should extend our help to these helpless and innocent sufferers, and may I repeat the appeal made by H. C. Shawcross, of 23, Baskerville Road, S.W. 18, for money and clothing? "Inasmuch . . ."

Jus.

MADAM,—Though I much regret trespassing further on your space, I think the letter of "A Child-loving Londoner" ought not to be passed over without comment.

The callous extravagance of Berlin profiteers constitutes no reason for refusing help to German children, if, that is, we are willing to help them on other grounds. It would be as logical to refuse assistance to our own hospitals because of the extravagance and luxury in our own country—where we are spending £200 millions a year on joy-riding, £110 millions on tobacco, and £400 millions on alcoholic drinks.

As I stated in my last letter, the German Government has taxed its people to the uttermost. It has taken 98 per cent. of all war-fortunes exceeding 10,000,000 marks. No doubt many evade the tax as our own E.P.D. is evaded. If the profiteers choose to spend what they thus retain on their pleasures, we can only leave them to the execration of all just people.

Although a certain number of the German working-class are employed in making goods for export, even these workers are not earning nearly enough to keep themselves and their families in a condition of normal health. Since the beginning of the war wages have risen from 100 to 570 per cent. The cost of living has increased 1,500 to 2,000 per cent.

Outside these workers the vast mass of the population is living literally in a state of semi-starvation, a condition, be it added, in which they have existed since 1915; those of them at least, who have not succumbed. And yet we are, apparently, to regret that their homes have not been ruined, their factories destroyed, or their mines damaged! Surely we ought, even from a selfish point of view, to be glad that there are mines to be worked and factories to be utilised for the payment of our indemnities—a result which would come a little nearer achievement if their minds and bodies were also in a normal condition.

Your correspondent emphasises the claims of home and nation, but perhaps forgets that these claims may sometimes be pushed to the point of selfishness. What we need is to take the wider view and to recognise that the ruin of any part of our closely-knit world endangers the welfare of the whole.

Let those who doubt the extremity of Germany's need go over and see the facts for themselves, or at least study impartial evidence. How these facts impress the British and French armies of occupation is shown by their decision to provide soup-kitchens for the starving children in those areas. And for the suffering little ones all over Germany I do not hesitate to renew my appeal.

H. C. SHAWCROSS.

MADAM,—It would be of great interest if H. C. Shawcross could tell us if any voluntary help is being sent by Germans to the ruined areas in France and Belgium, where the people must have suffered far more than in Germany, both financially and mentally.

L. F.

REGISTER FOR COTTAGE NURSES.

MADAM,—I have read in your issue of the 17th inst., Miss McAra's letter referring to your Report of the Conference held under the auspices of this Corporation, in so far as that Report referred to the suggestion that a Supplementary Register for Cottage Nurses should be established. In view of the facts, to which I shall hereafter refer, I would be glad if Miss McAra would inform your readers from what quarter the proposal to establish a Supplementary Register for Cottage Nurses did emanate if not from the General Nursing Council for Scotland.

In the Report of a meeting of that Council, held on November 3rd, I read:—"The Chairman, Captain Charles Balfour, C.B., raised the question of a separate Register for Cottage Nurses, and the Registrar was instructed to communicate with the English Council and the Scottish Board of Health for their views."

The following is an extract from a letter, dated November 4th, from the General Nursing Council for Scotland (this letter is referred to in the *British Journal of Nursing* of November 20th, as having been read to the General Nursing Council of England and Wales on November 12th):—"The Chairman raised the question of the position of Cottage Nurses. While the existing Cottage Nurses would probably be able to obtain admission to the General Register under the provisions of the Draft Rules" (the italics are mine) "made by the Council" (i.e., the General Nursing Council for Scotland) "for existing nurses, it is unlikely that future nurses of that class will be qualified for admission to the General Register. In fact, the Associations in rural districts who employ such nurses would probably not be able to afford to pay for a nurse as highly trained as the General Nurse of the future would be. It was therefore suggested that it might be desirable to have a separate Register for Cottage Nurses in the future. And it this were to be done it would obviously be better that existing nurses should also be put on a separate Register instead of being included in the General part. The Council understands that a similar class of nurse exists in England, and I am requested to inquire for the information of the Council what the views of the English Council are on the subject."

On receipt of this letter the General Nursing Council for England and Wales declared itself as "not in favour of a Supplementary Register for Cottage Nurses," and instructions were given that this decision be communicated to the General Nursing Council for Scotland. On December 1st that Council decided "that it could not take up a different attitude to that adopted by England."

The Conference reported by you was held on December 3rd, before this decision of the General Nursing Council for Scotland was declared, but I submit that, in view of the foregoing, you were perfectly correct in stating that the proposal to include the Cottage Nurses in a Supplementary Register emanated from the General Nursing Council for Scotland.

It would be interesting to know whether that Council does intend to allow Cottage Nurses to register as existing nurses as suggested in the words I have italicised. If this is so, the attitude of the English nurses is surely justified when they claim that the fact that a nurse's name is placed on the Scottish Register should not entitle her to automatic registration in England unless Scotland is prepared to adopt a standard of qualification equivalent to that demanded of our English nurses.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales recognises that, in compiling a State Register of Trained Nurses, it has a duty to the public as well as to the nursing profession, therefore it objects to granting the title of "Registered Nurse" to a class of women who have had very often only a few months practical experience in general nursing, experience which cannot be regarded as training, and who are in fact certified midwives. No injustice is done to those women by the refusal to register them as trained nurses, because they can claim their legal status and protection for their qualifications under the Midwives Acts. For the first time, through the compilation of a State Register of Trained Nurses, the public will have the opportunity of ascertaining the qualifications of the various classes of Nurses placed upon it, and *Midwives*, we hope, will, for the future, be known as such and not as nurses, a title to which they have no right unless they hold a recognised certificate in nursing in addition to their Midwifery one.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association.

CHILD WELFARE B.C.

MADAM,—Miss Ruck says that most women know that the mother is the best person to care for her son. I have lived among educationists all my life, and am myself a trained nursery nurse of long and wide experience. My own theory was—and I find it held tenaciously by many responsible for the training of young children—that to obtain satisfactory results it is necessary to prove that this theory does not fit the facts. I would go even further than Miss Ruck: other women can and do give the child patience, love, and long-suffering care; but the more one gives the more one is conscious that beyond it all there is some elusive spiritual element that the mother alone can give, and without which the child must go so much the less complete for evermore.

I have worked for mothers ignorant, foolish, and selfish, as well as for wise, tender, and average ones; but I have yet to find the mother whose place I could satisfactorily usurp.

L. KATHARINE BARTON.

FREE LECTURES ON THE SCIENCE OF RELIGION.

To provide an Endowment Fund for Free Lectures on the Science of Religion, the property of the School of Silence Trust, near Newbury, Berks, is to be sold as a whole, or in five lots, early in the New Year, by order of the Warden-Trustees.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP

President: MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss Macadam. Miss Rosamond Smith. Parliamentary and Information Bureau Secretary:
Hon. Treasurer: Miss H. C. Deneke. General Secretary: Miss Stack. Mrs. Hubback.

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

Telegraphic Address: Voiceless, Westcent, London.

Telephone: Museum 6910.

OBJECTS

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

WINTER DEBATES.

Two public debates on controversial subjects on which the members of the Executive Committee and our Societies are far from unanimous will be held between Christmas and the Council Meetings. The first is on the interpretation of "Equal Pay for Equal Work"—the differential versus the occupational rate, and the second on "National Family Endowment." It is proposed to have two speakers on each side and ample time for discussion. The debates will be held at 8.30 in the evening in order that as many as possible may be able to attend. The President and Officers will hold an informal reception at 8 p.m., when coffee will be provided. Cards of admission (2s. 6d. each) may be had from Headquarters. Fuller details as to speakers, place of meeting, &c., will be given shortly. In view of the fact that these questions will be discussed at the Council Meeting it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS AT HEADQUARTERS.

During the autumn we have been fortunate in securing two regular workers who have given us most valuable help.

Miss Beaumont, formerly hon. treasurer, Yorkshire Federation, who has now come to live in London, has helped us with the general office work at a very busy time, and has done a good deal of speaking for us. Her experience in Yorkshire cannot fail to be helpful and tend to correct the danger of which we, at Headquarters, are always conscious, of an inadequate understanding of conditions prevailing outside London.

Miss Gordon Brown, niece of Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown, formerly Chairman of our Liverpool Society, is also giving us help which is urgently needed with the library, of which she is now in charge, every morning.

OUR PROGRAMME IN PARLIAMENT.

This week has seen the final stages of many Bills in which the N.U.S.E.C. has been interested. The Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill, the Women, Young Persons and Children (Employment) Bill, the Married Women (Maintenance) Bill have now passed through all their stages in both Houses of Parliament, and have only to receive the Royal Assent.

The Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill embodies one of the points on our programme; the Women, Young Persons and Children (Employment) Bill now includes a clause which enables the Home Office to give permission for the two day-shift system for women and young persons if both employers

and employed in any factory or workshop demand it. It will be remembered that the N.U.S.E.C. gave evidence in favour of the two day-shift system before the Departmental Committee appointed to consider it.

The Married Women (Maintenance) Bill enables an allowance up to 10s. to be made by the father on behalf of each child of a woman who is separated from her husband and has the custody of the children, in addition to a sum up to £2 on behalf of the wife. The N.U.S.E.C. sought in vain to have amendments introduced so that the sum allowed under a maintenance order should be in accordance with the means of the father, or failing this, that the limit should be fixed much higher than has been the case under the Bill.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2.)

It is pretty certain now that this Bill as amended by the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament will not be rushed through Parliament before Christmas as was feared. Those of our Societies who wish to sign the protest to the House of Lords which was sent to all last week, will therefore have a considerable extension of time in which they can do so.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

ROCHDALE W.C.A.

In October (a) Mrs. Greenwood, our delegate to the Summer School, gave an account of her experience at a members' meeting, where there was great interest and discussion.

(b) A Whist Tournament was held to help the expenses of the Association.

(c) Mrs. Seaton-Tiedeman, of the Divorce Law Reform Union, spoke to an absorbed audience on Lord Buckmaster's Matrimonial Causes Bill.

(d) A list of questions was sent to Town Council candidates; twenty out of twenty-nine replies were received, tabulated, and published in the two local newspapers.

The local M.P. has twice received deputations on the subject of Equal Franchise, and promised support.

CHESTER W.C.A.

On Monday, November 29th, a discussion on the subject, "That in the interests of the community, equal pay for equal work is desirable," was opened by Miss Clay, B.A., at a Members' Meeting, held at the Town Hall. The equality arguments were put in a clear and convincing way, and were followed by a *résumé* by Mrs. H. F. Brown, C.C., of the objections to equality. During the ensuing discussion, points such as high pay to women acting as a deterrent to marriage, and the influence of the Factory Acts, and other legislation affecting the women workers were taken up. Mrs. Mott, the newly-appointed Honorary Secretary, in succession to Mrs. R. A. Thomas, whose good work for the Chester W.C.A. was much appreciated, outlined the New South Wales scheme, the method which, on the lines of the war-time separation allowances, provides for workers' families, without penalising either the woman worker, the careful mother, or the father with a conscience.

FINANCE.

AUTUMN LECTURES.—Readers of this page may be interested to hear that the autumn lectures not only paid the expenses involved in rent of rooms, printing, tea, &c., but realised a profit of £20 towards the funds of the Union. Miss E. F. Rathbone, Mrs. Stein and Miss Beaumont kindly provided cakes, &c. for tea. Mrs. Soddy's quickly improvised sale of work of hand-made Christmas presents, at the closing lecture, brought in a further sum of about £30.

DONATION FROM BRADFORD.—A generous donation of £15 has just been received from our Society at Bradford.

EVERYDAY COMMODITIES AND THE TREND OF PRICES.

The following is the table referred to on page 1,000:—

	First half of 1913. cwts.	First half of 1920. cwts.
WHEAT—		
U.S.A.	20,000,000	15,000,000
Canada	10,000,000	5,000,000
Australia	5,000,000	13,000,000
Argentina	13,000,000	20,000,000
India	6,000,000	—
Russia	1,500,000	—
Other Countries	1,500,000	500,000
Total in cwts.	57,000,000	53,500,000
BARLEY—		
U.S.A.	4,000,000	3,000,000
Canada	1,000,000	1,500,000
India	1,000,000	—
Turkey	500,000	—
Other Countries	1,500,000	500,000
Total in cwts.	8,000,000	4,000,000
OATS—		
Argentina	4,500,000	2,250,000
Germany	2,500,000	—
U.S.A.	1,000,000	—
Russia	500,000	—
Canada and Other Countries	1,000,000	500,000
Total in cwts.	10,500,000	2,750,000
BEEF—		
Argentina	3,750,000	3,000,000
Other Countries	750,000	1,500,000
Total in cwts.	4,500,000	4,500,000
MUTTON—		
New Zealand	1,500,000	1,500,000
Australia	750,000	1,500,000
Other Countries	500,000	500,000
Total in cwts.	2,750,000	3,500,000
BACON—		
Denmark	1,250,000	500,000
U.S.A.	1,000,000	2,400,000
Other Countries	500,000	600,000
Total in cwts.	2,750,000	3,500,000
BUTTER—		
Denmark	1,000,000	750,000
Other Countries	1,250,000	500,000
Total in cwts.	2,250,000	1,250,000
TEA—		
India	500,000	1,250,000
Ceylon	800,000	500,000
China	?	?
Other Countries	?	?
Total in cwts.	1,300,000	1,750,000
SUGAR—		
Germany	8,750,000	—
Austria-Hungary	4,250,000	—
Cuba	2,250,000	9,000,000
B. West Indies	1,000,000	2,000,000
U.S.A.	—	4,250,000
Other Countries	3,250,000	1,000,000
Total in cwts.	19,500,000	16,250,000

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SORTHAND CORRESPONDENCE CLASS.—Miss Stear, 7, Queen Square, Southampton Row, London, W.C. Complete Course of Thirty Lessons in Pitman's Shorthand. Inclusive Fee, £5 5s.

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