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.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

America.

We are not tired of congratulating American women, and should never grow tired of it even if we had to do it every week for twenty weeks more. But we do believe that the end has come to the troubles and uncertainties of the electoral position, and that the thoroughgoing behaviour of Connecticut in passing the Woman's Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution three times over has really clinched the matter firm. It is true that in order to get the business through in time "it was necessary to stop the master clock which controls all the Capital time-pieces." But when there are suffrage majorities of 160 to 1, as seems to have been the case, clocks might almost stop of their own accord for surprise and delight. Both Upper and Lower Houses ratified separately; they then met in joint session and ratified jointly; then they packed their record off to Washington and started their clocks going again. And when those clocks began to tick a new era opened for American politics.

The Two-Shift System.

The report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops recently published contains some interesting paragraphs on the question of the two-shift system for women. "The ordinary law, by prohibiting the work of women in two shifts, adversely affects the value of women in the labour market, and in several instances the temporary abrogation of this law led to the employment of women on processes from which they would otherwise have been debarred. Much greater use would have been made of shifts if the authority for their employment could have been made permanent. In many cases the cost of obtaining and training workers (including supervising staffs) was too great to be incurred for a system of work which would only be authorised for a limited period. There is some diversity of opinion as to the desirability of different shifts of workers. Employers have welcomed the opportunity of working on this system as it has meant increase of output and the employment of a double set of workers, thus enabling them to retain the services of more of the workers who were employed during the war. By this system also it has been possible in some processes to continue the employment of women on work in substitution for men. In one case, particularly (an iron foundry), where the work had been carried on in an unsatisfactory manner by men, the employment of women on two short shifts proved to be such a success during the war that the managing director desired to continue it permanently." The report goes on to say that there is a diversity of opinion among women workers about it. "Although many of the workers, particularly married women, have appreciated the shorter hours and freedom from work in the mornings or afternoons, still, the two eight-hour shifts have not found universal favour amongst them. The early start in the morning and late stop at night, the difficulties of transit at these times, the different hours for meals from those usually taken in their homes, which this system entails, have all militated against the popularity of the system. The workers of the first shift find they want a meal about 8 a.m., as often the 6 a.m. start means that they come to work breakfastless, so usually two breaks are allowed for meals during the shifts. The weekly change over of the shifts also does not find universal favour, as it effectually prevents any consecutive engagements, such as clubs, meetings, or evening classes. Among the girls and young women there seems to be an objection to anything which interferes with the evening pursuits, even in alternate weeks, and a feeling that a morning off is inadequate compensation to a girl living at home, as she is invariably expected to spend it in helping in household duties. . . . In some cases certainly, the system has become popular amongst the workers. In one works where only sections of the workers are on the system, there is great competition among them for transfer to these sections, while in another, the Welfare Worker informed the Inspector that she made this transfer a kind of 'Prize for her best workers.'" The Departmental Committee which is investigating this practice will no doubt weigh this evidence carefully, as they are (we hope) weighing the other evidence before them. This week the N.U.S.E.C. gave evidence, calling attention to the persistent bracketting of women and young persons, as if adult women were not as well fitted to decide things for themselves as adult men, and calling attention also to the economic handicap that special "protection" legislation often turns out to be.

Women at Oxford.

Last week, for the first time, women were admitted as members of the University of Oxford. The ceremony, which took place in the Divinity School, was performed by Dr. Farnell, the Vice-Chancellor. About 110 women graduates attended, wearing gowns like the men, and soft square caps copied from those worn in the University in the sixteenth century. The scene, however, for all its outward similarity of caps, gowns, and University buildings, was very unlike the sixteenth century, since its spirit and its meaning are of the twentieth. The aspirations of the new species of students are perhaps not altogether monastic, but one thing which the University has retained in its unbroken academic tradition they will not destroy. The love of learning, of scholarship, and of literature is a love which Oxford's daughters share with Oxford's sons, and in taking their place in the fabric of University life they will contribute the best that they have to its wisdom.

A Women's Senate.

Sir Geoffrey Butler mentions, in his letter to the *Times* on women's degrees, a curious proposal which was laid before the Syndicate but has not been heard of by the general public. This contemplates the admission of women to "full membership" of the University, but would divide the Senate into two houses controlling respectively men's and women's education. This, he explains, would prevent any proposals for the development on independent lines of women's education being swamped by a majority in the Senate of adverse or indifferent men. That is so; but the alternative, one must suspect, only appears tolerable to Sir Geoffrey Butler because he thinks of the women's House as small in numbers and poor in cash and experience. If there were any fear, as the opponents of the degree believe, of the University being overcrowded with women, the women's House of the Senate might conceivably become formidable. Women at Cambridge have in the past owed much to the co-operation of men in developing their educational facilities; they do not now desire to set up in the Senate two almost independent and possibly hostile camps.

The National Council of Women.

This week the National Council of Women has held its Annual Representative Council meeting at Bristol. The special subject under discussion was "The Claims of Youth," which was discussed from many aspects, varying from the Bills which Parliament ought to pass concerning adoption and illegitimacy, to emigration, the police services, and the problems of health. Many important resolutions were passed by the Council, and the vitality and usefulness of its work was fully demonstrated. Much of its driving force in the last two years has been due to the retiring President, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, who received an enthusiastic ovation from the members.

Pawns in the Game.

The position in Dublin as regards the Health Services has become more hopeless. On October 4th the Corporation considered a recommendation, endorsed by their very able and responsible law agent, that legal action should be taken against the L.G.B. for the refusal to pay retrospective grants. This was defeated on the ground that "no justice could be expected from the British courts." On the 7th a consultation was held between the Lord Mayor, the High Sheriff, and other Councillors on the one side, and the President of the College of Surgeons, the President of the College of Physicians, and other distinguished medical men on the other, to consider a suggestion from the latter that the L.G.B. should be asked to pay the Treasury grant for Tuberculosis work through them, the Corporation on its side consenting to give the required assurance that their accounts should be submitted to audit. This proposition was defeated at a special meeting of the Corporation on the same day. Meanwhile patients in the last stage of tuberculosis are being sent to their one room tenement homes. Numbers of lunatics have already been discharged, and curious things are happening in consequence. One Sunday evening the regular preacher in a city church was forced temporarily to vacate his pulpit in favour of a gentleman just discharged from the asylum. The school dinners are stopped, and in one school an envious group watched the one fortunate child whose mother had been able to bring a can of tea. A widow with five children, four in an orphanage, came to the Children's Court to have the last one also put into some such place of shelter. "It's lonely and desolate widout the childher, and I do be lookin' at their bits of things in the evenin'. I thought I could have kep' Patsy, but I couldn't see him cryin' wid hunger and nothin' to give him, for there's no dinner at the school now." The Chief Secretary's letter to the Public Health Council gives no hope of concession. Apparently the Corporation intend also to adopt a policy of "No surrender." The sick, the afflicted, and the children are but pawns in the game for these high Principalities and Powers.

Forewarned.

The Factory Inspector's Department has always been extraordinarily competent, unbelievably patient, and full of resource. Its patience is exemplified by the statement that Dr. Legge, after going through 25,000 reports on past cases of lead poisoning is convinced that the remedy lies in efficient ventilation of shops where lead processes are carried on. Pottery is no longer the chief danger, most of the cases of lead poisoning in 1919 having arisen during the manufacture of electric accumulators. In 1910, there were more than 1,000 case of lead poisoning; in 1919, despite the increases of lead processes, there were only two hundred and seven. As an example of ingenuity and resource take the wax models made by Miss Rae to enable employers and workpeople to recognise the symptoms of a disease prevalent among paraffin refiners.

Women Justices' Conference.

A meeting of Scottish Women Justices was held this week in Edinburgh, for the purpose of conferring on the duties of their office. The Lord Advocate, attending on behalf of the Secretary for Scotland, outlined the duties of a justice, laying stress on the elasticity of the system which has been proved by long usage, but can be modified so as to allow women to play their full part upon the Bench. Resolutions were passed in favour of putting women on the Advisory Committees in counties and burghs, of the presence of women on the Bench when women and children were to be tried, and of obtaining information as to modern methods of dealing with women and child criminals in Great Britain and the United States. The obvious fitness of allowing a woman accused of crime or misdemeanour to be tried by a court in which her own sex is represented is in accord with the immemorial traditions of British justice. But beyond this lies a whole field of judicial activity from which women cannot equitably be excluded. We do not desire to see women tried by an exclusively female Bench and jury, nor should men retain for themselves a similar privilege or limitation. The administration of the law is the concern of the whole community. Where the criminal is a man and his victim a woman the case is as plainly one for a woman justice as where the delinquent is a woman or child. The Scottish Conference is a good precedent, and will, we hope, be followed by frequent meetings for consultation among women justices, or for representations by them to Advisory Committees, or to the Secretary for Scotland.

Unemployment amongst Women Workers.

In London unemployment amongst women is already causing a good deal of uneasiness, and in East London the Exchanges have as many as 5,000 women on their registers. Besides the normal seasonal fluctuations, the slump in trade is affecting the East-end factories, and numbers of women are being turned out of the shirt and biscuit factories. The riverside districts will therefore soon witness an amount of distress which they have not known for the last five years, for the immense numbers of dockers who cannot find employment are not likely to diminish with the general feeling of insecurity which prevents the resumption of foreign trade. The lot of the docker's wife at the best of times is an unenviable one, but with her daughters thrown out of work, as well as the fluctuating income provided by her husband, the winter will be a very hard one for her.

Low Wages and Infant Mortality.

The problem of infant mortality in the United States is a more complex one than the one we have to face at home. The immigrant from Eastern Europe, with his low standard of living, and far lower standard of education, complicates matters considerably, and the people who are studying the question over there say that "poverty and ignorance are yoke fellows," that poverty is an invariable condition of the highest mortality rates, and that rates improve as the income and standard of living rise. In one town statistics showed that "two-thirds of the babies were born to foreign-born mothers, two-fifths to mothers who could not speak English, and over one-sixth to illiterate mothers, and over two-fifths to mothers who were again fully employed during the year following the baby's birth." Our problem, difficult and serious as it is, seems easy compared with the complexity of the question in America.

Women's International League.

Those of our readers who remember the old Suffrage days will be greatly interested to hear that Miss Catherine Marshall is about to take up her residence in Genoa at the headquarters of the Women's International League, which is now being made permanent there. On the suggestion of the Manchester Branch of the League, several enquirers have recently been sent to Ireland to Dublin, Belfast and Cork, among whom are Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Annot Robinson, and Mrs. Swanwick, and a meeting to discuss the problems of Irish settlement will be held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on October 18th.

A New Training College for Women.

A new college for Baptist women has been opened in London, whose object is to train women for some specialised form of ministry to the Church and the poor. The students, who will also train for work in foreign lands, will be looked on as probationers until they actually start on their life's work, and those who devote themselves to the Church will form a Sisterhood, whose uniform will be dark blue with a white cross.

Women and the Fine Arts.

The School of Fine Arts in Paris has at last admitted women into the schools of lithography and printing, although women have, for some time, been admitted on equal terms with men students to the sculpture and designing classes. Now all the halls, which up till now have been regarded as the strongholds of the men, are open to women, and the tradition of "exclusiveness" has been broken for all time.

The Housewives' Conference in Copenhagen.

In Denmark there are about 500,000 housewives, who expend yearly nearly one thousand million kroner on food alone, and Danish women, who in other branches of women's work are so splendidly organised, started not long ago a Society of housewives in Copenhagen. This association had the good luck to have a very clever and energetic lady, Mrs. Carla Meyer, as chairman, and in May this year she invited the Lady Mayoresses of fifty-six Danish towns to a Conference in Copenhagen, each accompanied by another housewife as delegate. The chairman sketched the proposed work of the Society of Housewives, and suggested that a Society should be started for each of the Danish towns. Once a year the chairmen of the Housewives' Societies will meet in Copenhagen and will discuss questions of common interest to all women who work in the house. At noon each day during the Conference there were exhibitions and lectures of modern cooking, and an interesting feature of the meeting was that the supposed abyss between the rich and the poor classes was bridged, for the housewives' society of workmen's wives and the society which has Mrs. Meyer as chairman were united into one club. I think this is the first time, in Denmark at least, that this gulf has been bridged by women, who understand perhaps better than men the value and importance of co-operation in the big fight that is ahead of them to reduce the high cost of living.

Some Recent Appointments of Women in Holland.

Some interesting appointments have recently been made in Holland, more especially interesting as in some cases the posts have never before been held by women. Mrs. Johanna Ter Meulen is the first woman member on the committee which organises housing and accommodation for the people; while Mrs. J. H. Knijper and Mrs. E. Steenberghe-Engeringhe are members of the Council of Health, and Mrs. H. Schagen van Soelen has been appointed State Health Inspector. Mrs. G. Z. Stemberg, a lawyer by profession and chief clerk in the Trade Department, has been appointed Secretary to the Committee of the Supreme Council for the Insurance of Workers, and Mrs. E. Boekelman, another lawyer, is also a member of the same Council. Mrs. A. J. Steenhaner, chief assistant at the Pharmaceutical Laboratory of Leiden University, has been appointed Secretary of the Royal Institute of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research, and Mrs. A. C. de Brauw, head clerk of the Canal and Water Works Department, has been made a member of the Committee which is to advise the Minister on the means of preserving the roads from destruction by heavy motor traffic. This same lady was appointed Secretary of one of the sections of the first Dutch Road Conference which was held at the end of September. Women lawyers appear to get most of the interesting posts, and Mrs. A. M. Benmée, a lawyer, and a recent secretary of the Arbitration Court for Railway Employées, has been appointed head clerk to the Railway Council, to act, when necessary, as Secretary. Mrs. J. Lijcama à Nijeholt, another lawyer, and jurist to the Patent Department, is now Secretary to the Committee dealing with International Problems set up by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. It will be remembered that Mrs. à Nijeholt was asked to act as adviser to the International Congress of Law Associations recently held at Portsmouth. Another lawyer, Mrs. N. Fortnin, has been made deputy for the Town Clerk of Zaandam, for it is not yet possible for women to be Town Clerks. Women are obviously forging ahead in Holland, and this record of their public work is extremely interesting and encouraging.

American Tribute to British Women.

The American Society in London has decided to dedicate the annual Dinner on Thanksgiving Day to the entertainment of a representative gathering of distinguished women, one of whom will be Mrs. Henry Fawcett, "in order to signalise the magnificent work that British women have accomplished during the war, and which they are still doing in every sphere and station of life, and as a mark of the high appreciation which is felt by all Americans for their unselfish devotion to duty and brilliant achievements."

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

What is the attitude of the House of Commons towards questions in which women are immediately concerned? The House, like all crowds, has its changes and its tides, its moods and fancies, and its unaccountable varieties of behaviour towards even big subjects. Let us see.

When Parliament reassembled in October of last year, the Government quite unexpectedly took the Sex Disqualification Bill first. It is probable that this hurry was due less to a sudden enthusiasm for equality than to an intelligent hope of getting the Bill passed before its critics had finished their holiday; but, if this was the device, it miscarried. On the contrary, it was the critics who scored. Warned by the equivocal attitude of the Government in the August before, they came to the House with Amendments drawn and forces marshalled. The House was overwhelmingly in their favour, and the Government had to make the best terms they could, with the result that we got the Act which we have, a good Act, so far as it goes, save for one lamentable flaw. That this flaw existed was due to the too great trust that the critics of the Bill gave to Government promises; for when a responsible Minister said that the regulations governing the admission of women to the Civil Service would be laid down by Order in Council, he was assumed to mean what he said. Now, it appears, the Government and the Act mean something quite different, something which the House would not have looked at and the Government not dared to suggest, in October, 1919. This may be a proof that Governments are not so stupid as sometimes imagined, but it may also turn out to be the most idiotic piece of trickery ever indulged in. We shall know more by the end of next week. However, the point that it is desired to make is that in October, 1919, the House was overwhelmingly in favour of women. It was a high water-mark of their success. This state of things lasted, more or less, to the following May. There were signs, perhaps, visible to the astute observer, that the reaction was approaching; that reaction which was inevitable after the wave of enthusiasm which carried the vote, the right to sit in Parliament, and the right to hold all offices and follow all professions, in the amazing space of two years. Anyhow, nothing appeared on the surface, and the resolution in favour of Equal Pay and Equal Conditions was carried in a House as enthusiastic and as determined as the one which re-made the Disqualification Bill. But from that time the set-back was apparent. It was shown by two Parliamentary symbols. It was impossible to get the House to take interest in the Civil Service question, and the Labour Party's Representation of the People Bill was allowed to be killed without protest. No doubt there are reasons, extraneous to women, for these defeats, such as the lateness of the session, the fatigue of members, the prominence of other questions of vast moment, such as Ireland and Russia. But all these combined are not alone sufficient to account for what happened. It was due to a temporary eclipse, which all questions suffer in all popular assemblies.

Temporary. It will not be permanent, or even continued. The real conviction and temper of the House are unmistakeable. What the result will be in this Civil Service fight cannot be foretold. It is worth remembering, by the bye, that women are not unanimous on Equal Pay; but the question will be properly discussed, unless the Government succeed in squashing discussion. There never was a clearer case than Equal Pay. It is, of course, quite possible for reasonable people to hold diametrically opposite opinions about it, but the House expressed its own opinion last May, and it is not likely that it has changed its mind.

What the upshot will be cannot be foretold. If Members of Parliament are determined, they can compel the Government to give a day for discussing the Orders in Council. If they are discussed they can hardly stand, for they contradict both Government pledges and the previous decision of the House. But the Treasury, being quite determined to open the door to women only on their own terms, and having succeeded in persuading the Government to burke discussion, will fight hard to prevent it, for discussion means defeat. It will be a tough struggle, and it is the duty of all to help.

THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Last November one of the outstanding features of the elections was the very greatly increased number of women who were returned to sit on County, Borough, Urban District, and Rural District Councils. All of these women have now had the experience of a year's work, and some of them are seeking re-election, and others are seeking to get more women colleagues to help them with their labours.

As everyone who touches upon this work knows, the possibilities of good and useful public work of local authorities are unlimited, and the importance of the service of sensible and level-headed women upon them cannot be over-estimated. It is a form of work that can be taken up by married women more easily than some of the more competitive professions, and we certainly hope that the increase in the number of women who are elected will be maintained this year.

There will be no Council elections in London this year, for in London the whole Council goes out every three years, while in the provinces one-third stands for election each year. This seems really the better arrangement, for there is no break in the continuity of the work. Many women councillors, however, are standing for re-election on November 1st in other parts of Great Britain, and other new ones are coming forward; of course, until nomination day, it is impossible to say exactly how many women are standing in all. In Glasgow, a very special effort is being made, and four Independent women candidates are being run by a joint committee composed of the National Council of Women, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and the Women Citizens' Association. There will also probably be eight women standing as Labour candidates for this town. Miss Edith Sutton, J.P., of Reading, is to be opposed for the first time since she took her seat in 1907. It was in this year that the Enabling Bill qualified women to sit as town councillors, and Miss Sutton, being returned unopposed, was actually the first woman councillor. Dame Maud Burnett, J.P., the only woman on the Tynemouth Council, has also to stand for re-election this year. She, too, gained her seat in 1907, and she and Miss Sutton were the first two women members of Watch Committees, which are responsible for the police regulations. Though this is work in which women's co-operation is most important, only seven towns in England have women members of Watch Committees. Miss Morgan, the only woman on the Brecon Council, and a past mayor, also stands for re-election this year.

The Women's Local Government Society, which has borne so large a part of the struggle to secure women's rights to help in local education, infant welfare, health, housing, and food regulations, is organising a conference in London on November 16th. The subject at the morning meeting will be the all-important one of "Economy in Local Government Expenditure," while, in the afternoon, the discussion will be on "Women Councillors in Committee Work." Already, seventy-five women councillors have signified their intention of being present, and much valuable information and useful exchange of experiences may be expected.

In spite of our often repeated desire to see more women taking part in public life, however, we must call attention to the fact that it is not enough to be a woman to make a candidate worthy of election. She must be a sensible, active, broad-minded sort of woman, and not a mere stick-in-the-mud, before we can wish to see her doing this public work, and she must also, from our point of view, hold the right views upon the position of other women in the world.

The questions prepared for candidates on Municipal Elections by the N.U.S.E.C. cover this ground very clearly. We published them under "News from Headquarters" last week, and we repeat them here to-day, because we feel that so much importance attaches to them:—

1. Will you support equal pay for equal work for all men and women employed by your Council?

2.* Will you support the application of the principle of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that a woman shall not be disqualified on account of her sex from any post or office in your Council?

3.* Will you oppose the compulsory retirement on marriage of the women employees of your Council?

4. Will you oppose any systematic dismissal of women in favour of men other than men returning from Active Service?

5. Are you in favour of providing an equal number of scholarships in every kind of education, and equal facilities in technical education for girls as for boys?

6.† Will you urge your Watch Committee to carry out the recommendations of the Report of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, 1920, to appoint women police in your Borough?

7. Will you support the appointment of an adequate number of women on all committees (especially housing committees) on which women can sit, either as elected or co-opted members?

8. Are you in favour of representatives of organised women being consulted as to the kind of houses to be built by your Council?

9. Will you help to promote a scheme of Widows' Pensions for the widows of all municipal employees?

10.‡ Will you do all in your power to urge your Council to support the "Local Elections (Proportional Representation) Bill" in order that the principle of Proportional Representation may be applied to Municipal Elections?

To these questions, a Joint Committee representing societies interested in the welfare of employees of local authorities, added yet another, as follows:—

"Will you support proper superannuation schemes for the employees of local authorities, and other such measures as will ensure generous consideration to those members of the staffs of local authorities who, by reason of changes in administration, or otherwise, lose their security of tenure, or pension rights, through no fault of their own."

This Committee, which represents such important organisations as the London County Council Staff Association, the National Association of Local Government Officers, the National Amalgamated Workers' Union, the Association of University Women Teachers, the Women's Local Government Society, the Library Assistants' Association, &c., is confidently looking to women voters in all wards to bring home to the future candidates, both men and women, the importance of these matters, and the responsibility of local authorities for really progressive treatment of their staff. We may be tired of asking the Government to be a model employer, but we ought not to grow weary in this good cause, and certainly the forthcoming elections are an opportunity that no good feminist should miss of pressing for the real establishment of equal conditions for the men and women directly employed by the community.

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* *Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act*, 1919. Section I.—"A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation or for admission to any incorporated society (whether incorporated by Royal Charter or otherwise), and a person shall not be exempted by marriage from the liability to serve as a juror."

† *Report of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties.* Section III. (14.)—"After careful consideration of all the evidence we are of opinion that in thickly populated areas, where offences against the law relating to women and children are not infrequent, there is not only scope but urgent need for the employment of policewomen. In particular we feel strongly that in the investigation of cases of indecent assault upon women or children the services of policewomen may be of great assistance in taking statements from the victim. We also desire to express our agreement with the view which was put before us by one witness that, as information regarding the facilities provided for the treatment of venereal diseases can now be obtained from the police, it is important that policewomen should be available to give this information to women."

Section XII. (88.)—"We consider that the experience of the war has proved that women can be employed with advantage to the community in the performance of certain police duties which, before the war, were exclusively discharged by men."

‡ *Local Elections (Proportional Representation) Bill.* Memorandum.—"The object of this Bill is to allow local authorities to adopt for their elections the system of proportional representation, which has been exhaustively tested in Scotland by the recent elections under the Scottish Education Act."

"It is proposed to allow local authorities, by a resolution of a three-fifths majority, to substitute for their existing system of election the method of proportional representation by the single transferable vote, so as to enable any considerable section of the electorate to return one member."

"It is also proposed that the members of local authorities who adopt the Act shall elect their alderman by the proportional system."

BURNING QUESTIONS.

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

IRELAND.

IRELAND REVISITED.—II.

IN THE WAKE OF THE STORM.

By MRS. VICTOR RICKARD.

In the southern corner of Ireland where I began my journey, "law and order" did not exist. That is to say, that there were neither military nor police, except for two members of the R.I.C. who regarded life from the door of a sand-bagged barracks, and only counted as spectators. They had nothing to say to the enforcing of the civil laws any longer, so that if burglaries, murders, or drinking after hours occurred, they would not have only counted as spectators. They had nothing to say to the were on friendly terms with their neighbours, just waiting. What they wait for, no one quite knows.

In point of fact, they might easily have been meditating upon the futility of their former employment, for without their guardianship things went on just the same. No one attacked a neighbour or stole anything which did not belong to him, and if there was drinking after licensed hours, there was no outward sign of it, nor did the shouts of drunken men disturb the wonderful obligato of the wide Atlantic on the beach.

Now and then a military lorry invaded the place, and some rough horseplay would begin; one party rounded up a dozen young men and put them against a wall, threatening to shoot; but the threat was not carried out, and with the departure of the representatives of "law and order" peace reigned once more, and the volunteers kept discipline in an entirely unobtrusive fashion. A gun-boat lying in the harbour played searchlights on the village at night, but beyond illuminating the cliffs and houses was not otherwise active.

At Mass on Sunday we were told of Bolshevists, Socialists and Communists, and warned to avoid their teaching, and the words seemed oddly meaningless and far away from reality. One's main impression was that here at least was a place of rest, where the wicked really do cease from troubling and where the evening sunlight brings a golden benediction of calm.

The change, therefore, from Tramore to Fermoy was like a move from England during the war, to a battered corner in France. Fermoy itself lies situated on the banks of the Blackwater, and used to be one of the most picturesque towns in Munster. For many years it has been one of the peaceful military training centres in Ireland, and its life has for generations been closely identified with that of the successive regiments and batteries that have been stationed there. But to-day desolation claims the whole town. The inhabitants go about listlessly, while troops in khaki swarm everywhere one looks. In the shops in the wide market square, and up the streets that a year ago were prosperous, not a single glass front has been left intact. Unpainted shutters and boards, or wire rabbit netting protects the windows, and inside the shops are in darkness. Many of the owners have, it seems, relinquished the struggle and closed down after all the contents had been looted by the troops, leaving them completely ruined.

I heard an account of the two military outbreaks in Fermoy from the daughter of a distinguished officer who lived with her husband in one of the houses in the Market Square. In the beginning all her sympathies had quite naturally been with the troops, so that her testimony was, to say the least, unbiassed by prejudice against the soldiers.

She had arrived home late, on a return from a holiday with her children, and was in the nursery, a room at the top of the house, about midnight; she was standing at the open window which faced the square, when she was surprised to hear a distant sound of shouting, of threats and cursing, as though a mass of men were coming across the bridge. It was a very clear night, and she leaned out of the window, and was amazed to see several hundred men coming from the barracks, yelling, and running towards the sleeping town. They were not carrying rifles, but were armed with their belts, which they swung round their heads, as they shouted that they intended to burn the place to the ground.

Almost at once the terrific crash of breaking plate-glass windows began, sounding like an explosion, mingled with the bawling and hooting of the troops and the screams of terrified women and children, and then she realised suddenly that their own house was being attacked. With her husband's assistance she managed to protect the nursery windows with mattresses, but not before a shower of stones, thrown by the soldiers from the square below, had smashed the glass to atoms.

When the room where the children were was more or less protected, my friend and her husband were able to watch the progress of the raid. Shops were entered by bands of men and thoroughly looted. Everything of value which was portable was taken away, and the motor cycles in the principal garage were deliberately taken out and hurled into the river.

This happened in September of last year. At the end of last June, the town was again raided by troops, and once again her own home was broken into and left with all the windows smashed.

I saw only the final result upon a once clean and prosperous town, and nothing could be more saddening than the change. The inhabitants stand about looking at the broken place, every battered-in door and smashed window a constant reminder to them of what they have suffered; men and women, many of whose sons fought and were killed in France during a war that was waged for "the rights of small nations." It is hardly surprising that they are not altogether in a conciliatory frame of mind. The official argument, if you frighten Sinn Fein enough, and long enough, Ireland will give in, is the merest nonsense, fantastic and intrinsically absurd. In Fermoy, the outrages of the troops have converted everyone without exception to Sinn Fein, and I sought vainly for any so-called "loyalist" among the old Unionists whom I had known there in the days before the war. You might as well argue that the Belgians would all become pro-German because the German troops pillaged their villages and shot their civil population. The argument which failed in Belgium is having precisely the same effect in Ireland, and the British Government is, by its own actions proving, even to its life-long upholders in Ireland, that its policy is an exact repetition of the worst phase in the German terror in Belgium.

So, out of that happy place where "law and order" is not, one came to a district where British rule in Ireland operates, uncontrolled, and in all its vigour.

Troops, as I said, were everywhere, bicycling along the footpaths at top speed, and hunting the civilians out into the road. I had personal experience of their provocative methods, and when I objected, it was explained to me that no one now dared to report a soldier. They inherit the land at present, and a more miserable, depressing, and revolting state of affairs would be hard to imagine possible.

The obvious strain in the eyes and voices of the people one met and spoke to told its own story. Like the police in the sea-coast village, they were all waiting. "I can never sleep without dreaming that the house is being broken into, and its bad for the children," was one remark made to me in an even, quiet voice.

"Don't the English understand what we are going through over here under military rule?" an old Unionist friend of mine asked me in despair. "A night or two ago they raided a farm close by here and set it on fire, turning everyone out into the night air. The mother found that one of her children was missing and rushed back to the burning house, in case the child might still be inside. She told them they might shoot her if they wished, but she must go into the house, and they drove her out again with a rifle butt. Can't you make *anyone* understand in England what they are doing?"

From Fermoy, lying under this dread and heavy shadow, I travelled on to Cork, arriving there only a few hours after a large drapery establishment in the main street had been blown up by a bomb during curfew hours, at a time when none of the civil population are permitted in the streets, and lorries of armed men, sentries, and guards are in every street in the city.

AMERICA AND IRELAND.

By J. and G. McNEAR.

It is perhaps best to begin with a generalisation which, though necessarily inaccurate, may be illuminating. Of twenty average middle west Americans two are Irish or have genuine Irish sympathies for family reasons, and earnestly desire an Irish republic; one is a German or has sincere German sympathies, and opposes British rule in Ireland as a matter of course; one is vocally, at least, anti-British, and so is against the Government; one supports the under-dog as a matter of principle; there are four more who are rather vaguely divided between the two sides of the question because of their own political parties' talk about it; and the remaining eleven seem not to care an atom.

In the eastern States the number who don't care at all is rather less; in the far west it seemed to be rather more.

Now, the foregoing generalisation is certainly wrong; but as it is based on a life-long knowledge of America and a recent four months' visit it is good enough to light the way a bit. For the subject is one that needs light: quite apart from the American habit of unconsciously assuming an apparently deep but really temporary interest, the observer is likely to be misled by half a dozen things. Newspapers in most cases are guided in their choice of subjects only by a desire to print what will be devoured with interest; hence they often fail to deal with deeper tides of thought and feeling. American politicians, like British, particularly now when a national election is taking place, are capable of exaggerating wildly, if often unintentionally, in the hope of making the campaign seem more "vital." Americans rather more than other people are inclined to give the inquirer what they think he wants—to tone their feelings up or down as may be needed. Capable political writers are often far more interested in fitting the Irish situation into their own theory of the State, or of democracy, or of international relations than in taking the Irish problem by itself and trying to get at the heart of it.

But allowing for these things, the six groups mentioned above must be considered. First, the Irish. They and their close friends perhaps make up about a tenth of the people, and their attitude varies from bitterness to a simple and sincere desire to see Ireland freed from any form of British control. They have meetings of their own, they argue with their friends, they send a very great deal of money (the post office money order department could give some idea of that) and encouragement to their connections in Ireland, if they still have any, or to societies there. Politically they have not the power that they once had. The Irish—if we may generalise again and on dangerous ground—appear not to be occupying the big positions in finance, banking, trade and politics. There are exceptions, but even politically they do not have the power they had twenty or fifteen yeas ago when "ward bosses" were more important. Traditionally they belong to the democratic party, but it is said that they are deserting this year in revenge for what they believed to be the Democrats' desertion of them at the Peace Conference. That puts them in an awkward position, because the Republican candidate, Mr. Harding, has stated that Ireland must remain a purely British problem.

Second, the Germans. It is our impression from those with whom we talked in America and on a ship whose passengers were bound for Germany, that the German-American has not changed at al in his sympathies as a result of the war. It is hardly to be expected that he would. But it means that he is firm in his desire to push England away from Ireland—often perfectly sincere in the belief that any English control must necessarily be bad. The Germans control a good part of Chicago—more generalising—and most of Milwaukee and St. Louis, all these being strategic middle western points. They are again becoming powerful in finance, especially trading finance, though not in any anti-American way. They may be relied on to vote in any way that they think will not give England more power, and if they thought that they could free Ireland from all English control they would try to do it.

Third, the anti-British. By anti-British we mean those who habitually quote historical cases against Britain, who never trust Britain's motives, or pretend not to, and who can be relied on to increase whatever feeling there may be in favour of complete Irish independence. But these people, it might be added, are often anti-British (the description sounds much worse than the ailment) more as a matter of unreasoning tradition than anything else.

Fourth, the theorists and sentimentalists—we use both words in their very best sense. It seemed that without exception they were solidly for complete freedom for Ireland. They have no doubt at all—if one more generalisation can be forgiven—that Ireland always has been and always will be repressed and injured by English rule. It is they who lead whatever truly American opinion there may be in the matter.

Fifth, the politically led. Traditionally the democrats are friends of the Irish, and the Republicans are, therefore, but for no special reason of their own, not anxious to assist the Irish. Where the manœuvre has seemed to offer any political advantage politicians have spoken on traditional lines, and a certain number of people have followed quite feebly.

Sixth, the eleven who pass by on the other side. Some of them say that they are not interested because it's none of their business; some because they know nothing about it; some because "they're sick of it." But all of them will gladly read any sensational British-Irish news, which partly accounts for the newspaper selection of Irish news stories.

We heard no one defend the British position or excuse British delay in reaching a settlement. We know that some do, but we happened not to meet them. We found a great deal of what might be called newspaper curiosity as to the next events. And we heard many of the extremists already referred to urging that no solution is possible except complete freedom. America doesn't yet want to have anything to do with the question, but the interest of the first four groups is so keen that the apathetic eleven may be drawn into the argument if something isn't settled within a year. And if they are, the vocal, moral, and even political pressure from America might become very noticeable.

WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME.

BAD LANDLORDS AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

By E. EVE.

Few people realise how entirely the question of the avoidance of slums rests upon good landlordism, *i.e.*, good house management.

Good landlords, who are owners of working-class house property, are only too well aware of this, for it is heart-breaking to keep a house in an orderly and sanitary condition and to have the yards and areas on both sides in such a filthy state as to be injurious to health, and yet to be unable, under the present law, to remedy the condition.

A great deal is spoken about the dirty habits of the tenants themselves, and it is certainly desirable that the law should be altered, so as to be invoked in flagrant cases; but, generally speaking, landlords get the tenants they deserve, and a competent house-manager can make slum property pay well, and, at the same time, keep it in excellent order. Much has been written lately about the advantages of women house-managers, working on the system originated by the late Octavia Hill, but —although much excellent work has been done by such women in the past—I do not think that the basis of this kind of house-management is the correct one. The perfect house-manager should aim at securing the rents, keeping the property in good order, settling disputes between tenants, and getting rid of those whose unsocial habits render them a nuisance to others. Beyond this, no tenant wants any further interference from his landlord, and any landlord who complies with these conditions is conferring a benefit upon society. The L.C.C. dwellings, the Peabody Buildings, the many other blocks of dwellings, afford models of good management in this respect, and the result is obtained by a good, resident, working-class caretaker and his wife. It was wonderful how well many of these wives carried on single-handed during the war.

What everyone should know is that ill-managed property actually does not pay. To quote a case in point. I know of a property of eight eight-roomed houses in Central London, which was in the hands of a firm of solicitors for two years, during which time it was in a scandalous state of filth. A clerk was sent to collect the rents weekly, and the repairs were done, or supposed to be done, by jobbing builders. Instead of the rent receiver being empowered to give orders for repairs to be carried out, usually no notice was taken of defective w.c.'s, sinks, floors, dirty rooms, or anything else, until a notice was received from the sanitary authorities. As the tenants were entirely uncontrolled the place became filthy, and the good tenants lost heart, with the result that they paid their rents irregularly. The property was eventually put into good order and sold for £400, with sixteen years' lease yet to run, and was bought by a jobbing builder, who used two of the ground-floor rooms as his office. From the moment he took control affairs improved, and in a few weeks there was not a better kept property to be found, to the great satisfaction of the neighbouring houses. Further, whereas the average weekly takings from the eight houses, when the solicitors controlled the property, was nine guineas, from the time the working builder took it over, the average increased to thirteen guineas! Very few of the original tenants had left; it was merely a matter of good management. It can be seen from these figures that, even allowing for rates, and for repairs, and for finally doing up the houses at the end of the lease, it was a very good investment for the builder.

Why should the whole community pay for incompetent landlords? If all had been like this firm of solicitors, the Borough Council would have been obliged to increase its staff of sanitary inspectors, and the rates would have gone up in consequence.

The present law is quite inadequate to deal with such landlords. The law can only consider nuisances singly, and not in mass, and a much-needed amendment is an accumulated penalty for each recurring nuisance. Arrangements should be made for the forcible taking over by the local Council of all property found to be badly managed. Quite a number of house agents ignore indefinitely any nuisances that occur on their property until they receive a notice from a sanitary inspector. If women would only get on to the Public Health Committees of local authorities, and ask one of the sanitary inspectors to take them round visiting occasionally, they would learn more of the weaknesses of the present Acts in a few months than they would by sitting still and hearing reports for centuries.

Supposing the law is improved in this manner, and more public-spirited people take up management of house property, we shall then be up against the last difficulty, *i.e.*, What to do with the unteachable residuum of tenants, the incurably dirty, the drunken, the necessitous? Some kind of tenement barracks run on very strict lines will have to admit them, and those who cannot, or will not, keep the rules will have to be imprisoned.

No landlord should take a tenant without careful references; if they do, and the tenant turns out unsatisfactory, it is the landlord's own fault.

The streets of badly-kept, dirty houses, which are to be found in so many parts of the country, are unnecessary and a menace to public health. Let every citizen realise that the remedy is quite simple, and that the present conditions press most hardly upon those least able to support them—on the respectable working-class people, who are often compelled to put up with homes in the midst of filth and squalor, from lack of other accommodation. This subject should be discussed by every Women's Local Government Group throughout the country.

PRACTICAL HOUSE-BUILDING.

By AN AMBITIOUS AMATEUR.

I promised to tell your readers if I was not living in the house which I described in August, in six weeks. The time has almost past and I am, therefore, in honour bound to confess that I am not living in it. It is nearly ready, however, and my title of "Ambitious Amateur" is giving place to "Experienced Professional," so many are the lessons I have learnt.

My walls are entirely finished and the floors are in; the windows and doors are in their right places, and the drains are laid. The roof is going up as I write, but awaits the thatcher, and the water company still shows no sign of life.

Though it is my own (or, perhaps, because it is), I must say that it looks beautiful. But you will not be interested in my rhapsodies so much as in my experiences.

On the whole everything has been very simple. The mystery about house-building evaporates if one takes it firmly at close quarters. For instance, doors; it is impossible to see how they are stuck to walls until one knows. But it is ridiculously easy. You put the door there before the wall, and as you build up the wall you drive long nails in *from the wall side*, laying your bricks on over the heads of the nails. Nothing could be simpler; and so it is with most of it. But look out for chimneys, and flues, and staircases.

The cost, which is, perhaps, the most important item of all, has been surprisingly low. I think that is because I haven't had a contractor and yet have been able to buy my material at trade rates, pocketing the discounts myself. It is an unusually pleasant sensation.

If any readers of the Woman's Leader want to build cheap pisé houses next spring, I shall be glad to do it for them. I am becoming a limited liability company (another pleasant sensation) and shall be ready to take contracts in the new year. But, of course, I shall continue to pocket the discounts. I will advertise in these pages when the time comes, lest any think I am already becoming a prognosticator, like the rest of the trade, but let me hasten to say that it is not wise to build pisé in the winter. It can be done all right, but it isn't cheap. If there were people who didn't mind an extra £100 or so, and who were in a hurry, I could build for them to-morrow. But there are not many such people.

I will end the somewhat rose-coloured account of my house, by inviting any readers who are passing my way to stop and examine it. It is at the top of Friday's Hill, three miles from Haslemere Station, on the Midhurst road.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN IN GERMANY.

By DR. ELISABETH ALTMANN-GOTTHEINER.

The old problem whether special Universities for women would be preferable to the present state of University co-education is cropping up anew, and in connection with this the question is being discussed whether the female intellect and soul require the same or a different nourishment from the male intellect and soul, that is to say, whether female character and nature would not attain greater perfection if the conditions of higher education for women were adapted to their sex instead of being simply a reproduction of the higher education for men.

Germany is now looking back upon a twenty years' experience, and it may be worth while to take a look at the position of the women students of a country of so old a University tradition as Germany. All the more so as neither Germany nor Austria was represented at the International Congress of University Women held at Bedford College, London, a few weeks ago.

German women are generally supposed to be nothing but good housewives who consider their only natural place to be the home, and whose intellectual horizon is extremely limited. It is hardly necessary to mention names in order to disprove this idea, which is as wrong as it is widespread. If we go as far back as the times of Goethe and Schiller we find a considerable number of highly intellectual women in the inner circle of Weimar and Jena. In the age of romanticism their influence was even greater, and ever since a widening and deepening of the female mind has been going on in Germany, which became evident to the world outside only after the German Universities had first opened their doors to women students.

The pioneers of the higher education for women in Germany were not able to pursue their studies in their own country. Most of them were coached by private tutors and passed the entrance examination to the University in Switzerland, where as early as the 'seventies of the nineteenth century women were permitted to attend lectures and to get the University degrees. Others studied in Italy and the U.S.A. Later on, towards the end of the nineteenth century, most German Universities opened their lecture halls to specially qualified women, but if they wanted to get a degree they still had to go to Zurich and Berne for it. This was particularly hard on the students of medicine, as with a Swiss degree they were refused registration as practitioners in Germany and were treated like quack doctors by the local authorities.

The academic life of these women was a continuously hard struggle, for they had to fight not only against the difficulties laid in their way by the University authorities, but against the deeply-rooted prejudices of their own families as well. Every inch of ground had to be fought for, every right to be stood up for. Of course, only the very fittest were able to survive this struggle for an academic existence. Thus it becomes evident why the pioneers in Germany, perhaps even more than in other countries, belonged to the "heroic type" of women.

All this was changed when the German Universities one by one began to admit women upon the same terms as men. The Grand-Duchy of Baden was the first German State to do this. In the summer term of 1900 the first five women students matriculated at the Baden Universities (Heidelberg and Freiburg). In 1903 Bavaria followed suit, in 1904 Wurttemberg, in 1906 Saxony, in 1908 Prussia and Hesse. In the summer of 1920 the number of women undergraduates at the German Universities had risen to 8,122, that is to 11 per cent. of the whole body of undergraduates.

It is interesting to note which are the branches of study preferred by women in Germany. About 3,200 women are studying philosophy, philology and history, 2,192 medicine, about 1,200 mathematics and natural science, 1,152 law and political economy, 182 dental surgery, and 130 pharmacy. Philosophy, philology and history or mathematics and natural science are the branches of study which have to be gone through by those who want to take up school teaching. As teaching was one of the first professions open to women, it is not to be wondered at that these branches are rather overcrowded. Since 1918, however, the number of women working for the degree of a school teacher (exam. *pro facultate docendi*) has not gone up, as there is very little chance for all these women to get the desired posts. Instead of that a predilection for political economy and law is distinctly to be noticed. Of the 1,152 women who have taken up these branches of study only 200 go in for law, as the chances of professional success in that line are still very small. All the more is hoped from the study of political economy. A thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of political science is supposed to be the best foundation for social and economic work, be it in the interest of Civil Service, Local Government, or of private organisations. Still, it is to be feared that this berth will not prove wide enough for the many thousands of men and women now crowding into it, especially as neither the State nor local bodies nor private societies can afford to spend as much money as in former times on social and welfare work.

Of late, several men of science have tried to follow up the careers of University women in order to see what became of them after they left the University. The first to take up this line of investigation was Prof. Bumm, of Berlin University, a gynecologist of renown. He sent out query sheets to all the women who had studied at Berlin University during the years 1908 to 1912; 1,078 of these sheets were sent back to him filled up by the former students. The result of the investigation was that 649 (60 per cent.) of the University women had entered a profession, while 429 (40 per cent.) had had to give up their career, 225 because they had got married, 204 because their health had given way or other reasons had made them change their minds; 732 of the 1,078 women had remained unmarried (68 per cent.) and 528 (72 per cent.) had taken up a profession. Among the 346 who had got married, only 121 (35 per cent.) had gone on with their work. Among the 649 women who pursued their professional career 528 (81 per cent.) had remained unmarried, or, as Bumm says, had been "cheated of their natural destiny."

After Bumm another scientist, Dr. Max Hirsch, tried to throw light upon the same conditions by another method of investigation. He sent out query sheets to the women members of various professional unions, such as the Union of Women Lawyers and others of a similar kind, as well as to girls who had matriculated at certain colleges. In this way he got his material from different parts of Germany, and from women at very different stages of their career. It is noteworthy that in spite of this the numerical results he found were very similar to those arrived at by Bumm. But while Bumm neglected to look at the differences of age between the University women whose careers he investigated, Hirsch rightly suggests that a great many of the women whom Bumm considers to be unmarried "for good" were still at a marriageable age.

Hirsch also investigates the influence of University life on the health of women students. Whereas former investigators asked the opinion of doctors and tutors, Hirsch asked the University women themselves. The answers to this question are very interesting. Altogether he has had answers from 704 University women, 504 of whom deny any injury to their health by a life of study, while 51 admit it. Among those who deny the injurious influence, over a hundred state that they know of "no injury whatever," or that they felt "all the better for it"; 28 go even farther, and give exact reasons why their health has improved since they took up University studies. Some ascribe this to the life in a particular University town, some to "games," some to regular and positive work. The last-named reason is of immense importance. There is a deep truth in the words a woman graduate wrote to Dr. Hirsch: "Women much oftener get ill and hysterical in consequence of a complete want of occupation in life than they do by going in for a profession."

The fact that among the young women who are at a marriageable age at the present moment a great many cannot get married because those who might have become their husbands were killed in action, makes it an imperative duty to find new aims for their lives. They can only be found if all trades and professions are opened to women. A University career is, of course, only to be recommended to women of a strong intellect. For the others, arts and crafts, social work, nursing, kindergarten work, &c., are much more suitable professions. But in all the countries which have admitted women to their Universities under the same conditions as men, there now exist a considerable number of University women who bear testimony to the fact that in the higher ranges of education there are no real intellectual differences between men and women.

THE "NEW POOR" IN TIME OF SICKNESS.

By MARY C. D. WALTERS, A.R.San.I.

The financial position of hospitals has already so often been made public, that it is well known that very many are only carrying on under appalling difficulties, and it will cause less surprise than consternation to learn that there is actual danger of some closing down for lack of funds.

Preventive work is only in its infancy, and it is unlikely that the time will ever come when hospitals are no longer necessary. It is in the hospitals that cure of disease is studied, and where our doctors and nurses receive their training, the one in the treatment, and the other in the cure of sickness. At the present time, after a period of unusual strain and anxiety, the whole nation, except the wealthy minority, is suffering from overcrowding, which will probably not be relieved for several years to come, and both the health and the morals of the nation are threatened. The gravity, therefore, of a diminished hospital service is indisputable.

Sickness, whatever form it may take, and whoever the sick person may be, is always wasteful and expensive, not only for the individual, but for the community, on account of the temporary or permanent disability and deterioration in health and efficiency which will in all probability result. For this reason, therefore, the question of the prompt treatment and cure of *every* sick person is less an individual than a national question.

Hospitals were originally founded for the "sick poor," but it should be the aim of the modern State to allow neither sick nor poor to exist to a greater extent than it is humanly possible to prevent. Poverty causes sickness, and sickness unemployability, a vicious circle from which there is no escape for the sufferer because, in most cases, he is a victim to the conditions in which he has been born, in which he has to live, and which he himself is powerless to alter.

Whom do we mean when we speak of the "poor" now? Is it not more than time for it to be realised in a practical way, that poverty, as it was formerly understood among the artisan classes, hardly exists, and that the burden of poverty lies heaviest now upon the salaried workers, upon the very class who, in the days of their comparative affluence, were the most generous, although the least ostentatious, supporters of the hospital, and yet who, in their day of need, have practically no claim on its services? This class, the "New Poor," as they have come to be called, includes those whose work we can as little dispense with as with that of the artisan. It includes the professional and business man and his wife, upon whose capacity and health depend the well-being of the whole household. It includes the bachelor whose means are such that he does not dare, under present conditions, to undertake the responsibilities of marriage, and it includes the single woman worker who depends entirely upon her own efforts not only for her support now, but for making provision for her old age. Last, but surely not least, it includes those of advanced age who are, owing to quite unforeseen circumstances, living on incomes all too slender for their increasing needs, or who are being supported in whole or in part by sons or daughters, with heavy burdens of their own.

The value of the mother and child to the State is undeniable, and in their case the folly of neglecting illness in its early stages has been realised. The danger of dragging the sufferer day after day, as an out-patient, to hospital, until too ill to be refused admission any longer, has been avoided by establishing clinics and local treatment centres for them, and by this means suffering has diminished, the period of resulting disability has been reduced, and the congestion in the wards of the large hospitals has been relieved.

If this is possible and economical in the case of mothers and children, it should be made possible to others, and the initial outlay by the State will be more than rewarded by the creation of a healthier and more efficient community. At present no less than 14,000,000 working weeks are lost, and a quarter of a million people are out of work yearly through sickness, and this in spite of the National Health Insurance Act and its work. This Act meets, to a certain limited extent, the expenses of sickness, but the real problem of to-day is not so much the cost of illness as the adequate accommodation and requisite nursing during illness, and this applies to the great bulk of the population.

Many middle-class people insure themselves against accident and disease, thus providing themselves with a small sum of money towards the expenses involved, but this does not facilitate home-nursing. Could the "New Poor," who helped their needier brothers and sisters of yore by a yearly subscription to the hospital fund, know that such subscriptions would now secure for them what they formerly bestowed on others, how willingly would they pay it now; the hospital would be the gainer, for it should be entitled to charge the now comparatively well-to-do artisan a small sum for the attendance he has up till now received free.

That there is sound business in such a proposition is proved by the existence and success of a league founded by and for business and professional women, whose members, for an annual subscription of 5s., have the comfort of being received, in time of illness, into the private ward of a London hospital if their means or accommodation make it impossible for them to be cared for at home. True, the 5s. is augmented by further subscriptions from honorary and, therefore, non-benefiting members, and the members of the league, being workers, are under the age when the probability of frequent illness has to be taken into consideration. The nucleus, however, of a much larger scheme is there, and there seems to be no reason why a hospital insurance scheme for the whole community should not be a quite workable idea.

Whether, in the case of employed workers, the cost is to be met by employer and worker as under the National Insurance Act, or whether by means of a tax levied according to income upon the individual, the important thing is that treatment, preventive and curative, should be available for all. There is nothing to prevent the liberal minded still contributing to the hospitals, or making large gifts towards research work, or they may be subscribers, but should not benefit materially by their subscriptions.

Sickness in its earlier and lighter stages should be dealt with as far as possible locally, so as to avoid the prolonged incapacity and expense that illness neglected in its early stages always involves. Serious cases beyond the capacity of the local hospital should be sent on to the larger central hospitals, and by this means serious cases would not have to wait weeks for admission, and many illnesses might never reach the serious stage at all.

At present much time and money is lost in the way the out-patient is dealt with, and it might be found possible to arrange for consultants to visit local hospitals or centres on fixed days. Persons of limited means, with many expenses to meet, who are not privileged to see a consultant at a hospital, frequently put off a visit of this nature on account of its expense, not realising that the result of this false economy may be a greatly impaired wage-earning capacity. The report on the national health recently given, was alarming in its statement that the people, taken on the average, were entering on the period of senility at the age of forty.

To the nurse in training, the division of sickness into at least two stages would be a distinct advantage. Unless she has had experience in a hostel or ward for slightly ailing babies, the average nurse sees illness in its more acute stages only. If the gospel of health is to be carried into every home, and the individual is to be induced to feel his or her responsibility in building up a healthy nation, it is to the nurse rather than to the doctor that we must look for this missionary work. Her training, therefore, should consist of a considerable time given to the study of the prevention of illness, and of illness in its early stages before she enters the large general hospital for training in the nursing of acute illness that will only be dealt with there. The ideal health visitor's training needs not so much the three years' general training that is very often required, as a very thorough and complete understanding of conditions that have been the cause of illness. Preventable suffering will, when the Ministry of Health has entered in earnest upon its manifold and varied duties, be regarded as a crime, for which both State and individual have their share of responsibility, because the harm it does is inflicted not only on the individual but on the community.

POISON MYSTERIES.

By JUDGE HENRY NEIL.

When I was a young man I was an analysing chemist. I worked in a laboratory analysing the contents of stomachs of persons whom it was suspected had died of poison.

This work excited my interest not only in the cases on which I worked, but on poison mysteries everywhere. No imaginary stories were ever so interesting as these real poison mysteries.

Although we are living in what seems a very advanced and intelligent age, poison cases are still of the most intense interest. In the case of murder by shooting there is usually a gun with which to trace the murderer, or the sound of the shots may cause his immediate capture; in other cases of murder by violence there are usually some finger prints, blood stains on the garments of the culprit, or some other means of detection. But poison, in former years, was often a slow, steady, easily-hidden means of murder. The annals of police court history are full of unsolved poison murder mysteries.

THE FIRST ARSENIC TEST.

The case of Marie La Farge is the first in which Marsh's test for arsenic was ever used. This was the first sure test discovered for the presence of arsenic.

A wedding was arranged between a beautiful and charming French girl and a young Frenchman of twenty-eight or twenty-nine, named LaFarge. Soon after the wedding the young girl discovered that her husband's disposition was not what she had thought it, nor was his home in the country as beautiful as it had been painted to her. The house was very old, in a rather dilapidated condition, and the whole atmosphere was morbid. The difficulties were increased by the fact that the young bride had to live in the house with her husband's jealous mother and sister. Soon after arriving at the house there was a little quarrel, in which the bride said that she was going back to Paris, trumping up some story of having had a lover before she was married. This, however, was smoothed over, the bride admitting that it was not true.

From then on the family lived comparatively happily, and the husband and wife became very much attached to one another. LaFarge got into financial difficulties, and his wife, Marie, gave him a large sum of her own money. He went immediately to Paris to arrange his affairs, accompanied by his foreman. The young wife sent him a note in his absence, stating that she was sending him a box of cakes. When the box was opened by LaFarge's servant it contained one large cake, and LaFarge and his servant were both taken ill after eating it. The servant recovered, and LaFarge got well enough to make the trip home. On the way he obtained a large sum of cash. On arriving home he was again taken violently ill.

LaFarge's mother suspected that the young wife was poisoning her husband, and communicated her suspicions to her son. This, however, did not change the devotion of husband and wife. Marie nursed her husband day and night and he liked her constant company. The day of LaFarge's death his mother had all his effects sealed and kept the keys. Soon after, Marie was arrested on the charge of poisoning her husband. The first four tests which were applied to ascertain whether LaFarge was poisoned did not show any signs of arsenic; the fifth, however, which was Marsh's test, showed slight traces. This would not be enough for conviction to-day, as it is now known that there are slight traces of arsenic in every human body.

The foreman who had accompanied LaFarge on the trip to Paris disappeared completely after giving evidence against his mistress, whom he had always disliked. Two important facts which were brought into the defence were: that Marie would not have given her husband the large sum of money if she had been going to kill him, and that the cash which he had obtained on his way home from Paris had vanished. As the facts now stand the evidence would point to the foreman as the guilty party instead of the young bride, who was convicted and served twelve years in prison, dying five months after her release.

DR. PRITCHARD'S CRIME CAREER.

The case of Dr. Pritchard, whose consummate villainy will make him an interesting figure throughout the history of crime, does not come under the head of unsolved poison mysteries. The wonder is that the man managed to go free long enough to accomplish all the crime that he did.

In the early years of Dr. Pritchard's married life a mysterious fire occurred on the top floor of the Pritchard residence, where the two servants slept. It "happened" that on this night both Mrs. Pritchard and one of the servants were away. When the fire had been extinguished the charred body of the other servant was found on the bed. The fact that the girl had evidently made no struggle to escape the fire made it look as though she had been drugged. However, Dr. Pritchard satisfied the police that the fire was accidental, and nothing was done about it.

Some years later, Mrs. Pritchard had a most mysterious illness at regular intervals. At first she was attended entirely by her husband, but later other doctors were called in. If the other doctors had suspicions they kept them to themselves. Whenever Mrs. Pritchard was away from her husband she recovered for a time. Finally, she became so weak that it was impossible for her to go away any more, and her mother was called to Glasgow to nurse her.

The mother was taken violently ill and suddenly died. She was buried and nothing was said. A short time after Mrs. Pritchard died. Her body was taken to Edinburgh to be buried near her home. The coffin was opened and, before a large assembly, Pritchard kissed the lips of his dead wife. He then took a train back to Glasgow, a happy man, thinking that his crimes were unsuspected. When he stepped off the train he was arrested and charged with the murder of his wife. Later he was also charged with the murder of his mother-in-law. The man was such an artist in carrying out his crimes that not even close relatives, who were in and out of the house, suspected him. It is thought by some that his wife did suspect him, but not until it was too late to save herself. For months the Doctor had been tampering with his wife's food, slowly killing her. He stood a heartless witness to all her dreadful agonies—a man whose sensibilities were so hardened as to be absolutely inhuman. His arrest was brought about by an anonymous letter which was sent to the District Registrar.

MYSTERY: "NOT PROVEN."

Another famous Glasgow case is that of Madeleine Smith. A young girl, the daughter of well-to-do, respectable people, was one morning charged with having murdered her former sweetheart. The girl had fallen in love with a young Frenchman, but her parents had objected to the match, and were congratulating themselves on having persuaded her to give him up. She had not given him up, and was, as a matter of fact, meeting him often. They evidently went through some kind of a marriage ceremony, for the young man called himself her legal husband. Madeleine, however, always wrote of the marriage as in the future. Madeleine's affections seemed to have cooled, and she later became engaged to a young man whom her parents had chosen for her. The Frenchman became furiously jealous, and threatened to show her letters to her father, disclosing everything, so that the father would allow him to marry her. She wrote him pleading letters, frantically begging him to return the letters to her, which he refused to do. One afternoon, a friend called on the mother and daughter and told them that the young Frenchman was dead. In the early hours of the following morning Madeleine Smith tied up a few belongings and left her parents' home. She did not go far before she was arrested and charged with murder. The defence stated that there was no proof that the girl had seen the young man the evening before he died, and she would have no motive in killing him while he still possessed the letters, for his death would disclose them. It was shown that Madeleine Smith had purchased poisons, but not until after the young man's first illness. These, she said, she had used as cosmetics. The jury summed the case up as not proven, and Madeleine Smith was released. She married a prominent Englishman, and lived a happy life as a splendid mother and wife.

WHY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX APPEALS TO THE ORDINARY WOMAN.

BY A CRITIC WHO IS PROUD TO BE ONE OF THEM.

Literary criticism is an art—or so we are led to believe by however, something new in the art, and decidedly unlike other sets up altogether unusual poetical standards, and throws a the literary critics. The critical essay published herewith is, literary criticism. It is far more sincere, for one thing. It flood of new light upon the possibilities of the art.

A man I know is always described by his friends as being of a very cultured intellect. In his superior wisdom he calls the poetry of Ella Wheeler Wilcox "mere drivel." A woman acquaintance retorted one day in my hearing, "I don't know or care whether or not her verses are drivel. All I know is that her poetry has helped me over and over again." To the ordinary woman that is the secret of the popularity of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's poetry—it helps in the hustle and bustle, the toil and moil of everyday life. Of course, it is quite true that the superior person has always affected to despise the poetry of Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Indeed, some have gone so far as to say that her verses are simply jingles in rhyme, and not poetry at all. That is as it may be. It is not my intention to dogmatise as to whether, in years to come, Ella Wheeler Wilcox will be ranked as a true poet or only as a rhymer. Sufficient it is for me to know that she is the one and only poet who appeals to the ordinary woman.

For instance, not many women can be found who do not understand the poem, "Which Are You?" a few verses of which I quote :—

"The two kinds of people on earth I mean
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

"Wherever you go, you will find the earth's masses
Are always divided in just these two classes.

"And, oddly enough, you will find too I ween,
There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.

"In which class are you? Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters, who toil down the road?

"Or are you a leaner, who lets others share
Your portion of labour, and worry and care?"

In her autobiography published some years ago, Ella Wheeler Wilcox tells how many of her poems were written. One of her best-known poems was penned after the following incident occurred. Some years ago Mrs. Wilcox went a journey into a neighbouring town to attend a banquet at the Governor's house. Among her luggage she carried a pretty white gown, specially made for the occasion. On the day she made that journey everything seemed lovely; life's joy just one happy song. Her travelling companion in the train was a young woman, clothed in deepest black. Her grief was more than she could restrain, and she wept bitterly in the presence of Mrs. Wilcox. To Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the being at her side was the bride of a year, the widow of a week, the lovely girl she had last seen radiant with happiness. As she watched the grief-shaken girl her own heart was heavy within her. She felt she could not enjoy her visit because of that girl's grief. That evening, as Mrs. Wilcox stood before the mirror, adjusting the final touches to her toilet, a swift vision of the young widow in her deep mourning came to her. Quite consciously she realised how quickly she had forgotten the young widow, and pictured to herself the dark shadows she walked through, while contrasting it with the brightness of her own circle and environment. It was at that moment that Mrs. Wilcox conceived the poem, "Solitude," the lines of which are as familiar as household words to women everywhere :—

"Laugh, and the world laughs with you;
Weep, and you weep alone,
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Sing, and the hills will answer;
Sigh, it is lost on the air;
The echoes are bound to a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care."

The majority of the poems of Ella Wheeler Wilcox came in a like manner, and at unexpected times. All her poetical creations were born in verse. Over and above her poetic gift she always emphasised the virtues of cheerfulness and courage. However, despite these traits of character, she dwelt much on the message of love. The flames and passion of love ran through her nature. She firmly believed that "Love is in all things; all things are in love." In her poem "Angel or Demon," Ella Wheeler Wilcox voiced a world-wide truth :—

"For angels and devils are cast in one mould,
Till love guides them upward or downward, I hold."

Another of her poems, "Settle the Question Right," has inspired thousands of men, as well as women, to fight for truth and justice. The poem is of peculiar interest just now :—

"However the battle is ended,
Though proudly the victor comes,
With flaunting flags and neighing nags
And echoing roll of drums;
Still truth proclaims his motto
In letters of living light,
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right."

Surely the last verse will be an inspiration to thousands yet unborn :—

"O men bowed down with labour,
O women young yet old,
O heart oppressed in the toiler's breast
And crushed by the power of gold,
Keep on with your weary battle
Against triumphant might;
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right."

In her poem, "A Married Coquette," she describes the women who deliberately tempt men into sin and folly. A young, innocent girl may be pardoned, excused, and forgiven, but a married woman :—

"Well, she is the woman who ought to know better;
She needs no mercy at any man's hands."

At the same time :—

"In the game of hearts, though a woman be winner,
The odds are ever against her, you know;
The world is ready to call her a sinner
And man is ready to make her so.
Shame is likely, and sorrow is certain,
And the man has the best of it, end as it may.
So now, my lady, we'll drop the curtain,
And put out the lights. We are through with our play."

Mrs. Wilcox shared an ideal married life with her husband, Mr. R. A. Wilcox, of New York. He died in 1916, and ever after the thoughts of his wife turned to the study of theosophy. In her turn Ella Wheeler Wilcox has joined the "great majority," but the fellowship of life and inspiration in her poems we have with us still. She has gone before her work was done, when the world could ill spare her worth. She was a woman of that quality and character that one could only think of her as a friend. Her admirers in this country alone were many, while in America her fame and power as a poetic genius was of the first rank. The popularity of her poems among women and girls of every class must have had a reason. From a literary standpoint Ella Wheeler Wilcox ranked high in contemporary poetic literature. One reason for this was the mighty optimism of the poetess. Her message may be summed up as a clarion call to humanity to rise above the doubts and fears of life, and face the future dawn of a brighter and better era. In conclusion, just a few verses from the poem, "Lord, Speak Again" :

"Lord, speak again, ere yet it be too late.
Unloved, unwanted souls come through earth's gate:
The unborn child is given a dower of hate.

"Children are spawned like fishes in the sand.
With ignorance and crime they fill the land.
Lord, speak again, till mothers understand.

"True Motherhood is not alone to breed
The human race; it is to know and heed
Its holiest purpose and its highest need.

"Lord, speak again, so woman shall be stirred
With the full meaning of that mighty word,
True Motherhood. She has not rightly heard."

REVIEWS.

Radiant Motherhood. By Marie Stopes. (G. P. Putnam Sons, Ltd. 6s. net.)

Dr. Marie Stopes' most recent work reminds us of a curious hat which appeared in the window of a certain West-end store at a time when London was settling down to its last and most persistent spell of air-raids. It was nothing less than a steel trench hat, elegantly upholstered in grey chiffon. We might have smitten the wearer on the head, expecting our weapon to go crashing through a pad of soft milinery, only to find its edge turned on an underlying surface of hard and shining steel. So it is with the work of our learned and logical author. A superficial glance appals us by its pink and purple sentiment—familiar symptoms of the mental sickness which is apt to overtake those who write of married life and motherhood. Down comes our hatchet, and the sharp clang of steel rings out! Decently veiled under its soft conventional covering, we recognise the clear-cut, well-knit thought which raises Dr. Stopes upon a lonely pedestal among those who grope among the mists and fogs of her ever enthralling subject. The pink and purple sentiment is not in her case a symptom of mental sickness, it is merely an assumed protective colouring—sugar on the pill of that daringly original and constructive thesis which Dr. Stopes has been propounding to the world during the last few years. That thesis is probably well known to most readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER. In her earlier book, "Married Love," as well as in her evidence before the National Birth-rate Commission, Dr. Stopes argues that the "moral restraint" beloved of nineteenth century economists and twentieth century bishops, is destructive of the highest physical, moral, and æsthetic development of married life. Equally destructive is undesired motherhood. Therefore, health, morality, and æsthetic, not to mention public welfare and racial fitness, demand the adoption of some method of birth-control which will avoid, on the one hand, interference with the ideal marriage relation, on the other, the blasphemy of involuntary parenthood. Such a method Dr. Stopes believes that she has found, and in a second book, "Wise Parenthood," she tells us what it is.

It is, however, with the third of Dr. Stopes' series, "Radiant Motherhood," that we are for the present concerned. In it the author continues to develop her thesis. Having dealt, so to speak, with the unwanted babies who are not born, she proceeds to deal with the wanted babies who are—with the ideal conditions under which they should be conceived and nurtured during their nine months or so of pre-natal existence. It is a valuable and practical handbook, and unlike most books on the subject of sex and motherhood, it has this notable feature: it does not leave the credulous reader with the impression that she is by nature a chronic invalid and a periodical lunatic (either because she is going to have a baby, or because she isn't), that she is physically incapable of crawling to the nearest polling station, and mentally incapable of recording a balanced judgment when she gets there. Dr. Stopes' book is calculated rather to set the expectant mother's feet tingling for the pedals of her bicycle, or send her at the double to the summit of the nearest hill. Mentally, perhaps, our author is a little less comforting, for she connects both with motherhood and wifehood an emotional intensity, an irrational moodiness, which may perhaps cause the less adventurous among her readers to hanker after a Kingdom of Heaven in which there is "neither marrying nor giving in marriage."

But before closing with a hearty vote of thanks to our author, we should like to make one serious criticism of her whole position. "There is enough knowledge now in the world," she writes, "for the race to transform itself in a couple of generations." And she really does succeed in convincing us that, in a world ordered according to her plan, this might be so. What she does not succeed in convincing us, though she tentatively attempts to do so in her concluding chapter, is that this knowledge can be immediately applied without immense economic upheavals. It is quite possible that a race, physically and morally transformed as she foreshadows, might produce a national income beyond the dreams of avarice. It is impossible, however, to avoid the impression that, according to the *régime* set forth in her latest book, motherhood is going to require a family income of at least a thousand a year in order to attain the necessary degree of radiance. We are, in fact, landed in something which strongly resembles a vicious circle. Dr. Stopes has worked out the physiology and the ethics of her subject; she has not neglected its æsthetics; but she has not yet tackled its economics. We venture, therefore, to move the following amendment to our vote of thanks above mentioned: "After the words '. . . our gratitude for three notable and thought-provoking books,' add the words, 'and, further, we urge Dr. Stopes immediately to write another, setting forth the manner in which her system of life can be worked out (not in our home, or yours, oh, middle-class reader) in the ten million homes which make up this distracted commonweal.'"

M.S.

Fundamentals in Sexual Ethics. By Dr. S. Herbert. (A. & C. Black.)

Dr. Herbert writes with wide knowledge, conscientious thoroughness, sincere conviction, sympathetic understanding, or, even more, with spiritual aspirations. And the result on one reader is of a whirlwind round one's head, of shifting sands beneath one's feet. Dr. Herbert is a splendid feminist, and he is so modern as to have printed in full the clauses of the now moribund Bastardy Bill. Of all the ancient methods of dealing with prostitution and of the more recent legislative proposals, such as Regulation 40 D, D.O.R.A., he sees clearly the futility and the injustice. But he has many sex theories and clearly only a little practical experience. He is against any attempt to raise the age of consent. "What avails legal protection against the vagaries of love?" and "Are we to punish the boy lover—and only him and not her?" Practical workers know that "love" plays very little part in the ruin of girls under sixteen, and it is seldom a "boy-lover" who is to blame. But in this book practical problems are not thought out, with the result that, quite inconsistently with other of his standards, Dr. Herbert is in favour of the policy of the new Society for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases as regards prophylactic methods, advocates compulsory notification, and would penalise the communication of venereal disease (without the necessary distinction of communication in marriage and in promiscuous intercourse) *all* retrograde steps in the eyes of those who have studied the working of legislation on the complex problems of health and morals.

I have said that Dr. Herbert has not sufficiently thought out some of his practical problems. I feel sure that he himself would be surprised to learn that the outcome of his high ideals of married life, of early restraint, and of the communion of spirit, as well as body, as essential to all pure communion, is that young people of both sexes, armed with contraceptives and knowing how to use prophylactic methods against disease should be free when and where they will to form temporary unions. The State is only to concern itself with the fate of children. The marriage register should be rather a parenthood register. Temporary unions outside and alongside marriage are not incompatible with love and happiness and chastity inside marriage. Parenthood must create a legal bond for the sake of the children, but if one of the two should find the bond become irksome, for that partner to the bond marriage has become immoral. To quote Dr. Herbert, without adding "the insult of adultery" to "the injury of ceasing to love," legal freedom should be his or hers. Apparently, the parenthood contract is to be legalised, but is to be no more binding than any other.

Our author accepts as his definition of chastity that of Ellen Key—"A harmony between body and soul in relation to love." The same person may have a series of such harmonies in relation to a series of persons, but I think another word than chastity should be used to define so refined a practice.

It is true, as Dr. Herbert says, that most married people want to go on living together and shrink from breaking up their homes. I believe that that will always be true, and that more equitable and moral divorce laws will help to keep it true. But marriage between persons of various experiences in temporary unions is an unknown quantity. And the elimination of ideals of a faithfulness that could not fail, and a trust that could not be broken, and a losing of life that gains it will change the expectations in marriage, will impoverish all character, and lower all life. It is worth while remembering that if so many problems are the result of sex, *all* problems are the result of life. And life is more than sex and its conduct makes wider demands than those of sex.

EDITH BETHUNE-BAKER.

DRAMA.

"The Right to Strike" at the Garrick Theatre, by Ernest Hutchinson.

Strikes and reprisals being subjects well in the public eye, it is an opportune moment to produce a play with a strike motive, in which the doctors of a Lancashire town, isolated by a railway strike, themselves go on strike as a reprisal against the local railwaymen; the immediate cause of the doctors' action is the death of one of them due to the strikers attempts to prevent the running of a volunteer transport service. Mr. Ernest Hutchinson has chosen an interesting and important theme, and written a good play on it, deserving of careful, critical attention.

In treating such a theme there arises first the question of bias. Mr. Hutchinson, in trying to be as fair as he can, must of necessity fix the blame for the original strike somewhere; he fixed on an intellectual "agitator" who comes from London to help the men in their strike; thereby he showed his bias towards middle-class views, and presumably made the play the more acceptable to the average audience. However, it would be superhuman to be completely without bias.

The next problem is the dramatic illustration of the theme, and in this Mr. Hutchinson has been splendidly successful in his two middle acts, each of which has a fine situation in it. In the one there is the declaration of strike by the doctors in the middle of an informal meeting between the employers and employed, on hearing of the news of the death of young Dr. Eric Miller. The bereaved and broken father, old Dr. Miller, hesitates to join the striking doctors, but finally goes over to them, slowly crossing the stage. In the other, a formal meeting is disturbed by the entry of Dr. Eric Miller's widow, asking for Ben Ormerod, the railwaymen's local leader, because his wife who is to have a child, is in a dangerous condition without proper medical aid. As the despairing Ben goes away, old Dr. Miller says he will come with him to attend his wife. Both these situations are well worked up and are moving.

The first act is far too sentimental; it is, of course, necessary in this act to work up a feeling for Dr. Eric Miller, but it is done in far too mawkish a way. The last act is also disappointing, mainly because of the unreasonable behaviour of Dr. Wrigley, the dead young doctor's best friend. Dr. Wrigley's attitude of declamatory despair contrasts unfavourably with the more convincing, because silent, sorrow of the widow and the bereaved father. The motive of the death of his best friend is not strong enough dramatically to account for Dr. Wrigley's actions. As a small point, Dr. Wrigley could not be deprived of his right to practice as a medical man on the *ipse dixit* of an emissary of the Medical Association. The appearance of the "agitator" in this act is an unnecesary indication of bias. However, I repeat that it is a good play and well worth seeing. It is advisable that audiences should not indulge themselves in indiscrimiaate clapping of the sentiments of the characters they happen to favour; the gallery might easily take it into its head to start reprisals upon the stalls, which would never do, as they are, strategically speaking, in a more advantageous position even if it may be considered that morally they are not in the right.

Being a good play it called forth good acting. Mr. Holman Clark was excellent in the part of the kindly old doctor. One of the outstanding successes was Mr. Lauderdale Maitland, who played Ben Ormerod; it was a well thought out performance down to the little touch of creaking boots in the last act. As the "agitator" Mr. Leon M. Lion was good, but made him far too conspiratorial in appearance; the Labour intellectuals generally shave, and do not always wear comic woollies. The playing of Mr. Charles Kenyon was too robust for my taste; even if the doctor was late R.A.M.C. there is no need to make him a swash-buckler, but Mr. Kenyon was quite effective, particularly in the third act. A word of praise is due to Mr. F. B. J. Sharp in a small part, admirably played with quiet, unforced humour.

R. A. A.

"The Romantic Young Lady" at the Royalty.

This is a good play. How rarely one sees such a thing and how unmistakable it is when seen. It is light and slim as any other of the ninety-nine comedies which are being played, or have just been played, or are just going to be played in London. It is a pretty little intrigue, half humorous, half sentimental. The gentleman's hat blows in at the young lady's window in the middle of the night. But the whole thing is charming, gay, witty, and exactly right, as one of our own eighteenth-century comedies. Do they often have plays like this in Spain? If so, it is to be hoped that they will be produced in London. If they are, I hope that they will not have Miss Joyce Carey as the heroine, though exactly who they should have is difficult to say; they might surely find someone more distinguished, and with a pleasanter voice, however. Mr. Dennis Eadie was an attractive hero. But the most interesting and best played parts were those of the old lady and her maid, taken by Miss Mary Rorke and Miss Barabara Gott. But the whole thing is too light and charming to be fingered. It should be seen.

ART NOTES.

The Independent Gallery (7a, Grafton Street) has a most interesting exhibition of pictures by Felix Vallotton. Monsieur Vallotton's work is worth seeing, from its combination of clear, austere statement of hard facts, with a great individuality of vision and a refined sense of beauty, and also from a curious and interesting combination of naturalistic and severely conventional treatment. In No. 12, for instance, "La mer à Saint Malo," one of the best pictures in the exhibition, the naturalistic treatment of the sky and distant houses is admirably combined with the conventionalised ripples on the sea in the foreground. This is an altogether delightful picture, as are also the two studies of "Marée Montante," Nos. 14 and 15, and the "Environs de Lausanne," No. 23. The still-life paintings are also very attractive, especially No. 7, "Capucines, fond violet," a study of nasturtiums and bric-a-brac, No. 13, "Jambon et tomates," and No. 27, "Petites Poires," in which hard, little green pears lie tumbled among pottery. The portraits of women, finely though they are painted, are almost too cold and reserved. One would be glad to see Monsieur Vallotton let himself go a little more when painting human beings.

The Macrae Gallery (95, Regent Street) has a good one man show of water colours by Ludovic Rodo. The artist's use of his medium is very pleasant, clear and pure as water colour should be, and he has the gift of choosing utterly dull and banal subjects, chiefly suburban streets and villas, and making them interesting. Such are No. 12, "Staines Station," No. 15, "Road with Snow," and No. 16, "The Blue Shadows." In No. 24, "The Lane," he has tackled what would seem a quite impossible subject, and has made a successful picture. Other good drawings are No. 7, "January," No. 20, "Rouen, St. Catherine," and No. 30, "The Dead Tree."

It is difficult to find much to say about the work of the Society of Graver-Printers in Colour, now on view at 18, Cork Street. Whatever may be the mechanical skill of its members (and in some cases it is great) their work cannot be said to be strikingly original or individual. For the most part they are content to follow accepted traditions, and when they diverge from them the result is not often successful. What should be the aim of a printer in colour? It is at least obvious that it should show for what it is. There can be no object in expending an immense amount of skill and labour in order to produce a print which might pass for an inferior water colour, yet this seems to be the aim of some of the members, especially Hilda Porter and A. M. Shrimpton. Theodore Roussel, whose "Chelsea Palace" intaglio engraving on metal is a beautiful specimen of his art, sends a trial proof in a new medium, "L'Oubliée," which might pass for fresco work with a much cracked surface. Robertine Herriot has a good engraving of "Sweet Peas," Sydney Lee a woodcut of "The Bridge," reminiscent of the Japanese, Miriam Dene a good still life, No. 10, dead leaves in a jar, very satisfactory in colour and treatment. F. Morley Fletcher, Allen Sealey, John Platt, Mabel Royds, and William Giles are all represented by good and capable work.

E.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

THE NATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRIES.

Madam,—May I thank "I. E. W." for the courtesy of the concluding paragraph of her critique of my little book on Nationalisation of Industries, and may I make a brief comment on her strictures?

The gravamen of the charge against me is that my whole argument is based on the misconception that nationalisation is synonymous with bureaucracy. To the belief that nationalisation as defined by me would lead to bureaucracy I plead guilty. But I can imagine unbureaucratic schemes of nationalisation; only they would be undemocratic and they would not allow the nation who had paid the piper to call the tune.

I am told, however, that my scheme of nationalisation "is not one which can be justified by reference to any proposed scheme put forward by a responsible Labour leader." The schemes I had principally in mind were the Post Office, Telegraphs and Telephones already in existence, and Mr. Justice Sankey's scheme. If the latter is not put forward by Labour leaders, it is approved and recommended by them. Will "I. E. W." kindly explain in what respect these schemes differ from the "complete ownership, control and management by the State, and a Minister at the head responsible to Parliament"?

The devolution to the District Mining Councils, of which "I. E. W." makes so much, is merely on paper. It is all made "subject to the direction of the Minister of Mines," words "I. E. W." neglects to quote, and it is plain that the central authority must either retain control of output, prices, wages, and even of distribution of coal, or there would be confusion and overlapping. That hateful thing competition might even creep in!

Finding Parliamentary control in present conditions "illusory," "I. E. W." asks me to agree that the obvious thing is to separate the industrial activities of Parliament from the political issues. Such a scheme has been adumbrated by certain clever constitution makers quite recently, but it has never been even debated in Parliament, it is not understood in the country and cannot be said to be a live issue at present.

The "illusory" Parliamentary control is to be met by "adequate representation" of consumers on national and local councils. Adequate representation in these circumstances would involve at least half the representation going to consumers, diminishing *pro tanto* the "emergence of the best brains in the industry, proved men who have grown up in the atmosphere of the industry and who know it from A to Z."

The difficulties in the way of introducing a system of profit-sharing and copartnership, great as they admittedly are, seem small in comparison with "I. E. W.'s." The latter involves in the first place a profound alteration in the constitution for which we are not prepared, and, in the second, the handing over to small bodies of producers and consumers, free from Parliamentary control (if I understand her aright), of an industry for which the public will have paid hundreds of millions of money. I should like to see the scheme in the form of a Bill.

Emmott.

Our reviewer writes:—"Lord Emmott acknowledges that his conception of nationalisation is synonymous with bureaucracy, and considers that an unbureaucratic scheme of nationalisation would be undemocratic, and 'would not allow the nation, who had paid the piper, to call the tune.' I do not understand how he arrives at this conclusion. An undemocratic scheme is obviously one in which the workers in an industry have a share in the control—which, in other words, is democracy in industry. The nation would be represented by the consumers' representatives (generally one-third of the total is considered adequate) on the National Council of the industry.

"The schemes Lord Emmott refers to, the Post Office, Telegraphs, and Telephones, are certainly not schemes which any responsible Labour leader of to-day would accept in a newly-nationalised industry. The whole appeal of nationalisation to labour, is the chance it gives of a share in control for the workers, and any proposal which does not include this would not be considered. Mr. Justice Sankey's scheme, although it does answer to the definition of 'complete ownership, control and management by the State, and a Minister at the head responsible to Parliament,' is not entirely covered by that definition. A considerable amount of local self-government is allowed, and district councils are not quite negligible bodies. If the Sankey scheme is put into practice it is more than likely that the Miners' Federation will see to it that devolution does not remain 'on paper,' and experience will probably show that the Minister of Mines will have enough to do, without interfering too drastically with the local working conditions and organisation, as long as output is up to, and costs are down to the required standard.

"There is no question, at present, either among the schemes actually before Parliament here, or amongst actual forms of nationalised industries in Australia, of handing industries over 'to small bodies of producers and consumers,' *free from Parliamentary control*'; the difficulties would be, as Lord Emmott says, greater than we are prepared to face now, but Mr. Justice Sankey's scheme does not involve a profound alteration in the constitution, and, while giving the workers a voice in the organisation, it protects the consumer from exploitation and does not produce bureaucratic control."

WOMEN AND FREEDOM.

Madam,—In answer to your correspondent "A," I imagine that we should all prefer to be governed by "moral force," if that were possible, but saying so in a referendum would not carry us far. We must dig deeper and find out what is the root of the national belief in the power of physical force, and whose is the responsibility for fostering it.

Of course, from time immemorial, man has looked to "his own right arm" both for defence and offence, but there are other weapons which his spirit should have been taught to use, and it is the province of religion to point out the better way. But on which side do we find "organised religion" for the most part? Does not history show us that it has always upheld the physical arm as the only possible weapon for so-called Christian nations, and ignored the Apostolic injunction to make use of the "armour of faith" and the "sword of the Spirit"? And if the blind thus lead the blind where are they likely to find themselves but in the ditch of ruin and disaster?

If this be so, the women in the churches must bear their share of responsibility, and, if they would help the world to a better life, they must learn to rely themselves, and teach their children to rely, on the Christian weapons of faith and courage, and the love that casteth out fear.

"G."

COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Madam,—In your issue of October 8th, I notice a parapraph in which you give a synopsis of a speech of the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the College of Nursing (Limited), in which he pleaded for shorter hours and better pay for nurses. What he did not mention was the fact that whereas associations representing nurses—*i.e.*, employees, are asking for a forty-eight hour week, the College of Nursing (Limited), have placed before the General Nursing Council, through the Ministry of Labour, a scheme for a fifty-six hour week. The College of Nursing has upon its Council two gentlemen, Lord Knutsford and Sir Arthur Stanley, who, as Chairman and Treasurer respectively of two of the largest London hospitals, have more interest in the employers' point of view, than that of the employed. Therefore, they advocate longer hours than the Employees' Association.

I should like to add that nurses do not care for any scheme "as a thank-offering" which brings them before the public as a charity.

Maude MacCallum.

The Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

THE DRINK PROBLEM.

Madam,—Seeing your article on the Drink Problem, I determined to write and tell you how I think it might be tackled. As a life-long tee-totaller, I, like many others, am saddened that we are in such an *impasse*. Simply my plan is this:—

First of all prohibit the use of spirits, except strictly under recent order from a doctor. Permit the trade in beer or stout, which would be of low alcoholic power, and absolutely uniform throughout the country.

Every day the craving for stronger stimulants is creating drunkards, many of whom in their hearts long for the temptation to be removed. They recognise that spirit drinking is a depraved appetite. The same cannot be said of honest beer, which, if the percentage of alcohol is down at 3 or 4 per cent. is perhaps more in the nature of a tonic than a stimulant—and, teetotaller though I am, I think the moderate use of such a drink would be less harmful than the exclusive use of hot tea, for example, or gassy, aerated drinks.

The distillers would require no compensation, for there is an ever-increasing market for spirit for trade purposes.

The teaching of our young people should predispose them to avoid alcohol as a poison, but so long as temptation is everywhere that will not be sufficient.

I fear that as you say, Britishers hate extreme and sweeping reform, and we can't expect Prohibition in any great hurry. I really admire your fairness in your discussion of numbers of vital problems, and of all problems that of drink has suffered most from intemperate devotees of reform. Most people have theories to which they are wedded, but in your case I have hopes that my suggestions will receive as much consideration as they deserve. I shall be thankful to have the idea discussed in your columns, minus my name.

S. J. H.

A MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.

At the Annual Meeting of the Women Clerks' and Secretaries' Friendly Society, held recently, the proceedings opened with a rousing address from Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Later it was resolved by more than three-fourths of the members present to change the name of the Society to "The Clerical and Professional Women's Insurance Society," and to alter the rules accordingly. The object of the change is to throw open the membership of the Society to the many women now taking up professional work whose interests and needs are akin to those of the present members. The Society is an Approved Society under the National Insurance Acts; it is also an ordinary mutual society in which members—whether insured under the Acts or not—can make provision against sickness or for superannuation. The Secretary, Miss A. M. Florence, who is one of the very few women secretaries of Approved Societies in England, has been appointed a member of the Consultative Committee on Insurance of the Ministry of Health.

THE INTERNATIONAL AT HOME.

Last week a delightful reception was held at the Lyceum Club for delegates who had been attending the Christiania Conference by the President and Executive Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. A great number of delegates were present, and some interesting speeches were delivered between the intervals of a delightful musical programme, contributed to by the Misses Pitcairn, Miss Dorothy Huxtable, and Mr. Norman Ingall.

CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION AT GENEVA.

SEPTEMBER, 26th-30th, 1920.

Geneva is justly famed all over the world as being one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Unhappily, it has also an unfortunate notoriety in the fact that in all Switzerland it is the one town to continue the medically discredited and morally hideous system of State Regulation of Prostitution. If one wanders at night through Geneva, here and there, all over the city, from some dark alley is suddenly seen the sinister gleam of the red lamp, indicating the whereabouts of the licensed brothel.

The women in these houses have to attend regularly for medical inspection, and although they are not legally prisoners, yet it appears to be a fact that they are never allowed out except in the charge of the brothel-keeper or madam of the house. Here, in the very centre of the most international, and in some ways perhaps the most progressive city on the Continent, the worst kind of slavery still flourishes, licensed and regulated. Let us hope that when the League of Nations takes up its quarters in Geneva, it will make strong representations to the authorities there as to the unsuitability of the Anti-White Slave Traffic Department of the League being set down side by side with the most potent cause of the traffic in women—tolerated brothels.

Geneva has been closely identified with the Abolitionist movement on the Continent, and Mrs. Butler spoke there on more than one occasion, so it was fitting that, on this first re-union after the isolating years of war, Abolitionists should hold their Conference in this city.

Much of the business of the Conference was taken up with details of internal administration and amendments to the constitution, but the following resolutions were voted upon and carried unanimously :—

1. This Conference affirms the fidelity of the International Abolitionist Federation to the principles of justice and morality formulated in its Statutes of 1886.

2. The reports submitted, specially the report of Prof. Dr. Santoliquido, International and Public Health Adviser to the League of Red Cross Societies, and also that of Dr. Vernes, Director of l'Institut Prophylactique de Paris, presented and explained by Dr. Uffholz, supply new and convincing proofs that prophylaxis of venereal diseases, instead of being in opposition to morals and right, is in conformity with them.

Consequently this Conference affirms its conviction that all coercive measures for the prevention of venereal disease, are inefficacious, and demands the general adoption of a liberal system, which is not only more moral, more just, and more scientific, but has proved to be the most efficacious.

Therefore, this Conference calls upon all Governments which still retain the Regulation system, to abolish it in all its forms.

3. This Conference reaffirms its acceptance of the following principles, laid down by Prof. James Stuart, in his presidential address to the Federation Conference, held in Dresden in 1904 :—

"When any proposal comes before us we are bound, therefore, to apply to it a touchstone. We ask :

"(1) Does it tend to make of women, or of any women, a special class?

"(2) Does it tend to place them under police control?

"(3) Does it tend towards re-establishing the compulsory *visite*?

"These are the features of the system of Regulation, and, if a proposal sins in any of these, we are against it, if it does not, we are open to consider it on its merits. And in connection with every proposal which comes before us we have to ask not only is it *intended* fairly, but will it *operate* fairly?"

And this Conference invites all the branches of the Federation to submit to this touchstone all proposals relating to hygienic and other measures concerning the problem of prostitution and venereal diseases.

4. This Conference calls the attention of the League of Nations to the fact that the Regulation of prostitution is one of the most important causes of the traffic in women, and asks that the mandates given by the League for the administration of undeveloped countries shall be subject to the condition that all forms of regulation of prostitution shall be prohibited in the mandatory territories.

5. The International Abolitionist Federation notes with satisfaction the establishment of an International Bureau of Health within the League of Nations.

Confident of the professional independence of that Bureau and of its desire to attain the objects for which it has been established, the Federation forwards to it Resolutions 1, 2, and 3 (as above) and the documents upon which they are based.

A crowded evening public meeting was held in the Salle Centrale on September 28th. The subject of all the speeches was "Prostitution et Temps Nouveaux," and Madame Avril de Saint-Croix (Paris), Professeur Johann Ude (Austria), Dr. Mueller (Hamburg), Frau Scheven (Dresden), Dr. Luisi (Uruguay), Miss Alison Neilans (London), and several others were the speakers.

It is possible that the next Abolitionist Conference may be held in England.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE

TO SECURE

STATE PURCHASE & CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE :—

Lady HENRY SOMERSET, *Chairman.*

Miss LENA ASHWELL, O.B.E	Miss A. M. KINDERSLEY.
Viscountess ASTOR, M.P.	Mrs. HUDSON LYALL, L.C.C
Miss THELMA CAZALET.	Lady ISABEL MARGESSON.
The Lady EMMOTT.	Miss A. M. MERCER.
Dame KATHARINE FURSE, G.B.E.	Lady CYNTHIA MOSLEY.
Mrs. EDWIN GRAY.	Miss B. PICTON-TURBERVILL
Lady HOWARD.	Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY.
Mrs. H. B. IRVING.	Mrs. RUSSELL WALKER.

Meetings held during September were as follows :—

Sept. 1st—Rotherfield Women's Institute—Miss M. Cotterell.

Sept. 13th—Lavender Hill Congregational Church meeting—Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

Sept. 13th—Uxbridge Wesleyan Sisterhood—Miss M. Cotterell.

Sept. 20th—Norbury Wesleyan Sisterhood—Miss M. Cotterell.

Sept. 22nd—Women's League of Union, West London Mission—Miss M. Cotterell.

Sept. 27th—Seven Kings' Wesleyan Sisterhood—Miss M. Cotterell.

Sept. 28th—Presbyterian Settlement, Stepney—Miss M. Cotterell.

Sept. 30th—Salisbury, National Council of Women—Mrs. Renton.

Sept. 30th—Stockton, National Council of Women—Miss Mercer.

All eyes are turning in the direction of Scotland, where the temperance forces are being met with fierce and highly-organised opposition from the Trade. The Bill of 1913 gave the Scottish Liquor Trade seven years' grace in which to prepare for dispossession by the voice of the people in 1920. Had the similar Bill of 1908, applying to the English Licensed Trade, introduced into Parliament by the Government of Mr. Asquith, passed into law, we in this country should have had a similar opportunity in 1922 of registering our views on the drink question. The 1908 Bill was obliged to provide for a fourteen years' time-limit, since the members of the Trade in the southern half of Great Britain were entrenched in legal possession of their licences after the manner of real property. In Scotland, the law passed by the Tory Government in 1904, which so entrenched the Trade, did not apply. In Scotland the licence remained merely a temporary possession asked for and supplied yearly on payment of fee, and carried with it no property rights, legal or implied.

By the Act of 1904 a licensee in England was ensured the retention of his licence except on grounds of misconduct and misuse of his premises, and the licence could only be withdrawn as redundant when a sum of money was paid as due compensation. This then gave the Trade permanent possession in the eyes of the law—their "vested interests." It was the greatest gift ever given to the Trade, the greatest blow ever dealt to the temperance party.

For with guaranteed possession the Trade can only be very slowly dispossessed. Public houses can be reduced in number only to such extent as the compensation fund has the necessary money in hand to provide compensation. If the Scottish Trade, with no legal claims, was given seven years' grace, it is very certain that a Local Option Bill for England, where the legal position is assured, would have to allow at least a fourteen years' time-limit. Can we possibly afford to wait so long?

In the meantime there is a royal road to a Local Option measure by way of State Purchase. If the nation took over the whole Trade on fair terms of purchase, a Local Option Bill could become operative immediately, and we could record our own decision with regard to the sale or non-sale of alcohol in our own locality.

Requests for speakers and literature should be addressed to Miss M. Cotterell, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

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.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND SOCIETIES.

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.

AUTUMN LECTURES: ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF WOMEN IN THE HOME AND IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

A course of lectures on the above subject will be held at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, as follows:—

Tuesday, October 26th, 1920, at 5.30 p.m.—Present Status of Wives and Mothers—Miss Rosamond Smith. Chairman, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., J.P.

Tuesday, November 2nd, 1920, at 5.30 p.m.—Proposed Immediate Changes in Status of Wives and Mothers—Mrs. F. W. Hubback.

Tuesday, November 9th, 1920, at 5.30 p.m.—Women in the Professions—Mrs. Oliver Strachey.

Tuesday, November 16th, 1920, at 5.30 p.m.—Position of Women in Industry—Miss Ashley.

Tuesday, November 23rd, 1920, at 5.30 p.m.—National Family Endowment—Miss K. D. Courtney.

Tuesday, November 30th, 1920, at 5.30 p.m.—Alternatives to National Family Endowment—Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc.

Tuesday, December 7th, 1920, at 5.30 p.m.—The Ethical Aspects of the Movement for Economic Independence—Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, C.C., J.P.

(N.B.—These lectures are for the purpose of impartial study and discussion, and the N.U.S.E.C. is not necessarily committed to views expressed in these lectures.)

An informal reception will be held before each lecture, when the President and members of the Executive Committee will be glad to meet those interested in the programme of the N.U.S.E.C. who may be able to be present. Mrs. Fawcett has kindly consented to be present on the opening afternoon, and will take the chair at Miss Rosamond Smith's lecture, and it is proposed to invite visitors from other countries who happen to be resident in London. Tea will be provided from 4.45 to 5.30. Admission will be by ticket, and as accommodation will be limited, preference will be given to those taking the complete course. Copies of the syllabus and tickets, *which must be obtained beforehand*, may be had at the N.U.S.E.C. office, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Fee for the whole course (including tea) 15s. Fee for single lectures (including tea) 2s. 6d.

THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN ON THE TWO-SHIFT SYSTEM.

The Executive Committee is sending representatives to give evidence on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. to the above Committee. A short account of the evidence given will be published next week. It will be based on the resolution passed at the Council meeting, 1920, which asserted the principle that any restrictive industrial legislation be based on the type of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

"The Work of Women Magistrates," which is pamphlet No. 5 of the 1920 series, price 2d., is now ready. This pamphlet has been reprinted, with some slight alterations, by kind permission of The Woman's Leader. It gives a survey of the new opportunities open to women magistrates, with some practical suggestions as to the best way of getting help and advice, and of keeping in touch with events or publications likely to be of special interest, and a useful list of books and publications is also appended. A leaflet on "Women and Election Work," and a bibliography which will serve as a catalogue for the Edward Wright and Cavendish Bentinck Library at Headquarters, will shortly be ready.

Societies are reminded that the pamphlet, "A Vindication of Canvassing," may be had at reduced terms if a sufficient number is required, *i.e.*, 1s. 6d. a dozen, or 10s. per 100, post free.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

GLASGOW SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Two members of the Executive Committee, Miss M. A. Snodgrass (Hon. Sec.) and Mrs. Bell, are standing for election at the forthcoming Town Council election in Glasgow. As there has been no Council election in Glasgow for many years, and so far no woman councillor, much interest has been aroused, and an active campaign has been inaugurated.

EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

A Conference on Some Problems of Citizenship, to be held in the Gould Hall, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, has been arranged for November 18th and 19th. The programme will consist of lectures on "The Economic Independence of Women in the Home and in the Labour Market," "Women in the State, including Women as Members of Parliament and as Women Magistrates," and "Women's Part in the League of Nations." Two public meetings, one addressed by Miss Picton-Turbervill, will be held on "Women in the Church," and a second on the "National Endowment of the Family," by Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, have been announced. Classes on Methods of Election Work are also to be held. Visits to places of interest are to be arranged, and altogether a most interesting and profitable programme has been provided. Societies in Scotland and in the North of England, who were unable to send representatives to the Summer School, should make an effort to send one or more members to represent them. Membership is not, however, confined to our own Societies. Any woman interested in National and International questions relating to women will be welcomed. The fee for three days' conference is only 5s., and arrangements for hospitality may be made for a limited number and suitable accommodation for others.

LIVERPOOL WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

This Society has just issued a very interesting and comprehensive winter syllabus of lectures, conferences, and debates, including a series of open debates for men and women on Some Economic Problems of the Day. Social gatherings have been arranged monthly at which there will be brief discussions on subjects of special interest to Industrial and Professional Women. In addition to the printed syllabus issued for activities at the local headquarters of the Association, 6, Lord Street, Liverpool, lectures and meetings have also been organised in the different wards. The impression one gains from a survey of the proposed programme is that provision has been made to attract and help all types of members or potential members, and it will be interesting to hear the success of the effort.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.
The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—
OCTOBER 16.
At the Hippodrome, Golders Green.
Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., Mrs. Swanwick, A. G. Gardiner, Esq.
Chair: The Mayor of Hampstead. 3 p.m.
At the West-Central Jewish Girls' Institute, Alfred Place, Store Street, Bedford Square, W.C. 1.
Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.
In the Village Hall, Horbling, Lincolnshire.
Speaker: Miss M. Currey, O.B.E. 7 p.m.
OCTOBER 20.
At the Kingsweigh House Association, Thomas Street, Oxford Street.
Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.
In the Village Hall, Heighington, Lincolnshire.
Speaker: Miss M. Currey, O.B.E. 7.30 p.m.
OCTOBER 21.
At Sater's Hall, Baptist Church, Islington.
Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq. 8 p.m.
At the Congregational Church Hall, Purley.
Speakers. J. H. Clynes, Esq., Canon Bickersteth Ottley.
At the Inns of Court Mission Institute, Broad Street, Drury Lane.
Meeting of the Women Clerks' and Secretaries' Friendly Society.
Speaker: Mrs. Skelton. 8 p.m.
In the Village Hall, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.
Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E. 7 p.m.

GUILD OF EDUCATION AS NATIONAL SERVICE.
A Course of Five Lectures will be given on Saturdays at 11.30 a.m., beginning October 16th, on "Problems of the New Day Continuation Schools," at 11, Tavistock Square, by Miss Margaret Frodsham, B.Sc. (Principal of the Halsey Training College for Continuation School Teachers).
Admission free (by ticket).
For Syllabus and further particulars apply to the Secretary, 11, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
OCTOBER 19.
In the Caxton Hall, Westminster.
Public Meeting in conjunction with the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, National Women Citizens' Association, National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Federation of Women Civil Servants, &c., &c.
Subject: "Votes for Women under Thirty."
Speakers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Haslett (Sec. W.E.S.); Miss Dorothy Evans, M.A. (Sec. A.W.C. & S.); Councillor Jessie Stephen (N.F.W.W.); Miss Weston (N.F.W.W.); &c.
Chair: Mrs. Despard.
Reserved Seats 1s. Admission free.
October 20. In the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P.
Subject: "The League of Nations."
Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

THE EFFICIENCY CLUB.
The President (The Viscountess Rhondda) and the Executive Committee of the Efficiency Club for Women in Business and the Professions, will be At Home at the Suffolk Galleries, Pall Mall, on Wednesday, October 20, from 8.30 p.m. The Professions and Business World will be represented by notable Guests of Honour.
An attractive Musical Programme is being arranged by Miss Katherine Eggar, A.R.A.M., and Selections will be rendered by Miss Dorothea Webb, Miss Katherine Eggar, Miss Peggy Skelton, Mr. Jack Collingwood, &c.
There will also be short speeches upon the need for close relationship between Business and the Professions.
Tickets 10s., including Refreshments (to Members and their Friends 7s. 6d. each) can be obtained upon request to the Reception Organiser, The Efficiency Club, at the Triangle, Secretarial Offices, 60, South Molton Street, W.C.

FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS.
OCTOBER 20.
At the London School of Economics, Clare Street, W.C. 2.
A Conference of Professional Social Workers will be held to consider the future and policy of the Federation.
Chair: Sir W. H. Beveridge, K.C.B. 7.15 p.m.
The Conference will be preceded at 6.30 p.m. by a Special General Meeting of individual members and Affiliated Associations of the Federation.
Admission 1s. Tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Monk, 35, Leyland Road, Lee, S.E. 12.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.
OCTOBER 21.
At the Social and Debating Society, Edmonton.
Subject: "The State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Mrs. Boyd Dawson. 6.15 p.m.
OCTOBER 21.
At the Welcome Institute, Millwall.
Subject: "The State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E. 2.30 p.m.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.
OCTOBER 22.
At the Kursal Hall, Southend.
Subject: "The Lambeth Resolutions and the Ministrations of Women in the Church."
Speaker: Miss Maude Royden.
Chair: The Rev. E. A. Welch, Rector of Southchurch. 3 p.m.
Admission Free. Reserved tickets, 2s. each, from L.C.M. Stall, Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition, Avenue 2, Block 1.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB LTD.
(For Men and Women).
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.
OCTOBER 20.
Subject: "The Colonies and their Present Position."
Speaker: Lord Morris, K.C.M.G.
Chairman: The Hon. Sir John Cockham, K.C.M.G. 8.15 p.m.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
A Course of Seven Lectures will be given at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, on Tuesdays, commencing October 26th, at 5.30 p.m., on "The Economic Independence of Women in the Home and in the Labour Market."
OCTOBER 26.
Lecturer: Miss Rosamond Smith.
Subject: "Present Status of Wives and Mothers." (Personal rights; rights of property; divorce; rights as mothers; the separated or deserted wife; women under the Poor Law.)
An informal reception will be held before each Lecture. Tea at 4.45 p.m.
Tickets (which must be obtained beforehand) may be had at the N.U.S.E.C. Office, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.
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