

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Trams and Busses.

The London traffic is running at normal pressure again, to the personal regret of motorists and the immense relief of everybody else. As a result the tramwaymen have secured the bulk of a wage advance which everybody concerned acknowledged to be just and reasonable in reference to their human needs. Whether it is just and reasonable in reference to the financial capacity of the enterprise in question is another matter. Incidentally the public has secured the promise of a somewhat controversial and hurried measure of official traffic control, which will in all probability mitigate the anarchic conditions of the London main thoroughfares, without at the same time delivering the public bound hand and foot into the power of a transport trust. The new traffic authority may, in fact, steer us somewhat unsteadily between the devil of private monopoly and the deep sea of unco-ordinated competition. But at what cost have we got these partial blessings? Force has once again plied her trade as the midwife of reform. She is admittedly an incompetent midwife, septic, clumsy, impatient. She loses as many children as she saves, and those that she saves she brings into the world maimed and distorted. We hungrily look forward to her superannuation.

Guardianship, etc., of Infants' Bill, 1924.

On Friday, 4th April, Mrs. Wintringham will, we hope, be moving the second reading of the above Bill in the House of Commons. It is unfortunately no certainty, as should the debate on the Industrial Provident Societies (Amendment) Bill, which comes first on the Order paper, take longer than is expected, there will not be sufficient time for the Guardianship Bill. This Session's Bill is promoted once again by the N.U.S.E.C. It is practically the same as last year's, with the exception that Scotland is to be provided for in a separate Bill, to be introduced later, and that provision for the maintenance of children from the estate of a deceased parent has been omitted. We understand that the Cabinet Committee to consider with the promoters of the Bill as to whether an agreed measure can be arrived at will be sitting shortly. Inevitably its attitude will be modified by the reception given to this Bill. We will return to the subject next week, and in the meantime offer good luck to Mrs. Wintringham's Bill. What Mrs. Wintringham, who, our readers will remember, was a Member two years running of the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, does not know about the Bill is not knowledge, and she has

already proved herself an indomitable fighter. The Cabinet Committee appointed to consider with the promoters whether an agreed Bill can be arrived at has been appointed and is meeting this week.

The American League of Women Voters.

The American League of Women Voters is preparing to hold its fifth Annual Convention at the end of April in Buffalo. Like most such enterprises in the United States, it is to be on a great scale, and functions connected include a dinner to State Presidents, three other public dinners, seven luncheons, and a final banquet. One's flesh quails at the thought of it. But we believe that these feasts are, in fact, according to the American procedure, occasions for the transaction of the business of various groups, and that the vision of mental and physical indigestion which the mere recital of the number calls up is probably illusory. One of the dinners is in honour of the Twelve Greatest Women of America. How were they selected, we wonder, and what was the criterion of greatness? Three mass meetings are also announced, one of these to be held in the largest hall in Buffalo, and it is "expected to be one of the most extraordinary public meetings ever held." How very Transatlantic! But however much our methods may differ, we can only envy the energy and vitality and the enthusiasm for great movements, and especially for the movement for international peace, shown in the Convention arrangements. The United States, we may be sure, would soon be in the League of Nations if the League of Women Voters had their way.

Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations.

Viscountess Astor, M.P., opened the proceedings of a meeting of the Consultative Committee, held at 92, Victoria Street, on Thursday, 27th April. She reported on the progress made with regard to two matters of interest to the Committee, Child Assault and Maisons Tolerees in the Crown Colonies. Speaking of women's questions in general, Lady Astor felt that all Parties when in office needed the spur of outside pressure, and she therefore urged the member organizations of the Committee to continue their activities and to bring their influence to bear in any way they could. Other questions discussed were the Equal Franchise Bill, Post War Pensions for Widows of Men in the Services, the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, the Nationality of Married Women, and a resolution urging the Government to give immediate facilities for the Peeresses Bill was endorsed by twenty-one Societies. A discussion followed on the desirability of outside recruitment for the Civil Service, and while it was agreed that it was to the interest of efficiency in the Civil Service to have women of University standard coming into the higher grades from outside, it was pointed out that the resumption of open competition would mean a check on the absorption of the temporary women and ex-Service men from the lower grades, whose only chance of being retained was establishment.

International Federation of University Women.

The third Biennial Conference of the International Federation of University Women will be held in Christiania from 28th July to 1st August. In addition to the business meetings for delegates from the national federations, there will be several meetings open to all university women, who are cordially invited to attend. The preliminary programme issued states that arrangements have already been made for a series of interesting addresses, followed by discussions, on the following subjects: The Place of University Women in World Affairs; The Special Work of

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the International Federation. Delegates and other representatives will be received and entertained in Christiania by the University Women of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, who are jointly acting as hostesses. Copies of the Preliminary Programme may be obtained either from the Wayfarers' Travel Agency or from the International Federation of University Women, 92 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

Rose Sidgwick Memorial Fellowship.

The Rose Sidgwick Memorial Fellowship, which is annually offered to a British woman graduate for the purpose of a year's study in the United States, has been awarded for the year 1924-5 to Miss Cecilia H. Payne, B.A., F.R.A.S. Miss Payne was a student of Newnham College, Cambridge, where she obtained the Bathurst Studentship for Scientific Research at the conclusion of four years of excellent work in Natural Science. She is at present engaged in research on the physical constitution of the stars at the Harvard College Observatory, U.S.A.

Manchester Education Committee and Married Women Nurses.

We read in *The Woman Citizen* that an attempt to refer back to the Education Committee a minute requiring nurses to resign on marriage has been unsuccessful. Miss Wilkinson defended the rights of the married nurse, and claimed that her private affairs should not be inquired into any more than the private affairs of men. We agree with her, but no one supported the resolution, and it was lost.

Miss E. L. Turner and the Birds.

Miss Turner, F.L.S., who for twenty years has observed the home life and habits of wild birds in their lonely haunts, goes next week to Scott Head Island, on the Norfolk Coast, on behalf of the Norfolk Wild Birds' Protection Committee, where she with a companion will live alone during the summer, occupied with recording and photographing the birds that nest on the island with a view to their protection and the increase of breeding.

Fewer Women Doctors.

The year 1923 shows an altogether spectacular decline in the number of entrants to the medical profession. From the

peak year, 1919, in which close on 3,500 students were enrolled, the number dropped to 2,500 in 1920, and roughly 2,000 in 1921 and 1922. 1923 shows a figure of 545. The *Lancet* accounts for this largely by the reduction in the number of women students, of whom only 60 entered the profession in 1923.

Questions in Parliament.

CHILD ASSAULT.—In reply to a question on the increase in the number of cases of child assault, the Home Secretary stated that there was no evidence of any increase in these cases over a period of 25 years, and that he was considering the appointment of a suitable Committee to investigate and report.

CENSUS RETURNS.—In reply to a question on the number of women employed according to the Census returns, Miss Bondfield stated that in 1911 there were 5,400,000 females aged 10 years and upwards in "gainful occupations" out of a total female population of 21,100,000. The final figures for 1921 are not available, but the numbers of females of 12 years and upwards employed in 1921 was approximately 5,700,000 out of a total female population of 22,300,000.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—Mr. Pethick Lawrence asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to the fact that 2,987 lads, of whom 53 per cent had not previously been convicted, and 337 girls, of whom 46 per cent had not previously been convicted, excluding Borstal cases, had been received into the ordinary prisons of the country, and whether he proposes to take steps to establish separate establishments for offenders under 21 years of age. Mr. Henderson regretted that funds were not available for separate prisons for juvenile adults, but stated that so far as possible they were separated from adult offenders.

POLICY.—*The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement, but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.*

SAINT JOAN.

Bernard Shaw has not failed us. His latest play, "Saint Joan," performed for the first time in this country on Wednesday of last week, was so good that not for one moment did we regret his ambitious choice of theme. Indeed, his treatment of it, especially during the long trial and epilogue which conclude the play, tempted us to feel that had he dared to reach for an even higher quarry (and we cannot believe that its possibilities have not crossed his mind) he would have hit his mark. How many of our readers, forging through the murky and multitudinous pages of Dostawski's *Brothers Karamazow* have been held and fascinated by that curiously irrelevant monologue which the author sets like a jewel in the gleam of his contemporary novel—the monologue of a mediaeval Grand Inquisitor, justifying his ecclesiastical faith to an intrusive and disconcerting reincarnation of Christ? Those who have, will recognize in Bernard Shaw's conception of Saint Joan's accusers the spirit of that same Grand Inquisitor, and in so doing will recognize at the same time how mercifully he has dealt with them.

As far as the exigencies of stage-craft will allow, the play is carefully and accurately historical. The principal departures from recorded history are carefully noted by him in the "author's note," which appears in the programme of the play. In addition, one departure from traditional interpretation of the story is so noted. St. Joan's trial was not, Shaw holds, corrupt. Her judges were not scoundrels. They were "as straightforward as Joan herself; and the law took its regular course." Thus, in effect, the author transfers his indictment from the individuals who brought about her destruction to the institutions and habits of thought for which they stood. In scene four, the only scene in which Joan herself does not appear, this indictment is worked out. It is here that the Church (as represented by the Bishop of Beauvais) and the State (as represented by the English Earl of Warwick) make common cause against the heretic whose existence is a menace to both. Joan is the eternal "Protestant," whose triumphant battle-cry "myself and God" challenges the authority of the Church as guardian and interpreter of the Divine revelation. And she is the eternal nationalist whose insistence upon "myself and the King" and France for the French, leaves no place for the maintenance in power of a feudal aristocracy. This, of course, is the back-

ground for the long unequal duel which follows: Joan against the visible world, armed to the teeth with the methods of judicial torture: the individual soul acting freely in response to the authority of its "inner light" against the institutions of an ordered society which (not without some justification by experience) has lost faith in the power of the individual soul to hear distinctly or interpret accurately these disturbing and anarchic "voices" from an invisible world. "My 'voices' come from God," says Joan. "They come from your imagination," rejoins the Sieur de Baudricourt. (We quote from memory, as the published text is not yet available.) "But of course," retorts Joan. "How else can God speak to us?"

One cannot pretend, of course, that even Bernard Shaw and Sybil Thorndike, in the glorious partnership of dramatist and actor, succeed in throwing over the footlights any real sense of the divine irradiation which carried the Maid of Orleans from the fields of Domremy to the triumphant generalship of the French army. But it is absurd to quarrel with either for a failure to incarnate the spirit of God nightly upon the stage of the New Theatre in St. Martin's Lane. Absurd, not to say churlish, when in fact they succeed in giving us so much. They give us a Joan of Arc entirely human, exuberant, boyish, unselfconscious, capable of finding an almost physical joy in the splendour of "knights riding to battle," a child of the fields, fearless and impudent, because intoxicated by the absorbing experience of unquestioned personal inspiration; and all this they do without for one moment overclouding the dignity of those moments when she "speaks as one having authority."

It is in the epilogue that the author points his moral. A play which did not make it clear would be, he tells us, an insult to the memory of its central figure. Twenty-five years later Joan's reputation is cleared, her judges condemned, her sentence annulled. Five hundred years later she is canonized by the Church which had excommunicated her for the crime of heresy. One by one the ghosts of her accusers creep back to do homage to her memory, and the acknowledged inspiration of her "voices"; last of all comes the frock-coated representative of the generation which canonized her. "Would they like her to return to earth?" she asks, with a flash of her old, trustful simplicity. One by one they slink away with the question evaded. The world which is glad to worship an officially canonized saint, is still in grave doubt regarding the value of heretics.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

This week, as last, it is necessary to begin with the London traffic strike, which held the centre of the stage both within and without the House. The London Traffic Bill has passed its second reading, but it was clear from the moment of its introduction that it could not in itself put an immediate end to the strike. It raised too many contentious and technical questions to be rushed through the House, though the fact that it was under way has certainly helped to bring about a solution. The offer of the companies which was accepted by the men on Monday is considerably in advance of what was offered before, or what would have been possible unless the London Traffic Bill had held out hopes of working economies. Even as it is the Government has had to give a promise of financial assistance for the reconstruction of tracks and to absolve the undertakings from their statutory obligations in respect of repayment of capital, and for a time at least there will be recourse to the rates to cover the extra wages. The settlement has been a relief to all concerned, but certainly not least to the Government, which would have found itself in an astoundingly difficult position had the strike continued. It would have been imperative for the Government to take emergency measures to ensure the continuance of the industrial and commercial life of the capital, and any weakness in this direction would have certainly caused the Conservative and Liberal parties to have combined against the Government. On the other hand, the organization of any strike-breaking measures would have roused the bitter hostility of certain sections of the Labour party. It seemed by no means improbable a few days ago that the Government would have had to choose between an adverse vote of the House or splitting its own party.

With the air still full of the threats of strikes, which may involve a clash between Trade Union interests and what many

believe to be public interest, the position of a Government depending so largely on Trade Union support is far from enviable.

Apart from discussions on the Traffic Bill, the most interesting debate last week was that on Reparations and Security, which led to somewhat heated passages as the result of Mr. Lloyd George's criticism of the Prime Minister's speech. There is generally a certain element of irony in Mr. Lloyd George's speeches on foreign policy; he pointed out that whilst the Reparation Commission was sitting the position was deteriorating, and he was urgent in his demand for clearer and more definite statements from the Prime Minister as to his policy. It is certainly a case of *autre temps, autre mœurs!* The Prime Minister could not give any information as to when the Reparations Commission would report, but evidently certain sections of the Press think the time has come to work up public opinion on the subject.

This week has already produced some interesting passages. The second reading of the Treaty of Peace (Turkey) Bill was the occasion of a very important announcement of the Government policy for the future with regard to International Treaties, when Mr. Ponsonby stated that the Government intend to submit every treaty or agreement to the House of Commons. This proposal was sharply criticized by Sir Samuel Hoare, and more unexpectedly by Mr. Fisher, who described it as "the Americanization of the British Constitution." So far as the Treaty of Lausanne is concerned, the most that can be said is that it is making the best of a bad job.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—ED.]

THE GRIEVANCES OF MIDWIVES.

BY ONE OF THEM.

"I call a midwife a woman who has received such a training, scientific and practical, as that she can undertake all cases of parturition, normal and abnormal, subject only to consultations, like any other accoucheur. Such a training could not be given in less than two years. . . . No training of six months could enable a woman to be more than a midwifery nurse."—Florence Nightingale, *Notes on Lying-in Institutions*, 1872.

To every suffragist the mention of a "grievance" suggests a "reform." It would seem more pertinent to the practising midwife, who is also an intelligent suffragist, to voice conditions which might be made more tolerable to those exercising the profession than to grouse over grievances which, though exasperating a little and hampering considerably, are bound to yield to idealism and to time. Publicity and efficient service are two factors by which supply secures demand. A skilled profession organized to a hundred per cent. of its membership must raise the status of the practising midwife and, through the Incorporated Midwives' Institute (when that degree of organization has been approached), organized midwives will be competent to effect the sweeping away of practically the whole of their disabilities, and certainly to solve their present economic problems.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary legislation, to tighten up the wide meshes of the Midwives' Acts of 1902 and 1918, is especially sensitive to "Votes for Women," and when the "Under Thirties" augment the pressure on Members the future of the midwife, which is already roseate, will rapidly turn golden.

For the midwives' cause is the mothers', and since women and children are the greatest consideration, naturally, to the vast majority of women, the expectant mother and the woman voter will see to it that the midwife is employed and is equipped and empowered to fulfil her professional functions to deliver women in childbirth and to minister to them and their new-born infants, the all-important rising generation.

The grievance of the low status of midwives cannot be lasting, but while it obtains it matters more to the general public than to midwives. It is of supreme importance to obtain the most efficient midwifery service possible. Suffragists all know the interaction of status and economic conditions. By keeping midwives' status and remuneration at the present low level, women with ambition, a "high standard of living," and dependents will not be attracted from the other professional openings, and midwives of ability will continue to leave the profession to become doctors, Government employees, etc. A further grievance is the fashion by which women of the wealthier classes—"who can afford a doctor"—are deterred by public opinion from availing

themselves of the midwife's particularly dexterous technique of delivery and especially highly competent handling of very young and frail infants, because a midwife is now identified in the mind of the public with the confinements of the poor.

Again, it is a grievance that the term midwife conjures up rather the vision of Dickens' "Sarah Gamp" than Socrates' mother, Phœnarete, and that the public is more prone to remember that Queen Victoria was delivered by Dr. Locock than that she herself and the Prince Consort were both "borned" by a midwife and that the first English "royalty" not delivered by a midwife was the unfortunate Princess Charlotte of Wales, who died with her infant son in her confinement in 1817.

It is a grievance that—in this country—a midwife may not give an anaesthetic, use forceps, and put in stitches. She sees all these practices taught to medical students during her own longer hospital training, and which should, also, be taught to herself.

It is a grievance that midwives may not deal with such emergencies, or that, when compelled by their rules to call in medical aid, the patient (unless able to put up a successful plea of extreme poverty) or her relatives must refund the doctor's fee to the local authority and next confinement engage a doctor. Before the Midwives' Act, and during the War, any midwife could give an anaesthetic, use forceps, and put in a stitch. Even to-day many a midwife in a doctor's maternity case, "acting under his directions," is the anaesthetist, applies forceps, and puts in stitches. It is a grievance to deny a woman's demand for chloroform.

It is a grievance to be "undercut" by the handy-women who, living among the working-classes, persuade their neighbours to engage them; and a grievance that among the medical profession there are doctors ready to "cover" these untrained, unsuspected, and uncertified "Gamps." It is a grievance that, even without a "covering" medical practitioner, the handy-women in many industrial and agricultural areas dispense with the Midwives' Acts, and if legal proceedings are taken against them they can (like another celebrated angel of darkness) save themselves by apt quotation: they quote the loophole in the Act which permits attendance on women in childbirth by others than medical practitioners and midwives if *not* "habitually and for gain."

It is a grievance that local authorities should refuse to exercise their permissive powers to pay midwives' fees in necessitous

(Continued on page 80.)

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXX.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899-1902.

The even tenor of our work at home for the enfranchisement of women was dramatically interrupted from 1899 to 1902 by the South African War. I cannot say "suddenly" interrupted, because war had been threatening some time before it actually began. It was declared by the Boers on Dingaan's Day, 16th December, 1899, and within a few days they were besieging three British towns, Mafeking, Kimberley, and Ladysmith.

The war naturally caused an almost complete suspension of work for women's suffrage. But the actual origin and cause of the war were on lines that very strongly emphasized the reasonable and irrefutable nature of the claim of British women to a share in the government of their country. For, in the first instance, the war in South Africa was caused by President Kruger's persistent refusal to admit Englishmen and other "Uitlanders" long settled in the Transvaal to any share in its citizenship. They and their industries were heavily taxed: a very large proportion of the whole revenue of the State was derived from them, but they were denied the vote and therefore had no share in controlling the expenditure or the policy of the State in which they lived. They not unnaturally raised the cry, "No taxation without representation," and in other respects almost inevitably took up and repeated the arguments and protests which for many years we had urged on behalf of the unfranchised women of Great Britain. Of course these causes of the war were by no means universally accepted as correct, and there was a great deal of force in the arguments of those who held that it was the disastrous Jameson Raid in 1895 which made the war a certainty. But those who most confidently took this view, generally failed to ask themselves, "What caused the Jameson Raid?" Looking back on the whole situation with our knowledge of recent events, I believe it is possible to say with some confidence that if the machinery set up by the League of Nations had existed at the close of the nineteenth century the South African War could have been easily prevented. The brief sketch which I have given of the events which led up to the war fairly represent, I think, the opinion of the great majority in this country upon them. But there was not a united nation to meet the war in 1899 as there was to meet the war of 1914. On the contrary, the nation was bitterly divided, and the subject became one of fierce party controversy. This only added to the streams of argument and oratory, and as these went on they continually emphasized the traditional British belief in self-government based on a wide extension of the franchise. In the Press the strongest opponents of the enfranchisement of British women in Great Britain were among the loudest in denouncing the disfranchisement of British men in South Africa. *The Spectator*, for instance, at that time a fanatical opponent of political liberty for women, dwelt eagerly and with much force on the value and significance of the vote. "We dwell so strongly on the franchise," it declared, "because it includes all other rights, and is the one essential thing." This is exactly what we had been saying for years, and what we considered we had proved; we therefore found that, although during the war suffrage propaganda at home had been to a large extent suspended, our old enemies were doing our propaganda for us and using arguments which we could transfer without the change even of a comma to our own case. The speeches of our opponents gave us examples of this, and we were continually looking them up and filing them. Therefore our movement went on growing, all the better, perhaps, because of our silence, in an atmosphere in which a deeper sense of the value of citizenship had come into being.

It will be remembered that after a disastrous opening for the British in December, 1899, Lord Roberts was sent out to South Africa as Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces, with Lord Kitchener as his second in command. They arrived early in January, 1900, and our military position immediately showed a vast improvement. In rapid succession the sieges of Kimberley and Ladysmith were raised. The Boer General, Cronje, with an army of 5,000 men, surrendered at Paardeberg, in the Orange Free State, on 27th February, and Lord Roberts entered Bloemfontein on 13th March. Mafeking was relieved on 17th May, and an advance was made to Pretoria, which was occupied on 5th June. I remember a young subaltern's letter, describing what he saw on the occasion of Cronje's surrender at Paardeberg. One sentence of it ran thus: "There sat Cronje, wolfing into our ham." I think therefore it may be inferred that Cronje and his

5,000 men surrendered to hunger, and that the victors were not very lavishly supplied with food. Everything that the armies, whether Boer or British, and everything that the civil population needed, except on the sea coast, had to be brought to them on a single line of railway. This was a controlling element in the situation, as we had frequent opportunities of observing.

But the successes just mentioned, although they rendered the ultimate victory of the British a certainty, did not stop the war. Guerilla fighting went on over large areas of the sparsely inhabited country. The back veldt, as it was called, had possibly never even heard of the British victories. Lord Kitchener, who had succeeded Lord Roberts as Commander-in-Chief, determined, as a means of bringing the war to an end, that the country should be cleared of its inhabitants, and these were brought into what were known as concentration camps. This policy was carried out, all the inhabitants of the regions dealt with, British as well as Boer being brought into these camps, and block houses for British troops were placed on all the railways and other routes. The time of year when this was being carried out was in the South African winter, a very warm winter we should consider it in comparison to ours, but none the less treacherous on account of the great variation between night and day temperatures. In the middle of the day the sun had great power, while at night there was often frost enough to cover shallow pools with ice and stop the flow of water in pipes and taps. A severe epidemic of measles followed by pneumonia broke out in the concentration camps, and there was a terribly high mortality, especially among the young children. The Boer women and children had often been with their men-folk on commando, and reached the camps badly run down by over-fatigue and unsuitable food. These were particularly a prey to disease of various kinds.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

THE LETTERS OF CHARLES GREVILLE AND HENRY REEVE.

Edited by the Rev. A. H. JOHNSON. (Fisher Unwin. 21s.)

In this volume are nearly 200 letters written between the year 1836 and shortly before Greville's death in 1865. They cover the period of the Diary, which they supplement to a certain extent, and they throw a good deal of light on the "Times" under Barnes and Delane. The correspondence also relates to foreign affairs, the Eastern crisis, and the Spanish marriage.

WONDERS OF THE HIMALAYA. By SIR FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND. (Murray. 10s. 6d.)

The author tells us here of his first experiences in the Himalayas, when almost by chance a surveying expedition fell to his lot. He also crossed the great ranges from China to India, and there are fascinating accounts of his dealings, as a very junior subaltern, with chieftains in their mountain lairs, an invaluable preparation for his later missions.

LETTERS OF ANNE THACKERAY RITCHIE. Selected and edited by her daughter, HESTER RITCHIE. (Murray. 15s.)

Thackeray decreed that no life of him should be written. These letters are, therefore, of real value to the historian. They will undoubtedly be welcomed by his readers and the admirers of Lady Ritchie's charming genius. They throw an amusing sidelight on the perturbation caused by her early literary efforts and aspirations. Her father would have much preferred her to be "an amiable and affectionate woman" than "a man of genius", but even he was won over by her first novel.

CATHEDRAL FOLK. By NICOLAI LYESKOV, translated by ISABEL F. HAPGOOD. (John Lane. 7s. 6d.)

Originally published in 1872, this story might be called a Russian *Barchester Towers*. The archpriest and his subordinates with their wives and families form the principal characters, and the chief incidents occur in the battle between these authorities and the free-thinking schoolmaster which is the theme of the book.

THE GRIEVANCES OF MIDWIVES (continued from page 79). cases, and that maternity benefits, under the Insurance Act, are not payable to the midwife, who often fails to receive any remuneration, though the patient gets £2.

Lastly, it is a grievance when there is no midwife co-opted to the Midwives' Acts Committees of County and County Borough Councils whose powers, through their Inspectors of Midwives and Medical Officers of Health, are almost unlimited over midwives in practice, and can only be revised by the intervention of the Central Midwives' Board.

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

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Council Meeting, which was held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 26th, 27th, and 28th March, was generally admitted to have been one of the most enthusiastic and stimulating since 1918. To quote from a Press cutting: "It evidently takes more than a tram or 'bus strike to interfere with the plans of women who are keen on equal citizenship"; and those who think that "Equal Citizenship" has been or is about to be attained would have discovered their mistake if they had been present at King George's Hall last week. Over 80 societies were represented, including delegates from Scotland, South Wales, and all parts of England. The main resolutions will be printed elsewhere in this paper. The most fundamental of these enlarged the object of the Union, which will in future read "To obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between man and woman and as are necessary to make it possible for women adequately to discharge their functions as citizens." One of the hottest debates of the Council took place over a resolution proposed by Miss Macmillan to ensure in any Guardianship measure promoted by or supported by the N.U.S.E.C. "the explicit enactment of the equal rights and responsibilities of parents as guardians." This was carried finally in an amended form which left the matter to the discretion of the Executive Committee, but with a strong recommendation to press to the utmost for the explicit rights of Equal Guardianship. Another lively debate took place over the proposed proviso in the Legitimacy Bill "excepting from the benefits of the Bill those children whose parents were at the time of their birth legally unable to marry." An amendment in favour of this proviso was carried by three votes.

A Resolution in favour of deleting Proportional Representation from the General Programme without expressing any definite view on the principle was moved by Mrs. Stocks. The Council as well as the Executive were sharply divided, but it was ultimately passed. Interesting discussions took place on Women Police, Taxation of the Incomes of Married Persons, and on the topical subject of questionnaires and candidates for Parliament. There were, indeed, few dull moments during the whole of the three days. A highly satisfactory feature of the Council was the fact that so much of the speaking—and excellent speaking, too—came from the body of the hall. On all hands one heard tribute to the high standard of speaking in the debates and the acquisition of such able speakers among the delegates as Dr. Mary Gordon, late H.M. Inspector of Prisons, Miss Anna Martin, Commandant Allan, Miss Alison Neilans, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Susan Musson, Mrs. White, of the Federation of Women Civil Servants, and many others too numerous to be mentioned added greatly to the speaking strength of the Council. The President's address printed last week was what the Council has become accustomed to expect from Miss Rathbone, and sounded the keynote of the Council, an anxiety which stopped short of pessimism as to the delay of any assurances from the Government that the reforms for which we stand should be given such opportunities of reaching fruition as might reasonably be expected from the Labour Party's previous record and promises. The members of the Council gave an enthusiastic welcome to Mrs. Wintringham, who took her place on the platform as a member of the Executive Committee, and proposed a resolution on the Equal Guardianship Bill, of which she herself is sponsor.

As usual the actual work done at the meetings of the Council was not the sole business of the week. The National Union is a political though a non-party organization; it holds its Councils in London while Parliament is sitting, and delegates took the opportunity to interview their Members and feast their eyes on the sight of several Women Members seated in the historic chamber. Several deputations in which delegates took part took place during the week, including the deputation to the Home Office, where Miss Tancred represented the Union, and the deputation to the Scottish Office reported elsewhere. Other delegates, by the kind invitation of Lady Astor, attended the conference on Juvenile Employment at St. James's Square.

(Continued from next column.)

ment to support the principles in the Bills before Parliament in the Upper and Lower Chambers respectively."

Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance Orders) Bill.

"That the N.U.S.E.C., in Annual Council assembled, calls upon the Government to give facilities for the later stages of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance Orders) Bill."

SELECTED RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Equal Moral Standard: Solicitation Laws.

"That this Council, believing that the administration of the laws relating to solicitation encourages the disastrous idea of a double standard of morals, calls upon the Government to repeal or to amend these laws, especially by removing all special penalties attaching solely to 'common prostitutes.'"

Veneral Disease.

"That this Council (while not expressing any opinion on various minor suggestions made in the Report), approves the following findings of the Trevethin Report on the ground that:—

(1) It rejects as methods for fighting veneral disease in a civil community the introduction of any system or measures for affording to the general public facilities either for self-disinfection or for skilled disinfection given at provided ablation centres;

(2) It refuses to recommend any form whatever of notification or compulsory treatment.

This Council welcomes this rejection of methods which in its opinion tended to confuse the moral issues involved, to foster promiscuous intercourse and to encourage the double moral standard; and further welcomes the recommendation of the Report that the present system of clinics for the treatment of Veneral Disease be extended and improved in many respects, and that an improvement 'in medical education in regard to Veneral Disease is necessary,' while advocating also improved measures of education and the betterment of social conditions."

Prostitution in the Crown Colonies.

"That this Council calls upon the Government to bring the Crown Colonies into line with the British law in regard to the penalties for brothels and disorderly houses, and, particularly, in the case of Hong Kong, the Straits Settlements, and the Federated Malay States, to break up and abolish all existing vice areas or streets where brothel-keeping is at present allowed, and this Council further condemns the action of the British Government in continuing to issue licences to prostitutes to practise in tolerated brothels, with the consequent compulsory examination of women prostitutes in the supposed interests of their male companions."

Equal Pay for Men and Women Civil Servants.

"That the N.U.S.E.C., in Annual Council assembled, calls upon the Government to undertake at once the review of the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men in the Civil Service, promised by resolution of the House of Commons in 1921, with a view to carrying out among the Government's own direct employees its principle of equal pay for equal work."

Employment of Married Women.

"That this Council maintains its unshaken support of the right of women to decide for themselves whether or not they should carry on paid work after marriage: it demands that the regulations of National and Local Authorities which debar married women as such from employment should be repealed, holding that these regulations constitute an unjust interference with individual liberty, and are contrary to the best interests of the public."

Unemployment Among Women.

"That in view of the amount of unemployment among women, and the fact that large sums of money are being allocated to relieve unemployment among men, this Annual Council of the N.U.S.E.C. strongly urges the Government to provide further funds for women's training and employment."

Unemployment Insurance.

"That this Council, feeling strongly that the present allowances for wives and children of unemployed persons are grossly inadequate, is of opinion that the Unemployment Insurance Acts should be amended to secure an adequate allowance for wives and children. The Council also believes that self-respecting unemployed wage-earners should not be driven to the distasteful necessity of applying for Poor Relief."

Women Police.

"That this Council urges the Committee to be appointed by the Home Office to give special consideration to the recommendations of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, 1920, and to instruct Police Authorities in Great Britain with regard to (a) Standardizing the conditions of service of Police Women; (b) the attestation of Police Women with powers of arrest. (Pars. 53, 54, 55, 58, 74, and 36.) And further this Council urges the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland to make regulations that Police Women be appointed on the strength of all police forces."

"That this Council urges the Committee on Women Police to be appointed by the Home Office to give special attention to the adequate training of police women."

"That this Annual Council of the N.U.S.E.C. urges the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland to provide that the custody of women in police cells and the searching and conducting of women prisoners shall be in the hands of women officers."

Guardianship of Infants.

"That the N.U.S.E.C., in Annual Council Assembled, welcomes the intention of the Government to consult with the promoters of the Guardianship of Infants Bill in order to arrive at an agreed Measure, and expresses the earnest hope that the Government will itself introduce and pass through all its stages this Session legislation on the lines of the Guardianship of Infants Bill, 1923."

Legitimacy Bill.

"That the N.U.S.E.C., in Annual Council assembled, welcomes the announcement that the Government intends to give facilities this Session for legislation to render legitimate illegitimate children on the subsequent marriage of their parents, and desires to support a proviso excepting from the benefits of the Bill those children whose parents were at the time of their birth legally unable to marry. Further, it urges Members of Parliament to support the principles in the Bills before Parliament in the Upper and Lower Chambers respectively."

(Continued at foot of previous column.)

TWO IMPORTANT DEPUTATIONS.

COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION.

On Wednesday, 26th March, during the meeting of the Council Meetings of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Mr. James Stewart (Under-Secretary of Health) received a deputation at the Scottish Office of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship consisting of Miss Chrystal Macmillan (National Executive Committee), Mrs. James Taylor, Mrs. Thomas Paisley, Mrs. Harkness, and Miss Rogerson. The deputation placed before Mr. Stewart the dangers of any system of compulsory notification of venereal disease and its opposition to a motion carried at the last Town Council meeting in Glasgow "that intimation be sent to the Scottish Board of Health that, in the opinion of the Corporation, full benefit is not derived from the expenditure on treatment of venereal diseases under existing conditions, and that the time has arrived for the introduction of a system of compulsory notification." Mr. Stewart, who received the deputation courteously, stated that he had not yet made up his own mind on the subject, but that he could assure them that he would support no legislation which would differentiate between men and women, and further that there could be no possibility of any reversion to the C.D. Acts either now or in the future. The deputation withdrew, feeling that much had still to be done in educating public opinion, though great advances had been made since the days of the Criminal Diseases Act.

WOMEN POLICE.

A deputation to press for the appointment of more Women Police, and to urge that effect should be given to the recommendations of the Home Office Committee set up in February, 1920, was received last week by the Home Secretary; Sir John Anderson and the Secretary for Scotland being also present. The deputation was organized by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and 52 representatives from national societies were present. The Home Secretary, in receiving the deputation, before inviting the speakers to state their case, said that he proposed to set up a Committee to deal with Women Police. The Home Office was much interested in the subject, and was anxious to review the question in the light of the three and a half years' experience since 1920. He therefore proposed to set up a Committee to review the experience available as to the employment of Women Police and to make recommendations as to their future organization and duties. "You are pushing an open door," he said. "You may, therefore, not feel it necessary to argue the case at much length. You may take it from me that the principle of Women Police is taken for granted." Viscount Astor, in introducing the deputation, thanked the Home Secretary for the very encouraging statement he had made. The speakers were Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P., for Women Police in the Metropolis, Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., for the provinces, and Miss Tancred, representing the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, for Scotland.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE.

While welcoming the new members of the Executive, the Societies will greatly regret the loss of the three who have been obliged to resign. Mrs. Oliver Strachey was for some years Parliamentary Secretary and has for many years been a member of the Executive Committee, though in recent years she has been unable to attend. After the success of her recent novel *Marching On*, it is not surprising that Mrs. Strachey intends for the present to devote herself to writing, and we understand that she is at present engaged in a work which will be of special interest to our members. Miss Helen Fraser has also been long connected with the Union, and is very well known to our members throughout the country. We hope that in her case, as in Mrs. Strachey's, though relieved from the attendance of Committees, they will continue their help to the National Union, and not fail to attend its Councils. Lady Lloyd Greame is a comparative new-comer, but during her year as a member of the Committee she gave generous help to the Union. Among new members, we extend a special welcome back to Major Hills, a former member of the Executive, and one of the best of our men friends.

THE OFFICERS AND NEW EXECUTIVE.

President: Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., C.C.
Hon. Secretary: Miss Macadam.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Soddy

Mrs. Corbett Ashby	Miss Merrifield
Mrs. Stock	Miss Deakin
Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.	Miss Verrall
Miss A. H. Ward	Mrs. W. Layton
Miss Macmillan	Mrs. Arthur Browne
Mrs. Bethune Baker	Miss Conway
Major W. Hills	Mrs. Ayrton Gould
Miss F. M. Beaumont	Mrs. Phillips
Miss Pictou-Turbervill	Miss McLeod
Mrs. Uniacke	Mrs. Wrightson
Miss K. D. Courtney	

THE N.U.S.E.C. ANNUAL COUNCIL LUNCHEON.

The annual luncheon of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, which took place on Thursday, 27th March, was attended by nearly three hundred guests from Parliamentary Constituencies in the North, South, East, and West. In several cases delegates invited the Member of Parliament from their own constituency as their special guest, and it was a pleasing sight to see them grouped round their beaming representative. The guests of honour of the Union on this occasion were Mrs. Fawcett, who, owing to absence in Palestine and family bereavement, had not hitherto been present at the luncheon; Miss Margaret Bondfield, first woman member of a Government; Lord Askwith, who has given distinguished help to the Union during the year; Mr. Adamson, who is in charge of the Private Members' Bill for Equal Franchise; and Lady Terrington. The other new women in Parliament were unable to be present. Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham, Chief Guests of past years, were, however, present, and it was generally felt that a National Union luncheon without them would be greatly lacking in interest. Miss Rathbone, who presided, welcomed the guests, and said that no National Union function was complete without Mrs. Fawcett, the founder and spiritual head of the Union. Mrs. Fawcett, who received an enthusiastic reception, spoke of the joy of work. Miss Bondfield jumped on a chair when speaking, to the delight of her hearers, and in an amusing short speech said she had been charged with having once made a speech in which she had said that if a limited vote were granted, those admitted would soon forget to struggle for those outside. She now admitted that the continued endurance and vigour of the National Union showed that she had at least been partially wrong. Lord Askwith spoke of the fortunes of the Guardianship Bill and how much it owed to the National Union, and Mr. Adamson took a hopeful view of the prospects of the Bill and urged the Societies of the Union to give him the strongest possible backing. Lady Astor gave a characteristic speech, sparkling and stimulating as ever.

THE BEDFORD COLLEGE RECEPTION.

Everything conspired to prevent a successful evening at Bedford College. It was on the closing day of the Council, when many delegates had left; the bus and tram strike made the attendance of many impossible, and lastly some had succumbed to an informal invitation from Lady Astor to a conference at St. James's Square. But in spite of all this, the united attractions of our guests of honour, Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Manus of Holland, plus the recollection of past occasions at Bedford College, resulted in a delightful and remarkably well-attended gathering. Miss Deneke, of Oxford, whose wonderful playing is well known to many of our members, and Miss Bremner, whose singing is becoming an annual treat, gave a programme of international music which was a joy and refreshment to many guests after a strenuous week of meetings. Mrs. Corbett Ashby received a most cordial welcome in her capacity of President of the International Women Suffrage Alliance, and her speech made a deep impression on all present. She was followed by Miss Manus, who described the Woman's Movement in South America as seen by her during a tour with Mrs. Chapman Catt. Both speakers made their hearers realize the relations between the Woman's Movement and the world-wide desire for international peace and goodwill. Miss Tuke, Principal of Bedford College, in a few words, responded to thanks expressed by Miss Rathbone for the great privilege of using the beautiful hall at the College.

COUNCIL GOSSIP.

Overheard at Bedford College:—An enthusiastic Delegate: "I do love to see the members of the Executive Committee fighting each other on the platform."

Many of the delegates at this Council were much younger than usual. Several officers from different parts of the country have only recently qualified for the vote by reaching the age of 30.

Several of the Stewards were girls in training at Mrs. Hoster's Secretarial Training College; one of them was heard to say that she got so interested in the debates that she forgot her official duties. Mrs. Hoster is the President of the latest affiliated Society for Equal Citizenship—the City of London. If it only had existed before Lord Banbury was translated to the House of Lords!

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The following publications may be had on application to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard:—Leaflet on Guardianship of Infants, 1924 Edition, dealing with the Bill at present before Parliament (price 1d.); Report of the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. (price 3d.).

OURSELVES IN APRIL.

During the next few weeks when our more fortunate readers will be on holiday, we intend to devote more space than has hitherto been possible to non-political subjects. Miss O'Malley will describe Mrs. Starr's story of the rescue of Miss Ellis; Miss Fraser and others will review Miss Rathbone's new book from different angles. Miss Rackham will review two recent books for Magistrates. Other reviews will deal with Dr. Scharlieb's *Reminiscences* and recent novels. Mrs. Fawcett's articles, unfortunately drawing to a close, will be continued throughout the month.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

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

At the annual Council meeting of the Women's International League held recently in London, one very marked feature was the greatly increased number of working women taking part in the discussions. This was due to a recent alteration in rules enabling branches of other bodies such as Women's Co-Operative Guilds, Women's Adult Schools, etc., to affiliate to Headquarters. Another sign of the times was the visit of one of our women M.P.'s who looked in on her way to the House of Commons. Such an event as this would have seemed incredible when the League was started.

Many important questions were dealt with and resolutions passed. Nothing could be more valuable than the closely reasoned discussion which took place on such subjects as the Five Cruisers, the Singapore Dock, the proposed increase in the Air Force, and similar things. The one idea animating the whole Conference was—how best to work for our great object of International Goodwill. Many delegates must have gained fresh encouragement from this meeting to pursue their difficult but inspiring work.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PRE-WAR PRACTICES (RESTORATION) ACT.

MADAM,—In your report of the altogether admirable Presidential address given by Miss Rathbone, may I point out a small error? Miss Rathbone is reported as saying that the Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Act was not resisted by Women's Organizations. In June, 1919, the Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League discussed this Bill, and from that time we opposed its provisions with all our power. We protested against them to Members of the Government, and to Members of the House of Commons. We had leaflets printed protesting strongly against women being turned out of their jobs, and widely distributed those leaflets at the Labour Conference held that year at Southport, and through the Vote, our Branches, at Meetings, and by correspondence we vigorously opposed the Bill until it was on the Statute Book.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

[Miss Rathbone was speaking on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. and several other women's organizations when she stated that the Restoration of the Pre-War Practices Act as a "fulfilment of a war-time pledge" was not resisted by women's organizations. Most organizations took this view, though they worked for amendments which (1) prevented the exclusion of women on the ground of sex alone being held to be a trade practice, (2) prevented the application of the Bill to new industries.—Ed.]

SOCIETY FOR THE OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH WOMEN.—OPENINGS FOR GIRLS IN QUEENSLAND.

MADAM,—Many young women to-day who realize the importance of becoming self-supporting, are wondering how and where they can find employment. To these there comes a message from the S.O.S.B.W. (Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women) to say that application is invited from women between the ages of 18 and 25, of a secondary school standard, to undertake household work in specially selected homes in Queensland. These Queensland homes will be chosen by a group of Australian women personally known to the Chairman of the Executive of the S.O.S.B.W., who know them to be suitable for educated girls.

The first salary, in addition to board and lodging, will be £1 a week, but this will soon be raised if the girl shows willingness and efficiency in her work, and work in the Queensland sunshine, and with the companionship and guidance of the Queensland housewives, is a far more attractive thing than similar work in this country. Many will be the happier for taking this opportunity, and, if they want particulars of the assisted passage and all else, let them apply to this Office.

MERIEL TALBOT.

THE LEGITIMACY BILL.

MADAM,—Those who uphold the "Contentious Proviso" on moral grounds seem to be thinking chiefly of the class of parents which figures largely in Divorce Reports. But among the classes who cannot afford divorce there are many unmarried couples who have lived as man and wife for years in perfect faithfulness and in the full intention of marrying as soon as the death of the deserting spouse sets them free to do so. Are such people so much wicked than those who, without any impediment to marriage, form illicit connections, that their children's wrongs must never be righted?

Let us try to look at the whole question from the children's point of view. Nearly all the arguments put forth on either side are concerned with points of expediency for the parents, on which it is impossible to form a sound judgment. Hard cases will undoubtedly arise if the Bill is passed, with or without the contentious clause; but there are terribly hard cases under the existing state of things. We are warned against removing a deterrent penalty: how can we know, even approximately, how many people it deters? We only know quite certainly that an appalling number of people are not deterred, and that a large proportion of those who sin do so without any thought at all of their possible children.

Even were we convinced that to penalize the children was in the interests of morality we should still be doing evil that good might come. Nothing could make it just for the marriage of the parents to give civil status and rights to the responsible mother, and not to the irresponsible child. Can we not have the courage to do justice at all costs? In the long run this must surely make for sounder morality.

LILIAN DICKINS.

MADAM,—Please allow me to congratulate Mrs. Normanton on her acute and lucid letter on the "Contentious Proviso." It is obvious that all children suffering under the stigma of illegitimacy can not be relieved,

e.g. those cannot one of whose parents has died. And among those upon whom this stigma must, I fear, remain are those whose parents laid it upon them while not in a condition to be married legally. I venture to suggest a further reason for this. A claimant to property or a title could, of course, easily prove the date of his mother's marriage, and also the date of his own birth, but under this new law might he not have to prove also that he was really the son of his alleged father? A man does not of course have to prove this now, or only very exceptionally, but take the following case—a woman who has had two illegitimate children by different fathers, marries one of the men, and they all live together from the children's infancy. She is untruthful, he, complaisant (surely not at all an unusual case). He leaves a large property and no will. Here is work for judges and lawyers for weeks! In short it seems to me the proviso would lead to an enormous amount of litigation.

Without the proviso I cannot say that I exactly object to the Bill, but I cannot help feeling some doubt on one point. No doubt, when a girl has been led away by a selfish, callous man, marriage for her and legitimacy for her child looks like a great boon. But is it always so? I doubt if life with such a man (who has perhaps been dragged to it by the argument of the child) may not be much worse than no marriage at all. Apologising for the length of this letter,

MARGERY SMITH.

"THE COMPLEAT CHILD."

MADAM,—The WOMAN'S LEADER containing Sheila Kaye-Smith's article "followed" me in France at a time when writing was impossible. I hope that by your courtesy this belated letter may still be published if only to thank the distinguished writer for saying some of the soundest things that one has ever seen in the modern "secular" Press, and (speaking I trust with pardonable frankness!) about the *only* sound things on the subject from a Catholic standpoint that I remember to have seen in the WOMAN'S LEADER. I use the term "Catholic" here as a member of the English Church, and therefore as a Catholic—but of course it would be applicable to the Catholic standpoint in all countries, which the article of a Roman Catholic might or might not be.

Why is it that really "progressive" women, in general, seem to be completely unaware of the Catholic—i.e. the Sacramental—philosophy of religion as *life*? They cannot be expected to see in what, as a natural sequence, the elements of the human being's education (as a unity of body, soul, and spirit) would (and does) consist.

To us it seems that the Catholic Church just because of its "Universal" character as the chosen vehicle of revealed religion has the chance par excellence to educate "the whole man" ("rightly dividing the Word of Truth") in the "full life" spoken of in your article—which *must* manifest itself in the human form of all ages—sacramentalism.

Because it is Divine it makes the unerring appeal to human nature—which finds it ready, while demanding its response of the will, to satisfy, in the Life of Grace, its every human need—the intellectual, aesthetic, emotional and moral each receiving its due place and measure, in the happy development of the whole.

It is here that the article of Sheila Kaye-Smith showed so admirably that the child's nature *normally* adapts itself to religion in "friendship and communion" with God—just because religion is normal—i.e. sacramental.

I must not here enlarge on what seems consequently to us the iniquitous system of even "religious" Anglicans in starving the sacramental life of their children up to the preposterous age of adolescence.

But I will just add that the article set me wondering whether the WOMAN'S LEADER—being the "live" paper it is—would one day find interest in publishing a little article on what religion strikes one as *meaning* to the human being in a Latin country and the consequently delightful contrast in the "normal" development of the "Compleat Child" in those ways which really seem most worth while.

The truly sensible letter (her second) of your readers' old friend "Margaret Clare" in your issue of 21st March, is calculated to make thoughtful people cease repeating (at least in parrot fashion) the fallacious doctrine that children should not be "taught" religion before being "taught" to think for themselves.

Beyond the natural assumption that those who find their children old enough for the poison of evil dare hardly take the responsibility of denying them the antidote, we need the common-sense argument applied to religion that we should use in dealing with any ordinary branch of human knowledge—i.e. that we do not expect of the young idea a lengthy study of "first premises" and "evidential values" before introducing it (for example) to simple facts of science or of human history.

For the benefit of those who may very naturally condemn my arguments as mere question-begging with the rest, I have ended my letter with two suggestions which even the "undenominationalist" will surely, on general grounds, hardly be found to differ.

HELEN COLT.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE

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In making, use **LESS QUANTITY** it being
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COMING EVENTS.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

APRIL 7. 5.30 p.m. 116 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Debate on Widows' Pensions. Mrs. F. W. Hubback and Mr. Broad.

GUILDHOUSE, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W. 1.

APRIL 5. All day Conference on "Housing in Greater London." Chairman: Miss Maude Royden. 1st session, 10.45 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.; 2nd session, 2.45 to 4.30 p.m.; 3rd session, 5.15 p.m.; lantern lecture, 6.30 p.m. Luncheon (is. 4d.) and tea (6d.) can be obtained in Lower Hall.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

APRIL 14. 3-4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. "Let us have good Houses in Westminster." Lady Maurice (Hon. Secretary, Kensington Representative Housing Committee).

HARPENDEN, N.C.W.

APRIL 8. 4.30 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Wages plus Family Allowances."

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

APRIL 10. 8 p.m. Informal Discussion.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

APRIL 7. Jumble Sale to be held at Bosworth Hall, Bosworth Road, Kensal Road, North Kensington, W. 10, in aid of funds of British Overseas Committee at British Empire Exhibition. Parcels, marked B.O.C. Jumble Sale, to be sent to Miss Hoe, 75 Hereford Road, Westbourne Grove, W. 2.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

APRIL 5. 2.30-5.45. Quiet afternoon, St. George's Church, Hart Street, Bloomsbury. Evensong at 6 p.m. Conductor: Mrs. Porter. Non-members of the League will be welcomed.

LYCEUM CLUB, 138 PICCADILLY.

APRIL 8. 4.30 p.m. Debate: "That Women should support the Franchise Bill now before the House." Proposer: Mrs. F. W. Hubback; opposer: Mr. H. Verdon Leonard (Editor of the *Economic News Service*).

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

KENSINGTON S.E.C. APRIL 9. 3 p.m. 9 Moreton Gardens, S.W. Miss Deakin on "Reforms affecting women at present before Parliament."

LEEDS S.E.C. APRIL 7. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. "What is an Educated Man?" Opener: Mr. A. W. Hodgson (Head Master, St. Mark's Schools).

WESLEYAN METHODIST EDUCATIONAL TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

APRIL 6 and 7. Bates Hill Wesleyan Church, Redditch. Special visit of the Rev. Henry Carter.

WESTMINSTER LABOUR PARTY BRANCH, WOMEN'S SECTION.

APRIL 7. 2.30 p.m. Fabian Hall, Tothill Street, S.W. 1. Mrs. Berry on "Widows' Pensions."

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, S.W. 1. Office closed March 21st-23rd. Then address: 16 Marsham Street, Westminster. Opening of Members' Centre to be announced later.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 6th April, 3.30, Music, Lecture; Rev. Hudson Shaw: "Life and Works of John Ruskin." (Music for April will illustrate the works of J. H. Bach.) 6.30, Maude Royden: "Lead us not into Temptation."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.G., 161, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 10th April: Informal discussion.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB LTD., 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.). Entrance Fee, £1 1s. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

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

On and after December 14th, 1923, the Employment Registers of the Centre will be closed and work will be concentrated on its second and third objects:

(2) To encourage training and interest in Domestic occupations.

(3) To do everything possible to raise the status of Domestic Service, as Florence Nightingale did that of Sick-Nursing.

As this will entail much outside work the office will only be open for interviews once a week—on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., except by special appointment.

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

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

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

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WENSLEYDALE.—Comfortable BOARD-RESIDENCE in quiet house; electric light. No motor dust. Moors, waterfalls, ruins. A few vacancies for Easter.—Smith, Low Green House, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.

SMALL furnished flat wanted, July. London. Two bedrooms, one sitting-room.—Box 1052, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

WEST CENTRAL, 1.—Two Bedrooms to let in professional woman's flat near Gower Street. Suit students or women who are working all day. Pleasant sitting-rooms, bathroom (constant hot water), electric light, telephone; attendance; partial board or breakfast only.—Box 1056, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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