

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Disarmament.

As we write, the situation at Geneva seems to be both alarming and obscure. All that is certain is that the British scheme put forward by Lord Cecil has been rejected, that the party for rejection is headed by France, and that no other definite proposals seem to have been put forward. There is in fact an unwillingness to go on. At this juncture—a juncture which all experienced observers knew must at some point arise—what is needed is pressure. The negotiators and their governments must be made to feel that the nations behind them insist, are as fiercely determined, as deeply pledged to continue the struggle for peace as they were to endure the agony of the war. Goodwill and intelligence are failing at Geneva: then from us must be added that will to succeed before which, once it be brought into play, all their objections are straws. But it must be brought into play. If the peoples choose to stand dumbly by, and to tolerate suggestions of failure and compromise, than an opportunity will pass unused which may not occur again. A London paper, the *Evening Standard* of 4th April, suggested that as difficulties had arisen, the whole question should be postponed. Postponed until when? Until the statesmen of Europe are become as gods or until the next war, or when? There is only one time to secure disarmament, and that is now. However soon it come it will not come too soon, and with every day's postponement it is less likely to come at all.

Equal Franchise.

We have dealt with the critical position with regard to Equal Franchise both in our leader and in our correspondence column. We deplore the attitude which has been taken by so many of our Contemporaries in that even if not actively hostile, they invariably refer to the question as "Votes for Girls" or "Flappers." The fact that two million women over 30 still remain to be enfranchised appears to be completely unknown, and the arithmetic with regard to the number of younger women, of whom there cannot possibly be more than three or four hundred thousand, seems to be seen through a magnifying glass. We welcome the declaration of the Labour party published yesterday, deploring the suggestion of the Conference, and asking for immediate legislation on Equal Franchise.

Young Offenders.

The Report of the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders recently issued should be carefully studied by all women magistrates, teachers, and social workers. It will be remembered that Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, Lady Lawrence, and Lady Lyttelton were the three women members. The Committee have produced a unanimous report with the exception of a memorandum signed by Mrs. Cadbury, Mr. Rhys Davies, and Sir Wemys Grant Wilson expressing their disagreement with the recommendation dealing with whipping which, while deprecating its indiscriminate use and safeguarding it as a form of punishment, would permit courts to order it in the case of serious offences by boys under 17. Our readers will be specially interested in the proposals for specially qualified magistrates, both men and women, for juvenile courts. "Younger magistrates are required and the choice should not be narrowed by political considerations." The report endorses the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Bill, now before the country, to remove the limitations imposed by the words "from birth or an early age." Certain long overdue amendments to the Children Act, 1908, are recommended and important sections deal with the provision of remand homes and probation. The terms "reformatory" and "industrial" in connection with Home Office Schools should be abandoned; imprisonment below the age of 17 should be abolished and used as seldom as possible before the age of 21. But the report is too full of suggestions to be dismissed in a brief note and readers are referred to Mrs. Rackham's review, which will appear in a forthcoming issue.

"The Champion of Women in the State."

"The gratitude of men hath often left me mourning," said Wordsworth. It is feared the ingratitude of women has more often left Governments mourning. The Minister for Justice in the Irish Free State is the latest recruit to the band of mourners. The Bill excluding women from jury service has now reached the Senate. A deputation from the Irish Women Citizens' Association waited on Senator Brown, K.C., and the result of this deputation, coupled with the energetic lobbying carried on, was the debate in the Senate on Wednesday last. The Minister defended his action by the familiar plea that women do not want to serve on juries. The opposition took the line that exclusion was unconstitutional, under the equal citizenship clause of the Constitution, and also unfair, as it deprived women of a duty which they, as sharers on equal terms with men in the privileges of citizenship, ought to fulfil. The Committee stage will be reached this week and an amendment will be moved by Senator Brown deleting the word "male" and thus restoring women to the original position. Meanwhile, to quote Senator Mrs. Wyse Power, "the principle of the Bill cut at the very root of the civic spirit. The action of the Minister would prevent that co-operation between men and women which is so essential in the interests of the State." The Minister for Justice might well say, in winding up the debate, that he expected no gratitude for his championship of women.

Women and Bribery.

In 1915 the Bribery and Secret Commissions Prevention League published an article in which it feared that the women newly entering into official and commercial life might find themselves "in light-hearted thoughtlessness or carelessness" succumbing to temptation and accepting bribes. It is therefore pleasant to learn that during the last twenty years only twenty women have been convicted for attempting to bribe or using false documents, while none have been convicted for taking

bribes. Some of the offences, say the League, were committed to shield their husbands. Apparently this is regarded as an excuse, though clearly it should not be, unless perhaps a special husband's subsection were formed with permission to take a lax view on the special point. Not being a husband we are better pleased to learn that of the twenty, three are foreigners, and that ten were falling in with our present social custom of trying to bribe the police in connection with certain matters. Now bribing the police is a very serious offence, because deeply dangerous to the community. It is vitally necessary that it should be stamped out. But, springing as it generally does from a feeling of helpless panic, it is not so mean or revolting as, because less mercenary than, the less socially serious attempts to bribe employees and tradesmen. We are therefore left, so far as concerns the original, uncouth, deliberate sinfulness which springs straight out of a wicked heart, with ten convictions for the period of women's maximum activity, a record of which we are entitled to be proud.

The Homeless Woman.

The customary pressure on our space last week prevented any allusion to the opening of the first lodging house for women in connection with the scheme inaugurated as the outcome of Mrs. Cecil Chesterton's book, *In Darkest London*, reviewed in this paper last summer. This house is situated in Devonshire Street, Theobald's Road, and has been admirably adapted for the purpose. The recent report by the Medical Officer of Health to the London County Council, "Common Lodging Houses and Kindred Institutions," should be studied by those who are interested in the question of accommodation for the down and out. The homeless woman presents peculiar problems, perhaps more particularly the middle-aged or elderly spinster unskilled, in poor health, and without family ties. Mrs. Chesterton deserves our thanks for directing our attention to this blot in our civilization, and we are glad to think that the present inadequacy in accommodation for women is about to be remedied. Nevertheless, essential as it is in the provision of beds, it does not alone solve the problem, which is closely mixed up with many of the feminist problems for which this paper stands; we hope to give some fuller attention to cause and effect when the claims on our narrow space are to some extent relaxed.

Miss Eliza Dorothy Bradby.

Readers of Miss O'Malley's review last week of Miss Bradby's *History of the French Revolution* must have read with great regret of the death of the writer not long after the publication of this, her second and last book. Miss Bradby belonged to an able family. Her father, the Rev. E. H. Bradby, was Headmaster of Haileybury and a scholar of some distinction, and her brother, Mr. H. C. Bradby, and her sister, Mrs. J. L. Hammond, are well-known writers. She was one of the original nine students of Lady Margaret Hall, and obtained a first-class in the English school. Although she began writing late in life she was recognized as an authority on the French Revolution, and the book reviewed last week was the outcome of ten years' research, much of it carried on in spite of the handicap of illness and suffering. Miss Bradby's life was full of other interests—her father's work as educationalist, and, after his retirement as a social worker in East London, the relief of women and children in the concentration camps during the South African War, hospital work during the Great War, and in private life she excelled in exquisite embroidery. Her first book, *The Life of Barnave*, was published in 1915, and led the way to her last volume, which so far as scholarship is concerned is her really great achievement and will win her a place among modern historians.

The Local Elections.

So far as the candidature of women is concerned there appears to be no special advance to record in the recent elections for urban district councils and boards of guardians. In Tonbridge the independent candidate of the local branch of the Women Citizens' Association has been elected. We hope news of other victories may still reach us and will be glad of any details of local efforts whether successful or the reverse.

The Young Suffragists.

The "Under thirties" continue to pursue their sporting tactics. We wish the "Over thirties" could adopt similar if

perhaps more sedate methods. The daily letters which reach the Prime Minister must contain some spicy matter, and we hope that he duly reads them. The growing interest of the younger woman in her own political disability is a hopeful omen, but we believe there is, very marked in the Press, sometimes a tendency to forget that by no means all women over 30 years of age are enfranchised. Two million of these, many of them engaged in responsible work for the community, are voteless.

Dame Millicent Fawcett.

Our readers will be glad to know that Dame Millicent and her sister, Miss Garrett, are greatly enjoying their third visit to Palestine. Dame Millicent's delightful articles in our double issue of Friday, 18th March, and in this week's issue will be followed by several other articles on Modern Palestine.

Questions in Parliament.

30th March.

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN.—Colonel Day asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has now had an opportunity of reading the Report of the League of Nations Committee on the traffic in women; and can he state whether the Government are considering any further safeguards to prevent British women, especially minors, being attracted abroad by false pretences?

Captain King, in reply, stated: Precautions are taken as far as practicable to prevent British women being attracted abroad by false pretences. The Report referred to does not disclose grounds for anxiety so far as this country is concerned.

Colonel Day: Is the hon. and gallant Member aware that a portion of the Report is so horrible that it has not been published yet? Will he make representations to see that the whole of the Report is published?

Captain King: I am referring to the whole Report.

MARRIAGE (LEGAL AGE).—Major Hills asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the evils which the League of Nations' Committee indicate as arising from a low age of marriage, he will introduce legislation to raise the legal age of marriage?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: In the Report of the Traffic in Women and Children, it is suggested that in some countries the low age of marriage may lead to abuses in connection with this traffic, but there are no grounds for thinking that such abuses occur in this country, where the investigators found no evidence of traffic on an organized scale.

Viscountess Astor: Is it not an anomaly that we should have the age of consent 16 in this country and the age of marriage 12, and if I can bring some evidence of people who are interested in this before the right hon. gentleman, will he favourably consider it?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: I almost brought in a Bill last year to deal with this subject, but I found that it was terribly difficult. I shall be quite willing to consider any representations made in reference to it by my Noble Friend.

Viscountess Astor: Thank you very much. May I point out that this is really an old Roman Catholic law, the age of marriage being 12, and not a really Protestant law?

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.

CROSBY HALL, CHELSEA.

The hall of residence will be open from mid-May, 1927. All members of The British Federation and of any of the other associations belonging to The International Federation of University Women are eligible for residence provided that they are carrying on research or other post-graduate work. During this summer members and friends travelling will be accommodated, as far as space permits.

Fees are from **three guineas** a week according to room. Special terms for short visits and week-ends.

Applications should be made to—

THE WARDEN, CROSBY HALL, CHELSEA, S.W. 3.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The problem of Equal Franchise has once again reached a critical phase. We have recently pointed out on several occasions that the danger lay with the large numbers of unconverted Members of the Unionist party in Parliament. According to many rumours current in the Press, these forces are closing their ranks and are advancing in mass formation under the generalship of two old enemies—Lord Birkenhead and Winston Churchill. At the time of writing, the Prime Minister has yet to make his eagerly awaited statement as to the Government's intentions;—perhaps he will put off doing so until just before the recess in order to avoid the unenviable position of being between two fires. Our contemporaries are united in expecting that the statement will consist in a mere announcement that he intends to set up the conference of members of all parties outlined by him in 1924. This, if true, will be all the more of a disappointment, as statements officially inspired, as was reported in these columns, had appeared with regard to the recent decision of the Cabinet Committee to recommend legislation giving Equal Franchise from the age of 21; it had appeared therefore that the conference was unnecessary even from the Government's point of view.

Perhaps the enemy had never realized the implications of the definite pledges quoted on our Correspondence page by the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary; perhaps they thought the continued delay would have rendered these pledges incapable of fulfilment; perhaps pledge or no pledge they are determined to keep the women out.

Well, what is the issue to be? We fully recognize the dangers of a conference at this stage in the life of this Parliament; we see it is open to the Government by delay, by division and by a hundred other tricks of the trade, to prevent Equal Franchise

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Trade Union Bill and the Budget are still in the future, and the political world is waiting for the curtain to rise. Last week saw a good deal of work of a quiet kind and some angry tussles over China, but on the whole the atmosphere was calm.

On Monday, 28th March, came the Consolidated Fund Bill, upon which, by ancient custom, any subject on the earth or below it can be discussed. The Liberal Party had the choice and selected Agriculture. Mr. Runciman opened, qualified no doubt by the fact that his life has been passed entirely in shipping; but, as always, he made an excellent speech in favour of the Lloyd George programme. Its author followed soon after, but he was occupied entirely in a wrangle with Colonel Guinness as to whether land for small holdings had been bought on net rental or on net rental value. Each maintained, vehemently, that they were right. After that the discussion ran even more into detail, and was continued in an emptier house.

Tuesday, 29th March, was a day of greater interest. Mr. Morrison raised the question of the death penalty in war-time. He limited his motion by excluding desertion to the enemy and certain other offences, and he and Mr. Thurtle, who seconded, made a strong case. For many years, however, the Labour party have made abolition a part of their creed, and therefore more interest attached to the marked change of view seen on the Conservative side of the House. Mr. Duff Cooper led a movement of his own party in favour of abolition; and, as was the case last year, but to an increasing extent, it is clear that opinion is changing. How far the change will go and when it will be perfected, no one can say, but were we engaged in another war it would be difficult to inflict death for cowardice.

At night, Mr. Buchanan moved that the Guardians Default Act was being administered in a partisan and bureaucratic manner, especially at Chester-le-Street, and it was round this case that the debate centred. Mr. Lawson, who represents the division in Parliament, had, it must be confessed, a difficult task to defend the Guardians, and a somewhat acid discussion followed, the last part of Mr. Neville Chamberlain's speech, when he wound up, being inaudible by reason of interruptions. In the Division that followed the Liberals voted with the Government.

After this, Wednesday, 30th March, was a quiet day. The Crown Lands Bill was agreed to and at night General Clifton Brown moved a motion calling for the support of rural industries, in which all the House could concur. On the following day, Thursday, 31st March, Colonel Acland-Troyte urged the claim of rural telephones, in which it must be confessed not much

reaching the Statute Book before the next election. But with a possibly misguided, but undaunted optimism, we still refuse to believe that the Government will not in the end honour its pledge in the spirit as well as in the letter.

As in every other struggle, everything in the end depends on the relative strength of the protagonists.

What have we against us? Sex prejudice, vague fears of petticoat government and the assumption that the five million women to be enfranchised are all cocktail drinking, Charleston dancing, flappers of 21; inertia; dread of a large electorate; and lastly fear of democracy.

What on the other hand is on our side? Justice; desire for service; the need of self-determination for our industrially and professionally occupied women; the proved fitness of women, and especially the Conservative women in their political organizations on which we believe the support of the Conservative machine is based; the whole-hearted support of the Labour party, the more grudging support of the Liberals; but above all, the solemn Government pledge, which neither of the two Ministers responsible for it has ever made the least attempt to repudiate. If it should be broken, what woman would ever trust this Government again? It would, in that case, be for the women's organizations, as custodians of the interests of the unenfranchised, to see to it that every man and every woman who votes at the next election should know that Mr. Baldwin's pledge had indeed been writ in water. We cannot believe it will happen, but danger there is, even if victory is likely. "Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand." Women singly and together must make it abundantly clear by every means in their power that they appreciate the needs of the moment, and intend to achieve their aim.

interest was shown; and later in the day, Mr. Rhys Davies renewed the attack on the Government for not ratifying the Washington Hours and White Lead Conventions. This was somewhat of a repetition of previous debates, and, like other repetitions, was less effective. Particular credit, however, should be given to Captain Macmillan, who from the Conservative side of the House emphatically stated the opinion of the younger members of his party in favour of ratification.

On Friday, 1st April, a private members' day, no less than four Bills got second reading, which must be a record. They were the Road Transport Lighting Bill, Nursing Homes (Registration) Bill, Marriage (Prohibited Degrees of Relationship) Bill, and the Solicitors Bill. The House, in fact, was in an unusually complacent mood.

The Liberals are mighty triumphant over their two victories, and are talking in terms of somewhat extravagant prophecy. At Leith they only held what was a Liberal seat, and in Southwark won back one which had been so for many years, and which moreover was won by a popular and respected candidate. Not many critics believe that Sir Herbert Samuel's high hopes will be realized. Mr. Lloyd George's ambitions, however, are believed to be more modest and possibly these will be reached. He is supposed to expect that the difference between Conservatives and Labour will not be more than fifty or sixty after the General Election, and that he will have sufficient Liberal votes to hold the balance. The Labour party themselves are not so optimistic and indeed, it is impossible to prophesy about an election that may not come for two years. The point, however, to be borne in mind is that there is no general belief in a Liberal revival.

WOMEN AND WAR SERVICE.

The Italian Under-Secretary of State for Air has announced that women would be needed as air pilots for war service, and that they would be employed with those men whose physical disabilities debarred them from entering the army or navy. It is a wholly new idea to us that the air service demands a lower degree of physical fitness than the other fighting services. But if young men are to be killed in war, we are all for having young women killed too. There are plenty of them, and that, after all, in recruiting, seems to be the only thing that matters. So let Italians build their aviation schools for women and grant them pilot's certificates. It may instil into the bulk of the Fascist movement more modern ideas of what modern women can do.

THINGS INDUSTRIAL SEEN IN CHINA.¹

By DAME ADELAIDE M. ANDERSON.

VII.

Our last morning in Ningpo was given to study of the rapidly-changing, smaller industries such as hosiery (excellent silk stockings and underwear), in workplaces growing up behind the shops lining the narrow, flagged streets; in poorly lighted rooms and in space too dangerously cramped for the machinery that is being driven to a certain extent by engine power, and all unguarded.

The Bulletin of the Government Economic Bureau for February, 1924, stated that the hosiery machine-knitting establishments were numerous in Ningpo, and yet more so in Changsha, Hunan; that in the latter there were 300 hosiery knitting establishments employing not less than 3,000 women and girls and perhaps 200 men, hours being eleven daily with additional overtime, and holidays allowed only on the national festivals and at New Year. A worker it was said can turn out five or six dozen hose a day, earning 12 coppers per dozen. The work can be learnt in six months' apprenticeship for a fee of six dollars Mex. In one of the Ningpo hosiery shops we found 150 workers, chiefly young women, of whom a few live on the premises because their homes are at a considerable distance in the country. With a working week of seven days they can earn about 10 dollars a month and they looked fairly bright and cheerful. In another hosiery factory, badly lighted, we found 200 employed with some over-crowding, but the number is said to be doubled in seasonal pressure. The comparatively simple nature of the machinery required for the making of hosiery, and the relatively small bulk of even large supplies when made, gives the industry a special opportunity for developing in China, where a great obstacle to bulky production lies in the undeveloped state of transport. The danger that crude forms of factory work may arrive all too fast for the well-being of the workers came clearly before me later in a small "singlet" factory in Shanghai. It resembled a rabbit-warren, backed on to an old filled-in creek and all its back windows were barred. The exit was to the front only, by a narrow wooden staircase and on to a narrow crowded lane; upwards of two hundred persons worked on these premises, consisting of small old dwelling-houses; most of the power machinery, being heavy, was installed on the ground floor, and the majority of the hand workers were on the upper floor. If a serious fire arose the place could be only a death-trap, but the International Municipal Council under the "Land Regulations" has no power to apply safety regulations. My visit to this place was with an officer of the Fire Brigade, who had already pointed out the risks to the Chinese occupier and we repeated the warning, I fear in vain. Early in March, 1924, at night, a small Chinese silk filature was burned to the ground in Chinese Shanghai. The workers were locked in, and it was reported in the daily Press that a hundred women were killed by burning or by jumping from windows. No action by Chinese authorities was reported.

There are various other busy industries in Ningpo, but I need only refer to two because they pointed to the tendency towards "outwork" which has sometimes accompanied the growth of the factory system in other countries, and has almost invariably been associated with the conditions known in Europe as "sweated." The most attractive of the two was truly indigenous, with production for export of matting, blinds, cushions, hats, shoes, and other articles from palm and other fibre. The owner, himself an inventor engaged in working out new methods, is starting training posts in various parts of the Provinces. In the most important section there was fine weaving of palm fibre matting on large looms and in another similar material was being crocheted into hats by girls. Conditions on these premises are markedly superior to the average of the country. The other industry was the manufacture of lucifer matches, employing 1,300 workers, of which 1,000 were women and nearly two-thirds were outworkers, engaged in box-making. The factory, where the manufacture is carried on under Catholic influences, is little developed on the mechanical side and was the only one I saw in China in 1924, where the yellow poisonous phosphorus was not then used.

In this industry, in an exceptional degree, one can see in China, as compared with other countries, some of the positive gains for the people obtainable by sound industrialization in

¹ Previous articles appeared in our issues of 4th, 18th and 25th February, 18th and 25th March, and 1st April.

well-selected manufactures. Setting aside the dangerous mixing of white phosphorus paste and the dipping therein of the match heads, which need special care, the manual processes are very simple and the requisite skill or dexterity for most of them is easily acquired even by the youngest. Thus only small earnings can be obtained by the workers, who are not controlling modern highly developed machinery. The industry was essentially one for poor, unskilled workers. It was almost startling to find the degree of resemblance between the current Chinese stage of the industry and phases of it I first saw in England about the year 1895. The most obvious difference lay in the class of workers. In England the requisite cheapness then meant that girl labour was largely employed. In China in 1924, extremely young child workers and unskilled boy labour filled the place that formerly was held by girls in England in the semi-industrialized state of the industry. In England the small workplaces, scattered about the country, all then used some white phosphorus paste for the match heads. Disfigured, spent victims, and sufferers from the active stage of the dread "phossy jaw" had to be searched out in the by-ways and slums of the cities where the factories lay. Insistence on medical reporting of the cases from 1896 onwards, and persistent tracking down of clues by trained inspectors, brought out some of the worst features and led to increasingly stringent special regulations for the dangerous processes. Yet phosphorus necrosis proved to be really unpreventable by mere regulation. Prohibition of the dangerous chemical in lucifer matches (in the manufacture) and in imported matches, grew up in various countries of Europe; international congresses led eventually to international conventions. And the prohibition came into full force in Great Britain so lately as 1910. After the International Conventions framed at Washington in 1919, India and Japan followed suit, and in December, 1923, China's adherence, in principle, was registered. Notice was promulgated foreshadowing compliance as from January, 1925. The disturbed political time was not propitious for the enforcing of so fundamental a change in the industry.

The important technical change towards industrialization had begun in British lucifer match-making when public attention was drawn to the dangers in its processes, and the economic change undoubtedly was greatly accelerated by special regulations. The effects are world-wide; in both Australia and South Africa, in technically modern, hygienic match factories, large numbers of well-protected workers are now safely employed. The increasing use of efficient, costly machinery raised the status of the workers and the age at which it was profitable to employ them. In 1895 in some of the old British works one was bound to feel uneasy when watching swift, small outbreaks of flames about the groups of young girls; but in the boxing rooms of the Chékiang and Chihli match factories, thirty years later, it seemed as though natural laws were being held in abeyance, for the prevention of appalling disaster. In one place in addition to the little children carrying piled up and overflowing trays of matches to and from the child boxers there were infants crawling about the floor. One had to thread one's own way warily, so as not to cause any unnecessary spilling and to plant one's feet cautiously so as not to ignite a single match. No person could be found to take responsibility for receiving representations about the dangers and the owner seemed to be an absentee. The reply of the Civil Governor of the Province where it lay, to a Chinese request on my behalf for an interview was, that his state of health at the time was not sufficiently good for him to see the foreign lady.

(To be continued.)

THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN

FROM SUBJECTION TO COMRADESHIP

By G. W. JOHNSON, C.M.G.

(with a Memoir of the Author).

LONDON: ROBERT HOLDEN & CO. Price 8/6 net.

"One of the wisest and truest friends the woman's movement ever had."
LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.

"It is a fine book, giving both hope and satisfaction."
JANE H. WALKER, M.D., J.P. (Medical Women's News Letter).

"The book is written with scholarship, goodness, and justice."—THE VOTE.

JERUSALEM, MARCH, 1927.

By DAME MILLCENT FAWCETT.

We have visited the British High School for Girls, which was established by Lord Allenby very soon after the British occupation of the city in 1917. It is not many victorious generals who have celebrated their triumph first by setting up a girls' school and secondly by securing for their ex-enemies an augmented supply of pure water. Both these good gifts have borne abundant fruit. The Girls' High School, first under Miss Warburton and more recently under Miss Jameson, has been an immense success. Miss Warburton has an almost unrivalled knowledge of the needs of education in the East, and she has not only knowledge but enthusiasm, and the power of awakening it in others. She has not left the school she founded to be carried on without her help and experience. She revisits it from time to time, and is expected in Jerusalem again within a few months to see how it is progressing. It numbers now over 150 pupils, mostly day girls; but I understand that a great effort is to be made to extend the accommodation for boarders. This will be of great importance, especially from the point of view of attracting the children of Moslem parents. It has a flourishing kindergarten section, in which we were particularly interested to find a little boy of about six, the child of Danish parents; the child had been born in India, and had acquired an Indian language which was unknown to any of the staff. It was beautiful to see the keen intelligence of the little fellow, who watched carefully all that was done by his companions and learnt from them with astonishing rapidity. There are not, I imagine, many schools at home which combine within their curriculum classes which prepare pupils for matriculation down to kindergarten pupils; some of them, like our little Danish friend, have no language which was known either to the staff or to the other pupils. Altogether the progress made by the school since our last visit in 1922 is very remarkable. It now occupies its own buildings on the site chosen by Miss Warburton. One great advantage is possessed by Jerusalem from the builders' point of view—an inexhaustible supply of excellent building stone. This is twice blessed, so to speak, for if you have your site you simply have to quarry your stone for building on your own land and when a sufficiently large pit has been dug it can readily be converted into a cistern for the permanent and very necessary storage of water. These blessings no doubt have their drawbacks, and a very obvious one consists in the untidy appearance of the ground when the house has been built, and when the quarry whence the stone for building was obtained has been turned into a cistern, in the untidy, messy appearance of your front garden. One has to learn that one cannot have everything all at once. Necessities must first be attended to, and for a school suitable building and adequate water supply are the most obvious of necessities; trim paths and gay flower-beds are a secondary consideration, but I hope these too will come in time.

When I was writing a short time ago about Jerusalem and its water supply I mentioned the stand-pipes which have been set up in the streets by Allenby's engineers for the supply of pure spring water to the inhabitants. This, of course, was a great boon, and was very much appreciated. But the desire for clean water grows by what it feeds on, and Allenby's stand-pipes very soon became insufficient for the growing needs of the population and the Government of Jerusalem undertook in 1922 to restore "The Pools of Solomon," lying a little way beyond Bethlehem, and to bring the water thence to the city. But the whole system of conduits and watercourses which supplied the pools had been neglected for centuries. It was currently, and I believe correctly, said that no repairs had been carried out since the time of Pontius Pilate. However, British engineers now undertook the job; the pools, which when I saw them in 1922, were under the plough, were restored to their original purposes; but another disappointment was in store, for the rainfall for the first two years after the restoration of the pools was so far below the average that they afforded no relief to the shortage of water; but this year, I am informed, the snowfall which kept us imprisoned in Amman in the earlier part of our present visit, has filled the pools and will prove the greatest blessing to the country generally. So we have a great consolation in our disappointment at not having been able to reach Jerath! This morning in church we had a special thanksgiving for the snow and rain. I was asking to-day one of the chief authorities here on the subject of public health to give me some information. One of the difficulties in replying to such an inquiry is that before 1917 no record whatever was made and no statistics on the

(Continued at foot of next column.)

MISS ANNIE BAKER.

We regret to record the death of Miss Annie Baker, until recently Secretary of the National Vigilance Association, and Director of the International Bureau founded in 1899, by Mr. W. A. Coote for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women. After his death in 1919, Miss Baker, who had for many years been his secretary and friend, became head of both societies.

Miss Baker passed away on Saturday, 2nd April, after a long and painful illness. She was a well-known figure at International Congresses concerned with the traffic in women.

Miss Baker was a sincere, conscientious and self-effacing worker and was much liked by those who knew her intimately. She took little or no part in suffrage and feminist work and rather gave the impression—perhaps erroneous—that she did not altogether approve of it, but perhaps her rather marked detachment from politically controversial questions was due to the semi-official position which both the National Vigilance Association and the International Bureau appear to hold.

On one occasion Miss Baker did enter into controversy with the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in the pages of THE WOMAN'S LEADER on the subject of prohibiting the employment of foreign women in "licensed houses." We could not always see eye to eye with Miss Baker, and we thought on that occasion, and have thought since on other items, that the National Vigilance Association is showing signs of becoming merely a society for the defence of official policy. It certainly is amazing to know that it has declared itself opposed to an inquiry into the Solicitation Laws. We are glad that Miss Baker's long and arduous work was recognized by the Government when she was made the only British woman assessor on the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women.

However much we may have found ourselves in disagreement with her policy, we recognize in Miss Baker one who has done much to bring a hidden and underground international scandal into the light.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AT LIÈGE.¹

The Committee met at Liège from 12th to 18th March on the invitation of the Belgian Section.

Madame Drevet of the French Section gave a masterly summary of the debate on the amazing Bill which provides for the mobilization of the whole of the French people "without distinction of age or sex in the case of aggression or threatened aggression." This Bill became law after three days debate with only one dissentient voice raised against it. A manifesto signed by the French women of all parties and of no party has been issued protesting that the Chamber which has not shown itself willing to give the vote to women claims the power to control their consciences and lives without their consent and that, though elected on a Peace Programme, it betrays its mandates by passing the most militarist measure of any country in the world. The signatories of this Manifesto declare that they will use every opportunity to denounce this law which is dangerous to liberty and peace.

The British representatives reported the action taken by their section in regard to China. The President of the Irish Section, Miss Louie Bennett, made a proposition which was warmly supported by the whole Executive—that the Women's International League P.F. should send a delegation to China consisting of two members, one European and one American. Madame Drevet will go from Europe. The aim of the delegation would be to establish contacts between women of East and West, to interest Chinese women in the aims and objects of the W.I.L.P.F., and to confer with them on conditions in China with a view to educating public opinion in Europe and America. Already National Sections have started raising the necessary funds and plans are on foot to set the enterprise in motion.

It will interest suffragists to know that Miss Mary Sheepshanks has been appointed International Secretary; she will take up the duties at the Geneva office in the early autumn.

(Continued from previous column.)

subject of public health are available. However, my informant said he did know one thing. Under the Turkish régime malaria was a terrible scourge in the old city, and many hundreds of deaths from it took place annually. Last year these deaths only numbered thirteen, so that things are beginning to make some progress.

¹ Contributed by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION.

The year 1926 was particularly fruitful in new legislation; a great number of new general measures, forty-six in all, were passed, excluding the annual measures dealing with finance and the Army. Of these no less than twenty-five, i.e. more than half, were either entirely local government Acts, or were dependent upon the machinery of local government for their administration.

The following table, which contains a summary of a few of the new Acts affecting local government, which, though rather dull, may be, we hope, useful to those of our readers who are engaged in the work of local government administration.

Land Drainage Act, 1926.—This Act, which came into operation on 1st October, 1926, provides for the transference of the powers of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under Part II of the Land Drainage Act, 1918, to the Councils of County and County Boroughs.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.—The object of this Act is "to promote the provision of housing accommodation for agricultural workers and for persons whose economic condition is substantially the same as that of such workers, and the improvement of such accommodation, by authorizing the giving of financial assistance towards the reconstruction and improvement of houses and other buildings." The Local Authorities for the purposes of the Act, are the Councils of County and County Boroughs, which may delegate certain of their duties to District Councils.¹

Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926.—Part II of this Act, which came into force on 1st January, 1927, deals with the registration and inspection of Maternity Homes. It is an offence under the Act for any person to carry on a Maternity Home within the meaning of the Act, which has not been duly registered by the local supervising authority, i.e. the County or County Borough Council.

Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1926.—Under this Act power is given to County Councils to provide, subject to conditions, small holding for persons desiring to lease or buy such and to advance money for purchases of small holdings, and to make advances for the equipment of the same.

Amongst the new Acts, which are not in themselves local government Acts, but which impose further and increased powers and duties on local authorities, we find:—

The Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926.—This Act, which comes into operation on 1st July, 1927, amends previous legislation in respect of smoke nuisances from industrial buildings, and raises the penalties for such nuisances under the Act. Local authorities may, and if so required by the Minister of Health, must make by-laws in regard to smoke nuisances. In spite of repeated efforts made by the Smoke Abatement Society and various women's organizations, the Act does not include the domestic chimney, which is responsible for so much of the smoke nuisance from which the country suffers to-day.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.—This Act provides that imported goods bearing name or trade mark of British manufacturer or trader are not to be sold unless accompanied by indication of origin and imposes further duties on Local Authorities in respect of foodstuffs to which an Order in Council under the Act applies.

Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1926.—This Act provides that one register only of electors is now to be prepared which will come into operation on 15th October of each year. This is an important fact which should be borne in mind by all electors. Under the Act the qualifying period is reduced from six months to three months.

The above are but a few of many measures affecting local government in one form or another, which passed into law last year. Year by year new and important duties and powers are delegated by Parliament to our local administrators. Year by year the sphere of local government steadily increases. It is of the utmost importance therefore that local government electors in particular and citizens in general, men and women alike, should study intelligently the subjects which are increasingly committed to the care of local authorities. We hope to draw attention to the elections of 4th April in our next article.

¹ See article on this subject in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 11th February, 1927, p. 6.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM.
Parliamentary and General Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

WEEK END SUMMER SCHOOL AT MALVERN.
13th to 16th May, 1927.

This Summer School, arranged by the Malvern S.E.C., promises to be exceptionally interesting, and Malvern does not need any words from us to proclaim its charms at that time of the year. We hope that all Societies within a possible distance will make this School widely known among their members, and will not miss the opportunity which the School offers, both of an interesting and instructive week-end, and an opportunity of being in touch with Headquarters' representatives.

One of the chief features of the School will be a conference at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening to consider both the formation of a Midland Federation and the work and policy of the N.U.S.E.C. We hope that all Societies, which might be included in such a federation, will be represented at that conference. In order to facilitate the arrangements for the School, intending students are asked to apply to Mrs. Freeman, Wyche Cliff, Wyche Road, Malvern, as soon as possible. A registration fee of 5s., which will be deducted from the fees for the course, should be paid with application.

We append the programme of lectures:—
FRIDAY: 8.30 p.m. Equal Franchise and other legislation affecting women and children. Mrs. Hubback, M.A., Parliamentary and General Secretary N.U.S.E.C.

SATURDAY: 9.30-11 a.m. Women and Social Insurance. Mrs. Hubback, M.A., Parliamentary and General Secretary N.U.S.E.C. 11.30-1 p.m. The work of Women Police, Commandant Allen, O.B.E., Women's Auxiliary Service. 6 p.m. Conference, formation of Midland Federation and on the work of the N.U.S.E.C. 8.30 p.m. The right of married women to engage in paid work. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, M.A., President International Women Suffrage Alliance, and Chairman, Executive Committee N.U.S.E.C.

SUNDAY: 3 p.m. The Work of Women and the League of Nations. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, M.A., President, International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Chairman, Executive Committee N.U.S.E.C.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1927.

The Annual Report is expected back from the printer before Easter. Copies will be sent at once to Secretaries of Societies and to Headquarters' subscribers. We much hope that Societies will persuade each one of their members to get copies of the Report (price 6d.), as we feel that this year it is of special interest in view of the discussions which have arisen in connection with our work and programme. We ask all those who wish to have first hand information on both these matters to obtain a copy and to read for themselves both the record of our year's work, and the resolutions on which our policy is based.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

In view of the alarming position with regard to Equal Franchise, referred to elsewhere in our columns, it is incumbent on all our Societies to redouble their efforts. We should like to hear from all those who can be in touch with the Constituencies of Unionist Members of Parliament who have not as yet declared themselves in favour of Equal Franchise, and who are prepared either to speak at meetings or to go on deputations.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The Office will be closed from Thursday, 14th April, at 1 o'clock until Wednesday, 20th April, at 9.30 a.m. Secretaries are asked to refrain from corresponding over these days.

COUNCIL APPEAL.

We have to acknowledge with grateful thanks an anonymous donation of £50 as a result of the appeal at the Council Meeting.

N. SOUTHWARK BY-ELECTION.

Information has come to hand since last week that the Labour candidate, Mr. Isaacs, did not agree with our question on the Parliamentary Questionnaire with regard to Information on Methods of Birth Control.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EQUAL VOTING RIGHTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

MADAM,—A considerable amount of propaganda has been carried on recently in the Press against the extension of the vote to women on the same terms as men. This extension is usually described as "Votes for Girls" or "Flappers." It appears to be forgotten that the present franchise inequality is not only based upon age. Whereas men vote at the age of 21 on a simple residential qualification, women must not only be over 30, but must be either (a) married to a man voter or (b) occupier of a house or unfurnished rooms or (c) a University graduate. Of the five million women now voteless, according to the Home Office, two million are over 30. This leaves three million to be distributed among the years between 29 and 21. Of these perhaps 300,000 are only 21. It should be remembered, moreover, that these five million women contain among their number the great majority of women occupied in industry and the professions.

Secondly, it is stated that there is "no demand." On the contrary, the demand is increasingly persistent. Nearly all women organized in any body which takes action in political matters, have expressed themselves over and over again in favour of equal political rights. Has there ever been an extension of the franchise considered in which this cry of "No demand" has not been raised?

With regard to the Government's pledges, to a man like Mr. Baldwin with a keen sense of honour, there can be no doubt whatsoever that the Government is wholly pledged. Not only did he state at the General Election:—

"The Unionist Party is in favour of equal political rights for men and women, and desire that the question of the extension of the franchise should, if possible, be settled by agreement. With this in view they would, if returned to power, propose that the matter should be referred to a Conference of all parties on the lines of the Ullswater Committee." But the Home Secretary on 20th February, 1925, stated in the House of Commons on his behalf:—

"The Prime Minister's pledge is for equal rights and at the next election. I will say quite definitely that means that no difference will take place in the ages at which men and women will go to the poll at the next election."

The Prime Minister has never repudiated or shown any desire to repudiate this perfectly explicit pledge.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE, President.

ELIZABETH MACADAM, Honorary Treasurer.

EVA M. HUBBACK, Parliamentary and General Secretary.

THE RESIGNATIONS FROM THE N.U.S.E.C.

MADAM,—May I call attention to certain points in the N.U.S.E.C. official reports in your issue of 18th March, which tend to mislead.

Among the "selected resolutions" is one on the Factories Bill, to which the following note is appended:—

Note.—This resolution embodies the policy which had the support of the whole Executive Committee with regard to last year's Factories Bill.

This statement is so inadequate as to be misleading. The resolution adopted by the Executive Committee on 24th November, 1926, ran as follows:—

Since the National Union has expressed no opinion on what the hours of work for adult men and women should be, but declares that any legal restrictions should be equally applicable to men and women, and urges that the Factories Bill, 1926, should be so amended as to embody this principle. This can be done either by removing the special restrictions on women's hours, or by introducing restrictions on men's hours. Since the Washington Convention on hours is, as practical politics, the most likely form for any restriction on the hours of men, the National Union urges that equality of hours for men and women can be best attained by withdrawing from the Bill the present proposals for limiting the hours of women and introducing into it new claims embodying the proposals of the Washington Convention on hours which are equally applicable to men and women. In urging this the National Union does not overlook the fact that because of the ratification of the Night Work Convention by the British Government, equality of Night Work Hours between men and women will not become practically effective till the expiration of the first period of ten years covered by the ratification of the Night Work Convention.

May I call attention to the fact that this year's Council voted against the inclusion in the Factories Bill resolution (No. 11) of a preamble which embodied the principle expressed in the italicized parts of the above-quoted resolution.

I recognize that the resolutions quoted in the issue of 18th March are selected. But in view of the discussion now going on in the body of the paper, in the correspondence and elsewhere, mainly on resolution 9 of the Council, which so fundamentally changed the policy of the Union, I regret that that resolution is omitted and no reference is made to the fact of its omission. It is true that it was printed in a previous issue as part of the statement issued by Miss Rathbone and three other members of the Executive. But this does not prevent the group of "selected resolutions" from being misleading as an indication of the general line of policy adopted by the Council at its Annual Meeting.

May I also reply to Miss Rathbone's attack on the policy of the resigning members. I do not know how many other members of the Executive agree with her exposition of the new policy, but if hitherto I had been in any doubt of what she intended by the amendment to resolution 9 which gave effect to it, the article in which she argues at length that she prefers Social Reform to Equality would have removed these doubts. It would take too much space to point out all her misapprehensions of our policy. We have placed that policy on record. In part of her argument the equality she attacks as barren and arid and likens to a skeleton is merely equality as an abstract idea.

An abstract idea can never in its nature be either barren or fruitful. But what we are working for is the practical application of equality to life. And equality in its concrete manifestation, whether it be Equal Franchise, Equal Moral Standard, Equal Pay and Opportunities, or the removal of the disabilities of married women can never in any sense be barren or unfruitful.

Elsewhere she definitely shows that she thinks the National Union should put social reform on the same level as equality. For example, she says that in speaking of "Equal Citizenship" we should stress the citizenship as well as the equal. How far should we have been on the way to equal suffrage if we had stressed the suffrage which existed only for men, and not the equal?

Miss Rathbone forecasts what she apparently considers the terrible situation which would follow if the Union were to work for an equality reform with which one of the political parties did not agree. When did our non-party society ask only for reforms approved by any party? We are a non-party organization, and have never hitherto adjusted our policy to any party. If we remain non-party and adjust it to suit one party we shall have to adjust it to suit parliamentary candidates of all parties, surely a reductio ad absurdum.

We do not think we should postpone Equal Suffrage till we have heard the opinions of the women under thirty. Neither do we think we should postpone seeking to improve the conditions of the industrial worker if some of them do not desire such improvement. Miss Rathbone surely confuses the means with the end when she says:—"Isn't it a help to have the men with us?" Of course it is a help, and we have to secure that help by educating them to the equality point of view, not by giving weight to their point of view when it is opposed to equality.

CRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

[Miss Rathbone comments on the above letter as follows:—"Miss Macmillan's allusion to my article on 'The Economic Man and the Equalitarian Woman' in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of 18th March so utterly perverts and misrepresents (doubtless unintentionally) the arguments of the article that I can only reply to it by asking your readers to read it for themselves. As to the resolution on the Factories Bill to which she alludes, the point is that the policy of action laid down by the Council is precisely the same as that adopted by the Executive Committee on 24th November, 1926. The Council differed from the retiring Executive Committee only in declining to affirm that its sole reason for supporting the Washington Hours Convention, was that it was 'practical politics.'—Ed.]

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN.

MADAM,—Your article on "Traffic in Women" hits the true nail on the head when it says "kindly men are willing to pay." Kindly men were once willing to pay for slaves, but that is now illegal, and so should all payments for sexual gratification be made. Women have "something more" to sell than their labour and on this the whole of "equal payments for equal work" fails. But once make payment for what should be a free gift illegal and the field is clear. ELIZABETH BLAIR.

MARRIED WOMEN AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—Your article on this subject (18th March) seems to ignore the chief reasons governing the regulations which preclude the employment of married women.

Public authorities, like private employers, are bound to consider not only the wishes of one section of the community, but the interests of all concerned; and it is with this end in view that such regulations are made.

On the whole, the present arrangements work satisfactorily; and it is a question whether any advantages that might arise from the changes advocated, would not be more than counterbalanced by the disadvantages. For example, the "curse" of bureaucracy may be great, but the evils of unemployment are far greater. And although it may be a cheerful theory that everybody can do everybody else's work, it is probable that even persons of "proved ability and integrity" might find it difficult to run a Civil Service department with an untrained staff—aged forty!

No! "Change is not always improvement," as the pigeon remarked when he got out of the net and into the pie, and until some more reasonable schemes can be suggested than those outlined, there are many both in the Civil Service and outside it who will prefer

THINGS AS THEY ARE.

A CORRECTION

We regret that we did not pay full justice to Mrs. Robie Uniacke in our note on the resigning members of the Executive Committee last week. Before 1919, Mrs. Uniacke had been Chairman of five women's suffrage societies in East Berks. In 1921, she formed the Reading S.E.C., on which she has been Chairman ever since and was re-elected to the Executive Committee in 1923, after having resigned in 1918, when the vote was won.

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