

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The League of Nations and the White Slave Traffic.

The Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Traffic in Women and Children was under hot discussion in the Fifth Committee of the League Assembly on Thursday and Friday of last week. A vigorous fight was put up by the German woman delegate, supported among others by Mr. Brookes, of South Africa, a representative of Denmark, and Dame Edith Lyttelton. In the course of the discussion it was reported that both in Germany and in Hungary all licensed houses are about to be closed. The German resolution, requesting the League Advisory Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children to examine the possibility of recommending a similar abolition upon all Governments was finally carried unanimously. The French delegate, in supporting the resolution, showed a marked advance upon the earlier French objection that this is an internal matter lying outside the competence of the League. He confessed, however, that he could not yet declare that France would undertake abolition. The results of this discussion are hailed by the *Manchester Guardian* as a "great victory" for the international movement in favour of the abolition of licensed houses. The Report of the Committee was considered by the whole Assembly on Tuesday, and the German resolution was adopted. A striking speech is reported by Dame Edith Lyttelton, emphasizing the relationship between the traffic and the licensed house system, urging the raising of the age of marriage and that of consent, and demanding the infliction of far heavier penalties on men who live on women's immoral earnings.

Conservative Party and Equal Franchise.

Considerable speculation has been rife in the Press lately as to the lines likely to be taken at the forthcoming Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, which will be held at Cardiff on 6th and 7th October, with regard to Equal Franchise. The agenda paper has just been published and includes five resolutions dealing with the extension of the franchise to women; only one, that of Mr. Morgan Morgan, a member of the Central Council, will call on the Government to introduce without delay a measure conferring the franchise on all women from the age of 21. Wakefield will submit through Mrs. Thomas, that whereas the vote should be given forthwith to all women of 30, 25 is more suitable as a minimum voting age than 21, while Putney asks that whereas the age limit for men should remain as it is, that for women should be fixed at 25. We realize that the Prime Minister's proposal to give real Equal

Franchise does not commend itself to all his followers. We hope and believe, however, that Cardiff will show that the great majority are in support of this much delayed measure of justice.

Opposition to Lady Astor.

We read in the Press rumours of a split in the party ranks in the Sutton Division of Plymouth. In this division, as in certain other Conservative circles, there is a considerable element strongly opposed to Lady Astor's temperance views. A section of the Unionists in the division have, we are informed, gone so far as to select a rival candidate. If they persist in this opposition it is obvious that the seat may be lost. Hence considerable anxiety is felt not only among women's organizations but also in the ranks of the Unionist Party. Parliament without Lady Astor is unthinkable, and clearly Lady Astor's innumerable admirers will put up the strongest possible fight if the safety of her seat is threatened.

"Mother India."

The cauldron boiled by Miss Mayo continues to bubble. Last week the Indian Legislative Assembly spent a day over a private bill designed to invalidate (subject to conscience clauses) marriages of Hindu girls below 12, and of boys below 15 years of age. The course of the debate illustrated the spirit of nervous caution with which Indian legislators approach any interference with communal, religious, and social customs. In the course of it, Mr. M. K. Acharya, of Madras (Orthodox Brahmin), a former opponent of legislation for raising the age of marriage, announced that his wife's view of the matter had modified his own and that he would vote for the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. Such reference was finally accepted with acclamation. Meanwhile Mr. Ghandi has spoken with unmistakable clarity on the subject. He is reported to have said at Kumbakonum that there is no sanction in Hinduism for child marriage, that child widows are a sacrilege, that girls married at a tender age are as stones tied to stones, and that such marriage is no marriage at all. We are glad to note, moreover, that in yet another Indian State the age of marriage has been raised to 14 for girls and to 16 for boys.

Crimes against Life and Crimes against Property.

Some delay was caused at the Old Bailey last week when a prisoner charged with obtaining money on false pretences objected to the presence of four women on the jury. "My lord," he said, "might I have a jury of men only? With all respect to the ladies, I would rather be tried by men." The women in question were duly replaced. Here is new evidence in support of the Juries Bill which is being promoted by the N.U.S.E.C. to prevent, *inter alia*, this abuse. Under the particular circumstances of the trial we feel that the prisoner in question had little or nothing to gain by the absence of women, but we can conceive of a type of case, a type which men are apt to regard with ill-placed leniency, when he might have had very much to gain. It is instructive that on the same day a man was sentenced to two months hard labour at Southport for assaulting an eight-year-old girl. He had six previous convictions for indecent assault, and it seems highly likely that after the discharge of his present inadequate and moreover wholly unsuitable penalty, he will have several more. It is also instructive that on the same day Dame Edith Lyttelton, speaking in the Fifth Committee of the League Assembly at Geneva, made an impassioned attack upon the disproportionate punishments imposed upon persons guilty of such assaults as compared with those imposed for theft. This disproportion she characterized as "a disgrace to her country."

Houses—and yet more Houses.

The progress made in the building of houses since the war has been the subject of several interesting, for the most part encouraging, articles in our contemporaries during the past week. *The Times* points out that there seems no longer much doubt that the end of this month will see the completion of a million houses since the war. The figures obtained at the end of March indicated that since 1st January, 1919, 866,142 new houses of all kinds had been built in England and Wales, of which 545,287 received financial aid from the State, and 320,855 were unassisted, while during the last financial year no less than 217,629 houses were built. The total at the end of August had reached 948,381, not including the unknown number of houses built since 1st April without subsidy. From 1st October next the subsidy is to be lowered by an average of £25 per house. The prophecies that this reduction must result in an increase in the cost of building and consequently retard progress seems at present far from the facts. On the contrary, the Minister of Health was able to state a month ago that the latest prices for parlour houses were £37 and for non-parlour houses £36 less than they were before the announcement of the reduction.

—Slums and Overcrowding.

As Mr. Chamberlain has pointed out, the housing problem presents three separate aspects, the provision of working-class houses, the improvement of rural conditions, and slum clearance. The first two of these have to some extent already been faced. Under the Act passed last year the Ministry of Health has approved applications for the reconditioning of upwards of 2,600 cottages in rural areas. The normal annual need for houses has been met and it will not be long before the arrears of the war period have been overtaken—provided of course that the standard of overcrowding, low in England, and lower still in Scotland, is not raised. The slums, moreover, still remain. Broadly speaking slum property is divided into two classes—one consisting of fairly well built and good houses turned into slums by overcrowded conditions or by the character of the surrounding property, and the other consisting of houses hopelessly worn out and insanitary though still the source of large profit to a bad landlord, who extracts exorbitant rents from the excessive number of tenants. Both these classes can and should be dealt with, and we are glad to learn that the Minister of Health is anxious to bring the matter before Parliament next year. There is no reason why the blot of slum population should darken the civilization of even a comparatively few years hence, if there is a determination on the part of the people of this country that it shall not do so.

A Public Danger.

Apparently the continued residence of Mrs. Despard in Ireland is regarded as a danger to the Irish Free State, and she is to be expelled from that country under Section XIII of the Public Safety Act. We are at present ignorant of the exact nature of the activities which have led the Free State Government to take this very cautious step, but we surmise that among large sections of the Dublin poor it will be deeply regretted. There are, however, equally large sections of the British public who will welcome the return of this very well-loved veteran suffrage leader, and should anything go wrong with our promised Equal Franchise measure there is a lot to be said for having a potential public danger on this side of the Irish Channel.

Butchers and Humane Slaughter.

At the recent Conference at Coventry of 400 butchers, delegates to the National Federation of Meat Traders' Associations, a protest was made against the proposal in the Slaughter of Animals Bill now before Parliament to make compulsory the use of the humane killer. Speakers criticized what they considered the sentimental attitude of those outside the profession who devoted so much time and thought to rendering less painful the last moments of an animal's life, with the implication that too little interest was taken in its whole career. We agree—not, of course, in condemning the passionate desire to render slaughtering more humane for its victims—but in recognizing the ignorance and consequent cruelty which still surrounds many of the events in the lives of our cattle and herds. Surely the need is for more stringent regulations with regard to operating on farm animals, their preparation for market and so forth. When discussing the status of butchers' shops, Alderman Wilde is reported to have said: "I advise you to avoid the energetic woman factory inspector. She is far more exacting than any man."

The Last Act of a Tragedy.

Etrope learned last Thursday of the stupid and fortuitous motor accident at Nice, by which the stormy life of Isidora Duncan was brought to a sudden end. The work which she has done for the artistic life of two continents will live on—for she was not merely in her own person the embodiment of a twentieth century renaissance in classical dancing, she was the origin and inspiration of a school, and the trainer of several generations of dancers. Throughout her life she loved beauty and pursued it in her own peculiar way—helter-skelter, over stock and stone, convention, comfort, and quietness of mind. But fate co-operated with her own turbulent personality to make that pursuit on the whole a tragic one. It seems a short time ago—in reality it is more than a decade—since we read of the equally stupid and fortuitous motor accident in which her two children lost their lives. It was many years before she recovered from the staggering shock of this blow. Later she married the Russian poet Serge Yessenen. Later still she experienced, like many another unmethodical artist, the ups and downs of financial embarrassment. Now, at last, "the President of the Immortals has ended his sport" with Isidora Duncan.

Earth versus Air.

The dinner given by the Lyceum Club last Friday to members of the Women's Engineering Society was a pleasing and cheerful event. Eminent representatives of three forms of speedy locomotion, Miss Cottle, Mrs. Bruce, and Mrs. Elliott-Lynn, spoke, each with the firm conviction that hers was the superior method of transport. The Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce is convinced, and has indeed proved, that the high-power motor-car is the ideal instrument for remote and adventurous exploration. Miss Cottle, famous for her achievements in international speed trials, is convinced that among other advantages of motor bicycling is its superiority to hunting. And Mrs. Elliott-Lynn was merely reiterating her gospel when she asserted that contrary to public belief, flying was an easier and more convenient mode of travel than motoring. It is not long ago that she pointed out (an irrefutable fact) that fewer people are killed in the air than in the streets, and that flying at a very high altitude has the outstanding advantage that one has more time in which to plan one's crash in the event of engine trouble. We choose (as President Coolidge would say) to agree with Mrs. Lynn. We ourselves have never hesitated between aeroplanes and omnibuses where both are available.

Women and Educational Posts.

At the meeting of the Educational Institute of Scotland held last Saturday in Edinburgh, Miss Annie Maclarty, F.E.I.S., of Kilmarnock, was elected President for the coming year. In proposing Miss Maclarty, her predecessor in office, Mr. McLay, paid a tribute to her services to education in Scotland. In his presidential address Mr. McLay dealt with the qualifications of teachers. The Institute aims at university graduation for all men and women. He pointed out that while no man can become a teacher unless he is the graduate of a university, women are still allowed to qualify after a two-year training course, with the result that training colleges are turning out women for whom no posts can be found. The shortage of openings for young women entering the teaching profession is often brought forward as a reason against the retention of married women and it would be interesting to hear more about the discrepancy between the educational requirements for men and women, referred to above. It is interesting in this connection to read that for the first time in its history the Hutcheson's Education Trust has appointed a woman as head of the Hutcheson's Girls' Grammar School at Glasgow. Miss Margaret Kennedy, who has been successful, has a distinguished record and we are convinced that the governors of the school will have no cause to regret that they have broken away from an indefensible tradition.

English Women in Austria.

The holiday season gives an opportunity for making interesting discoveries, and we read in one of our contemporaries of a Yorkshire woman who is mayoress of Gleichenberg—a small spa tucked away in the hills of Eastern Styria. Her husband has a practice there, and she has lived there since the war, and is playing a major part in the running of the local organization. We also read that Mrs. Baillie Grohmann—another English woman—is the first non-Austrian to achieve the distinction of being decorated by the President of the Republic.

DETECTIVE STORIES.

If a man or woman of intelligence be questioned as to their reading the fashionable reply of the moment is that they read what they must, and for the rest detective stories. Only the most renowned highbrows, the "altifrons altifrontissimus" of Mr. Leonard Woolf, may exempt himself from this tribute to the prevailing taste for drivel. In anyone of less eminence it would be considered affected, if not a little immoral, just as it used to be considered immoral to take no interest in the vicissitudes of county cricket. Bishops state publicly that they confess to enjoying "a good detective tale." Fathers of families buy them in quantity for holiday reading. Eminent critics fill pages in serious weekly papers with almost affectionate discussions of details in the life of Sherlock Holmes. In fact a taste for the possible varieties of murder has become almost the sign of a "really nice" human being. It would be interesting to know why. That one should enjoy an occasional example of this sort of thing is natural enough. Well-written detective stories are exciting. They are all alike, but even so they are exciting. Their technique is such that they arouse in turn and within a short space of time interest, suspense, and relief. They often introduce, moreover, exciting objects—baths of acid designed to eat the flesh of the hero from his bones (and possibly even to consume the bones so that no trace shall be left to enlighten the police), synthetic diamonds, marvellous disguises, feathers dipped in poison whose lightest touch will instantly kill strong men, the section of a hair which under the microscope suffices to hang a villain. These things in themselves appeal to something in most of us; it would not be odd to find even intelligent people reading one or two of them every year or so. What is odd is that they are read in bulk, with undiminished appetite, and that then this activity is made a matter for boasting. Fifty years ago it would have been clear to seventy-five people out of a hundred that this sort of story was suitable to office boys so long as it was not read within office hours. The remaining twenty-five people would have disapproved of it entirely and provided the office boys with

tracts. Since that day the claims upon our time and energy have not diminished. It is more difficult, not less, to find time for serious reading and to awake an interest in serious subjects in the minds of the young people. We all dance more, play more games, take Saturdays off, and in general treat ourselves far more tenderly than did our grandfathers. Why then should our moralists and intellectuals pretend to be proud of this particularly childish relaxation? The fault, probably, lies with the newspapers. They come into all our houses, their words echo in all our minds even when we do not suppose that we are paying attention to them. For the most part they have chosen deliberately, in order to make more money, to debase rather than to educate the popular taste. And they maintain continuously and with a good deal of skill a campaign against what is intellectually difficult, morally new, or æsthetically distinguished. Nothing serves their purpose that cannot be boiled into a journalist's paragraph, and their considered policy is to deride what is too good for them. They have in fact produced such a reaction against it that if you call an ordinary man a "highbrow" (their word), an intellectual, or anything of that sort, he will think that you mean to insult him. He is no seeker after beauty or righteousness or truth. Not he. He is a Frothblower and proud of it, and his children are Gugnuncs and Donjeroos and he is proud of that, and he only wishes he had bought shares in greyhound racing when they stood at 5s. only so recently as last year. The pride of the intellectuals, on the other hand, is chastened; they no longer dictate to the unlettered in fiery sentences, but rather assume the attitude of being vague, harmless, possibly eccentric, but essentially sweet-natured men. This common love of blood-and-mystery is probably intended to act as a link between their seclusion and the fierce normal world, as a little propitiatory offering to vulgarity. It won't do, of course, it never will do. One cannot propitiate vulgarity, which is blind and insatiable. One cannot compromise on behalf of the best, but only betray it, even in so small a matter as pretending an admiration for detective stories.

"THE OUTSPOKEN ASSEMBLY."

By KATHLEEN E. INNES, B.A.

From a personal point of view, there are two great advantages in being in Geneva during the Assembly. One is that we here get as near as one can to "seeing ourselves as others see us." The chief Press of Europe is on sale in the streets and the admirable daily articles of M. William Martin in the *Journal de Genève* reflect the reactions of the Assembly and of the public to the proposals under discussion. The day after the delegate for Holland put forward his resolution for some form of revival of the Protocol this was M. Martin's comment:—

"In practice the Protocol will be applied. But one cannot deny that its rejection by Great Britain was a very heavy blow to the work of pacification in Europe. What the peoples need is . . . to know in advance that they will be protected that they may, in the shelter of this security, turn aside from preparations for war. . . The British Government in refusing to pledge itself, in 1925 as in 1914, has taken on itself a responsibility which cannot be measured. It contributes in fact to the provocation of the perils which it wishes to avoid and is imposing on its people useless risks. For a pledge on its part would undoubtedly hinder the outbreak of wars, of which without this pledge there is great risk and in which it cannot remain neutral."

That, in epitome, whether we agree with it or not, is the opinion of the great part of that section of the Continental Press which supports the League; and the opinion of the great proportion of the Members of the League itself. Whether, in view of the attitude of Great Britain it was wise to revive the Protocol now—whether having done so will mean its final death and burial, or the whittling away of much in it that seems most important in the endeavour to get agreement, is more in question.

Holland, most interested in the extension of the sphere of law between the nations, feared that if not called from its slumbers it might sink into a lethargy whence there would be no awakening, and His Excellency Jonk-heer Beelaerts van Blokland courageously sprang his resolution on the Assembly at the end of an unexciting afternoon. The mooted proposals of Poland aiming actually at the "outlawry of war"—till then looked at

askance by more than one Great Power—became a vital plan put definitely forward, and at once a main subject of discussion. Whether or not they eventually form the basis of any proposed solutions remains to be seen, but the Polish resolution, abjuring aggressive war, has been approved by Sir Austin Chamberlain on behalf of Great Britain.

The second great advantage of being at the Assembly is the insight gained, by repeated pieces of evidence, of the way in which most of its members, and particularly perhaps its smaller members, are thinking of League problems. The League may appear to some as chiefly useful on its humanitarian and social sides for their own sake, and as not yet strong enough for the bigger political problems. It does not so appear to the majority of the States represented at Geneva. To them it appears as the one hope of achieving the peace of the world, and the approach to that achievement must be, in the main, direct. Progress in arbitration agreements or in a general agreement, and an end to the race in armaments, which can only culminate in disaster—there is the keynote of speech after speech and almost the only theme of many. The most direct challenge of any Assembly has been made openly this year to the Great Powers. They stand arraigned as the hinderers of peaceful progress—not achieving disarmament because they will not surrender national ends for the good of the whole; importing into the League the old diplomatic methods of private conversations and agreements; refusing to bind themselves even over legal disputes to the acceptance of legal judgments, by accepting (if necessary with reservations) the Optional Clause; and holding it unnecessary to explain their aloofness to the Assembly. This arraignment, hinted at in many a less outspoken speech, found most vigorous expression in the general debate, in the speech of the temporary leader of the Norwegian delegation. We are one of the Great Powers. Is the arraignment true? It behoves us to ask and it behoves us to give an answer. For the welfare of countless millions depends, if it is true, largely on our response; and before long our Government is likely again to have to pronounce

(Continued on next page.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1926.¹

This is a very humane report and with a little imagination is more interesting than a novel. It deals with the 48,190,000 human beings who constitute the population of Great Britain and Ireland, and gives a real insight into many phases of life which are generally not properly understood. Economists will wax eloquent over the facts that since 1871 the population of England and Wales has increased by 16,705,000 and of Scotland by 1,537,000, while that of Ireland has decreased by 1,186,000. Politicians may learn that in England and Wales there are 1,671,000 more females than males. In the early years of life the boys outnumber the girls, but after 15 years of age the females exceed the males, and remain from then onwards the predominating sex as far as numbers are concerned. One of the outstanding features of this report is the reduced birth-rate, i.e. 17.8 per 1,000 of the population. This is the lowest rate yet recorded except for the years 1917-18. The death-rate also fell to 11.6, the lowest rate yet recorded, and the smaller number of deaths more than balanced the fewer births. The infantile mortality rate fell to 70 per 1,000 births. This means that the country saved 40,000 babies' lives over and above the average annual saving obtained in 1901-10. The maternal mortality rate still shows a regrettable tendency to rise. Nearly half of these deaths are due to puerperal sepsis, a condition which is considered preventable. On 1st October last year a condition known as puerperal pyrexia was made notifiable. The object was to obtain early notification of developments during the lying-in period which tend to become serious in order that facilities might be provided for prompt and efficient treatment. Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities are empowered to make provision for special treatment for these cases such as (1) consultation with an obstetric specialist; (2) skilled nursing; (3) bacteriological investigation, or (4) institutional accommodation. By 31st March, 1927, fifty-six local authorities had arranged for institutional treatment, sixty-eight for consultations with specialists, and thirty-eight for skilled nursing assistance.

During the year a special inquiry was made as to the health of the pre-school child of 3 years of age. The report commends the standard of cleanliness and regards it as an indication that material care is considerably higher than formerly. A disturbing feature in the table of defects found was the high proportion of children suffering from rickets.

With regard to the widespread industrial distress of last year, it is good to note that the children did not appear to suffer physically. In many of the districts most affected the condition of the children is reported to be rather better than usual. A result on which all those who worked so hard on their behalf may surely congratulate themselves.

The death-rate has still a very sad side, but of the 453,804 deaths registered 38.2 per cent occurred among people under 50 years of age. This represents an enormous loss of vigorous life to the nation, and is responsible for many of the great tragedies of life. The diseases that took the largest toll of life were: (1) Diseases of the heart and circulation; (2) bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases; (3) cancer; (4) tuberculosis. The Minister says of these: "They are as a rule end results of previous ill-health. They do not always begin as they end. They terminate life prematurely, because we are unwilling to check them or are neglectful or ignorant of their progress or means of treatment."

Infectious diseases still take a considerable part in the death lists. The most disturbing factors are the increase of cases of smallpox and the excessive prevalence of acute poliomyelitis. The latter is one of the most disabling diseases known.

With regard to smallpox, 10,146 cases were notified in England and Wales last year. This is double the number of notifications received during 1925, and by June of this year there have already been 9,688 cases; so that there is no likelihood of a decrease during 1927. Since 1922 there has been a steady increase each year in the number of smallpox victims. Sir George Newman tells us that the only reliable weapon with which to wage war against the enemy is vaccination. He says: "The supreme method of control is vaccination, and I must repeat what I have said again and again... the protection which vaccination and revaccination afford cannot be disputed by anyone who has had actual experience in dealing with the disease." The figures are impressive. There were no smallpox cases among successfully vaccinated children under 12 years of age. There were 3,980 cases among unvaccinated children under 12, with 5 deaths.

¹ H.M. Stationery Office, 3s. net.

Through all the Report on epidemics there runs the refrain of the danger of unrecognized attacks of infectious illness. It is disquieting to realize that those who most bravely smile through what appear to be the minor ailments and aches of life, may be the most vicious instruments in the spread of serious epidemics.

The section of the Report dealing with International Health is extremely interesting. Through the League of Nations Health Organization eminent medical men of all countries meet in a determined effort to stem the tide of disease so prejudicial to mankind. Through this means there are collective investigations of disease and a valuable work is done through the Epidemic Intelligence Service in controlling the spread of great scourges.

Of course, the proper way to read this Report is in weekly readings—a section at a time. The reader is just amazed and thrilled at the amount of solid investigation and scientific research which is effected each year. It would be a good thing if the "Man-in-the-Street" could buy this Annual Report as he buys other hardy annuals. It would do much to enlighten public opinion and stimulate a desire to enjoy the benefits of a healthier life. A determination to take advantage of all the privileges offered would bring us very near to our heart's desire—the production of a healthy nation. M. BROWN.

SEVENTEEN.

I am 17, and when I am 21 I shall have a vote. This is rather an appalling thought because I know so little about either politics or voting.

This may be due to my own ignorance, but I feel inclined to blame the present system of education which omits from all school curriculums any definite mention of modern politics, and except for debates organized by the girls themselves and often discouraged by the majority of the staff, modern schools do not encourage an interest in public affairs, and unless girls are taught to take an interest in national crises while they are at school, many of them will not be inclined to study them after they have left and will, therefore, when they have a vote throw it away in their ignorance of the parties and what they stand for.

I shall probably vote Labour as soon as I have a vote because I have been brought up to see the Labour point of view, and I don't think that it is right that one man should work hard all his life and always be poor while others waste money and do nothing useful for it.

There is plenty of political literature in the house, but while I am still at school I have not the time to read it, because besides my actual school work there are so many other school interests that my time is completely filled. I don't even know how the country is governed: by this I mean that my views are very hazy about local bodies, constituencies and such things, and I find that if you question your parents on these matters, their answers are so involved that your mind wanders long before they have finished answering, owing to their complete knowledge of these subjects; how they acquired it I have yet to ascertain.

I know that many girls are interested in politics and are not given the chance to develop their interests, and I think that if schools disregard a political course as an important educational factor, it is up to the women themselves to give their daughters a fair chance, and to encourage any tendencies towards politics, and make the study of international affairs as interesting as possible; because in these days of jazz one is so inclined to let everything except pleasure go to the dogs.

But however it is managed, if girls of 21 are to have votes, some kind of arrangements must be made by which girls if they are still at school, can take an interest in politics and use their votes when they get them. A. J.

"THE OUTSPOKEN ASSEMBLY" (continued from previous page). on the conclusions to which the Assembly may come with regard to Pact proposals before it, based on Poland's plan for a solemn declaration by League members outlawing aggressive war among themselves.

Twice we have been unable to accept such proposals. Twice they have failed, because of our rejection. This year there is at the Assembly something of the atmosphere of hope that (whether we approved in detail of the Protocol or not) we all felt at Gevena in 1924. If events lead again to a definite proposal, and we again feel that our special difficulties justify its rejection, the significance of any action we may take ought to be fully realized.

It is for this reason that it is worth while dwelling at length on what other nations feel and are saying. We are a Great Power, and that fact is the measure of our responsibility.

GOOD AND BAD PROPAGANDA.¹

"Bunny" Ross was the son of an oil-magnate, and was brought up to follow in his father's footsteps. But Bunny, being an idealist, came under the influence of Paul Watkins, a young Socialist. The book is in the main part an account of the conflict between Bunny's idealism and the interests of "Dad" and the oil industry. There are accounts of political wire pullings by the big oil-men; and of various scandals connected with the suppression of Trade Unions in the oil industry; there are "sensational" exposures of three presidents of the U.S.A.; there are scenes from "high life", love affairs with movie-actresses, and religious revivals. Finally, theories of Socialism triumph, and Bunny marries a dull but earnest Socialist Jewess, and spends his father's money on founding a Labour College. Mr. Upton Sinclair is, of course, propagandist first and novelist second, and this, one fears, is a deliberate choice, but oh—the pity, the pity! There is no part of this long book one hundredth as thrilling as the account of how Bunny's oil well blew its head off and burst into flames, and the scenes of Bunny's childhood, where the novelist is not yet submerged by the propagandist, are amazingly good. At page 100 I was still thinking it a better book than *The American Tragedy*, but before page 200 the novelist breathed his last, and the propagandist, inheriting the unfinished work, transformed it in an instant from a novel to an exposure. Mr. Sinclair is not a subtle propagandist. He uses a sledge-hammer to drive his case home, and, to mix metaphors, he stacks his cards. True, there is "Dad", a triumph of character drawing, who is an oil magnate but also a good sort, but otherwise—the relentless nobility of the working classes! the depravity of the rich men! the corruption of the politicians! and the way these parasitic rich women go on—well, you would hardly believe it! (The exclamation mark habit has been caught from Mr. Sinclair.)

We are told about the wicked campaign of lies against Russia and Bolshevism. We must join Mr. Sinclair in laughing to scorn the absurd reports of Red Terrors and atrocities, but we are to believe an exactly similar campaign against the White Terror, with even more terrifying and flesh-creeping atrocities.

"The only Bolshevik atrocity that anyone knew about was the fundamental one of teaching the workers they had a right to rule the world." "I've helped to bury a hundred bodies of people that have been killed not in battle—just shot down in cold blood, men and women and children—even babies. I've seen a 'White' officer shoot women in the head, one after the other." Thus Paul Watkins, on his return from Russia. What is the impartial reader to do? What, in fact, are you and I to believe? Shall our hair stand on end on one side or the other? Shall the blood curdle in, so to speak, our left wing or our right wing? Shall we wallow in an orgy of terror and think both sides capable of any crime, or shall we cynically disbelieve all we are told? Mr. Sinclair's methods are the same as his opponents, and so I maintain there is no reason why we should not be equally sceptical of both. There is no doubt of his sincerity, there is no doubt that he has something to tell the world, but his method is "my side is right and good, therefore yours is wrong and bad," and that method is too crude for us to-day.

The book should be read, however, not only for the first part, but because it does induce thought. And it is instructive to watch the progress of a good novel gone bad and good propaganda gone worse.

M. B. B.

A SECRET OF THE MARSH.²

Oliver Warner seems to have tried to write a kind of *Wuthering Heights*, set in marshes instead of moors. The result is not very convincing; the mystery is rather thin, and the character drawing still thinner. The atmosphere which is evidently meant to be "macabre" (to use a word which has become a favourite in advertisements), only succeeds in being watery and somewhat oppressive.

I. B. O'M.

¹ *Oil!* Upton Sinclair. (Werner Laurie, 10s. 6d.)

² *A Secret of the Marsh*, by Oliver Warner. (Chatto and Windus, 7s. net.)

MODERN STANDARDS OF WELFARE WORK.¹

The aim of welfare work in industry "is to make possible the full and conscious co-operation of every individual engaged in the production of some social necessity".

This statement is taken from *Welfare Work in Industry*, edited by E. T. Kelly, and is an excellent illustration of the very good material contained therein. Miss Kelly and her associates have given us an account of the rapid development of industrial welfare and the very definite niche it has found for itself in the modern industrial system.

Welfare departments had been founded in a few factories before the war and from 1914-18 they received a good deal of artificial impetus through the obligatory appointments of welfare workers in all Government and controlled factories, but it has been through the period of industrial depression experienced since the war that modern industrial welfare has been tested to the full, and has come through the ordeal all the healthier for the difficulties it has undergone.

The secret of its success seems to lie in the fact that it is a movement designed to promote the greater efficiency of all with no ulterior motive in the background.

The main pivot on which this system is maintained is the welfare supervisor or welfare worker. Her title is of small importance, but she, if industrial welfare is to prosper in the factory to which she is appointed, should be of high character with a real knowledge of the relations of industry to the life of the community; while in addition to these qualities she will find in the everyday life of the factory, the necessity for a certain amount of specialized knowledge in order that she may supervise successfully her special departments, and make her presence felt in all the various branches of the factory.

The functions of the welfare worker are of a very varied nature since they include everything appertaining to the welfare of the individual in the factory. Before, however, she can hope to tackle this task, it is absolutely necessary that she should gain the confidence of those among whom she is working, both employers and employed; and only when this confidence is established can her real job begin.

Her first contact with the workers is on their entry into the factory when she superintends their passage through the medical department. Her next step is to see them satisfactorily placed in a department for which they are mentally and physically suited. Then throughout their life in the factory it is her care to see that the rooms in which they work are well ventilated and well lighted, that there is the minimum danger of accidents, but adequate provision in the case of any mishap, that material wants are satisfactorily catered for in the canteen, and in short that so far as lies in her power "everything connected with the employment of labour is carried out as well as possible".

This short resumé of a few of the activities of the welfare worker are, however, only the visible signs of modern industrial welfare. The success of the efforts of the welfare supervisor must in the end show itself in how far she succeeds in creating harmony in the factory. One of her most important duties is to learn how to develop the personality of others without obtruding her own personality. True growth comes from within, and while development may be very much slower in a factory where the welfare worker allows self-determination to have its chance, the developments when they come will be very much more worth while, and will in the end do more to create harmony than the best equipped canteen or recreation ground provided by a benevolent management.

This ideal can be seen running right through *Welfare Work in Industry*, while it also includes a very clear description of the practical methods being used to achieve this ideal.

The editor has succeeded in giving us an excellent description of modern methods while the deeper and more spiritual side is not forgotten.

Not the least useful part of the book is the appendix which provides some most practical hints as to legal requirements, record cards, and the hundred and one details which must be included among the activities of the welfare departments if it is to be run successfully, and anyone interested in the problems of modern industry would find it well worth their while to add this inexpensive book to their library.

O. D. S.

¹ *Welfare Work in Industry*, by members of the Institute of Industrial Welfare Workers, edited by Eleanor T. Kelly. (Putnam and Sons, 5s. net.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

APPROACHING ELECTIONS.

The holidays are virtually over and women's organizations will now be busy, making or completing, their arrangements for the winter's work.

We take this opportunity to ask all interested in local government to take into account in making their plans, the six elections for local government authorities which are due to take place throughout the country between 1st November, 1927, and 7th April, 1928. The dates are as follows: 1st November, 1927, elections for County Borough and Borough Councils.

1st to 8th March, 1928: Triennial elections for County Councils, followed by elections for Urban and Rural District Councils, Parish Councils, and Boards of Guardians.

In other words, five elections for local government authorities will take place between 1st March and 7th April, 1928.

We hope, in later articles, to discuss in detail the various duties and functions, etc., of the different authorities named. Our present object is to strike a preliminary note and to remind our readers of:—

- (1) The approaching elections;
- (2) That on each and all of these governing bodies there is work for suitable women;
- (3) That the nature of the work entrusted to local authorities calls emphatically for the help of suitable women;
- (4) That the number of women now serving on these authorities is very small in comparison with the work demanding attention, and that there are still a great number without any women members;
- (5) That it is essential if the work is to be efficiently and satisfactorily performed the number of women councillors should be increased;
- (6) That the opportunity for doing this is at hand.

If the number of women candidates is to be increased, it is of paramount importance that women's organizations should begin at once to set their electoral houses in order, and to look for suitable women candidates. It is now September, and the five months which remain before 1st March will quickly pass. If success is to be obtained at the polls, careful preparatory work is essential, and should not be left until a few days before the day of election. It is not too early to make plans of campaign, to find candidates, and to draw the attention of electors—women electors in particular—to the importance of good local government, and to the necessity of returning suitable women as well as suitable men to all local government authorities.

Our next article will deal with the duties and functions of borough councils.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (AND THE IRISH FREE STATE), by John J. Clarke, F.S.S., Barister-at-Law, price 10s. 6d.

Amongst those called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in July last we note the name of Mr. J. J. Clarke, Lecturer on Housing Law and Economics at the Liverpool University.

Mr. Clarke, who is well known to our readers as the author of several standard works on local government, has not only qualified as a barrister this year, but has also brought out a new and fourth edition of his book *The Local Government of the United Kingdom*, which is regarded as the most comprehensive and informative volume on local government in existence.

"The book," so the author tells us, in the preface to the new edition, "is written as a result of encouraging requests from all parts of the United Kingdom, and with a view to enlarging on a number of points which are necessarily treated but briefly in the *Outlines of Local Government*."

The object of the book is to stimulate interest in the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and to meet the requirements not only of the general reader and local administrator, but also the needs of students preparing for examinations.

In this fourth edition there are new chapters on the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, and on Grants in Aid and Loans. Section III, dealing with Local Finance, has been remodelled. Consequent on the consolidation of the law relating to Housing and Town Planning, the chapters on these subjects have been rewritten and enlarged. The chapter on Ireland has been entirely

(Continued at foot of next column.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBON, 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.

RECEPTION TO DAME EDITH LYTTTELTON D.B.E., AND MRS. MOSS, CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, MONDAY, 10th OCTOBER.

Leaflets giving full particulars with regard to the above Reception can be obtained from Headquarters free of charge, and it is hoped that all who are interested will help us to make this reception widely known. Please note that the time of the Reception has been altered from 4.30 to 4 o'clock. Tickets (price 2s. 6d. including tea) may be had on application to Headquarters.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

GLASGOW S.E.C. AND W.C.A.

We congratulate the Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A. on the splendid year's work recorded in their Annual Report recently issued. The Legislation Committee of the Scottish Federation on which Glasgow has four members, has been working to bring the Scottish Law into line with the English in connection with the Illegitimate Child and Child Adoption, and has initiated the Juvenile Courts (Scotland) Bill and Intestate Succession (Scotland) Bill. A large proportion of the work of the Society has been concentrated on the Equal Franchise Campaign. A considerable number of meetings on points on the programme have been arranged, and members of the Executive Committee have addressed other women's organizations on the work and aims of the Society. The Report also contains interesting and encouraging records of the work done during the past year by the Divisions of the Society, and an account of the very successful Annual Autumn School which the Scottish Societies hold each year.

The Lending Library of the Glasgow Society has been widely used during the year, and the Society's a regular subscriber for Book Boxes from Headquarters. Space forbids our doing justice to the report, but we cannot close this brief summary without congratulating Glasgow on their splendid list of members.

REDHILL AND REIGATE W.C.A.

A well-attended Garden Meeting was held by the Redhill and Reigate W.C.A. on Thursday, 15th September, at which Mrs. Hubback gave an interesting address on the Reform of the Poor Law.

A resolution on Equal Franchise thanking the Prime Minister for his promise to introduce next Session legislation giving the vote to women on the same terms and at the same age as it is given to men, and asking for the support of the local Members of Parliament was passed by the meeting. This is a useful precedent which we recommend to all Societies.

SHEFFIELD S.E.C.

The inclemency of the weather prevented many people from coming who had accepted invitations to the Garden Tea on 15th September. The Sheffield S.E.C. is grateful to many friends for sending donations, and thanks them collectively and individually. It was deeply indebted to our President and hostess, Mrs. H. F. Hall, J.P., for the use of her beautiful house. Mrs. Percy Davies rendered delightful music whilst tea was served. The secretaries, Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Joyce were kept busy selling pretty and useful things. They were helped considerably by Miss Margaret Hardy, who did all the wrapping up. About £12 was realized by the effort, which the Society had pleasure in sending to Headquarters to help on the Equal Franchise Campaign.

LECTURES ON INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

The group of societies, including the Women's International League, who have arranged the two series of lectures announced to take place in the evening at the Friends' House during the next six months, are to be congratulated. The subject of the first series from October to December is "Imperialism and the Problem of Civilizations," and of the second "The Foundations of World Prosperity" and the lecturers are respectively Mr. Leonard Woolf and Mrs. Barbara Wootton. Information in regard to them can be obtained from the U.D.C. Office, 34 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

(Continued from previous column.)

rewritten. The legislation placed on the Statute Book in 1925-6 in regard to local government has been incorporated in this new edition, and this inclusion has demanded much revision and rewriting of the previous edition.

In commending this work to the attention and careful study of all interested and engaged in local government work, we ask them not to overlook the words of the beautiful inscription on the front page—

"To the memory of my Father, who first led me to the path of Citizenship, which I have since endeavoured to tread."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE YOUNG WOMAN.¹

The Assembly and the proposed revival of the Protocol, the elections in Ireland, the Slavery incident in Sierra Leone, the latest developments in China—all these and many other events of extremely great importance in Foreign Affairs have figured largely in the Press during the past few weeks. It is particularly interesting, therefore, at the present moment to discover, if we can, whether the young women under 30, who might be given the vote next year, are concerned with Foreign Affairs.

The Women's International League is running a competition for women under 30, the prize of a week abroad at an International School in 1928 being offered for the best Essay on "The Vote and Foreign Affairs." Many inquiries have been made by would-be competitors, and the letters come from all parts of the country, from Tintagel and Bournemouth, from Glasgow and Blackburn, and there have been several from Ireland. One inquirer writes, "As it is a subject in which I am deeply interested I should very much like to have particulars," and another one, "I am too old to compete myself but I teach classes for women and know of several who would be glad of the information in my classes."

Here then is evidence that young women are thinking carefully of the responsibility which the vote will bring to them. They realize that here is a responsibility which is not limited by the shores of their own country; it is one which includes the control of foreign policy and the pacific settlement of all international disputes without which there can be no satisfactory control and development of *National Affairs*.

Young women readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER are particularly invited to enter for this competition and to send for particulars to the Secretary, 55 Gower Street, London, W.C. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"INTERLINGUA AND ESPERANTO."

MADAM,—Whilst I sympathize deeply with the desire of Cecily Leadley-Brown that the coming of International Language shall not be delayed, I must insist that her fear is in the present instance misplaced.

The only dictionary necessary for Interlingua is the Latin dictionary, and Latin dictionaries are more widely obtainable throughout the world than any others. The number of people who know Latin is infinitely larger than the number who know Esperanto; but one need not know Latin in order to write and understand Interlingua, which is Latin without inflexions; in other words simplified Latin. This must be emphasized. All that one requires for writing or understanding Interlingua are the few simple rules to be found in a little leaflet published by the Academia pro Interlingua and a Latin dictionary.

As Interlingua gives preference to the Latin words that live in the modern languages, whoever wants to write Interlingua in good style, may consult also an English or other West European language dictionary, when in doubt which of one or more Latin synonyms to select; but this is not essential.

A reader of *Delphos*, quite unknown to me, wrote through the publisher requesting further information on Interlingua. I had the small leaflet of rules sent to him. He replied by return of post with a letter couched in excellent Interlingua in which occurred the following phrase:—"Interlingua will triumph over the Esperanto star."

The writer, Kenneth Douglas, 21 Greenmount Road, Terenure, Dublin, has been an Esperantist and wrote on Esperanto paper.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Woodford Green, Essex.

"THE LITTERLOUSE."

MADAM,—“A. H. W.” makes a suggestion under this heading, which cannot be serious, and perhaps my comment may be taken to imply a lack of the sense of humour, if it is intended humorously. But really! What next will be considered the province of “the women of the N.U.S.E.C.” as such? Where does “equality” come in? and why should we head a national movement against the littering of fields and country with eggshells and dirty newspapers?

Brighton.

F. DE G. M.

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

A Public Conference on Family Allowances

WILL BE HELD AT THE

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS,

HOUGHTON STREET, ALDWYCH, W.C. 2

ON

FRIDAY, 14th Oct., & SATURDAY, 15th Oct.

SPEAKERS:

Friday, 8 p.m. SIR WILLIAM BEVERIDGE, K.C.B., on "The Case for Family Allowances." DR. R. A. FISHER on "The Effects of Family Allowances on Population."

Chairman: LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.

Saturday, 2.30 p.m. PROF. V. H. MOTTRAM, on "The Physiological Basis of the Minimum Wage." 3.30 p.m. J. L. COHEN, Esq., on "Family Income Insurance." 4.30 p.m. Tea. 5.30 p.m. H. N. BRAILSFORD, Esq., on "The State and Family Allowances."

Chairman: JAMES MAXTON, Esq., M.P.

8.15 p.m. PRINCIPAL JOHN MURRAY on "Family Allowances in Industry."

For further particulars apply to the Hon. Secretary, Family Endowment Society, 4/24 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE propose to give a

RECEPTION

TO DAME EDITH LYTTTELTON, D.B.E.

(British Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations).

AND

MRS. MOSS

(Substitute Delegate for Australia).

AT

THE CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

ON

MONDAY, 10th OCTOBER, 1927, at 4 p.m.

The Reception will be preceded at 2.30 p.m. by a Conference of Representatives of Organisations interested in the questions raised at the Assembly of the League.

TICKETS (price 2/6) to be obtained from the SECRETARY, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

CROSBY HALL.

A CLUB AND HALL OF RESIDENCE now open for WOMEN GRADUATES OF ALL NATIONALITIES.

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COMING EVENTS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 3. Scottish Summer School at Glenburn Hydropathic, Rothsay.

OCTOBER 10. Caxton Hall. 4 p.m. Reception to Dame Edith Lyttelton, British Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations.

Ashton-under-Lyne W.C.A. OCTOBER 5. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Bebington W.C.A. OCTOBER 4. 7.45 p.m. The Technical Institute, Boundary Road, New Ferry. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Birkenhead W.C.A. OCTOBER 5. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Bolton W.C.A. OCTOBER 6. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Croydon W.C.A. and N.C.W. SEPTEMBER 30. 3 p.m. Church Room, Pollard's Hill, North. Mrs. Hubback. "The Vote: 21 or 25?"

Farnworth W.C.A. OCTOBER 6. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Preston W.C.A. OCTOBER 3. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Waterloo W.C.A. OCTOBER 4. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25. 6.30 p.m. Jack Straw's Castle, Hampstead Heath. Equal Franchise Meeting. Speakers: Miss Fedden, Miss FitzGerald, and Miss Butler Bowdon.

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MISS PLACE would welcome paying guests in her comfortable spare room, reasonable inclusive terms, short visits not objected to.—Write, 16 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Phone Kens. 6650.

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NATIONAL UNION FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP requires woman SECRETARY for Parliamentary department; good speaker and writer, keen feminist; good degree desirable.—Apply in writing, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Members' Library Books on Suffrage, Sociology and Economics, Hansard, latest Government Publications, Periodicals, Newsclippings. 10-8 (except Saturdays).

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1 (new address), requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 7s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940).

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 25th September. 3.30, The Rev. Studdart Kennedy, M.A.: "The State Church." 6.30, Dr. Albert Schweitzer: "The Hospital at Iambasene."

JIGSAW.—Members wanted to join Circle. Subscriptions, one guinea a year for two puzzles every month.—Apply, Mrs. Scholefield, "Waimate," Westgate, Hale, Altrincham.

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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