

BIRTH CONTROL—RIGHT OR WRONG?

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WOMAN'S LEADER

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Contents :

	PAGE		PAGE
"AVENGE ME OF MINE ADVERSARY"	50	THE LAW AT WORK. PRISONERS ON REMAND	53
NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER	51	THE SCHOOL AND THE CHILD	53
WOMEN IN COUNCIL	51	HOUSEHOLD ADMINISTRATION	54
BIRTH CONTROL. By Dr. Mary Scharlieb and Mrs. Drysdale	52	CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS	55

NOTES AND NEWS

Matrimonial Causes Bill.

On Monday, 12th March, the Matrimonial Causes Bill came up for discussion in Standing Committee C. There was a surprisingly good attendance, considering that so many Members of Parliament are in their constituencies for the week-end. Mr. Dennis Herbert had down two amendments, one of which was to provide that a woman should only be able to divorce her husband for "habitual" adultery, and the other was to provide that a divorce should be granted to either husband or wife on the ground of permanent insanity of either party. The first amendment was defeated. Major Entwistle, and others who spoke against it, point out that the insertion of such a qualification would lead to a great lowering of the Moral Standard. The second amendment was ruled out of order as being obviously beyond the scope of the Bill. Mr. Rawlinson, Member for Cambridge University, moved an amendment, which had not been put down on the Order Paper, to the effect that remarriage should not be allowed until a year after a divorce had been granted. This amendment was opposed by the proposers of the Bill on the ground that there had been no opportunity to consider it, and that the Bill was designed only to deal with the one point of equality, and not with reforms in procedure, etc. The amendment was lost, and certain slight drafting amendments proposed by the Solicitor-General were carried. The Bill thus passed through its Committee Stage in one morning after a remarkable degree of unanimity in favour had once again been shown. As we prophesied last week, there is every reason to hope that its later stages will be easy and that it will become law this session.

Nationality of Married Women.

On Thursday, 8th March, Sir John Butcher moved, and it was agreed: "That it is expedient that a Select Committee of this House be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to examine the British law as to the nationality of married women; to consider in their legal and practical aspects the questions involved in the possession by husband and wife of the same or of different nationalities; and, with due regard thereto and to the operation of the laws of foreign countries, to report what, if any, alteration of the British law is desirable." This Committee will no doubt carry on the work of the Select Committee of the

House of Commons that was engaged in discussing this question last session, but which did not have time to report before the General Election. It is important that the report on this subject should be presented before the meeting of the Imperial Conference in the autumn.

By-Elections.

The Government has obviously received a nasty blow in the results of the by-elections at Mitcham, East Willesden, and Edgehill. It was as clear as daylight in all three cases that the cause of the Government defeat was its Housing policy. The Housing problem is one which comes home so very closely and imperatively to all voters, and more especially perhaps to women, that it is not surprising that immediate retribution should follow the vacillating policy of the Government. It is particularly unfortunate that the sins of the Central Government in this respect should have fallen upon Major Hills, whom all parties unite in regarding as possessing great ability, fearlessness, and honesty of purpose, and a wide and tolerant outlook. His absence from the House will be felt to a peculiar extent by women's organizations, especially by those interested in bringing about a real equality of opportunity and pay for women Civil Servants. We can only hope that Major Hills' absence from the House will not be of long duration.

Adolescents and Intoxicants.

The galleries and lobbies of the House were crowded on Friday on the occasion of the second reading of the Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under 18) Bill, and nearly 400 Members took part in the division. This Bill, which was introduced to the House of Commons by Lady Astor, has behind it the support of the medical profession, the churches, the teaching profession, as well as women's organizations. Its object is to alter the law, which now enables a publican to sell beer to children over 14, and spirits (for consumption on licensed premises) to young persons over 16, and make it illegal to sell any kind of intoxicant to anyone apparently under 18 for consumption on licensed premises. Lady Astor's speech, in moving the second reading, was an almost ideal combination of good sense, restraint, and argument, spiced by a dash of her own special wit and charm. Mr. Philip Snowden, speaking on behalf of the Labour Party,

supported the Bill. Sir Frederick Banbury opposed it with a characteristic speech. He informed the House that he had taken beer from the age of 10 with no disastrous results. We do not suggest that our well-known antagonist has suffered from his early excesses, but his reference to the practice of giving beer to children is but another proof of what we have long suspected, that Sir Frederick, like poor Jim Jay in De La Mare's "Peacock Pie," has "got stuck fast in yesterday." The second reading was carried by a majority of 282, and the fortunes of the Bill in Standing Committee will be watched with much interest.

Evil Communications.

An important deputation, introduced by Sir Evelyn Cecil, M.P., interviewed the Lord Chancellor last week to urge the importance of some limitation of the Press reports of divorce cases. An article dealing with the subject in the *Manchester Guardian* points out that ninety-seven out of ninety-eight English Chief Constables who gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Divorce Laws were unanimous about the evil effects of the reporting of indecent details upon young men and women, and the same opinion was expressed by nearly all the journalists who gave evidence. Suggestions were made by the Commission which have not been carried into effect, and the fact remains that our daily Press makes accessible to every reader who can afford a penny or twopence pornographic matter which would hardly be permitted in book form. This is a matter which very closely concerns women citizens, who should strongly support those who have raised this question, and encourage those sections of the Press which are anxious to put an end to this insidious form of moral poisoning.

Annual Council Meetings.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship held its annual Council meetings in London from March 6th to 10th. The great Equal Franchise Demonstration in the Central Hall, Westminster, recalled in its enthusiasm the mass Suffrage meetings of pre-war days. The debates at the Council meetings

"AVENGE ME OF MINE ADVERSARY."

Four years ago Mr. Tyson Wilson, Labour Member for the West Houghton Division, moved a resolution in the House of Commons calling upon the Government to establish a system of pensions for widows with dependent children. In those days the cynicism of "the great peace" had not entered so deeply into the social conscience as it has to-day; and the motion called forth a kind of qualified benediction from Mr. Lloyd George's Government, leaving its hearers with the impression that some measure of justice for widows would form part of the great remodelling of the Poor Law system foreshadowed by the Committee on Reconstruction. And that proved to be the end of the matter as far as Mr. Lloyd George's Government was concerned. It was also the end of the matter as far as Mr. Tyson Wilson was concerned, for in 1921 that good friend of the widow and the fatherless died in harness, and his championship of their cause was left to others.

On 6th March, 1923, another Labour Member for the West Houghton Division, Mr. Rhys Davies, moved a resolution to the same effect. And after a debate lasting some two and a half hours, in the course of which ten speeches were made in support and only two in opposition, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, speaking on behalf of the Government, condemned the proposal on the plea of economy, and secured its defeat by 248 votes to 181. This time no qualified benediction was given, no possible reform foreshadowed. "I ask the House, particularly the supporters of the Government," urged this spokesman for an absent Minister of Health, "quite frankly to realize that they were returned here on a policy of economy. This would cost twopence off the Beer Duty. There are certain services which have to be provided by the Government, and there is no money left for this purpose. We want to reduce taxation because we believe that it is a burden on trade." And with that cold excuse the Government dismissed the matter.

But we venture to think that the matter is not going to be so easily dismissed; for the case set forth by the mover and seconder of last week's motion is not merely a good case, but one which the public believes to be a good case. And if that belief is sufficiently general, and we know that it is sufficiently general, then Widows' Pensions slip into their place among those "certain

services which have to be provided by the Government." If the widows were left to fight their own cause, it is possible that the matter might rest where it is for a generation at least, since they are too poor, too inarticulate, too heavily engaged in the double task of wage-earning and home-keeping to be importunate, even in face of such a grievous social wrong. It is possible, even, that if the Labour Party were left alone to push this measure as an item in their party programme its coming might be delayed until a change of the political scene gave them a party majority in the House. But the mover of last week's motion had behind him not merely his own party, not merely the independent spirits of all the other parties, including Sir William Joynson-Hicks' own party, but, in addition, most of the large non-party women's organizations in the country. There is quite a sufficient body of opinion, and of well-organized and importunate opinion, to weary with "continual coming" any Government which continues the penny-wise policy of leaving the widows of this country and their dependent children to the uncertain mercies of a deterrent Poor Law and of ignoring the immeasurable financial cost incurred by private and public relief agencies in trying to patch up the disastrous results of overwork and underfeeding. We call attention to the financial wastage of such a policy rather than its moral degradation, because we feel that in so doing we shall appeal most forcibly to the consciences of those gentlemen who are asked "quite frankly to realize that they were returned here on a policy of economy." But the matter has its non-economic side, and if any of our subscribers, after reading the House of Commons debate on 6th March, remain unconvinced of its importance, we commend them to Miss Eleanor Rathbone's brilliant little pamphlet on Widows' Pensions, published in 1919. They need not fear that it is out of date. The economic case for Widows' Pensions varies with population statistics and price index numbers, with material standards and the machinery for public relief, and requires to be argued anew from year to year. But its non-economic case is as old as the story of a certain judge "which feared not God neither regarded man"—and older. For the widowed wife and her fatherless children have stood throughout the ages as the symbol of all that is most helpless and forlorn.

Signor Mussolini and the Vote.

Our readers will have noticed that, owing to the remarkable number of recent events of special interest to women voters, our space has been heavily taxed. We hope to deal in a forthcoming issue more fully with the Rome Congress. A new electoral reform Bill will be introduced in the next session of the Italian Parliament. Signor Mussolini proposes to give the vote to women who have reached the age of 25 and who have attained a certain standard of education.

Equal Franchise.

In the House of Commons this week Mr. Bonar Law informed Mr. Foot that it was not his intention to introduce a Bill giving to women the franchise on the same conditions as it applies to men. Pressure must be brought on Mr. Bonar Law to induce him to change his mind.

Women Jurors in Unpleasant Cases.

We should have thought most barristers had become so accustomed to the fact that women jurors have come to stay that it would not have been possible at this date for a K.C. to make the insinuations that Mr. Lewis Thomas made at a recent case. He commented on the fact that two women on the jury had "not thought it right to retire", and proceeded to draw certain inferences. Lord Justice Banks and Lord Justice Scrutton immediately and at some length upheld the women, who were obviously anxious to discharge the public duty entrusted to them, and showed their disapproval of Mr. Thomas' action in no measured terms.

indicated how much work still remains to be done before a true equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women has been attained, but larger questions were not ignored. A strong resolution dealing with the present international situation, which was carried unanimously, urged the necessity of submitting the question of Reparations to the League of Nations, with the assistance of the United States and Germany.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

In spite of the controversy that has raged around the question of Housing Decontrol, foreign politics continue to overshadow all other matters in the proceedings of the House. Every day produces its unending crop of interrogations, each of an importance undreamt of in pre-war days, each a question that bygone Foreign Ministers would have brushed aside as contrary to public policy, all addressed to the Prime Minister, and for the most part all answered by him in considerable detail and with every appearance of candour. Not a single week has passed in the life of this Parliament without one and often two debates on foreign affairs. Last week Labour took a field day in the Ruhr, proposing, as a peg on which to hang their speeches, that there should be a conference between Committees drawn from the Belgian and French Chambers and the House of Commons. This week, Monday's proceedings on the Naval Estimates inevitably raised the subject of the Washington Conference and the failure by all Powers except ourselves to ratify and act upon the pledges of their delegates. The Civil Service Estimates on Tuesday gave the Independent Liberals a fresh opportunity of discussing foreign policy and criticizing the attitude of the British Government towards the occupation of the Ruhr. Wednesday and Thursday with the Air and Army Estimates bring up the whole question of Land Disarmament and its inter-relationship with the existing economic and political problems of the Continent.

In the matter of foreign affairs the Government is on precarious ground. The Blue Book issued in connection with the London and Paris Conferences is not thought in some quarters to show the Prime Minister in a favourable light as a negotiator. Furthermore, there are young Members on both sides of the House who cannot but be asking themselves how it was possible for such fundamental differences of opinion to have arisen, not only in connection with Reparations, but also in connection with Inter-Allied Debts, and yet for the League of Nations not to have been so much as mentioned during the discussions. At present the Progressive Conservatives are following Mr. Bonar Law with almost ostentatious loyalty, but the one thing of all others upon which he need expect no mercy anywhere in the present House of Commons is *maladresse* in Foreign Affairs. Blunders in home policy can be remedied and forgiven; for instance, the Housing situation can easily be retrieved. But errors in foreign policy are almost always irrevocable, and inaction beyond a certain point ceases to be prudent and becomes pusillanimous.

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Council of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, which has just held its annual meetings in London, is still a vigorous gathering, though it is very different from the crowded councils of pre-war days, when fares were lower, domestic servants available, when there was still a leisured class, and when the glaring injustice of an unfranchised sex with the thrills of periodic heresy hunts drew crowds to London. Nevertheless, the interest still remains, and the Annual Council has a character of its own which distinguishes it from other gatherings of organized women. In the first place it is always held in London and during the Parliamentary session, and its not least attractive feature is that close relation between deliberations and Parliamentary work which is so essential to an organization which proudly calls itself political, though it disclaims party bias. A resolution on Pensions for widows with dependent children, for instance, becomes a much more living thing to a Council whose delegates attend in considerable numbers to hear the subject debated in the House of Commons after lobbying their Members on its behalf. The mysterious procedure of Parliament seems much more intelligible to delegates who have heard the winner of a high place in the Private Members' Ballot explain to them his reasons for his selection of their new Bill and his hopes of success, and when they have even attended the first meeting of the Standing Committee on the Bill.

Another feature of interest about the Council is the remarkable way in which it reflects the cross-current of opinion in the House and in the country. Members of the Council who are in opposite camps on economic questions, such as the reform of the wages system by the introduction of family allowances or restrictions

The stupendous volume entitled "Lausanne Conference on Near Eastern Affairs," issued late last week, will certainly operate as a powerful stimulant to Mr. Aubrey Herbert, Mr. Noel Buxton, and Mr. Morel, who between them, it may be safely prophesied, will make an early opportunity for discussing the whole question. Furthermore, it will be most surprising if the negotiations revealed in the book are not found to contain passages concerning Mesopotamia which will bring out Mr. Asquith, Mr. George Lambert, and their followers once more on the warpath for Basra. The League of Nations' specialists will doubtless wish to discuss the Minorities questions. Altogether, it may be conservatively estimated that the volume contains material for half-a-dozen full-dress debates and enough posers for Mr. Ronnie McNeil to cause him to dwindle to a shadow. *Apropos* why should these Blue Books be issued at such fabulous and prohibitive prices? The Book of Reparations—which is about the size of a popular magazine—costs 6s. The Lausanne Conference—which is about the size of a volume of Hansard—costs £1 10s. Half the price in both cases ought to be more than ample.

Lady Astor's Bill was a fine piece of work finely carried through. The noble lady's speech was a model of conciliatory exposition. By no means a large majority of Members were in favour of her measure at the beginning of the day; and she may evenly divide the credit for the magnificent majority by which the second reading was passed between her own skill and moderation in handling the measure and the almost inconceivable stupidity of the opponents of the measure, who would persist in trying to represent it as a Bill to prevent working lads from having a glass of beer after their day's labour. Sir F. Banbury gave a particularly flagrant example of this kind of reasoning, when he said that at Winchester he had beer for dinner and supper. So he did. But at Winchester (and at any other public school) he would have gone into a public-house for his beer on pain of a flogging and probably of expulsion. And Lady Astor's Bill was aimed at providing throughout the community the same safeguards for boys generally as those which already exist at the great public schools.

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

on women's work, find themselves united on Proportional Representation. Those who formerly held that women would vote in a solid party should visit the Council meeting. There were sharp disagreements, inevitable when women of all shades of opinion meet, which made the discussions much more lively and ultimate agreement more of an achievement. It strikes one, who has been an observer rather than a participator at Council meetings for many years, that there is now a greater spirit of tolerance for supposed lack of orthodoxy and rather less dogmatism than in pre-war days. This is probably accounted for by the fact that for the most part women are more closely engaged in practical work—in industry, in the professions, in the League of Nations Union, in politics, in local authorities, or on the bench. The professional feminist has now almost disappeared.

In an unbiased impression of the recent meetings, it is impossible not to admit some weak points which are easier to indicate than to remedy. Like almost all gatherings of the kind, the agenda was far too long, and in spite of admirable chairmanship, many important resolutions had to be scamped towards the close. Members of the Council on the platform, as well as in the body of the hall, showed at times a distressing want of proportion and niggled over points of detail, while resolutions of far-reaching implications were suffered to go through almost without comment. Would it not be possible for delegates to go through their agenda beforehand more carefully, and make up their minds which of the resolutions are of first-class importance, and then resolutely discourage time wasted on merely technical or formal points? There would probably be a good deal of unanimity in their conclusions, and much time wasted over minor matters would be avoided.

Then, again, there are certain disadvantages, as well as advantages, in the meeting of the Council during the Parliamentary session. For the large majority of women, three days' attendance in mid-week is outside the range of possibility. Meetings at week-ends or in the holiday season, would undoubtedly attract much larger numbers of working women and married women, as well as those engaged in professional and public work, but would, of course, lack the direct link with Parliament which is so desirable in a political organization.

More reminiscent of old Suffrage days than any other part of the proceedings was the mass meeting held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday evening to plead for Equal Suffrage. Many of the old warriors of pre-war days were there, and though the audience greeted with thundering applause Miss Bondfield's magnificent speech, and heartily enjoyed Lady Astor's sallies, perhaps what tickled their fancy most was a speech which had the piquancy of novelty from an extremely young member of

the "under thirties," for whose cause the meeting was held to plead. It reminded one of the chasm dug by the war to hear a fresh-complexioned girl declare that it was an eye-opener to her to find that "elderly women such as those on the platform were interested in such matters as obtaining the vote for their younger sisters and improving their economic lot!" One observer emerging with tired body and slightly bewildered brain from these strenuous days spent with women in council found herself murmuring once again Mrs. Browning's lines:—

The world is old,
But the new world awaits the time to be renewed,
Toward which new hearts in individual growth
Must quicken and increase to multitude,
For new dynasties of the race of men
Developed whence shall grow spontaneously
New churches, new economies, new laws admitting freedom,
New societies excluding falsehood. He shall make all things new.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

FOR BIRTH CONTROL.

By Mrs. DRYSDALE.

Conception control, popularly known as "Birth Control," is a necessary condition of modern civilization, for the latter, represented by the Government, undertakes the protection of each citizen's life from birth onwards; but the State for its own safety, and indeed existence, must see that this task is not beyond its powers. In savagery, no guarantee for the safety of life obtains; those who cannot maintain their own life must lose it, and in most savage conditions an overplus of infant life is guarded against either by prevention of some sort, or by actual destruction. In England, for instance, anyone who thinks about social questions must be appalled at the present time when contemplating the conditions of a large proportion of the wage-earning classes, their physique, their abilities, their home conditions—in fine, the entire existence and outlook of a number so large that ordinary channels of employment do not suffice its needs even of daily bread, and the rest of the nation is heavily taxed for the support of an apparently unwanted number of citizens.

It is a well-known fact that all European countries save France are overcrowded, and the struggle for a bare subsistence becomes ever keener. Had it not been for a rapidly falling birth-rate in Western Europe at least, during the last thirty years, it is probable that acute distress and even war would have happened earlier than it did: hunger is always a root cause of war, and always will be.

But a most important point for civilized society to consider is: What effect has birth control, as practised, had on the quality of the people? The answer is that it has been eugenic for the individual families where practised, but dysgenic for the nation as a whole, because the more prudent citizens left the increase of the nation to be drawn almost entirely from the wage-earning, as well as from the less fit types of society. Though the latter have been able to be supported—apart from their own exertion—through the prudence of the former; yet when one realizes that year by year we are allowing children to be brought into the world in huge numbers by parents who are often physically or mentally unable to produce healthy offspring, and who have not the slightest likelihood of being able to support these children, and send them forth equipped as self-supporting citizens, surely the time has arrived when we must, for the sake of the individual and the State, consider, carefully, how, when, where, and to what extent the birth-rate of the future shall be distributed.

The "moral" argument which takes more thought of the marriage question than of mere reproduction, has sound sense behind it, for if children are produced recklessly, by young, irresponsible and improvident people, they are bound to be badly reared and become later a drag on the State. But if hygienic birth control knowledge were properly taught to our young parents-to-be, and early marriage encouraged, the fear of a too-fruitful marriage would not deter such young people from permanent instead of promiscuous unions.

But the strong personal and family argument in favour of birth control lies in the evidence everywhere of poverty-stricken homes, worn-out and desperate mothers, sickly, ill-fed, badly

AGAINST BIRTH CONTROL.

By Dr. MARY SCHARLIEB.

Artificial control of conception is among the very serious questions of the present day. Persons who take a real interest in the welfare of the country, and who are sincerely anxious to help and not to hinder the physical and moral welfare of our people, hold diametrically opposite views. The economic difficulties are great and make the acceptance of a natural family a serious consideration for the majority of young couples. It has therefore been suggested that relief can be obtained and that matrimonial difficulties may be solved by arranging in such a manner that the comforts of married life may be enjoyed without incurring its burdens. On the other hand there are many who hold that any interference with the natural course of things is wrong, and that any breach of the laws of Nature is bound to react injuriously on those who break them.

So far as our observation and experience go we are satisfied that any artificial control of conception is likely to react injuriously on health and happiness. This evil is chiefly shown by a decadence in nervous health and vigour, and it must be remembered that not infrequently the couples who refuse to accept children during the early years of married life are unlikely to have children when they desire to do so. It is difficult to explain why this should be the case. Some forms of artificial prevention do not appear to be likely to inflict any mechanical or other obvious injury, but apparently the nervous mechanism becomes deranged and recovers with difficulty or not at all. Some methods of conception control are distinctly injurious, and are likely to result in a certain degree of sepsis which necessarily causes deterioration of health.

One of the moral dangers which threatens to follow artificial control of the family is that of increasing an already too vigorous sexual instinct. A couple which has elected to enjoy the privileges of matrimony, while refusing to bear its burdens, is likely to find that want of self-control ends in satiety. The burden of this falls chiefly on the wife, who, in seeking freedom from obligation may become the slave of desire.

Artificial limitation of a family is an injury not only to the husband and wife who practise it, but also to the existing child or children. The children of a small family do not receive the mutual discipline which is inevitable when a larger family of children grow up together.

Nor is the injury confined to the individuals or the family. It affects the whole nation. Whereas in most parts of England and Wales the population is adequate to the natural resources of the land, this is not true of our Empire at large. The population of Canada, Australia, and some other parts of our estate reckon but one inhabitant to approximately a square mile of area. Politically and economically, the failure adequately to occupy such dominions as Canada and Australia is extremely dangerous. We are excellent friends at the present time with their neighbours, but at any time the temptation to take from us what we do not appear to value aright may become irresistible. The Dominions are keen enough in their desire to restrict their population to the white races, and certainly would much prefer the backbone of their citizens to be British, but they cannot possibly achieve this ideal unless provision is made for wise migration within the Empire, and especially for a careful migration of young women of health and strength who, by nature and training,

trained children, struggling wage-earners with the allurements of the public-house as a set-off to their comfortless homes, and finally, the overcrowded labour market. Surely no nation has a right to feel proud of its citizens or of its own Government when so large a proportion of its people never rise beyond these horrible conditions. The man is a wage-slave, the woman a maternity-slave, and their children, unless given better opportunities of rising above it, will go along the same evil way.

In such homes, the beauty and glory of life never rises: the beauty, the colour of life, the love of existence itself can have no meaning; in them the wide horizon never shows itself, and the possibilities open to those of deeper purse, better education, and greater ambitions do not exist.

Whatever else of social schemes lie ahead, we must carry the blessed message, and insist on the civilized condition of practical birth control among those from whom the knowledge has been hidden. Poverty is an evil and a disgrace, and a magnificent race can never be reared from conditions in which the necessities and simple comforts, the decencies and obligations of life, are absent.

THE LAW AT WORK: PRISONERS ON REMAND.

It is an old scandal that so many persons have to remain long periods in prison while they are still unconvicted and awaiting trial. Last year about half of those thus committed (i.e. 9,094) did not return to prison after their trial, and the period of waiting in prison was in some cases as much as four or five months. It is generally admitted that bail should be much more freely given; not more than one remanded person in five is granted bail, and of those who are granted it only one in 1,000 absconds.

There are several circumstances which makes this condition of things even worse than it appears. Sometimes a person is charged with an offence and committed for trial on quite insufficient evidence. The Recorder at the Old Bailey expressed himself recently on this point in no uncertain terms: "The police," he said, "without exercising the slightest discretion, take a man up and put him in prison, and he is there, without bail, on evidence on which you would not hang a guinea-pig." A person so treated has no redress whatever before the law. Or, again, Mr. Arnold Bennett commented recently in a weekly journal on the wretched spectacle of a number of men, chained together and stared at, at a railway station on their way to be tried at Assizes. And, further, the treatment in prison of those on remand is penal in character, and in most respects similar to that of the convicted. The separate confinement and repressive routine are the same, and most of the privileges allowed to the unconvicted have to be purchased and thus are not within reach of the poor. For some unknown reason smoking is forbidden, and they have not the same opportunities for preparing their defence as are available for the man or woman who is allowed to remain outside on bail.

It was on account of these grievances (intensified by the tragic suicide of a boy of 15 on remand in prison) that a Committee was appointed, in 1921, with Mr. Justice Horridge as Chairman, to

report on the detention and custody of prisoners committed for trial and to advise how such detention could be shortened. The Committee recommended that magistrates should have power to commit a prisoner to be tried at Assizes or Quarter Sessions at some other place than that to which he would be ordinarily committed if thereby his time in prison awaiting trial would be shortened. A further recommendation was that a larger number of offences should be included among those in which magistrates can commit either to Assizes or Quarter Sessions, so that they may be able to choose the one that comes the sooner. The Report also contains a strong expression of opinion that bail should always be granted except in cases of the most serious character, or where there is cogent reason to believe that the prisoner will escape.

Though this Report appeared in November, 1921, it is only now that we have a prospect of legislation. The Lord Chancellor has recently introduced a Criminal Justice Bill which has as one of its objects the shortening of the time that prisoners await trial in gaol. Besides adopting the recommendations outlined above as to Assizes and Quarter Sessions, the Bill also enables magistrates to deal summarily with certain offences which are now triable only in a higher court. These proposals are all made with the best intentions, but it will rest largely with magistrates to make them effective. It will be their duty to consider in every case what arrangements they can make to ensure that a prisoner is brought to trial as quickly as possible.

In spite of all that can be done, there will still be persons who have to await trial in custody, and for these, and especially for the young persons under 21 amongst them, Remand Houses are urgently needed. If these were available everywhere, and magistrates had power to commit offenders to them instead of to gaol, much injustice would be avoided, and many innocent persons would be saved from the contamination of prison life.

THE SCHOOL AND THE CHILD.

At the meeting held last week at the Church House in support of the work among children of the Southwark Association for Preventive and Rescue Work, Mr. Clarke Hall said that in his opinion it was the friendless child who became the delinquent child, and that 60 per cent. of the serious crimes committed were the acts of people who had already been in prison. He cited a case in America where one child, having been allowed to grow up as a criminal, had cost the State £50,000.

Dr. Norris, of the Home Office, stressed the difficulty of dealing with the problem of delinquency in children entirely through official sources, and welcomed the co-operation of the volunteer, who, he pointed out, worked patiently with often very small data to go upon, and achieved results where an official would have been bound to admit defeat.

The Juvenile Unemployment Centres have been opened for less than one month, but the time has been sufficient to confirm all convictions that the work of the day school teacher is far from complete at the age of 14 years. That the seeds of self-discipline, obedience, attention, and courtesy have all been planted, there is no doubt whatsoever; equally true that they have germinated; but tragically manifest is it that the young plant is drooping or is already attacked by blight in an environment where the "heights" are the billiard rooms and doubtful concert and dancing halls, and the atmosphere one of smoke and filthy talk or abuse.

The teachers at these centres find themselves faced with some very serious questions, the answers to which do not rest either in the schools nor in the circles which directly control the schools.

One example must suffice to explain the dilemma:—Nearly every group of unemployed boys contains one who is experiencing a streak of luck which he himself is convinced is smartness, and his listeners are easily persuaded is cleverness. He has "spotted" a few "winners" and can produce shillings which prove his exceptional superiority—it may be that he has had a series of lucky hands at cards—it does not

matter what it is, the result is the same, viz. he demonstrates that money can be obtained easily and readily *without working for it*. His example can be followed by any one and the necessary capital and original outlay is well within the scope of the weekly "benefit."

Whatever views may be held on the advisability or not of establishing educational centres at which juveniles may attend for a period of a week and then leave, it must be admitted that, even for a week, it is better to have the juveniles under some form of organized control which is working for their ultimate good than under an alternative set of conditions which leaves them to the streets and doubtful corners of the parks.

BATHS FOR CHILDREN.

To the city of Bradford belongs the honour of having fully realized the importance of Public Baths in our city life. Here, not only are Swimming and Private Baths provided in each district, but in the poorest areas the cottage bath-house brings, almost to the door of every home, the opportunity of a hot bath at the cost of 1d. or 2d. Only those who visit in the poorest homes can realize what this means in health and comfort. The Cottage Bath House is adapted from a stable, barn, or small house. The interior dividing walls are removed and wooden partitions some 8 feet high separate the baths. The whole arrangement is simple and inexpensive, while entirely effective.

If one such Bath House could be erected voluntarily in London its value would be at once recognized, and such baths would become part of the general system in all Boroughs.

Meanwhile, a step has been taken in some Boroughs by the admission of school children to the private baths in the slack hours at the cost of 1d. St. Pancras is the latest Borough to make this concession. The benefit to the children is most noticeable. It is even found that they smile more and are happier, with the sense of well being that is so unusual in their lives. Care Committee Workers should not rest until they have won this concession in their own Boroughs.

HOUSEHOLD ADMINISTRATION.

We are all agreed on the multitudinous variety of points of view, therefore be it understood that the statement of any particular aspect of a question does not necessarily exclude sympathy and understanding—perhaps even agreement!—with an altogether different outlook. To be really broad-minded we must be able to include "narrowness" in our vision.

INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE.

One great need is the collection of actual experiences and conclusions, therefore I am most grateful to the Warden of a Hall of Residence for Women Students, who sends me the following opinions on educated women as domestic servants. They are based on actual experience, and were given in answer to my request for information that might be published:—

"About my staff: I don't think there is anything very special to tell you. I quite agree that "lady servants" is the wrong term, and have given up advertising for ladies, the result being so unlike one's idea of ladies, and now I ask for "educated women." To my mind the only drawback is that the people who apply are so often women who have failed at other things owing generally to nerves or lack of vitality. I have tried two or three of this type and find that they do very well for about a year, and then they get tired of it or don't like "so-and-so."

"I regard them as I should a school staff: they have holidays as long as the average school holidays, they have three or four afternoons off every week, a sitting-room of their own, and separate bedrooms. The work is, of course, monotonous in some ways, but I think that most of them prefer that it should be so. I may say, by the way, that a certain number of people apply whose mental powers are very feeble. I have had two maids for whom it was obviously the right work and who were in general very pleasant to deal with, but who had not sufficient self-control for it to be possible to keep them because it was not I, but the rest of the staff, who suffered. I suppose there will always be these and also the elderly inefficient to deal with."

"Certainly those who are most successful are those who have had some training—it does not matter for what—and have learnt to live peaceably with people of different temperaments."

"No, mine don't wear uniforms. They wear a variety of overalls. Their relations with the students have always been excellent; this was the point about which I felt doubtful in the beginning, and quite unnecessarily. I am fortunate in having a highly trained cook-house-keeper who really manages the staff for me, and I think that they probably realize that she and I, in our different ways, work quite as hard as they do, and this helps. I have never had any complaints about conditions or methods, or indeed of anything except incompatibility, with another member of the staff, and this particular trouble is, I think, more likely to arise with this type of staff than with ordinary maids, and to be felt more keenly."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

An account of the Council appears elsewhere, and a summary of the resolutions will be circulated to Societies as soon as possible. The President's address appeared in last week's issue. The officers of the Union remain the same, but some changes have taken place on the Executive Committee. Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher and Miss O'Malley have served on the Committee for many years, and their retirement owing to pressure of other work is greatly regretted. Mrs. Fisher is well known to our Societies, and has given valuable help in the Union as President of the Yorkshire Council and as a willing and able speaker. Miss O'Malley was formerly editor of the WOMAN'S LEADER during one of the most critical periods of its chronically critical career. Two retiring members from a distance deserve the special gratitude of the Council for their services on the Executive. Mr. J. R. Cross, Leeds, until prevented from attending committees, gave much time and interest to the work of the Union, and Mrs. Paisley, of Glasgow, not only attended committees with great regularity, but gave the Committee valuable advice and help with regard to Scotland. Mrs. Abbott has for many years been connected with the National Union, and has given great help in connection with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Major Hills, who retired on becoming a Member of the Government, was one of our best friends in the House of Commons. His recent defeat was greatly regretted, and a telegram of sympathy was sent to him by the Council. Miss Reynard, who did much to restore our Society at Harrogate, unfortunately found herself unable to attend Committees. (See list of new Executive Committee below.)

During the year death has removed two Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Haslam, of Ireland, the veteran Suffragist, and Colonel Denny, for many years a good friend in the House and Chairman of the Glasgow Society. A new Vice-President has been added to the list, Mrs. Hanna, Chairman of the Petersfield Society, who has during a long life given devoted service to the causes for which we stand.

"I feel there should be a good future for educated women as domestic workers, but they must be either trained or ready to learn, they must take a pride in their work and they must be able to feel that they are as much members of the household as the mistress is. "I am afraid there is not much in this to interest you: it seems such a matter of course to me that I am surprised when other people express surprise at my arrangements. I quite see that in a private household a whole new set of difficulties would arise, and those of my friends who have tried having gentlewomen have found it fail because of their inefficiency. If you can raise the status of the profession, the inefficient will drop out. At present there do seem to be a good many of them. But the more I think of the maid the more I realize the mistress matters most. I could write a dissertation on her!"

REMEDYING INEFFICIENCY.

The Warden to whom we are indebted for the above may console herself by the reflection that students who have benefited by her domestic arrangements will make better mistresses later on, whether they marry or not.

As for remedying inefficiency and raising the status of domestic work, this may be done by training, and a successful pioneer in this direction is Miss Kempson, Registrar of Women Students at the Chelsea Polytechnic. At her instigation, and under her able direction, a very good year's course of training in domestic work and science can be had, suitable to a girl just leaving school at 17 or 18; it may be taken, with advantage, as a stepping-stone to the University. It is quite easy for those not living in the neighbourhood to obtain board and lodging under suitable conditions, and the instruction is reasonable.

There is also a special three months' course of intensive training suitable for older students who have not so much time to spare.

STUFFED PRUNES WITH LETTUCE.

The following is taken from *The Kitchen Garden and the Cook*, by Cecilia M. Pearse (John Murray, price 3s. 6d.): "Soak overnight in cold water. Steam until tender. Slit down one side, and remove the stone from each; grate cheese; add a little finely chopped red pepper or a dash of paprika, and enough mayonnaise dressing to mix the cheese to a soft consistency. Fill the open space in the centre of each prune with the cheese mixture. Serve with toasted crackers and lettuce salad, over which French salad dressing has been poured."

ANN POPE.

[The Editor does not hold herself responsible for the views expressed in this column—comment on them will be welcome.—Ed.]

THE EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION.

It is impossible to give an adequate report of this meeting in a few lines. The remarkable list of Societies and organizations represented on this occasion was printed and circulated at the meeting. It contained practically every type of women's organization, including among the unfranchised women both the industrial worker and the University student. The speakers were Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Chairman, Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Helen Fraser,

Mrs. Stocks, and Miss Daisy Richardson, representing the younger women. Short impromptu speeches were also given by Mr. Hodge, M.P., Sir Robert Newman, M.P., and Sir Willoughby Dickinson. An inspiring message was read from Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., who owing to a family bereavement was unable to be present. Not the least successful feature of this great meeting was its national, as well as its representative character. Societies affiliated to the National Union were represented from all parts of the United Kingdom, and it was good to see the familiar banners of pre-war days, adapted to modern use, side by side with the banners of sister organizations of women.

Note.—The report on the Conference on Women Candidates for Parliament has been held over until next week.

LUNCHEON AT THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT.

The number of guests at the luncheon was close on 250, and a very enjoyable time was spent. Several distinguished guests were unfortunately unable to be with us—Mrs. Fawcett on account of her bereavement. The fact that the Intoxicating Liquors (Sale to Persons under 18) Bill was introduced on the same day deprived us not only of Lady Astor's stimulating presence, but Mrs. Wintringham and Mr. Philip Snowden and of other Members of Parliament. Lord Robert Cecil, Sir John Simon (who was good enough to be with us for a quarter of an hour before he returned to the House to support Lady Astor), Mrs. Philip Snowden, who took her husband's place, Captain Wedgwood Benn, and Major Entwistle spoke in reply to the toast proposed by Miss Rathbone, who pointed out the eminent services rendered by our guests to our Common Cause, both in the past and at the present time.

P.S.—It is gratifying to be able to add that all our Parliamentary guests were able to return to the House in time to vote in support of the Bill.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.			
Mrs. Stocks	135	Miss Verrall	100
Mrs. Corbett Ashby	134	Mrs. Walter Layton	87
Mrs. Bethune Baker	126	Mrs. Robie Uniacke	81
Mrs. Wintringham	106	Miss Conway	77
Miss Courtney	125	Miss McLeod	67
Miss Macmillan	124	Lady Lloyd Greame	60
Mrs. Strachey	121	Mrs. Arthur Browne	57
Miss Beaumont	115	Mrs. Wrightson	44
Miss Pictou-Turbervill	114		
Miss Ward	110	Miss Pratt	39
Miss Merrifield	110	Mrs. Harrison	38
Mrs. Deakin	100	Mrs. Matthews	28
Miss Fraser	100		

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

Dr. MARION PHILLIPS AND THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MOVEMENT.

MADAM,—The references to the Women's Institute Movement which Dr. Marion Phillips makes in her letter to you of 9th March, as well as those reported to have been made by her at Abertillery on the same subject, lead me to doubt whether she has any first-hand experience or knowledge of a Women's Institute either in England or Wales. She enunciates the principle that Labour Women should do their Political work in their own Organizations rather than join general Political Organizations of a Non-Party character. No doubt Labour Women are doing Political work in their own Organizations where these exist, but in how many of the 2,600 villages, which have Institutes, are there any Organizations of the kind which Dr. Marion Phillips advocates?

Even where such Party Political Organizations exist, women may still find a need for social life and recreation combined with educational opportunities. No Party Political Organizations yet invented can supply these to the same extent as does a Women's Institute carried on according to the ideals and principles upon which the Movement is based.

If Dr. Marion Phillips means that from the purely Party point of view Labour Women can do more Political work in their own Organizations than elsewhere, she is possibly right, but is that a really sound reason for discouraging Labour Women from becoming members of a Women's Institute? Do Labour Women value opportunities for friendship, for social intercourse, for education, or artistic stimulus, less than the women of other Political Parties? If not, why are they to be debarred from sharing in what is offered by the W.I. Movement to all women, irrespective of creed or Party? Further, the Women's Institute bestows equally upon all its members the responsibility for organizing and building up a happy community life. In this the influence of Labour Women is as essential as that of every other section or body of women, and I cannot believe that Labour Women would willingly forego the satisfaction to be derived from the full exercise of this responsibility.

Nowhere can it be shown that the Women's Institute Movement has discouraged any women from doing Political work of whatever party character may appeal to them, but it recognizes that there is a demand among country women for things which are admittedly outside the scope of all purely Political Party Organizations. The amazing success of the Movement is the proof that it has met this demand.

If Dr. Marion Phillips would carefully study the democratic constitution of the National Federation of Women's Institutes she would realize that the educational work which is done by the W.I. Movement must render women not less, but infinitely more capable than they have ever been before of taking part in every kind of responsible Political work.

HELENA AUERBACH.

THE NUMBERS OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

MADAM,—Could any of your readers say what the reduction in the numbers of women domestic servants is since the census of 1911? I see the census of professions in London has been published, but I have not seen it.

There is obviously an increased demand compared with the supply, but this may come from an increase in the number of mistresses, as well as a decrease in the number of servants.

MAUD SELBORNE.

LUNCH TO MISS TATA.

The luncheon planned in honour of Miss Tata, by the Oriental Circle of the Lyceum Club, was quite a brilliant and delightful affair. Mrs. Giles, chairman of the O.C., was in the chair, and the luncheon was attended by a considerable number of our Indian and Cingalese fellow citizens, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Gayatilaka, Mrs. Faridoonji, Miss Bannerji, Dr. S. K. Kapadia, and Mr. R. R. Desai, besides a sprinkling of ladies and gentlemen from other parts of the Orient. The fact that Miss Tata was the first woman to become a fully qualified member of the English Bar was referred to by speaker after speaker in terms which showed their genuine delight at her distinction. Nearly all the congratulations were addressed to Mrs. Tata, as well as to her daughter, and two or three speakers could not refrain from allusions to the value to a pioneer of a "sympathetic mother." We understand that as soon as Miss Tata has finished a course of chamber practice, she will return to Bombay to start her professional career.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

At their Annual Council Meeting on 23rd February the following very interesting resolution was unanimously carried. It indicates not only the views of the W.I.L., but the unfortunate attitude of the French at the present time: an attitude which is particularly regrettable now that it seems possible that the League may take up the question of Reparations in the near future.

"This Council declares its conviction that until the League of Nations includes at least all European States it can never be trusted as impartial in the adjustment of European disputes and its decisions will lack the moral sanctions upon which alone confidence and co-operation can be built."

"It therefore deprecates the written reply made by M. Poincaré on Friday, 9th February, to the question of M. Buisson as to France's attitude towards the admission of Germany to the League of Nations, when he indicated that France would oppose the admission of Germany until she had given 'effective guarantees' for the fulfilment of the Treaty of Versailles. Since the Reparations clauses of the Treaty of Versailles, as interpreted by the Allies, are impracticable, to deny Germany admission to the League of Nations until she shall have fulfilled them is to deny her admission for ever and to reduce the League of Nations to impotence as an international conciliator."

KENSINGTON SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

This is an ambitious Society. Not personally ambitious, but in the interests of the cause. It desires to see the feminist flag firmly and permanently floated, and is really tireless in its activities. Before one meeting is over another has been planned; or some work equally effective. It is already known as a very live Society, and is now determined to beat its own record and carry the general programme of the N.U.S.E.C. further afield. It is more than ever necessary to keep the political work well to the fore, since the London Society decided to concentrate specially on the equally important economic aspect of the movement. Already a very promising branch has been started in Fulham and the seeds for further branches sown in other adjacent districts. Kensington feels, therefore, that it can appeal with confidence for new members, and wishes to state here that they will receive a very warm welcome. Keen feminists especially will find scope for their energies by joining this Society. Further particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Fyfe, 79 Victoria Road, W. 8.

THE STANSFELD LECTURE.

On 28th February, at the London School of Economics, Professor Graham Wallas delivered a brilliant lecture on "The competition of the sexes for employment." He pointed out that about one-third of the women and girls in this country over 15 years of age were engaged in paid employment, and that this proportion had remained fairly constant for the last forty years, except during the abnormal period of the war. Indeed, the census figures for 1911, and those for 1921 (so far as the detailed statistics, viz. those for Scotland and London, have yet been published) show a slight falling off as compared with 1881. The lecturer suggested that even before the Industrial Revolution probably about the same proportion of women were engaged in paid work. Therefore the problem was no new one quantitatively; but the war had revealed woman's capacity for creating wealth in directions where they had not hitherto been employed—for instance, in the making and using of complex machinery. Since the armistice, however, they have been deprived of the chance of continuing this work, and the Engineers' Trade Unions are at present very opposed to giving them that chance again. The lecturer remarked that this attitude of the engineers was natural, but not far-sighted. Their attitude resembles that of the doctors, who fought long against the admission of women to the medical profession, and who more than any other class are responsible for the refusal of Cambridge to admit them to University privileges, and of the Clergy who hesitate to welcome Miss Maude Royden into their privileges. It is partly due to jealousy and the fear of competition; but in all these cases other objections are sincerely felt and expressed which are supposed to be based on the interests of the community, and especially on the best interests of women themselves. Mr. Graham Wallas examined and refuted all these objections, and observed that imagination was needed to solve this and other economic problems. In the words of Shelley (in his Essay on the Defence of Poetry): "We want the creative faculty to imagine what we know; we want the generous impulse to act that which we imagine; we want the poetry of life."

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

MARCH 16. Maria Grey Training College, Brondesbury. 8 p.m. Speaker: Raymond Unwin, Esq.

MARCH 18. Patney Wesleyan Church, Upper Richmond Road. 3 p.m. Speaker: Youlgrave. Speaker: Lady Haworth.

MARCH 19. Reigate. Sir Arthur Steel Maitland.

MARCH 20. Swindon Town Hall. 8 p.m. Speaker: E. Everitt Read, Esq.

MARCH 22. Streatham Congregational Church Hall. 8 p.m. Mrs. Skelton.

MARCH 22. Dudley Girls' High School. 8 p.m. Speaker: Bishop Hamilton Baynes.

MARCH 22. Gospel Oak Congregational Church Lecture Hall. 8 p.m. Speaker: Rear-Admiral Drury Lowe, C.M.G.

MARCH 23. Keppel Street, W.C. 1. 8 p.m. Speaker: Rear-Admiral Drury Lowe, C.M.G.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

MARCH 17. Caxton Hall, Westminster. 2.30 p.m. Annual Meeting (open to Members only). Speakers: Miss Harley Bacon, Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, Mrs. H. More Nisbett, Miss Christine O'Connor, Miss Whately. Chairman: Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A.

WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

MARCH 20. At Shooters' Hill Women's Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. Subject: "Carlisle and State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

MARCH 21. At Stormont Institute, Lavender Hill. 8 p.m. Lantern Lecture: "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

MARCH 22. At Shepherd's Bush Women's Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. Subject: "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

EXPERT TYPEWRITING and Visiting Secretarial Work; meetings reported verbatim; Stencilling, etc.; Ladies trained as Secretaries, Journalists, and Short Story Writers.—The Holmes Neal & Tucker, 52 Bedford St., Strand, W.C. 2.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.
SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

WHERE TO LIVE.

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN can have a comfortable, pleasant room and breakfast from 30s. weekly; gas stove and ring, separate meter. Tel.: Park 1258. Recommended by Ann Pope.—Address, 64 Pembroke Villas, W. 11.

TO LET AND WANTED.

HERTS.—Small week-end COTTAGE, furnished; 3 beds. Entirely rural; 27 min. from London. £16 for 3 months.—Write, Box 20510, Clark's Advertising Service, 58 Mortimer Street, W. 1.

SITTING-ROOM and BEDROOM as furnished flat. Pleasantest part Hampstead Garden Suburb. No attendance. Suitable for single lady. 25s. weekly.—Keeling, 2 Ruskin Close.

LADY requires immediate accommodation. Bed and breakfast, with evening meal when desired. N.W. district preferred.—Phillips, 16 Regent's Park Terrace, N.W. 1.

TO LET, Bedroom and Sitting-room with service. Near the sea.—Apply to Mrs. Newman, 79 St. Leonards Road, Hove, Sussex.

TWO bright communicating ground floor rooms, unfurnished or partly furnished, to let. Overlooking gardens, electric, gas; good separate conveniences. Rent 25s. weekly.—Write only, Miss Rose, 168 Kensington Park Road, W. 11.

FOR REST AND HOLIDAYS.

LOVELY HEREFORDSHIRE.—Guests received in country house. Vacancies for Easter.—Taylor Smith, Marsh Court, Leominster.

SLLEEPING CHÂLET, adjoining bungalow. Available for one lady (or two). Moderate terms for week-ends or longer. Meals served privately. Charming surroundings; one hour from Charing Cross; near station.—Miss Poole, The Orchard, South Godstone, Surrey.

HOUSING, GARDENING, Etc.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LADIES in Gardening (all branches), Dairy and Poultry Management. Expert Teachers. Lovely old manor house and grounds. Home life. Hockey.—Apply, Principals, Lee House, Marwood, Barnstaple, N. DEVON.

N.U.S.E.C.

MARCH 10. Edinburgh W.C.A. 8 p.m. U.F. Assembly Hall Mound. Speaker: Professor Gilbert Murray, LL.D., D.Lit. "The Work of the League." Chairman: Sir John Cowan, LL.D., D.L. Admission free. Few tickets at 2s. 6d.

MARCH 20. Abertillery W.C.A. 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Fraser.

MARCH 21. Kensington S.E.C. 3.30 p.m. 9 Moreton Gardens, Old Brompton Road, S.W. 5 (by kind invitation of Mrs. West). Drawing-Room Meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam. "The New Parliament and Women's Questions." Chairman: Miss Lane-Clayton, J.P., M.D., D.Sc.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

MARCH 10. (Entrance: Berwick Street, Victoria.) 3 p.m. Debate on "That Total Prohibition is the Best Method of Temperance Reform." Opener: Mr. Victor Brashier, Hon. Sec. National Prohibition Party. Opposer: Miss Beatrice Picton-Turbervill. Chair: Miss Helen Ward. Admission 6d. and 1s. Tea 2d.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

MARCH 21. 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1. 8.15 p.m. Debate: "The Dominant Sex." Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chairman: Dr. Josiah Oldfield.

WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

MARCH 21. 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1. 6.15 p.m. Scientific Studies of Manual Work (motion study vocational training). Lecturer: R. S. Hutton, Esq., D.Sc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

HELP OTHERS TO HELP THEMSELVES HONESTLY.—Central Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society: D.P.A.S.'s at all H.M. Prisons, assisting over 20,000 annually, irrespective of sex, creed, age, nationality. Wives and children aided.—W. W. Jemmett, F.I.S.A., Secretary, Victory House, Leicester Square, W.C. 2.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.—Secretary, Miss P. Strachey, Information Department for advice about Women's Work and Training, by letter or interview.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 13th March, 12 noon, Little Rally, for children of all ages. 3.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Deamer. 6.30, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

FORM HAPPY FRIENDSHIPS.—Particulars, write Secretary, U.C.C., 16 L. Cambridge Street, London, S.W. 1.

ANN POPE will be pleased to give advice on household matters, cookery, etc., by post. Letters (two questions answered), 1s.; copies of recipes from 2d. each according to length. Lectures or interviews by arrangement. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope in every case.—Ann Pope, 6 Edith Terrace, Edith Grove, Chelsea, S.W. 10.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Dainty Luncheons and Teas in the Cafeteria. The Wednesday discussions are discontinued until after Easter, but Suppers are served on Wednesdays and Thursdays as usual.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

PUBLIC SPEAKING TAUGHT BY POST.—The Postal Course of 12 Progressive Lessons, prepared by Miss Marion McCarthy (sister of the talented actress, Miss Lillah McCarthy), will teach you how to speak clearly and convincingly.—Write for particulars, 16 Hallam Street, Portland Place, London, W. 1.

SITUATIONS VACANT & WANTED.

WOMAN SPEAKER and ORGANISER required for temporary post (9 to 10 months) under the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women, 3/4 Clements Inn, London, W.C. 2. Candidate must be experienced, and should preferably have knowledge of overseas conditions. Salary at rate of £400 to £500 per annum.

WORKING HOUSEKEEPER.—Mrs. Hamilton recommends nice, elderly, superior woman; very reliable, and suitable for professional or business woman; good cook, and serves food nicely; disengaged 21st March.—Write or call, 32 Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington High Street.

SITUATION wanted for unmarried mother, with little boy aged 2½ years, as mother's help; well educated.—Write, N.C.U.M.C., 117 Piccadilly, W. 1.

LADY requires PARTNER to assist in starting a Residential Club.—Box 975, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford St., W. 1.

GARDEN ECONOMY. Advice by letter, or advising visits. Reasonable terms.—Mrs. Chamberlain, c/o Women's Farm and Garden Association, 23 Park Road, N.W. 1.

THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION. Land Outfit Department now opened.—Write to Secretary, or call, 23 Park Road, Upper Baker Street, N.W. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

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.

FOR SALE.—Full-size black jersey silk jumper, long sleeves, 15s.; primrose hand-knitted thick wool sports jumper, 7s. 6d.; skirts, etc.—Box 977, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

WILTON CARPET for sale, Persian design, fringed, felt lining, 16ft. 6in. x 14ft. 3in.; had three years wear; price £25.—Grose, Borough Lane, Saffron Walden.

IRISH LINEN PILLOW-CASES.—Plain linen pillow-cases, of good reliable quality, size 20 x 30 ins., 2 cases for 7s. 6d. Hemstitched linen pillow-cases, fine quality, size 20 x 30 ins., 2 cases for 17s. 6d. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—Hutton's, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

UNCRUSHABLE DRESS LINEN for Spring and Summer wear, all pure linen dyed perfectly fast colours in White, Ivory, Sky, Pink, Cerise, Old Rose, Brown, Navy, Peacock, Putty, Lemon, Grey, Saxe, Fuchsia, Brick, Cardinal, Purple, Emerald, Orange, Mauve, Black, Nigger, and Mole. 36 inches wide, 3s. 6d. per yard. To-day's value, 5s. 6d. per yard. These lovely dress linens will be very largely worn this year. Patterns Free. For all orders under 20s. add 9d. for postage.—Hutton's, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

DRESS.

COSTUMES, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings wanted. Specially good prices given.—Helene, 361 New King's Road, Fulham, S.W. 6.

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