

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Peace on Earth.

We devote our present issue mainly to the cause of Peace, because in these long December nights which herald the approach of Christmas Eve, literary association, tradition, spiritual consciousness, or whatever it may be, bring us very near to those unearthly voices which at this season of the year proclaimed its possibility nineteen hundred years ago. War is brewing in the backwoods of South America. The Polish and German Foreign Secretaries have thrown angry recriminations upon the League Council table at Lugano. At Washington, the scene is set for a momentous parliamentary battle between the rival claims of the Cruiser Bill and the Kellogg Pact. And Allied troops still maintain their incongruous provocative *Wacht am Rhein*. It would almost seem as though "on earth peace, goodwill toward men" were as far as ever from realization. But as a matter of fact it is within grasping distance. At every point of stress and strain, the ugly forces of anarchy and negation are being met and held. Precariously enough, it must be admitted. Nevertheless, each time they raise their heads, something else raises its head in protest and challenge. Between Paraguay and Bolivia, Germany and Poland, the League Council is cumbrously intervening. In America the organized women and the Churches are reasoning for the "Mental Fight" that may once again save the Pact and damn the cruisers. In our own country a growing movement of sanity and good faith is forming behind the Government's tentative admissions that the military occupation of ex-enemy territory is no longer desirable or necessary. "I am the Spirit of perpetual negation," says the devil of Goethe's *Faust*. He never spoke a truer word. But against his negation there are ranged to-day the forces of constructive faith, embodying in the clumsy, untried machinery of the League, and in the multifarious expressions of peace crusades and international co-operation, the opposing challenge of a perfectible humanity capable of achieving and willing to achieve peace on earth, goodwill toward men. To all who stand for this faith, under whatever national, political, or religious banner, we offer on the eve of Christmas week, greeting and good cheer.

The Government and the Mining Areas.

On Monday of this week the Prime Minister made his promised statement on the Government's proposals with regard to the plight of the mining areas. He announced that he proposed to ask Parliament before the House rose for the Christmas recess on Thursday, for authority to give a Government grant in relief of distress on a fifty per cent basis—that is £1 for every £1 raised from voluntary sources, beginning with a sum of £150,000 to double the amount already subscribed. He further proposed to ask for a grant of £100,000 to help in the removal of families. The relief fund is in future to be utilized not only as at present for boots and clothing, but to supplement existing provision for food for both parents and children. That some such supplementary provision is woefully necessary only those who know the districts fully realize. Two distinct steps in advance have now been taken. First the better organization of relief under a newly-created *ad hoc* Civil Service Department with Mr. Noel Curtis Bennett in charge, and secondly, the promised Treasury grant. Certain matters remain for elucidation in the debate on Thursday. Will the areas relieved include black patches of unemployment in Scotland and other parts of England? Will any attempt be made to circulate some of the money subscribed in the districts concerned, for there must be widespread distress among local tradesmen and shopkeepers? So far as the organization of relief is concerned, a beginning on sound lines has, however, been made though the interconfusion of private agencies, public authorities, and the State is enough to make anyone with even a forgotten smattering of C.O.S. principles wring their hands in despair. But out of chaos some semblance of order may emerge. At all events, we are cheered at the thought that any gift we can send will contribute to what is beginning to be a considered scheme of constructive help, and that every pound that is sent will be doubled. We sincerely hope at this Christmas-tide that purses and cheque books will be thrown wide open.

Roads or Babies?

During the last fortnight those of the women's organizations who wish to work for the retention of the whole of the public health services under a percentage grant, have realized that there is so little chance of this being achieved, that it is the best policy to concentrate on maternity and child welfare. This being so, it is perhaps worth while to answer certain of the objections to the percentage grant which are being put forward by the Government's supporters. One is old plea that the percentage grant fails in the poorer areas, in that they are unable to spend even the 50 per cent required for new services. The answer to this object is, we suggest, found in the Bill itself; that is to say, in the fact that provision is made for the redistribution of £45,000,000 in such a way as to help those authorities whose need is greatest. The removal of the grants for maternity and child welfare from the scheme would leave £1,052,000 less to be distributed—a sum so small in comparison with the total sum that it would not vitally affect the relief given to the poorer areas, which will, as a result of the Bill, be in a position to make better use of the percentage grant than ever before. Secondly, it is suggested that Clause 86, which provides that the Minister may reduce the grant payable to any council "if he is satisfied that the council have failed to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of efficiency in the discharge of their functions relating to public health," can necessarily be applied only where a block grant is given. That this is not the case is proved by the second part of the same clause, where provision is made for a similar reduction if the minister is satisfied that the council have failed to maintain their roads in a satisfactory condition although Mr. Chamberlain himself stated during his speech on the second reading of the Bill, when he sought to calm the fears of those

Local Authorities who feared that neglect of the roads would follow their being handed over to the County Councils, that "Class I and Class II roads in counties are still going to attract from the Road Fund a percentage grant." If, therefore, it is considered desirable to stimulate Local Authorities to greater efforts by the percentage grant where their roads are concerned, with provision for the reduction of their general grant if they fail to respond, it is difficult to understand why a like policy cannot be applied to a service even more vital—that of maternity and child welfare. In excepting the most important roads from the block grant, the Government would seem to have refuted their own arguments against the exclusion also of maternity and child welfare.

The Principle of Co-option.

The guillotine has worked with such unprecedented swiftness on the Local Government Bill, that after only four days fifty-three clauses have passed through committee. As regards clauses 5 and 6, which deal with the personnel of the various committees and sub-committees of the County and County Borough Councils which are to take over the duty of relief, amendments down in the name of Mr. Harris, Mr. G. B. Hurst and others to make co-option compulsory were moved in an able speech but were withdrawn. The Labour party's amendment that co-option should be prohibited was, however, opposed by the Government, chiefly on the grounds that they will be enabled, as Mr. Chamberlain said, "to bring in a certain number of women into the administration of this work, whom I believe otherwise we should fail to get." The famous Clause 68 which will have to be amended if any of the public health services are to be retained on the percentage grant will be coming up immediately after the recess.

Voluntary Treatment of V. D. Threatened.

The British Social Hygiene Council has pointed out that no provision is made in the Local Government Bill as at present drafted for the continuance of any national fund for education and propaganda on venereal diseases. Representations have been made to the Minister of Health, and it is hoped that something may be done before Clause 84 is reached early in the New Year. If not, Sir Walter Greaves-Lord will table an amendment safe-guarding funds for national propaganda. This paper stands firmly for a policy of voluntary treatment, and voluntary treatment must stand or fall by a constant and successful campaign of education and propaganda; any reduction in grants for this purpose would, it is claimed, act adversely on the work of treatment centres which has been steadily improving, and would inevitably speed the coming of compulsory control.

Safety on the Road.

Lord Cecil's Bill dealing with Road Traffic, which last week passed its second reading in the House of Lords, has given much needed publicity to the need for drastic measures for securing greater safety in busy streets or on country roads. In the last ten years no fewer than 40,000 fatal accidents occurred and last year over 5,300 persons were killed. These are terrible figures. A booklet issued by the Safety First Association gives an analysis of the causes of all accidents; the chief blame we find, is placed at the door of the pedestrian cyclist, or with cyclists whose failures account for 83 per cent of the total number. Road defects account for 6 per cent; vehicular defects 7 per cent; weather conditions 4 per cent; the motor driver alone appears to be blameless! The problem cannot wholly be solved by stricter tests, severer penalties or the education of the pedestrian public and the report of the Royal Commission at present sitting to which the Bill has been referred, will be awaited with anxiety. For this state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue.

Women Jurors.

Last year 85,969 persons were called to jury service in England and Wales. Of these 17,345 were women, a proportion of about one in five. Within this total there are some sharp variations of the sex ratio. For instance in the case of grand juries, out of 15,536 jurors, only 1,285 or about one in twelve were women. On special juries the ratio was 8,239 men: 2,204 women, or about one in four and a half. The largest proportion of women

to men was found in the case of common juries. Localities show similar, or rather, more striking variations. In the City of London the proportion of women called was one in sixty-eight. In Lancashire it was roughly one in four and a half. Another fact worth noting is that Clerks of the Peace in boroughs seemed to summon women jurors more readily than Sheriffs.

Miss Radclyffe Hall's Appeal.

The decision of the London Sessions to dismiss Miss Radclyffe Hall's appeal against the destruction of *The Well of Loneliness* causes us some profound qualms. Let us admit that it is a dangerous book, not because it makes a particular vice appear attractive—on the contrary, it paints a desolating picture of its unhappy reactions—but because it may suggest to unsuspecting readers an exaggerated and distorted view of a human relationship which in nine hundred and ninety nine cases out of a thousand lies entirely outside the scope of Miss Hall's thesis. Incalculable mischief and unhappiness lurks in the possibility that by public discussion of the problem of sexual inversion, shadows of suspicion and restraint may fall upon the development of intimate and satisfying friendships into which the element presupposed by Miss Hall has never, will never, and could never enter. It is for this reason that *The Well of Loneliness* is a dangerous book. But it is a serious book, written in good faith, to develop a thesis and express a plea. And the fact that this plea is a universally unpopular one should in our opinion be an irrelevant consideration. If the book is dangerous, even more dangerous is Sir Robert Wallace's definition of "obscenity" as that which is prejudicial to the morals of the community, and likely to corrupt persons whose minds are open to immoral influences. We do not challenge his interpretation of the existing law of obscene libel, we challenge the law itself; since it clearly opens the way for the suppression of serious public discussion of moral problems and the literary championship of unpopular causes. Clearly, in the year of grace 1928, we require a reform of the law of obscene libel such as will limit its application to the publication of pictorial and written matter designed solely for the stimulation of pornographic interest. Otherwise we may at any moment find ourselves under the yoke of what is in effect if not in name, a literary censorship.

The Late Dr. J. W. L. Glaisher and Women's Suffrage.

Writing in *The Times* last week, Mr. H. Rackham, of Christ's College, Cambridge, pays a tribute to the memory of Dr. J. W. L. Glaisher, the eminent mathematician, who died on 7th December, as an advocate of women's suffrage at a time when it was most unpopular. He recalls one occasion when Dr. Glaisher took the chair at a meeting in the Guildhall, Cambridge, addressed by Mrs. Pankhurst, when with her he faced for an hour and a half an audience, including many hundreds of undergraduates, who never stopped shouting the whole of the time. "Advocates of women's suffrage must," writes Mr. Rackham, "always honour his memory." We are glad to be reminded of this incident; in this year of victory we cannot forget those who were with us when our cause was reviled by the majority. The name of Dr. Glaisher must be added to the roll of great men who gave our movement their support and sympathy.

Mussolini and Married Women's Work.

Help sometimes comes from unexpected sources. It is reported in the Press that recently thirty girls were discharged from a telephone company in Milan because they had married contrary to regulations. When the matter came before the notice of Signor Mussolini, he urged the company to reconsider its decision. The company thereupon not only withdrew the notices of dismissal but decided to modify the rules of the company so as to permit women employees to marry.

Ourselves.

We regretfully remind our readers that after 1st January the price of this paper becomes 2d., and the yearly subscription becomes 8s. 8d. bought from a newsagent, or 10s. 10d. post free. Subscribers on the old terms do not, of course, pay more until their subscriptions expire, so that it will be some time before we ourselves reap the full benefit of the change. We may add that the response to our appeal has been most gratifying, and that the future of the paper for three years at least, has been secured. A fuller statement will be made early in the New Year.

PATRIOTISM AND PEACE.

It was reported in the newspapers that when a proposal to build seventy-one new cruisers was submitted to the Congress of the United States under the inspiration of the Big Navy party it had to be withdrawn owing to the storm of opposition which it excited in the country. We were also told that the chief promoters of the opposition were the organized women. They felt that the suggested naval programme went far beyond the necessities of the case and in the guise of providing for the defence of America was really a challenge if not a provocation to other countries.

Unquestionably all lovers of peace are under a deep debt of gratitude to the American women. They have shown us that the sincerest patriotism is not inconsistent with a hatred for war. And indeed why should it be? The essence of patriotism is a readiness to sacrifice oneself for one's country. It does not mean only willingness to fight for her or even to encourage one's male relations to do so. It includes much more than that. To a patriot his country must come first, before his life, his interests, his tradition, before everything except religion and morality. But to many patriotism is merely an excuse for indulging human pugnacity, or national prejudice or even party feeling. When Dr. Johnson said that patriotism was the last refuge of a scoundrel he meant, of course, that when partisanship or, as he would have regarded it, sedition had no other excuse available it called itself patriotism. Certainly he did not mean to decry true patriotism for there never lived a more genuine lover of his country than Samuel Johnson. But to love your country to any purpose you must be ready to serve her interests. Bragging about her power or her history will do her little good. Girding at foreigners will usually do her harm.

The Prime Minister was well advised in his great speech at the Albert Hall when he warned us against suspicion and hatred. They are the great international dangers of the day. For what this country and indeed every civilized country chiefly needs is peace. Consider our history. Why is it that we have been able to lead the world in political development, in the administration of justice, in Colonial enterprise, in commerce and industry, in literature and science? Is it not largely because till lately our geographical position has saved us from hostile invasion, and has enabled us to concentrate the greater part of our energies rather on peaceful progress than on self-defence against aggression. True we have often been engaged in war. But it has played a curiously small part in our national life. Even though we were fighting abroad our home life used to go on almost undisturbed. Readers of Miss Austen must have been struck with the little

THE DUTIES THAT CHRISTMAS BRINGS.

By E. DOROTHEA LAYTON.

As the festival of Peace and Goodwill approaches once more we may well ask ourselves what it means. It is at a time of jollity and rejoicing, when families and friends gather together, that appeals to charity get most response. There will be few homes that will not think with sorrow of the homes of thousands of miners this season, and will send something to alleviate their distress. But our goodwill should not—like so many New Year resolutions—be short lived. Rather we should be prepared, as voters, to insist that schemes are set on foot to give work to the unemployed, and that the breakdown of our economic organization which has caused such untold misery and degradation shall be repaired. We must not only alleviate the distress, but remove the evil. For Christmas is the birthday of One who never forgot the sufferings and injustices of others, particularly of the weak and oppressed.

Peace—the word has passed so lightly on our lips for so many years. But to maintain it carries with it a great responsibility for each one of us. *Goodwill* also implies understanding—and this often requires an effort, many efforts to attain. Women, most of whom in some period of their lives have been closely in touch

effect that the Napoleonic hurricane produced on the existence of an ordinary English family. Their plays and their balls, their hunting and shooting, their business and pleasure went on as before. In short, our sea defences kept us out of many wars and allowed us when we did fight to do so under a kind of limited liability.

If the relative tranquillity secured to us by the Channel was one great factor in the achievement of our national position, it is abundantly clear that peace is essential to its maintenance. It is not only that we have become more and more dependent on external commerce, that without imported food we could not feed ourselves for a fortnight, and that the greater part of our manufactures are dependent on foreign raw material. Nor am I thinking entirely of the necessarily precarious nature of that great system of financial credit which may be called the life-blood of the City of London. I am even more impressed with the fact that a disaster to this island must mean the disruption and probably the ruin of the Empire. The whole of that enormous structure with its vast population and immense complications is built on the foundation of English prosperity. If that disappears the whole edifice must crumble. Will it stand another war? We are still feeling the heavy blows by which even the late "victorious" war shook it to its centre. Is anyone bold enough to prophesy what would be the result of a repetition of that experience?

Remember we can have no limited liability now. The Channel might hamper our enemies. It cannot now protect us from them. Air warfare is in its infancy. But it has grown far enough for us to realize that next time, if there be a next time, London and our other great cities will be at the mercy of our foes.

In the race of these dangers we have but one way of safety and that is peace. Peace has long been the greatest of our interest—as indeed it is of all civilized peoples; it has become the condition of our Imperial existence. That is why every patriot should be a supporter of the League of Nations even if he recognizes no duty higher than patriotism. Modern invention has deprived us of our ancient security. We can no longer sit in safety behind the "silver streak" and thank God we are not as other nations are. If we want peace we must strive for it; we must take our share of international responsibilities. Fortunately a new era has opened, and by energetic co-operation in the League we may hope to avoid the dangers of war. Though we have lost the protection of the sea we may find again in Geneva the security which the Channel used to give us.

CECIL.

with children, the old and the sick, should have it more readily perhaps. Their very existence and influence—dependent always on moral, not physical force—should make them more readily stress the moral force of justice and right, and given them courage to urge a more general reliance on it in our relations with other nations. We, who have come so recently into full citizenship, perhaps in part because people and nations are beginning to see the moral forces in their right perspective, have a special contribution to make.

BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

Across the ocean is a sister nation where women are free, active citizens, no longer prevented from taking their full share in public life. The women in the United States of America have a problem of organization that is difficult for us in our little island to grasp; but they have tackled it successfully, and made themselves strongly felt on the side of Peace. It is not too much to say that their vigorous propaganda checked the threatened extensive Naval Programme, and led to the recent Kellogg Pact of Paris. May they be successful in getting its ratification by the Senate before Christmas.

At their instigation, the British-American Women's Peace Crusade is working on similar lines here to bring about an Anglo-American understanding and to prevent another race in naval armaments similar to that before 1914—with America instead of Germany as our competitor. There is only one real difficulty between us—the use of the weapon of blockade in time of war.

THE BLOCKADE PROBLEM.

If Great Britain is at war with any country and suspects that a cargo of American or any other goods is going direct or via a neutral country to the enemy, her warships will stop that ship, take it into a British port, and bring it before a British Prize Court on which no other nation is represented. If the decision taken is that the cargo is ultimately intended for Britain's enemy, it may be condemned and seized. This seems to an increasingly industrialized country like America, with a growing merchant service, an unpardonable interference with the rights of an independent nation.

On the other hand, the British case is equally strong. In most cases by surrendering the right of blockade we are surrendering our main weapon of self-defence. Germany could never have been defeated without the blockade, and the Americans, though bitterly expressing resentment at its use when they were neutral, were the first to appreciate the fact and to use this weapon when they were on our side. To-day both countries have renounced the right to go to war for national purposes under the Kellogg Pact, and with it we have logically renounced the right of blockade in any war for our own purposes. America also has gone some way towards meeting the difficulties under which we might labour if called upon by the League to enforce a blockade for international purposes—by recognizing that our obligations under the Covenant are not incompatible with the Kellogg renunciation of war.

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

Surely from this situation an understanding could be arrived at in which (1) Both countries should agree not to interfere with neutral-non-contraband commerce at sea in case of a private war; (2) Both countries will *not* insist on the rights of neutral trade in case of a public or international war. There is no country in the world to whom freedom of the seas is more necessary than to us, and in the long run we cannot outbuild America. When sea power really becomes sea police, we shall not fear America's competition, for there will no longer be any question of national supremacy at sea. Both countries could then face the criticism of their respective Admiralties with equanimity, and reduction of naval armaments would be an easy matter. Nothing would do more to further the future peace of the whole world, and the continuance of Peace within the British Empire. Women, this is your opportunity; beware lest the chance go by; we must be up and doing. There is no bad feeling between the two countries, but there is a new situation to be met by the goodwill of men of understanding from both countries. Ill weeds grow apace—let the good seeds be sown before it is too late. This should be our chief Christmas wish this year, and we should all of us resolve to do nothing to fan the flame of misunderstanding between the two countries, but in true generosity of spirit help and urge our statesmen to take action, knowing that they have at any rate the women of England behind them.

THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

Unfortunately a report of the delightful lunch given last week by members of the Consultative Committee in honour of Lady Astor has had to be held over until next week.

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

LADY STRACHEY, 1839—1928.

By DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E.

We have lost a great pioneer and leader, and many of us a dear friend, in the death of Lady Strachey on 14th December, 1928.

We revere her as one who had never failed us, who had preserved her youthfulness of spirit to extreme old age. None of us rejoiced more keenly than she did when the Royal Assent was given last July to the Equal Suffrage Act.

The daughter of Sir John Peter Grant, of Rothiemurchas, and wife of Sir Richard Strachey, G.C.S.I., her birth and marriage coupled with her striking beauty, mental gifts and personal charm, made her a leader in any society in which she found herself. In her youth and until the end of her life she was devoted to the woman's cause, especially as it was manifested in work for education and for political equality. She was, moreover, a standing refutation of the theory that women who care for manly things are not well fitted for family life and domestic duties. She had thirteen children, all but three of whom reached maturity, and several of whom have manifested great power and capacity in their life's work.

The climate of India having, in her view, cost her the life of two of her infant children, she took up her residence in Edinburgh in anticipation of the birth of her next baby. While there she became an active propagandist among a group of Edinburgh ladies, for the education and equal citizenship of women. One of her pupils, Miss Mair, is now and has been for many years the honoured President of our Edinburgh Society.

Sir Richard Strachey's professional career was a long march from one important post in India to another. On one occasion when he was appointed to a special commission, with an accompanying special allowance for expenses, he made her a personal present of this sum. This she generously gave to Emily Davies, who was then struggling, not too successfully, for money enough to start Girton College. This was really our introduction to Lady Strachey, and it was through Emily Davies that Miss Philippa Strachey became secretary of our London Society for Women's Suffrage, and has remained a friend and colleague ever since.

One little personal story told me by herself, I must add: She would like to end on a note of cheerfulness. She was walking by herself many years ago not in the neighbourhood of Rothiemurchas when she met a man who greeted her by her name. "How did you know who I was?" she asked. The reply was: "I'd know ye for a Grant of Rothiemurchas if I met ye on the top of the Pyramids."

THE OCCUPATION OF THE RHINELAND.¹

The bitter feeling which the continued occupation of the Rhineland is arousing in Germany is scarcely realized at all in this country.

At present there is little or no ill feeling towards individual English people, but Britain is considered to share if not actively to promote the French policy of using the Rhineland to compel not only Germany but, if possible, the U.S.A. to make financial concessions. So that in place of the friendly relations between English and Germans in Cologne, in Wiesbaden to-day there is no intercourse whatever except that of officials. A line of empty tables is deliberately left to divide English from Germans in restaurants, and if some of the English visit a hotel or restaurant where a dance or entertainment is being given the proprietor sees their arrival with consternation as he fears the Germans will leave. In Cologne many Germans who appreciated the general attitude of the English occupying forces, entertained them socially; the English in Wiesbaden are not given this opportunity.

This bitter feeling is directed not against English as such, but against the occupation, which is regarded as an anachronism ten years after the war. An early evacuation was expected as the first-fruits of the new spirit of Locarno and the Kellogg Pact, and when there was no move in that direction but actually a harder tone among the British (those who sang "Deutschland über Alles" have been more rather than less liable to arrest), the Germans were disappointed, and their feelings were intensified when this autumn our troops for the first time co-operated in the annual French military manoeuvres which are now always held on German soil.

There is a tendency in some quarters to-day to purchase friendly relations with France at any price, regardless of the effect on German psychology, but that is not the road to peace in Europe.

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

WITH A WOMAN'S UNIT IN SERBIA, SALONIKA AND SEBASTAPOL.¹

By DR. I. EMSLIE-HUTTON.

All those who accompanied Dr. Emslie-Hutton from France to Macedonia, Serbia, and even further, will certainly welcome this book, in which the author tells the story of the work of two units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and in which she also describes the countries, towns, and villages she visited, the many interesting people she met, and in particular the manners and characteristics of the Serbs.

The general reader may consider her account too long and presented with too little attention to composition and selection. There is at least one unnecessary chapter, "Leave Route for England"; the descriptions could have been omitted for the most part with advantage; and the frequent character-sketches fail to conjure up living personalities for those who do not know them. This is due perhaps to the sentimentality apparent in the author's outlook, particularly noticeable in "The Passing of Mrs. Harley," and which is regrettable, since it distorts the profound reality of her experiences.

The Serbs are strongly idealized; it is in vain that Dr. Emslie-Hutton puts Serbian phrases into their mouths; they remain shadowy Arcadian figures in whom it is difficult to believe. Now the Serbs are undoubtedly an engaging race of men: childishly upright and honest on the whole, charmingly devoted and faithful, admirably and unconsciously brave. But they have many intellectual and spiritual limitations, which a prolonged contact with them must discover. They can be dense; furiously energetic at times, they are also addicted to spells of oriental laziness; stoical when suffering from wounds, they are apt to wail in sickness; sometimes jealous of each other, they have an amusing and transparent manner of showing it; they are capable of cruelty to animals, and of being flustered by emergencies; their Eastern ideas of hospitality are certainly oppressive to Western minds; and if wounded in their pride, they are not above showing temper and sulking; they will promise more than they intend to perform, and show a certain cunning in evasion. They are in fact much more human, complex, and interesting than they appear in this book.

We should also like to hear less of the courage, selflessness, and endurance of the women with whom Dr. Emslie-Hutton worked, and more of their individual ways. The spirit of adventure, enterprise, and even recklessness which flourished at that time was not dimmed by those thoughts of personal nobility and self-sacrifice with which she retrospectively regards them. Those who were privileged to do the work which her units performed during the war will probably even to-day be deeply conscious that they received a far greater spiritual gift than they can ever hope to repay.

It is depressing to be told so often that Dr. Emslie-Hutton and her units formed one large happy family. It is an ill-chosen phrase which would certainly not apply to other units. Many and various temperaments; queer distinctive and exciting characters; puzzling and amusingly perverse natures; ordinary humdrum human beings were flung together into such organizations at the hazards of war. They worked like navvies, they played like mad; they had wild fits of gaiety followed by sullen silences and deep depressions; they led a haphazard, harum-scarum and adventurous existence; they formed strange friendships and explored hitherto unknown temperaments; their life, in short, was as unlike that of a "happy family" as it is possible to be. If Dr. Emslie-Hutton's units made an exception to the general rule, they are sincerely to be pitied.

But even a querulous reader will cast criticism aside when he comes to Chapters XII-XVI. For here the author handles worthily in retrospect a set of situations which she obviously met with gallantry and efficiency at the time. This is a piece of real history realistically told; the triumphant dash into Serbia at the end of 1918; the grim conditions found there; the appalling devastation wrought by the enemy and by sickness; the temporary loss of morale manifested by the Serbs; the gradual, painful, uphill improvement, in which the American Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals played so admirable a part. In this section of the book there is no sentimentality and idealization. Even the Serbs are allowed to be tiresome and insubordinate at times, and spring into sudden life as a result.

E. M. BUTLER.

¹ Messrs. Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 12s. 6d. net.

THE COMING OF THE LORD.¹

Though Mrs. Millin goes for her title to the opening line of the impetuous battle song of the American Republic, her material falls well within the tradition of her previous work. She has established herself securely among us as an interpreter of South African life, and therein lie the scope and the interest of this fine novel.

Her framework—and, incidentally, the meaning of the title—is the story of how a native preacher, Lucas McFula, also styled Aaron, led his Kaffir followers, known as the Levites ("Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren." Had the black man any inheritance? Who should Levi be, therefore, but the black man?) to celebrate the Passover on the heights above the Transvaal town biblically called Gibeon. For six years the rites have been conducted without disturbance, but on the seventh the Kaffirs propose to stay for a year, for, as Aaron declares, "the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the Lord." Alarm naturally spreads throughout the European populace, who are drawn into these complications like moths to a flame.

This gives occasion to an exceedingly powerful and careful tracing of all the various elements which comprise a curious, diverse, incoherent society. Traditions and loyalties, shibboleths and taboos and standards are all studied with skill and knowledge. There is much intense, close observation of foibles and mannerisms, small rivalries and squabbles. There is a kind of Dutch homeliness and intimacy in the varied scenes and groups of people. There are many sudden sidelights on African life:—

"A native woman was sitting in the sun, in front of her hut, washing her fat, shiny black baby. She sucked up clean, cold water from an earthenware jar, and, heating it in her mouth, squirted it on the child, and thus washed him. Other children, older, and, in consequence, untended and dirty, and with white scurf on their heads, and big sore eyes, and protruding navels, were running about naked in the sun."

There are glimpses of the misery of the Europeanized Kaffir, condemned to loneliness because in European eyes a Kaffir doctor educated in Edinburgh was merely ludicrous, while with his fellow Kaffirs he had little in common—"a dozen centuries lay between them."

But Mrs. Millin's sovereign gift is that she has the synthetic power to make of racial and class antagonisms, of personal enmity and individual struggle a picture clear and spacious and well-proportioned. The central story of Hermia Duerdan and Saul Nathan at once knits up these scattered threads and brings in an element more engrossing than any of them. It introduces in measured terms the struggle of the individual to adjust himself to circumstances. To that purpose the crowded background gives the fine dramatic effectiveness of a Greek chorus, and at the same time what is strange to the English mind is made more convincing by a central theme which has no film of foreignness between it and ourselves. Altogether it is a fine piece of work.

E. C. E.

DAME MILLICENT'S PORTRAIT.

A notable gathering of suffragists old and young assembled at 4 St. James' Square, on 12th December, on the occasion of the presentation of her portrait to Dame Millicent Fawcett by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the London and National Society for Women's Service. Many distinguished men and women were there, among them the artist Mr. Lionel Ellis, to do her honour, and societies from all parts of the country were represented. Lady Astor received the guests, and presided with her usual charm over the brief presentation ceremony, saying how proud she was that the artist was a Plymouth man. Speaking on behalf of the two societies, Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Mrs. Kinnell made the presentation and Dame Millicent, who had an enthusiastic reception as she stood under her portrait, thanked her many friends and confessed that she had greatly enjoyed the ordeal of being painted. Of course, the portrait was criticized! What portrait can escape it, especially if its subject be that of a well-loved leader and friend. But the general impression was that it was a distinguished piece of work, worthy to go down to posterity as representing the Dame Millicent we know and love.

¹ *The Coming of the Lord*, by Sarah Gertrude Millin. (Constable, 7s. 6d.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The Second Reading of the Local Government Bill (England and Wales) having been secured on 29th November, the floor was taken on 4th December by Scotland, as on that day the Scottish Local Government Bill came up for Second Reading.

The main principles of the Scottish Bill are identical in many respects with those of the Bill for England and Wales, but owing to the different lines on which local government is carried on in Scotland, the effects of the Scottish Bill on that country will be much more sweeping.

The Bill abolishes 869 Parish Councils which in Scotland are responsible for the administration of the Poor Law, 27 District Boards of Control, 98 District Committees, 37 Education Authorities and 33 Standing Joint Committees, i.e. 1,064 authorities out of a total of 1,298 are being wiped out.

Sir John Gilmour, the Secretary for Scotland, in moving the Second Reading, took up much the same position and on similar lines to Mr. Chamberlain. He had decided to make the new units the County Councils and the burghs with a population of over 20,000. Of the latter only the four great cities would be Poor Law authorities but the remainder would still have wide powers. All the new authorities would have power to delegate certain powers to smaller burghs. He hoped to retain local knowledge by the provision for co-option on the new authorities, but he was willing to consider suggestions for the creation of elective *ad hoc* authorities on condition that each authority covered the whole of one of the new areas.

The *Education Authorities* would also cease to exist and their places would be taken by Statutory Committees. Each new authority would be called upon to submit a detailed administrative scheme.

In regard to derating, the Secretary of State for Scotland explained that the cost to the Exchequer during the first quinquennium would be £4,125,000 a year, of which £922,000 would be new money.

That though the same guarantees would prevail as in England, only three out of thirty-three counties and none of the burghs would require any extra payment to obtain the gain of one shilling per head, and that seven out of every eight persons would gain.

Mr. Johnston in moving the rejection of the Bill pointed out that the reverse would be the case. He showed that the Bill was in defiance of the most emphatic protests of local governing bodies in Scotland. It attacked the democratic foundations of local government. It dissipated effective local interest in administrative work and created a new and expensive bureaucracy. It perpetuated the indefensible system of treating unemployment as a local and not a national responsibility. Other speakers followed on the same lines. Mr. John Buchan, the well-known author, spoke in support of *election* to local committees instead of co-option. The criticism of the measure, which was left almost entirely to Scottish M.P.s, was very severe.

After two days' debate the Second Reading was carried by a majority of 173, and the Bill was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

On 11th December the Government submitted a time table allocating thirteen days for the committee stage, three days for Report Stage, and one day for Third Reading of the *England and Wales Local Government Bill*. Numerous protests were raised, but in vain, against the inadequacy of time. On Thursday, 13th December, consideration of the English Bill in Committee was begun, and is to be continued for three more days before the House rises for the Christmas recess. On Clause I an amendment with the object of transferring the functions of Poor Law administration to other local bodies besides counties and county boroughs, was put forward on the ground that in the exercise of Poor Law functions it was essential that rural administration should rest with authorities whose members were drawn from the class most likely to need assistance.

This amendment was opposed by Mr. Chamberlain, and on a division was lost as also other amendments bearing on the same subject. Clause I stands part of the Bill. The discussion on Clause 2 was rendered interesting by a brilliant speech from Miss Susan Lawrence in moving an amendment to the effect "that the Minister shall make orders for combining any two or more Councils for the purpose of dealing with vagrancy, and such orders shall include provision for the suitable classification of all casuals, etc." Sir Kingsley Wood on behalf of the Government declined to accept the amendment, which on a division was defeated and Clause 2 stands part of the Bill.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

THURSDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 1928.—CLASSES IN MINING AREAS.

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the President of the Board of Education if he will state in which of the distressed mining areas the local authorities have established evening classes for adolescents and adults; and what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to increase such classes.

Lord Eustace Percy replied that in all the important mining districts evening classes are being conducted either by the education authorities or, with their support, by voluntary bodies. I feel sure that the authorities concerned are alive to the benefits of this kind of education, especially in present circumstances, and that they require no encouragement from me to extend their provision where the demand exists.

THURSDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 1928.—WOOLWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL (SURCHARGE).

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the Minister of Health whether he has issued any instructions to the public-auditor in reference to equal pay for equal work for men and women, and on what grounds the public auditor surcharged the Woolwich Borough Council for paying to women bath attendants the same wages as to men with identical qualifications and the same hours.

Mr. Chamberlain: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. I understand that the auditor made the surcharge referred to in the second part of the question on the grounds that the work done by women and men in the lowest manual labour grade was not equal and was subject to different awards by the Joint Industrial Council concerned.

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence: Does the right hon. Gentleman consider that that answers the second part of the question which refers, not to the lowest manual labour grade, but to those persons who have particular qualifications for particular work? Why does the auditor deal with those particular persons in that way?

Mr. Chamberlain: The auditor's reason was exactly what I stated.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 1928.—SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN (TRAINING CENTRES).

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the Minister of Labour if he can give an estimate of the number of single men and single women unemployed between the ages of 20 and 30 in the mining areas; and the number of training centres for men in these areas and the approximate total accommodation therein, and the same figures for women.

Sir A. Steel-Maitland replied: The answer is necessarily somewhat long, and, with the hon. Member's permission, I will circulate it in the Official Report.

Statistics of the ages of unemployed insured persons are not regularly compiled, and figures are not available in respect of all such persons in mining areas. It is estimated, however, that at 22nd October, approximately 25,000 single men aged 21 to 30, classified as belonging to the coal-mining industry, were recorded as wholly unemployed in Great Britain. Corresponding figures for single women are not available. There are no training centres actually in the mining areas for adult unemployed miners, but special arrangements have been made whereby about 1,175 young unemployed miners are attending the day training centres at Birmingham, Dudley, Wallsend, Bristol, and Glasgow. In addition, farm training for those wishing to take employment on the land in the Dominions is available at the Claydon and Brandon residential centres. Accommodation for training about 600 women is available at 19 centres established in the South Wales, Durham, and Scottish mining areas.

SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE (WOMEN).

Sir R. Thomas asked the Minister of Health what is the number of schools of medicine in London and the rest of the country, respectively, from which women are excluded; and whether, in view of the increasing need of women with medical knowledge, he will set up an inquiry with a view to removing these restrictions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Sir Kingsley Wood) replied: My right hon. Friend has no official information on this matter, but he understands the position outside London to be that there is no restriction on the admission of women to medical schools. The position in London already forms the subject of an inquiry initiated by the University of London.

THURSDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 1928.—SEXUAL OFFENCES.

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, in replying to a question put by Mr. Ellis Davies, said that there were eight sexual offences against girls under 16, and four against females whose ages do not appear, known to the police in 1927. The figure relating to girls is higher than in previous recent years.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from 5.30 p.m. Friday, 21st, till 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 28th December.

PRESENTATION TO DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT

The presentation of her portrait, painted by Mr. Lionel Ellis, to Dame Millicent Fawcett took place at 4 St. James' Square, on Wednesday, 12th December. A large and enthusiastic gathering of old friends took part in this very delightful ceremony, and it was felt to be very felicitous that it should be in the house of the first woman to sit in the House of Commons.

LADY STRACHEY.

Elsewhere in this paper Dame Millicent Fawcett pays a tribute to her old friend Lady Strachey, who died on 14th December. Lady Strachey may be said to have played a part at the beginning of the political stage of the suffrage movement, as she signed the historic petition presented by John Stuart Mill. She was for many years a member of the committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and later became one of our vice-presidents. Our members will recall messages sent by her to the Council and THE WOMAN'S LEADER from time to time, which showed her living interest with all that happened. The Executive Committee was represented at the funeral on Monday, and a wreath of flowers in the colours of the Union was sent. On behalf of our members we extend our sympathy to her family on their loss.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (BIRMINGHAM BRANCH).

An interesting debate was held by the Birmingham branch of the N.C.W. on the principles underlying the Edinburgh Corporation Bill on Wednesday, 21st November. Col. Tytler Burke, D.S.O., the V.D. Medical Officer for Salford, spoke at great length in favour of the principle of compulsory treatment. Miss Alison Neilans spoke very vigorously against the Bill, but was rather handicapped by not having the right to reply. The voting was exactly even and the President, who was in the chair, refrained from giving a casting vote.

BOLTON.

An interesting meeting was held in November when Miss Macadam, M.A., Hon. Treasurer of the N.U.S.E.C., spoke on the future work of the union. Miss Macadam reminded the audience that now women had votes equally with men all manner of reforms were possible if women would unite. Many questions of the day were the special concern of women, just as other sections of the community have their particular concerns, and though no central society could dictate to individual societies, such aims as an equal moral standard, more women in Parliament and on local authorities, equal pay and opportunities in industry or the professions and a better status for wives and mothers were surely worthy and necessary. These are on the programme of the N.U.S.E.C. A resolution protesting against the Government's proposal to substitute block for percentage grants to local authorities was unanimously carried. Mrs. Frank Taylor was in the chair.

PRESTON W.C.A.

During the past month a most interesting series of lectures has been given to the Preston Women Citizens' Association. Miss Picton-Turbervill gave an address on the work of the British American Women's Crusade and emphasized the need for determined and united constructive effort in the cause of Peace. Miss Macadam, M.A., spoke of the continuous work done by the N.U.S.E.C. for the general betterment of women, both socially and politically, during the last decade, and outlined the many problems still to be solved, and the many inequalities still to be righted with regard to the position of women. Miss Macadam convinced her hearers that the need for continued effort was never more vital than at the present moment. Mr. W. Allison Davies, O.B.E., the Borough Treasurer of Preston, gave a most interesting address on "The Town's Purse" recently. He showed the complicated system required in order to control expenditure, and left his hearers with a much wider insight into the doings of the municipal body.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WORD NANNIE.

MADAM,—Could any of your readers suggest a better name than the (to my mind) silly and somewhat offensive "nannie" used for a highly skilled and confidential nurse for little children? The other day a leading London newspaper advertisement contained the words "kind, morning governess, and excellent nannie kept."

MARY SPALDING WALKER.

Wotton-under-Edge.

MESSAGE FROM THE WOMEN OF AMERICA TO THE WOMEN OF NORTH WALES.

A message from the American Section of the Women's Peace Crusade was received at the meeting of the North Wales Women's Peace Council (North Wales section) 7th Women's Peace Crusade recently in reply to a letter expressing deep appreciation of the work of the women of America in the cause of peace, and pledging the Peace Council to do all in their power to ensure that the Kellogg Treaty is unreservedly supported by Great Britain. The message from America read: "Thank you most cordially for your courtesy in sending to the women of America the resolution adopted by the North Wales Women's Peace Council, indicating support of the Kellogg Treaty. This action on behalf of your Council is most heartening to those of us who hope that the people of the nations will stand behind the Treaty in such a way as to make their Governments realize that they desire to make it a really effective instrument for the preservation of the peace of the World." Signed: Elizabeth Morriss, on behalf of the National Committee for the Cause and Cure of War, the motto of which is "Friendships not Warships," composed of ten great National Organizations.

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COMING EVENTS.

FABIAN SOCIETY (WOMEN'S GROUP).

8th January, 8 p.m. Caxton Hall, S.W. 1. Miss Susan Lawrence: "Women in Industry."

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

10th January, 8 p.m. 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. Sir Michael Sadler: "Ruskin's Social Ideals." Chair: Sir Fabian Ware, K.C.V.O.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh W.C.A. 16th January, 8 p.m. Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Lady Leslie Mackenzie, F.E.I.S.: "From the Highlands and Islands to Kentucky." Chair: Lady Findlay.

UNION OF WOMEN VOTERS.

28th January, 8 p.m. 55 Chancery Lane, W.C. Miss M. Scott, A.R.C.M. (Founder of Society of Women Musicians): "Is there Equality of Opportunity for Women Musicians?"

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