

EIGHT WOMEN M.P.'s

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER
 AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

Governments and the 1923 Session.

Rarely, if ever, has the political situation of the country been so confused, or given such scope to political theorists, party wirepullers, and prophets of all kinds, as during the first few days after the Election results were announced. With the Cabinet's decision that the present Government should remain in power with the Prime Minister still as its leader to meet the new Parliament on 8th January, the fog has been temporarily lifted. What is to happen next is, however, quite incalculable. We ourselves had felt this course of action on the Government's part inevitable in order that there should be no gap in carrying out the business of the country, especially with regard to foreign affairs, over the Christmas holiday. Whether the Government itself will throw down the gage to the two opposition parties by including in the King's Speech a reference to the Tariff policy, which challenge would immediately be taken up by the Labour and Liberal Parties, or whether, however non-contentious in character the King's Speech proves to be, the Opposition parties will not in any case seek immediately to come into their own, remains to be seen. There appears, however, good reason to expect that if not at once, at any rate within the space of a few weeks, the Government must fall and a new Government be formed by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald. The subjects most likely to be tackled immediately by such a Government would be Unemployment, Housing, and Electoral Reform. There is reason to hope that in any scheme for Electoral Reform brought forward by a Labour Government, Equal Franchise would find an honoured place.

At this juncture it is not possible to predict whether the Labour or Conservative Government will be responsible for the Budget. It is unlikely, however, even should the Budget be brought in by the Labour Party, that there would be time for any scheme for a Capital Levy to be worked out or reported on by that time.

The World Outside.

In the excitement of Friday's election results Mr. Coolidge's message to Congress, delivered on the preceding day, very naturally failed to capture the attention of the British public. Nevertheless, it is of some importance. "Our country has

definitely refused to adopt and ratify the Covenant of the League of Nations," he stated. "I am not proposing any change in this policy; neither is the Senate. The incident so far as we are concerned is closed. The League exists as a foreign agency; we hope it will be helpful. But the United States sees no reason to limit its own freedom and independence of action by joining it." So Lady Astor preached to her countrymen in vain; and we may as well recognize that this very definite and apparently popular statement of policy represents the twentieth century phase of the Monroe Doctrine, and is thus part and parcel of the American national faith. Were we an organ of American opinion we should have something to say in dispraise of the American attitude. Being, however, of European origin, we realize that it is our business to focus attention on the beam in our own eye. When human voices have ceased to "cry havoc" among the still crumbling ruins of European civilization we shall be able to put up a better case for American co-operation. At present the old Continent must look rather like a gigantic, but ill-conducted, lunatic asylum when contemplated from the other side of the Atlantic.

The Woman's Programme and the New Session.

We refer elsewhere to the character of the new Parliament, and if the next session should run a normal course there is every reason to hope that many important reforms ripe for legislation will be tackled by whatever Government is in power. Adequate schemes, both constructive and palliative, for dealing with Unemployment, increased Government facilities for Housing Schemes, the removal of extravagant economies in Education rise first in the minds of the woman citizen. The cause of Pensions for Widows with Dependent Children has made rapid strides with all parties. The demand for Equal Guardianship of and responsibilities for children has similarly been recognized on all sides. As before, the question of an Equal Franchise springs into prominence in the practical test of an election campaign, and here again has the support of the Liberal and Labour Parties and of Mr. Baldwin and many members of the Conservative Party. It is up to women's organizations to see that these and other matters for which they stand are not relegated to the background.

The Enigma of the Woman's Vote.

We are not surprised that women, according to their traditional rôle, are blamed for the present political impasse. It is true, as electioneering speeches and we ourselves have pointed out from time to time, that the question of Free Trade and Tariff Reform closely affects women, as the principal consumers of the community, but we have no reason to suppose that they are agreed any more than the men of the country as to the results of any contemplated changes in the fiscal system. Even a slight experience of canvassing will convince the incredulous that women think as differently on political and economic issues as men in this connection.

The General Election and Proportional Representation.

A letter from Mr. Charles Roberts in *The Times* of Tuesday points out in a very striking manner the anomalies which may arise under our present electoral system. He points out that Mr. Baldwin has now polled practically the same number of votes, but he obtains about 82 fewer representatives in the House of Commons. The table given by him is worth reproducing here, as it shows clearly what a comparatively trifling turnover in votes has produced the present crisis, owing to the way in which these votes were distributed. We hope to reopen the question of Proportional Representation and the alternative vote in these columns in view of the lessons of the present situation.

	General Election 1922.	General Election declared, 1923.
Conservative votes recorded	5,457,871	5,359,871
Conservative members returned	336	254
Liberal votes recorded	4,113,012	4,251,573
Liberal members returned	117	149
Labour votes recorded	4,251,011	4,348,379
Labour members returned	142	192

Family Votes.

A curious proposal has been brought forward in France by M. Rouilleux-Dugage, which has had the approval of the Cabinet,

to introduce what is called the "family vote" system. Under this system every man and woman over 21 would have a vote, and the father of a family, or, in the event of his death, the mother, would in addition have as many votes as the family contained children under 21. This unique scheme was brought forward as a counter proposal to the Women's Suffrage Bill, which was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies in May, 1919, and by 440 votes to 135 the Chamber agreed to give it precedence to the proposals contained in the original Bill, which would extend the Parliamentary vote and right of election to the Chamber to women over 25. We will give our readers an early opportunity of hearing the views of French suffragists on this fresh phase in the history of their struggle.

Meggie Albanesi.

On Wednesday last week Miss Meggie Albanesi played her part for the last time in "Lilies of the Field." On Saturday it was announced that Tuesday's matinee of "A Magdalen's Husband," at the St. Martin's Theatre, would be postponed owing to her sudden illness. On Monday we read in the papers of her death. The news brought a shock of personal regret to all playgoers. With the memory of Galsworthy's "Skin Game" and Clemence Dane's "Bill of Divorcement" fresh in mind, the catastrophic extinction of so radiant a personality is not easily tolerated. But her loss represents something more than an acute source of personal regret to the present generation of playgoers. It represents a real and far-reaching tragedy in the history of the British stage. Beautiful and charming actresses are, fortunately for us all, fairly thick upon the ground. Intelligent and constructive actresses are distressingly rare. The original and expanding genius of Meggie Albanesi placed her high up in the second category. We can ill afford that she should join that splendid company of geniuses cut off in the opening phases of great work—so recently recruited by Lovat Fraser and Rupert Brooke. And the tragedy is heightened by the fact that even in that youthful company she will find herself a junior; for she was only 24.

SON OF ADAM.

Lord Younger is naturally displeased with the results of the General Election. The immediate policy in which he and his party believed has been decisively rejected by the country, and in his first bitterness of spirit he instinctively, and with even less provocation, adopts the attitude of his first ancestor, and puts the blame on the woman. "It is the women who have done it," he is reported to have said. "They have been frightened by the stories of dearer food, for which there is no foundation, and have swung right over." We are not surprised by this utterance. Lord Younger has never been a good friend to women's causes; he has seen with regret the coming of women into the political arena, and it is only natural that he should desire to attribute evil consequences to their presence there. But we are glad to notice that his view of the matter is sharply challenged by a prominent woman member of his own party, Lady Parsons, in *The Times* of Monday last. She complained that "such an accusation against us, from so great a leader, is unjust and very discouraging to the thousands of Conservative women who have worked so hard to repair the situation which they had no part in creating." Moreover, as she most truly remarks, "No evidence is available (or ought not to be) as to the way women voted." It is, of course, impossible under our secret ballot system to analyse voting by sex. All we can do is to analyse voting by locality; and such an analysis, though it gives us some ground for saying "it is the export industries that have done it," gives us no very definite ground for saying anything—the rejection of Mr. Baldwin's Plymouth programme has been so widespread and so complete.

But though we dislike the spirit of Lord Younger's assertion, knowing his views upon the desirability of a protective policy, as well as upon the political acumen of the female sex, yet we are bound to admit that there may be a grain of truth in it. We do not admit that women have "been frightened by the stories of dearer food for which there is no foundation." But we do admit that women are likely to be very profoundly influenced by fears of a perceptible rise in the cost of living, for which there is ample foundation. We are not arguing that a protective policy is economically undesirable—it may or may not be. Steadier employment and higher earnings may conceivably compensate, and more than compensate, for temporarily or permanently higher prices. But we cannot regard the fear of an incidental

increase in the cost of living as unreasonable or unfounded. Many convinced protectionists are ready to admit that the protectionist programme must entail at least a temporary increase in the prices of goods at present imported under freely competitive conditions—during which time home industries are allowed breathing space to develop their productive resources in response to the more assured demands of the home market. For how else can a protective policy protect? It would not, therefore, be surprising, nor would it cast reflections upon the woman voter's economic acumen, if proposals for a general tariff on manufactured goods and the development of a preferential tariff on Imperial goods, were connected in her mind with an inevitable increase in the cost of living. We use the phrase "cost of living" in deliberate preference to Sir George Younger's "dearer food." From the earliest days of economic theorizing, writers and administrators have shown a curious tendency to forget that "man shall not live by bread alone." To-day some of our political protagonists show the same curious tendency to forget that man shall not live by bread and meat and bacon alone. We would even go so far as to remind them that in a civilized community man shall not live by food alone—but by textiles and hollow-ware and pottery, not to mention machinery of all kinds and diverse uses.

And such considerations, as we are ready to admit in partial agreement with Lord Younger, have in all probability carried very great weight with the women electors during the past few weeks. For reasons which we pointed out in our issues of 19th and 26th October, they have an even more intimate and immediate concern than men with the cost of living. An increase, however minute, hits them first and hits them hardest. In admitting this we find ourselves also in partial agreement with the Rothermere-Beaverbrook syndicated Press—a regrettable circumstance, since we respect neither the motive, method, nor judgment of that organ of private opinion. We think, with them, that it will always be difficult to carry a general programme of protection past an electorate in which women are widely represented. It may be possible, given an overwhelming case for the compensating advantages of trade stability and economic independence. But anyway it has not been possible this time. To quote President Coolidge: "The incident, so far as we are concerned, is closed."

BEYOND GERMANY.

The state of Germany was described in last week's issue. East and south of Germany, Europe is still deep in misery, and the only consolation we can take is that things are better than last year. In none of these countries is there such a mass of suffering or such loss of life this winter as last, but there are places where the conditions even to-day would have roused the generous in England to give freely two years ago before we became overwhelmed with tragedies.

In Austria we rejoice that the hopelessness of 1919-1922 has been removed by the wise policy of the League of Nations, and with the cause of hopelessness removed Austria has made an incredible effort, thanks to the courage and effort of the people which had been saved from extinction by the generosity of many thousands in other countries.

This effort bids fair to succeed, and conditions in Vienna have improved so much that Austrians are actually sending substantial help to Germany.

But their is still terrible poverty, and a critical time will come in 1924 when the financial control of the League Commission ends. There is a heavy burden of pensioned and incapacitated people, and of those who lost everything in the financial collapse and are unfit for industrial life.

Those who admire and value the intellectual and artistic life of Vienna, who have pity for the aged, or who realise the importance of the experiments in mutual help and co-operative enterprise by which Vienna has increased her food supply in her rapidly increasing "Land Settlements" around her borders, will desire to give a little further help.

In Eastern Poland the task of rebuilding the destroyed villages and restarting the peasants as they returned from their terrible exile was quite beyond the resources and capacity of the inexperienced government which had annexed the country.

The Friends' Relief Mission, which had already helped some of these peasants in Russia, used funds from England and America to work in some of the worst districts on the lines of lending the poorest peasants' horses and ploughs, giving the women work in embroidery so that they could earn while waiting for the harvest, and caring for the sick and the young children. This work is not completed, for refugees were still coming back last spring and there are many districts where they are still in greatest misery and destitution, unable to haul the timber from the forests to build their huts or to plough their land, weakened by malaria and dysentery, and existing on berries and mushrooms.

There are many thousand orphans in Poland as a result of the horrors of the forced retreat to Russia in 1915, and the famine in the Volga, where a large number had been sent. To show how these children can be cared for and made self-supporting, 50 per cent. being actually landowners, the Friends' Mission has started a small model orphanage in which Polish girls are trained

EIGHT WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

Whatever we may feel about the result of this remarkable election, we think there will be unanimity of rejoicing at the return of eight women Members to the House of Commons. The successful return of Lady Astor, our first woman representative, and hardly less that of Mrs. Wintringham, will be hailed with satisfaction all over the country. It is quite remarkable what a strong hold these two women have on the affection and admiration of women who never see them and are far removed from their activities on their behalf at Westminster. Mrs. Philipson, who only made her maiden speech on the closing day of last session, has still to show us what she can do, but we congratulate her, with her two colleagues, on their return to work. But though our first objective was the return of our women members, it would have been a bitter disappointment if they had not been reinforced by some other capable women, and the advent of five new women at Westminster is an event of outstanding importance in the Women's Movement. We go so far as to think that it is an outward and visible sign that women have come into politics in real earnest, and that the idea of a House of Commons composed only of men has now vanished with other relics of an obsolete past. Nothing succeeds like success, and the fact that five women achieved success, in every case after a stiff fight, will unmistakably affect the opportunist attitude of party organizers towards women candidates, and, if we are not mistaken, the effect of such a group of women in the House of Commons, divided, we are glad to note, almost equally as to Party but firmly united on many fundamental questions which cut across parties, will convince the electorate that women have their own special contribution to make. We

in child-care and the children are given an agricultural education.

In Russia the aftermath of famine in which so many men died has been a very restricted sowing of the land, and even this has not yielded a good harvest this year. The misery of utter poverty in the Volga Valley is added to by the spread of virulent malaria, which fastens with deadly force on underfed people.

English and American help is still being given in the worst districts this winter, in the form of grants of foodstuffs to children's institutions, the import of horses to be sold at a low price to the most needy peasants, and a medical campaign. The Universities of Russia and Poland, as well as Austria, still need help for both students and staff.

It is in Greece that the chief claim on English help is found, for a country of its size cannot be expected to absorb and support a flood of over a million destitute refugees, a large proportion of whom are families with no able-bodied man among them, without foreign help.

In the course of the year some proportion of the newcomers have found work and become self-supporting. The League of Nations has arranged for a credit of one million sterling to be used to establish in agriculture or industry those who are capable of it, and it is hoped the sum will be increased. This gives hope, but there are thousands who are incapable of work, and thousands who need help before they can become fit for work.

The All-British Appeal for the Near East is continuing to send money for feeding those who cannot work. A particularly interesting piece of reconstructive relief is being carried on from the American Farm School at Salonika, which is in touch with a district of Macedonia, in the villages of which over 12,000 refugees have been placed by the Government. The land is fertile, but very malarial. The refugees have scarcely any implements, stock or seed, or means of feeding themselves. A small sum of money has been raised in England to supply what they need on loan, including seed, implements, and medical care, especially quinine, and the work is organized on a basis of mutual help and co-operation among the refugees and inhabitants. Two English workers are helping the American organizer from the Farm School, and the Friends' Council for International Service, which is raising funds to carry on the work, believes that in such co-operative effort is the basis of the most helpful influence in the racial quarrels of the Balkans.

Note.—Relief organizations for the above countries:—
All-British Appeal for the Near East, for Greece, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C. 2.
Universities Committee for helping the Universities and Students, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C. 2.
Save the Children Fund, for children in all countries, 42 Langham St., W.1.
Friends' Council for International Service, for reconstructive relief in the four countries, 136 Bishopsgate, E.C. 2. HILDA CLARK.

THE MOTHER OF THE HOUSE.

Eight women M.P.s, including representatives of all parties, are too large a group to focus the untiring personal attention of the Press. The limelight will henceforth have to play elsewhere. But before this particular chapter in the woman's movement closes, before the woman M.P. becomes a normal and unremarked feature of our political life, we should like to pay homage to the senior member of the group, the pioneer who stood alone for two years, and for two years carried in her hands the new and delicate tradition of women in Parliament. The larger group which now inherits that tradition may be grateful to Lady Astor for carrying it so bravely and moulding it so finely.

Since the early days of the Suffrage movement, those of us who worked in it dreamed of the first woman in Parliament. We did not in those days say much about our dreams. They remained (for tactical reasons) what dreams are said to be, "suppressed wishes." But always in our dreams the first woman in Parliament was one of ourselves—a veteran of the Suffrage movement, a woman of tried political experience, knowledge, and wisdom—drawn from British public life. We personified her sometimes as Mrs. Fawcett, sometimes as Eleanor Rathbone, sometimes as Margaret Bondfield or Mary Macarthur. When the vote came in 1918 our "suppressed wish" became a rampant demand. We agitated, we spoke, we paid—for our first woman in Parliament. And at last, in the autumn of 1919, she materialized, through no efforts of our own and as a result of circumstances which showed no continuity of action with the long sequence of suffrage activity. Her coming seemed to be the result of a complex of accidental happenings, beginning with the translation to "another place" of a prominent member of the House of Commons. Its significance seemed rather social than political. And joy that the first woman had been elected to Parliament was tempered, for many of us, by disappointment that she should be represented by someone entirely outside our own world; someone whom we knew, at second-hand, rather as an extraordinarily brilliant and witty society hostess than as a serious or experienced politician.

In the course of the next two years we lived and learned. The first fact which gave us pause was that from the very beginning, moving in the concentrated circle of dazzling and unwinking limelight which followed "her going out and her coming in," Lady Astor always seemed to do the right thing—though, be it confessed, she often did the unexpected thing. And then, on the top of that, we suddenly woke up to the fact that Lady Astor was openly and fiercely at war with all the most degraded and retrograde elements in the House, the former headed by Horatio Bottomley, the latter by Sir Frederick Banbury. Finally, a year's experience brought us the realization that Lady Astor was doing all the work which we had dreamed that our first woman in Parliament would do, and more than we ever dreamed a single woman could do. Those of us who were Conservatives, were proud that a Conservative should be playing the part. Those of us who were Liberals and Labour women were glad to find that even in a party-ridden House party interests and party prestige mattered nothing at all to the woman who was doing our non-party work. When we wanted anything done (and we wanted an unending multitude of things done) Lady Astor was always untiringly ready to do it. If she had broken down under the strain a howl of joy would have gone up from those who were waiting to point out that Parliament was no place for a lady. But she did not break down. And at the end of that long exhausting summer session of 1922 (when most of us were away on our summer holidays) she fought through the unpleasing and nerve-racking stages of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill with a fierce ardour which those of us who remember its peculiarly sordid ins and outs will never forget.

By that time we had forgotten the first woman M.P. of our dreams. Lady Astor sat enthroned in her place. We knew that Fate, though more than usually whimsical in this matter, had been more than usually kind—to us and to all women. The seven colleagues who now inherit the traditions of those two first years are inheriting a tradition very well worthy of them, splendid company though they be. It is a tradition of burning sincerity, irrepressible vitality, profound pity, and reckless courage. It is a tradition in which self-importance plays no part, a tradition illumined by gaiety and humour—that gaiety which is glorious when it crowns all those other qualities, but which may not walk alone. And curiously enough it is a tradition without traditions—peculiarly the work of Lady Astor, carried through in her own way and not in ours.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT AND WOMEN'S QUESTIONS.

The unwelcome election is now over, and while we are waiting to see what will happen with regard to the future government we can spend some time profitably in scrutinizing the personnel of the new House from the angle of the feminist rather than the party politician. In the first place, there are now eight women Members of Parliament. The three women who had previously been returned are safely back again with five new colleagues to share their labours. It is a matter for congratulation that the eight women are well distributed among the three parties, and are all sympathetically disposed towards the objects for which this paper stands. There can be no doubt that we have advanced a very considerable way towards the attainment of those objects now that their welfare in the House can be committed to the care of such a strong group of woman advocates.

When we turn to our friends and helpers of the other sex, we have some losses to record which will seriously affect our interests. Mr. G. B. Hurst, K.C., Unionist candidate for Moss-side, will be greatly missed in connection with the question of Equal Guardianship of Children, which will certainly come forward again next session. Mr. Hurst was a Member of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider this subject, and his legal knowledge strengthened the value of his support. He was also the promoter of the Child Adoption Bill, on behalf of which he recently wrote in the columns of this paper. Mr. Arthur Henderson, another faithful friend, and, among newer allies, Dr. Walter Elliot and Mr. J. C. M. Butler will be missed at Westminster in the coming session, and once more we regret the defeat of Sir Donald Maclean.

Fortunately, however, many who are giving active help in connection with legislative measures promoted by women's organizations at the present time will be found again in their places. Among these may be mentioned Sir Robert Newman, Captain Bowyer, Mr. Isaac Foot, and Major Entwistle. Members who can always be counted on for support who have been safely returned include Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Sir John Simon, Mr. Acland, Mr. William Graham, Sir Martin Conway, Mr. Briant, Sir Samuel Hoare, Mr. Oswald Mosley, and many others too numerous to mention.

It is with feelings of unmixt satisfaction that we reflect on the loss of Lieut.-Col. du Pré, Sir George Hamilton, and Sir M. Archer-Shee. The little group of reactionaries on women's questions in the House is rapidly dwindling, and will soon disappear. Among new Members we welcome Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. Ernest Simon, Mr. Leonard Franklin, and Mr. Hugh Rathbone, who have given help in different ways in the past, and we are glad to see our former friend, Sir Thomas Bramsdon, back in his place again.

Though this paper has no policy on the thorny subject of Temperance, there is so much unanimity among the women of the country, as witnessed at the annual meeting of the National Council of Women in Edinburgh recently on the reforms on the programme of the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches, that we may venture to comment on the rout of such supporters of the Drink interest as Vice-Admiral Sir Reginald Hall, Sir M. Archer-Shee, Captain Shipwright, Mr. Lort Williams (who advocated a Bill for universal 11 o'clock closing in London), and others, and the victories of such Temperance (in the best sense of the word) stalwarts as Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Ammon, Mr. Philip Snowden, Mr. Lief Jones, and Mr. P. Wilson Raffan.

Bold indeed would be the prophet who would venture to predict the nature of the new Government and the length of life of the new Parliament.

We have dealt elsewhere with the chances of reforms for which we stand in the coming session. For the first time since 1918 we find a House of Commons the large majority of whose members are pledged to give political, legal, and economic equality between men and women, and provided that the new Parliament is not merely a makeshift whose functions are to carry on the absolutely necessary business of the country in the interim before another dissolution, the outlook as regards legislation on women's questions is indeed hopeful.

MESSAGES FROM SOME OF OUR WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

From The Viscountess Astor, M.P. (U), Sutton Division of Plymouth.

I do want to thank from the bottom of my heart the splendid workers connected with many women's societies who came down to help me in Plymouth for reasons quite outside party ones. Nothing encouraged me so much as the assurance of support and sympathy from organized women with whom I have worked since I entered Parliament. I am so glad that both Mrs. Wintringham and myself can still go on working with and for them, this time with the help of other women with a splendid record of public service. I see we have been called not real women M.P.s. I think the women's societies will see that we have always tried to work for them, backed up by the realists of the real—women who put reforms ahead of party.

NANCY ASTOR.

From Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. (L.), Louth.

That there should now be eight Women Members of the British Parliament is a greater tribute to the work of the N.U.S.E.C. than any words I could send. The fact affects me personally to no small degree, and I look forward to their advent to share the work which for so long was done by two women alone. It is difficult for anyone except those two to realize how sorely we have needed more Women Members, whatever their party, and what a relief to us their coming will be.

The great advance in the achievements and status of women in the last few years could not have been made without the work of the N.U.S.E.C., the WOMAN'S LEADER, and all the spade work in the early difficult years. I can testify personally, from experience during four elections, to the invaluable work that is done in candidates' constituencies at those times by the skilled and earnest helpers who come down from your headquarters and put the woman's point of view.

MARGARET WINTRINGHAM.

From Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P. (Lab.), East Ham (North).

This was no casual or accidental victory, but one due to the growing conviction of the electorate of the principles and programme of the Labour Party. I was particularly struck during this election with the political interests of the women, and my friends in other constituencies confirm this opinion. What we said in the suffrage days is true—that the possession of the vote is in itself a liberal education.

SUSAN LAWRENCE.

From the Duchess of Atholl, M.P. (U.), Kinross and Perthshire.

I am very grateful for proof the men electors of Kinross and West Perthshire have given in this election that they are ready to admit women to a place in Parliamentary life. I only wish that electors elsewhere in Scotland had acted in as broad-minded a manner.

KATHARINE ATHOLL.

From the Lady Terrington, M.P. (L.), Wycombe Division of Bucks.

The Party to which I belong stands for equal rights between men and women, and I hope to be able to help the cause for which the WOMAN'S LEADER stands in the House of Commons. In my election address I stated that I would always fight for legal and economic equality between men and women. I hold strong opinions with regard to equal rights and responsibilities of mothers and fathers with regard to the guardianship of their children, and I worked with my husband in favour of this reform when he was a Member of the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament set up to deal with the subject. I have always advocated an equal moral standard between men and women, and this I wish to emphasize, and I am strongly in favour of the franchise being given to women at the same age as men. I will also give my support to the more adequate provision of houses and to equal opportunities of education for rich and poor, and will do what I can to secure pensions for civilian widows with dependent children. The large number of copies of the WOMAN'S LEADER circulated in my constituency and the excellent speakers sent down by the Union helped our cause considerably.

VERA TERRINGTON.

From Miss Jewson, M.P. (Lab.), Norwich.

There is very little doubt that sex prejudice, so far as Norwich is concerned, is almost gone. Women voted for me because the Labour Party programme offers a special appeal to women. Housewives supported us because they knew tariffs would increase prices; mothers because they detest the economies of the last Government on education, school feeding, care of the child and nursing mothers; the factory workers because we stand for a living wage; all women because of the fight the Labour Party have put up in the House for better houses, the unemployed, aged and disabled. And all people supported us because we stood for a new social order in which human life and happiness were considered before profits.

D. JEWSON.

MESSAGES FROM SOME OF OUR OTHER FRIENDS IN THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

From Sir Robert Newman, M.P. (U.), Exeter.

The result of the General Election has left the political situation in a very confused state. No party has an independent majority. It is suggested that another appeal may shortly be made to the country, but how that is likely to materially alter the state of parties it is difficult to imagine, that is if the electors' qualification is to remain as at present. I would therefore suggest that this is an opportune moment for the WOMAN'S LEADER to press for equal franchise for both sexes before another General Election takes place. We should then at any rate get a verdict from practically the whole people, which cannot be the case with millions of women deprived of their right as citizens to vote simply because of their sex. I have never feared the votes of the people, and am prepared to take my stand in the new Parliament for equal rights between men and women.

ROBERT NEWMAN.

From Mr. W. Graham, M.P. (Lab.), Edinburgh, Central.

My election experience confirms the importance of the movement for Equal Citizenship.

From Mr. Issac Foot, M.P. (L.), Bodwin.

The result gives every encouragement to the cause of Political Equality. Let us press on.

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

(Contributed.)

The Duchess of Atholl is widely known in Scotland as being interested in social work. She is a member of the West Perthshire Education Authority, and is an office-bearer in the Association of Educational Authorities in Scotland. She is also a member of the Scottish Association and Care Committee for Mental Deficients. She was a member of the Commission on Medical Services in the Highlands and Islands and of the recent Committee appointed for the inquiry into the conditions regarding tinkers in Scotland. At the last meeting of the Annual Council of the National Council of Women the Duchess gave a speech showing the conditions of Children on the Stage as affecting their education and health, and future work.

In West Perthshire the Duchess of Atholl carried on a strenuous fight, the chief feature of which was the able manner in which she dealt with the heckling, which always followed her speeches. In a letter to the Edinburgh S.E.C. she stated that they might rely on her taking a deep interest in all questions especially affecting the welfare of women and children, and that she would do all she could to secure to women an assured place in Parliamentary life. This promise was also publicly given at several of her election meetings, and though in reply to a question she admitted having been an opponent of Women's Suffrage, having now been given the vote she was going to make the best of it. The Duchess is a clear and careful speaker, and will bring to her Parliamentary work an able mind and that spirit of hopeful determination which is needed by all those who support our reforms.

THE WOMAN VOTER.

We quote the following letters from The Times dealing with different aspects of the Women's Vote :-

THE WOMAN VOTER. To the Editor of "The Times."

SIR,—I am inclined to agree with Lord Younger that the women voters are mainly responsible for the downfall of the Conservative Party. As he says, they were influenced by the "dear food" cry. But that is not all. Many of us survived it.

Since I have been in Parliament I have been shocked by the attitude of hostility of many Conservatives to questions of welfare affecting women. This year, just before the election, the Conservative Conference turned down my proposal that boys and girls between 14 and 16 who could not get work should be given training and discipline. A year before, the same Conference tried to shout me down when I advocated Housing. The Conservative Party is the only party which opposes the leaders of all the Christian Churches on Temperance. In Parliament the main attack on Bills to keep juveniles out of public-houses, or to protect young girls from criminal assault, or to give women equal rights of guardianship over their children, or to appoint women police, etc., has come from Conservative M.P.s—un-supported, it is true, by their leaders, but also unchecked and unopposed by them.

These considerations may not appear to figure very decisively in an election campaign, but they turn thousands of progressive women into active Liberal and Labour workers, and make hundreds of thousands of plain, honest women voters feel that the Conservative Party is the party of reaction, and the other parties the parties of progress. The moral, spiritual, and domestic forces of this country are becoming more powerful every day. Any party which ignores or offends them must suffer, as I have repeatedly (but with complete lack of success) warned our party organizers and leaders. Our party by this election has been purged of many of its worst reactionaries. Has it learnt its lesson?

Yours truly, NANCY ASTOR.

THE WOMEN'S VOIE.

To the Editor of "The Times."

SIR,—Many people in high places are blamed for the disaster to the Conservative Party, but a wholesale condemnation of women, such as Lord Younger is reported to have made, requires comment from us. "It is the women who have done it," says Lord Younger. "They have been frightened by the stories of dearer food, for which there is no foundation, and have swung right over." No evidence is available (or ought not to be) as to the way women voted, and anyhow the votes cannot have been analysed yet.

We Conservative women are very grateful for the many great services Lord Younger has rendered to the Conservative Party; but such an accusation against us, from so great a leader, is unjust and very discouraging to the thousands of Conservative women who have worked so hard to repair the situation which they had no part in creating.

Believe me, faithfully yours,

KATHARINE PARSONS,

County and City Women's Unionist Offices, 32 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, December 8.

WOMEN'S VOTES.

To the Editor of "The Times."

SIR,—The letter from your correspondent on unmarried women's votes in to-day's issue of The Times calls attention to a matter of vital importance to the women in this country. Owing to the present restricted qualification for the Parliamentary vote, nearly 6,000,000 adult women are denied the privileges of citizenship, and are still, for this purpose, classed with infants, criminals, and lunatics. In practically every other country, and in those of our Dominions in which woman suffrage obtains at all (including Ireland and Burma), women are enfranchised on the same terms as men.

Organized women and others all over the country are asking that equal franchise should be given without delay, as every election worker can testify. The demand for this reform is growing rapidly, and in the last Parliament over 250 members signed a memorial asking for the introduction of legislation on these lines. Both the Liberal and Labour parties stand for

equal franchise, and the following statement was made on behalf of the Prime Minister to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on November 22 :-

"On the subject of equal franchise for men and women the Government are in agreement with the view expressed by the late Prime Minister that the discrimination in age between men and women contained in the Franchise Bill of 1918 cannot be permanent. In the Prime Minister's view, however, a Bill to alter the existing franchise could only be introduced towards the close of the next Parliament, and the Government, if returned to power, will then be ready to consider with an open mind whether this question should not be reopened."

The Prime Minister's sympathy is very welcome, but it is unfortunate that he makes no mention of the large number of women over 30 (1,500,000) who, either because they are unmarried or because they have no house or unfurnished rooms of their own, are not entitled to vote. It is also unsatisfactory that Mr. Baldwin, if returned to power, should wish to postpone consideration of the whole question until towards the close of the next Parliament. When is this to be? Possibly before the end of its first session, as on this occasion! The traditional demand for a General Election when a new section has been added to the electorate can always be rendered unnecessary by providing (as in the Representation of the People Act, 1918, which gave the present instalment of women's suffrage) that the new electorate should not be entitled to vote "until Parliament is first dissolved after the first register to be prepared under this Act comes into force."

Yours faithfully,

EVA M. HUBBACK, Parliamentary Secretary,

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, December 7.

MISS HELEN FRASER'S CANDIDATURE.

MADAM,—Now that the Election is over, and the people of the Hamilton Division have time to take note quietly of its results, I think it only fair to myself to bring out the truth about certain statements made against me in the Division—statements that undoubtedly influenced opinion against me.

Firstly, I challenge anyone to state now over their own signature that I ever said at any time and in any place that 25s. a week would keep a man, wife, and children.

Secondly, I challenge anyone to state now over their own signature that I ever said at any time and in any place that 1s. a week would keep a child.

I shall await an answer to this challenge with great interest, as will, I imagine, a considerable section of the electorate.

Of the torrents of abuse, vituperation, calumny, and obscenity poured out on me from the Labour platform in the Division, I make no complaint.

These methods appear to be those employed by many politicians, and their value and truth must be left to the judgment of electors.

I personally have never found it necessary to make even one personal remark on the two men I have fought in two campaigns, and against whom I have polled 9,336 and 8,436 votes respectively.

These votes were secured without personal attacks, as every poll of mine will be.

Against this method of attack there is no better answer than one's record and the sense of justice of our people, but against definite statements that concern my policies, like those given in this letter, I shall continue to fight and demand, as I do now, that those making the accusations shall bring proof.

HELEN FRASER.

[We invite correspondence on the different points of view indicated in the above letters.—EDITOR.]

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

Send 6/6 to the Office of the Paper, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, 1/8 for Three Months. SUBSCRIBE TO-DAY.

THE THREE LABOUR WOMEN M.P.'S.

FROM A CONTRIBUTOR.

MARGARET BONDFIELD'S victory is universally proclaimed the most popular election result. Women of all parties rejoice over her return to Parliament, and Northampton has realized that they have a Member worthy of their great political traditions.

Margaret Bondfield was born at Chard, in Somersetshire, and at the age of 13 was acting as a supply teacher for a boys' class in a Board school. Eighteen months later she became a shop assistant, and for the next eleven years had varied experience of shop life in London and the provinces. She joined the newly formed Shop Assistants' Union in 1894, and in 1896 began a special investigation into the conditions of employment in the London shops, occupying two years. The reports formed the basis of articles which shed the light of publicity on the evil conditions of employment and the living-in system as affecting shop workers.

In 1899 she was the first woman delegate to the Trade Unions Congress, and winning her place in all branches of the Trade Union and Labour Movement by sheer ability and force of personality, she obtained a seat on the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress in 1918 before any special arrangements had been made reserving places for women.

In 1919 she was one of the technical advisers to the International Labour Conference at Washington, and in September, 1923, she was elected President of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress.

Closely connected with the work of Mary Macarthur in the National Federation of Women Workers, she is now the Chief Woman Officer of the Women Workers' Section of the National Union of General Workers.

In a life filled with a variety of work which would tax the strength of any ordinary mortal, she has kept in a peculiar degree the serenity of the West Country where she was born, and a sense of being constantly aware throughout "the hot race" of

"The hills where her life rose,
And the sea where it goes."

A striking tribute to the affection and loyalty which Margaret inspired in the people in Northampton was paid by her defeated opponent, Mr. McCurdy, and the determination of Northampton was expressed by a woman supporter in the crowd after the count who shouted: "You're in for keeps, Maggie! We'll never let you go now we've got you!"

SUSAN LAWRENCE, a member of the London County Council, an Alderman of the Poplar Borough Council, and a member of the Executive of the National Labour Party, has been one of the most distinguished women in the movement since she joined the Labour Party in 1912.

Susan Lawrence's legal mind and mastery of detail has made her an expert in the various subjects in which she is particularly interested.

Closely connected for many years with the struggle to abolish sweating, and the administration of the Trade Boards Act, she is an outstanding authority on Local Government, Housing, and Education.

MISS DOROTHY JEWSON, a member of a well-known Norwich family, took the Classical Tripos at Girton. She conducted a valuable inquiry into the payment of out-relief by the Guardians at Norwich, with the help of her brother, the late Major W. H. Jewson, and ran a toy factory with marked success during the period of unemployment among women at the beginning of the war and before the development of the munitions trades.

In 1916 Miss Jewson became associated with the late Mary Macarthur in the National Federation of Women Workers, and afterwards worked as a colleague of Miss Bondfield's in the Women's Section of the National Union of General Workers.

These three colleagues, who have been so closely associated in their work for women in the industrial field, will now have a great opportunity for co-operation in the House of Commons at a time when industrial woman workers, both in employment and out of employment, badly need assistance.

But, though all three are deeply interested in these and all other women's questions, they have all won their election battle on the full programme of the Labour Party, and their ability and character will strengthen the party and add dignity to the House of Commons in the wider issues now before the country.

VOTES CAST FOR WOMEN.

In 1923 the votes cast for women were as follows :-

Table with columns: CANDIDATE, CONSTITUENCY, POLL, MAJ. Categories include Unionist, Liberal, Labour, and Other Parties.

MARGARET BONDFIELD.

A message from Miss Margaret Bondfield had not reached us as we went to press, and must be held over for next week with other messages from some of our good friends in Parliament.

A COURSE OF LECTURES ON ELECTION WORK.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is arranging a course of lectures on election work, to take place on Mondays at 5.30 p.m., 22nd January to 26th February, at Church House, Westminster. Lectures will be given by a woman candidate on "Election Work from the Candidate's Point of View," and by other well-known speakers on Canvassing, Election Speaking, Election Law, the Organization of Committee-rooms, and the Organization of Meetings. The lectures will be given from a non-party standpoint entirely, and it is hoped that they will supply a need felt by many workers at the last Election. The names of speakers will be announced later.

THE WORK OF THE Y.W.C.A.

Mrs. H. B. Irving has kindly promised to recite at an entertainment which is being given at Morley Hall, 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1, on Tuesday, 18th December, at 8.30 p.m., in aid of the Moral Care and Welfare Work of the Y.W.C.A. in London. Mrs. George Swinton, whose singing was so well-known when she was on the concert platform, is giving a group of English songs and a strong caste will perform a Christmas mystery play by Miss Creagh-Henry, author of the "Unknown Warrior." Tickets may be obtained from 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1.

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XIV.

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

CAMBRIDGE IN THE 'SIXTIES AND 'SEVENTIES—(continued).

Another of our very great friends at Cambridge was James Stuart of Trinity, the creator of the University extension movement. He was a Scot and had come on to Cambridge with a brilliant reputation from his first University, St. Andrews. He was one of the wittiest and most delightful of men, equally great in things grave as in things gay. He would keep us laughing by the hour together with stories of his youth in Scotland.

He was one of those men who have a strong attraction for children. Philippa, usually a shy child, was not shy with him. She christened him "the cassawary," in connection with the well-known rhyme which he had taught her. Towards the end of his life he wrote his reminiscences and when I read them I seem to hear his very voice telling us his Scotch stories. One, which I do not think appears in the book, referred to some of the difficulties of a Scot in England. When he became the first Professor of Mechanics and Engineering he had the happy thought of bringing with him to Cambridge from his native Fife a working engineer who knew as much of the practical side of the job as Stuart did of the scientific side. He established this good man in a workman's family in Cambridge; and for a little time all went well. It was the period when all England was agog about Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria. Disraeli had referred to them in the House as mere rumour, "coffee-house babble," but this only added to the excited indignation they aroused, especially when details of the cruelties were published in the Liberal Press, authenticated by the signatures of well-known special correspondents. It was during this excitement that the Scottish mechanic had become a member of an English working man's household. One day Professor Stuart was called away from his work to see the head of this family, who told him at once that other arrangements must be made for the lodging of the Scotch engineer. "My wife is terrified of him, sir, and can't get any rest or peace as long as he's in our house." Professor Stuart, greatly surprised, for he knew the Scot well and was sure he was a most decent fellow, asked for details. "Well, sir, only yesterday in the evening I was out and Mackenzie, he was sitting over the fire, and he presently jumps up and says to my wife: '*Will I rake out y'r ribs,*' and she can't stand it no longer." James Stuart was far too good a diplomatist to laugh: but he assured his visitor most seriously that the words quoted were entirely harmless, and if rendered into English meant nothing more than "Shall I poke the fire?" Henceforth all was peace and the Scot was welcomed as a house-mate.

Professor Stuart was frequently one of our riding companions. The wide strips of grass at the side of nearly all the Cambridge-shire roads made it a delightful riding country, and we not infrequently got as far as Newmarket and had a gallop on the heath. Our more horsey friends used to say that no one who was not a professor of mechanics and engineering could have stuck in the saddle with such a seat on a horse as Stuart had: he enjoyed this joke as much as any of us. With all his wit and keen enjoyment of life there was a deeply serious side to his nature. He was an active fellow labourer with Josephine Butler in her crusade against the C.D. Acts: he had meetings for young men in his rooms on the subject and worked earnestly for the establishment (still far from being realized) of an equal moral standard for men and women. I remember Mr. E. A. Beck, of Trinity Hall (in later years its Master) saying to us "I don't know Stuart, I wish I did, but I know that when Middlemore comes back from seeing him he looks as if he had taken the sacrament."

He was a strong moral influence, an active antiseptic. Every society of which Stuart was a member was purer and stronger for his presence in it. After my husband's death Stuart succeeded him as Member for Hackney; but somehow he was not the success as a politician that he had been in Cambridge. I think he got caught up in the toils of party and was too much dominated by his personal loyalty and devotion to his leader, W. E. Gladstone. There are, however, many interesting letters of his in a volume arranged by Mrs. Drew and published by Nisbet & Co. about 1911 called "Some Hawarden letters," which show how he was

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

working still, in that political soil, to get some recognition of the injury done to the whole of society in giving no political representation to women and by the mass of law and custom which differentiates unjustly between the sexes. He married Miss Laura Colman, daughter of his friend, Mr. J. J. Colman, Member for Norwich. Mr. Colman was the head of a large business in Norwich, and noting James Stuart's organizing capacities, he rather rapidly transferred the management of the concern to his son-in-law. Residents in Norwich at that time have told me how this was generally considered in the business world there a more than doubtful experiment. A University Professor suddenly put at the head of a large firm!!! One can imagine how the step awakened something akin to consternation. The croakers speedily found out they were wrong and confessed that the firm under Stuart's direction was better managed than it had been before.

There are many other Cambridge friends I should like to write about; there were Professor and Mrs. Cowell; he was the cousin of my brother-in-law, Herbert Cowell, and, as all the world knows, a most distinguished Oriental scholar. If it had not been for his wife he probably would have wasted his genius for Oriental learning: but she insisted on his freeing himself from the ties which bound him to Ipswich and induced him to follow his real bent, first as student at Oxford, and later in the University of Calcutta. He was devoted to children, and liked nothing better than to entertain them with Eastern fairy stories. She was the sister of Maria Charlesworth, author of "Ministering Children," but did not care to be thus described. "If I had wished it," she used to say, "I think I could have written quite as well as dear Maria." But she did not wish it. Her great work was the fostering of her husband's genius. Then there was J. F. Moulton, afterwards Lord Moulton, the brilliant Senior Wrangler of 1868, who afterwards made a name for himself in science and law and rendered extraordinarily effective service to his country during the war years 1914-18. Details of this should be read in the interesting biography written in 1922 by his son. Then there were the Peiles, whom we first knew in their charming house at Trumpington. He afterwards became the Master of Christ's College. They also were among the founders of Newnham, and one of the Halls is suitably called by their name. Mrs. Peile was a cousin of Lord Kitchener's, and he was their guest in the Master's Lodge at Christ's when he came up for an honorary degree after his campaign in the Soudan. He was infuriated by the disorderly rowdiness of the undergraduates, and roared at them that he wished he had them in the Soudan. This they interpreted as a compliment, but General Kitchener did not mean it as such: he meant that if they had been Tommies he would have taught them how to behave.

One of our very dear friends in Cambridge was Miss Jane McLeod Smith. She had been among the earliest of the Newnham students, before any formal recognition had been given to them by the University. She had a little day school in Cambridge for boys and girls, children of her friends. Besides Philippa she had as pupils Hugh Ferrers, Hester Peile, Willie Moulton, and several others. Her strong point as an educationist was her love of great literature, which she was successful in passing on to her pupils. The one I know best can instantly tell you where almost any passage from Shakespeare occurs, and if she goes to see a play can say at once which lines have been left out, besides knowing by heart, and therefore possessing for life, the greatest poems by Milton, Shelley, etc.

The little school was managed on quite original lines: prizes occupied a very subordinate place in it. However, there was a Latin prize at Christmas one year, this was awarded to Hester Peile. On returning home Willie Moulton was asked by his father, Dr. Moulton (brother of our friend J.F.M.), the Head Master of the Leys School and one of the learned revisers of the Old Testament, who had taken the Latin prize: on being told he said in a reproving tone, "I am surprised, Willie, that you should have allowed the Latin prize to be won by a girl," whereupon Willie rejoined, "Well, papa, you see Hester has such a clever father." We were all very pleased by this counter check courteous, and thought it was a sign that Willie Moulton shared in the readiness and mental gifts of his family.

MODERN ASPECTS OF SOCIAL WORK.

COUNCILS OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

In the terms of a standard dictionary a *Council* is "a body of persons meeting in consultation, or to give advice"; *service* is defined as "a duty required and performed," while *social* refers to "men and women as living in societies or communities." That being so, a Council of Social Service is a consultative and advisory body dealing with circumstances arising out of man's attempt at community life—this as a duty, not as a sentimental caprice. The movement is, however, infinitely more than that. Out of a soul-less dictionary definition it is difficult to visualize the immense amount of individual effort and collective community service which is expressed through 50 or 60 local Councils and the National Council of Social Service to which they are affiliated. An historical account of the movement presents difficulties. Out of particular local circumstances, time and time again, there has arisen a definite need for corporate action amongst those engaged in various branches of social service. From this, in many instances, has been formed a Council of Social Service (or Welfare) with the object of crystallizing the advantages of systematic collaboration and, at the same time, leaving to each organization that individuality upon which progress depends and from which specialized knowledge emerges.

Briefly, a local Council of Social Service consists of representatives of statutory authorities and voluntary organizations engaged in all branches of this work. It is non-political and non-sectarian, but representative of all shades of opinion. "No Poor Law" and "New Poor Law" rub shoulders with sponsors of the present system. "Labour" and "Capital" find many points in common, while members of the Established and Nonconformist Churches find common ground with representatives of, say, the Ethical Society where community service is concerned. After all, why not? The provision of Juvenile Unemployment Centres, the encouragement of the clean use of leisure or the care of the physically and mentally defective depend neither upon creed nor political opinions, but upon an ideal which transcends these minor issues and a general realization of the need.

Of achievements, local and national, much could be written. Selection would be difficult and distinction invidious. Local needs have been met by local effort. In one town the Council has worked hard at the co-ordination of existing boys' clubs; another, early in the field, has succeeded in the successful establishment of this and many other services and turned its attention to finance—a third has taken for social work a central building which is available as offices and for meetings of constituent bodies; one Council raised, by voluntary effort, the cost of Juvenile Unemployment Centres when the local Education authority refused to do so, though as a result of this timely intervention, these have since, and rightly, become a charge upon the rates. The list could be extended indefinitely. Throughout, the National Council has encouraged this very diversity of work and rendered available to each the experience of all.

The National Council of Social Service consists of representatives of (a) its affiliated local councils, (b) voluntary organizations of national scope, and (c) Government Departments. Those members under (b) and (c) must, in the very nature of things, meet only in an advisory capacity, but their advice and experience proves invaluable. It is, within the short scope of this article, impossible to do more than indicate the line of effort giving to the interested reader the opportunity of enquiry. For the more practical points of the movement, for details of the work of the National Council of Social Service and its affiliated local Councils, reference should be made to Stapley House, 33, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

The co-operative ideal of the movement is, perhaps, one of the most noteworthy of the modern aspects of social work. It stands for a new conception. Charity and philanthropy, as typical of the attempt of one "class" to help another, must be replaced by an ideal of service which aims at a co-operative effort on the part of all citizens for the well-being of the community as a whole.

Many years ago at an obscure meeting in a provincial town one of the speakers said "the reason why those who take a keen interest in the welfare of their fellows carry so little weight, either in the highest courts of the land or in local affairs, is that they are not organized and joined together." Perhaps the most notable feature of our post-war history is the general tendency to correct that fault. The achievements of Trade Unions, Co-operative and Friendly Societies in the 19th century now find their counterpart in Associations of Girls' Clubs, Joint Hospitals Councils, Councils of Social Service, etc.

*(Continued on next column.)*THE LAW AT WORK.¹

PRISON VISITORS.

Prison Visitors are of two kinds: there are the Visiting Justices, who form an integral part of prison administration, and also voluntary visitors, male and female, clerical and lay, who are permitted and encouraged by the Home Office to visit the prisoners for humane and philanthropic reasons. It is desirable that magistrates should be quite clear as to the position and duties of the two classes of Visitor in order that prisoners may benefit to the full by the services of each.

By the Prison Act of 1877 the Justices lost the control and management of local prisons and these were taken over by the Home Office. There remained, however, for each prison a Visiting Committee of Justices to be annually appointed. County Justices appoint their representatives to the Visiting Committee at the Quarter Sessions held in the week after 28th December in each year, and Borough Benches at special sessions which must be held for the purpose in the same week. The Visiting Committee having been thus appointed is to hold its first meeting on the first Monday in February. A regulation which is very little known lays it down that a member of the Visiting Committee may take a companion (not a Justice) with him on his visit to the prison provided that he first introduces him to the Governor. Where there is no prison in use in any area the Justices having jurisdiction in that area may by permission of the Home Office appoint Visitors to the prison to which their delinquents are sent. But though this special Committee of Visiting Justices is appointed for every prison it is very important that all magistrates should realize that any Justice may, when he thinks fit, visit the prison and the prisoners (except those under sentence of death) both in the area where he has jurisdiction and also the prison to which offenders are sent from his own area. This is laid down quite clearly in the Prison Act.

While such visits on the part of an individual magistrate are of an unofficial character, the Visiting Justices have certain defined duties. They hear complaints by prisoners and reports against them and may award punishments; they also have general powers of advice and suggestion on such matters as the quality of the food and condition of the buildings. In hearing charges against the prisoners the proceedings are not unlike an ordinary Court of Law, but it is obvious that the prisoner is placed at a very great disadvantage. He is in the presence of the Governor, and, while the warders can corroborate one another, it is almost impossible for the prisoner to get confirmatory evidence from the other prisoners. He is often stupefied by the conditions of his confinement, and is tried by magistrates who are frequently much influenced by the Governor. It appears too, from Messrs. Hobhouse & Brockway's book, *English Prisons To-day*, that when a prisoner has a complaint to make he usually has to make it in the presence of a warder, if not of the Governor, and it is the exception for the prisoner to see the Visiting Magistrate in private. It is true that the powers of Visiting Justices are very limited, but the Justices do not appear to have made the fullest use of those they possess, nor (with the exception of Birmingham, where the important experiment in mental observation arose from the recommendation of the Visiting Magistrates) has any contribution to the cause of Prison Reform come from them.

One word must be said in conclusion on the other class of Prison Visitors mentioned above. There have for a long time been Lady Visitors appointed by the Prison Commissioners to visit women prisoners. They work under the guidance of the chaplain and see the prisoners selected by him. As far as can be judged, the number of Visitors is not adequate to ensure that every woman prisoner is satisfactorily visited. Lady Visitors now visit young male prisoners in certain prisons by permission of the Governor. A beginning was made a year or so ago in introducing men Visitors to the male prisoners; volunteers are usually sought for in the Church of England Men's Society or Adult School Movement, or similar organizations. More are urgently needed as also are suitable persons to undertake educational work in prisons by holding classes or study circles, or giving occasional lectures.

(Continued.)

While, however, most of these aim at the co-operation of those engaged in specialized work, the Council of Social Service believes that only by effective co-ordination of all these specialized branches can a true perspective be secured and effective social progress be established and maintained. W. ELLIOT DIXON.

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS.

[This column is under the direction of Ann Pope, who will be pleased to receive contributions in the form of letters, not exceeding 300 words; or short articles, not exceeding 600 words.]

CANNED FOODS IN RELATION TO HEALTH.

A very useful report on "Diet in relation to Normal Nutrition" by J. M. Hamill, O.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, was published by the Ministry in 1921, and may be obtained (price 3d.) from any of H.M. Stationery Offices.

In it we may read that "the sound nutrition of the individual and the community is the foundation of public health. The first official report issued on the physical examination of recruits during the late war revealed the fact that a substantial proportion of the population of this country suffers from physical defects which are largely traceable to abnormal or arrested development during the period of life when growth is most rapid."

MOTHERS AND COOKS.

This looks very much as if mothers and cooks were the most important people in the world, but they must know their job. Not such an easy matter in these days as it was in days gone by. What with chemical plant fertilizers, insecticides, weed-killers, manures, etc., used in the cultivation of agricultural products; preservatives, colouring matter and all sorts of abominations affecting in one way or another fresh as well as canned goods, housekeeping can no longer be stigmatized as dull, and it certainly requires as much brain power as any other profession. So much so that it is to be hoped the new Parliament will bring in a Bill making practical instruction in household arts and science compulsory for every girl whatever her station in life.

LABORATORY OR SINK?

Meantime the intellectual woman who possesses a social conscience will do her best to educate herself. It can be done; but let me beg you all to build up academic learning on a solid foundation of technical skill; a grain of practice is worth an ounce of theory. A kitchen may be the finest laboratory in the world, or it may be a sink of iniquity. To put a little wine or brandy into Christmas puddings and mince-meat once a year (although I do not advocate it) does less harm to the temperance cause than to provide *daily* meals inadequate in quantity and quality, or injurious in some other way. One of the best temperance workers I ever knew was an excellent cook; she made a special study of food values and gave practical cooking lessons to a number of workers every week. Prevention is better than cure, and intelligent and conscientious cooks are the best practitioners of preventive measures, and the best unofficial sanitary inspectors in the world.

GROWING IMPORTANCE OF CANNED FOOD.

"A striking phenomenon of the present century is the ever increasing extent to which the food of the community is presented to them not in its fresh condition, but preserved, so that they have made available the foods of periods of plenty, and from areas of abundance." Whether this be good or not, the industry in preserved foods is an important study from the point of view of household economics. Those who have read with interest the articles on "Home Production versus the Factory" published recently in the WOMAN'S LEADER, should buy "Canned Foods in Relation to Health," price 8s. 6d. net. (Cambridge Public Health Series, Cambridge University Press), just published (the Preface is dated October, 1923).

SYSTEMATIC RESEARCH.

During the last four years Dr. William G. Savage, B.Sc., M.D.Lon., D.P.H., has, with the help of other workers, been engaged on a systematic and detailed laboratory study of canned foods. In February and March he gave the results in the Milroy Lectures for 1923 delivered before the Royal College of Physicians, London. These with slight amplifications and two appendices (Reports by the author presented to the Canned Food Committee Investigation Board and included with permission) form the present volume. It has an excellent bibliography and it may be useful to many to know that the Patent Office Library in Southampton Buildings possesses in open access shelves, complete sets of the Bulletins issued by the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture, Washington, as well as many others that cannot be found, or are not so easily accessible, elsewhere.

MARY EVELYN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

All members of the National Union will join in warm congratulations to Lady Astor, one of our Vice-Presidents, and Mrs. Wintringham, one of our Executive Committee, on their successes. While rejoicing in the return of six other women, we sincerely regret the defeat of Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Helen Fraser, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey, after strenuous campaigns conducted with remarkable ability.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 22nd-27th DECEMBER.

In consideration of the overtime worked by the staff, it has been decided to close the office from Saturday, 23rd December, to Thursday, 27th December (inclusive). The office will therefore be open again on Friday, 28th December. The officers would be glad if correspondence can be held over as much as possible.

SALE OF WORK.

Readers living in or near London are reminded of the Reception and Sale of Work to be held at Church House (91 Smith Street), on Friday, 14th December, 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Admission free. The President, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and the Executive Committee will be glad to welcome any friends of the National Union and an opportunity of seeing the new offices will be given. Short speeches on the recent election will be made, and tea will be provided. Please come and bring any friends you would like to interest in our work.

THANKS TO VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

We wish to extend our warmest thanks to the little army of voluntary workers who helped at headquarters and in the constituencies. We would like to include among them some of the honorary officers of our Societies, whose efforts were beyond praise, and hope in a later issue to describe some of their most interesting efforts.

ELECTION FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged.	266	1	2
Mrs. Hopkins			5
Ilkley S.E.C. (additional)	4	0	0
Miss P. Fawcett	10	0	0
Miss E. L. Willis	1	0	0
Mrs. Freeth			2
	281	9	1

NORTH-WESTERN GROUP.

CHESTER W.C.A.

At Bishop's Lloyd's Palace, on 2nd November, Miss Grace Taylor spoke to members on Infant Welfare, and on 13th November, Mrs. Symonds gave an original and amusing address on "Children's Rights". A meeting was held on 4th December at the Grosvenor Dancing Academy, when the three Parliamentary candidates, Conservative, Liberal, and Labour, addressed over a thousand persons on Fiscal Reform. Under the presidency of Miss Beatrice Clay, B.A. (Chairman of the Executive), an attentive and courteous hearing was given to the different views expressed. Admission was by ticket only to women citizens and their friends.

FARNWORTH W.C.A.

Under the auspices of the W.C.A., a public meeting on the "League of Nations" was held on 21st November, presided over by the Vicar of Farnworth. The Rev. T. M. Falconer, of Bolton, gave an excellent address, and the meeting resolved that a local town branch of the League of Nations Union be formed. It was further agreed that the W.C.A. should undertake the necessary work of organization. In connection with the General Election, the N.U.S.E.C.'s questionnaire was submitted to the Parliamentary candidates for the Farnworth division, and also arranged for a deputation to emphasize the importance to women of the question at issue. There being no W.C.A. in the Division of Eccles, Leigh, Middleton, and Prestwich, the Farnworth and Kearsley branch agreed to circulate the questionnaire to the candidates in these towns also.

LIVERPOOL W.C.A.

The lectures on Child Welfare, Women Police, Poor Law Administration, and Home Sanitation, have proved to be the most attractive course ever arranged by the W.C.A., and the room has on several occasions been quite uncomfortably crowded. The expeditions to institutions connected with the subjects discussed have only been open to those who have attended the lectures. The course will be continued after Christmas, and will include Housing, Education, the Work of the Salvation Army, Unemployment among Women, and Emigration Schemes. A lending library of books on social questions is being established, the foundation of which will be supplied from the Edward Wright and Cavendish Benthinck Library at Headquarters. The usual questionnaire has been sent to Parliamentary candidates and the replies published. Reports have also been received from members who have questioned candidates at the meetings held in their constituencies.

GLASGOW SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The annual meeting of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship was held on 26th November in the Central Halls, Bath Street, with Councillor Miss M. A. Snodgrass in the chair. Before the business of the meeting began the Chairman asked the members to be upstanding while she spoke in grateful remembrance of Mr. Bonar Law and Colonel John Denny. Mr. Bonar Law was for many years an Hon. Vice-President of the Society. His influence was always cast on women's behalf when an opportunity was given to him. Colonel John Denny was President of the Society for 21 years, and ever gave its work his personal support and interest. After the usual business of the meeting resolutions were passed on the following subjects:—Equal franchise; status of the illegitimate child; equal guardianship of children; and the relief of unemployment among women. The Chairman, in her remarks, referred to the fact that it was the 21st annual meeting, and expressed a feeling of satisfaction on looking back at the solid achievements of the past—such as the Representation of the People Act, 1918, and the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. She also mentioned the good work that had been done by the women Members of Parliament, and stated that the women of Glasgow and Hamilton had the chance of returning women Members of Parliament—Miss Fraser and Miss Craig Robertson.

The most important business before the meeting was the proposed amalgamation with the Women Citizens' Association. Mrs. Buchanan, in moving the amalgamation, stated that there were no differences of principle between the two societies—simply a difference of point of view and methods of working. She stated that the Equal Citizenship Society had always been fortunate in its leaders, men and women of vision, who realized that the demand for equal citizenship was no selfish feminism, but the common cause of every man, woman, and child; and she urged the members to make it real union, that should more than double the strength of the two societies working separately. The proposed amalgamation and the draft constitution were carried. As the Women Citizens' Association had already agreed to the amalgamation at their annual meeting, the finding of this meeting unites the two societies in one, under the title of "The Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship and the Glasgow Women Citizens' Association."

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE,

55 Gower Street, W.C.1.

Apart from the tremendous leverage of her personality, Margaret Bondfield's election at Northampton was a triumph of good organization. The Committee rooms were havens of friendliness and family comradeship, a refuge from the bleak atmosphere outside, where ill and hungry men tramped the streets for work. They said that factories were on short time, that children were working there for 12s. and 15s. per week, sometimes from 7.30 in the morning till 5 o'clock. "Leather on the Lungs" was a common complaint. No wonder that "Our Maggie"—"as nice inside the house as out"—was a bye-word amongst women in the industrial quarters where she was living. Yet up till 5 o'clock on Thursday there was only cautious talk of victory—and none of such a victory.

By sheer vigour and grip of her subject Margaret Bondfield seemed to rush the mental machinery of the electorate along with her, throwing the light of her knowledge and ideals into the homeliest details as well as into the larger aspects of her programme.

The International issue was kept well to the front. Over 51,000 leaflets on the Reparations problem were circulated in the constituencies by the Women's International League. In Northampton the W.I.L. was described as "the necessary League." At one of the meetings just before the poll, Miss K. D. Courtney dealt with the relation of the foreign situation to unemployment. Mrs. Dighton Pollock concentrated on the Capital Levy. Miss Bondfield's election was a victory, not only for Labour and the cause of women, but for the high standard of educational and election methods which she upheld throughout.

HUMANITY WITH PROGRESS.

(From a Contributor.)

We are thrilled with the size and the grandeur of the great new building in Regent Street and the vicinity of Oxford Circus. Yet in one veritable palace of industry, newly planned, where the scores of departments mean heavy work for the lift-girls, no seats have been provided in the elevators for these girls during long busy days. And it must be sixteen years since Annie Swan aired this grievance strongly in one of her best-known shop-girl love-stories! Do we really progress?

NEXT WEEK.

We have already announced our intention of beginning the New Year with some changes, and further particulars will be given in a later issue. The next three numbers will be less political, as befits the time of year, and will in addition to Mrs. Fawcett's reminiscences contain articles by Maude Royden, Eleanor F. Rathbone, Sheila Kaye-Smith, Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., Miss Helen Ward, and Mrs. Stocks, with reviews of books for holiday reading. In view of the uncertainty of the present political situation we shall, however, publish next week an article by Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "The New Parliament and Women's Questions," which we hope will be useful to Societies in laying their plans for the beginning of the new session.

CORRESPONDENCE.

KNOWLEDGE AND THE TRUTH TRIUMPHANT.

MADAM.—Could not the WOMAN'S LEADER, as a non-party paper, give real information about general political questions, asking, as it has done on other subjects, authorities on both sides to give their names for or against, and the WOMAN'S LEADER then pulling all these questions to pieces to see what they really are in themselves? Mr. Baldwin has sacrificed his position as Prime Minister and his party in order to give employment to over a million unemployed in this country. His method is to place as far as possible the British worker on at least an equal footing with the foreign worker where manufactured goods are concerned. The Liberals have misrepresented this as a tax on food; and Conservative speakers do not explain in a clear way, to be understood by the ordinary person, what tariffs, preferences, etc., are.

Again, Socialism is represented as getting everything for the people, but it is really getting everything for the Government, even the house one lives in, killing initiative, etc., so that the people must become pawns and woman suffrage an empty bauble. Ought not people to clearly understand when they support any party what it is they are really supporting? Also, if people have a panacea for the evils of this world, ought they not to be ready to thoroughly explain it and how it is that the ills of the world will then disappear without instead using violence, underhand methods, and misrepresentation, which have nothing to do with the truth of any assertions.

As science has advanced by leaps and bounds by correct thinking, let us also make a real attempt to get at the truth of political questions, and make a similar advance.

FLORENCE K. POWELL.

THE CANCER CAMPAIGN.

MADAM.—With reference to the Cancer Campaign, I should like to register my sympathy with the objections of your correspondents to the appeal.

No real remedy for cancer will ever be discovered by the vivisection and inoculation of animals. A high ideal cannot bear fruit through the working of evil.

If the black hours wasted by the vivisector over his hapless victim were devoted to the study of rational and up-to-date methods such as hygiene in regard to diet, etc., or the value of the mental factor in disease, the campaign would receive the unanimous support of women who turn in horror and disgust from its present channels of investigation.

One can only trust that the time is not far distant when medical men will cease from groping in a blind alley and listen to the voice of common-sense.

M. O. STUART-MENTETH.

[NOTE.—This correspondence must now cease, but we will give the British Empire Cancer Campaign an opportunity to reply.—ED.]

"COME DOWN ERE
THE CHILD DIE."

In Greece, in Germany and other parts of Europe tens of thousands of children are perishing this winter of hunger, cold and disease. Even in many a British home there is heart-breaking need.

To all who love children, to every mother in the land, the SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND appeals again for instant help this Christmas-tide in rescuing these little lives.

Come with gifts that prove your pity and your will to save. Come ere the children die.

Contributions, which may be earmarked for any particular country, should be addressed to the DUKE OF ATHOLL, President, Save the Children Fund, Room 72c, 42 Langham Street, London, W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

DEC. 17. 3 to 4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. "The Life and Work of G. F. Watts, Painter." Illustrated with lantern slides. Speaker: Miss Eva Macnaghten.

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

DEC. 20. "The Rebuilding of Palestine by the Jews." Speaker: Mr. Adolph Ludlow, of the British Zionist Federation.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

DEC. 18. Wellington House, Buckingham Gate—
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Christmas Sale.
4.30 p.m. Dame Meriel Talbot, D.B.E., on "Opportunities Overseas as they exist to-day."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

EDINBURGH W.C.A. DEC. 15. 2.30 to 9 p.m. Central Halls, Tollcross. Christmas Sale. To be opened by Sir John Lorne Macleod, G.B.E., LL.D., S.S.C. Chairman: Lady Wallace, M.B.E.

LEEDS S.E.C. JAN. 7. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. "Story Telling." Opener: Mrs. Firth.

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

DEC. 18. 8.30 p.m. Morley Hall, 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. Christmas Play. Mr. H. B. Irving will recite, Mrs. George Swinton will sing a group of English Songs, Miss Joan Wood at the piano, carols by Blue Triangle Choir.

CALDECOTT COMMUNITY.

DEC. 20. 3 to 5 p.m. At 7 Courtfield Road, South Kensington, S.W.7. Sale of Christmas Presents made by children and members of the Caldecott Community, and of cakes, sweets, and country produce.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

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

MISS VAN SANDAU, 18 Brooklyn Road, W. 12, undertakes
TYPEWRITING in all its branches. Translations:
English, French, German, Italian. Lessons in above languages.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL
SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

WHERE TO LIVE.

BIRMINGHAM.—Mayfield Residential Club, for Professional Women and Students (affiliated to National Council of Women), 60 Harborne Road, Edgbaston. Common and silence rooms; convenient centre for holidays; vegetarians catered for.

ISIS CLUB, 79 Fitzjohn's Avenue; two minutes Hampstead Tube Station. Magnificent reception rooms, central heating, sunny bedrooms; sandy soil; lectures, dancing, listening-in; Christmas parties arranged visitors. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

GUESTS, English or Foreign, received in Country House for Christmas. Lonely people. Moderate terms. Taylor-Smith, Marsh Court, Leominster.

LONDON, S.W.—LADIES' RESIDENTIAL CLUB has holiday vacancies during December and January. Good cooking; unlimited hot water; 2 minutes from Tube and Underground. Single rooms, with partial board, 35s. to 38s.—Apply, Miss Day, 15 Trebovir Road, Earl's Court.

TO LET.

BED-SITTING-ROOM to let, for educated woman worker; near Brixton Station; quiet house; moderate terms.—Write in first instance for appointment, D., 2 St. John's Road, S.W.9.

HAMPSTEAD.—Charming STUDY BEDROOMS in lady's flat. Young society and personal care; professional women or students only. Gas fires; meals by arrangement.—Box 1,030, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1.

BED-SITTING-ROOM to let, with gas fire, electric light, use of bath and telephone, breakfast; 25s. weekly.—Apply, Miss Pike, 149A High Street, Kensington.

BED-SITTING-ROOM, with breakfast, in comfortable flat, Bayswater; bath, constant hot water; 35s.—Apply, Miss B., Room 22, 55 Berners Street, W.1.

WESTMINSTER.—Two large Unfurnished ROOMS in private house; £11 rs. weekly each; gas, electric light, use of bath.—Box 1,029, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1.

PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C.2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908.

LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Maurea Road, Chelsea, S.W.3. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

IRISH LINEN PILLOW-CASES.—Plain linen pillow-cases made from real good quality of Irish linen, which we can recommend. 4 plain cases, size 20 x 30 ins., for 14s. Hemstitched linen pillow-cases, real good quality, size 20 x 30 ins., 2 cases for 13s. 9d. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, hoots, 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.

DRESS.

MISS MALCOLM'S DRESS ASSOCIATION, 239 Fulham Road, London, S.W.3. Bargain Gowns, Evening and Afternoon, at 21s.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, 9 Lower Regent Street, W.1, 4th floor (Lift). Tel. Gerrard 908. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.—4 p.m., or by appointment.

THE HAT DOCTOR, removed to 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W.1, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Conferences every Tuesday, 4.30 to 7 p.m. Admission free; Tea 6d.—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, Westminster.

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, 16th December, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. Subject: A postscript to "Sex and Common Sense."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 16L, Cambridge Street, S.W.1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria and in the garden. Thursday Club Suppers and Discussion Meetings re-opened in September, 20th December: "The Rebuilding of Palestine by the Jews." Speaker: Mr. Adolph Ludlow, of the British Zionist Federation.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.). No Entrance Fee till January, 1924. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **1½d.** including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1, and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

Name

Address

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