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 AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.**Aftermath.**

Since the calling off of the General Strike on 12th May, contemporary historians have been busy with the reconstruction of its events. Gradually the bewilderment of its astonishing and unnecessary inception and its still more astonishing unconditional surrender, is fading. The ordinary man can assign praise and blame more intelligently than he could a fortnight ago when the tangled story was unwritten and unknown. The *New Statesman* has made perhaps some of the most interesting contributions to its telling. It even names those members of the Cabinet who pulled for and against peace on the occasion of that fateful session of 2nd May, which brought negotiations to an end and cleared the decks for action. Mr. Baldwin, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, and Lord Birkenhead (whose rectorial fireworks mask an incorrigible aptitude for pacific moderation) appear to have "fought desperately for peace." Mr. Churchill, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Mr. Bridgeman, Mr. Amery, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, "Jix," and one other whose identity is undisclosed, gave their voices for war—coupled, so the *New Statesman* avers, with threats of resignation if peace negotiations were continued. At any rate, opinion appears to be unanimous regarding the part played by Mr. Winston Churchill. Our readers may regard him as the villain of the piece or the saviour of Society, according to their individual taste. But, like Moloch in *Paradise Lost*, "his sentence was for open war." Indeed, the gusto with which he subsequently waged it through the pages of his *British Gazette* would suggest as much. However—if Mr. Churchill had charge of the war, we may be thankful that Mr. Baldwin subsequently had charge of the peace. And it is a tribute to the generally pacific and unvindictive temper of the British public that it is

the reputation of Mr. Baldwin who was over-ridden on 2nd May, and not that of Mr. Churchill who over-rode which has gained stature from the whole deplorable affair.

The Miners Alone.

Meanwhile, the events of the past week have given us no occasion to revise our opinion of Mr. Cook's leadership on behalf of the miners. Mr. Baldwin's attenuated offer of reconstruction "on the lines of the Commission's report" has been rejected by owners and men alike, in terms which are reminiscent of all their past obstinacy on the subject of reorganization and wages respectively. To both parties Mr. Baldwin has replied in terms which, though they are perhaps more strongly expressed than any communication yet addressed by a Government to the parties in a trade dispute, nevertheless, reflect very generally the feelings of the public to the two disputants. It would appear, as we go to press, as though the Commission's time has been wasted. Its masterly report, family allowances and all, has fallen a victim to the obstinate contentions of stupid and selfish men. For the coalowners a long stoppage can at the present juncture have no very serious results. Their life standards are not threatened. For the miners, therefore, it must mean inevitable defeat, in the wake of destitution, which will fall most heavily and most disastrously on the children. For the public generally it will mean inconvenience, poverty and unemployment. For the trade unions other than the Miners' Federation, financial stress, and a pervading sense of wasted effort. It is lamentable to recall the opportunity which the publication of the Royal Commission's report presented to the miners' leaders, and compare it with—this!

Labour at Geneva.

A party of Employers and Trade Unionists will leave London for Geneva on 29th May under the auspices of the League of Nations Union to study the work of the next session of the International Labour Conference. The chief item on the Agenda of the Conference is the Simplification of Emigration Regulations, but the party will also have an opportunity of hearing debates on the annual report of the Director of the International Labour Office—a survey of the progress of international labour legislation during the past year. The Government, Employer, and Worker delegates of all the nations represented have the right to raise questions on this report, and it is expected that there will be this year an important debate on the position of the chief industrial powers with regard to the ratification of the Hours of Work Convention. The party will be present at the formal opening of the new building of the International Labour Office, at which Lord Burnham, a former president of the conference, and Mr. George Barnes, the British Government delegate to the first conference, will probably speak. Reports of the meetings from our Correspondent in Geneva will appear in this paper.

The Women's Auxiliary Service and the General Strike.

In *The Times* last Friday a letter signed by Lady Cholmondeley, the Viscountess Rhondda, Mrs. Pankhurst, and others, paid a tribute to the work of the emergency section of the Women's Auxiliary Service during the strike. Commandant Allen applied for voluntary workers through the B.B.C. shortly after the strike was announced, and within a few hours some 1,000 applicants were interviewed and classified according to their wishes and

abilities. A fleet of cars for the transport of women workers was formed in co-operation with the transport scheme organized by Mrs. Baldwin. A special corps of young women trained in first aid was instituted to be in readiness in case of need, and rest and recreation rooms were established in different parts of London. The signatories express the hope that the Women's Auxiliary Service will receive a steadily increasing support not only from a grateful public but also from those in authority.

The Registration of Nursing Homes.

The Medical Officer of the London County Council, Dr. F. W. R. Menzies, gave evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons which has been appointed to inquire into the registration of nursing homes. He stated that lying-in homes in London were inspected by women inspectors and that nursing homes were exempt from inspection owing, he thought, to the pressure brought to bear on the Council and on Parliament by the medical profession. He was in favour of registration of nursing homes. In reply to a question he stated that there had been a few cases of the closing of lying-in homes for such reasons as the trafficking of infants born in the home, bad character, structural defects, and the neglect of newly born infants. The next meeting of the Select Committee will take place on 8th June.

The Protection of Adolescents.

Lord Banbury was true as ever to his colours in opposing the second reading of the Education (Employment of Children and Young Persons Bill) moved by Lord Astor in the House of Lords last week. On the assurance of the Government that the matter would be dealt with as part of the larger measure of factory legislation which would be one of the principal Government bills in the next session, Lord Astor withdrew his motion after discussion and the bill was withdrawn. The discussion showed, as the Bishop of London and Lord Astor pointed out, that some of the noble lords in the present year of grace held precisely the same reactionary views which were brought forward in opposition to Lord Shaftesbury's efforts towards reform over three quarters of a century ago.

The Summer School Season—The League of Nations.

The summer school season is now at hand, and there is a wide choice for those whose desire for knowledge is so keen that they are willing to spend part of the summer in its pursuit. Perhaps the schools and conference organized by the League of Nations Union make the widest appeal. This year a school is to be held at Trinity College, Cambridge, from 30th July to 6th August. An attractive programme has been arranged, which will include such subjects as: A Review of the League's Work; The World Court: its Work and Future; The Revision of the Covenant; Germany and the League; The League and Slavery; The League and Mandates; the World Industrial Parliament. The speakers are in every case admitted authorities on the subjects selected. A holiday conference has also been arranged from 14th to 21st August to meet in Geneva, which will give unique facilities for the study of the League at work, and the educational work of the Summer will be crowned by the three assembly tours leaving London on 3rd, 9th, and 15th September. It is rapidly becoming a necessary part of "adult education" to visit Geneva and study the League on the spot. Thanks to the enterprise of the League of Nations Union and the generous help of the secretariat and the International Labour Office such visits are so organized as to give students the best possible opportunities of study and observation, and moreover they are arranged at the smallest possible cost.

A Temperance Summer School.

Women citizens and social workers should be interested in the Temperance Summer School to be held at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts, from 22nd to 25th June. This school is organized by the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches of England and Wales and the lectures will deal with every aspect of the temperance problem as we find it to-day. A useful feature will be a demonstration of a Model Brewster Sessions, at which applications for new licences and for changes in the hours of sale and supply of intoxicating liquors will be heard.

Women in Conference.

The postponed meeting of the Annual Council Meetings of the Women's National Liberal Federation will be held in the Kingsway Hall, London, on 22nd and 23rd June. The National Conference of Labour Women postponed from last week will meet in Huddersfield on 30th June and 1st July. Reports of both meetings will appear in our columns.

Parents in Council.

The 28th Annual Conference of the Parents' National Educational Union took place in the Caxton Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. At the meeting on Wednesday, presided over by Lady Balfour of Burleigh, the Rev. Edward Lyttelton, in an address on "The Great Educational Discovery," referred to the original work on behalf of education carried on by the late Miss Charlotte Mason, whose merits he thought should be better known than they were. The influence which the ideas and ideals of the founder of this Union has exerted on educational thought in the last quarter of a century is not the less real because those who feel it are unconscious of the source from which it springs.

The Annual Council of the National Council of Women.

The National Council of Women will hold its thirty-first Annual Meeting and Conference in London on 19th, 20th, and 21st October, instead of, as usual, in one of the provincial or Scottish cities. It is many years since the Council last met in London, and an appeal for funds to meet the expenses, hospitality, stewards, and other forms of help has been issued. We trust that this appeal will meet an immediate response from all parts of the country, particularly London. The annual conference of the N.C.W. is an event of first-class importance in the woman's year, and its success has always been greatly aided by the remarkable degree of local interest taken in the different towns in which it has met. We are glad to know that those living in and around London are to have the opportunity of attending the Council, and we predict a record attendance, not only of delegates, but of visitors from all parts of the country.

A Useful Leaflet.

The Industrial Law Bureau of the Young Women's Christian Association has just issued a very useful four-page leaflet on The Trade Boards Act, by Mr. J. J. Mallon. Those whose memories go back to the controversy over the establishment of Trade Boards will read with interest Mr. Mallon's assurance that the success of the Boards which now exist in over forty industries has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of those who advocated them. "The Boards have raised wages without appreciably or at all increasing selling prices. They have fostered the organization of employers and workpeople, and have assisted to bring together small trade unions which before the Trade Board was established opposed and competed with one another. They have encouraged the better, and have handicapped or stamped out the worst type of employer. Lastly, by enforcing throughout a trade the payment of not less than a stipulated minimum rate, Trade Boards have compelled employers to seek their profits not in long hours and low wages but in the better equipment of their factories, in the judicious training of their workpeople and in the more active exercise of their own energy, resourcefulness and intelligence." The cost of this valuable summary of the Acts is only 2d., and it may be obtained from 17 Clifford Street, W. 1.

"Women's Place is the Home."

We read in the *Woman Teacher* that an amusing situation has been created in Ammanford where Mrs. Rees, a successful teacher in a mixed school, was dismissed on the occasion of her marriage a few years ago. Mrs. Rees has now been elected on the Ammanford District Council. A married woman may not teach children but may do responsible work on the local authority of the place in which she lives. In view of the small proportion of women on local authorities we hope that married women teachers disqualified from engaging in their own occupations will find their way on public bodies, especially on education committees, where they can use their influence on behalf of their professional sisters.

WOMEN OF THE WORLD UNITE!

By the time this paper reaches its readers, women delegates from all the world over will be assembling in Paris for the tenth meeting of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. A few hundred miles away a far more difficult and precarious international body will be still in session: the Drafting Committee of the Disarmament Commission at Geneva. But though widely different in function, constitution, and procedure, the two gatherings have this much undeniable relationship: The second is attempting to destroy a vested interest favourable to war. The first is, itself, representative of a vested interest favourable to peace.

The first proposition needs little or no defence. It is a self-evident fact that armaments, by which we mean broadly, all organized military, naval, and air establishments, are something more than an instrument of war. They are a cause of war. They would be a lively enough cause of war were their active personnel composed of robots, trained to fighting and strategy. For where there's a way, there is apt to be engendered a will. And the Government which possesses ready to hand an efficient instrument for the application of force, either in offence or defence, must at times be sorely tempted to use that instrument. But when the active personnel of the fighting forces is composed not of robots, but of sentient human beings with their ambitions, their professional pride, their mentality coloured and moulded by a daily environment of preparation for war—when this personnel plays its part in the counsels of the nation and reflects its outlook and its social standards in the policy of the nation—then in a double sense the maintenance of armaments may be regarded as a vested interest favourable to war.

But the second proposition is less obvious. Are women, organized for the improvement of their status and the expression of their own peculiar needs, as the women now represented in Paris are organized, so self-evidently a vested interest favourable to peace? It is true that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was the first body to raise the standard of peace after 1918, and bring former foes together once more for the furtherance of a common aim in free and equal and amicable discussion. That fact alone gives some colour to our claim. It is true, again, that in war time the devil of destruction does his most active and irrevocable work on that which is the peculiar handiwork of

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The strike has deprived the House of Commons of interest in ordinary politics. In one sense this is to the advantage of the government, for they find that their bills and estimates get through with hardly any discussion, and business is more advanced than the oldest member can recall. This, no doubt, causes jubilation to the Whips, but at the same time it has its dangerous feature. Political apathy is both infectious and cumulative; so long as it attacks an opposition it may compromise that party's activity, but is not nearly so dangerous as it is when it attacks a government. Diseases of this sort are hard to combat, and they spread far. It is to be hoped that after the Whitsuntide holiday members will pay more attention to their work.

The four days upon which the House sat saw little of importance, which is strange, as they included the Finance Bill. On Monday, 17th May, the Board of Trade vote came on, and a rambling discussion ensued in which Safeguarding of Industries and other matters were debated. So languid was the discussion that it closed early, and a hardy annual called the Mercantile Marine Fund got through, and yet the House was able to adjourn at a quarter-past nine.

On Tuesday, 18th May, there was a discussion on the relief of unemployment. The most interesting speech was that of Sir Alfred Mond, who restated his well-known views that unemployment benefit and poor-law relief should be used to subsidize industry. He is a persistent advocate, but it must be confessed that he does not make many converts. At 8.15 the House threw aside its indifference and plunged into a battle on Waterloo Bridge. The occasion was a Bill of the London County Council providing money for reconstructing the bridge, and there was a heated debate on the question whether the edifice should or should not be preserved. There were London members on both sides of the argument, and in the end the assailants were defeated and the County Council is left to do as it pleases.

On Wednesday, 19th May, until 3 p.m. on Thursday, 20th, came the Second Reading of the Finance Bill. It was discussed in an

women: human life. And yet—it is also a fact that women are no less susceptible than men to the virus of nationalism, and when they are once bitten they exhibit much the same symptoms of malevolent mania. There remains, moreover, the fact that in the past women have been largely removed from the danger and hardship of war. It is not likely to be so in the future, of course, when the chemist and the aviator are effectively substituted for the soldier and the sailor. But we are all of us incorrigibly liable to interpret the future in terms of past experience, and in the past war has meant for women inconvenience, wastage, in certain cases danger and death; everywhere an immeasurable load of vicarious suffering. But to balance these things against the long agony of the active fighters is to substitute a wordy sentimentalism for a sound sense of proportion.

Where then, among women, do we find the root of that peculiar vested interest in the preservation of peace with which we have credited them? We are inclined to say that it lies neither in more bitter memories of the past nor in greater fears for the future. Nor, though they are sometimes pleased to think so, in profounder veneration for the sanctity of life nor in deeper reliance on the power of the Spirit. It lies in their feminist ambition, and it is deepened and strengthened by widening knowledge of the foundations and implications of feminism. If M. Henri Bergson and M. Georges Carpentier were to engage in a controversy, there would be something to be said, from M. Bergson's point of view, for determining the issue by intellectual disputation; though M. Carpentier might for his part prefer the arbitrament of the fist. Where force is the ultimate arbiter of international destinies, where nations are organized for the maximization of force, and social standards coloured by the glorification of force, there women must always take a second place. For a weapon has been chosen which they can never wield effectively—a standard set, in which they can never excel. In a militarized nation or a militarized world, women inevitably go to the wall. The cause of women all the world over stands or falls by the ability of mankind to substitute law for war, government by consent for government by force; that is why every intelligent and ambitious feminist must be a pacifist abroad, and a democrat at home.

indifferent and inattentive House, so much so that on the first day there was a Count. This means that a member present called the Speaker's attention to the fact that there were not forty members in the Chamber, and the sitting had to be suspended until they turned up. Of course they soon did so, for they were in other parts of the building, but it is possibly the first time that the House has taken so little interest in the Finance Bill as to allow a Count to be moved. On the first day there were no speeches of interest. The debate ran out into various details, and Mr. Ronald McNeill, who replied for the Government, confined himself to the smaller and less important issues. A notable feature, however, was the growing dislike to the Betting Tax. Hitherto the Government have had matters much their own way, but the dislike has been spreading and was voiced by more than one speaker, but perhaps the strongest feeling in those who oppose it is that it is folly to antagonize a large body of opinion for a small revenue return. Undoubtedly many people feel deeply on the moral issue, and they will see that their views are expressed.

The debate was continued on Thursday, 20th May, Mr. Snowden spoke, and Mr. Winston Churchill wound up. Brilliant as ever, he still fails to carry financial opinion with him. At three o'clock the division was taken, and from then till six there was a discussion on the strike's aftermath. The House rose at six, adjourning until Tuesday, 1st June, thus giving members a longer holiday than usual, and possibly enabling them to recover from the apathy of the strike. Its results on political parties cannot yet be estimated. There is a deep cleft between Mr. Lloyd George and his Liberal supporters, which may possibly be widened when the article which he wrote for an American paper comes to hand. It is reported that this is somewhat plain-spoken. The consequences to the Labour party are difficult to assess. Nothing in the nature of a split is expected, but though there will be no open division, there is deep difference of opinion, both on the calling of the strike and on its calling off. What the result will be time alone can show?

THE WOMEN'S WORLD MOVEMENT— 1902-1926.

Before this paper is in the hands of our readers the preliminary meetings of the Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will have taken place, and women from five continents will be gathering together in Paris. It is nearly a quarter of a century since the first congress was held in Washington when seven countries only were represented. Paris expects to welcome representatives from forty. The idea of international co-operation on the part of unfranchised women dates further back still to the early eighties when the two distinguished pioneer American Suffragists Mrs. Cady Stanton and Miss Susan B. Anthony, made inquiries only to discover that the United States and Great Britain were the only countries which possessed national organizations. At the beginning of the present century when Mrs. Chapman Catt became President of the American Woman Suffrage Association, a second attempt was made to form an international body which resulted in the formation of the alliance at the Washington Congress in 1902. At the last congress held before the war at Budapest in 1913, twenty-two countries were represented. Then for seven years the pall of darkness fell on the world at war. It was no small achievement that largely owing to the statesmanlike guidance of the President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, and the loyalty of the board of officers, the Alliance did not lose one single national auxiliary during those crucial years. The organ of the Alliance, *Jus Suffragii*, throughout the whole period of the war maintained its function as a bond of union between women of many nations, including even those of belligerent countries.

No one who was present will ever forget the historic reunion of the Alliance, held in Geneva in 1920. It was the first International congress of the kind held since the war, and it was to the lasting triumph of the women's movement that all the belligerent countries except Russia and Belgium were represented. In the picture gallery of memory a picture which will never fade is the sight of the platform on that memorable occasion when women of enemy countries sat side by side and joined together in the tasks of reconstruction. The Geneva congress was remarkable in other respects. No fewer than *twenty-one* nations out of thirty-four represented altogether, responded to the roll call of nations enfranchised since 1913. Never, said Mrs. Chapman Catt as she welcomed the delegates, had she hoped to live to see the day when she would have to ask representatives of enfranchised countries to cut short their speeches because they were so numerous.¹

The turnover in public opinion on the women's movement was demonstrated by the fact that this great gathering received recognition from twenty governments who sent official representatives. Another sign of the times was the presence of several women members of Parliament for the first time, including our own Lady Astor then recently returned, who was there in the capacity of representative of the British Government. Geneva with its gracious hospitality, shortly to become the home of international peace, was indeed a fitting place for the first women's post-war congress.

Then followed the Rome gathering three years later with its clear note of progress. Thirteen new countries, including India, Japan, and Palestine were affiliated. The people of Rome, high and low, like our kind friends in Geneva, gave the delegates such a sympathetic and interested reception that it is difficult to believe neither Italian nor Swiss women have yet reached their goal. And now it is the turn of France, our nearest European neighbour, and Paris seems to be awaiting her guests with open arms. May the outcome of this tenth congress be not only a great impetus to the women's movement throughout the world, but a speedy and successful issue to the efforts of our French fellow-suffragists.

We cannot close this brief expression of our hopes for the great gathering about to assemble without some reference to the new President. It is no easy task to follow Mrs. Chapman Catt, who has established herself so firmly in the affections of suffragists of many lands. Her wisdom and her skill has guided the Alliance through perilous days and we are glad to know that as Honorary President she will help its deliberations for many years to come. As to her successor—well, it is not easy to write freely about one who is so much "one of ourselves." The women of Great Britain felt honoured when the choice of the Alliance fell on a British

¹ See "The Great Alliance," leading article in the *International Woman Suffrage News*, February, 1926.

woman so well qualified as Margery Corbett Ashby. Among many tributes which have been paid by women of other countries to the new President, we would like to quote one from *Le Mouvement Féministe*, the organ of the Alliance Nationale de Sociétés féminines suisses, which seems to us exactly to hit the mark.

... qui d'entre nous a jamais vu Mrs. Ashby fatiguée, découragée, préoccupée ou impatientée? ... Cette femme, toujours aimable, semble ignorer totalement cette vilaine chose, qui afflige tant d'autres mortelles, et qui s'appelle un petit accès de mauvaise humeur. ... Et courageusement d'autre part, car notre Présidente n'est pas de celles qui boudent à la tâche. Pour le bien, pour la propagande en faveur de l'Alliance Internationale, rien ne lui coûte, aucun obstacle ne l'arrête. Faut-il intéresser les Américaines, maintenant électorales, à l'action de l'Alliance pour les femmes non affranchies? Mrs. Ashby part pour les Etats-Unis, participe à trois Congrès, fait des visites, prononce un nombre incalculable de conférences et de discours, revient en Europe par le Canada pour atteindre encore les suffragistes de ce pays, fait la conquête de chacune, et confirme ainsi à l'Alliance de fidèles sympathies. Une autre fois, c'est chez les femmes scandinaves qu'elle va, pour connaître les problèmes qui leur sont propres et les mieux comprendre; si les Belges l'appellent, vite elle part pour la Belgique; elle vient en Suisse aider aux suffragistes suisses; elle ira en Orient quand il le faudra et dès qu'il le faudra. En Angleterre même, elle ne laisse jamais échapper une occasion de faire connaître et aimer l'Alliance Internationale dans tous les milieux chez les grandes dames comme chez les ménagères et ouvrières de fabriques, qu'elle sut si bien, l'automne dernier, enthousiasmer pour le Congrès de Paris, qu'elles organisèrent séance tenante une collecte où chacune alla de son penny! Et, d'autre part, il n'est pas de façon de servir l'Alliance que Mrs. Ashby puisse trouver au-dessous de sa dignité de présidente; le jour où manquerait une dactylographe au bureau de Londres, elle taperait fort bien elle-même, j'en suis sûre, des adresses de circulaires; et m'en voudrait-elle si je révèle que, pour faire des économies à la caisse et ménager ses collaboratrices du Comité, elle a tout simplement entrepris elle-même la traduction d'un des rapports destinés au congrès.

Tout simplement. C'est là la caractéristique de notre Présidente. C'est tout simple pour elle de remplir sa charge, de voyager aux quatre coins du monde, de résoudre des problèmes souvent complexes d'administration intérieure, de débrouiller des difficultés d'essence politique, d'être aimable avec chacun, même avec les pires ennuyeux; tout simple de concilier les tâches familiales de la femme d'un homme très occupé, de la mère d'un garçonnet adoré, de la fille de parents distingués et cultivés, qui firent d'elle une suffragiste dès le berceau, avec les tâches publiques de la présidente d'une des plus importantes Associations féminines internationales, de la candidate du parti libéral à plusieurs élections générales, de la citoyenne aux sérieuses préoccupations sociales et morales. Et c'est cette simplicité qui est son charme essentiel. D'autres femmes peuvent être comme elle généreuses, capables, lettrées, expertes, intelligentes, éloquentes, douées de sens politique il en est peu qui le soient si naturellement et si simplement. Notre privilège de l'avoir à notre tête est inestimable. Veuillez de Destin nous le conserver longtemps encore.



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EDITH PLACE.

THE EQUAL FRANCHISE CAMPAIGN.

EQUAL FRANCHISE AND THE PARIS CONGRESS.

The British delegation to the Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance which begins its sessions this week, will find themselves still only in the second rank among the nations so far as electoral rights to women are concerned. The majority of other countries represented at the Congress, including Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Esthonia, Finland, Germany, Lettonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Ukraina, the United States, and the British Dominions, Australia, Canada (except in Quebec province), certain provinces of India, the Irish Free State, New Zealand, have equal voting rights for women as for men. We hope our representatives in Paris will make their dissatisfaction with the present position as articulate as possible on this occasion in an effort to emulate the neighbouring states of Europe to go one better and enfranchise their women on equal terms with men. Perhaps they will be able to persuade fellow delegates from more progressive countries to pay us a visit after the close of the Congress, and lend a hand in our present campaign.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION.

Plans for the great Equal Franchise Demonstration on the afternoon of Saturday, 3rd July, are developing rapidly. One of the most encouraging features has been the response of the Youth Movements; the Guild of Girl Citizens and the Guild of Citizens of To-morrow are both helping in different ways; the Federation of Young Liberals is eager to take part and others are coming forward. A special Youth Platform is being arranged by them and the speakers will be limited to those under 30. In other organizations special committees of the younger members are getting to work on the Demonstration.

In the procession these Youth groups will hold a prominent place. Equally important will be the contingents of women in different trades and professions, for it is the desire of the organizer to emphasize the valuable work which is being done by voteless women. Teachers, clerks, civil servants, local government officials and others will march together under their distinctive colours and banners, with in some cases a decorative group showing their particular activities. With them it is hoped will come nurses in uniform, doctors, graduates, and other groups possessing a distinctive costume as well as women members of many trade unions.

Many of the contingents are bringing bands and one at least proposes to organize a marching choir. A pageant of Famous Women and an international section are amongst the possibilities. A contingent of women M.P.s and candidates is being arranged to march under the banner of Big Ben.

The marshalling of this varied army is being placed in the hands of Miss Dorothy E. Evans. The procession will form up on the Embankment in the neighbourhood of Charing Cross Tube Station at 2 p.m. Marshals and stewards wearing rosettes of the colours of the rainbow (chosen to show neutrality of the demonstration and the harmony of the diverse participants) will direct each contingent to its proper place. The procession will start at 2.35 p.m., and march through Trafalgar Square and along Pall Mall and St. James's to Hyde Park, arriving about 4 p.m., when the meeting is timed to begin.

The number of platforms, originally fixed at twelve, has now been increased to fourteen, in order to make room for the "under thirty" platform, and also for a distinctively Labour and Trade Union platform. Many speakers have been definitely booked, while other names are still to come. Taking into account not only the organizations but also the professions and types of experience which these different speakers will represent, their testimony in favour of equal rights will be very striking. These speakers will include Members of Parliament, actresses, writers, Trade Union leaders, young women just entering public life, women who have distinguished themselves in the learned professions, J.P.'s, mayors, and many others. If the crowd is as representative of women's work and life as the speakers, the resolution demanding votes for women on the same terms as men will come to the Prime Minister backed by an impressive weight of opinion.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

The political society of Catholic women is taking part in the procession of 3rd July, and in the subsequent mass meeting in Hyde Park, which will demand equal political rights for men and women. It is hoped that a contingent at least 500 strong

will rally to the beautiful banner of St. Joan, which displays the society's colours—blue, white, and gold, and was a decorative feature of many past Suffrage demonstrations. The colours are repeated in the society's new banner, designed by Miss Gladys Hynes, which is inscribed with its new name, and will also be carried. In Hyde Park, St. Joan's will have its own platform. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, chairman when the society was founded in 1911, will preside, and the speakers will include Mr. Joseph Clayton, Miss Monica Whately, two "under thirties"—Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell and Miss Monica O'Connor, and others. Handbills are being distributed by members of the alliance outside all the Catholic churches on the Sunday before the procession, and all Catholic women are invited to march under St. Joan's banner.

LONDON TEACHERS AND THE PROCESSION.

We understand that members of the London Teachers' Association intend to take part in the procession, and that full particulars will appear in the June issue of the *London Teacher*.

NORTH LONDON AND THE CAMPAIGN.

Societies in North London affiliated to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship are co-operating in a public meeting. The date will be announced later.

THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD AND THE CAMPAIGN.

The demand for speakers for branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild still continues. This is greatly to their credit, and is of great value to the campaign. Members of Co-operative Guilds are for the most part married women, and their disinterested work as fully qualified voters for their unfranchised sisters is well known. The Campaign Organizer, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, will be glad to receive the names of additional speakers both for London and constituencies throughout the country.

AN APPEAL FOR THE MINERS' CHILDREN.

Whatever our feelings about the present impasse in the Coal crisis, every man and woman in the country must be stirred by a feeling of profound sympathy with the unconscious victims. The Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Save the Children Fund in a letter to *The Times* on Tuesday of this week make an appeal for the miners' children. They state that the latest reports from the mining areas show that acute distress is already prevalent and is imminent in many others. "It is therefore imperative," they say, "that every individual who can help in the succour of the children and every society which can help should do so at once, and to the fullest extent in their power." Contributions should be earmarked "British Distress," and sent to the Save the Children Fund, 26 Gordon Street, W.C.1. We earnestly support this appeal and have decided to open a WOMAN'S LEADER fund for the children, which will be sent to the Save the Children Fund. All contributions sent to the office of this paper will be acknowledged at once and a list of donors will be printed each week while the fund is open in the columns of this paper. We need add no words to commend the protection of the children to readers of this paper, always sensitive to any appeal to their generosity. We, however, venture to add the suggestion that mothers, teachers, and others might take this opportunity of arousing the interest and sympathy of children in the plight of the children in the coal districts.

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PEACEMAKERS' PILGRIMAGE NOTES AND NEWS.¹

FINAL DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK, LONDON, ON SATURDAY, 19TH JUNE. REMEMBER THE DATE.

It is now less than a month before the demonstration in Hyde Park is due to take place and Londoners especially will be interested to hear the arrangements for that afternoon. Processions will leave the following four points at 2.45 p.m.:— Temple Station, Embankment; Philbeach Gardens, Kensington; Hamilton Terrace; and Montague Place, Bloomsbury.

These processions are due to enter Hyde Park by four different gates at 5 p.m. Speakers will address the crowds from twenty platforms and at about 6 p.m. the resolution will be put from each. Offers to organize and steward three out of the four processions have already been received, and gratefully accepted, from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and the Women's Freedom League.

Listeners-in will be interested to hear that Miss Maude Royden is to broadcast a short talk on the Pilgrimage from the London station at 9.45 p.m. on Thursday, 17th June.

There is to be a mass meeting in connection with the Pilgrimage in the Strand Theatre on Sunday evening, 6th June, at 8 p.m. This should do a great deal towards preparing the way for a splendid welcome, and a grand finale to the Pilgrimage in the suburbs and in London on 18th and 19th June respectively. Among the speakers will be: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. Arnold Forster, and Dr. Cyril Norwood of the City Temple. One of the choirs kindly giving its services is Miss Marjorie Gullan's Verse-speaking Choir.

Although the strike prevented Edinburgh from being the starting-point of the Scotland to London route, the enthusiastic supporters up there are going to carry out their programme nevertheless. The Scottish pilgrims will meet in Edinburgh on Sunday, 13th June, and will attend morning service in St. Giles' Cathedral. In the afternoon a meeting will be held in Charlotte Square, from which the pilgrims will march down Prince's Street to Portobello. They will proceed via Haddington, Dunbar, etc., as far as Alnwick, and if possible as far as Morpeth, and on Friday, 18th June, some will take an excursion train to London in order to attend the demonstration in Hyde Park on the 19th, and others, unable to go so far, will attend the demonstration in Newcastle, which is being held at the same time.

The strike is responsible also for a curtailment of the Land's End to London route. This route will now start from Taunton on 26th May. The meetings arranged in many places in Cornwall and Devon before that date will, however, be held as planned.

Seeing that so many distant Pilgrims have been cut off by the strike, it is more than ever up to us Londoners to make the thing a huge success. There is no cause for despondency. The strike has resulted in no diminution of enthusiasm, and if some places have had to drop out it is not because the spirit was not willing.

OBITUARY.—ISABEL WILLIS.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The feminist cause and, in particular, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the political society of Catholic women, has had a great loss by the death, in her eighty-third year, of Miss Isabel Willis, press secretary for the last ten years to this society. Miss Willis was connected with the Suffrage movement almost from its inception. In its very early days, she belonged to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, but subsequently joined the W.S.P.U. She was a member of St. Joan's Alliance almost from the time of its foundation in 1911, and as Press secretary did admirable work for it to the very end. Miss Willis was also interested in the cause of peace, and a member of the League of Nations Union. She died on the 9th May, at St. Leonard's. St. Joan's Alliance is causing a mass to be said for the repose of her soul, in a London church, and this will be attended by members of the society. R.I.P.

¹ News and information about the Pilgrimage will be found week by week in this paper.

"THE WORLD A HOUSEHOLD, NOT A BARRACKS."

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE PEACEMAKERS' PILGRIMAGE
By A. HELEN WARD.

No one who heard it will easily forget Miss Maude Royden's sermon in Geneva Cathedral on the occasion of the meeting of the I.W.S.A. in that city shortly after the war. She showed how, though international peace is the concern of men and women alike, there is a certain contribution which women alone can make. Men have built the ships, and the factories and the barracks of the world, but women have made the homes. Day by day in every house, the mother of the family practises how to keep the peace among her brood of young and old, selfish, greedy, weak or strong, kindly or perverse. Here and there a woman fails because she tried to do this by methods of violence, but the overwhelming majority achieve their end by mother wit and wisdom. The old slogan of the suffragist sounds in their hearts, "Better is Wisdom than Weapons of War." It is fitting that women, in co-operation with men, have been the chief organizers of the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to victory!" Such, in one of William Shakespeare's inspired mixed metaphors is a piece of his inspired common sense. The Pilgrimage comes at such a tide. We have realized in this country during the last few weeks, perhaps more vividly than even during the war, the complete and final ruin which hatred and force can accomplish, and we have realized that by mutual understanding, by the appeal to reason and justice, by harnessing science to the life forces instead of to the forces of destruction, we may solve problems apparently insoluble. At the Paris Conference of the I.W.S.A., we remind ourselves again that public opinion, not the police or the military or the hooligan, is the governing power, and in a few months the Imperial Conference will give convincing proof that the British Commonwealth is a brotherhood. One thought is, consciously or unconsciously, in the minds of all. It needs only fructifying by education and organization.

Our dear country still has some dark and difficult days to come: in many homes the spectre of want is, and will be present. Yet everywhere, just because they come as peacemakers, the pilgrims have promise of a warm welcome. It has been said with truth that everybody is at heart incurably religious. To explain the term "religious" in a precise formula cannot be done, but it is incontrovertible that there is a "something" inside each man and woman by which deep answers to deep, a faith that the real things are goodwill and charity, not hatred and violence. It is to this "something" that each pilgrim, whether public speaker or talker at the cottage doors, addresses him or herself. In September, the floodgates of talk and intrigue will open again at Geneva, and all the while the future of the race will be in the balance. If our country thinks and speaks and acts rightly then, if she professes by word and deed the creed "the world a household, not a barracks," the race may go forward to light and life and health, but if not—what will the future be? Things too great for the imagination to grasp fully are at stake. Let each reader of the WOMAN'S LEADER resolve to be indeed a leader, not one who, lacking the trained will and imagination, stands aside, who makes a great refusal. The pilgrim's staff and the shepherd's crook are much alike. There are silly sheep who need a leader, one with vision, for it is for lack of vision every time that people perish. In the hamlets and villages and towns, be found among the leaders. When those with the "something" in their hearts, the life-giving spirit of goodwill decide to be led no longer, but to lead, then will come the victory. It can only come in that way. A Peacemakers' Pilgrimage does not come every year. Indeed, even next year the chance may have gone by for ever, things may have happened to make the thing impossible. Whether for a week or a day, or even an hour, this year, now throw in your lot with the Pilgrims.

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A GREAT MUSICIAN AND A GREAT MAN.¹

LIFE OF SIR HUBERT PARRY, by C. L. GRAVES.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

This is a most delightful book: delightful in the sense that it brings vividly before the reader a very remarkable and many-sided and most lovable character. Sir Hubert Parry was, as musicians will probably agree, the most distinguished British composer of his day: he was the Director of the Royal College of Music, and as the author of the musical interpretations of Milton's *Blest Pair of Sirens* and *Hymn to the Nativity*, of Shirley's *The Glories of our Blood and State*, and of Blake's *Jerusalem*, he has left a lasting mark on the history of English music.

He was a devoted lover of John Sebastian Bach, and to him perhaps more than any other one person may perhaps be attributed the present great appreciation of Bach's music in England.

But he was many things besides a musician. He was an athlete, an intrepid yachtsman, a traveller, a landowner, and landlord, a student of natural history and of architecture, besides a lover of dogs and of all animals.

From his earliest youth he was courageous to the point of recklessness. He was always being "smashed up" from his boyhood at Eton and Oxford to the days when motors were invented, and every one who sat beside him at the wheel felt that he or she was earning the V.C. One passage on this point must be quoted:—

"He drove down the steep and winding road which leads from Savernake Forest into Marlborough at such a pace that when they reached the bottom his chauffeur got out and was sick." Vol. II, p. 39.

Sir Hubert and his wife, Lady Maud Parry, built a house for themselves on the Sussex coast at Rustington, a tiny village where my sister Agnes and my cousin Rhoda also had a cottage. While living there he taught every child in the neighbourhood to swim. He knew every man, woman and child in the place. He visited all the churches in the neighbourhood and played on their organs and studied their internal mechanism. He describes a curious experience in a church where he was playing for a service, and he was suddenly startled by the instrument emitting curious howls which he attributed to "pains in his tummy". But he was quite an organ doctor, and did not leave the poor instrument until he had cured it. The book is full of interesting evidence of his early proficiency in music. He began to play the organ when he was five years old, and composed a service and played it when he was so small that his feet could not reach the pedals. To him music was not an accomplishment but a "part of life".

I would like to call the special attention of our readers to the pages 365-76 of the first volume, where Sir Hubert takes his part in the eternal controversy between Youth and Age. He was all for the "Blessed Young", as he called them, claiming that the inspirations which come to young people keep the world alive and prevent it lapsing into humdrum acceptance of conventional complacency.

I have stated in another place that Sir Hubert wrote the wonderful tune of *Jerusalem* for us. In February, 1918, we had won our long fight for women's suffrage. We had for several months used Blake's words as our suffrage hymn. But we were planning a Queen's Hall demonstration in honour of our victory, and we wanted music which was equal to the words and he gave us the noble tune now known all over England as a truly national anthem. Mr. Plunket Greene, Sir Hubert's son-in-law, gives another account of the origin of this tune, and describes Sir Hubert coming into Dr. Walford Davies' room and throwing the MS. on the table with the words, "Here's a tune for you, old chap. Do what you like with it." I, of course, fully acknowledge Mr. Plunket Green as a far higher authority than myself; but it seems to me that there is no inconsistency in the two accounts. Sir Hubert certainly gave the tune to us with his blessing: came to our concert meeting and conducted it and the rest of the music, as is indeed fully described in Mr. Graves' pages. As Mr. Green says so well in his concluding paragraph: "Those of us who have seen and heard the massed choirs and audience, a couple of thousand strong, maybe, rise to their feet at the end of the day and sing 'Jerusalem' in unison, know what the man who set those immortal words to music has done for England's green and pleasant land".

¹ *Hubert Parry, His Life and Works*, by Charles L. Graves. (MacMillan & Co., London, price 30s.)

THE CHILD CHARLOTTE.

It is impossible to read the early stories by Charlotte Brontë, recently published for the first time,¹ without thinking of the Parsonage at Haworth, and the unforgettable pictures of it, collected for us by Mrs. Gaskell. One of these had been written down by Charlotte herself in 1829, and described how "the play of 'The Islanders' was formed" in the winter of 1827. Charlotte was then eleven, her brother Branwell about ten, and Emily and Anne younger still. Two years earlier the little girls had returned from the horrible school at Cowan's Bridge, where their eldest sister had died. Now they were at home under the supervision of an aunt who seems to have lived mostly in her bedroom, where she gave them lessons, of their father, who also kept much apart and can never have been a cheerful or sympathetic character, and of the devoted but tyrannical servant "Tabby". The children had very few friends, and were thrown entirely on each other. There were, however, many books in the house, and their father told them the political news of the day and inspired them with his own High Tory opinions. This is the description of that particular evening given by Charlotte:—

One night about the time when the cold sleet and stormy fogs of November are succeeded by the snowstorms and high piercing night-winds of confirmed winter, we were all sitting round the warm blazing kitchen fire, having just concluded a quarrel with Tabby concerning the propriety of lighting a candle, from which she came off victorious, no candle having been produced. A long pause succeeded, which was at last broken by Branwell saying in a lazy manner, "I don't know what to do." This was echoed by Emily and Anne.

Tabby: "Wha ya may go t' bed."
Branwell: "I'd rather do anything than that."
Charlotte: "Why are you so glum to-night, Tabby? Oh! suppose we each had an island of our own."
Branwell: "If we had I would choose the Island of Men."
Charlotte: "And I would choose the Isle of Wight."
Emily: "The Isle of Arran for me."
Anne: "And mine should be Guernsey."

Then they proceeded to choose "chief men" for their islands, from among the most noted political and literary characters of the day. The *Waverley Novels* and *Tales of a Grandfather* had come to the parsonage, and it is amusing to find the nine-year-old Emily choosing Walter Scott, Mr. Lockhart, and Johnnie Lockhart. Charlotte also had no doubt at all who were to be her chief men; if Emily had Walter Scott and his family she could have the Duke of Wellington and his.

"The play of the Islanders," begun on this winter night of whistling wind and firelight, was only one of the imaginative games which went on from day to day and from week to week, providing occupation and an enchanted world for the thoughts of the lonely children. From the games came the writings inscribed in the absolutely minute handwriting, a facsimile of which is given by Mrs. Gaskell. In 1830 Charlotte, then fourteen, made what she called "A Catalogue of my Books". None of them seem to have been completed before 1829; so it is probable that the children first told the stories and played at them, inventing, and relating, and acting in turn as a group of imaginative children will; and that then, as an afterthought, they, or Charlotte at any rate, began to write them down.

In nearly all of them her heroes, the Duke of Wellington and his sons, figured in some form or other, and we have here, as we might have in the games and stories of other imaginative children, if they were recorded, a vivid illustration on a reduced scale of how heroic myths grow. The Duke of Wellington Charlotte first worshipped was the Tory leader who illuminated the doings of his political party with the reflection of military glories of other days. The Iron Duke was now rather old to be little Charlotte's sole hero, and so she extended the office to his sons who might be thought of as statuesque young noblemen with a wealth of luxuriant curls, playing about brows of unveined marble, etc. Then she gave them adventures, suggested by all that she read or heard read from the *Leeds Advertiser* to the *Arabian Nights*.

The stories in the volumes before us are fragments which have survived from the great mass of romance that Charlotte Brontë invented between the ages of eleven and twenty-one. They are arranged chronologically and naturally change a little in character as they go on. In the last one, "Mina Laurie," there is a forecast of the Rochester and Jane Eyre relation. But they almost all circle round a great Duke and place in a mysterious Island Kingdom. They are all sprung from those childish fireside games in the winter evenings at Haworth, and belong to the child

(Continued on page 144.)

¹ *The Twelve Adventurers and Other Stories*, by Charlotte Brontë. (Hodder and Stoughton, 10s. 6d. net.)

HIGH WAGES—LOW COSTS.

At a time when the largest industry of this country is a sweated industry, and when the second largest is the unhappy subject of an experiment in economic salvation by wage reduction, Mr. Austin and Mr. Lloyd's book¹ comes to us like an unexpected gust of fresh Atlantic air. These gentlemen are not, we believe, primarily economists. They are engineers with considerable knowledge of the business side of their industry, who undertook on their own initiative a visit of inspection to some of the industrial areas of the U.S.A. for the purpose of finding out why post-war conditions had failed to produce acute industrial depression and why capitalism (whatever might be its inequity) was not in those regions open to the grave charge of inefficiency. Their conclusions were at first summarized in a memorandum for private circulation, the importance of which was so patently obvious to the City Editors and business men for whom it was made available that demands were made for its speedy publication. Its authors attribute American economic prosperity to the operation of nine business principles whose importance, they suggest, is insufficiently realized in this country. They are: (a) Strict adherence to the importance of staff promotion by merit and ability; (b) increase of profits by the reduction of price and the increase of sales rather than by the maintenance of a high price level; (c) maximum rapidity of turnover entailing a reduction of capital charges per unit of output; (d) increased productivity of labour by labour-saving arrangements; (e) payment according to output and the maintenance of a high level of wages; (f) free exchange of ideas between competing firms; (g) elimination of waste; (h) attention to the welfare of employees; (i) generous expenditure on research.

The central point of interest in the above list (each item of which is separately expounded by the authors) is the connection between (b) and (e), i.e., the possibilities for cumulative advancement which lie in the combination of low selling prices and high wages. In this connection the methods of the redoubtable Henry Ford are continually the subject of their praise. Now, practical business men in this country, and in spite of generations of economic theorizing about the "economy of high wages", have always tended to regard these two things as mutually exclusive. In precisely such terms, for instance, are we attempting to resolve our difficulties in the coal industry. Nor are these two authors deterred by the suggestion that America, with the resources of a continent and an illimitable home market, is more favourably placed for such a policy of expansion than is Great Britain. All home markets, they point out, are illimitable. And the most expansive element in the home market is the collective purchasing power of the wage-earners themselves.

Not that this is new. Its appearance of newness lies in the source from which it comes, and the spirit in which it is argued. We are familiar with denunciations of workers' "ca' canny" by employers—of business conservation and inefficiency by trade unions. Here is a simultaneous and complementary denunciation of both. It may not throw immediate light on the solution of our coal problem. It may not really add anything new to the bulky literature of applied economics. But it is admirable journalism and excellent psychology. It applies the emphasis which our business world requires at the precise point where its application is needed.

M. D. S.

THE CHILD CHARLOTTE.

(Continued from page 143.)

Charlotte rather than to the great novelist of later days. The child knew how to write as is shown by fragments of description quoted here. In the stories there are fine bits of description mixed with overflowing grandiloquence and with the startling abruptness so characteristic of children's compositions. But the interest is not really literary but psychological. Here we have the Child Charlotte.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

¹ *The Secret of High Wages*, by Bertram Austin, M.B.E., M.A., and W. Francis Lloyd, M.A., A.M.I.E. (T. Fisher Unwin, 3s. 6d.)

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HOW THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS WORKS.¹

Readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER will remember Mrs. Innes' most readable "Story of the League of Nations." "How the League Works" is uniform with this, and brings the story up to date, with a large amount of valuable information under such headings as "How the League Works for the Reign of Law," "How it Helps Children, Fights Disease, Helps the Native Races, Helps the Worker, etc." Under this latter heading the I.L.O. comes under review, and it is most refreshing to read a whole chapter in which the splendid I.L.O. standards for workers in general are stressed instead of its pseudo-philanthropic attitude towards a hybrid class called "women and children," and which ends thus: "The I.L.O. is thus busily working always towards the attainment of the 'general principles' which were laid down for it in all the Peace Treaties."

Mrs. Innes' general summing-up in "The League of the Future" is also admirable. "We may expect progress on one condition. That condition is that we—the people of all countries—shall follow the work with interest, and show by our interest that we mean any forward steps to be effective, and that we should not be content to see any of these (League) questions put aside." Even adults, who are hoping to do propaganda on the peace-makers' pilgrimage might do well to study this admirable and up-to-date little book by one who has studied her subject first-hand at Geneva.

A. H. W.

THE HOUSEMAID.

Some time ago we had the pleasure of reviewing a first novel by Miss Naomi Royde-Smith, *The Tortoiseshell Cat*. Now the appearance of her second novel, *The Housemaid* (Constable, 7s. 6d.) gives us an opportunity of recording a perceptible advance in the ambition and technique of this gifted writer. In her latest work, Miss Royde-Smith creates, co-ordinates, and contrasts two distinct but accidentally overlapping worlds: the county and the suburb; and she does it with considerable though perhaps not supreme skill. In Part I, she tells us the story of Ann the housemaid and her peculiarly attractive husband, John Page, ironmonger, of Fetter Lane. In Part II, she tells us the story of Michael Sherlock, of Charters Manor (we suspect ourselves of finding him a more intolerable boulder than our author intends), and the ladies who compose his domestic circle. In Part III she involves the destinies of all her players in a tangled, fateful, not to say highly melodramatic day of swift-moving experience, ending at nightfall with a double dénouement. Part I embodies the success of the book; it is excellently told. Part II is relatively commonplace. In Part III the criss-cross of the double theme lacks that inevitability which a greater writer would have given it. Its counterpoint is ineffective. All the same, we found ourselves intolerant of interruption during its perusal—and with this absorption we combined a certain admiration for its breadth of scene and variety of experience. Therefore we conclude with the advice that our readers add *The Housemaid* straightway to their library lists.

M. D. S.

PRINTERS AND TRADE UNIONS.

A friendly correspondent has written to ask for an assurance that our printers employ Union men. We are glad to be able to reassure her on this point.

¹ Told for Young People, by Kathleen E. Innes, B.A. (Hogarth Press, 1s. 6d.)

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THE SUNNY ROAD TO HEALTH.

By M. D. FRASER-SMITH.

Heliotherapy is a good word and sun-cure is a fine thing. We in Great Britain are beginning to realize this, and it constitutes one quite an interesting person to have spent two winters in Leysin, that famous mountain village in Switzerland where Dr. Rollier, with the help of the sun, or perhaps where the sun, with the help of Dr. Rollier, has wrought so many wonderful cures.

Leysin is perched on the southern slopes of the Tour d'Ai and is reached by cog railway from Aigle, which is a few stations beyond Montreux on the Simplon Line. We arrived there in November sunshine, a brand as new to us as it was delightful. Not only did the sun welcome us, but it continued to shine in unflinching glory, day after day, for nearly two months. We bought sun hats and green spectacles and sat on our sun-galleries and wrote ecstatic letters—letters which we lived to regret. For later on, when the snow descended, when mist enveloped us, when we waded in slush and stuck in mud, we would fain have silenced the chorus from home: "How we envy you, basking in Swiss sunshine!"

The first fortnight we spent in one of Dr. Rollier's big clinics, but when the patient for whose sake we had come to Leysin was comfortably installed there, we sought out a modest pension in the village. Leysin provides accommodation for all purses. "Madame La Propriétaire" assured us that she took no patients, but alas! we soon discovered that everyone in the house was in the grip of tuberculosis. Later on, when we moved back to the clinic, we had learnt that in Leysin practically every house is a clinic of sorts. It is therefore wiser to inhabit one of the recognized clinics, where certain hygienic precautions are taken, than to risk a so-called pension, where the hygiene is more doubtful.

Leysin is divided into two parts, Leysin Village where are to be found most of Dr. Rollier's clinics for tuberculosis of the bones and joints; and Leysin Feydey, further up the mountain-side, where the Société Climaterique has several large sanatoria for lung cases.

When the sun shines—which is not every day—sun-cure is the order of the morning hours. The new patient starts curing under strict supervision, exposing the feet first for a few moments only at a time, and gradually extending the time of exposure and the surface exposed. Take a walk in Leysin Village on a sunny morning, and mahogany backs and shoulders and legs and arms will meet your gaze, if you are indiscreet enough to let it wander to the sun-galleries. But you soon lose your qualms and in time you may even be found playing tennis or ski-ing with a young man clad only in sun hat, boots and pants.

After the midday meal comes Silence, a sacred period of two hours' complete rest. No visits are permitted and woe to you if you walk along the corridor with squeaky boots or rustle newspapers on your gallery.

Between tea and dinner is visiting time and into those few precious hours much has to be crowded. The able-bodied visitor to Leysin finds lots of useful work to do and is always in demand. Patients have many needs that cannot be met by the busy nurses, and it is of course the exceptional patient who has a relative or friend in attendance. There is shopping to be done; there are rooms to be tidied; books and magazines to hand on; there is the choicest tittle-tattle of Leysin to retail. The Dent du Midi is a wonderfully beautiful mountain; the view from the galleries is a wonderfully beautiful view, but when one has watched it day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year even, in many a case, visits mean more than it is given to us to understand.

In the smaller clinics and pensions, evening is rather a time of desolation. Patients dine in their rooms and then they are busy getting ready for the night and cannot receive visitors. There is nothing for it but to sit alone in the tiny salon, or go to bed too, in desperation. In the bigger clinics evening is quite festive for those who are not too ill to be gay. Patients who are well enough come down to dinner and after dinner there is bridge or music, or conversation bright but brief. At 9.30 sharp the salon door opens and the concierge appears—a reminder that bed-time has come. Once a week there is a cinema show, to which many of the bed patients are carried down, and on that evening bed-time is postponed until 11.

I: is a wonderful place, Leysin. Young Jones has just had

(Continued on next column.)

HIS MAJESTY THE BABY.

National Baby Week, the first week in July, is the annual event devoted to the cultivation of public opinion on matters affecting the welfare of mothers and little children. The outstanding feature this year will be the conference of English-speaking peoples on infant and child welfare, which is being held from 5th to 7th July at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, London. The National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and the National Baby Week Council, together with several other national societies working for infant and child welfare in England and Wales, are the responsible bodies for organizing this conference. That pioneer in the voluntary infant welfare movement, Miss J. Halford, is the Honorary Secretary of the Conference Committee, the headquarters of which is at 117 Piccadilly, London, W. 1.

The Baby Week movement no longer confines itself to the British Isles. In the Indian Empire, notably, has the Baby Week idea spread widely. This year the National Baby Week Council announces an Imperial Challenge Shield Competition in which a very handsome oak, silver, and enamel Challenge Shield (donated by the *News of the World*) is to be awarded for the best local Baby Week campaign held throughout the Empire, exclusive of the British Isles. This latter part of the Empire has had so much experience in organizing campaigns of this type that it is felt by the National Baby Week Council that the campaigns in the British Isles should not be eligible to compete with those overseas. The British Isles, however, is compensated by the Astor Challenge Shield, which is awarded annually for the best local Baby Week in England and Wales.

(Continued from previous column.)

a satisfactory radio. He is to get up next week after four years on his back. Little Edouard has made a splendid cure. He is going home to his parents in far-off Finland, a picture of health and beauty. Yes, it's a wonderful place. But it's a mighty sad place too. How can it fail to be? It is populated by the young of all nations—many of them brilliant and gifted in no small degree, for Tuberculosis is no respecter of persons. Some of them will never need a return ticket on the little cog railway. For others it is a case of crippled lives, broken careers, blighted hopes. And yet, with it all, a cheerfulness and a courage more wonderful even than Leysin and its cure.

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THE LAW AT WORK.

THE REPORT OF THE PRISON COMMISSIONERS.

It is very satisfactory to see that the number of prisoners is growing less. Last year there were fewer receptions into prison of persons under sentence and the daily average population of the prisons was also smaller. This reduction is marked among women as among men; in fact, the number of women under 21 sent to prison is the lowest on record, viz. 227. As in other years, recidivism is worse among women than among men; of the total number of women received into prison over one-third had been previously convicted more than twenty times. Short sentences of two weeks or less are still far too common, 14,879 in the year, many of course for a trifling offence in default of paying a fine. At the same time many magistrates will question the justice of the proposal that if offenders fail to pay their fines after ample time has been given and allowance made for all the circumstances, they should be committed to prison for a substantial period. The amount of the fine has presumably been fixed in relation to the offence and a small fine should only carry a short term of imprisonment. It is very regrettable that no less than thirty-two children under 16 were sent to prison either on remand or under sentence. It is impossible to believe that some better way could not have been found for dealing with these young people.

The educational work is still disappointing in its amount. The number of paid teachers remains at twelve, and is obviously quite inadequate for the teaching of the young and the illiterate prisoners. The work done by volunteers is splendid as far as it goes; out of about 50,000 persons received into prison in the year 6,600 appear to have attended a class or classes. Of course, many have such a short sentence that it is useless for them to join a class, though even for these some rational occupation during the evening hours is highly desirable. When it is realized that each class probably only meets once a week and there are seven evenings in the week, it is seen what a huge task it is to provide evening tuition for the large number of men and women in prison and how difficult it is for voluntary effort to cover the ground. It is good that at the Borstal Institution a few boys go out to evening classes at the local technical school but deplorable that the reason given that more do not participate is that the fees cannot be provided. Considering how low the fees at these schools are one marvels at the zeal for economy which can so deprive Borstal lads of their most necessary education.

Some very illuminating remarks are to be found in the reports from prison governors and doctors. One of the former draws attention to the difficulty that many prisoners have in getting to sleep owing to the early hours they "turn in" and the sedentary life they lead, and urges that charts of physical exercises should be provided in the cells. The governor of Holloway gives two tragic instances of young girls sent to prison in default of payment of a small fine. No time was allowed for payment in either case, and neither girl had been in prison before. One wishes that the governor might have an opportunity of giving his opinion on this sort of procedure to the bench that was responsible for it. Another governor says that fewer youths would be sent to prison if the Borstal sentence were shorter. "Judges and Magistrates are loth to pass such a long sentence as three years." The Governor of Wakefield Prison gives an encouraging account of the "more or less community life" led in the prison, and the extent to which self-government prevails. It is to be wished that throughout the prison system generally the prisoner was more often made an active agent in his own rehabilitation instead of being merely the subject of the good offices of teachers, visitors, and staff.

The least helpful observations came from the medical officer at Dartmoor. After describing the miserable cold and damp which have prevailed in the prison throughout the year, he complains that the present-day convict is "apt to whine over trifles . . . and petitions are becoming a cult. Neurasthenia and nervous breakdowns were never heard of, now they are fashionable, and applications for aspirin, sleeping draughts, and nerve tonics are becoming more and more frequent." The tone of these remarks indicates that the writer has mistaken his vocation in becoming a medical officer. He also states that "assaults are almost unknown," which is difficult to reconcile with 109 offences of violence which occurred at Dartmoor last year. And 128 of the convicts received no less than 665 punishments. There are 600 convicts in the dreary building that

(Continued at foot of next column.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS.

By BERTHA MASON.

BLACK SMOKE.

Ever since the thirteenth century, when coal was first brought to London by sea, and the inhabitants, horrified, it is said, by the consequent discharge of filth into the atmosphere, vehemently protested against its use, complaints against the smoke nuisance have been continued. Edward I, believing (no doubt with reason) that smoke affected his health, is said to have decreed that "any building from which smoke issued should be pulled down." Edward II is reported to have prohibited the use of sea coal. Readers of John Evelyn's diary will remember his vigorous denunciation of the "hellish and dismal cloud of sea coal" which in the seventeenth century "perpetually hung over the august and opulent city of London." For seven centuries people have been crying out against the evil, yet to-day the problem of smoke abatement still awaits solution.

This is not to say that attempts have not been made to cope with the nuisance. None, however, have been completely effectual. During the last century the evil has become more acute owing to the great increase in industrial and domestic consumption of coal, in spite of repeated attempts made by Parliament to inquire into, and cope with the evil. Nor has private effort been lacking. Smoke abatement societies have been formed. More than thirty years ago a little group of men in Sheffield, so Dr. Edward Carpenter tells us, made a gallant effort to bring the evil under the notice of the Council and inhabitants of the city. As is often the case with reformers, their efforts were received with jeers. "They want us to do without smook, but how can we live without smook?" said the people. "If there were no smook, there would be no trade."

The argument that there is commercial value in black smoke is hard to kill, and is even now repeated when present-day reforms are proposed. There are still people who argue, as did a representative of a firm recently fined for a smoke nuisance—that "in these days people ought to be glad that black smoke is being emitted, though I agree it is a nuisance," and who believe that black smoke is a source of profit, and therefore we must not only accept the filth and dirt which accompany it, but we must actually welcome the same. The fact is not yet fully realized that besides its injurious effect on the health, spirits and life of the community and the damage inflicted on vegetation, buildings, etc., black smoke, whether industrial or domestic, represents a waste of fuel and spells commercial loss in the long run.

The Public Health Smoke Abatement Bill now before Parliament, if carried into law this Session and strictly enforced, will do something to minimize the outpouring of smoke and will help to purify the atmosphere. The provisions relating to smoke in the 1875 Act have failed mainly because they were limited to "black" smoke. This enabled offenders often to escape conviction on the plea that their smoke was not black; the penalties have been too small; and the administration of the law has been in the hands of authorities which have been composed in many cases of the worst offenders. The new Bill makes it possible, amongst other things, to take proceedings in regard to smoke irrespective of its colour, and gives a wider definition of the term smoke. It enables local authorities to set up standards of smoke emission subject to confirmation by the Minister of Health. It enables them to require that certain new buildings shall be provided with arrangements for smokeless heating. All this is to the good. The weakness of the Bill is the abandonment of any attempt to reduce the volume of domestic smoke, which is responsible for at least 50 per cent. of the pollution of the atmosphere. But that is another story. The domestic chimney deserves an article to itself.

(Continued from previous column.)

stands out in the desolation of Dartmoor; they have no educational advisor to the prison and the report says nothing of educational work. The remarks of the chaplain in 1922 and the governor in 1924 were as unsympathetic in tone as those of the medical officer just quoted, and threw cold water on social reforms.

It is a cause for congratulation that for the first time in this century there was no corporal punishment in any convict prison.

C. D. RACKHAM.

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WEEK-END SUMMER SCHOOL arranged by the Church Stretton Society for Equal Citizenship, Friday, 25th June, to Monday, 28th June, 1926.

Subjects to be discussed:—

(a) Points on the Programme of the N.U.S.E.C.:—

1. Equal Franchise—the Present Outlook.
2. Restrictive Legislation for Women.
3. Family Allowances and the Coal Dispute.
4. The League of Nations—Arbitration and Disarmament.

(b) Questions of Policy of Immediate Importance:—

1. The Interpretation of the Object of the N.U.S.E.C.—What is Equality?
2. The Attitude to be taken by Non-Party Organizations.
 - i. In emergencies, such as the recent industrial crisis.
 - ii. At Elections.

Speakers:—

Miss Macadam, recently Hon. Sec. of N.U.S.E.C.; Hon. Sec., Joint Universities Council for Social Studies.

Miss A. Helen Ward, Member of Executive of N.U.S.E.C.
Mrs. Hubback, Parliamentary Secretary, N.U.S.E.C.

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Applications should be made as soon as possible to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C. School fee for non-residents 5s., and 1s. 6d. for separate lectures. It is hoped that as many officers and members of our Societies as possible will take this opportunity of meeting members from Headquarters. Problems of organization will be discussed.

I.W.S.A. CONGRESS.

The following are all the delegates and substitute delegates representing the N.U.S.E.C.:—

Delegates:—

Miss Rathbone, Commandant Allen, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Macmillan, Mrs. Stocks, Miss Courtney, Miss Neilans, Miss Helen Ward, Miss Picton-Turberville.

Substitute Delegates:—

Mrs. Abbott, Viscountess Rhondda, Miss Fraser, Miss Merrifield, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Van Gruisen, Miss Snodgrass,

CONCERT IN AID OF N.U.S.E.C. FUNDS.

The concert which took place at Mrs. L. B. Franklin's, 32 Hyde Park Gardens, on Tuesday, 18th May, was a great success. Our best thanks are due both to Mrs. Franklin for her hospitality and to the artistes, Miss Mary Barton, Miss Majorie Slaughter, Miss Olga Carminie, Mme. Bertha Moore, O.B.E., Miss Majorie Moore, Miss Efga Myers, and Mr. James Hickey, and others, who were very much appreciated.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SMOKE ABATEMENT) BILL.

A Conference of women's organizations on the above Bill is being held at the Caxton Hall on Tuesday, 22nd June, at 4 p.m. The speakers will include Miss Maude Royden, Dr. Leonard Hill, and Lord Newton.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FORCED LABOUR.

MADAM,—I much regret that Lady Selborne's letter on "Forced Labour" in your issue of 16th April, has only just come to my notice. I am sorry that the opening paragraph of my article on "Forced Labour and Kenya Colony" misled Lady Selborne. There are three forms of forced labour; one is the mild kind which Lady Selborne refers to, and which I was not writing about, as it is seldom abused. It merely consists of the traditional labour called upon by chiefs to clear bush, etc., and does not take the natives away from their homes. The other two forms of forced labour are what I was describing, and were introduced by European governments, namely, that for public works (roads, portage for officials, railways, etc.), and that for private employers (for estates of coffee, sisal, and other exportable crops). It is the latter form especially which is objected to strongly by Africans; even the former is only unobjectionable when carefully watched—a fact recognized by the Colonial Office, which has decreed that no forced labour for public works shall be used in Kenya unless its consent has first been obtained. ISABEL ROSS.
Hampstead.

FRANCE AND THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

MADAM,—As an Englishwoman living most of her time in France, I venture to suggest that the following anecdote is typical of our old ally's constant gratitude to and continued friendship for Britain.

Having occasion to make an inquiry at the Gare St. Lazare as to train services, on behalf of a friend who was coming over to help our Paris office in a work for the Entente which we continue to carry on in the still devastated areas of France, I was told by an employé that I must go to a bureau on the farther side of the station. Thither he conducted me, and assured himself that I had found the right information.

As this was no part of his work, I offered him a small *doubleur*. He refused at once, and expressed his pleasure in doing the slightest service for any of our countrywomen. . . . For had he not been nursed at the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont? And could he ever express what he felt, not only for the wonderful care and comfort, but also for the magnificent skill to which he owed (such was his firm conviction) the limb itself that no other hospital could have saved! . . . If ever I were to meet any of those ladies, would I be so good as to repeat to them his expression of the gratitude that is always in his heart?

Among names mentioned by "M. Dujois" were those of Miss Ivens and Miss Hudson; but the tribute he paid to his blessed time in hospital at Royaumont embraced in its eloquence every feature of the organization and every member of the staff! Not having myself the privilege of being one of them, I hope that this letter will catch the eye of many readers who were of the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont and elsewhere.

Part of my own Unit was stationed close to the Scottish Women's Hospital at Villiers-Cotterets (Aisne) during the momentous days of May and June, 1918, after our forced retreat from the Unit's headquarters at Blérancourt (end of March) with the Sixth French Army, to which we had the honour of being attached. Members of different Units in France were generally too busy to meet each other except upon the road. I recall, later on, at Senlis, a few minutes' conversation with the chauffeur of a camionette who had driven (I think from Royaumont itself) to Senlis, when that city became a shifting scene of tragedy in the drafting of refugees. This was shortly after railway communication from Crépy-en-Valois became impossible, for, at the unforgettable moment of the Fête Dieu, I had gone with a number of French wounded to that station (from Coyolles near Villiers-Cotterets), expecting to see them into the night train for Paris, and had found on arrival at Crépy that the Germans had started to bomb those very trains.

The object of this letter being, however, a purely "positive" one, and seeing that it is of individuals that nations are composed, I will conclude by emphasizing only how, at a time of international strain like the present, every individual expression of sympathy and goodwill towards France is appreciated by her people; no effort to enter into either her true ideals or her difficulties passes as a rule unnoticed. Such at least is the experience of one who lives here, and who continues to see a great deal of those sterling people of the North upon whose homesteads the brunt of the World War fell. If we had been of their number, should we find it easy to forget the horror of being driven from a beloved *terre* and *foyer*, nor the hardly less tragic moment of return to their ruins? Such sufferings were only equalled by the courage with which they did return, and the hardihood with which they cheerfully strove (and are striving) to bring ordered life from those same ruins. HELEN COLT.
Cité des Euvres,
2 Boulevard Lannes, Paris.

MARRIAGE MORTALITY IN INDUSTRY.

MADAM,—With reference to your note on Marriage Mortality in Industry (referring to the "Bournville Annual") in your last issue of the WOMAN'S LEADER, the following extract from A. G. Gardiner's *Life of George Cadbury* may be of interest to your readers:—

"Save for a few cleaners, who put in a hour or two a day, no married women are employed at the Bournville works. . . . George Cadbury based himself on the simple fact that the duty of a woman who marries is to her children, and that she cannot be in two places at once. Asked what a woman should do when her husband is ill or out of work, he would not deny the urgency or pathos of the question. . . .

"If others only would recognize the same principle, there would be less unemployment, less sickness, and fewer wives seeking to pick up a livelihood. . . .

"It thus followed that by refusing to employ married women the directors were able to reduce too early employment of children. It also followed that improvident marriages were diminished."

It is not necessary for me to comment on the question as to whether married women are not the best judges themselves to decide as to how most usefully they can meet the needs of their homes.

London.

FLORENCE MATHEWS.

COMING EVENTS.

EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION.

JULY 3. Mass Meeting in Hyde Park.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

MAY 30 to JUNE 6. Paris Congress.

NATIONAL MILK CONFERENCE.

JUNE 8. 10 a.m.-5.30 p.m. King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, W.C. 1. Subject: "Milk, in relation to Public Health."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Malvern S.E.C. JUNE 11. 8 p.m. At the Lytton Schoolroom. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "The Educative Influence of the Vote."

PEACEMAKERS' PILGRIMAGE.

JUNE 18. Great Peace Demonstration in Hyde Park.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 30th May: 3.30, Music. Lecture by Mr. Hamilton Fyfe on "The Manufacture of Public Opinion by the Press." 6.30.

EUSTACE MILES LECTURES on Practical Subjects. April to June in the Green Salon, 40 Chandos Street, Charing Cross, W.C. 2. Thursdays at 3.45 p.m. 3rd June, Mrs. St. Hill on "More about Scientific Palmistry." At 6.15 p.m. "OUR FIVE HEREDITIES," by Mr. EUSTACE MILES. Admission 1s. For full Lecture List apply Secretary.

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