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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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Contents :

	PAGE
<i>"The Woman's Leader" in Politics :</i>	
A GREAT CAUSE	1057
NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER	1056
TRIAL MARRIAGES. By Norah March, B.Sc.	1058
NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS: ARAB WOMEN	1059
UNEMPLOYMENT	1063
 <i>In Education :</i>	
THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL'S EDUCATION SCHEME	1061
 <i>In the Home :</i>	
EVERYDAY COMMODITIES. IV.	1060
 <i>In Literature and Art :</i>	
A WIDOW AND HER "MITES"	1064
MEMOIRS OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN ...	1065
REVIEWS	1065
DRAMA: "A Night Out"	1066
OURSELVES	1064
CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS	1067

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

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

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NOTES AND NEWS

Woman Suffrage in Newfoundland.

Newfoundland, Great Britain's oldest colony, is considering the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women. Its population of little more than a quarter of a million has a surplus of less than 3,000 men, so that the enfranchisement of women on equal terms would very much enlarge the electorate. There is no probability of the extension of this reformed franchise to Newfoundland's dependency, Labrador, which boasts a much greater area than Newfoundland, but includes so few women among its 4,000 inhabitants that the question has only an academic interest. Newfoundland itself, with a climate more temperate than that of Canada or the North Western States of America, should attract enterprising settlers from Great Britain, as its agriculture and its infant mining industry offer great opportunities to persons with experience and some capital. British barristers and solicitors are admitted to practice without further examinations; medical men and women with good British qualifications are registered by the Newfoundland Medical Board on payment of the prescribed fee. There is room and a welcome in this country, which has only two inhabitants per square mile and is so capable of development, and women's suffrage, when it comes, will be a further inducement to women with a love for a free, hardworking life and wide horizons, to make their second home in this kindred island of the sea.

Women Jurors at the Old Bailey.

Women jurors were summoned this week to the Old Bailey to try cases of murder, manslaughter, and arson, and this Session they will be empanelled for divorce cases. These citizen duties are unpleasant and exacting, and women, though not desirous of shirking them, will naturally find jury service on serious cases somewhat of an ordeal. In this they are not singular, nor does reluctance imply incompetence; the man or woman who would enjoy jury service would be of little assistance to the Court.

Challenging Jurywomen.

A jury at Dudley recently chose a woman as foreman, and the prisoner objected on the ground that he disliked being tried by women. He was told that he could not challenge juries *en bloc*, on the mere ground of sex. A prisoner at Northampton protested in another form, challenging the name of each woman as she was called. They were obliged to stand down. These cases touch only the fringe of the very complicated law as to jury challenge, a practice seldom resorted to in Great Britain, but employed with great effect in the United States, where murder trials are sometimes delayed for days by the challenge for any or for no reason of individual jurymen. Our own law distinguishes between challenge of the whole jury (challenge to the

Array), and of individual jurors (challenge to the Polls). This is allowable only on the ground that the summoning officer has shown partiality. Challenge of individuals must also be made before the jury is sworn, and, in the case of treason or felony, no reason need be given for the objection. A prisoner may challenge thirty-five jurors in a case of treason, and twenty in a case of felony. After a prisoner has exhausted his opportunities of peremptory challenge he may also challenge "for cause." Challenges in cases of misdemeanour and in civil actions are admitted "for cause" only. The causes, most frequently alleged are lack of qualification, status of the jurymen as a Peer of Parliament, political bias, or proved crime or misdemeanour on the part of the jurymen. Those who desire prompt administration of justice will be wise to avoid this dangerous weapon of challenge. It is worth noticing that the Crown has not the right of peremptory challenge which is given to the prisoner to protect himself against being tried by his private enemies; it can only challenge for cause. Opportunities of objecting to women *quâ* women will be confined to prisoners on charges of treason or felony who have the right of peremptory challenge, and these can succeed only if they deny themselves the satisfaction of protesting against being tried by women, and profess that their grievance is against Mrs. Smith or Miss Jones. When the first novelty of women jurors has worn off one may expect that the prejudice against them will not long survive.

The Poor Man's Lawyer.

Mr. H. W. Wilberforce, while admitting the desirability of removing children from contact with police courts, put in a well-dressed plea for the part played by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction as advisors of the poor in their districts. Many stipendiary magistrates, His Honour Judge Parry in particular, have long considered it their duty to act as a kind of poor man's lawyer, advising and assisting applicants at his Court, on all kinds of matters, and not least on those quite unconnected with legal proceedings, on which a middle-class man naturally consults his solicitor. County justices do much work of this kind, generally in their own homes. Seekers for advice sometimes make odd attempts to clothe their petitions in what they take to be legal language, like the plumber who desired vengeance on boys who "blaspheme my deceased parent," or the old woman whose modern bedstead the sanitary authorities had "disannulled."

Exiles.

In 1916 the Chief Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools protested against the sending of London boys to learn farm work in districts of Wales where Welsh was the common language. He remarked also that these children not infrequently

JANUARY 14, 1921.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

1055

slept in dirty and ill-lighted out-houses. His remonstrance had no effect except that the L.C.C. tried to mitigate the effects of exile by stationing a supervisor at Llandilo. Very few of the boys continued to work on the land either in Wales or elsewhere when the schools relaxed their hold, and all that could be said for the proceeding was that it removed boys from the neighbourhood of undesirable relatives. Several Government Departments, including the Home Office, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Health, have now condemned this modern variant of transportation; it remains to be seen with what result.

Mr. Asquith and Women's University Education.

In his speech to University Liberals a few days ago, Mr. Asquith, referring to what he called the academic renaissance of the present time, said: "One of its most significant features has been the recognition, timid and tentative at first and even now in some quarters not wholly complete, of the necessity of removing the barrier of sex and of allowing women as well as men to share the burdens, the labours, and the pleasures of academic life. I trust that you, as Liberals, will in all these matters reject the short-sighted policy of exclusions and preferences, and will make it your first object to bring into existence an ever-growing contact and partnership between academic Liberalism as a whole." As Mr. Asquith is Chairman of the University Commission, which will probably present its report very shortly, it may be hoped that this speech represents something more than his personal opinion, and may, therefore, be regarded as strengthening the case for proceeding in the case of Cambridge by means of Parliamentary action rather than by a renewed appeal to the Senate of the University.

Continuation Schools.

This week, 15,000 London children become eligible for continuation schools, and may, if necessary, be compelled to attend them till they reach the age of sixteen. The twenty-two new schools opened by the L.C.C. will accommodate a considerable number, but by the end of next school term another 15,000 will require places. A new crop of school attendance problems will arise. What is the position, for instance, of the married woman of fifteen, who appears with decreasing frequency in the census returns? Has she a ground for exemption from continuation schools?

Education in the Army.

The special courses of instruction which were inaugurated two years ago at the Schools of Education at Newmarket and Shorncliffe are now being put on a permanent footing for the Regular Army. The War Office says that the aims of this educational training in the army are "to develop the training faculties of officers and N.C.O.s; to continue the general education of the soldier with a view to improving him as a subject for military training, and as a citizen of the Empire; to enhance the prospects of remunerative employment of the soldier on his return to civil life; and to fulfil the obligation of the State to the children of serving soldiers." The courses vary, but the obligatory subjects are English, elementary mathematics, Imperial history, geography and citizenship. Other courses include handicraft, carpentry, elementary commerce, commercial arithmetic, bookkeeping, accountancy, modern languages, science, practical agriculture, and building construction. This is a splendid start and we hope that this really progressive development will fulfil its destiny and not be smothered by central administration and strangled by Whitehall red tape.

Training of War Widows.

October 15th was to have been the closing date for applications for training war widows, but the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour announces that it has been decided that, in order to avoid hardship, women who have suffered a recent loss may still apply if the applications are made within a year of the death of their husbands. Applications will also be considered, up to January 31st of this year, from women whose husbands died between October 15th, 1919, and December 31st, 1919.

Servants' Cookery Scholarships.

The London County Council is offering cookery scholarships to domestic servants between the ages of seventeen and thirty-five who are resident in the County of London, and who have been, for at least a year, in domestic service. The cookery courses are held at the L.C.C. Westminster Technical Institute, Vincent Square, S.W. 1, and last twelve weeks. They are run by a professional chef and are held on five week-day afternoons and on Saturday mornings. Application forms can be obtained from the

L.C.C. Education Offices and we feel sure that many housewives would be glad to spare their maids, in spite of the temporary inconvenience, if they realised what good results would accrue from the instruction.

Women Politicians of America.

Women politicians in America have taken an important step in the formation of a Women's Joint Congressional Committee, which will co-ordinate the work of all the political organisations of women in furthering any legislation in which they are interested. This Committee will not only concern itself with proposed legislation but will watch the administration of Acts, to see that they are properly carried out. Each of the great national women's societies will be directly represented on the Committee, and sub-committees will be formed to consider and report on every bill of importance which is introduced into Congress.

Women Bankers.

In Philadelphia some business women are starting a bank of their own, and most of the necessary capital has already been subscribed. The organisers are being inundated with applications for positions from women who have been, or are, employed in banks in different parts of the States, so that, should they decide to staff the bank entirely by women, it does not seem as though they would have any great difficulty in getting together a really expert and experienced staff.

American Women Scientists.

Nor are American women behindhand in the realm of science, for two of them, Dr. Louise Pearce and Miss Elizabeth Bowen, of New York, have just returned from the Congo where they have been testing a new remedy for sleeping sickness, which is composed of a compound of arsenic known as trypanamide. They were received in Brussels by the Belgian King and Queen, and Dr. Louise Pearce was decorated with the Order of the Crown, and Miss Elizabeth Bowen with the Order of Leopold II.

The Ideal Rent Book.

Unluckily the attractive adjective "Ideal" refers to the great book and not to the rent. Nevertheless, the South Wales Miners' Political Department has had a happy thought in compiling a rent book which sets out clearly at the top of each page the various items which go to make up the legal rent chargeable in respect of any house. There is a space for the Standard Rent, 1914, and for the various additions and percentages to be added, as well as a clear tabular statement of the rates paid or payable by the tenant. The remainder of the page is arranged for entries of rent due and received, with a column for arrears. The inside and outside of the covers show conditions on which a tenant may be evicted, penalties for illegal entries in the book, and other details of the law of landlord and tenant which are frequently in dispute. But it does not attempt impossibilities, and leaves the problem, the house which is or is not "fit for human habitation," unilluminated by comment. The Ideal Rent Book will be a useful model.

Grants to Private Builders.

During the next few months the full subsidy to private builders will not be paid, owing to the rejection by the Lords of the Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which proposed to extend, for another twelve months, the period during which the full subsidy would be granted. As matters stand at present, the subsidy is to be reduced by one-twelfth for each month after December 23rd, 1920. The Government has, however, reassured prospective builders by promising that a measure legalising the payment of the full grant during the present year, would be introduced early next session. There still remains £4,801,349 available out of the £12,000,000 which was earmarked for the payment of the grant in England and Wales, for although only £1,241,560 has actually been paid in grants, the Government is already committed to the payment of £7,198,651. It is to be hoped that the builders will not be discouraged, for we must have houses.

Forestry.

The Forestry scheme, of which very little was heard for many months, has now begun obvious activities, and, remembering that forestry work was demonstrated to be too arduous a peacetime occupation for women, we are surprised to find that it does not take the form of excavating vast holes and ramming into

them trees recognisable as such, but merely sowing seeds at the rate of some dozens to the acre. This would appear to be within the power of the young women who distinguished themselves in the now disbanded Forestry Corps and of their women helpers from the villages. But no doubt it is essential to have men to sow the seeds so that when the trees are grown the male descendant of the sowers may be at hand to fell them, and the Forestry Corps and their like should not be at hand to mark and measure them for felling.

Land for Playgrounds in Austria.

Land which is not in use may now be requisitioned in Austria by national or local authorities for use as public playgrounds. The land will be placed in charge of special organisations, and may be used both by school children and by young persons above school age. The owner of the land will be compensated, and the Provincial Government will decide both whether requisition in particular cases is permissible, and also the amount of compensation to be paid. There is no reason why the same policy should not be pursued here by an extension of the Land Acquisition Act. Playgrounds are terribly wanted in many parts of Great Britain.

"Woman's Place" in Russia.

At the Congress of Soviets Mme. Kollontai made an impassioned speech in which she declared that women must be freed from the mass of unproductive work which they do in the home, so that energy may be available for productive work. Ukhnevitch, a non-party member of the Congress, by his answer showed that the old prejudices still exist, even in "progressive" Russia. He rose with vehemence to make an objection, saying that although he was in favour of the emancipation of women, he did not advocate the emancipation of all women. "If my wife leaves me," he added, "I shall throw up my work. My wife must sit at home." We seem to recognise this attitude, which, if not put quite so bluntly by our reactionary "antis," is, nevertheless, barely hidden in much of the disapproval which greets any effort at equality. Still, we are disappointed in Russia. Why should not domestic work be treated like other work—as a career and not a slavery?

Women's Distinguished Service.

Two semi-official Commissions now at work demonstrate the capacity of women under modern conditions to undertake international service. The Colonial Office has given authority to the International Council for Combating Venereal Disease to send out a Commission of Enquiry to the East. This body consists of Dr. Rupert Hallam, Mrs. Neville Rolfe (better known as Mrs. Gatto), and Miss E. O. Grant, and has recently left Canada for Hong Kong. The Lister Institute and the Medical Research Committee have sent out to Vienna Dr. Harriette Chick and Dr. Elsie Dalzell, who have for some years been conducting important researches on food values. Dr. von Poiquet, who has the responsibility of directing the feeding of 200,000 children in Vienna, is an adherent of the theory of dietetics which reckons food values in calories and considers that the sugars, proteins, and fats of an ordinary mixed diet can be substituted one for the other without injury to health. The Lister Institute has played an important part in the modern research which recognises the importance of "vitamines" and holds that uncooked and un-preserved vegetables, animal fats, and the outer envelopes of grains contain elements essential to healthy nutrition. Dr. Chick and Dr. Dalzell will supervise the diet of some wards in Dr. von Poiquet's hospital, while others will be fed according to the system of the Continental scientists. The experiment will be extremely valuable and will, we hope, result in a modification of Dr. von Poiquet's system which will benefit the children of his unhappy country.

Waiting-Rooms.

Several railway companies are expressing surprise at the neglect of the platform waiting-rooms in their stations, and propose to make money by letting these unappreciated blessings as store-rooms. There is nothing to astonish a reasonable being in the fact that these shelters, now never warmed and rarely cleaned, should fail to attract anyone who has the opportunity of enjoying a slightly less stuffy coldness outside. It is time that companies recognised their responsibility for affording a reasonable standard of cleanliness and comfort, that they sometimes had the windows, or even the glass roofs of stations washed, and that they provided a few more wooden benches, at any rate in their larger termini. The arrangements which now appear to satisfy them are squalid in the extreme.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

During the concluding days of last session, interest was transferred from the Commons to the Lords, and, indeed, ever since the beginning of the war the influence of the Upper House has been increasing. The lowest point its power has ever reached was marked by the passing of the Parliament Act. Most observers thought that that Act meant the end of the hereditary principle; but, by one of those paradoxes of which politics is so full, the contrary has happened. It is many years since the Upper House was so strong as it is at present, and the hereditary principle has secured champions whom it never expected to find. What, then, is to be the future? Are we to abolish the House of Lords or not? Are we to have a Senate, composed of our great, good, and wise ones? Composed of distinguished politicians, soldiers, sailors, governors, actors, journalists, and lawyers? Or a Senate chosen by one of the innumerable variants of the electoral system—variants which, in a healthy community, have the same effect as medicine on a healthy body, and all produce pretty much the same result? Or are we to leave the hereditary chamber as it is? One of the three we must have. Our Senate must be either highbrow, or elected, or hereditary. It is worth looking at all three rather more closely.

First of all, be it noted that the Coalition is vaguely pledged to a nebulous reform. Mr. Bonar Law has recently promised that such reform shall be carried without delay. Such a promise is, of course, a political one only. This is not said either cynically or offensively; it should never be forgotten, though it invariably is, that political promises are conditioned by political facts. A statesman can no more promise what his party will do than a general can promise that his army will win a battle, or an owner that his horse will win the Derby. All that each can do is to pledge himself to do his best and to give the world the best forecast he can of the result. Therefore, the point to bear in mind is that the decision rests not with the leaders, but with the general body of political opinion; and it does so to a far greater extent than is the case with more controversial questions, upon which sides have been taken and trenches dug. How, then, does the ordinary Coalitionist regard the three alternatives?

Let us pray to be delivered from the highbrows. Cannot you see them, an endless procession of portentous individuals, progressing pompously to the Upper House, at the exact moment when they were ceasing to be of value in their previous avocations? Can you imagine a body more stifling or more sterilising? The prospect is terrible. But it is remote. There are limits even to political insanity. The first alternative can be excluded.

The decision, therefore, lies between an elected body and the present House. No combination of the two is really possible. It is thinkable, in the same sense that a centaur is thinkable. But such a mixed body at Westminster would be as surprising as a centaur in Piccadilly.

You can have various kinds of elections. You can elect territorially, from small or big constituencies, by proportional representation or not, for any term of years you like. Or you can elect, indirectly, from the House of Commons and the various local bodies. Or you can elect federally from the constituent parts of the Empire. The result will not be very different, whichever method you choose. A firm of American beef packers once commissioned a lady to write a pamphlet on "A Hundred Delicious Ways of Cooking Corned Beef." She started her task with enthusiasm, but soon gave it up. After describing one or two dishes, she found that all the rest were merely hashed beef. So it will be with electoral systems. You will get the same results. You could get an excellent Senate, not a doubt about it, one which would be a model to the Senates of the world. But it is doubtful whether you would get anything better than you have now.

An elected body is more easily defended. It may be stronger against popular clamour. Its average of ability may be higher. But it has many drawbacks.

It does not exist. It has to be made. Painting a picture of building a cathedral is difficult enough, surely, and you never know what you are going to get. Building a constitution is infinitely harder and infinitely more uncertain.

Secondly, it will undoubtedly consist of those past middle life. All Senates do. You cannot think of one which does not. And that is not a light disadvantage.

On the other hand, the House of Lords exists and works. And it is the only Senate in the world which a young man (or young woman) of twenty-one can enter.

A GREAT CAUSE.

The year 1921 has only run for a couple of weeks, but it is already clear that it will be a year of great uneasiness all over the world. We do not propose to recapitulate the causes for this uneasiness, nor to tell over again the miserable tale of unemployment and unrest, of cold, starvation, and despair, which is true of so great a part of Europe. It all comes from the war—we know that; and how it comes, by what precise channels of international disturbance, financial breakdown or human reaction matters little. Whatever the exact process of causation may have been, it is the war that has really caused it all, and though we must trace its ramifications in the effort to put things right, it is this root cause of war which we must attack if we wish to prevent any other year from opening as does this one.

Now, how are we to attack war? How are we to abolish this insane thing which falls upon human beings periodically and destroys them? For as long as the human race has existed, war has been with it, and some people call it an instinct, and others a safety valve, and others still a necessity. And yet it is simply a curse, a sort of madness, which threatens to make an end before long of the whole fabric of human life.

In primitive days fighting was, no doubt, an instinct, and a necessary self-preserving one; but it has lost its preservative nature now. Science and mechanics have seen to that; they have made it too gigantic and devastating a business, and the instinct part of it has gone out with the bow and arrow. The ramifications of civilisation are such that when Tommy kills Fritz to-day, Uncle Sam loses his job and John Chinaman's children have to go hungry, and there is no instinct and no self-preservation about that. The instinct has all disappeared, and the "economic forces" have stepped in until modern warfare is a mockery even of fighting itself.

In mediæval times war may have encouraged virtues (though we suspect the balance of encouragement was to the vices, even then), but to-day certainly it does not do so. It awakens, as we know, splendid self-sacrifice and noble loyalty, but how much more splendid and noble would these virtues be if awakened in another cause! It does not, however, create these things; it creates ruin and devastation, sudden death, blindness, disablement, madness, suffering, starvation, disorder and revolution in a world which had too much of such things before. The nobility it found already—and leaves existing still.

But how are we to attack war?

In this paper we say, until our readers must be tired of seeing it, that women have a great and heavy responsibility in that they are now voters in so many countries. We invite them, on an average four times a week to take up some question of vital importance, and to make their political power felt upon it. We urge the need for reforms in laws and social customs, in economic practice, in health and in food. Article after article which we publish calls upon women to take up one public question upon another, and we shall, of course, continue to make these calls so long as imperfections remain. It is the business of citizens to hear and to judge about them—and to act too.

But what sort of a call can we give about the abolition of war? We cannot say, "Write to your M.P. and tell him to stop it," for although there are one or two directions in which Parliament could hasten the abolition of war, the thing is in the main far beyond Parliamentary control. We could perhaps find and return to power a Government pledged to this object above all others; but certainly our present Government is not such a one,

and to write to our present M.P.s will not clear many stones out of the path.

The truth is that the possession of the vote and the Parliamentary power that may be made to come from it, is not very directly applicable to the subject. In the long run, of course, it is the voters who control the policy of a democratic country, and so it is they who make it a peaceful or a warlike nation; but it is sometimes a very long run indeed before their control becomes effective, and we have to apply other methods in addition to political ones in this special case.

The attitude of the country towards war depends, as does its attitude to all other things, upon the state of public opinion on the subject. If, therefore, we want the cessation of war, and want to do our own share towards bringing this about, the first and best thing we can do is to employ every possible means to create the sort of public opinion on this subject which we want to exist. This is not a difficult task, if enough of us are doing it; it is the easier because no one in this generation can be indifferent to the matter. Whatever opinions we may have, we cannot possibly think the subject unimportant, and indifference is generally the greatest obstacle to be overcome by propaganda.

Fortunately, too, there is more than a vague and general propaganda against war that we can do in this connection, since we have a positive aim to work for. No movement can move if it does not include some concrete and more or less practical programme, and there is in the League of Nations a definite object upon which the anti-war sentiment can be focussed.

This week the League of Nations Union has held a great demonstration at the Albert Hall, and in the next weeks it is conducting a vast campaign throughout the country for the purpose of doubling its membership and so giving that clear proof which the world needs that the people of this country are really and enthusiastically agreed to the principle and practice of the League.* If there is something half-hearted in the attitude of the great Governments to this body, as indeed there seems to be, we can at least see to it that there is nothing half-hearted about the attitude of the people. When we have done this there is no doubt at all that the Governments will begin to be as enthusiastic as we wish. But we must not be apathetic now.

The League of Nations Union is an organisation of the very first importance, therefore, at the present moment. Its constitution (which, after the manner of all live organisations, undergoes a process of continuous modification) has recently made provision for the affiliation and co-operation of other organised bodies which sympathise with its aims. In these categories all the leading Labour organisations and all the big women's societies are included, and direct representation of these societies upon the Council of the Union is being provided for. All this shows how great is the volume of agreement; but by itself this is not enough. For academic agreement is the death of a movement unless it is accompanied by passionate agreement as well. The Union needs speakers and workers; it needs a keen and reliable band of members in every town and village in the land, and it needs money. Let us not forget that if we want to prevent war to-morrow, we must work to-day to build up a bulwark against it. There is no other bulwark possible but a living League of Nations.

* The address of the League of Nations Union is 15, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W. 1.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

TRIAL MARRIAGES.

By NORAH MARCH, B.Sc.

Once upon a time, long ages ago, men used to secure their wives by capture; even to-day, among certain primitive tribes, customs not unlike bride-capture prevail. Then came in the history of races, a period when the bride was purchasable, her would-be husband paying to her relatives a definite purchase price—sometimes in money, sometimes in goods, sometimes in service—for his possession. In Tartary, for example, parents sell a daughter for some horses, oxen, sheep, or pounds of butter. Among the Mishmis, we are told by Westermarck, the foremost authority on the history of marriage, a rich man gives for a wife twenty mithuns (a kind of oxen), but a poor man can get a wife for a pig. Among the Kaffirs, three, five, or ten cows are reckoned to be a low price for a wife, though her value is rarely over twenty or thirty cows, the last named being considered rather high.

Among some primitive peoples, even to-day, marriage may take place on credit, though when this does take place, it is usual for the wife, and her children, to remain under her parents' roof till the full purchase price is paid. Not till then may the husband claim her.

Though marriage by purchase has been extremely prevalent, and exists even to-day among certain primitive tribes, it is by no means certain that every race has passed through a stage in its social evolution when marriage by purchase was the custom. Even when it is, and was, the custom of the bridegroom-to-be to make presents to the bride and her relations, the reason for this may have been rather to dispose the parents favourably towards his suit, remnants of which custom obviously persist in our present-day methods and courtship.

As is only to be expected, we learn that where marriage by purchase prevailed, he who was rich in the world's goods was able to supply himself generously with wives, while the poor man might have but one or two. Not unnaturally, considering that marriage was, on the whole, an economic bargain, a system of trial marriages obtained among certain primitive tribes, and even penetrated into some civilised countries. Most usually the test as to whether the marriage was likely to be a success or not was that of oncoming motherhood. We are told of certain primitive tribes where it is the custom for the bride to remain with her parents till she becomes a mother, and if this does not happen she stays with them, the husband getting back from them the price he paid for the bride. In another tribe—the Badagas of South Africa—it is customary to have two marriage ceremonies, the second of which does not take place till it is apparent that the pair are going to have children; if this does not become evident, they usually separate. Many negro peoples marry for a fixed period only, or upon trial. A "sighe" wife in Persia is a woman who is taken as a wife for a certain legally stipulated time—it may be as short as an hour or as long as ninety-nine years. While of the Sinhalese it is recorded that many of them marry four or five times before settling down as contented. A study of the evolution of human marriage seems to indicate that a woman's power to bear healthy children appears more or less to have been the criterion of success in marriage. Nor is human life alone in this. The fundamental laws governing human life are, so social biology indicates, essentially similar to those governing other organisms, though they may be less definite and less specialised in their action. Among the higher animals, where there are few offspring and those have a comparatively long infancy dependent upon maternal care, a more or less permanent union of male and female is found, and a monogamic system arises. Marriage, in short, is rooted in the family, rather than the family being rooted in marriage—a generalisation which proceeds from the biologic study of animals and from an anthropological and sociological study of the human races—and a woman's success as a wife in the past depended largely upon her power of bearing children.

There are remnants of this custom obtaining in this country at the present time, where, in certain districts, it is not unusual for marriage to be delayed till conception has occurred. And, on the other hand, if there has been irregularity and pregnancy results, it is more usual than unusual for marriage to take place.

In one district under observation, 60 per cent. of the marriages recorded were found to be forced in this manner—a social problem which led to the formation of a Committee of Enquiry into causes.

"Hand-fasting," a practice which obtained in Scotland prior to the Reformation, was something in the nature of a trial marriage. "At the public fairs," the Reverend Charles Rogers states, "men selected female companions with whom to cohabit for one year. At the end of that period both parties were accounted free; they might either unite in marriage or live singly." The custom, we are told by Scott, arose partly through the scarcity of priests to marry couples. While the monasteries existed, monks were detached to go on regular circuits in the wilder districts, to marry those who had been living in this species of connection.

Says the Baron in "The Monastery": "Catherine is not my wife . . . but she is handfasted to me, and that makes her as honest a woman. . . . We Border men are more wary than your inland clowns of Fife and Lothian—no jumps-in-the-dark for us, no clenching the fetters around our wrists till we know how they will wear with us—we take our wives, like our horses, upon trial. When we are handfasted, as we term it, we are man and wife for a year and a day—that space gone by, each may choose another mate, or, at their pleasure, may call the priest to marry them for life—and this we call handfasting."

"Then," said the preacher, "I tell thee . . . it is custom licentious, gross and corrupted, and, if persisted in, dangerous, yea, damnable. It binds thee to the frailer being while she is the object of desire, it relieves thee when she is the subject of pity, it gives all to brutal sense and nothing to generous and gentle affection. . . . He who can meditate the breach of such an engagement, abandoning the deluded woman and the helpless offspring, is worse than the birds of prey; for them the males remain with their mates until the nestlings can take wing. Above all, I say it is contrary to the pure Christian doctrine, which assigns woman to man and as the partner of his labour, the soother of his evil, his helpmate in peril, his friend in affliction; not as the toy of his looser hours, or as a flower which, once cropped, he may throw aside at pleasure."

To which Baron Julian Avenal responds by apostrophising the unhappy Catherine, who pleads with him to marry her: "I said not what might happen an thou bear me a stout boy. . . ."

And so it has been throughout the ages—woman dependent upon man, his chattel, valued chiefly for her housewifery and her motherhood.

Marriage, generally speaking, has become more and more durable as the human race has evolved, and has itself, as a custom, been subject to evolution, the dominant tendency of which process, at any rate in its later stages, has been the extension of the wife's rights. Marriage is now a contract, the keeping of which is superintended by the State, and is a contract which may only be dissolved under certain stipulated conditions. It is often a failure from many points of view. We have the childless marriages, childless from many and various causes. We have the unhappy marriages, unhappy largely through lack of sympathy and congeniality in the marital relationship—a disharmony which, presupposing pre-marital chastity, is only discovered after marriage. These are the prime causes of marriage failures. Other secondary conditions—infidelities, irritabilities, alienation of interests and sympathies, peculiarities of domestic relationships—are rooted chiefly in these primary causes. With the result that modern woman, feeling that she has come into her own, is now asking whether marriage need be permanent; whether it might not be possible to avoid lifelong unions of misery; whether it is right that such should be allowed to continue once discovered to be uncongenial and a failure. In short, whether we, in our modern civilisation, should not have trial marriages—but with a difference. A wife is no longer her husband's property, and, according to modern ideas, marriage should be a contract on the footing of perfect equality between the sexes. "The history of human marriage," summarises Westermarck, "is the history of a relation in which women have

been gradually triumphing over the passions, the prejudices and the selfish interests of man."

Is the pendulum to go to the other extreme, and where once men took women on trial, are women to take men? Is that what the advocates of trial marriages are asking? What is to become of the children of such unions? Even if legislation provided specially for their social and economic welfare, what would their spiritual welfare be, deprived of a father's interest and influence if the mother be sole guardian, or of a mother's influence if the father be sole guardian? Trial marriages in the past acted unfairly, in our modern opinion, upon the woman. Are trial marriages in the future to act unfairly upon the man? Would it be possible to avoid unfair administration? The child is the criterion. Is it fair to give either parent sole responsibility for the nurture of a life for the existence of which both are responsible, and is it fair to the child to provide that its nurture be shared by two separated parents?

Need marriage be the failure that it so often is? One would say not. Medical examination for each partner prior to marriage would, with fair certainty, disclose fitness or unfitness for parenthood. Training in homecraft would fit the wife for success as domestic partner in the contract. Training in parentcraft would fit the woman for her duties as mother, the man for his duties as father. The modern girl's education fits her to be an intellectual comrade to her husband. By these ways marriage might be safeguarded. But that is not all. The most important of all—without which marriage is little likely to be a success—congeniality in the sex relationship—is largely a matter of psychology, and there should be no need for trial marriage to reveal whether the physical relationship would be congenial or not, if a constructive education has provided that knowledge and experience which shall liberate the personality from harmful repressions,

and shall link on life's conduct to life's ideals. The highest love of woman for man and of man for woman is quite incompatible with promiscuity. Such love, invincibly determined by high ideals, yet nevertheless free to express itself through body mind, and spirit, need fear no failure in marriage. There are those who yet would fear incompatibility in the sex relationship, and who feel that some trial of this should be made—apart altogether from the question of child-bearing—but such experiment implies some fear of pregnancy occurring, which fear would, according to psychological studies, be likely to prejudice the success of the experiment, and if some method of birth control be adopted, that also may be likely to react unsatisfactorily. There are arguments in favour of the trial marriages certainly, but the arguments against them are equally strong. There apparently is some feeling expressed of the need for such provision at the present time, when we are suffering socially through a large surplus of women, precociously emancipated through the exigencies of war and unfitted fully for the responsibilities of their emancipation. Nevertheless, we must recognise that the adults of to-day belong to a generation which, when it was young, had little or no training or guidance to develop the sex life along lines of serenity and discipline. Such matters were, for most of them, left to promiscuous and haphazard influences.

Based upon modern knowledge, psychologic and physiologic, regarding sex, a more helpful education than has been ours, to meet with sex, may for the future men and women make monogamous marriage the real and permanent basis of our social life, determined by the personal choice of each, even though it call for sacrifice from some.

(To be continued.)

NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS. ARAB WOMEN.

By NARCISSUS, a Novice among Arabs.

One of the most striking things about Arab women is the completeness of their social life apart from their men folk. This has arisen from a similar attitude on the part of the men, who eat apart, drink in the "coffee" shops, where women never go, chat in the shops, mosques, and all along the sea front, places, therefore, shunned by women; even their worship is separate, men meeting in the mosques five times daily, while women perform the ritual at home, except during the Great Feast of Sacrifice (Big Bairam), when they may slip into mosques behind the men for worship. In spite of their great separation from men, however, Arab women are sociable, and many of them are very lively and energetic. They have developed among themselves a system of "camaraderie" of which their men seem strangely unconscious, and if the greater part of their conversation turns on love-making it is no wonder. Their opportunities for education are, as yet, very limited, and they have little else in their lives to discuss.

It is true that a very fair percentage of girls attend Quran schools, but the system of teaching in Arab Quran schools is a strange one. It is not learning by heart, nor is it reading, but it is a mixture of the two, barely comprehensible to a Western mind. The child is presented with a portion of the Quran, generally one sentence, to repeat every day. They are expected to follow the written words with their fingers in the book, but without knowing the names or sounds of the letters. Some intelligent children learn their letters of their own accord, and pick them out in the day's lesson, and thus attain the art of reading; but many go blindly on from day to day throughout their schooling. Many girls, for various reasons, drop school, or learn merely a few of the hundred and fourteen chapters. But a very considerable number plod steadily through until they can say the whole book, and are thereupon supposed to "read" it. This achievement is education; it is an honourable accomplishment, and the whole school has a holiday when anyone completes it. The teacher receives such presents of money, or other gifts, as the family can afford, and the girl who has "sealed" sits in fine clothes and ornaments, the admiration of her neighbours and the envy of her schoolfellows.

Unfortunately, this is the only kind of school for girls which exists in Arabia. All things are not at a standstill, however. Arab women are learning to use sewing machines, and a good many girls attend sewing schools run by Persian women for three or four months, and then buy a machine of their own and learn their plain sewing and embroidery at home.

Northern and Central Arabia produce nothing, or almost nothing, so that many of the men spend a good deal of their time travelling to and from Bombay, Malaba, and Basra, trading. Four or five months every summer the bulk of the male population goes pearl-diving, and the women then have the "time of their lives." Their freemasonry comes out in full force and they break down in spirit, whatever they may do in outward observance, the confinement of their lives. There are, however, sources of danger in their social intercourse with each other, namely, their children, their slaves, and their enemies. One of my friends came across the town to stay with her mother at a house quite close to mine. I naturally asked her to visit me, which she was anxious to do. "But my husband will bribe our little girl to tell him whether I left the house—whether I ever looked outside the door—while I stayed here."

"Narcissus, is it true that you have never married—not even when you were very young?" "Why didn't you marry?"

"Tell me, have you quarrelled with your husband?"

"Where does your money come from?"

"Do they send you food and clothes from London?"

"Do you really live quite alone?"

"Your lantern burns all night?" Arabs fear to sleep alone or in the dark, in fact, they rarely do anything alone. It is the rarest thing to converse with an Arab woman alone. "Clandestine discourse is of Satan," says the Quran (lviii. ii.). This was occasioned by Muhammad's fear of Jewish plots; there are several similar passages, which tend to keep up the prevailing atmosphere of suspicion, both of one another and of foreigners.

But for all their strange surroundings and their ignorance, the Arab women whom I know are delightful. They are gay and cheerful, light-hearted, friendly and affectionate. And, with all their differences, they are so like other women, too!

"Had I known you were coming we should have had fish or meat for supper. There is only rice and lentils, with pepper, sauce, and dates." "Never mind," say I, "we also substitute lentils for meat." "Oh!" exclaims my girlish little hostess, "so they know that, do they?"

In the same house I once explained the dilution of cow's milk required for infants, in answer to the question how we feed our children in "London." When I had quite finished the astonished little mother gasped, "Why, there is nothing like from these people! She understands all about that, too!"

EVERYDAY COMMODITIES AND THE TREND OF PRICES

IV.

Shopping is one of the ills that woman's flesh is heir to. Would it not be possible to mitigate the ill to some extent by taking a more intelligent interest in the sources and production of the somewhat dull commodities with which, at least every week, and sometimes every day, many of us deal—not without grumbles at the quality and the cost? This and the following articles are intended to help towards such interest. Space will only allow a brief account of the more important essentials of food, textiles, and fuel.

COTTON.

The cotton industry is of very great importance to the United Kingdom. About three million of our population are dependent on it, over six hundred thousand being engaged in spinning and weaving alone.

Raw cotton is our largest import of any commodity, amounting to over ten per cent. of our total imports, and we export more cotton goods than any other manufactured article, usually to the extent of from twenty to twenty-five per cent. of our total export trade, and probably this year as much as one-third of the whole.

The three most important sources of raw cotton, in order of quantity, are, the United States, India, China and Egypt. The annual combined production amounts to over 10,000 million pounds, the United States contributing from fifty per cent. to sixty per cent., India about twenty per cent., China about fifteen per cent., and Egypt about five per cent. Egyptian cotton, though so small in quantity, is superior to most of the American cotton and far superior to that grown in India and China, which is despised by our Lancashire spinners.

The American crop dominates the world supply and rules the world's prices for cotton of all kinds. Since 1914, when there were record crops and the situation was, on the whole, satisfactory, the industry has experienced amazing fluctuations. A slump in prices led to reduced acreage, then vastly increased demand for cotton goods used up practically all surplus stocks, and a period of bad weather, resulting in damaged crops, caused prices to rise to unparalleled heights. In 1917, America entered the war, and from that date a large part of her cotton acreage was given over to the growing of cereals. In spite of this, by the early part of 1919 there were again large stocks in hand, but the fear of loss caused widespread restriction, or even cessation of buying on the part of the retailer, who lived "from hand to mouth." Prices rose throughout the industry—with the producer of raw material, the manufacturer, and the wholesaler. By the middle of the year, however, it was realised that the demand would exceed the supply. People had plenty of "inflated" money and were ready to spend it. Then prices soared to a height out of all proportion to the cost of materials; there seemed no limit to what markets were willing to pay, even for the most expensive goods. The 1919-20 crop promised badly, owing to adverse climatic conditions in the early stages, and labour was less plentiful and very costly; prices rose still more. But the weather improved, and the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, at the same time, reported that the 1918-19 crop showed a "carry-over" of 2½ million bales more than that of 1917-18, and the trade began to feel that there would be a great excess in 1919-20. Moreover, consumption in the United States and in England had decreased. The latter was lagging far behind in cloth and yarn exports compared with her corresponding exports in 1910-14; the Continental industry was slow in reviving after the war and there was great labour unrest—demands for higher wages and shorter hours, accompanied by less discipline and efficiency—causing less output from the mills. Towards the end of the year, heavy floods having again promised ruin of the crops, the cotton markets were at their gloomiest;

low grades of raw material were "discovered" and sold at absurd prices for their value. The World Cotton Conference, held in October, 1919, made great efforts to establish better relations between all branches of the industry. Members who had gained actual knowledge of the conditions of cotton-growing expressed their considered opinion that the world would have to pay substantially higher prices for American cotton than in pre-war years, and that this commodity must no longer be looked upon as a production of low labour cost.

At the end of 1919 and beginning of 1920 there occurred the most remarkable market in cotton and cotton goods on record. The prices paid, especially for cotton goods, were almost incredible, amounting to dollars, instead of cents, per pound; perhaps the most striking side to this was the enormous difference between the cost of cotton to manufacturers and the prices obtained by them for their products.

Prices of raw cotton have fallen rapidly since February, 1920. They were in

	January	February	December
America	30d.	31d.	12d.
Egypt	60d.	95d.	27d.

and in

	The actual crop 1919-20 was	Estimated crop 1920-21
The United States	5,517 million lbs.	6,580 million lbs.
India	2,230 million lbs.	2,740 million lbs.
Egypt	560 million lbs.	620 million lbs.

Not only will the new crop, in all probability, be larger than last year's, but the "carry-over" was 3,400 million lbs. in the United States alone, though this was possibly not of very high grade.

The future of cotton prices is very uncertain. Rising to the unprecedented height of 400 per cent. of the 1913 price, in February, 1920, the price of American cotton is now, in January, 1921, less than 150 per cent. of that price, while Egyptian cotton in the same period has fallen from over 900 per cent. to less than 250 per cent. of the 1913 price. This fall is due, in the first place, to the decrease in consumption rather than to the excessive supply, for while the 1920-21 crops are undoubtedly better than those of 1919-20, they are by no means record crops. The decrease in consumption has been brought about by the unnecessarily high prices asked in the early part of last year for all cotton products. In 1912-13 the International Cotton Federation estimated the world consumption of cotton at 22.9 million bales, in 1919-20 at 20.6 million bales, a decrease of ten per cent., notwithstanding the slackening in production of cotton goods during the years 1914-19.

SILK.

The products of the silk-manufacturing industry are becoming more important almost every day on account of their increasing utility. In addition to its use for articles of dress, silk is employed for surgical and electrical purposes; it is used also for balloons, parachutes, cartridge bags.

The raw material is obtained from silk worms, and the silk industry originated in China (about 2640 B.C.) and was brought to Europe secretly, nearly three thousand years later, being already established in India and the

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL'S EDUCATION SCHEME.

FROM OUR EDUCATIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

Under the Education Act, 1918, it is the duty of local education authorities to submit to the Board of Education schemes showing how their powers and duties under the Education Acts are to be performed and exercised.

The London County Council's Draft Scheme was issued shortly before the summer holidays for public discussion and criticism, and it is now under the consideration of the Board of Education. It may be well briefly to recall some of the main features of the Education Act under which the scheme is issued. The section of the Act which has bulked most largely in public discussion is that relating to compulsory day continuation schools, under which, after an "appointed day," all young persons on reaching the elementary school leaving age (fourteen) are required to attend part-time day continuation schools up to the age of sixteen (in their employers' time), for a period amounting approximately to eight hours a week for about forty weeks in the year. After seven years from the appointed day, young persons will be required to remain in attendance at continuation schools till the age of eighteen, but those who have received efficient full-time education up to sixteen will be exempt.

It is clear that the requirement that every boy and girl, irrespective of intellectual attainments or social position, shall receive part-time education up to the age of eighteen (or full-time education up to the age of sixteen) effects a far-reaching change in our social and educational outlook. Incidentally it may be noticed that the fact that the education of children in elementary schools is not to stop at fourteen may lead to considerable changes in the subjects and methods of instruction in these schools. In particular, the question arises whether subjects such as cookery and infant care would not be more profitably learnt by girls of fourteen to eighteen in the continuation schools than by children of twelve to fourteen in the elementary schools.

Vitality important as are the provisions relating to day continuation schools, there is another section of the Act which has attracted comparatively little public attention, the ultimate effect of which may be found to be almost equally far-reaching, namely, that which requires that "adequate provision shall be made in order to secure that children and young persons shall not be debarred from receiving the benefits of any form of education by which they are capable of profiting through inability to pay fees."

Other points in the Act which are of interest, especially to mothers, are the powers conferred on local education authorities to supply, or aid the supply of, nursery schools for children between two and five years of age, and, where there is a sufficient supply of nursery schools, to raise the age of compulsory school attendance from five to six. The employment of children under twelve is prohibited, and that of older children, now regulated by the Employment of Children Act, 1903, is further restricted.

Private schools are required to furnish certain information to the Board of Education, and, incidentally, the Act, by exempting from attendance at continuation schools boys and girls who receive efficient full time instruction elsewhere, offers an inducement to the proprietors of private schools to secure proof of their efficiency by seeking inspection either by the Board of Education or by the local education authority.

It may be expected that an article in THE WOMAN'S LEADER should deal specially with those parts which relate to the education of girls and women. If any reader looks through the scheme for specific references to girls and women, she will find remarkably few. This does not mean that the interests of girls have been overlooked—quite the contrary. There may be said to be three stages in the history of public discussion of the education of girls and women (at least in the case of "education other than elementary"); in the first stage, girls are not mentioned because it is assumed that they are not included in any proposals which may be under discussion; in the second stage,

Europe the beginnings were cherished by the Greeks, by Spain, and, about 1130, by Italy, to which country silkworms were transported from the Holy Land. Italy is famous for her beautiful silks. The silk worm was introduced to France by nobles, who brought silk worms' eggs from Italy and cultivated mulberry plantations in Dauphiny, and established the silk industry during the seventeenth century. About this date Flemish silk-weavers set on foot the silk manufacturing industry at Spitalfields. Progress was slow until the Huguenots took refuge in England; with their help matters rapidly improved and the factories were extended to the Midlands.

The three main sources of supply of raw silk are (1) Japan and China, (2) Asia Minor and the Levant—in these four districts there is abundant and cheap labour—(3) Italy and France. Much less important sources are India, Spain, and, formerly, Russia and Austria-Hungary. Marseilles is the great silk port for the East, as well as for Europe.

The consumption of silk in the United States, Great Britain, and other progressive countries is greatly on the increase. The average consumption of raw silk for 1912-13 was in

	Million pounds.		Million pounds.
The United States	25.74	Austria	1.76
(increased 250% in the last 15 years.)		England	1.54
France	9.46	Other countries ..	4.49
Germany	7.92		
Switzerland	3.99		
Russia	3.74		61.05*
Italy	2.53		

There are no available figures for the Eastern countries. The world's output of raw silk, excluding the internal consumption of the Far East, was, in 1914, 49 million pounds; in 1919, 60.4 million pounds. Of the 1919 yield Japan contributed fifty-six per cent., China, thirty-two per cent., and Europe eight per cent. Figures for 1920 are not yet obtainable; it is possible that there may be some slight reduction.

Trade returns give the following estimates of stocks of raw silk, comparing the last two years at the latest date available for 1920, that is, about the end of October:—

Country	1919.	1920.
Japan	2,000,000 lbs.	7,200,000 lbs.
U.S.A.	?	6,600,000 lbs.
London and Milan ..	2,000,000 lbs.	600,000 lbs.

Japan produces the greatest crops of cocoons, and exports large quantities, both of raw material and of manufactured goods. Most of the raw material is bought by America, and of the 33,700,000 lbs. exported in 1919-20 America took ninety-five per cent; she also imported enormous numbers of manufactured silk goods.

Italy produces the greatest quantity of raw silk in Europe, but her production has fallen off since 1914, and though the crop was better in 1920 than in 1919, it is still far below the pre-war average. The production of cocoons from 1910-14 averaged 91,700,000 lbs., and in 1920 it amounted to 65,300,000 lbs. only. Italy's exports of raw silk in the first half of 1920 showed an increase of 200 per cent. over those of the first half of 1919, and her export of manufactured goods showed an increase of seven per cent. for the same period.

For the last fifteen years the demand for French cocoons has exceeded the supply. France is improving her output, but she has now to import raw silk to a constantly increasing extent, in an endeavour to keep pace with her increasing export of manufactured goods.

In April of last year a financial crisis occurred in Japan, and the silk merchants and others had to get rid of their stocks as quickly as possible, and at almost any price they could obtain. This affected the world market, and prices of raw silk at the end of the year showed a drop of from fifty per cent. to sixty per cent. Future prices are a matter for conjecture. Existing stocks of silk are an unknown quantity, as few statistics are available, but production in the aggregate has not fallen off, though Europe is not contributing so large a proportion as formerly.

H. E. W.

they are a good deal talked about because it is a matter of controversy whether or not they are to be included; in the third stage they are not mentioned because it is assumed without question that they are included. The first stage came to an end about the 'sixties of the last century, in the discussions on the report of the Schools Enquiry Commission (in whose scope girls' schools were included, almost as an after-thought, through the persistent efforts of Miss Emily Davies and other devoted pioneers); the second stage lasted until about the end of the nineteenth century. We are now, happily, in the third stage, when it is no longer necessary specially to refer to the importance of the education of girls, because it is generally recognised that their education is no less a matter of national importance than that of boys, and, in fact, that we cannot have the one, in any real sense, without the other. In dealing with the specific proposals of the Council's scheme, it should therefore be remembered that, unless the contrary is indicated, they affect girls equally with boys.

In the elementary schools proposals are put forward for improvement in the education of children over the age of eleven. The improvement consists chiefly in better and more varied practical instruction, and more liberal and more inspiring literary education, including the encouragement of the children's reading by the development of school libraries and their attendance at Shakespeare's plays. When the child leaves school he or she is assisted by the Council through its school Care Committee, acting in co-operation with the Juvenile Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Labour, to find suitable employment. At the present time (before the establishment of the compulsory day continuation schools) the Care Committee also endeavours to persuade the boy or girl to attend a suitable course at an evening institute.

The evening institutes include the following types: junior institutes (commercial and technical) for students between fourteen and eighteen, commercial institutes for students over seventeen, women's institutes, general institutes, literary institutes. In most cases a small fee is charged, but boys and girls who join an appropriate institute on leaving the elementary school are admitted free of charge, and can, by regular attendance, earn the right of free evening education up to the higher stages. The women's institutes combine the features of a club and an institute, light refreshments can be bought at cost price, and there is a library with newspapers and magazines. The courses of instruction include domestic and humane subjects, as well as physical exercises, dances and songs. In spite of these attractions, however, women show a tendency to go rather to the commercial than to the women's institutes.

The evening institutes have, both by their successes and by their failures, paved the way for the compulsory day continuation schools under the Act of 1918.

The Council's scheme for day continuation schools, which has already been fully discussed in the Press and elsewhere. Arrangements have been made for the opening of twenty-two schools on January 10th, 1921. Fortunately, or unfortunately (according to the point of view), the buildings had been bought or hired, the teachers engaged, and the equipment bought before the Cabinet arrived at the decision that proposals "not yet in operation" must be abandoned owing to the financial situation. It has been ruled that the London scheme for continuation schools was "in operation" at the date of the decision.

As to the curriculum of the schools, the Act requires that physical education shall be included, but for the rest the decision is left to the local education authority subject to the approval of the Board of Education. The Council is of opinion that the function of these schools is to train men and women, rather than (say) bootmakers, clerks, typists, or housewives. The chief place in the course will therefore be filled by what Bacon calls "Studies that fill the mind with splendid and illustrious objects, as histories, fables, and contemplations of nature." In the last two years, however (1916-18), the education may have a vocational bias, though it will still be essentially humane.

As regards the second great principle of the Act, that no child or young person shall be debarred by inability to pay fees

from receiving a form of education from which he (she) is capable of profiting, the Council has made provision by means of its *scholarship scheme*. This scheme may be briefly summarised as follows:—At the ages of eleven, thirteen, sixteen, and eighteen, children and young persons will be given an opportunity of showing, by means of a (non-competitive) examination test and consideration by a board of assessors, whether they are capable of profiting by education of a higher type; those who are "capable of profiting" will be offered higher education without fee, provided that their parents' incomes are within a certain limit. Those who either show exceptional ability (beyond that required for free places), or are recommended as suitable to become teachers and undertake to enter this profession will receive scholarships carrying maintenance grants, in addition to free education, provided their parents' incomes are within a certain limit (lower than that for free places). In calculating the income limit allowance is made for the number of children. The education offered may (from the age of thirteen and onwards) be either general (secondary school, university or training college) or technical (trade school, polytechnic, Imperial College). The Council's scheme provides for a considerable increase in secondary school accommodation. The scholarships and free places are not confined to children and young persons who have been in attendance at elementary schools, but are open to all Londoners of British nationality who satisfy the regulations as to income.

One of the great difficulties confronting the Council (and other local authorities) is that of the supply of teachers. It sounds paradoxical, but it is, perhaps, inevitable that the very improvements in education tend to divert boys and girls from entering the work through which alone these improvements can be maintained and extended. It is not so long ago since teaching was practically the only "learned" profession open to a boy from an elementary school, or to any girl. We have changed all this, and boys or girls in the elementary schools can now look forward to entering on almost any career for which they have the necessary ability and character. Many of those who would, in the past, have taken up teaching, are, therefore, drawn away to other professions. The only remedy seems to be so to increase the total number receiving higher education that there may be, at the same time, an increase in the number entering other liberal professions, and an increase in the number becoming teachers. The conditions of teaching must, of course, also be comparable (as to pay and otherwise) with those of other professions.

The scheme ends with an approximate forecast of expenditure on proposals arising out of the Act, exclusive of "the large additions to the present expenditure which are involved in the development of programmes of work already approved and in course of being carried out." It is stated that the full development of the new scheme is expected to take about ten years, by which time the total gross cost of the new proposals will be about £3,000,000 a year, of which half (or the equivalent of an 8d. rate) will fall on the London ratepayer, and half on the general taxpayer. This sum represents an increase of about a quarter on the present public expenditure on London education. Having regard to the recent Cabinet decision on public expenditure it is probable that the Board of Education will insist upon considerable "slowing down" of the London scheme, so that the maximum expenditure will not be reached so soon as 1930.

Readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER will not question the vital importance of public and private economy, but true economy does not consist in not spending, but in wise spending, or, in other words, in getting one's money's worth. That the people of this country realise the worth of education is shown by the fact that practically every secondary school and university college in the country has more applications (from would-be fee-payers) than it can accept. It is, moreover, only necessary to walk down one of the principle London streets, or to glance at the advertisement columns of a newspaper, to see that we still have money available for objects which are of less worth than "the establishment of a committee of the Council of the

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Editor accepts no responsibility for the views expressed in the following article, but the subject is one of such great importance at the moment that we would welcome other expressions of opinion upon it, particularly upon those aspects of the problem which are generally overlooked, namely, the direct unemployment of industrial women, and the position of the wives and families of unemployed married men.

A SUGGESTED REMEDY FOR IMMEDIATE APPLICATION.

A group of employers and representatives of Labour have for some months past been meeting in informal discussions to consider some of the more important problems pressing upon industry during this present period of reconstruction. Unemployment was considered to be the basic problem. While recognising the obvious truth that the only satisfactory cure for unemployment is employment, and that every effort should be made to effect a cure on these lines, they agreed that there may always be a margin of workers which industry cannot absorb, and that it is absolutely essential to deal with these on lines far more adequate than those provided by the National Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, with its 15s. benefit.

With this end in view they have, with the aid of statistical and economic experts, drafted the following scheme for Unemployment Insurance. It is felt that it could be grafted on to the existing Act, and applied at once. It is submitted anonymously in order that it may be discussed on its merits without the advantage or disadvantage of names, though it may be added that the employers represented in the group are directors of concerns employing tens of thousands of workers and many millions of capital.

The suffering caused by unemployment has been generally recognised, but too little attention has been paid to its reactions on production. Industry moves in a vicious circle. Additional production is necessary if poverty is to be abolished and unemployment relieved. Yet uninformed labour instinctively resists every kind of productive improvement and in every case fear of unemployment is largely responsible for the resistance. It is true that the fear may be largely unjustified, but the rank and file of labour believe that improvements bring unemployment, and no one has never succeeded in convincing them that they are wrong. Nor is it any use to argue and make agreements with the leaders of labour; it is the instinctive action of the rank and file that counts. An immense potential increase in the productivity of industry awaits release, and only the complete removal of the menace of unemployment can release it.

The present Unemployment Insurance Act at best is a palliative rather than a remedy. The benefits it offers are not in themselves sufficient to prevent the household in receipt of them from deteriorating in both physique and moral; while in any case those benefits are only continued for a limited period. Such provisions cannot banish the fear of unemployment or the industrial policy to which this fear gives rise among the workers.

We consider that the State should deal with this problem on effective and permanent lines. It should admit the claim of all adult wage-earners who are willing to work and capable of working to either suitable employment or adequate maintenance throughout their working lives, and it should satisfy that claim by legislation providing unemployment benefit varying with the needs of the worker and his family (with a maximum).

Our detailed proposals are as follows:—

(1) Subject to certain exemptions referred to later, the statute embodying the scheme should apply to all manual workers, and to salaried workers receiving not more than £400 a year, between the ages of sixteen and seventy. The exemptions should be those set forth in the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

(2) The rate of benefit should be fifty per cent. of the average earnings of the insured person, with ten per cent. additional for a dependent wife, and five per cent. for each dependent child under sixteen, provided that the total benefit should not exceed seventy-five per cent. of the average earnings, nor should it in any case exceed £5 a week. In the case of seasonal or other exceptional trades, special provisions should be made for the calculation of the earnings on which the rate of benefit is based. Benefits should be payable after three days' unemployment, and should be limited to one week's benefit for every six weekly contributions previously made; but in order to give the necessary sense of security from the beginning an adequate number of payments should be credited to all workers at the initiation of the scheme. The present limitation of benefits to fifteen weeks in any one year should be altered to one of twenty-six weeks. If the reactions sought are to be obtained we must aim at removing the menace of unemployment. We favour the limitation of benefit to one week for every six weekly contributions as a necessary safeguard against persons who are such unsatisfactory workers as to be practically uninsurable.

(3) We have made such estimate of the probable cost of the suggested scheme as was possible with the materials at our disposal. We place the figure at about fifty-six million pounds per annum, exclusive of the cost of administration.

(4) The contributions should be levied on the wage-earner, employer. It is suggested that the worker's

ten shillings or part thereof of his earnings; that the State's contribution should be four million pounds annually, plus the cost of administration: and that the balance needed to enable the fund to pay the statutory benefits should be raised by a levy on employers. It is estimated that this levy would amount to two per cent. on the wage bill. That the scheme may be put into early operation and financed during abnormal trade depression, it is proposed that the employers' contribution should be fixed for a term of (say five or seven) years at an amount which it is estimated will enable the fund, if the worker contributes twopence in the pound on wages and the State its fixed contribution, to bear the statutory claims upon it. The State should then act in practice in the capacity of an Insurance Company. If there is a profit or a loss on the seven years' working, the State should take the full benefit or bear the cost of this. The Government actuary should then re-assess contributions for a further period of seven years on the experience of the previous term, the Government's contribution continuing to be the original figure of four million pounds, plus administration expenses. According to our estimate the cost of the scheme would be divided among the three parties during the first period in the following proportions:—

State	4 million pounds.
Workers	15½ million pounds.*
Employers	37 million pounds.*

Our suggestion is that while the workers' contributions should be the same in all industries, the State, as soon as the necessary statistics become available, should have power to vary the employers' contributions in a given industry, according to the amount of unemployment in that industry.

(5) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, paragraph VII, Clause 2 (b), those suffering from under-employment can claim unemployment benefit under certain conditions. In view of the increased benefits here proposed, the inducement so to organise short time as to comply with the conditions will be greater than under the terms of the Act with its comparatively small benefits. This fact has been taken into account in framing the above estimates.

(6) We suggest that the method of administering the fund should be that set up under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

THE SCHEME SUMMARISED.

The chief points in our proposals are as follows:—

(1) Unemployment benefit takes the form, not of a fixed amount, but of a proportion of the worker's regular wage, adjusted to the number of dependents.

(2) Whilst the worker's and the State contributions are fixed, the employer's contribution varies, being made to bear the residuary cost of unemployment in his industry.

The proposal is supplementary to the Unemployment Insurance Act (1920). That, and previous Acts, will have established the whole administrative machinery needed to work the proposal, which could thus be grafted on to the existing system.

Essentially the proposal is one to compel industry to create a *wages equalisation fund*, and to give employers an incentive to eliminate every removable cause of unemployment. It is suggested that not only would such a policy be worth almost any cost in the suffering which it would alleviate, but that it would prove in practice to be just as sound a policy financially as is a Dividends Equalisation Fund.

* These amounts will vary with the rates of wages.

ONE WIDOW AND HER "MITES."

Brrh! Brrh! Ting-a-ling-a-ling. Get up! Get up!! Get up!!!

Norman sat up in bed and rubbed his eyes. There were six pairs of boots to be cleaned, coal brought up, and numerous other jobs to be done before he could set off to school.

"Come along, sonnie," said mother, who was dressing on the other side of the screen dividing the tiny bedroom into two compartments. Fred, aged six, was already pulling on his socks, but Baby Jim snored away, blissfully unconscious of the still tinkling alarm clock.

"If I could only have another five minutes," sighed Norman, stepping out of his nightshirt.

"You shouldn't have stayed so long over your lessons last night," said his mother.

"But, mother, they were jolly hard sums, and I couldn't get a bit of quiet till you were all in bed," the boy protested.

"All right, dearie, I know," sighed mother, thinking of long, quiet evenings in the happier past.

But this won't do at all.

"Fred, as soon as Jim wakens, dress him," she said briskly, and hurried downstairs, treading quietly, lest the boards should creak and disturb her sleeping lodgers. Yes, Mrs. Taylor was a landlady, and—she was also a widow. Her husband died after a few days' illness, leaving a bewildered, almost penniless, wife and three lusty boys.

"Rapid consumption," said the doctor.

"How foolish not to be insured," said the neighbours.

"What will you do now?" asked anxious relatives, more "anxiously" lest help should be required.

"Get the boys into a home," said the Vicar. "I will do what I can."

But—"No," decided the mother. "We have a good home; we must keep it. I will look out for lodgers, and take in a little sewing, and with the money I can get we will be able to live. The boys will help me, and, please God, it won't be long before one of them is working for a wage."

So, like the "brick" she was, the widow set about getting her house in order, and very soon the lodgers arrived.

Now, if you've not kept lodgers in a six-roomed house you've no idea of the sacrifice that venture involved.

Two young men occupied one bedroom and had the use of the sitting-room. The other man had a bedroom to himself, and also shared the sitting-room. This arrangement meant that the only remaining bedroom must be occupied by Mrs. Taylor and her three sons, whilst the kitchen was the common room—also the cookhouse.

From her lodgers the widow received £4 weekly, twenty-five shillings each from two men, and thirty shillings from the third. Out of this (for she soon found she had no time for taking in sewing) she must find money to pay rent, coal, and gas bills, buy material for making the boys' clothes, and feed seven people—three of whom must have the best possible "show" for their money.

"Would it not be better for you to get some work?" protested her friends.

"And who would look after my boys?" she asked, her thin face lighting up, as she watched Baby Jim vigorously polishing the door-knob.

The eldest boy showed an aptitude for learning, but had little time for study. The second boy wanted to "make things," but, alas! hammering is forbidden in a house where lodgers are kept, so there was no chance of developing his talent. Even Baby Jim must hush his prattle when "they" are in.

Every morning boots for six had to be polished, toast made for the young man who "really can't face plain bread first thing," tea for two and coffee for one, shaving water for three, errands run (Fred's job! No wonder he got canings for being late at school). Then for mother there was the eternal washing up, the endless planning, preparing and cooking of meals, the cleaning, the mending, the rising prices of food! The laying of fires, the carrying up of hot bottles, the wear and tear of everything, the boot question, and the thousand worries of the present-day housekeeper.

"Those boys have no chance," you say. "Their mother is sacrificing herself and her lads just to keep a home together; but the home is no home."

True. Quite true. Come with me into that home to-night. We will go straight to the kitchen. Overcoats are hanging drying (it has been a wet day), boots surround the fireplace; the busy mother has pulled her sewing machine under the gas-jet—

she is patching pants. Her hands are chapped and sore from much water, and her eyes are too tired "to weep with." Norman is cleaning knives and studying history from an open book. Fred is undressing Baby Jim, who is fretful to-night.

"Give the porridge a stir, Fred," says his mother, looking at the clock. "Mr. A. has his supper early to-night," she explains to me, and as I ask her how she gets on, she says:

"Oh, tip-top! What do you think of our wage-earner," and she smiles at the knife cleaner. "He is going to take milk round every morning and evening, and will get three shillings a week from next Monday."

But I need not tell you more. Surely I have given you a reason for Widows' Pensions. These boys must not be sacrificed.

In America Mothers' Pensions are granted, free from all taint of charity. The widow who looks after her young family is recognised as performing work of national importance, which must be adequately paid for, since the children of the present are the citizens of the future.

Widows, take courage! Your sisters are working for you. The day of your deliverance is at hand.

L. MacF.

OURSELVES.

We continue to receive letters from our readers on the subject of dress and our columns. If we do not answer them all as fully as we should like, we beg our readers to forgive us. It is most encouraging and helpful to hear their views, and to know that they take an interest in our progress, and we trust that we shall succeed in making our paper as nearly what they dream it should be as is humanly possible. There is only one regret we have about these nice letters: there are not as many cheques and postal orders in them as we could wish! It is a bad time to ask for money—all times, this year, are going to be bad ones we fear. If we cannot have many large cheques, can we not have many small postal orders instead?

The following are the amounts so far received:—

Table with 3 columns: Name, Amount (£ s. d.), Total (£121 9 0)

On the matter of circulation we have heard from Miss Tait (London) that she has secured another subscriber, and we believe that many others are doing the same. We have pleasure in announcing that an anonymous friend has offered us five prizes, to be given in five different fortnights, to the readers who secure the largest number of other new direct subscribers. The first of these prizes is a copy of the illustrated "History of the Scottish Women's Hospitals," by Mrs. Shaw McLaren (Hodder & Stoughton). This book will be sent on Tuesday, January 25th, to the reader who has sent in by the first post on that day the largest number of new subscriptions, and the winner will be announced in the number appearing on January 28th. Competitors may save up their totals for a later prize if they like. The prizes will be as follow:—

Awarded January 25th.—"The History of the Scottish Women's Hospitals."

February 8th.—"The Story of a Pioneer" (being the autobiography of Anna Howard Shaw).

February 22nd.—"The Emancipation of English Women." By W. Lyon Blease.

March 8th.—"Mary Wollstonecraft." By G. R. Stirling Taylor.

March 22nd.—"Woman and Labour." By Olive Schreiner.

In addition, anyone who secures three direct subscribers will receive by return of post a book dealing with some aspect of the movement. (Note.—These books will not be out-of-date cast-offs, but books worth possessing.)

We hope that every reader will contribute...

THE MEMOIRS OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN.

(Continued.)

In 1796 Mary's whole life seemed to lie in ruins. She could see nothing but a wretched past and a blank future. A sudden turn of fortune changed her into a blooming and radiantly happy woman, the wife of William Godwin.

They had met in 1791, just before Mary's visit to France, but their first meeting had not been a success. Godwin, as he explains with his usual meticulous frankness, had "barely looked into 'Answer to Burke,' and had been displeased, as men of leisure and reading are apt to be, with a few offences against grammar and composition." This unfavourable impression had not been counteracted by the conversation of the author. Mary appeared to him, as she was inclined to appear to strangers at this time of her life, as hard, dogmatic, and embittered. Moreover, she talked when Godwin wanted to listen to Tom Paine, who was also of the party. In describing his impressions to a friend, he did not fail "to yield her the praise of a person of active and independent thinking"—but he did not really like her.

Their acquaintance was renewed in the beginning of 1796, when Mary called upon Godwin. "Her visit," he writes, "it seems, is to be deemed a deviation from etiquette; but she had through life tramped on those rules which are built on the assumption of the imbecility of her sex." This time the meeting was entirely propitious, and was the beginning of a warm friendship which ended in love.

After some hesitation they married. It was a real act of self-sacrifice on Godwin's part to conform, as he puts it, "to a ceremony as an individual which, coupled with the conditions our laws annex to it, I should, as a citizen, be desirous to abolish." He considered, however, that it would be to Mary's advantage to marry. She was already in an advanced stage of pregnancy, and it would only be possible for her to appear in general society

as Godwin's wife. Mary herself had "an extreme aversion to be made the topic of vulgar discussion," and, as Godwin justly adds, "if there be any weakness in this, the dreadful trials through which she had recently passed may well plead its excuse."

Accordingly, they were married in April, 1797, and settled down to a short period of unbroken happiness. A touching emotion breaks through Godwin's stilted prose in writing of this time of his life.

"I think I may venture to say that no two persons ever found in each other's society a satisfaction more pure and refined. What it was in itself, can now only be known, in its full extent, to the survivor. But, I believe, the serenity of her countenance, the increasing sweetness of her manners, and that consciousness of enjoyment that seemed ambitious that everyone she saw should be happy as well as herself, were matters of observation to all her acquaintance. She had always possessed in an unparalleled degree the art of communicating happiness, and she was now in the constant exercise of it. She seemed to have attained that situation which her disposition and character imperiously demanded, but which she had never before attained; and her understanding and her heart felt the benefit of it. . . . No one knew better than Mary how to extract sentiments of exquisite delight from trifles which a suspicious and formal wisdom would scarcely deign to remark. A little ride into the country with myself and the child has sometimes produced an opening of the heart, a general expression of confidence and of an affectionate soul, a sort of infantine yet dignified endearment which those who have felt may understand, but which I should in vain attempt to portray."

Four months later she died in childbirth.

D. H.

THE END.

REVIEWS.

Review of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia. (Cmd. 1061. Stationery Office. 2s.)

The review just issued by the India Office of the "Civil Administration of Mesopotamia" during the British military occupation has many claims to consideration, and should on no account be dismissed in obedience to an impatient impulse to put out of sight an undertaking whose appalling difficulties are now being realised by the British taxpayer. The review is not, like the India Office's desperate apology for hospital conditions on the Tigris and Euphrates, a record of incredible carelessness and unforeseen bad luck. On the contrary, it tells of a heavy task well done by a small body of administrators, and accomplished, if military and civil finance can indeed be disentangled, at no charge upon British or Indian resources. The story of British administration before Britain took over mandatory powers is involved in endless complications; it is made intelligible and in parts enthralling by the skill of its author, Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell, who has held, since 1917, the position of Assistant Political Officer at Baghdad, a post for which her long acquaintance with Western Asia especially marked her out, though its tenure by a woman is something of a portent.

The enormous extent of the territories known under the name of Mesopotamia is to-day a commonplace. Its sparse and wandering population, its lack of means of communication, its climate fiercely extreme in heat and cold, its secular traditions of internecine warfare, are the obvious difficulties of an occupying power, even when occupation follows victory over a former unpopular suzerain. But Mesopotamia held many more pitfalls than these. In theory the Turkish rule had been enlightened. Free education—elementary, technical, and secondary—elaborate quarantine of the pilgrimage towns, free distribution of quinine, a system of land tenure ensuring cultivation, innumerable courts of justice, would have been the position of Mesopotamia if progress were the same as performance. Consequently, its in-

complete. The varying fortunes of the war, with the possibility of the return of the Turk, made tribesmen unwilling to offend their former rulers, while rumours of a mandate allowing every man to do as he liked, while England paid the bill, were equally disturbing. The official language having been Turkish and alien, it seemed well to replace it by Arabic, the Turkish discouragement of the Shia'h form of Mohammedanism had to be counteracted, local customs that were Turkish had to be disentangled from those that were Kurdish or Arab, and all this was to be done in a country impoverished by bad harvests, stripped bare by Turks, Germans, and Austrians, and, worse than all, raided by our Russian allies.

What was done to spread through Mesopotamia a just and settled administration, impartial as between tribesmen and cultivators, between the adherents of many religious and between shaikh and peasant, was perhaps more than can be afforded by a nation with so many obligations and burdens as the English carry. But no one who reads this review will think the money and labour wasted. One must hope that readers will be many; they will require a certain perseverance, but will be encouraged by many flowers by the way. There is, for instance, the story of the Kurdish chief Simko, "preoccupied with a personal grievance which was, from our point of view, a side issue. One of his ill-wishers, of whom he has many (on this occasion it was a Persian official), had conceived the idea of sending him a bomb wrapped in a parcel. His indignant description of the episode cannot be better recorded than in his own words: 'I barely had the time,' he complained, 'to throw it at my brother, when it went off.'" There is the identification of the port of Sinbad the Sailor, and an allusion to Mr. Wopsle's aunt which casts a flood of light on Eastern psychology, there is the plot of ground large enough to hold a single palm tree and owned by twenty-one persons in partnership, there are comparisons with the campaigns of Alexander and Artaxerxes. Now novels cost seven or eight shillings, one may for once in a way economise by reading instead of them 147 enormous foolscap pages for two

DRAMA.

"A Night Out" at the Winter Garden.

Is not "A Night Out" just one of those plays that elderly gentlemen go to when they really want a good hearty laugh? Surely our fathers talked of it, and left on our minds a vague reminiscence of Paris, with its gaiety, its wit, its doggishness; their tone savoured of liquor, oysters, chimes at midnight, perhaps even embroidered underclothes? Of course, these things are not difficult to bring, or suggest, on the stage; nay, they do actually play their parts there not infrequently; but there hung about "A Night Out" an atmosphere more reckless and saucy than the atmosphere of "His Lady Friends"; a moral, perhaps, but so full of wit, like a Guitry play, perhaps, or a sort of Beggar's Opera strain set to more modern music.

Perhaps I am quite wrong about the age and standing of "A Night Out." But, frankly, if anyone goes to see the play with illusions like those, he will be disappointed. Nothing less like wit, nothing slower in action, nothing more harmless in deed, can be imagined. The action is quite familiar and the plot needs no attention. Joseph Pinglet, an artist, henpecked by Mme. Pinglet, is disposed to comfort the pretty Marcelle, fiancée of Maurice (I think that was his name), an architect who is too busy to take her out to dance or dine, and even when he says he will turn up later and says he won't. Marcelle and Joseph agree to sup together, after which agreement re-enter Mme. Pinglet in a state of mind because she has just been summoned to go at once to her sister who is ill. Somewhere about this point, Maxime, a youth, enters, has the stage to himself, and has Victorine, the soubrette, also to himself. She woos and partly wins him, though something remains to be done yet, when the inexorable playwrights drive him off the stage. Re-enter Joseph and Mme. and the rest, and with them a new character, an old gentleman, Matthieu, with a Panama hat, a stammer, a red cotton umbrella, and four daughters, Flora, Cora, Nora, and Dora. Matthieu wants to stay with the Pinglets, but Mme. will not have this at the present juncture, for four obvious reasons. And then the act ends with the departure of Matthieu, of the four daughters, of Madame, and last, of Joseph, through the window. In Act II., Marcelle and Joseph are having, or, rather, are about to have, supper at the Hotel Pimlico (a poor translation of the Hotel du Libre Exchange), whither come, little by little, all the other characters, including Maurice, Marcelle's fiancé, who has come to pass the night in a room reputed to be haunted. This room is let to—but really it makes no difference what any of the characters do. The method of the play is to get the characters all together in some chic place like the studio or the restaurant, and then give each one his or her turn—often a star turn of the very neatest and brightest music-hall sort. So, in Act II., sc. ii., all that they all do, dramatically speaking, is to get home with the milk, and in Act II., sc. iii., they just leave off and end the play. It is given to the architect to sum up the whole affair; his experiences have taught him that "love ought to come before everything"—a discovery which all the other characters had made in Act I., sc. i., and were rather sick of by now.

"A Night Out" may, or may not, be a Palais Royal farce, but it has not got any of the flavour of any farce in which Mr. Charles Hawtrey ever set foot, nor any of the satire of such a Variétés piece as "Le Roi." Mr. Hawtrey would scorn to carry on as Joseph does. When at supper with his lady, all that Joseph does is to be sick (off, as in a Greek tragedy). In fact, the harmlessness of the proceedings is astonishing. Marcelle and Joseph are supping in a room opposite the suite let to Matthieu and his family, and the suite contains the haunted room and the architect. But all that happens is that the latter mistakes Matthieu and all his family for ghosts, rushes opposite into Joseph's room, mistakes Joseph for a chimney sweep, and . . . rushes out again. To this play any daughter may take her father. There are no illegitimate thrills in "A Night Out." But then it is not the ma, that makes the entertainment, nor is it the

wit. Persuading Marcelle to have supper with him, Joseph chants:—

"It is the Duty
You owe to Beauty,
A little leisure
A little pleasure—"

a story which can be compared with "Youth's a season made for joy" in the Beggar's Opera; that is, it may be compared by cynics who like to decry our own time.

It is not the play, it is the opportunity given to Mr. Leslie Henson, Miss Isobel Elsom, and the rest to be themselves that counts. "That's the stuff they want," says one character to another. And the audience know it. "Less of your insouciance," says Joseph (Mr. Leslie Henson). "What's that?" "I don't know, but less of it." To Mr. Henson the audience says, "More of your insouciance, more and more." "Very well," says he, "then you do as I tell you, and laugh when I tell you"—and this they do, bursting themselves. What they want is to hear Mme. Pinglet say to Joseph, "What do you know about normal young women?" "Not much, but I've seen 'Chu Chin Chow' six times!" Someone says, "She does henpeck you!" Joseph: "You should see me in my bath!" And Mr. Henson has the rueful, innocent voice that gets his point across the footlights. It is the common-sense turn of humour in which he excels. Joseph is quarrelling with his wife. "You family cloud—burst you," &c., &c.; "Don't interrupt me, you'll make me forget the words!" Locked in by Madame, he trills out, "Tr-rapped, like a Toad-in-the-Hole!" At supper, Joseph, "to get up an air of abandon," smokes a cigar which is above his forces. He waves away the menu, but it is the worse for him. Marcelle orders the most succulent dishes—lobster salad and soft roes—in a ringing voice. Her digestion is evidently quite well. Joseph becomes paler and paler, damper and damper—I pass over the intervening stages to the moment when he gasps to the waiter, "Have you a bilious room?" and rushes out. Some people may be too refined in their susceptibilities for this humour; others may say it is an ancient joke. But I saw not one person who was not doubled up with laughing. Mr. Henson gets the audience into a state in which they do whatever he tells them. And Joseph is an attractive personage; indeed, he is the character of the play. The only two who stand anywhere near him are Maxime and Victorine. Maxime is the Zany who pairs off with Victorine, the soubrette. Mr. Austin Melford is a clever man. He produces an extraordinary artificial, half-grown creature, getting his effects with the crudest possible means—inturned toes, flaxen hair, and a drawl. Mr. Melford must be careful of that drawl. Victorine was played by Miss Phyllis Monkman, the only one of the cast who makes a powerful impression. She was almost sinister. Behind the nonsense of the part lay a character. It was a curious, interesting performance, though not pleasing. Miss Monkman is pleasing to watch, for she has the movements of a trained dancer. Not that her dancing would pass among dancers of any intelligence, such as the Swedish or Russian dancers, but her movements distinguish her from the uncouth gambols of the other members of the cast. Espinosa and Miss Gilmour, who dance in Act II., are added to the play, not part of the dramatis personæ.

Messrs. Grossmith and Laurillard have amused vast numbers of people by producing "A Night Out." Surely it would not have hurt them, or the audience, or the play, to dress and stage it with a little less downright ugliness. It does seem a pity to dress Miss Isobel Elsom dowdily. Why need the studio in Act I. be a cross between a chocolate box and a back drawing-room in West Kensington? Why need the chorus and attendant figures be so utterly garish and commonplace? I do not believe one person the less would go to the play were it ten per cent. more beautiful (which it might easily be). For the play is certainly a success, and surely will outlast its contemporaries. "That's the stuff they want," the comic waiter's voice re-echoed as I walked away down Drury Lane.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

REGISTER OF COTTAGE NURSES.

MADAM,—In view of the extracts from correspondence and the Press, incorporated in my previous letter, I do not think it can be said that information was withheld from the public as to the quarter from which emanated the proposal to establish a Supplementary Register of Cottage Nurses.

I agree with Miss McAra that all nurses who fulfil the requirements of the draft rules will be eligible for registration. That is just my point. The General Nursing Council for England and Wales has established, under its draft rules, the *minimum* standard of training which shall entitle a woman to admission to the English Register. The other Nursing Councils, on the contrary, have established no such standard, with the result that, so far as their rules are concerned, women with no hospital training whatever might be admitted to the Scotch or Irish Registers. Therefore it is that the English nurses object to the demand that those who are on the Scotch and Irish Registers shall be entitled to automatic Registration in England. The injustice of probably being compelled to place a class of Scotch or Irish women on the English Register, while the same class in England is excluded, and rightly excluded, is sufficiently obvious.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Corporation.

THE INDEX FIGURE.

MADAM,—I was interested in Sir Leo Chiozza Money's remarks in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, since, in common with many middle-class women, I have long taken the Government's figures of the cost of living with a substantial grain of the proverbial salt. There were, indeed, some very curious questions and answers, *re* the inadvisability of altering the index figure at present, in the House shortly before it rose, which might give one rather furiously to think, quite apart from the declaration of the writer to a recent issue of the *Spectator* that that index figure is "obviously fanciful." Leaving aside, however, suggestions as to whether the figures are "cooked," or merely based on "fads and theories" that have very little to do with practical, everyday life, there is one point that some of us would like cleared up. What do "the gifted civil servants" mean by "living"? Sir Leo mentions newspapers, and in reply to a question in the House some time ago, we were informed that these were taken as 100 per cent. up. It was certainly a surprise to some of us to find that newspapers were "living." In this Borough we keep up several large libraries out of the rates, in the reading-rooms of which even the *Daily Herald* is on view. So that the workers can study the latest news of either Bolshevism or betting, not only without any *extra* burden on their income, but without any burden at all. Are theatre-tickets, subscriptions to Mude's, taxi-cab fares—all good and desirable things, and all, alas, advanced in price—also included in "living"? Perhaps Sir Leo can enlighten us; otherwise it is sincerely to be hoped that when Parliament meets once more some Member will raise the whole question. The cost of living goes up, therefore wages go up, therefore taxes and rates go up. Ratepayers and taxpayers, most of whom have proved that it is possible to "live" without many things which they would like, have at least the right to ask for a full and candid statement of what is meant by "living."

A MIDDLE-CLASS WOMAN.

QUEENSLAND'S LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

MADAM,—Will you allow me to offer one or two observations upon the long tirade against the Queensland Government which appears in your issue of January 7th, over the signature "Munro Hull"?

Mr. Hull speaks of many matters of fact of which I can profess no knowledge. When, however, he in effect terms the Labour governors of a British State thieves and scoundrels, who knowingly betray the public interest, I suspect that he exaggerates, as Mark Twain said of the report of his own death.

And what a splendid and delicious sentence is this of Mr. Hull's:—"The sinister connection between 'The Trades Hall Council' and the (Queensland) State Government, is revealed by the fact that our Trades Unions are officered almost exclusively by Irishmen—most of them anti-British and extremists of the first water." What a pity Mr. Hull cannot join the Black and Tans, and relieve his mind with a little arson!

And what a big cat emerges from the bag when Mr. Hull tells us that his butter was wickedly commandeered by the Labour Government and sold cheaply to the workers of Queensland!

We had the same story here. Our farmers grew fat on the war, but they had no language strong enough to describe the commandeering of their wool by the War Office at a fair price. It was not the fault of the farmers that our soldiers got cheap uniforms.

And well I know that no Government which interferes with profits can escape abuse. The Shipping Controller and his Parliamentary Secretary (the latter happened to be myself), aided by clever shipowners

and civil servants, did actually carry the nation's goods at cost price in the war, and saved many ships from the submarines. This did not prevent men of the type of Mr. Hull from alleging that we profited; that we wasted ships; that we wickedly put vessels in the German path; that we were a curse to the nation. I have a sweet collection of anonymous letters inspired by such traducers.

So, with compliments to Mr. Hull (I would bow to him if the soles of his feet were not opposite mine), I regret to say I find amusement and not enlightenment in his charge that Queensland's Labour men conduct a policy of "authorised dishonesty."

LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S TRAINING.

MADAM,—In your "Notes and News" of December 31st you refer at some length to the work of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment and give a list of towns in which you state that Local Interviewing Boards have been set up.

As I have no doubt many of your readers, like myself, are Irish-women, and would be interested in having correct information with regard to the machinery of this Committee, may I ask you to be so kind as to publish the following facts in your next issue?

Two independent Irish committees have been appointed, one for the south of Ireland, having its headquarters in Dublin, and the other for the north, with its headquarters in Belfast. These committees have established Interviewing Boards in the following centres: Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Sligo and Belfast.

A large number of Irish girls are already in training as the result of the work of these committees.

ETHEL MACNAGHTEN.

Dublin.

WOMEN DELEGATES AT THE LEAGUE.

MADAM,—In your issue of December 24th you state that the Norwegian and Swedish Governments sent women among their delegates to the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva, whereas in the December number of *Jus Suffragii* they were described as alternates and delegates. Reserves are important to any team, but they are not, after all, full members of it; and I feel sure that many of your readers who, like myself, are in the habit of using THE WOMAN'S LEADER as our authority in arguments, would be glad to know exactly which position the women in question held.

L. F. NETTLEFOLD.

[On enquiry at the Headquarters of the League of Nations Union, we learn that only one woman sat in the Assembly as a delegate; the others were there as alternates, ready to take a delegate's place in case of need. Fröken Forchhammer, who gave information on the White Slave Traffic, spoke from the rostrum, and had the position of a delegate for the occasion.—Ed. WOMAN'S LEADER.]

CHILD WELFARE.

MADAM,—I have made almost a life-long study of the Hygiene of Child-Life, and I am inclined to agree with Miss Barton in her view that no one can adequately take the place of the mother in the training of young children, especially on observation of the line of educator which is the rule at the present time. To shelve the mothers, to any extent, in the upbringing of children, would be a national tragedy, and would serve to foster materialism and to kill out individuality. Let a mother be ever so "ignorant, foolish, and selfish," she, more than anyone else, must be, consciously or subconsciously, in sympathy with the psychology of her child's mind during its earliest years at least, she more than anyone else is likely to be tolerant and less likely to "force" the development of one quality at the sacrifice of another. Granted that there are ignorant and selfish mothers—and there are very many—is it not largely due to the fact that education in mothercraft is so sadly neglected? Our boys and girls, under the present educational system, are brought up in such a way that they conform, to a very great extent, to one pattern, a pattern calculated to suit the State rather than to benefit the race or the individual. They are taught history, geography, and similar subjects much more comprehensively than those which more intimately concern the well-being of life here and at the present time. History, in many respects, gives just as distorted an outlook on events as do the newspapers of the present day; it is to the child's mind, very frequently, what the Press is to the adult in producing merely a reflected point of view in place of one which has real root and growth in the mind of the individual.

Education and the training of children have not been among the subjects which have received the attention to which their importance entitles them, and the State, not the individual, is responsible for the large amount of ignorance which exists among mothers on the subject of child hygiene, because such subjects as psychology, mothercraft,

Hygiene, citizenship, and others similar, have never ranked where they ought to in the ordinary curriculum of the schools. If one of our girls possesses a special "talent" for science, art or some kindred subject, the greatest pains are taken to develop this "talent," but what of those ninety and nine girls who have only such ordinary and valuable "talents" as are the common heritage of most of them? Are we as energetic, as in the first case, in order to foster and develop these during the schoolgirl age, when the brain is so plastic and when the faculties so readily respond to training? Far too often is the fact lost sight of that girls ought to be educated for the responsibility which will, in all likelihood, be theirs, that of training the character and physique of a later generation.

This brings me to another point. Too much, at the present time, are children treated as though all had been cast in one mould. It is to be hoped that the day will come when the State will see its way to have the children segregated into groups in its schools, according to gifts, character, temperament, &c. Doubtless this sounds entirely Utopian, but greater reforms have been achieved, and only by some systematic segregation will it be possible to use the children, to the utmost possible extent, as mediums for the higher development of the race in the future. Such a reform will, however, never be recognised as desirable or attainable until the average man can keep in its own place each of three aspects of modern life: the spiritual (or educational), the political, and the economic. At the present time the second enters too largely, though often imperceptibly, into our educational system and it ends in fostering materialism and thereby leads the economic life to assume too great an importance in the outlook of the individual. And so the spiritual life is crushed out, wellnigh before it is born, by political (or communal) and economic considerations. Therefore it is that I agree with your correspondent that the mother, even the ignorant and selfish mother, may have something to give to her child that no one else can give to him, something which will shelter qualities which will lead to the growth of individuality and will perhaps prevent the child from becoming little more than a member of a sort of group soul, a mental attitude proper in patriarchal times but unsuited to our present stage of evolution.

ISABEL MACDONALD.

THE INSTITUTE.

MADAM.—Having been a Ward Sister in a large London General Hospital, I read the articles on "The Institute" in your paper with considerable interest, and a fair amount of horror and amazement. I have had considerable experience in dealing with suicides in hospital, and I am thankful I can say the suicides in my hospital met with very different treatment to that which was given to the writer in your paper. To begin with, they were never, so to speak, labelled. There was no "Suicide Ward." Each suicide was placed in the ward most suited to his or her particular injury or medical condition. If necessary for any medical reason, a suicide patient was placed in a single ward, as was any other patient. The only difference was that the women were in charge of a ward, and the men of a policeman. The wardresses wore no uniform, and my experience of them was that they were a very humane and kindly set of women, who adapted themselves very readily to hospital life. Technically, they were not supposed to do any nursing. In reality, they always helped. I always explained their presence by saying I was very busy and was having a little extra help. I found that explanation went down very well, and that the unfortunate suicide patient, as far as she could, fitted in quite well with the life of the ward. Having always worked on those lines, you can imagine with what feelings of horror I should regard a "Suicide Ward." I have no experience of "Mental Institutions."

EX-WARD SISTER.

IRELAND REVISITED.

MADAM.—May I intervene in this controversy to point out, with all respect to those who have written from the fulness of their hearts, that such balancing of responsibility, and weighing of crime against crime, is not only futile, but is directly mischievous. What use is there in it all? It only increases bitterness just when there is a gleam of hope and a real desire for peace. If the Government of Ireland Act is to be of any use—and if it fail, what else have we to look for?—it will not be by everlasting recapitulation of the catalogue of outrage on either side. As a matter of practical politics, it is not good to expect either the Irish Executive or the leaders of Sinn Fein to take their place publicly on the penitent form. The most we can hope for is that the best shall now be made of a very bad business, and that a compromise, admittedly unsatisfactory, shall be given at least a chance. There is a possibility of this. The kindest thing that earnest sympathisers with the cause of peace in Ireland can do at present is to leave us to "ourselves alone," and refrain from word or act that will increase bitterness. This, at least, might be done, for the sake of the many who, out of the limelight, and unseen by Press correspondent or British delegate, man or woman, are working in North and South for the abandonment of recrimination and for mutual forbearance. This will be the only possible condition under which the new Act can be made into a measure which will work out for peace between Ireland and England, and between the warring sections in Ireland itself.

DORA MELLONE.

MADAM.—Your letter from "S.W.C." recalls a number of friendly arguments which I once had with the author, upon Irish questions, in Rangoon. As far as I can recollect the point then at issue was, whether people who have lived in a country, or those who have never been there, know most about the subject. I am sure it will interest your readers to learn that "S.W.C." and "Boxwalla," author of a charming Anglo-Indian romance, are one and the same.

L. RICKARD.

WOMEN AND ADULT EDUCATION.

MADAM.—I am interested in your review in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, December 10th, of Mrs. Huws Davies' essay on "Women and Adult Education." I agree with her that the domestic life of many married women of the middle class is narrowing because it unduly absorbs their time and attention.

Until very recent years no considerable number of women belonging to this class have had an intellectual bent, and therefore the routine work has been accepted, but it is exactly in the middle class that education is making such rapid strides. In the last twenty years the advance has been so great as to be almost revolutionary. The record of our girls' schools and women's colleges and the progress women have made in the various professions is the proof of this. These girls cannot be satisfied with the horizons that bounded the lives of their mothers and grandmothers. But do men understand this? Have they got beyond the "It-was-good-enough-for-my-mother" stage? I don't think so, and do they really want women who think for their wives?

I have only one practical remedy in mind at the moment. We must have clubs, and we must have them everywhere. The formal afternoon call (which is all the social life a married middle-class woman has) may have its uses and may survive, but it is not nearly enough. Women must have a chance of intercourse with an extended circle, the opportunity of change from the four walls of their own dwelling, and the opportunity to enlarge their interests without the constant, cumbersome, and expensive necessity of dispensing hospitality. And in addition, some way must be found to lighten the well-nigh intolerable burden of domestic life. Even the women who have asked nothing more than to cook, wash, &c., in endless rotation, are beginning to feel that they have asked too little of life.

GLADYS E. BROWN.

REGULATING THE DRINK TRAFFIC.

MADAM.—The question of regulating the drink traffic and reducing it to some semblance of decency will never be accomplished by Local Veto. This has been clearly proved. What is wanted, in my opinion, is to put the whole drink traffic on a different basis. I suggest that the *modus operandi* would be on the following lines, to be worked out in detail, viz.: That every person (male or female, in any station of life) desiring to be supplied with any intoxicating liquor should be compelled to take out a licence, at, say, a cost of £1 annually, and that no person be supplied either in a public bar, hotel, licensed grocer's shop, or restaurant without being able to show the licence if called on to do so. That in the event of the licence-holder being found the worse for drink—not necessarily a conviction—the licence be suspended for one month, and the licence endorsed. That after, say, four endorsements, the licence to be taken away, and the holder to be kept without a licence for the period of, say, one year.

It would be quite out of the question for the publican on a busy night to demand the presentation of all licences, but the police should have full power to enter a public bar, hotel, licensed grocer's shop, or restaurant at any lawful time, and demand to see the licences from the various parties who may be consuming or purchasing liquor. If, therefore, any person was present without a licence, or one who had his licence endorsed or taken away, it would simply mean that the authorities would take these parties in hand, and prosecute them. It would be left to the police to prevent a licence being granted to any party whom they could prove to be in circumstances of poverty, or who was known to them as being a habitual drunkard.

The tax of £1 per person per annum may, or may not, be the means of adding to the resources of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I rather think the gain would be on the right side all round.

A. W.

THE PEOPLE'S UNION FOR ECONOMY.

MADAM.—The People's Union for Economy will aim at keeping a watchful eye upon all Government expenditure with a view to directing attention to overlapping and waste in the administrative sphere. For this purpose it will operate through a strong Parliamentary Committee including members of all parties and of both Houses of Parliament, and they will seek to co-operate with other associations working for the same objects.

The Central Office aims, further, at becoming a bureau of information where all Parliamentary papers and estimates will be critically examined and filed for reference. It will be in constant touch with commercial and industrial bodies, individual economists, and others in all parts of the country, with a view to providing the best possible material for criticism.

It is obvious that an organisation of this kind, which we believe to be without parallel in the country, must rely for its development upon the support of the public, whose interest it is solely designed to serve.

We, therefore, invite all those who agree with the views we have expressed to give us their support by joining the Union, and by supplying reliable information of any instances of public waste and extravagance.

Forms of membership may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha), 1, King's-buildings, Millbank, S.W. 1.

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ISLINGTON.	

WOMEN WORKERS' LIBRARY.

MADAM.—May I appeal through your columns on behalf of the "Women Workers' Library"? This library, which is under the

National Education Committee of the Y.W.C.A., has for its object to bring good fiction and other books within easy reach of working women and girls. Any group of women, e.g., in a Club, Hostel, or Institute, may form a branch of the library, which supplies fifty books, exchanged quarterly, for a subscription of 15s. a quarter, or twenty-five books for 7s. 6d. Originally started by the "Challenge" newspaper to supply books for the land-girls, the library began work in 1917 with a few books and a capital of £1. During the first year after it was put on a permanent basis over 10,000 books were sent out, and there are now about 100 branches all over the country, from Edinburgh to Cornwall. The library is not confined to women, but is used by men, women, and children. In addition to supplying ordinary works of fiction, it aims at assisting any desire for special books, and also provides simple outlines of study and groups of books for special purposes. There is a juvenile section, concerning which the Secretary of the Juvenile Organisations Committee of the Board of Education has sent a letter to all provincial committees, suggesting that they might find the library useful, and this should help the juvenile side to extend.

The library is at present run entirely on subscriptions from the branches, and has a hard struggle to meet expenses, carriage of books, purchase of new and up-to-date works, &c. It now appeals to all who are interested in the life of the working woman, for subscriptions, donations, and gifts of books. Good light fiction, books of travel of any sort, biography of a simple kind would be more acceptable, and a special appeal is being made for children's books. All gifts, both of money and of books, will be most gratefully received by the Head Librarian, Women Workers' Library, The Crescent Club, Busby Place, Kentish Town, N.W. 5, from whom particulars can also be obtained by any group of women willing to join the library.

VIOLET EUSTACE.

ALTERATIONS TO CENSUS PAPERS.

MADAM.—It is most important that the ambiguous question, "Are you divorced?" which draws no distinction between the sinner and the sinned against in a broken marriage, should be replaced by some such as the following: "Has (a) your husband (or wife) divorced you, or (b) have you divorced him (or her)?" Perhaps one of your readers can suggest a terser form than this. Space on a Census paper is limited; all the more reason that no question should be placed on it which gives vague or misleading information.

M. M. A.

WHAT WAR MEANS TO WOMEN—AND WHY THEY GOT THE VOTE.

"The vote is an essentially pacific way of settling affairs, and therefore men who believed in force as the only remedy were quite willing to grant it to women. This is the real but unacknowledged reason," declared Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, speaking at the last of a series of mid-day meetings on "What War Means," at the Friends' Meeting House, Bishopsgate, "why women were given the vote during the war."

Dealing with the subject from the point of view of "What War Means to Women," the speaker said that the great injury done to them was that pre-eminently in war time they were looked upon as things. This was particularly in evidence in the sexual relationships. She had had in her hands and read a French Army Order, issued during the war, in which in a certain town the men were begged to be a little quicker at the brothels so that those waiting in the queue outside might also be served. The order went on to say that the authorities were hurrying up with the provision of other *maisons tolérées*. This was the sort of thing war meant to women.

"War," said Mrs. Swanwick in conclusion, "is a great gamble and a breach in the constancy and coherence of our civilised life. But life must be a whole. You cannot break this constancy by the upheaval and nerve strain of war in one respect and not break it in all." The effect of the war was now being felt not necessarily in a prevalence of promiscuity, so much as in a lack of that deep honour and respect that was essential on both sides between the sexes.

H. W. PEET.

NATIONAL UNION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS.

Professor Baird, speaking at the annual dinner of the National Union of Scientific Workers, said: "Scientific men, in this and other countries, say that capital takes too much of the value produced by industry; the business man lives on the scientific man of the past and present, and yet does not wish to put money aside for science. Even when the Government steps in the situation is not altered." He looked forward to a time when every directorate would include representatives of those supplying technical knowledge, and knowledge of the conditions of life of all the workers in the business. At present there is inadequate representation of the workers, and no attention is paid to their claims until a strike is imminent. Whitley Councils are a step in the right direction. . . . Trade secrecy was contrary to the spirit of science, and showed that businesses did not trust one another. He looked to the participation of scientific workers in the control of industry to produce a different spirit.

FOR THE BABIES.

The National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality will be holding its second English-speaking Congress on Infant Welfare in London on July 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1921. The following are among the subjects to be discussed: Residential provision for mothers and babies; inheritance and environment as factors in racial health; the supply of milk; its physiological and economic aspects. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary at 4, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

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Miss Double is Hon. Sec. to the Insurance Sectional Committee of the National Council of Women.

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PARLIAMENTARY.

WIVES AND CHILDREN OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.

Our members will remember a copy of a letter printed in these columns on December 31st, which had been sent to certain members of the House of Commons, asking them to urge the Government to make provision for the wives and children of unemployed persons.

EQUAL FRANCHISE MEMORIAL.

The following is a complete list of those Members of Parliament who have signed the Memorial on Equal Franchise.

Table listing Members of Parliament by Name, Party, and Constituency. Includes names like Astor, Viscountess; Acland, Rt. Hon. F. D.; Barnes, Major H.; Barrand, A. R.; Bell, J.; Bellairs, Com. C.; Bowyer, Capt. G.E.W.; Bramsdon, Sir T.; Breese, Major C.E.; Briant, F.; Bromfield, W.; Brown, J.; Brunel-Cohen, J.B.; Burn, Colonel C.R.; Cape, T.; Casey, T.W.; Churchman, Sir A.; Clough, R.; Colfox, Major; Coote, Capt. C.; Cowan, Sir W.H.; Cowan, D.M.; Crooks, Rt. Hon. W.; Davidson, Major J.H.; Davies, T.; Dockrell, Sir M.; Edwards, Major J.; Elliott, Capt. W.E.; Entwistle, Major; Farquharson, Major A.C.; Fildes, H.; Finney, S.; Foreman, H.; Frece, Sir W. de; Ganzoni, F. J. C.; Graham, D.M.; Graham, R.; Graham, W.; Grundy, T.W.; Hall, F.; Hallas, E.; Hancock, Major J.G.; Henderson, Rt. Hon. A.; Hills, Major J.W.; Hirst, G.H.; Hogge, J.M.; Hood, J.; Hudson, R.M.; Hunter, Gen. Sir A.

Table listing Members of Parliament by Name, Party, and Constituency. Includes names like Hayday, A.; Irving, Dan; Johnstone, J.; Kelley, Major F.; Kenworthy, Lt-Com.; Kenyon, B.; Kiley, J.D.; Lort-Williams, J.; Lunn, W.; Maclean, N.; Mallalieu, F.W.; Mills, J.E.; Mosley, O.; Murray, J.; Newbould, A.E.; Newman, Sir R.; Norris, Sir H.G.; Norman, Major Sir H.; O'Grady, J.; Prescott, Major W.H.; Raffan, P.W.; Rendall, A.; Roberts, F.O.; Robinson, S.; Rodger, A.K.; Rose, F.H.; Samuel, A.M.; Scott, A.M.; Short, A.; Sitch, C.H.; Smith, W.R.; Spencer, G.A.; Swan, J.E.; Taylor, J.; Thomson, T.; Thorne, G.R.; Tootill, R.; Turton, E.R.; Ward-Jackson, C.L.A.; Watson - Rutherford, Sir W.; Watson, Capt. J.B.; White, C.F.; Wild, Sir E.; Williams, A.; Williams, Sir Rhys; Wintringham, T.; Young, R.

L. = Liberal. C.L. = Coalition Liberal. C.U. = Coalition Unionist. C. NDP. = Coalition National Democratic Party.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY.

The Proportional Representation Society (82, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.) is holding a newspaper model election at the beginning of February. Certain newspapers, both in London and in the country, are being asked to print a ballot paper for a mock election which is to be decided by proportional representation.

In view of the fact that, as our members know, the propaganda for proportional representation is one of the points on our programme, we hope that many of our members will respond to this request. Will those who are able to go communicate with Miss Morton, 82, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held: - JANUARY 14. At Hitchin, Town Hall. Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., Miss M. Currey, O.B.E. 8 p.m.

JANUARY 16. At Consett, Y.M.C.A. Hall. Speakers: Aneurin Williams, Esq., M.P., Capt. D. Clifton Brown, M.P. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

JANUARY 17. At West Ealing, St. Stephen's Parish Hall. Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Otley. 7.30 p.m.

JANUARY 18. At Southwark, London City Mission, 8, Library Street, Bow Road, S.E.1. Speaker: Miss Clegg. 7.30 p.m.

JANUARY 19. At Twyford, Berks, Assembly Rooms. Speaker: E. Everitt Reid, Esq. 7.30 p.m.

JANUARY 20. At Liphook, Women's Institute. Speaker: Mrs. George Morgan. 7.30 p.m.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

JANUARY 17. At Newport, Isle of Wight Town Hall. Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." 7.30 p.m. At Goodmayes, Sisterhood Meeting. Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. Subject: "State Purchase as a Solution of Drink Problem." 3 p.m.

JANUARY 18. At Ryde, Isle of Wight, Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. Subject: "State Purchase the Way to Local Option." 8 p.m.

JANUARY 19. At Shanklin, Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. Subject: "State Purchase the Way to Local Option." 3 p.m. At Tottenham, Labour Party Women's Section. Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." 3 p.m.

JANUARY 20. At Mothers' Union, Clapham, S.W. Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. Subject: "State Purchase the Way to Local Option." 3.15 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

The first of a series of ten lectures on "The Progress and Freedom of Women" will be held at the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, at 7 p.m. Sir John Cockburn will speak on "The Evolution and Sociological Aspect of Sex." Tickets for the series, 7s. 6d. Single tickets, 1s. each.

JANUARY 19. Public Meeting in the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Councillor Jessie Stephen. Subject: "Women's Right to Work." Chair: Mrs. McMichael. 3 p.m.

WILLESDEN WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

JANUARY 21. In the Maria Grey Training College, Salisbury Road, N.W.6. Speaker: Professor T. P. Nunn, M.A., D.Sc. Subject: "Continuation Schools." 8 p.m.

THE MOTHERS' UNION.

At the Mary Sumner House, 8, Dean's Yard, S.W.1. JANUARY 19. Speaker: Canon Burrows. Subject: "Adventurers at Home and School." 5 p.m.

JANUARY 21. Speaker: Miss Mary Johnston. Subject: "The Art of Speaking: (D)-The Speaker." 3 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.-Fellowship Services. 6.30, Miss M. "God in Jesus Christ."

LECTURES ON INDUSTRIAL LAWS which affect women. Monday 31st, Feb. 7th, 14th, at 3 p.m., Morley Hall. Speakers: Miss A. Gardner, Miss Squire, and Miss Constance Smith. Further from Miss Phillips, 26, George-street, Hanover-square, W.1.

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