

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
BUREAUCRACY ON THE DEFENSIVE	415
THE MODEL ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. By Major Hills	415
TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922. By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.	416
WOMEN AND THE PROFESSION OF ACCOUNTANT. By M. Harris Smith, F.C.A.	417
SPLENDID IMPERIALISM. By M. D. S.	417

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NOTES AND NEWS.

A New European Safeguard.

Last week, in reviewing the activities of the League of Nations during its fifth year of existence, we deplored the intensification of America's isolation from European activities, of which the sweeping electoral triumph of President Coolidge seemed to us symptomatic. Now, in connexion with the results of the Allied Financial Conference which was concluded in Paris at the end of last week, we are able to chronicle a move in the opposite direction. Impelled ostensibly by the desire to obtain a share in the receipts of the Dawes plan, America has decided to allow her representatives to depart from the rôle of "observer" and assume that of active and voting participant in further negotiations on the subject of German reparations. This (though the British government appears to have demurred for reasons of immediate financial cost) is all to the good. A small share in the German spoils is a cheap price to pay for American official co-operation in the handling of reparations problems. For it so happens that immediate economic ambitions (in this case as in many others) are not so patently inharmonious with the cause of international peace as are immediate political or military ambitions. And we have reason to believe that America, unlike France, is actuated by purely economic motives in so far as the conduct of European affairs is concerned.

Another Milestone Passed.

Meanwhile, apart from a bad twinge of regret at Mr. Churchill's tacit acceptance of the Ruhr invasion as legally and morally justifiable, we cannot refrain from a sigh of great relief at last week's achievement of an allied settlement in the matter of reparations receipts in general. At least, we can turn from the dark spot of Ruhr "spoils" to the bright spot of those clauses which delimit the costs of armies of occupation. And taken as a whole the recent agreement marks the removal of a mass of tiresome financial detail from the sphere of constant friction to the sphere of settled and businesslike administration. When the prickly matter of inter-allied debts is similarly transferred, Europe will be at last in a position to "get on with the peace."

The Eight-hour Day.

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office has concluded its winter session. Although the question of the ratification of the Washington Convention on the eight-hour day was not formally discussed there was much unofficial talk

on the subject amongst the delegates. It seems certain that the Convention will shortly be ratified by the French Government, and that their ratification will be unconditional or not dependent on the attitude of other countries. There is, however, some doubt whether Germany and Belgium will follow suit if Great Britain refuses to ratify. Those who believe that the acceptance of the Washington Convention would mean a great advance in industrial legislation feel deeply the responsibility of this country on this question. Great Britain has always been to the forefront of reform of this kind, and it is to be hoped that the difficulties of adapting the Convention to British law will not prevent the Government from taking a wide and generous attitude.

Opium and the League of Nations.

The Second Opium Conference was reopened on 19th January, when Lord Cecil, who is the chief British representative, declared that the British Government would undertake to abolish opium smoking in British Far Eastern Territories within a period of not more than fifteen years from the date on which the effective execution of the measures taken by China to suppress the growth of the opium poppy have reached such a stage as to remove the danger of opium smuggling from China. It seems obviously wise to make the prohibition of opium smoking dependent on Chinese supplies. It would be impossible to prevent the smuggling of opium from China into India or Hong-Kong, and a law that cannot be enforced is worse than no law. Whether it should take a further fifteen years to suppress the smoking of opium is another matter. Lord Cecil's declaration, whether regarded here as satisfactory or not is not likely to be acceptable to the United States. It deals only with opium smoking and leaves untouched the eating of opium, which is the common form of taking opium in India. The official view is that it is harmless, and that to prevent it or to prevent the cultivation of opium for eating in India would be impossible and undesirable. The U.S.A. meanwhile is seriously exercised over the increased consumption of opium, and it is said that the popular belief there is that the British exporters are battenning on the growing number of American opium dens. As a matter of fact, as Lord Olivier recently pointed out in *The Times*, the Indian opium is not strong enough to be used for those drugs which in certain sections of the community are being used as a baleful substitute for alcohol. But the opium question, important in itself, looks at present as if it might lead to no less important international complications.

Women in the Civil Service.

It is satisfactory to note that after the restrictions of recent years due to the necessity for establishing temporary staff, clerical posts in the Civil Service are again available for educated women by open competition. Regulations have recently been issued respecting an open competitive examination for the Departmental Clerical Class (Women) of the Ministry of Labour. Forms of entry for the examination should be obtained from the Civil Service Commissioners and must be sent in by 29th January. The age limit is 18 to 20 years and the commencing salary is £75 a year, plus a bonus which is at present £56 5s. Such posts, although small in their beginnings, may be an avenue to higher positions, such as Women Employment Officers.

Labour Women's Organisations.

The Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations has elected Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., as its Chairman. This means she will act as Chairman at the National Conference of Labour Women, which will be held at Birmingham next May.

The other officers elected were Dr. Ethel Bentham as vice-chairman of the Political section, Miss Carlin for the Trade Union section, Mrs. Hood for the Co-operative section, and Dr. Marion Phillips secretary and treasurer.

The Burnham Committee and Women Teachers.

The National Union of Women Teachers have sent a letter to Lord Burnham setting out certain aspects of the salary question "in view of any action the N.U.W.T. may have to take in the future." The letter in its first section sets out in full the resolutions on equal salary and the representation of women on the joint committee, which were reported in last week's number of THE WOMAN'S LEADER. It then goes on to point out how the women's point of view has failed to obtain adequate representation. In 1919 Mr. Fisher was asked to invite representatives of the N.U.W.T. to attend the Conference on Salaries which was to be held at the Board of Education. This was refused. The Board of Education and the Standing Joint Committee have both repudiated responsibility on the question of representation, each throwing the onus on the other. The result has been the exclusion of the N.U.W.T. from the deliberations of the Committee. The only teachers' organisation represented on the Joint Committee is the National Union of Teachers, which does not represent the views of the members of the N.U.W.T. As the letter points out, the general public believe the Joint Committee to represent the Local Education Authorities and the teaching profession as a whole. This it certainly does not do, and the N.U.W.T. maintains that no special evidence for the women's case has been placed before it, though the Committee is entrusted with the interests of a far larger number of women teachers than of men. The letter ends with a request that Lord Burnham should bring these facts before the Board of Education and the Standing Joint Committee, and should point out to them that the terms of reference submitted to him should have included the question of equal pay. We will await Lord Burnham's action with interest.

"A Glut" of Women Doctors?

The current number of *The Lancet* has a letter drawing attention to what is described as "a glut" of women doctors. The writer points out that there were no less than 78 applicants for the appointment of junior resident medical officer at the Children's Hospital, Sunderland, which carries a salary of £100. It seems certain that an excessive number of women started their training for the medical profession in the years immediately following the war, but the general opinion seems to be that the number of women students has by now fallen to an absorbable level. In any case, the glut is rather amongst applicants for staff appointments than in general practice. The women general practitioners have more than they can do, but we suppose the difficulty is that a staff appointment is really essential before any doctor can gain sufficient experience to be a successful G.P.

Saving Infant Life.

The Times of 16th January had a long article by Mr. Benjamin Broadbent on the need for reforms in connexion with the prevention of Infant Mortality. The point he chiefly stressed was the need for speedier action on the part of the Health Office. Notifications of Birth have to be sent to the Health Office within 48 hours of the birth of the child, yet no action is taken in the way of visits to the home until nine or ten days have elapsed, though it is known that more babies die in the first week than during the next three weeks. Mr. Broadbent urges that there should be a prompt visit paid by a fully qualified medical woman with a special knowledge of gynaecology. He maintains that this could be justified on the sole ground of the prevention of blindness. In one town in which prompt medical attendance has been the rule for nearly twenty years there has not been a single case of birth blindness. There are, of course, many other ways in which a visit from a skilled doctor would be invaluable; for example, in advising how best to preserve for the baby the mother's milk which is so often lost before the ten days are over. Mr. Broadbent also lays great stress on the need for more pre-natal clinics, which would inevitably lead to a greater demand for accommodation and treatment for abnormal and dangerous cases, which now are too often unrecognized till it is too late for anything to be done. This country has certainly made great strides during recent years in

the prevention of infant mortality, but an article such as Mr. Broadbent's makes one realize how much still remains to be done.

Women Farmers in South Africa.

An interesting letter appeared in *The Times* of 16th January from the Hon. Mrs. Cecil, Chairman of the Africa Committee of the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women (3 and 4 Clement's Inn). The letter set out the details of an offer that had been recently received by the Society from the 1,820 Memorial Settlers' Association to assist women to take up farming in South Africa under specially favourable conditions. The formation of a small farm run by five women on co-operative lines is contemplated. The owner of a well known farm in the Cape Province and his wife have promised free board and lodging for six months to the pioneer of the group, and will give active assistance in the establishment of the farm. The minimum capital required is £400-£450 for each of the five members of the group, which would allow for the hire and gradual purchase of 30-50 acres of irrigable land under permanent water, and 100 acres of grazing land, besides all other necessary expenditure. The letter points out that there are already women in South Africa who have made a success of farming. Limited as this scheme is, we welcome it as giving to anyhow five women an opening which is but rarely found. So often it is assumed that the opening for women in the Colonies are limited to domestic and clerical work, but these must be greater possibilities than are generally recognized for women of enterprise who are neither clerks nor cooks.

Proposed New Marriage Law in Russia.

The Russian Press has published details of the proposed new marriage laws in Russia. They fix the minimum age for marriage as eighteen for men and sixteen for women. Marriages between feeble-minded persons and near relatives are not to be recognized. Both parties of the marriage are to support one another according to the means of each, and may have one surname in common if so registered; otherwise each retains his or her original surname. Obligation to support the offspring is to rest equally on father and mother. We have, it seems, some things to learn even from Soviet Russia!

A Minister for Women.

A "Minister for Women's Affairs" is demanded by Viennese women. Feminine deputies of the Austrian Parliament declare that their parliamentary experience shows that men are not inclined to give women's affairs serious attention. They demand that the Government shall create a special portfolio in the Cabinet that will deal conclusively with everything relating to the feminine sex. It is always difficult to criticize the attitude taken in a foreign country where the circumstances are naturally different from those we know, but we do deplore the point of view which implies that women form a class to themselves within the community. Equality of treatment does not lie in that direction. At the same time, we can sympathize with the anger of the women deputies at the refusal of Parliament to take women's questions seriously. We have known the same thing here.

An Important Announcement.

We call the attention of our readers to a peculiarly important feature of our next issue: a statement of the case against Family Endowment by Dame Millicent Fawcett. We believe that its publication will most admirably promote our object of focusing serious thought upon a proposal which if put into practice must profoundly affect the social and political as well as the economic destinies of women. Those of our readers who are opposed to the principle of Family Endowment will applaud our success in securing a statement of their point of view by a writer whose name must inspire the respectful attention of the Press and the public. Those of our readers who are convinced of the necessity for some form of Family Endowment will welcome the opportunity of studying an opposition case which cannot by any stretch of imagination be attributed to the operations of a "Turk complex." And all our readers, without respect of opinion on this weighty question, will be proud of the fact that the WOMAN'S LEADER should be made the vehicle of so important a contribution to the controversy which rages round the burning question of Family Endowment.

BUREAUCRACY ON THE DEFENSIVE.

That democratic control is a necessary background of feminism we become more and more convinced as we follow out the ups and downs of its working. That the woman will tend to go to the wall under the rule of violence and physical coercion, goes without saying.

That democratic control is a necessary background of feminism we become more and more convinced as we follow out the ups and downs of its working. That the woman will tend to go to the wall under the rule of violence and physical coercion, goes without saying. The field of muscular force is the one field in which women cannot and never will be able to compete on equal terms with men. Clearly where such force determines the social standards of value the woman must take her place as one of "lesser breed without the law." That is why we do not expect good feminism from a Facist, and look a little askance at it when we encounter it in the *credo* of a Bolshevik. Enough said. There is probably no difference of opinion on this point among our readers.

But there are forms of government other than the government of force which display the cloven-hoof (or shall we say the turbanned head) of anti-feminism. And bureaucracy is among the offenders. Who are the people that persistently block our efforts to amend the laws of maintenance and guardianship in such a way as to secure a full equality of rights and duties for the mother? Not the elected representatives of the people, the vast majority of whom are most sensibly prepared to accept such equality with all its social and legal implications. It is, as successive attempts to draft and promote Equal Guardianship Bills have most amply shown, the permanent officials of the Home Office who are the real stumbling block. Indeed, we are driven to the conclusion that the measure of a government's soundness on the matter of this particular reform is not merely the measure of its goodwill towards the cause of sex-equality, but largely the measure of its ability to stand up to its own departmental officials.

And now precisely the same conflict of will is emerging, though in a different form, in connexion with the struggle for women police. It has emerged so far, in two places; some years ago in Oxford, and now during the past fortnight, in Manchester. In both these cases, democratic control has been represented by the City Council, bureaucracy by the Chief Constable and the Watch Committee. In both cases the Council has stood for a more forward policy in the matter of women police, the Chief Constable and Watch Committee for a reactionary policy. In both cases the Watch Committee has invoked its dubious legal right of statutory independence from continuous democratic control, through the Council, in support of its determination to do as it pleases with (or without) its women police. In the case of Oxford, the Council had its way in the end, two policewomen being appointed in the teeth of the Watch Committee's determination to carry on the work with only one. In the case of Manchester the issue is still uncertain. But the local women's organizations are not disposed to rest content with the assertion of the Chief Constable that "the work of the women police had fallen far short of what might have been expected . . . for practical

police work their usefulness was limited," or, even, it appears, with the Watch Committee's determination that its freedom from interference by a popularly elected local assembly in matters of police discipline and "in certain matters of policy" was absolutely essential to the integrity of the force and impartiality of police administration. So there, as far as the Manchester policewomen are concerned, the matter rests—for the moment.

But what about this statutory independence by virtue of which both in Oxford and in Manchester the bureaucracy of law and order has claimed exemption from democratic control? And how does it square with the tacit belief, which the citizen of Great Britain is apt to cherish, that the borough police, unlike the police of the Metropolis or the police of our less enlightened Continental neighbours, are effectively and directly the servants of the people? We are tempted, whenever an obscure problem of local government administration is at stake to fly to the scholarly and compendious volumes of Dr. Redlich's incomparable manual. We do it in this present case, and here is his verdict:—"The special position of the statutory Watch Committee . . . made obligatory by the municipal code, and endowed with a definite set of important functions, has already been observed. From this flows the important consequence that the proceedings of the Watch Committee are not subject to review by the Council. Once appointed by the Council, the Watch Committee is independent, so long as it confines itself to the duties assigned by the Municipal Corporations Act (M.C.A. 1882, Part ix, "Police" secs. 190-200). When other business is delegated to it by the Town Council, the Watch Committee reverts, so far as that business is concerned, to the status of an ordinary committee."

Thus, if the women police are to be, as we have always wanted them to be, an integral part of the regular force, the Watch Committee seems to have good authority for its claim of independence. The Council can in fact only assert its authority once a year when the time comes for reappointment. Its authority, in other words, is neither direct nor continuous. But to glory in such a position, as the Manchester Watch Committee appears to be doing, is another matter. It is a confession of democratic weakness. We are willing to believe that the removal of police administration from popular control is conducive to efficiency—conducive to safety even, at a time of popular upheaval. We are willing to believe that a centralized police force armed with revolvers on the lines of the Prussian "green police" might be even more efficient and even yet safer than our own type. But that this kind of police administration tends to put a premium on equitable and efficient government in general we do not believe. That it strengthens the precept: "so govern that popular disturbances do not occur," we do not believe. Almost any fool can govern efficiently by force. It takes an intelligent and educated people to govern efficiently by popular consent. It is infinitely more difficult, infinitely more trying to the patience of the exasperated bureaucrat. But it is infinitely better worth doing. And as we have seen by the two cases in point, it is infinitely more conducive to the prosperity of the cause which we have at heart.

THE MODEL ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By JOHN W. HILLS.

Most of us understand things much better when we see them. More is done by interviews than by correspondence, and geography is only learnt by travel. Many of those who went to the Kensington Town Hall on Monday, 19th January, had doubtless read about the Assemblies of the League at Geneva. They may have read much; but they learnt more in the short time in which they saw the Assembly in working.

The idea of showing a model of the Assembly originated with Dr. Burgin. He has organized several, of which the one held at Kensington Town Hall was the climax. A close student of the League, he managed so that not only the arrangement of the session, but also its atmosphere resembled Geneva. Indeed, he did more; the fine hall lent to the League of Nations Union by the Kensington Borough Council is far superior to that dreary, undignified, barn-like building in which the Assembly meets at Geneva, the Salle de la Réformation. But, except for this, his staging was realistic. On the floor of the hall were the seats of the delegates of the different nations, ranged in alphabetical order from Abyssinia downwards. These seats were occupied by those who represented the delegations, women as well as men. Behind and in the gallery were the public, as at Geneva, and at the head of the hall was the tribune, where the President sat enthroned with the Secretary-General at his side.

So much for the material side of the representation. As on a stage, more depended on acting and atmosphere than on scenery. The debate which Dr. Burgin showed to us was taken on a resolution calling for arbitration and disarmament. Let me give the evening session of Monday, 19th January, as an example. I was asked to represent France, and to move the resolution. It would no doubt have added to the realism of the scene had I spoken in French. Prudence restrained me; and, after all, realism did not suffer, for after my speech, and indeed after all the English ones, they were translated into vivid and admirable French by Dr. Burgin himself. In this point also he followed the practice of Geneva, added immensely to the effect, and carried the audience off their feet with delight. Mrs. Swanwick, herself one of our representatives at the last Assembly, seconded the resolution, in a much applauded speech, an eloquent plea for arbitration. Then followed an incident which perhaps pleased the audience more than any. Captain Lothian Small, of the League of Nations Union, as the representative of Belgium, made a witty speech in French, chaffing his predecessors, and amusing everyone, not least the many in the hall of whom French was the mother tongue. Then Mr. Stavridi, of the Greek Legation, made a short and clear statement of his Government's attitude.

(Continued on page 418.)

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.¹

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

CHAPTER XI.—THE EVELINA DE ROTHSCHILD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

The same spirit has been shown in the matter of education. When we were in Jerusalem in March, 1921, Mr. Bowman, the Minister of Education, told us that his department had started thirty new schools since the preceding November, and he expected in the coming year to open forty more. His aim is to have a school in every village throughout Palestine. The plan adopted is one of co-operation between the locality needing the school and the Government. The locality is required to furnish a suitable building and to keep it in repair, and the Government supplies out of taxation the salaries of teachers and other costs of maintenance. These schools are growing at the rate of almost one a week and four years may probably elapse before the whole country is supplied. Mr. Bowman told us that the Young Turks had set up a system of national education in Palestine, but characteristically it was good on paper but nearly useless in practice. For instance, the sole medium of instruction was the Turkish language, of which nine-tenths of the children were entirely ignorant! Before we left Mr. Bowman's office he strongly advised us to see the Evelina de Rothschild School for Girls of which he spoke in the highest terms. This is a school maintained by the Anglo-Jewish Association, whose headquarters are in London. Its mistress, Miss Landau, is a British Jewess, and an enthusiastically loyal British subject. She is an orthodox Jewess, and finds no difficulty in acknowledging the double loyalty to the religious ideals of Jewry and the political ideals of Great Britain. There are 500 children in this school. It is entirely free; that is, the parents of the children pay nothing but 2s. a year, which provides each child with a cotton overall. The ages of the children vary from the little tots in the Kindergarten to grown-up girls preparing for university examinations. Before the war Miss Landau told us she had 700 children in the school; but during the war quite 200 had died of starvation. It is difficult, almost impossible, for those who have never seen it to realize the suffering which this means.

The house in which the school is now located is an extremely handsome building, formerly the palace of an Abyssinian princess. It is approached (or was in March, 1921) by the most indescribably atrocious road which we had ever seen; it consisted of pools of liquid mud interspersed with boulders; here and there holes filled with water occur in which two small children had been nearly drowned a little before our visit. This road, and the house to which it led, made a very striking example of the mixture of splendour and squalor so characteristic of the East. Having wallowed across it and arrived in the hall, our first questions were about this road. To whom did it belong? whose business was it to put it in order? why was it not done? The answer to the first and second questions was, "The Municipality"; the answer to the third was "They have no money." Conversations with Miss Landau gave us a glimpse of her vigour and humour. Speaking of her unsuccessful efforts to get the road put in order, she said "This is one of the things that really make one regret the old Turkish Government. You could do things with them that would be impossible now; for instance, in the old Turkish days, a dead camel was left at the door of my school. I made strong remonstrances, wrote, telegraphed—all to no purpose, I got no answer; the camel remained and became daily a greater nuisance and a greater danger to the health of the children; so I adopted another plan and wrote a very respectful letter to the Turkish Governor of the City, and said: 'I am sure your Excellency will regret to hear that for several days a dead camel has been left before the entrance to my school; as the health of the children is put in danger by it, I beg respectfully to inform your Excellency that unless it is taken away by to-morrow morning, I intend to remove it at my own expense and place it as close as possible to your Excellency's residence.' It was of course removed at once, but we can't do things like that now!" Having by this little anecdote gained an insight into Miss Landau's character and methods, she proceeded to take us over the school. The marble and tiled floors, she told us, had to be washed over twice every day, besides receiving a vigorous scrubbing with soap once a week. The children do all the work of the house. Fine needlework, and lace and dress making, and embroidery are taught: these are sources of revenue for the school; there is a constant demand for the embroidered cloths which cover the rolls of the Law—the Torah—in the Jewish synagogues.

Miss Landau is not a Zionist in the political sense; she brings

¹ This is the fifteenth of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of about six months.

up the children in the double loyalty (1) to their race and religion, and (2) to the country which had given them citizenship and justice. In her own case this was Britain, but she taught it as of universal application. She did not believe in bringing up the children in her school with no knowledge of any language but Hebrew, as she felt this would handicap them in after life besides narrowing their outlook and cramping their development by cutting them off from the delights of English literature for example. They are therefore taught on alternate days in Hebrew and English. She gets the children young and they pick up the two languages very easily. We heard a class receiving a lesson in geography; the maps showing the British Isles as small dots in the north-western corner, contrasted almost dramatically with the great expanse of India to the south and east. Then we went on to a class on citizenship. Here a mock Parliament had been formed; there had recently been a Cabinet crisis and a new government had come into office. Next we visited a class on the newspaper press. There was a large picture of the newspaper printing machine and the teacher was explaining the network of organization which every good newspaper must have to bring in daily by letter, telephone or telegraph, news from every part of the world. Then we were asked if we should like to hear the children having a debate. Of course we said yes, and we were ushered into a room where a young teacher was occupying the usual elevated desk and seat; on learning what we wanted, she at once descended and said to the girls, "Then one of you must take the chair." This was quickly done, and the subject debated was the right principles of punishment. One very bright and intelligent little girl of about 14 maintained with vigour that imprisonment was quite useless; no one was ever the better for going to prison; on the contrary the average man who went to prison came out worse than he went in, harbouring feelings of hatred and revenge. Then another girl took up the opposite point of view and put the practical question: "How was the community to be protected against thieves and murderers?" It was all very modern and very interesting, and I told the children that I had lately become a J.P., and the question they were discussing had also been very much on my mind. Then Miss Landau summed up in a few well-chosen words and placed before the class what she felt to be the highest ideal of the Jewish law in these matters; it was not what I had imagined it to be, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but took a standpoint based on a higher law.

All through the school the children looked thoroughly alive and full of intelligence; we saw no dull apathetic faces. As we came away we passed another type of child; one who would be classed in most of our home schools as mentally defective. She too looked contented and cheerful. She was ironing and folding the pink cotton overalls worn throughout the school. It had been discovered that this was work well within her capacity, and that she loved doing it; it was far better for her that she should be doing this and taking a pride in doing it well than that she should be attending the classes where the other children of her age would be much in advance of her. We came away much impressed by the school and by Miss Landau's fine influence on the children. After our return to London we were pleased, but not at all surprised, to hear that the Education Department in Jerusalem had made a substantial monetary grant towards its annual upkeep.

We heard other things regarding Miss Landau which much interested us. She had instituted and kept going once a fortnight "Thés dansants," to which young British officers were invited. Partners were found for them from among her own staff and the staffs of other schools, from the Y.W.C.A., etc. The little entertainments were on a homely sensible basis and must have had a decidedly good influence on all concerned. Miss Landau's personality is a great asset to all that is best in the national life of Palestine.

FLAG DAY FINANCE.

We are all so frequently importuned by Flag Day collectors, that the report of the London Mendicity Society on Flag Day Finance has a very wide interest. The amount collected during 1924, was just under £190,000, at an average cost of 14½ per cent. This is better than the previous year, when the average cost was 15½ per cent., and slightly less was collected. On Alexandra Day, over £41,000 was collected at a cost of 15½ per cent. Amongst the most economically run collections was that of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which got in £6,000 at a cost of 8 per cent.

WOMEN AND THE PROFESSION OF ACCOUNTANT.

By M. HARRIS SMITH, F.C.A.

"The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales" and "The Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors" are the two recognized bodies of qualified Accountants. Both the Institute and Society were closed to women until October, 1918, when the Council of the Society of Accountants decided by a vote of 55 to 13 to admit women. "The Institute" followed after the passing of the Women's Disqualification Removal Act in 1920. Thus both doors became open for women to qualify—but the first woman to be admitted was Miss M. Harris Smith, who had proved qualifications and had claimed admission to the Society in the year 1888, and to the Institute in the year 1891, and had been continuously in practice since 1888. As soon as the Society, in 1918, opened its doors she at once renewed her application and found her patience—during the long years of waiting—rewarded by being elected on 12th November, 1919, as Honorary Member, with the distinction of having her name placed below that of Sir James Martin, whose efforts have crowned the Society with the success it has attained.

In May, 1920, she renewed her application for admission to the Institute, and was duly elected "Fellow" of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the President announcing at the Annual Meeting that Miss M. Harris Smith held the proud position of being the first and only woman Chartered Accountant in the world.

Since then one woman has passed the Final Examination of the Institute and was admitted as an Associate—not in practice—February, 1924. It is expected that two other women will pass the Final Examination of November, 1924, and there are twenty women serving under Articles.

Of Incorporated Accountants there are now three in practice, viz.: Miss H. Claridge, Bradford, Elected Associate January, 1920; Miss M. E. Moore (Math. Trip. Camb.), London, Elected Associate January, 1922; Miss M. M. Homersham (M.A. Oxon), London, Elected Associate July, 1922. There were also six Women Associates (not in practice) prior to the results of the November, 1924, Examination, who are holding important appointments unobtainable without qualifications—and about thirty students.

Qualifications.—The first step. The Preliminary Examination as a test of General Education—or Certificate entitling the candidate to exemption. Among several exemptions, too numerous to mention here, the following is one: Anyone who has passed the Matriculation Examination of the Universities of London, Durham, or Wales, or of the joint Matriculation Board of the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, and Birmingham, provided that the person who has passed the examination has satisfied the examiners in the subject Mathematics.

The Certificate for the Preliminary having been obtained, the next step is to be accepted by a Member in practice to serve under Articles. The period for serving under such has been fixed for three years for University Graduates, or five years for Non-Graduates, during which periods the Articled Clerks, if University Graduates, would be required to pass the Intermediate Examination at the end of the first 1½ years or 2½ years for Non-Graduates. For the Intermediate Examination the subjects to be studied would be General Commercial Knowledge, including the principles and uses of Book-keeping; Book-keeping and Accounts with special reference to the Accounts of Limited Companies, also including the Accounts of Partners and Executors; Auditing.

For the Final Examination.—First Paper: Advanced Book-keeping and Accounts, including Costing and Taxation. Second Paper: as above, but further advanced, and Auditing; Partnership and Executorship Law and Accounts; Bankruptcy and Company Law; the Principles of Mercantile Law and the Law of Arbitrations and Awards. One optional subject of the following to be selected by the candidate: 1, Economics; 2, Banking Currency and Foreign Exchange; 3, Actuarial Science.

Those who would make choice of this profession would do well to first consider their aptitude, inclinations, the pleasure to be derived in taking up such work, and any special gift they might possess that would help and lead them to success. Some of the essentials may be summed up as a mind capable of patient and intelligent study, an ambition for success, energy, good memory, tact and integrity, and a love of overcoming obstacles.

It is an exacting profession, but the goal to be attained is well worth the effort. The every-day life in an Accountant's

office cannot fail to be interesting to those who are really fitted for it. There is no sameness, no monotony. Each day brings fresh problems to be faced and overcome. The subjects for study for the Examination room and the Students' Lectures both help to throw light on the practical side of the work in the office. The office brings the student face to face with commercial ways, manners, and maxims, and an experience in dealing with business problems and people above any that can be obtained elsewhere. The Societies other than the Institute and Society are the Scottish, the Chartered Accountants of Scotland, the Society of Accountants in Edinburgh, the Institute of Accountants and Actuaries, Glasgow, the Society of Accountants in Aberdeen.

SPLENDID IMPERIALISM.

In our New Year's chronicle of women's activities during 1924 we indicated as one of that year's outstanding events the publication of *The Disinherited Family*. We saw in it the most arresting and constructive addition which has been made during recent years to the main body of economic theory, and we were proud to claim it for our record as the work of a woman. Had we pushed our researches further and surveyed a more detailed field we should have added that in another branch of economic thought, in Economic History, one of the most notable contributions of the year is also the work of a woman. Without question Professor Lilian Knowles' economic history of the British Empire is a noteworthy achievement.¹ In the first place it breaks new ground. It is the first book of its kind; the only comprehensive economic history of the British Empire that we have got. Professor Knowles has, in fact, done for the Economic History of the British Empire what her own "great master," Dr. Cunningham, did for the Economic History of England: mapped out the land, surveyed its main features, and as it were made it a country fit for students. In the second place it covers such a mighty field and embraces such a variety of information. We confess to being a little staggered by the very thought of the ocean of blue books, white papers, consular reports, memoirs, periodicals, year books, statistics, and travellers' tales, through which Professor Knowles has laboured to her triumphant result. One would expect that result to bear traces of the weary and discouraged research-worm, so great must have been the mental labour and physical endurance involved. But not at all! Professor Knowles rides the swollen materials of her subject exuberantly and masterfully, like Britannia ruling the waves. From age to age, from sea to sea, from continent to continent, the records of the works of man and nature are gathered in for the service of her mighty vindication (for that is what it amounts to) of British Imperialism.

And for that reason we dare surmise that many people will abuse this book. Comprehensive? they will question. Not at all. There are some shady stories in the history of the British Empire which are not recounted in these pages. And does man live by bread alone, and by the beneficent economic organization of an efficient ruling power?—or does he live to ever such a small extent by his own muddled and absurd idea of what constitutes freedom, if only the freedom to mess up his land and murder his own neighbours in his own perverted way. Indeed, from page to page of Professor Knowles' chronicle we are tempted to doubt and question, question and doubt; yet somehow, and almost in spite of ourselves, she carries us along with her in admiration for the splendid constructive achievements of the innumerable administrators and governors and law-givers and capitalists and engineers and explorers and scientists and traders and slave-raiders and robbers and pirates and missionaries who have made the British Empire what it is. Our lack of faith feels a little mean and hypercritical in face of her superabundance of it, with its background of knowledge to boot. We say to ourselves that this far-flung Empire of ours is, on Professor Knowles' plain showing, the best Empire that history has yet to show. We say that it is at least an enduring thing; for though the institutions and sentiments which seem to hold it together may pass away, the railway-lines and canals and forest clearings and trade routes and habits of work on which its economic life rests will probably, in part at least, remain. Oh, Professor Knowles, yourself a "great master" of many pupils from many corners of this great and dubious Empire, almost thou persuadest us to be an Imperialist—almost! M. D. S.

¹ *The Economic Development of the British Overseas Empire, 1763-1914*, by L. C. A. Knowles. (Routledge, 10s. 6d. net.)

JACK O' PETERLOO.¹

Miss Wilson has succeeded where many have failed. She has set out to write a historical novel with a twentieth century moral. She has stuffed it tightly with relevant items of economic history. She has whitewashed her heroes and blackened her villains until they seem to stalk across her stage like the inhuman embodiments of vices and virtues, without semblance to the complex and inconsistent creatures of flesh and blood whom we encounter in the bewildering world of everyday life. Not content with that, she has prettified her sunsets and uglified her tempests, until one can almost hear the creaking of the stage machinery behind the declamations of her players. And yet—and yet—here we are, reading *Jack o' Peterloo* all through one night, and at the end depositing it not in that wicker limbo where bad-review books go, not even in that sky-scraping bookshelf where middling-review books go, but on the spare-room table where exciting novels go. For there is no doubt that *Jack o' Peterloo* is an exciting and readable story, and a story well told. Perhaps it appeals a little to the eternal Ethel Dell in us—perhaps to the sporadic Drury Lane.

Nevertheless, we shall not employ this book as a weapon in the "class-war" when next we have occasion to wage it; though we are well aware that its author designed it for this high destiny. And for this resolve we have good reasons. There are some amongst our Labour friends who are all too liable to regard themselves (in the mass) as the rugged, white-robed, and persecuted saints depicted by Miss Wilson's skilful pen. Meanwhile, we boast Capitalist friends who are so firmly convinced that they never do and never could resemble the callous devils whose villainies are the theme of her splendid melodrama, that a serious perusal of her pages would merely confirm them in their rôle of "the great misunderstood." But if either our Labour or our Capitalist friends ask for an exciting book to go to bed with, strictly without prejudice to its moral implications—well, there is *Jack o' Peterloo* waiting for them on the spare room table!

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS.

The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers is the latest organization to open its doors to women. Anyone wishing to qualify for membership of the Institute must have been engaged for four years in the office of a shipbroker in the United Kingdom, and must pass an examination which includes statistics, procedure at meetings, languages, and commercial law. The Chartered Shipbrokers may have been influenced by the fact that a British woman has been in control of the big Montreal shipping business, T. McCarty, for some years.

THE MODEL ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(Continued from page 415.)

Mr. Macdonell, also of the League of Nations Union, represented Australia, and Professor Philip Baker Japan. It should be said that the chairman was Mr. Roden Buxton. He is, of course, quite familiar with Geneva proceedings, and he did much to carry out the feeling of actuality which Dr. Burgin had created.

Not all of us can go to Geneva, though, by the way, it is perhaps not generally known how welcome everyone is there, and how easy it is to hear debates in the Assembly or even in the Council. For those who have not been there, the Kensington Town Hall meeting was both a model and an inducement. It brought the matter home. The League, instead of being a mysterious body, meeting in a distant and foreign capital, came to our doors.

And surely no better time could have been chosen than the present. Whether we agree with the Protocol of Geneva or not, no one doubts that it should be discussed. Above all, it must be discussed by the United Kingdom and the Dominions. Yet, as we go to press, comes the ominous news that our Government have found it impossible to arrange for an Imperial Conference. Possibly no one is to blame, but the result is singularly unfortunate. Seeing that the Assembly accepted the Protocol by a unanimous vote, in which the delegations of Great Britain and all the Dominions joined, it is regrettable that the British Empire cannot find time even to discuss it. It will be discussed by correspondence. But correspondence is not a conference. How superior a conference is Dr. Burgin showed us last Monday.

¹ *Jack o' Peterloo*, by Theodora Wilson Wilson. (Labour Publishing Co., Ltd., 6s. net.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

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

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 11th-14th MARCH.

Reception.—A Reception will be given to delegates and visitors to all sessions of the Council, on the evening of Wednesday, 11th March, at Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W.1. We are very glad to have this opportunity of welcoming among us as a guest of honour Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E. It is hoped that other guests of honour will be Dame Ellen Terry, G.B.E., and Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake.

Public Luncheon.—We are glad to be able to announce that the following Members of Parliament will be among our guests of honour at the luncheon: the Duchess of Atholl, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson. Members are reminded that the number of tickets sold will be strictly limited, and it is therefore advisable to apply early. (Tickets: 5s. to members of the N.U.S.E.C., 7s. 6d. to non-members.)

Hospitality.—Offers of hospitality for delegates and visitors to the Council will be gratefully received by Miss Beaumont, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

KENSINGTON S.E.C.

The Kensington S.E.C. held a meeting on Monday, 19th January, at 3.30 p.m., at 32 Hyde Park Gardens (by kind permission of Mrs. Leonard Franklin), which was well attended by residents in Kensington and Paddington. Lady Balfour of Burleigh (President of the Society) took the chair, and made the announcement that at the Annual Meeting on 9th February it would be proposed that the words "and Paddington" be added to the title of the Society. Residents in the Paddington division were already included on the membership roll, and it was believed that others were anxious to join. Miss Rathbone then spoke on the work and aims of the Society. She pointed out the necessity for a non-party organization to deal with questions especially affecting women, and to further the realization of the aims of those who had worked for the vote in the past. An interesting discussion followed, and after the meeting a considerable number of non-members present joined the Society.

NEW SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO THE N.U.S.E.C.

We have pleasure in announcing that the following newly formed Societies have become affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C.: Swansea S.E.C. and Wallasey W.C.A. The former is a member of the South Wales Group of Affiliated Societies, and the latter of the North-Western Group.

WOMEN AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

An interesting conference on the work of county councils, convened by the Women's Local Government Society was held on 14th January. Lady Trustram Eve, of the London County Council, who presided, spoke of the work of the L.C.C. Amongst other things she told her audience that the Council was now establishing more central schools, and proposed to open six more in three years so as to provide further facilities for those children who had the brains to justify their going right through to the university. Miss Scovell, of the East Sussex County Council, lamented the small number of women who were coming forward for county council work. Two women to 62 men was, she said, a very common proportion. Lady Trustram Eve expressed the opinion that it was no use sending women to the L.C.C. unless they belonged to some association or recognized political party which would back up their views.

A CORRECTION.

We regret that in the article on Women in the Legal Profession in our issue of 2nd January a mistake was made in attributing a Certificate of Honour in the final Bar examination to Miss Stevens, of Grays Inn. The name should have been "Stephenson."

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

The Save the Children Fund have arranged for a special service to be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Tuesday, 27th January, at 8 p.m., to dedicate publicly the declaration adopted by the League of Nations at its Fifth Assembly with regard to the care of children. The Save the Children Fund believe that should the views expressed in it take practical form it would be a step towards a new and more truly Christian civilization. The service will be conducted by the Rev. C. H. Ritchie, of St. Martin's, Canon J. B. Haldane, of Southwark Cathedral, will deliver a short address, and Dr. A. E. Garvie will read the Lesson.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, 16th inst.

The annual meeting of this Council took place at the Women's Institute on the 16th inst., Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon being in the Chair. The Annual Report was read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss L. de Alberti, and showed a most satisfactory record of work done. In the absence abroad of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Percy Bigland, Miss Helen Ward presented the financial statement, and, in the course of her remarks paid a tribute, warmly endorsed by the members, to the able and devoted work of the Chairman and Hon. Secretary. Among the important resolutions passed, were one dealing with the question of more women on the Mandate Commission, and on any bodies appointed by the League to consider the problem of slavery, and also one, moved by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, in regard to the recent decision of the League to entrust the Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children with the whole range of affairs touching on the welfare of children. Mrs. Ashby pleaded that it was essential for the women's international organizations interested in this subject to be represented on the Commission by at least one woman assessor, specially appointed for the purpose.

At the public meeting in the afternoon, Mrs. Swanwick spoke on women in the League, and the importance of there being in it more fully qualified women and more women training for such international responsibilities by public service at home; Mr. Wilson Harris explained and defended the Protocol.

Mrs. Gordon expressed the pleasure of the meeting at the national recognition recently made of Mrs. Fawcett's great life work for women and for the Empire, and, on rising to reply, Dame Millicent was received with enthusiastic applause.

A PIONEER OF LUCKNOW.

Hearty congratulations to Miss Nurjehan Yusuf, the first woman to take an M.A. degree in Lucknow University.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

(British Section: 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.)

On 4th January, the Allies informed the German Government that they had provisionally decided to remain in the Cologne zone on the ground that the disarmament clauses of the Treaty had not been carried out. Among other charges the Note states that short service volunteers have been trained, and that stocks of illicit war material have been found. The Report of the Inter-Allied Mission of Military Control has not yet been issued, but by this Note the French have secured British endorsement for serious charges in advance of the full evidence; no allowance is made for the great provocation of the Ruhr invasion, when Allied Military Control was relaxed, and it is doubtful if a far stronger Government than has existed in Germany since 1918, would have been able to enforce these clauses in full. The Allies may be legally within their rights but the psychological effect is very serious. Great Britain could have made an agreement with Germany to enable her to remain in Cologne until the French leave the Ruhr next August at the latest. But on such grounds as these we could remain for ever, and it is difficult to imagine anything that would better play into the hands of the German militarists, anything more likely to jeopardize the fulfilment of the Dawes Report, and the new Trade Agreement, or to make another war inevitable than a conviction that the Rhineland is to be held indefinitely. Anyone who has seen an end in sight. Whatever the difficulties the British Government ought to fix a definite date for the evacuation of the Cologne area in the final Note which is to be sent after the Report of the Inter-Allied Commission has been received.

W. G. RINDER.

THE TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION LEAGUE.

An interesting and crowded meeting was held on Friday, 16th January, by the Temperance Legislation League. The upper room at Women's Service House was crowded, among those present being Lady Emmott, J.P. Mrs. Phillips (Mayor of Honiton), Lady Lawson, Lady Isabel Margesson, Mrs. Kinnell, Mrs. Crawford, and representatives from organized bodies of women teachers, nurses, etc. Mrs. Oliver Strachey took the chair, and Mrs. Rackham, J.P., and Mrs. Renton explained the practical working and results of the Carlisle experiment in disinterested management.

A good deal of discussion followed, including arguments about Prohibition, a subject which is really beside the question since both advocates and opponents of this measure are to be found among the supporters of the programme of the T.L.L. The object of the meeting was to inaugurate a special campaign among women, and to bring the programme and proposals of the T.L.L. to their notice, and in this direction an exceedingly good start has been made. All inquiries and further particulars should be addressed to Mrs. Renton, Temperance Legislation League, Parliament House, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DOMESTIC HELPS FOR CANADA.

MADAM,—May I bring to your notice a scheme which is being initiated to send out a small group of women to Western Canada to take up emergency domestic work. Those who best know conditions, especially in the rural districts, realize the need for making efficient help available for the settler's wife in times of sickness and other crises.

Women about 30 years of age, with a good physique, good education, and with a liking for household details should surely find in this need an opportunity for a really practical piece of service in a young and growing part of the Empire.

A committee has been formed which is working in close touch both with the Provincial and Dominion Governments and the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women, and accepted candidates will be eligible for facilities under the Empire Settlement Act. The scheme includes a three months' course in Canadian household methods, and when trained the women will be under the supervision of a local Advisory Committee, with a hostel to which they can return between posts.

I shall be happy to give further details to any women interested in this idea. A selection committee will be held shortly and we are anxious to have the names of intending candidates as early as possible.

MARY B. MITCHELL,
Prov. sec.

50 Platts Lane,
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COMING EVENTS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Barnsley S.E.C. JAN. 28. 5.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Room. Mrs. Hubback on "Women's Legislation in 1925." Chairman: The Mayoress.

Canning Town W.C.A. JAN. 29. 7.45 p.m. Settlement House, Barking Road. Mrs. Rankin on "An Equal Moral Standard."

Croydon W.C.A. (West Ward). JAN. 28. 3 p.m. Eldon House, Lansdowne Road. Miss Lovell on "Election Law."

Croydon W.C.A. (South). FEB. 2. 3.15 p.m. Miss W. Elkin on "All-in Insurance."

Edinburgh S.E.C. JAN. 30. 3 p.m. Warrender, Murrayfield Avenue. Miss Helen Ward on "Family Endowment." Chairman: Miss S. E. S. Mair, LL.D.

Falkirk W.C.A. JAN. 27. 7.30 p.m. Temperance Cafe. Miss Helen Ward on "The League of Nations."

Horsham W.C.A. JAN. 26. 3 p.m. Town Hall. Miss W. Elkin on "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

Hikley S.E.C. JAN. 29. 2.45 p.m. Wesleyan Ladies' Parlour. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Women's Legislation in 1925."

York W.C.A. JAN. 29. 7.30 p.m. Co-operative Buildings, Railway Street. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Women's Legislation in 1925."

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

JAN. 27. 8 p.m. Service in Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, to dedicate publicly the "Declaration of Geneva," the "Declaration of the Rights of the Child."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE (THAMES VALLEY BRANCH).

JAN. 26. 8 p.m. Parish Hall, Ellery Road, Teddington. Public Debate on "Imperial Preference." Speakers: (For) Mrs. Costello (Conservative and Unionist Association); (Against) Mrs. Furley Smith (Women's National Liberal Association). Chairman: The Viscountess Rhonda, J.P.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 25th January. 3.30, Music; Lecture, Professor E. W. Macbride, F.R.S., on "The Bearing of Biology upon Social Development." 6.30, The Rev. W. R. Matthews, D.D.

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