

THE
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 AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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RETROSPECT, 1927.

Our stocktaking last year was a somewhat barren business, in the political field at any rate, and we were doubtless well justified in including among its "Dead Sea fruits" a germinating seed of disillusionment concerning the Government's declared belief in the political equality of men and women. Well—this year's stocktaking shows that this uncomfortable seed has withered and died. It is commonly believed that M. Clemenceau, during his last term of office, was in the habit of repeating twenty times before composing himself for the night's sleep: "Je crois en la Ligue des Nations." We do not know with what assiduity the present Government, including Lord Birkenhead and Mr. Winston Churchill, has chanted in unison the formula: "Every day in every way we believe more and more in Equal Franchise." Nevertheless it has announced categorically and unconditionally its intention of carrying an Equal Franchise measure, and it has successfully mobilized the party machine to crush an incipient revolt of its own followers as well as a campaign of unusually vulgar misrepresentation on the part of certain organs of the Press. It is no discredit to the Government to suggest that few of its members have any real inclination for the championship of this cause, and that the situation thus created is not without its Gilbertian aspects. It is perfectly well known that the action of His Majesty's Ministers was dictated by the terms of a political pledge given (perhaps, as Mr. Churchill has suggested, somewhat inadvertently) in 1924, a pledge which could not without dishonour be evaded. That such pledges often *are* evaded, political cynics will readily assure us. Indeed, is not the "election pledge" a popular byword for fallibility? Perhaps. Nevertheless in future, political life will be the cleaner and election promises the weightier because of this honouring of an unpalatable obligation.

Inside the Woman's Movement events have moved less smoothly. Last year we had occasion to record the emergence of two sharply contrasted interpretations of the feminist creed: the *old feminism* with its insistence upon the letter of measurable equality and the *new feminism* with its more complex conception of equivalent opportunity. We made so bold as to prophesy that the insistency of a common cause in the shape of Equal Franchise,

would constrain adherents of the two ideals to maintain a united front. It has not done so. A conflicting view of the considerations which should determine the feminist choice between the advocacy of industrial regulation for both sexes equally and of industrial regulation for neither sex, added fuel to the flame of disagreement. As a result, the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was diversified by the secession from the newly elected Executive Committee of eleven members representing the narrower conception of the meaning of equality. The incident stirred the imagination of the London evening Press and there was much uninformed talk of a "split in the suffrage ranks." There was, of course, no split in the *suffrage* ranks, but on certain important matters of feminist policy outside the concrete question of the franchise, there was and is a very definite split. It is not regrettable that this split, since it exists, should be recognized and defined. It is, however, regrettable that its recognition and definition should have occurred during a critical phase of the equal franchise campaign.

In the wider sphere of imperial politics a new preoccupation has emerged on the feminist horizon. The position of women in the East has always been a matter of general concern to the women of the West. The publication last summer of Miss Mayo's book *Mother India* brought to light very few facts on this subject which were not a matter of common knowledge among doctors and missionaries conversant with Indian home life. It did, however, succeed in putting those facts "over the footlights." As a result, the steps taken by the Government during the autumn for the early appointment of the Indian Statutory Commission, found the imperial consciences of large numbers of British women in a state of turbulent unrest. It is not, perhaps, easy to disentangle the facts contained in Miss Mayo's book from the political innuendoes with which they are presented. But when this task is accomplished the facts remain, and they are facts which have a certain relevancy for the enfranchised citizens of a country which rightly or wrongly has assumed responsibility for the government of those to whose lives such facts relate.

Neither the foregoing retrospect nor the detailed records which follow are likely to kindle in the mind of an unsympathetic reader any very serious forebodings of a *monstrous regiment of women*. Nor do we believe that any such foreboding exists in the minds of the general public. Only in Oxford, it would seem, has it been thought necessary to strike a blow for the lost cause of John Knox, and a statute for the limitation of the number of women students was placed during the year upon the University Statute Book. It is difficult for the outsider to understand the necessity for this inequitable and unprecedented regulation, and some members of the University assure us that it is no less difficult for the insider. One is left to the vaguest surmises. It has been said by some that the affair represents an attempt to exalt Oxford prestige in the world of sport, by others that it is a gesture of official revolt against the growing habit of morning coffee. We do not, however, attach much weight to either of these theories.

On the tennis court, in the air, and in the sea, the exploits of women have commanded during the year a growing share of public attention. As we go to press two young women are hovering on the brink of the Straits of Gibraltar, in preparation for the swim which may make one or both of them a world record-breaker. These exploits are not in themselves of any importance (though there is something to be said for a method of crossing the Channel which avoids the physical rigours of a passage through the customs house). They are, however, of indirect importance as an indication that we live in a world in which women can command public interest for physical exploits which make no demands upon feminine charm. We do not suggest that the ladies who have performed such exploits are deficient in that engaging quality—merely that the work in hand requires of them a complete self-forgetfulness.

WOMEN IN POLITICS, 1927.

By E. M. HUBBACK.

1927 will stand out in the history of our movement as a red-letter year, in that for the first time in the history of the fight for the vote, the Government of the day has definitely pledged itself to introduce and to see through all its stages a measure to give the franchise to women on the same terms as men, and the Prime Minister had made on public platforms as convincing and moving appeals in support of Equal Franchise as have ever been made by the most eloquent and persuasive of our own leaders.

At the beginning of the year, the prospect of the Government's making an early statement seemed vague, though pressure was being continually brought by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Equal Political Rights Committee for the Prime Minister to receive that deputation of women's organizations for which the N.U.S.E.C. had been asking for nearly two years. On Tuesday, 8th March, it was received, though no definite reply was given even then; the Prime Minister, though obviously impressed by the arguments put before him, only promised that a definite statement would be made in the House before Easter. The days before Easter were charged with excitement. On Tuesday, 12th April, two Cabinet meetings were held, at which "long and anxious consideration was given to every aspect of the question". On 13th April came the Prime Minister's statement, as follows:—

"The Government has given this matter its most careful consideration, and it has decided to introduce a Bill during the next Session for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women of 21 years of age and upwards on the same terms as men."

He went on to add that "the only case in which the new voters would not be able to vote would be in the event of any unexpected, shall I say catastrophe, bringing the life of this Parliament to an end."

In order to leave no stone unturned and to combat the noisy though not very weighty, anti-"flapper" campaign, on the part of certain of the more sensational of the daily Press, women's organizations everywhere have endeavoured to obtain assurances from their Members of Parliament that they will support the Prime Minister—a task rendered much easier by the Prime Minister's fine speech at the meeting of the Women's Unionist Organization in May, and still more by the Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations at Cardiff in October, when a resolution in favour of the Prime Minister's proposals was carried by an overwhelming majority. We now await in full confidence the announcement in the

King's Speech of an Equal Franchise measure, which should pass through Parliament before the summer vacation, and which if it reaches the Statute Book after June, will contain a special regulation regarding the registration of the new women voters. We also hope to see included in the Bill provision for the enfranchisement at the age of 21, instead of at 30 as at present, of the wives of local government voters.

When we turn to minor matters, there are, unfortunately, not many successes to record. Only five Bills of those in which this paper is specially interested, have reached the Statute Book: these are, the *Unemployment Insurance Act*, the *Mental Deficiency Act*, the *Nursing Homes (Registration) Act*, the *Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Act*, and the *Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act*.

One of the most important measures which passed into law this year was the *Unemployment Insurance Act*, to which a large amount of the time of the autumn session was devoted. The main provisions of the Act were based on the Blanesburgh Report, though it departed from the Committee's recommendations in certain important particulars. The Act provided that the "dole is to go and covenanted benefit is to take its place", that is to say, no further benefit is to be given by the discretion of the Minister, to those who have exhausted their legal claim for benefits, but only one kind of benefit is to be paid, that for which actuarial provision is made, and which the insured person draws within the terms of his own insurance contract. With regard to scales and benefits, an increase of from 5s. to 7s. for the wives of unemployed persons is an advantage, though it brings with it a reduction of 1s. a week for the single man. A new class of young persons has been formed, between the ages of 18 and 21 years, whose benefits, if they are without dependants, are reduced and vary according to their age from 14s. for young men of 20 to 10s. for young men of 18, and in the case of women from 12s. for women of 20 down to 8s. for women of 18. The adult rate of benefit, 17s. for men and 15s. for women, is paid to those young men and women who are eligible to receive additional benefit in respect of dependant's. The benefits for boys and girls from 16 to 18 were also reduced to 6s. and 5s. respectively. A considerable battle was waged round the provision of training centres for young people, their provision for those up to the age of 21 having been one of the chief recommendations of the Blanesburgh Report in this connection. Unfortunately the Government does not at present propose to make any provision for training for those over 18, but has promised some increase, provided for partly in the Act, in a number of centres for those between 16 and 18. The discrimination between men and women remains throughout the Act, and we feel that a fine opportunity has been lost of establishing the principle that rates and benefits should be graded according to earnings and not according to sex.

The *Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act* has affected women's organizations in one way, in that section 5, which prohibits Civil Service organizations from affiliating with bodies which are political in aim, has caused large and powerful organizations such as the Federation of Women Civil Servants to disaffiliate from bodies such as the National Council of Women and the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

The *Mental Deficiency Act* includes a new definition of mental deficiency as dealt with under the 1913 Act, which gives Local Authorities power to retain young people under 16 in institutions. The new definition does not make it necessary for the mental deficiency to have shown itself from birth or an early age, but defines it as a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind, whether innate, or induced after birth by disease, injury or any other cause. This definition would bring under the scope of the Act the many children suffering from the moral and mental defectiveness associated with the after-effects of sleepy sickness, for whom at present no adequate provision is made. It will also be possible for poor children to obtain the benefits of the Act without their parents, who are probably doing their very best for them, being forced to plead neglect.

The *Nursing Home (Registration) Act*, which was piloted by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, provides for the proper inspection of nursing homes. The *Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Act* brings Scotland practically into line with the English Act of last year, and except in cases of emergency, forbids any except properly qualified midwives to attend women in childbirth. It also provides for the registration and inspection of maternity homes.

Of the "also-rans" the most important from the point of view of the readers of this paper was the *Married Women (Employment) Bill*, initiated by the National Union of Societies for

Equal Citizenship and so ably championed by Sir Robert Newman. The Bill provided that neither the State nor Local Authorities should be allowed to refuse employment to married women or to insist on the resignation of their women employees on account of marriage. This Bill was defeated on its second reading on 29th April by 84 votes to 63. In view of the fact that the Government itself took a strong line against the Bill, and that a large number of potential supporters were absent at the Labour party's Conference on the Trade Union Bill, it is some poor comfort that the defeat was not greater. One nail in the coffin of the Bill was, unfortunately, the line taken by the Civil Service Clerical Association, who opposed the Bill, not on the grounds of the general principle of the right of married women to undertake paid employment, but because the retention of married women would lessen the already scanty chances of promotion. It is important and hopeful that the Association of Municipal Corporations had decided neither to oppose nor support the bill.

The *Peeresses Bill*, was to have been introduced by Lord Astor and differed from the Bills introduced in previous years in that it gave the Crown power to summon to Parliament certain Peeresses in their own right at its discretion, and gave Peeresses of Scotland and Ireland the right to elect certain of their number, and to be elected, as representatives. The Bill was, however, withdrawn in view of the debate on the reform of the Second Chamber in July, in which, although the inclusion of women was referred to, Lord Cave put it "among the details to be settled later."

The *Lead Paint (Employment of Women) Bill* was introduced by Mr. Harney under the Ten Minutes Rule on 19th July, and proposed to amend the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act so as no longer to exclude women. This Bill was negatived without a division.

The *Liquor (Popular Control) Bill*, which came up for its second reading in the House of Lords, was lost by 36 to 114, the large majority against the Bill being undoubtedly due to the Government Whips having been put on against it. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in an able speech, showed that there was no political campaign against intoxicants, but only against the system by which intoxicants were sold.

The *Bastardy Bill*, which was introduced by Lord Astor in the House of Lords and would have done much to improve the position and status of the illegitimate child by enabling application to be made before the birth of the child and making provision for the father providing confinement expenses in the case of still-births, was also lost on its second reading on 17th March.

PART II.

COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, DEPUTATIONS, REPORTS, etc.

So much for the Houses of Parliament. In addition, we find considerable activity with regard to points in which this paper is interested in the way of Government Committees, etc.

Home Office Committee of Inquiry into Solicitation Laws.—In October the Home Secretary at last appointed the long-promised committee to inquire into the law and practice regarding offences in connection with prostitution and solicitation. It was instructed to review the law both in England and Scotland; five women were appointed: Miss Margery Fry, Miss E. Kelly, Lady Joynson-Hicks, the Hon. Mrs. Wilson Fox, and Bailie Mrs. Millar. The request for such a committee was first mooted by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in 1924, and it was on the introduction of the Public Places (Order) Bill, initiated by that organization in March, that the Home Secretary first announced his intention of setting up a departmental committee. The committee has held several meetings, of which a considerable number have been public.

Women and India.—The publication in the summer of Miss Mayo's book *Mother India* threw a fierce light on the conditions under which millions of women and children in India live, and brought home to many British women, previously ignorant of these matters, their responsibility as citizens of the Empire. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship called a conference on 21st November of members of women's organizations and others interested to consider what, if anything, could be done to assist those forces in India which are making for reform with regard to such matters as education, public health, care of animals, etc. It became clear that, although slight inaccuracies might be found in Miss Mayo's book, no refutation of the main line of her argument has been possible. The N.U.S.E.C. has set up a special information bureau to

survey the field of social work in India, no such information being readily available, and will consider further what other steps can be taken.

The Indian Statutory Commission.—The publication of the names of members of the Statutory Commission, coming just at the time when interest in conditions in India affecting women had been so thoroughly awakened, resulted in the demand being put forward by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and others, for the appointment of women to the Commission as technical advisers, or in some similar capacity. This was urged on the grounds chiefly of the need for continuous contact with the women in India by persons as unbiassed as are the full members of the Commission, and it is also possible that with so many subjects to review, the Commission might be tempted to pay somewhat scant attention to that side of the Government activity, whether central or local, which affects public health and life in the home. At the time of writing it is not yet known what steps, if any, will be taken by the Commission to satisfy this demand, but there is reason to hope that something may be done.

Age of Marriage.—During the summer the N.U.S.E.C. approached the Home Secretary asking him to receive a deputation of women's organizations with regard to raising the legal minimum marriage age. This deputation was not received until the autumn, when the Home Secretary, while showing himself entirely in sympathy with the demand put forward by the deputation that the age of marriage should be raised to 16, pointed out certain difficulties such as the problem as to whether marriages contracted under that age should be void, voidable, or valid, and asked women's organizations to consult with the Home Office in the matter. The chief women's organizations have since agreed to support a proposal that a simple one-clause Bill should be introduced, merely declaring that marriages under the age of 16 are illegal, and leaving unchanged the law with regard to the other points.

Women and the New Poor Law.—Considerable interest has been taken during the year in the proposals which have been put forward by the Minister of Health for the reform of the Poor Law. The latest of these, while making the Councils of County Boroughs the Boards of Guardians in their districts, will maintain as guardians in the rural districts bodies consisting both of Rural District councillors as at present, and also representatives from Urban Districts and Non-County Boroughs. All institutions at present under the Poor Law are to be handed over to the County Councils and County Boroughs. When the first proposals were put forward, which abolished Boards of Guardians altogether, and placed all the responsibility for the relief of the poor on County Councils and County Boroughs, it was feared that the position of women with regard to the administration of the Poor Law would be very much worse than at present. Even with the present proposals it is unlikely that there will be as many women selected to the Borough Councils concerned as have been elected in the past directly on to boards of guardians. Fortunately the Minister of Health has been kept aware of the feeling on the part of women's organizations, and has put forward proposals for the co-option of women which, although a second best, is valuable.

Information on Methods of Birth Control.—This matter has not been raised in either House this year, but has been prominently before the parties on at least two occasions. A resolution asking that such information should be given was passed by an overwhelming majority at the annual meeting of the Women's National Liberal Federation in May. In October, on the other hand, the Labour party refused to pass a recommendation sent up from the Labour Women's Conference asking that this reform should be placed on the Labour party's programme. A conference of Members of Parliament on the subject in the House of Commons was called by a member of each party on 14th December and addressed by Lord Buckmaster.

Women Members of Parliament.—We are glad to welcome the return of the seventh woman Member of Parliament—Lady Iveagh—who was elected for the Southend Division on 19th November. Lady Iveagh, who had before her election shown herself an able champion of Equal Franchise, opened her Parliamentary career with a fine speech in favour of the deposited Prayer Book. Lady Iveagh's political experience as President of the Women's Unionist organizations will stand her in good stead in the House, and we feel sure that we shall have every reason to be proud of our new woman Member.

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

By K. D. COURTNEY.

Are there many readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER old enough to have been familiar in their youth with the works of Charlotte M. Yonge? If such there be let them turn once more to the *Heir of Redcliffe* and *The Daisy Chain*, and observe the attitude towards women there accepted as natural, proper and not to be rebelled against. And let those of a younger generation who neither know Charlotte nor remember the life that she describes, read her stories—they are worth reading—and form some idea of the mass of cotton wool against which their grandmothers had to struggle—cotton wool more suffocating and entangling than brick walls, sticks and stones. Women in International Affairs! Shade of C. M. Yonge! And yet I fancy that Charlotte would have felt a secret satisfaction had she attended, for instance, a meeting held the other day at which an audience largely composed of men listened intently to speeches from three women upon the technicalities of security, arbitration and disarmaments.

It is a commonplace to-day that International Affairs are as much the concern of women as of men, indeed if one can generalize about the sexes, women seem sometimes to have an almost keener realization of that "world consciousness" which is such a marked characteristic of the decade since the Great War.

Are women making an adequate contribution in this sphere of international affairs? On the one hand, are they equal to those opportunities undreamed of by Miss Yonge's heroines which time and the hour have brought them? On the other hand are the opportunities at all commensurate with the contributions that women might make? Does the year 1927 show a satisfactory advance in both these directions? This is a big question and can here receive only a very sketchy reply.

To turn first to the League of Nations, the importance of including women in the delegations to the assembly is only gradually being recognized by the nations concerned. This year Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Rumania, Great Britain, and Australia each sent a woman substitute delegate as they have done for several years, and for the first time the Finnish delegation included a woman, also as a substitute. In addition Germany and Hungary each sent a woman as expert adviser. As 48 nations sent delegations to Geneva, it will be seen that women do not yet play a large enough part in the assembly. As regards the Permanent and Temporary Advisory Commissions of the League whose work is of a more or less expert nature, there have been no fresh appointments this year, and here it may be said that in some respects women are somewhat seriously handicapped. These Commissions need not only the point of view of a woman—they need women who are experts in the subjects to be considered. But in some fields it is difficult to find women with sufficient expert knowledge, and this in certain cases because their opportunities are not the same as those of men. If women are to make their full contribution in international work it is essential that they should be able to fit themselves for it. There is scope for the woman who has made herself proficient in her subject, and can bring the light of practical experience to bear upon it. Let this be a challenge to the younger women who want to devote themselves to international affairs.

It was satisfactory that three women, Mrs. Barbara Wootton, Dr. Luders, and Dr. Van Dorp were appointed members of the Economic Conference. Frau Emmy Freudlich having been the only woman amongst thirty-four men to sit on the Commission which paved the way for the Conference. At the time of going to press the names of the women appointed to the Commission to carry on the work have not been announced.

It is impossible to deal at all adequately with the contribution that the women's organizations are themselves making in the sphere of international affairs. Amongst the many Women's International Congresses and Conferences held this year upon various subjects, perhaps the most significant from our point of view was the Peace Study Conference organized at Amsterdam by the new Peace Committee of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

It has always been held by some advocates of the enfranchisement of women that there was a close connection between women's demand for the vote and their attitude towards international peace. The creation of the Peace Committee of the I.A.W.S.E.C. and the work that it is undertaking is therefore of great interest and importance. This development of the work of the I.A.W.S.E.C. was undertaken at the Congress in Paris in the summer of 1926. The Committee then appointed has lost no time in getting to work and in the autumn of 1927 held a remark-

able Peace Study Conference at Amsterdam. Mrs. Chapman Catt made a special journey from the U.S.A. to attend the Conference, and deeply stirred her audience when, at a public meeting, she gave a solemn pledge to devote herself henceforward to the cause of peace and appealed to women to work for that cause in the same crusading spirit that they had shown in the cause of women's suffrage.

The whirligig of time does indeed bring in his revenges. It was in 1915 that a number of members of the Executive of the N.U.W.S.S. felt obliged to resign because they found themselves in a minority in holding that the ideas underlying the claim for the enfranchisement of women were closely bound up with the ideals of peace, and because they wanted the Union to study the cause and the cure of war.

Another interesting venture in international affairs is that of the Women's International League which has sent a delegation of three women, British, French and American, to China to get into touch with groups of women there and to endeavour to establish relations of goodwill and understanding with them. They carry with them messages from many women's organizations in most of the countries of Europe, and seeing the important part that personal relations play in China, their visit may have valuable results.

WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS.

CONTRIBUTED BY THE LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

As might be expected the progress of women in the professional world is steady but unsensational. The flappers of one year become the workers of the next, and cease to seem of such absorbing public interest. As they settle in, one by one, to their chosen careers they disappear from the public mind, and only emerge again when they do something either remarkably foolish or remarkably distinguished. Of the former category there is nothing to report. No young woman barrister has fainted in Court, no solicitor has made off with Trust funds, and no architect has built a house of sand. In the distinguished class, however, there have been some events; Miss Trevelyan has won the Newdigate Prize at Oxford, and Miss Garrod the Prix Hollandais of the International Institute of Anthropology, and Miss Elizabeth Scott has been placed among the six architects whose plans for the new Stratford Theatre are to be considered, all these three honours being won in open competition. The bulk of the professional women (and by now there are a good many of them) neither make blunders nor win prizes; they lead busy and useful lives, and earn their own livings; and everywhere they go they help forward the cause, whether they know that they have done so or not; for each one, by attending to her own job, breaks down prejudice in the circle in which she moves, and makes it easier for the next one who comes that way.

This year the items of interest seem to lie in two directions, business and science. Miss Elam, one of the two women members of the Iron and Steel Institute, who is now doing research work at the Faraday Institute, has won a scholarship to the Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress in Canada. Miss Jordan Lloyd has been appointed Director of Research to the British Leather Manufacturers' Association, and Dr. Lily Baker has been appointed to the Hon. Staff of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, this being the first time that a woman has been made a member of the full staff of a teaching hospital not exclusively staffed by women.

Miss Lloyd Roberts won the Williams Memorial Prize for Veterinary Surgery and Major Hobday, the Principal, in announcing that the Royal Veterinary College was to be opened to women for the first time, expressed his strong belief in their suitability for this work, and their success in it.

In the business world women seem to be pushing out into several new directions. Electrical Enterprise, Ltd., is a company half of whose directors are women, which aims at introducing electricity to small villages, and leaving a woman engineer in each in charge of the power station. Mme de Silva claims that her invention and her company will revolutionize the steel industry, and Mrs. Greaves, who runs a sand quarrying business, has invented a new (composition) stone. Mrs. Willson is extending her building activities, and is now constructing working class houses for a Local Authority, and Mrs. Harrison is manager and Traveller for a firm of Belting Manufacturers and Mill Furnishers at Hull.

Although individual achievements of this kind continue to prove the usefulness of allowing women to do what they are

gifted for, the state of public opinion upon the matter moves slowly. The employment of married women is still forbidden in the Civil Service, and by Local Authorities, and the passing of the Lead Paint Act has closed the doors to a promising trade. The House of Lords did, however, insert an amendment saving those women already in the trade from its operation, and the Women Decorators and House Painters are organizing themselves to protect their own interests, so that it is hoped that at some future date matters may be improved either by the removal of the restriction or by its extension to all classes of workers.

The state of affairs in the Civil Service though apparently stationary, is slowly modifying. The existing staff are having a hard fight; but their successors will benefit, even if the reforms come too late for them to enjoy them. The process of adopting a single establishment list, and interchangeable work is a very slow one, and it is opposed at every step by the majority of the male employees; but nevertheless it crawls forward. Unfortunately no woman secured a place among the few appointments made after the Examinations for the Administrative Cadets this year; but on the other hand a number of new positions in the Departmental Classes have been declared open to women, for example posts as Professional Legal Clerks, and as workers in several departments of Scientific Research.

In the Local Government service a slight upward tendency in salaries seems at last to be apparent, and considerable progress towards agreement on salary scales and grading has been reached among the organizations concerned, and there is hope that the day may presently come in sight when these services will offer positions and salaries equal to the real usefulness and importance of the work.

WOMEN IN ART AND LITERATURE.

By A. BLANCO WHITE.

As long as prizes, letters of the alphabet, and such sub-titles to renown are distributed among writers and painters, we must be pleased to hear that women have received a share. And this even though we may not care very much for an official tape-measuring of the arts. However fine the taste and good the intentions of a committee, if their awards must be made at stated intervals, whether the intervening months have been fruitful or barren, they are bound to single out from time to time work which is mediocre merely because it happens to be better than the rest of what is before them, and to place it on an apparent equality with what is good.

This year, officially, women have done rather well. They have carried off the Hawthornden prize and the Newdigate, one lady has become an A.R.A. and another has had one of her pictures bought for the nation by a newspaper. Happily it is also the case that some of these honours have been won by distinguished work. Miss Trevelyan's poem I have not had the pleasure of reading, but in a member of her family this early success implies a promise whose fulfilment we can await with confidence. Everyone must be glad when another Trevelyan resolves to use a pen.

Miss Sackville-West's *The Land* I have read, and every line with pleasure. It is always a little difficult on first acquaintance with a work of this sort, one which deals with traditions, a soil, a sequence of changes that one happens to know and love, to disentangle the particular appeal from the poem's proper excellence. One can pick out side-issues, such as the homely felicity of its rhythms, which in all their variety put just the right strain upon the syllables, neither driving too hard against them nor slipping over them—or the knowledge of country crafts displayed, or the strength and richness of the vocabulary. One can praise its sustained integrity of feeling, the high level reached and kept throughout a long poem which is quite unfashionable in that it is neither fantastic, satirical, nor extatic. It is less easy to divide the beauty of the poem which evokes it from the beauty of the weald itself—its sky, bloom, yellow clay, its skilful men and beasts. It is admirable—and for the purpose of this paper I will add that here is something done as no woman has done it before.

Novels are admittedly a feminine province, and the best English novel of the year has been written by a woman. *To the Lighthouse* has not the light enchantment of *Mrs. Dalloway*, but it is in its details perhaps even more interesting. It is possible to admire Mrs. Woolf because she has the skill to arrange her material in some unusual pattern of time and space, but if she gave us instead a perfectly simple sequence of impressions the language would still remain and that quality of imagination which

makes her—setting aside Mr. Thomas Hardy and his confrères—the most delightful of living novelists. But for her, and for *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, by Miss Willa Cather—charming, haunting, very well written, but superficial beside the other—the year has been a poor one. Gertrude Bell's letters have appeared, but they don't belong to it. The less said the better about *Red Sky at Morning* and Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith's new serial, and *Dusty Answer*, so much talked about, is a modish little tune, nicely played, but all on one string. In this story of the most open impressionable years of a girl's life there is not one sentence, one indication, to show that either the authoress or the heroine ever saw, felt, heard, or otherwise noticed anything on this planet but personal relations between pairs of people. It is devastating. On the other hand, Mrs. Belloc Lowndes's *The Story of Ivy* is a really adequate thriller, solid and carefully finished as is all her work.

Why is it that women have always been so much better at writing than at painting—though, of course, Mrs. Laura Knight will not diminish the lustre of the A.R.A.s. In fact, we may say that in electing her the Academy has done well for itself. The choice of Mrs. Dod Proctor's picture "Morning" is of interest not because it is extraordinarily good—it is not even her best work—but because it throws a certain light on the attitude of the public. They will apparently accept a certain amount of modernity in design as long as the edges of all the objects in the picture are clear and what details do appear are definite, and this whether or not the artist has succeeded in reconciling the demands of the two opposite schools of painting.

At the exhibition of the London Group there were, as there always are, two or three good pictures by Vanessa Bell. This lady's reputation suffers from the fact that her work conforms very closely to the standards of a group, and is sometimes in itself almost unnecessarily austere. This veils the fact that she is an extremely sensitive and able painter, and that each of her pictures is to a wonderful degree complete, considered, and balanced, seeming always better the better it is known.

One more name must be mentioned—that of Therèse Lessore. Here, too, is a talent which gives great pleasure, though in an exactly opposite direction—decorative instead of thoughtful, all brought down to a point instead of broad. Nothing could be more charming than her water-colours, her coffee-pots, her lustre jugs. This painted china of hers is the best thing of its kind that is being done and it will be in its way a calamity if she does no more of it.

Putting it all together—the work of the ladies I have mentioned with the general bulk of feminine work—it really does seem doubtful whether Dr. Arbuthnot Lane is right when he states again this month that the only thing that counts for women is emotion. Most of the women who are any good at all seem both to feel and to convey less emotion than the corresponding men. They give us order, grace, detachment, intimacy, but with the exception of Virginia Woolf their work shows both creative imagination and strength of feeling to a far less degree than that of men. "Facts are facts," they seem to say, "and life is life and a job is a job—we will do our best with what is given and get on with it." And they do their best with charm, with intelligence, with devotion. But profound and challenging emotion, passionate conviction, women seem on the whole to keep not for art but for politics.

WOMEN IN THE THEATRE (1927).

By CICELY HAMILTON.

The stage year now coming to an end has not been productive of theatrical surprises or sensations; despite the best efforts of outlying theatres and Sunday societies, no playwright of mark has been discovered nor, in the matter of acting, has any bright particular star been added to the stars of yester-year. These, for the most part, have pursued their accustomed theatrical courses. Gladys Cooper, in the *Letter*, more than satisfied her faithful following; Olga Lindo made a personal success in that lurid-spoken drama, *The Wolves*; Tallulah Bankhead's admirers thronged gladly to the *Garden of Eden*; while Edna Best still adheres to the company of the *Constant Nymph*, as popular on tour as in London. One of the more interesting successes of the year is that of Lilian Braithwaite in the *Silver Cord* at the St. Martin's; the character she plays—an embodiment of the selfish, blood-sucking aspect of maternity—is as new to her as it is to the English stage. While the run achieved by *Marigold* at the long unlucky Kingsway is largely due to the playing of Jean Cadell.

The actress in management is even rarer than she used to be; a fact that lends importance to Edith Evans' first venture at Wyndham's. She opened her season with the *Lady in Law*, an adaptation from the French; the piece had run long and successfully in Paris but its sparkle did not survive the Channel crossing. It failed to hit the taste of the London public and gave place, after only a few weeks' career, to a revival of the *Way of the World*. No one who has seen Edith Evans play Millamant will regret the chance of seeing her again; but her triumphant airs and graces in the Congreve play are not an achievement of 1927; it is three years or so since they first delighted her public. Sybil Thorndike for the time being has put management aside and joined forces with the Old Vic company; playing Portia, Beatrice, and Katharine in the *Shrew*—a most joyous and triumphant Katharine! The Old Vic, during the latter part of the year, has been given over to the builder and its company have sought the hospitality of Hammersmith; but with the opening of the year the builder should be out and Miss Baylis and her company free to return to their domicile.

That unique phenomenon of the modern theatre, Ruth Draper, has again given proof of her capacity to fill a theatre on the strength of her own versatility. It is a capacity that may well be envied by the managements whose salary lists must be met every Friday and whose takings must run to two thousand a week if they are to make their own living and a profit for their backers. The position which Ruth Draper has achieved for herself is the more remarkable because in this country at least she has been by no means prodigal in her use of the arts of advertisement.

Women playwrights have not been much to the fore this year. Clemence Dane and Gertrude Jennings have both been silent, though both, it is reported, will be heard again before long. *Yellow Sands*, which still holds the field at the Haymarket, is in part the work of a woman; but it has happily outlived its first anniversary, and therefore cannot be counted among the events of 1927.

WOMEN AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

By CLARA D. RACKHAM.

The year 1927 has been singularly unfruitful in new legislation affecting the administration of justice. There is nothing to record except that the Mental Deficiency Bill¹ passed its third reading in the House of Commons on 13th December at 3 o'clock in the morning, and its passage through the House of Lords is awaited as we go to press. It seems as if this Bill had at last become law after the vicissitudes through which it passed last session. The much-debated definition of mental defect has been amended by the omission of the words "from birth or from an early age" so that the situation will no longer arise in which an adult who is obviously feeble-minded cannot be certified because no records of his or her early days can be obtained. In the definition of "moral defectives" the words which occurred in the 1913 Act defining moral imbeciles, viz. "vicious or criminal propensities on which punishment has had little or no deterrent effect" are omitted. This has no doubt been done so as to enable the authorities to certify defectives with the above propensities even when no legal punishment has ever been inflicted upon them. While the words "from birth or from an early age" have been omitted as stated, a clause has been inserted to the effect that the mental defect must have existed before the age of 18 "whether arising from inherent causes or induced by disease or injury." It is hoped that under this clause it may be possible to place in institutions instead of sending to prison some at any rate of those persons who have committed an offence while suffering from the after-effects of sleepy sickness. The result of this disease is sometimes to weaken or almost to destroy the moral sense of the sufferer, though it is difficult to say at present whether such after effects are permanent or not. It is obviously most desirable from every point of view that those afflicted in this way should be treated in a hospital rather than punished in a prison.

But though there has been little in the way of legislation the year has been full of interest in other ways. The Young Offenders' Report appeared in February, and has been followed by meetings and conferences held under the auspices of various societies and

¹ This Bill has now become law.

addressed in some cases by members of the Committee which produced the Report. On the whole, the recommendations have been received with approval and not much criticism has been heard. The most controversial feature (the proposed extension of the powers of magistrates to order boys to be birched) is one on which the committee themselves are divided. The Report has been followed by a circular to magistrates signed by Sir John Anderson, and issued in September in which the general lines on which Juvenile Courts should be conducted are emphasized. It is urged that the number of justices sitting should normally be three and should comprise both sexes; that as far as possible simple language should be used in the Juvenile Court; that it should be held in an ordinary and plainly furnished room; that the number of persons present should be carefully limited, and that nothing should be published in the newspapers likely to lead to the identification of the young offender. The Home Secretary has stated in the House of Commons in answer to Lady Astor that he hopes soon to introduce legislation which will embody some of the recommendations made both by the Committee on Young Offenders and that on Offences against Young Persons, and it is much to be hoped that this will be done as the latter committee reported two years ago and very little has yet been done to carry its recommendations into effect.

Among the events of the year must be mentioned the long expected appointment of a Committee of Inquiry (which includes five women) into the working of the Solicitation Laws. Some of the organizations most interested in the question had hoped that a Parliamentary Committee would be appointed as likely to have a more independent character than any other. This has not been done, but general satisfaction has been caused by the Committee's decision to sit in public, and considerable interest is being taken in its proceedings, and in the evidence which is being given.

It will be remembered that the Departmental Committee on Legal Aid for the Poor presented its First Report in 1926. No legislation has as yet followed as a Second Report is expected shortly, but the Secretary of State made in July last some new regulations concerning the cost of Poor Persons Defence. He suggests that Justices should, in suitable cases, ask the accused whether he wishes for legal aid and not wait for him to apply for it, while the fees to solicitors and barristers are considerably increased, those to solicitors are to be from £2 2s. to £5 (plus expenses), and to barristers from £3 5s. 6d. to £11. These increases are to be welcomed, but, as long as there is no legal aid available in the police courts, and the justices cannot certify for it to be granted at the trial in the higher court unless the accused has disclosed his defence, the whole position remains extremely unsatisfactory.

WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

By BERTHA MASON.

Women Mayors.

The outstanding feature of 1927, so far as women in local government is concerned, has been the election of one Lord Mayor and 13 Mayors, viz.:—Miss Margaret Beavan, Liverpool; Mrs. G. E. Cottrell, West Bromwich (re-elected); Mrs. B. M. Drapper, Deptford; Mrs. Edmunds, Merthyr Tydvil; Mrs. E. P. Greene, Bury St. Edmunds; The Hon. Lady Hulse, Salisbury; Miss Alice Hudson, Eastbourne (re-elected); Mrs. J. M. Jenkins, Tenby; Mrs. Edwards Jones, Wrexham; Mrs. Lund, Pudsey; Miss Violet Markham, Chesterfield; Miss C. Helder, Whitehaven; Mrs. Stewart Shaw, Lichfield; Mrs. L. F. Welch, Southampton.

Urban and Rural District Councils.

In spite of the deplorable apathy and lack of interest which as in past years was a marked feature of the 1927 spring elections, progress is being made. Interest in the work of the Councils is becoming more acute, and the number of women elected to serve on these councils is slowly increasing. Proof is supplied by the following statistics. In 1914 the number of women serving on Urban District Councils was, approximately, 11. The number to-day is 261. In 1914 200 women were members of Rural District Councils. To-day the number is 493.

On the other hand it is essential to bear in mind that 604 Urban District Councils out of a total of 785, and 372 Rural District Councils out of a total of 646, have still no women members.

The Councils of Hemsworth, Hollingworth and Isle of Sheppey have elected this year women chairmen.

Boards of Guardians and Poor Law Reform.

In 1914 1,500 women were serving on Boards of Guardians. To-day the number of directly elected women Poor Law Guardians is, approximately, 2,400; a clear proof that an increasing number of women are willing to serve the State in this capacity and that electors value their services.

There are now comparatively few Boards of Guardians composed solely of men. The following Boards: Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow, Bristol, Cardiff, Caernarvon, Deptford, Dewsbury, Fulham, Leigh, Manchester, Northampton, and Sculcoates (Hull), elected this year, women as their chairmen. Women vice-chairmen were elected at Halifax, Leeds, and Northampton.

Municipal Councils.

On 1st November, elections took place in over 300 municipal boroughs in England and Wales in connection with the annual retirement of one-third of the Councillors. So far as we can ascertain the contests in almost every case were conducted on party political lines, women as well as men fought under the party banner. As a result Independent candidates fared badly, several women, and also men, who for years had admittedly rendered valuable service to their boroughs as citizens and councillors lost their seats.

The results of the 1927 municipal elections provide material for serious thought for those who believe that the domination of the party system in municipal affairs is not in the best interests of the community.

It is good to note that between 40 and 50 women standing for re-election and election were returned, either unopposed, or with good, and in some cases, triumphant majorities. Several women candidates standing for the first time secured election. Women were returned for the first time to the Town Councils of Batley, Bootle, Daventry, Mossley, South Shields, and Sandwich.

The number of women councillors now serving is approximately 336. The number of Town Councils still without women members is approximately 160 out of a total of 338.

Women Magistrates.

A recent return compiled by Mrs. Keynes, J.P., shows that 1,660 women are serving as Justices of the Peace and the number continues to increase.

Policewomen and Women on Watch Committees.

It is a matter for regret that slow progress has been made during the year in regard to the appointment of *Policewomen*. At present the total is only 150 for the whole country. We take this opportunity of reminding women Councillors and local government electors that in the provinces the responsibility of securing the appointment of such officers rests on their shoulders.

The need for women on Watch Committees is obvious. At present the number serving does not exceed 12.

Appointments.

During the year the Manchester Watch Committee has appointed for the first time a woman Police Medical Officer, whose duty it will be to deal with all women who come into contact with the police, and with all cases of assault on children throughout the whole of the Manchester district.

Woolwich Town Council has appointed Dr. Isobel Wright as Assistant Medical Officer for the borough.

Edmonton Board of Guardians has appointed Dr. Fanny Cartle as Medical Officer for the Wood Green district of Tottenham.

Miss K. G. Few has been appointed as Clerk to West Mersia, Essex, Urban District Council.

Local Government Legislation.

Amongst the measures affecting directly or indirectly local government during the year are the following:—The Audit (Local Authorities) Bill; Poor Law (Consolidation) Bill; Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Bill; Mental Deficiency Bill; Poor Law Emergency Provisions (Scotland) Bill; The Nursing Homes (Registration) Bill.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

By E. LOUIE ACRES.

Anyone wanting to read of exciting achievements had better pass over these paragraphs, for while there is much spade work being done in the Church of England with regard to women's position, spade work and foundations make little show above ground.

As this issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER goes to press, the fate of the New Prayer Book—in technical language "The Deposited Book"—is just known. Changes had been made which, while not entirely satisfactory, were a step forward in bringing the worship of the Church and the Occasional Offices, including the Marriage Service, in line with the Christian modern thought; but the Prayer Book measure has been rejected by the House of Commons.

This is not, however, the place to discuss what the action of Parliament may involve, although in my judgment it has put back the possibility of reform in the Church of England for a generation.

"The Form and Manner of Making of Deaconesses" which was included in the first draft had not been incorporated in "The Deposited Book." According to statements made by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Winchester this was entirely on technical grounds and on a question of procedure. Personally I cannot feel wholly sorry over this omission as to many it seemed unnecessary to have a special service when the present form for the Ordination of Deacons might have been used with such modifications as were necessary owing to the variations in functions and the difference of the sex of those to be ordained.

A central house for the Order of Deaconesses has been built at Hindhead and was dedicated on 2nd June by the Bishop of Winchester. It is not a large house, but it is hoped that churchwomen desiring periods of rest and spiritual refreshment will visit there. All particulars can be obtained from the Rev. Mary Siddall at the Central House for the Order of Deaconesses, Hindhead.

There are at present 49 women among the 363 lay representatives in the National Church Assembly. There is some danger lest the women elected should be drawn exclusively from clerical circles; representatives of the type of professional and business woman are sadly lacking except for one or two women members engaged in educational work. Deacons—men and women—still have no place in the Assembly.

"The Advisory Council for Women's Service to the Church" is, at the present time, considering how best it can co-operate with the Inter-Diocesan Council for Women's Church Work, and it is probable that the two may eventually be merged into one body.

There is a vicious circle that mitigates against useful advance in women's Church work. The trained university woman does not come forward, we are told, because the Church has no use for her. On the other hand, the Church cannot provide her with a suitable field unless she offers her service. Then there is the second great difficulty, and that is a financial one. The Advisory Council has no funds whatever and it cannot do effective work until support is forthcoming. The object of the Council is "The raising of the standard of women's work in the Church of England by securing a supply of women workers spiritually equipped and adequately trained." All particulars of the work being done can be obtained from Miss Yeatman Biggs, 33 Bedford Square, W.C.1.

At the present time there are 21 or 22 dioceses with Councils or Boards of Women's Work and few of these receive diocesan grants. If all churchwomen would make inquiries in their own dioceses with regard to this, the financial outlook might be improved. The women workers of the church are still scandalously underpaid—this is true of women in secretarial posts as well as those engaged in parish work, and the problem of the voluntary worker or the one who can afford to accept a "nominal salary", thereby undercutting the professional worker, is still unsolved—and their status will never be raised until the conditions of employment are regularized. An attempt is being made to provide pensions in some dioceses, Chelmsford and London having led the way.

When one remembers the part women are beginning to play in political conferences on international problems one is a little sad they were not represented better at the Lausanne Conference in August, 1927. There is, however, some slight indication that this was not unnoticed by those in authority,

and the feeble little stream of criticism on this point will certainly become a mighty torrent if action is not taken by the Church in the future. There is a ray of hope that this will be done, for in the Official Report of the Conference prepared by the chairman, Bishop Brent, these words occur: "Some of us, pioneers in this undertaking, have grown old in our search for unity. . . . We men have carried it too much alone through the years. The women henceforth should be accorded their share of responsibility. And so the whole Church will be enabled to do that which no section can hope to perform."

The League of the Church Militant continues its educational work within the Church of England. Its propaganda at the Ipswich Church Congress received a splendid Press on account of the excellent speech on the Ordination of Women, made by the Rev. Canon C. E. Raven, D.D., of Liverpool.

Although progress is so slow, there are constant indications of a change of heart which is gradually expressing itself in action and this convinces me that we are fully justified in greeting 1928 with hope and confidence.

WOMEN IN THE FREE CHURCHES.

By REV. CONSTANCE M. COLTMAN.

1927 has registered the formation of a definitely organized Union of Women Ministers. Its constitution was formally adopted by a small gathering of representative women ministers, who, by courtesy of Miss A. M. Royden, met at the Eccleston Guildhouse last October.

It was decided to limit membership of the Union to fully qualified ministers and missionaries, whose ordination is recognized by their own denomination. Its present sphere, therefore, is confined to the Free Churches.

But Associate Members will be eligible for election by the Union at its annual meetings. It is hoped to include within the Associate membership not only lay ministers, theological students, lecturers and the like, but also representatives of societies working for the ministry of women within denominations at present closed.

One session of the October meetings was enriched by the presence of official representatives of the Anglican League of the Church Militant. Next morning a very illuminating paper on "Problems of the Woman Minister" was given by Rev. Rosalind Lee, of Leicester. The proceedings closed with a united Communion Service.

Rev. Constance M. Coltman, M.A., B.D., was elected Chairman for 1928, and Rev. Joyce Daplyn, B.A., Secretary.

It is hoped to hold the next annual meetings at Oxford in October, 1928.

New settlements of women ministers during the year include Rev. Ethel Kay at Whitby Unitarian Church and Rev. Mrs. Living Taylor, B.A., of Bradford, to a fresh joint pastorate at Newport Baptist. Rev. Edith Pickles, B.A., was ordained in May. She has held the important pastorate of Stanley Church, Liverpool (Congregational), since her husband's death in 1924.

Mrs. B. Kiek, B.A., is probably the first woman to receive ordination in Australia.

In September Rev. Margaret Hardy, the first woman to complete her course at Lancashire Congregational College, was ordained to Marshall Street Church, Leeds.

Lancashire College offers special advantages to women candidates for the ministry. It now boasts a Women's House, alongside the men's, and its women students get their full share of opportunities for preaching.

The number of women preparing themselves for the ministry is increasing. It was surely a good omen last summer when one of them, Miss Phyllis Green, broke the world's record for the woman's high jump by "lepping" 5 ft. 2½ in! One hopes that her prowess will serve her in good stead when it comes to leaping the high barriers of opposition and prejudice which still block the path of women who believe themselves called of God to the holy ministry.

Wesleyan Conference last summer inflicted a severe reverse when its Representative Session, by a narrow majority of 30, rejected the proposals for the admission of women to the ordained ministry.

The chief objection was affirmed to be the insuperable problem of the married woman minister. It was taken for granted that vocations to marriage and to the ministry were incompatible for a woman.

Yet the two married women ministers in England, who hold

joint pastorates with their husbands—one of them Chairman of the Women Ministers' Union—have each had a second daughter born to them during this year. Perhaps these daughters of the Manse will grow up to solve some of the problems that at present baffle their grandfathers!

The greatest event in the ecclesiastical world during 1927 was the World Conference on Faith and Order held at Lausanne, at which representatives of every Christian Communion, save the Roman, were present. Miss Lucy Gardner, of the Copec Movement, a member of the Society of Friends, presented a Memorial to the Conference, on behalf of the women, pointing out that only 7 women delegates had been appointed as against 400 men. Allowing for the fact that the total lay element was small, the disproportion remains striking. It indicates how far women lack equal citizenship even with in the realm of the spirit.

WOMEN IN COMMERCE.

By CAROLINE HASLETT.

The most interesting development with regard to the position of women in Commerce during 1927 is the fact that on every side one hears of women being accepted as a matter of course.

It is becoming less and less common for the woman holding a managerial position to be looked upon as a curiosity. The business world is taking up the attitude that it wants the best possible brains on the job and if the woman proves herself as capable or more capable than obviously she is the person picked out for promotion. This, of course, is not by any means universal, but it is becoming more and more the tendency.

No better indication could be found than this of women's growing position in the Commercial world.

Because of this fact we perhaps do not hear so much in these days of the achievements of women in Commerce, but women are making financial successes of many businesses and are also opening up new avenues of work.

Mrs. Willson's success in the Housing Trade is already being followed up by a number of other women, although it will take some time for anybody else to achieve the remarkable financial success which has attended the scheme carried out by Mrs. Willson.

We hear of other women making good as Quarry Managers, in dealing with Transport Problems, and recently we have discovered a woman Director of a Shipyard.

Commercial Aviation is undoubtedly opening up many spheres of useful employment to women, and recently Miss Griff suggested that there is no reason why women aviators should not take up Air Survey work, which will offer to the more adventurous-minded a very thrilling occupation.

Women Decorators continue to start new businesses, and Miss Beesley has opened a new avenue of employment for women in the Insurance world.

Women in the Advertising World continue to be very successful and recently one of the big electrical firms appointed a woman as its Publicity Manager.

While it is interesting to hear of individual women making headway, it is more hopeful when a successful woman can open up new avenues of employment to the young girls who are leaving school. This is being done by Miss Margaret Partridge, an electrical contractor, who has taken on a number of school girls as apprentices, thus opening up an entirely new avenue of work for women.

More and more the business man is inclined to favour the employment of the University trained woman, provided she is prepared to start from the bottom of the ladder.

In Salesmanship and in Organization women have very much to offer the community, and we believe that 1928 will see a still greater number of women gradually claiming a share in administrative and executive work.

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WOMEN IN THE HOME.

By MARY STOCKS.

Conservative politicians are fond of telling us that women should be peculiarly disposed to the political party to which they themselves adhere, because women represent in our national counsels the interest of the home and because the home is above all other social institutions dependent for prosperity and amenity upon a stable and unchanging social order. There is a grain of truth in the contention. From immemorial history the mother and child has symbolized *dependence*—the dependence of an absorbed and specialized functionary upon the wealth productive capacities of a defender and breadwinner. Those of our readers who have trembled at the prospect of a disconnected or turbulent railway journey "because of the baby—one doesn't mind it when one is alone, of course", can by a short stretch of imagination grasp the argument that the woman in the home is likely to greet the prospect of a disconnected and turbulent social environment with scruples which occur less readily to the man in the street. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that however the woman in the home may regard external changes, external changes regard her with a sort of sulky aloofness. The methods of production change more rapidly and more fundamentally than the habits of consumption. Man *qua* producer is at heart a revolutionary. Man *qua* consumer is at heart a conservative. There is a long and heavy time-lag between changing methods of organization and technique in production and the changing tenor of day to day home life. Greater variety of consumable commodities, more gas, more electricity, less coal, the growing domination of the Woolworth Store, all these slow moving developments and many others which no less obstinately elude exact measurement, may be accredited to the year 1927. But they make shadowy reading as compared to the clear-cut events and bold individual achievements of the world outside the home. Nor can we with any certainty set the item *less smoke* upon the credit side. The minute legislative instalment of Smoke Abatement which the year has brought, has so far made no perceptible difference to our laundry bills and cleaning activities.

In two aspects of home life, however, certain significant measurements are available. We may perhaps contrast them as the cost of living and the cost of life. The *cost of living* has shown a marked decline. From 75 per cent over 1914 prices in January, it fell steadily to 63 per cent in June. Thereafter it rose to 69 per cent in November (the last month for which figures are available as we go to press) as compared with 79 per cent in the preceding year. To assume that a fall in the cost of living necessarily brings comfort to the consumer is to assume too much; for it is apt to bring in its train or as its accompaniment a fall of income or an increase of unemployment and short time. But in this case the unemployment percentage has fallen too. Meanwhile from the narrow angle of the woman at home a fall in the cost of living does not immediately translate itself into a reduction in the housekeeping allowance. Here the time-lag operates, and appears to have operated during 1927 to the advantage of the home. Our only regret is that the range of its operations covers so narrow a margin.

When we turn from the cost of living to the *cost of life*, the balance once again, and small though it may be, can be placed upon the credit side of the past year's account. Human reproduction is the stable product of the home. And to achieve a given survival rate as the difference between a high birth-rate and a high death-rate is to achieve a given effect with a maximum of wastage, wear and tear. Fortunately during 1927 as during 1926, vital statistics testify to an improved conservation of energy. The birth-rate has fallen 5 points to 17.8, the death-rate 6 points to 11.6. Most striking of all is the decline of the infant death-rate from 75 to 70 per 1,000 children born. This last figure is a real achievement for the woman in the home no less than for the Public Health services whose more adequate co-operation has made her achievement possible.

But alas, in one respect 1927 has continued without mitigation an obstinate tradition of earlier years. There is no improvement in the maternal mortality rate. And it would be interesting if accurate statistics were available to know whether the miscarriage rate showed a comparable obstinacy. Such broken fragments of statistical information as the voluntary birth control clinics are able, from time to time, to put forward, suggest that here too is a deplorable element of wastage to add to the cost of production of human life in terms of maternal vitality. Nor has any outstanding development occurred during the year to suggest that the problem is being seriously taken in hand. A heart to heart talk with any district midwife in any poor working class area

will suggest causes, if not cures, for this enduring national disgrace. Meanwhile the year closes with yet another official wail from the Ministry of Health, yet another assurance that its persistence is "preventable". One is tempted once again to quote the immortal dictum of the late King Edward VII: "If preventable why not prevented?"

Family Endowment marches forward through the minds of the thinking public. One meets it and its implications more frequently than a year ago, in the references of economists and the curricula of students. But though New South Wales last spring joined the shining throng of pioneer States who have translated economic theory into administrative practice, here in England we continue to treat the business of child-bearing and child-rearing as an irrelevant vicarious hobby of the economically productive male.

IN MEMORIAM.

In our annual recital of the events and achievements of the woman's movement in 1927, we pause for a few moments to honour the memory of the men and women workers for our common cause whom death had taken from us during the year. Helen Priestman Clark, the eldest child of John Bright, who died in January after a long and beautiful life of service, was one of the earliest adherents of the suffrage movement. Mrs. Dowson, the first secretary of the Suffrage Society in Nottingham, who took part in the campaign against the State regulation of vice, lived only a year short of the Josephine Butler Centenary. Mrs. Victoria Woodhall Martin died in her 89th year after a remarkable career in the woman's movement both in this country and in the United States, where in 1872, she actually stood for the Presidency. The Countess Markievicz, the first woman to be elected to the British House of Commons, though she never took her seat, brought to a close in July a strangely eventful life, much of it passed during the most tragic period of the history of Ireland. At one time she too served our cause when she worked for the suffrage with her younger sister, Eva Gore Booth, whose death we recorded last year. Two other pioneers have been removed from our midst—Miss Mary Dalby, an officer of the Birkenhead Women's Suffrage Society for about a quarter of a century, and Mrs. Bertram, of Edinburgh, who used her pen in the service of women. Only a few weeks ago Edith Palliser, for many years secretary at the headquarters of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, passed away suddenly, and of her we can only quote Dame Millicent's beautiful words, "The heavenly outburst of joy and hope at the end of the last movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony reminds me of Edith Palliser". The death of Mrs. Frank Marshall, Vice-President of the N.U.S.E.C. in December, deprives us of a gracious and loyal friend who worked with her husband and daughter for our common cause. Still another of the best loved leaders of the women's movement was removed from our ranks through the death of Mrs. Ramsay, of Cambridge, as the result of a motor accident. Miss Ellen MacArthur, a distinguished teacher and scholar, who died at Cambridge in September, also worked at one time for the Cambridge Suffrage Society. Another Cambridge loss is due Alice Gardiner, at one time Director of Studies at Newnham College, and a keen feminist as well as a notable historian Oxford has lost Mrs. Arthur Johnston, who made education, the work of her life.

Among other women who have made their mark on widely different pages of the women's movement must be mentioned Mrs. Janet Ross, writer and Italian scholar, whose memory will live in her adopted country, Italy. Miss Lilian Hovey, who combined gifts as a musician with the duties of a local Wesleyan preacher, was also associated with the suffrage campaign. In Miss Lucy Soulsby we have lost an eminent head mistress who influenced many generations of girls. Miss Annie Baker, who was secretary of the Vigilance Association, and the only British woman assessor on the League of Nations Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women, did not live to see the League of Nations reports on a subject to which she has given most of her life. Mrs. Shelley Gulick took her feminism into her everyday life and trod out new paths for women in the business world.

We have left to the last two men who have championed our faith—Dr. Estlin Carpenter, for many years a Vice-President of the N.U.S.E.C., and Canon Hay Aitkin, whose loyal support we shall not soon forget.

There are no doubt others whose work has lain in quiet places and escaped public notice. We honour the memory of the unknown as well as the known, and those who are still in the heat of the day's work will take fresh courage on the remembrance of them.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER IN 1927.

1927 has brought no startling events to add to the annals of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, but there are some domestic changes to record. Mrs. Hubback and Mrs. Blanco White during the course of the year have joined Mrs. Stocks and Miss Macadam as joint editors of the paper. Miss Low, whose able management did so much to surmount difficulties, resigned during the year on her appointment as secretary to Miss Violet Markham, but her friendly help still continues. Her mantle has fallen on her successor, Miss Goulden Bach, and the change has been accomplished with the minimum of dislocation.

The closing weeks of the year are marked by the approach of a further change—the enforced removal from our present shelter at the top of 15 Dean's Yard. We believe that fortune has been kind to us and that we have been successful in securing premises close to Dean's Yard which will prove to be much more commodious and certainly much easier of access than those which we vacate. The move will probably take place about the end of January, and full notice of change of address will be given.

Apart from domestic and personal matters there is little to relate. We cannot close the year's volume without thanks to all those who have helped us in so many different ways—some by generous contributions to the guarantee fund which have relieved us from financial anxiety, others by expert articles or well-informed paragraphs on subjects of current interest; it is due to these that the paper is able to give some of that "lead" which its title implies. Others help us by their faithful efforts to make the paper better known throughout the country; others write us letters which cheer us in our most pessimistic mood. Before us at this moment lies a comforting bunch of appreciative letters received during the past few weeks. We thank all our friends, and we assure them that if we succeed it is due to their loyal support and co-operation.

But among the letters above referred to is one which runs: "I should not like to be without it (THE WOMAN'S LEADER). I am surprised that women do not patronize their own paper." So are we. If all the feminists and all the politically-minded women citizens in this country able to afford 1d. a week "patronized" us or our admirable contemporary *The Vote*, the circulation of these organs would not perhaps reach that of the best sellers of the newspaper world, but it would put to shame the present figures. THE WOMAN'S LEADER is your own paper. Its feminist policy is not dictated by its editors or shareholders, but by its readers at the annual meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Its aim is to give a weekly abstract of current events in the woman's movement inside and outside Parliament. It offers a platform for opinions on different aspects of feminist opinion never more interesting than to-day, when opinions on everything are in a state of flux. The coming year will have an unusual significance in the history of the woman's movement. If this catches the eye of anyone who is not already a subscriber we hope he or she will at once put the matter right by sending us a postal order for 6s. 6d. We also hope that all who are already our friends and supporters will join with us in redoubling our efforts in 1928—the year in which we confidently hope we shall attain that full enfranchisement which will release new energies for the task of the education of the citizen and the attainment of a true equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women.

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