

THE  
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS  
IN THE HOME  
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART  
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND  
COMMON CAUSE.

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

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

### Enfranchised America.

The State of Tennessee has ratified the Federal Amendment for Woman's Suffrage in both Houses, and woman's suffrage therefore becomes the law over the whole of the United States. The ingenuity of our friend the anti is even yet at work, and he has not quite accepted his defeat. In the Senate the vote was overwhelmingly in favour of ratification, but in the House it was only carried by two votes. We hear the most exciting accounts of how the last vote was taken, and of the violent efforts of the anti to prevent the proceedings from being legal. When they realised that they had been out-voted, twenty-five anti-suffragist members of the Legislature left the State in a body so as to prevent a quorum from being secured for the final formalities. In the House of Commons members just stand in the corridor outside the door; in Tennessee they have to go out of the State so as to escape the subpoena compelling them to attend, but the edifying strategy is the same in both cases. In Tennessee, however, it does not appear to have been successful, for the Attorney-General of Tennessee holds that the ratification is valid, nevertheless. The absconding members have, however, obtained a restraining order from the Chancery Court, which temporarily prevents the Governor from certifying to the Secretary of State that the ratification has been completed. If this order was confirmed by the Legislature the whole thing would probably be held up until after the Presidential elections, unless another State ratified immediately. But there is no reason to suppose that this order will be ratified. Why should it be? The whole world is marching towards enfranchisement, and the frantic quibbles and legal antics of our old enemies are merely byplay. No doubt there is party manoeuvring in it, as well as anti-suffrage resistance. But it is all futile together, for the victory is won. We congratulate America again and again upon its enfranchisement.

### The League's First Meeting.

President Wilson has summoned the first meeting of the League of Nations on November 15th, at Geneva. Now that women have got the vote in America, we hope that they will use it at the Presidential elections in demanding that the United States shall be a member of the League. It is a question far outweighing internal problems or the personalities of rival candidates, and a solid woman's vote would inevitably weigh down the scales in favour of the ratification and participation in the League. Nothing in the whole world is so important to-day as the right handling of international affairs. The advent of fresh wars, which blows first hot and then cold, in wasted Europe, which flames in Poland and Mesopotamia, and which smoulders through all the Middle East, is so terrible a thing that it must surely override all other considerations. The first meeting of the League will come at a troubled time. Nothing but the deter-

mination of the whole civilized world can make its task possible of success, but surely the determination of the whole world must be behind it. Women will have been enfranchised to good purpose if they can throw their weight on to the right side.

### Scotland and Prohibition.

Scotland took its first step towards the Prohibition campaign which is now active by passing the Temperance (Scotland) Act in 1913. This measure provided that at the expiration of eight years a poll on the drink question could be taken if it should be demanded by ten per cent. of the electors of any ward of not less than four thousand inhabitants in a large borough, or any small borough or country parish. These requisitions are now being distributed all over Scotland by advocates of temperance reform. In September they will be handed in to the local authority, and where the number of requisitions is sufficient, the local authority must give notice of a poll to take place either in November or December. The poll is by no means a referendum on prohibition; it offers the electors three possibilities. Prohibition is one of them, the reduction of licences by one quarter is the half-way house, and the continuance of the *status quo* the third. Prohibition in this sense will not be equivalent to "dryness" in the States, for hotels and restaurants whose main purpose is to supply food, could, even in the rather unlikely event of the immediate victory of the Prohibition party, continue to supply alcoholic drinks with meals, and the wholesale trade will be untouched. If the prohibitionists are to score the greatest success possible under the Act, they must poll at least thirty-five per cent. of the electors in their area and fifty-five per cent. of the votes cast. The reform, if it comes, will be the decision of a real majority, and cannot be forced by the energy of a small band of enthusiasts upon a community too inert to resist them. If it comes then, it will be with the blessing of the majority of the citizens and with every likelihood of being enforced. Short of this degree of success would be the carrying of a mandate for the reduction of licences. Prohibitionists' votes, if their own measure is not carried, will be reckoned with those of the reductionists. This combined majority of votes cast must equal thirty-five per cent. of the electorate if it is to be effective. If either prohibition or reduction are carried, they will be carried into effect in May, 1921. If the reformers fail, no further poll can be demanded for three years. In the large towns much work preliminary to the circulation of the requisition forms has already been done, and many thousands of promises of signatures have been obtained. In Aberdeen, for instance, £1,200 was collected for propaganda purposes before the end of June, and a poll in every ward there and in Glasgow is practically certain. It is said that but few country districts will demand a poll, but that in industrial areas polls will be very numerous, and reduction successes not infrequent. Not many Temperance

workers hold out hope of prohibition in their areas. The trade is said to be resuming its main effort until the requisitions for polls have been returned. The new women electors are taking a very active part in the campaign.

### Women Police in Ireland.

Women Police have been sent to Ireland to act in conjunction with the R.I.C. They will be employed in searching women during raids, a duty which, if it is to be done at all, is obviously better not done by men. The women employed are drawn from the Women's Police Service, and are taken from those who during the war were employed in munition factories. Their duties there, amongst other things, were to see that no metal was concealed in the hair or clothes of the girls in the danger zone, and they are therefore already familiar with the sort of work they will have to do. It is expected that they will bring the same skill and tact to their new duties in Ireland—where it will certainly be needed.

### Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Bill.

The Committee appointed by the Home Secretary to inquire into the two-shift system has lately received some very valuable additions. Miss F. Durham, of the Ministry of Labour, and Miss Julia Varley, of the Workers' Union, have joined the Committee, and Miss F. J. Taylor, of the Factory Department of the Home Office is to be secretary.

### Factory Inspectors in the States.

The proposed changes in our factory inspectorate give especial interest to passages in the Notes of Enquiries made by Home Office representatives attending the Washington Labour Conference. Sir Malcolm Delavigne, Mr. Gerald Bellhouse, and Miss Constance Smith after the end of the Conference had some opportunity of observing factory conditions in America. In New York State, one of the most progressive in labour legislation, they found the law in some respects in advance of our own, and the staff of inspectors very large, but owing to the low salaries offered it is impossible to attract into the Department men with the same technical knowledge as our inspectors, and perhaps in consequence of this they are given much less personal responsibility than is the case in Great Britain. In the cotton mills of the South working conditions are apparently much below our standard. The hours of employment by day are usually eight and a half, exclusive of one break of an hour for dinner, but during the twelve-hour night shift one regular meal time is given, though workers may take ten to fifteen minutes to eat at their machines food that they have brought in. The widespread and successful "Safety First" movement, with its "Safety Engineers" seems to concern itself with many matters which would fall within the routine work of a British factory inspector; its astonishing record in reducing accidents by as much as 75 per cent. seems to result less from the better protection of machinery than from educating the workers to be more careful. One is glad to learn that an Industrial Safety First Association has been founded in London.

### Protection for Secretaries and Private Teachers.

A woman, Fraulein Anna Boschek, member of the Austrian National Assembly, is the creator of a Bill, which was passed almost unanimously, giving legal status to secretaries, resident governesses, and private teachers of both sexes. The new Bill has given great general satisfaction, and its terms are far reaching. Duration of holidays are specified, during which payment for board and lodging must be made by the employer, as well as weekly hours of rest, length of notice, and protection against wrongful dismissal. Servants of all classes, male and female, are also provided for by this same law, and in this the Austrian Republic can claim to be a pioneer. It compares very curiously with a recent piece of Labour legislation in Pennsylvania, where an eight-hour day for women without possibility of overtime was passed for all occupations, manual and clerical, with the single exception of secretaries to social and philanthropic societies!

### Employment for Women in Australia.

The Overseas Settlement Committee has received a Report from its Commissioners on the employment available for women emigrating to Australia, a cheerful feature of which is that other openings than domestic service are notified. Machinists and factory workers in the clothing trades and millinery, workers in the confectionery and biscuit trades, skilled weavers in the woollen trade, and furriers are especially in demand, but the

labour organisations are apprehensive of any scheme of settlement which might overstock the market in women's labour. No clerks, shop assistants, or teachers in preliminary schools are required, and there is marked hostility to the introduction of women land workers. Secondary teachers would probably find employment in private schools. The educated woman as such is evidently not at a premium; but at least it is comforting to know officially where we are.

### Hostels for Unmarried Mothers.

A scheme which, if only the requisite funds are forthcoming, promises to do much to lighten the hard lot of the unmarried mothers of St. Pancras, originated with Dr. Ainley Walker. It is in the nature of a residential club where each woman can live in her own room with her child, and either provide and cook her own food, or have her meals in the public rooms. The hostel is to be in the vicinity of the day nursery, but will also possess a sick room where children can be looked after who are not well enough to go out to the nursery. A lady superintendent is to be in charge, and club evenings will be arranged. The Borough Council have promised financial assistance once the hostel is opened, and it is to be hoped that when it is realised how urgently necessary these hostels are, not only this one in St. Pancras, but one in every borough in London and in every industrial centre will be subscribed to and started. The lack of accommodation is heartbreaking, and it is uphill and anxious work trying to stretch out a helping hand to these poor girls in days when every week shows an increase in the cost of living, and when, with the first signs of a trade depression, work for women is harder and harder to find. Not only is the lack of accommodation a fearful problem; but lack of funds to enable existing hostels to remain open is a question which, unless help is forthcoming, will have to be faced in the near future. All who are interested in this scheme should communicate with the National Council for Unmarried Mothers, 62, Oxford Street, London.

### Austrian Children and English Babies.

The news that another party of children has reached Richborough will rouse in many of us the desire to help, and the reports of starvation and suffering in Austria which have reached this country have stirred in all of us a feeling of profound pity, and we are glad that we have been able to offer hospitality to the children who are suffering so cruelly in the after-war conditions. Every Austrian child who can be helped here should be helped, and yet it is perhaps just as well that we should realise what this may mean to those of our own British children who also need help. It is often the case that people who would otherwise be taking in and caring for the little children of unmarried mothers, offer, out of real sympathy and a desire to help, to care for our Austrian guests. They probably never realise that every offer and every home is missed at a time when accommodation is so terribly scarce and homes are so difficult to find. Charity must begin at home, and we trust the arrival of the children at Richborough will only mean that more families take up the task of caring for neglected children rather than that our English waifs should all have to go to the Guardians.

### Railway Cloakrooms.

It is a depressing thought that, according to Justices Bray and Sankey, there is no redress for a passenger whose luggage is stolen from a railway cloakroom unless it is less in value than £5 and the passenger mentions this fact and pays a penny in the pound of the declared value for each day the luggage is left. In the case in question the property was a bicycle, it was worth more than £5, and when it was stolen the company disclaimed responsibility. The City of London Court considered this attitude unreasonable, and awarded the plaintiff £15 damages. The company said that "the question of reasonableness had nothing to do with the matter," and Messrs. Bray and Sankey agreed. Note that there is no question of his getting the £5 to which his cloakroom ticket may seem to have entitled him, and that if he had declared value the bicycle would have cost one shilling and three pence a day in addition to the ordinary cloakroom charges. The cost of clothes and suit cases being what it is, the ordinary woman passenger cannot expect henceforth that a railway company will condescend to take care of her trunk for much less than the price at which she could hire a small strong-room at a safe deposit. Fortunately the plaintiff was given leave to appeal, and the situation may prove to be better than the company gives passengers to understand.

**British Schools Abroad.**

The Report lately presented to the Foreign Office on British Communities Abroad points out that large numbers of children, British by birth, citizens of the Empire, are growing up ignorant not only of British ideals but even of the English language, and bases on this an appeal for the foundation of schools for British communities in foreign countries to be subsidized "at least in the same proportion as would be given to establishments in this country offering equal facilities." The Report does not consider that persons living abroad merely for pleasure have any claim upon their country of origin for the education of their children, but that working communities in foreign countries are in a different position. They think that the more promising pupils from such schools might be enabled by special shipping rates and privately given scholarships, to return to England for university or public school education. If any such schemes could be carried out in Egypt, in South America, in China, and in Egypt, to begin with, the outlook of young Englishwomen who marry and go abroad with their husbands would be very materially changed. They would not have to look forward to making that hard choice between separation from husband or children which makes the tragedy of Anglo-Indian life, but is not inevitable in kindlier climates. The Report points out also that such schools would be very welcome to the countries in which they were established. This is a danger as well as an inducement, for a school subsidized from England but used by a preponderating foreign clientele would be a poor substitute for the education at home that rising prices threaten to make impossible to all but the children of the rich. There is, however, much in the idea, and we trust that it will be further developed.

**The National Liberal Club.**

It is said that in the near future the National Liberal Club will declare women eligible as members. This is very broad-minded of the committee, though the possibility is not quite unconnected with the vastness of their recovered domicile and the smallness of the waiting list. Some of the members, we are sure, will feel that there is something to be said for Conservatism after all, and those who know their Bibles will explain that it is sometimes well to make friends with the mammon of unrighteousness. Meantime there are clubs of other political complexions which will rather face bankruptcy than female members—and this, too, out of the highest reverence for womanhood. We hasten to show that the situation is clear to us before the N.L.C. explains in detail why it will, and the Carlton why it won't, accept our subscriptions. Membership might mean all kinds of things, from sharing the doorstep and using the notepaper to using a common dining room and serving on the committee; the N.L.C. does not spread itself in detail with regard to its proposal.

**Butter and Jam.**

The nursery rule used to be "butter or jam"; the Food Controller seems to think that both are unnecessary luxuries. He will not allow the import of New Zealand's available twenty thousand tons of butter, apparently because that long-suffering Dominion does not propose to accept a price which will allow him again to make a profit of four million pounds out of the deal. New Zealand, oddly enough, objects to sell its produce in peace time under the world's market price. If it were quixotic enough to do this we should not have cheap butter, but we should in exchange provide handsomely for the upkeep of a magnificent Food Ministry which is spending six times as much on stationery as it expected to require. No one knows what it uses these mountains of paper for now that the rainbow-coloured ration books are no more and even the humble visitors' sugar cards have vanished. Probably the exchange of compliments and testimonials of worth between the Ministry and the Consumers' Council has accounted for a good deal of paper and ink. With regard to jam, it takes a different line. There is no embargo on the import of jam, but seeing that fruit for jam-making is scarce and dear the Ministry thoughtfully arranges that sugar, the other ingredient, shall be more in a parallel direction. Mr. Cairns says he could supply ninety thousand tons of sugar at a retail price of eightpence a pound. The Food Ministry thinks he is mistaken, and he may of course overestimate his quantity and underestimate his price. Man, when not promoted to a Ministry, is liable to error. But even if his performance came no nearer his promise than eighty thousand tons at ninepence a pound we should like to give him a trial.

**NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.**

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Parliament sat on one day only last week, but truly there was enough matter crowded into that one day to fill a month of normal time. Poland, France, Direct Action, and Ireland—all these questions, every one of which sits at the root of our future—came under review. The recognition by France of General Wrangel remains a matter of amazement. The House, of course, had separated before it had news of the successful Polish counter-attack, which might possibly be held to justify M. Millerand's policy; but even had this event happened before Monday, it is doubtful if it would have influenced opinion. The action of France, taken in isolation, not only without consulting us, but in conscious and intentional opposition to what we were doing, action which, if successful, could result only in the smashing of the peace Mr. Lloyd George is trying so painfully to build, puts an end for the time to the Supreme Council. If any nation can act without consulting it, it is not a Council; and if its decisions can be disregarded, it is not Supreme. It may be remade, or some instrument may arise to take its place; but for the moment it is dead. The action of Italy in supporting British against French policy was received with relief; and it is strange proof of the small weight which the United States now has in Europe that the news that she supports Wrangel and France, which last year would have caused the very bed of the political ocean to rock, did not to-day cause the smallest ripple on its surface.

Mr. Lloyd George's speech on Monday was made to a House which comes more under his influence with every week that passes. The outstanding feature of this Session has been his growing renown. Power he has always had since the General Election of 1918, power due to his action in the war, and to the mighty battalions of the Coalition; but reputation, trust, following, these he has never had, until recently, since the first wave of hope which greeted the fall of Mr. Asquith at the end of 1916. During last year the Prime Minister's position in the House was remarkable. He was the head of an immense majority, he was always able to dominate Parliament by his personal vigour and eloquence; but in the interval between these episodes, the feeling towards him slipped back into something near to distrust. Many causes contributed to this. It was clearly marked. Now, for some months, opinion has been moving the other way. His policy towards Russia, key to the world's peace, is the cause of the change. On Monday he had the not small satisfaction of speaking to an audience whom he has convinced and converted.

Mr. Clynnes's speech on the Council of Action, a speech somewhat severely handled by the Press, was not well received; but it was probably as good as he could make it. Mr. Thomas was even less happy. Political memories are short; but, even so, it makes people open their eyes to hear him justify his party by appealing, of all incidents in the world, to the success of Sir Edward Carson and the Ulster Volunteers. Mr. Thomas, no doubt, for the moment forgot that he and his colleagues had been the most active, and until last week it was believed the most sincere, enemies of what they then called the rebellion of Ulster. Altogether, the general sense of the House, which is quite independent of passion or party or prejudice, was solidly against Mr. Clynnes and his friends.

Ireland was crowded out until the end of the debate, when the House assuredly had enough to think about. For some days before Monday there had been rumours that the Prime Minister intended to make a move towards peace. These rumours grew by their own strength, until at last it was reported and believed that he would offer complete Dominion Home Rule, throwing his own Home Rule Bill into the dustbin. The report seemed probable; having got the Coercion Acts, it appeared likely that he would make one last attempt to render them unnecessary, and would appeal to moderate Ireland by stating the utmost limit to which he would go. He did nothing of the kind. He only repeated that the present Bill is the last word, and that if the Irish will take it they must say so, or if not, say what they will take. Which, of course, no responsible leader in Ireland who has any authority, will do. We are, therefore, left with Coercion; and the air is full of talk of more troops and blockhouses and barbed wire. The House is deeply disturbed; not much appears on the surface, but beneath there are sinkings of heart. No doubt many members, including Lord Robert Cecil, think that for the moment nothing matters except protection of life and property; but here again the general sense of the House is running in a strong current in the opposite direction.

**NEWSPAPERS.**

There are many different ways of dividing up the people in the world. One of them is to divide them into men and women; another is to divide them into those who do and those who do not read the daily papers. Not very long ago these two divisions were, in this country, more or less co-terminous, but, fortunately or unfortunately, this is no longer the case. So potent is the power of enfranchisement, with all its accompanying upheavals, that women are to be seen reading leading articles in trains, at breakfast tables, and in public libraries, and even the most highly decorated young females are to be heard nowadays discussing in tubes and 'buses the relations of Russia and Poland. Nevertheless, even though numbers of women have come into this newspaper reading category, large masses of people still remain outside it either from poverty or from choice, and the difference between these two classes of the population is very marked.

Those of us who take our daily dose of press, who swallow the irritant of the *Times* and the counter-irritant of the *Daily Herald* with our first cups of tea or coffee, have got so well used to the process that we find it hard to imagine the state of mind of those who do not. We acquire, more or less automatically, a background of public events, a background which shifts from day to day, but which runs along fairly familiar lines. When Parliament is in session we watch its main activities or follow (very incompletely) its main political intrigues. We see accounts of industrial disturbances, strikes, and disputes; we read of foreign wars, of elections in Italy or riots in Pekin; we get a vague general notion of the financial position of our own and other countries; find out who are the outstanding public characters in Europe and America, and are aware of it when they die. And we go about our own particular business, whatever it may be, with a general setting of contemporary events in our consciousness. Of course we are at the same time aware that we are being nourished on lies. Nothing is so general in the newspaper reading public of Great Britain as the conviction that all that the papers say is false. Nevertheless out of the mass of conflicting falsehood we build up a mental picture of the world for ourselves, and, right or wrong, we believe in it. On top of this background of news and fact the newspapers pile up also an edifice of opinion, which we suck in with equal docility. Leading articles, selected news, careful juxtapositions, and still more artful suggestions make each daily paper an "organ" of some line of thought (or interest). The newspaper readers fall into the trap with their eyes wide open, and their political opinions are in fact led hither and thither by the papers of the day, either by the method of direct following or by that of equally direct opposition.

Now it is easy to inveigh against this state of affairs, and to howl quite eloquently about the Capitalist Press, the Unscrupulous Press, the Yellow Press. It is a favourite pastime of nearly all newspaper readers of any intelligence, and it is a very laudable one, no doubt. It doesn't do much good as things are at present, but of course it may at any moment. The day may come when true and impartial news may be available for all, uncoloured, complete, and reliable; and by abusing the existing Press we may be hastening its arrival. But it may be profitable also to consider the state of mind of those who do not read the papers, and see whether, things being as they are, they are any better off than those of us who suffer from these printed evils.

There are many people who normally read papers whose idea of a holiday includes not doing so. Only a few of these can have had the hardihood to carry out their plan this August, while rumours of war have been about, while the threat of Direct Action has taken a concrete shape, and while France and England have been acting so strangely towards each other. But what of the people who haven't known that anything was going on at all? Who have never heard of Lenin or Trotsky, and hardly have a glimmering of Bolshevism, who don't know that Wilson has been ill, or that Czecho-Slovakia exists, and who have no idea where Warsaw may be? Is their life a perpetual holiday, or are they really worse off than those of us who are burdened with all these tiresome facts? Is it a liberation to be unaware of Labour movements and foreign exchanges and the rise and fall of parties, or is it a limitation which should be rapidly destroyed?

In the midst of holidays one is inclined to say that it must be an immense liberation; that it would be delightful not to be bothered with all these stodgy matters, but to be free to pick blackberries or paddle on the beach without a thought of sugar combines or naval expenditures.

In the long run, however, it probably would not be so nice as it seems. If we really neither knew nor cared about public affairs the horizon of our lives would be strangely narrowed down, and many really interesting things would drop out. We should, no doubt, attach to local gossip or scandal all the attention we now dissipate on the affairs of the world, and if this were added to the attention we all give to such things anyway what a formidable matter gossip would become! But in spite of this how monotonous life might be. We may not be passionately thrilled by revolutions in South America, but they at least distract attention from burnt porridge or cold toast, and help us through breakfast time.

In any case, however it may be for the individual, it is quite obvious that the present organisation of the State requires a more or less well-informed public which follows the course of State affairs. Popular government is worse than useless if the populace is not even aware of the problems it has to solve, and newspaper reading with all its horrors is the necessary consequence of democratic enfranchisement. Looked at from this angle newspapers become a public benefit, and the reading of them a civic duty.

The worst of it, however, has not yet been said. We may take newspaper reading from this high civic standpoint and call it a citizen's duty, and bring up young people to perform it, and we still may not have secured our ends. For newspapers can be read for lots of other things than contemporary politics. There is betting, for example, for the sake of which quite half the public buys its papers. We ourselves had a sharp reminder of this on the day of the declaration of the poll of the Paisley election. The placards announced "Paisley Result" in large letters; we said, "Who's in?" to the newsboy as we bought our evening paper. The answer was, "Tenderfoot" or "Black Devil," or some such equine name, which may or may not suit Mr. Asquith, but did not answer our question! And then besides betting there are the murders, the accidents, and the divorces, not to mention Mary Pickford, the Royal Family, or the acrostics. Really we might enjoy our newspapers if only we took them the right way round. And there is always THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

## BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

### ENGLISH WOMEN AND AMRITSAR.

By "SIPAHL"

The following letter signed by 679 English women in India demands the earnest attention of all women in England:

"As English women who know India, and the risk to the lives and honour of English women in time of rebellion, or even of serious local disorder, we write to ask you to assist us by putting plainly before Parliament and the huge army of women voters a clear statement of what actually took place in the Punjab last year, and the still greater horrors of what might occur in the future if the sacrifice of General Dyer is allowed to stand as an example to other soldiers if they venture to meet attempts at murder, arson, and other unmentionable crimes with adequate force. The present judgment of this man, who did more last year than anyone to suppress the rebellion at its start, will naturally tend to make other soldiers faced with similar responsibility act with hesitation or attempt to temporise, so we appeal to you to champion our cause, which is also that of all Europeans in India, with a view to getting it revoked.

"The statement on our behalf of what took place last year should include specially the treatment of Miss Sherwood at the hands of the mob, together with the actual attempts of the same mob to murder other English women, and the hardships inflicted on those who, with their children, were driven to take refuge in Amritsar fort and other places, as well as the placards posted at Lyallpur inciting to dishonour Englishwomen there. We feel sure that if these facts were widely known in England they would arouse such indignation that the revocation of the present act of injustice would be absolutely demanded."

During the past forty years India has witnessed many local disturbances and riots, arising from mutual hostility between Indians of differing caste or creed, or occasionally from dissatisfaction with some emergent action of the Government, as, for example, with the regulations for preventing the spread of plague. But never before have English women resident in India felt called upon to publish their views or appeal for their own security to the public in England; never before have they considered it necessary to invoke the aid of the Anglo-Indian and English Press in ventilating their anxieties.

The reason is that English women have never since the great Mutiny of 1857 been in such peril as they were in India in the spring of 1919, nor since the almost forgotten tragedy of Cawnpore, have Indian mobs, armed with dangerous *lathis*, been directly incited to the murder and outrage of English women, as they were in India last year. For proof of this, one need only turn to the bald statement of facts in the Report of the Hunter Committee. Speaking of Amritsar they say:—

"A Sikh and a Mohammedan at the Khair-ud-Din mosque were inciting the crowd, saying 'Murder the Europeans—this is the time that we should rise.'"

and they add that the authorities, both civil and military, were of opinion that any Europeans venturing into the city would go to almost certain death, unless protected by a strong force. The same was the case at Lahore, where the crowd spat at British soldiers and cried out: "Let us kill the white pigs." Posters were placarded over the city of Lahore calling upon the mob to kill "the English monkeys," and at Lyallpur there was a notice posted up, saying:

"What are you waiting for? Here are many ladies (English) to dishonour. Go all round India, clear the country of the ladies and these sinful creatures, and then will be the only time when we can all say together: 'Blessed be the Hindus, Mohammedans and Sikhs.'"

What was the position of English women during the days of murderous tumult, when English bank-managers were cruelly beaten to death, and any European found alone and unprotected was attacked and slain? An eye-witness, who went through these days of terror, related in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of March 11th, 1920, how on the first outburst of the mob, she and other women, including six who were ill, were hurried away to a certain rallying-point, without a moment to collect a single possession, and thence were moved under escort to a mud fortress, built a century ago and infested with sand-flies and mosquitoes. It was nearly dark when they reached the fort and no preparation had been made to receive them. One lady made some tea, and this together with half the soldiers' bread ration, distributed among 130 women and children in twelve cups and twenty plates, was their only meal that night. The

topical and controversial matters which we treat under the principal views on each question held by differing groups of opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first

rooms in the fort were very small, there were no *punkahs*, no lights, no arrangements for sanitation, and the heat was intense. Women and children lay side by side on the ground stung by mosquitoes, and tortured by heat. Fresh arrivals continued to pour in, English families from the railway quarters and hundreds of Indian Christian schoolgirls, whom it was unsafe to leave at the collecting-posts in the civil lines. Hardly an hour passed without news of mobs looting and destroying in the big cities, of Englishmen being murdered, as at Kasur and Ahmedabad, and of Government property being burnt down, railway lines torn up, trains wrecked and telegraph wires cut in all directions. And these English women, putting up with the appalling discomfort of the situation, kept their nerve and prayed for a speedy deliverance from danger. Deliverance came at last in the person of General Dyer and his small body of troops. Through their action alone these English women were able to leave the fort alive and with their honour saved.

Poor Miss Sherwood, a lady missionary, fared ill. When on her way to one of her schools, she was intercepted and overtaken by the mob, knocked down by blows on the head, and beaten while on the ground; she tried to enter a door, and it was slammed in her face; in the end she was left bleeding on the street, as the mob thought she was dead. The mob, thirsting for European blood, entered the Zenana hospital and twice ransacked it to find Miss Eason, the lady doctor, who contrived on both occasions to conceal herself, with the help of a faithful native servant. Mrs. Sherbourne and her children were hunted by a crowd, howling cries of murder, and only escaped massacre by a miracle.

Here are a few of the facts, given in the Report of the Hunter Committee, showing through what peril these English women passed. They know that General Dyer's action at Amritsar was literally their salvation; they also know that whereas General Dyer has been punished for the deed which saved their lives and honour, the men who incited to murder, lust, loot, and rapine have been pardoned and released from jail at the instance of Mr. Montagu. Is it to be wondered at that every English woman in India protests against this travesty of justice? Owing to the regular suppression of uncomfortable news from India, the British public cannot know the truth. But everyone in India realises that before long there will be another explosion, perhaps graver than that which took place in 1919; and woe betide the English women and children then, if no General Dyer is at hand to protect them. They can look for no security or redress from an Oriental Secretary of State, who busies himself in trying to placate those who incite to murder and outrage rather than in securing the safety of English men and women and loyal Indians.

### THE ENGLISH WOMAN IN INDIA.

#### AFTER AMRITSAR.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

There is no hope that Amritsar will be forgotten. Exhibitions of frightfulness, like the Black Hole of Calcutta, the massacre at Cawnpore, the firing in the Jallianwalla Bagh, the execution of Nurse Cavell become part of an irremediable past, but as ghosts they are unslain. When every possible word has been said by both sinned against and sinners, they still flit, bodiless but menacing, in and out of the life of the present. Their nations may repudiate Nana Sahib and General Dyer, yet the evil these men do lives after them. The main plea for General Dyer was that the lives of women and children had been thrust into his keeping, and that it is impossible for an officer to remain *compos mentis* when he has to protect the helpless. He had an extraordinarily difficult task, and the distressing part of the story is that he could not see past the women under his own eyes to the women and children scattered in lonely places all over India, whose future safety he was endangering by his ruthlessness. Rioting has lately been common in India, and whenever riots occur in

## SOME THINGS THAT MATTER.

By HAROLD COX.

[Sir Leo Chiozza Money and Mr. Harold Cox will write alternately upon things that matter. The Editor accepts no responsibility for any of the views expressed by these two eminent economists.]

### SOCIALISM AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

THE more astute Socialists deny that their creed leads to the abolition of private property; they know that practically everyone in England to-day owns *some* property, and therefore the astute Socialists after first attacking the inequalities of fortune, which must exist wherever the right to private property and the accompanying right of bequest are recognised, go on to promise that under Socialism there will be more private property for everybody. This concession is intended to appeal not only to middle-class sympathisers with Socialism, but also to the millions of working men and women who are private owners of house property or of Government stock, or of savings-bank deposits or of shares both in the co-operative societies and in capitalistic companies. To meet the views of the millions of small owners of property, who naturally want to get a revenue from their investments, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb go so far in their latest book as to say that rent of land and interest on capital will be permitted under Socialism. Yet, in the eyes of consistent Socialists, the taking of rent and interest are the two deadliest sins of the capitalistic system.

In effect, the Socialists of the Webbian school, like other politicians, are quite willing to sacrifice even the fundamental principles of their professed creed in order to capture votes for their party. The same spirit of political compromise is to be found in the writings of some of the French Socialists. Thus, M. Lucien Deslinières, whose book on "The Coming of Socialism" has recently been issued in English by the British Socialist Party, sets out to explain how Socialists are to deal with the awkward fact that an immense number of French peasants own their farms and are not prepared to part with them. After saying with cynical frankness: "We should err if we allowed ourselves to be guided solely by considerations of abstract right," he goes on to argue that the peasants are to be left in possession of their property until they realise for themselves that "their own small holdings are burdensome rather than advantageous." To the credit of Socialists it must be stated that they are not all so ready to sacrifice their principles for the sake of political gain. For example, the late Jean Jaurès, whose "Studies in Socialism" was issued by the Independent Labour Party as part of the Socialist Library edited by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, writes: "The time is not far off when no one will be able to speak to the public about the preservation of private property without covering himself with ridicule and putting himself voluntarily into an inferior rank."

Mr. Noah Ablett, of the South Wales Miners' Federation, is equally emphatic that under Socialism the institution of private property, and with it the use of money, must go. In his "Easy Outlines of Economics," published by the Plebs League, he asks: "Is money absolutely indispensable?" and goes on to answer: "If private property were abolished money would be a nuisance." He concludes the chapter by prophesying "the approaching doom of commodity circulation; the overthrow of private ownership; and the end of the reign of gold." These quotations are sufficient to show that, unlike the Webbians, consistent Socialists do endorse the logical deductions from the creed they profess. The essence of that creed is that all the means of production and distribution are to be socialised. It follows that private property must cease not only in great concerns like railways, but also in land, in houses, in furniture, and in machines and tools of every description. It also follows that money must be abolished, for it is one of the most important means of distribution, and if money is allowed to exist it will be impossible to prevent "capitalists" from living on the interest they draw from the "workers." Sir Leo Chiozza Money and the other Webbians who try to evade these unpleasant results of the Socialist dogma, while still calling themselves Socialists, are in reality not Socialists at all. They are what the French call *étatistes*. Their ideal is a universal State bureaucracy dominating the whole life of the country and managing every industry except those which are too small to strike the popular imagination. This being their ideal they cleverly direct their propaganda towards winning the votes of the myriads of office holders and office seekers by whom our country is now afflicted.

the future, there will now be added bitterness on the Indian and increased danger on the British side, because of Amritsar. That is General Dyer's legacy to India. It would be an exaggeration to suggest that English women everywhere are going about in hourly fear of their lives. Fear expressed or suppressed does not become Englishwomen, and they laugh when warned to leave India "before the revolution takes place," but there is a tacit avoidance of certain troubled neighbourhoods, and of lonely travel, and a feeling of insecurity, always present in India because of the suddenness of its diseases, has now been slightly heightened. Strikes seem a little more ominous than they did. Women carry arms more frequently. Life is enhanced by a new spice of danger.

Danger has always been one of the lures of India, and the new peril will sift those who are thinking of volunteering for service in the East, and pass only the finer spirits. Another stage in the sifting process will take place when the volunteers realise how the relationship between Indians and English has altered. It was most emphatically brought out in the debate on the Punjab disturbances that henceforth there is no ruling race in India, but a partnership based on mutual forbearance. This is not true of Government only. The partnership idea has entered into all the services. It will soon be customary for English men and women to work in hospitals and colleges as subordinate to Indian M.O.s and principals. It is always a difficult position when the subordinate has a higher standard of efficiency than the head, a state of affairs which is certain to occur in India, but it is a position which the partners must somehow work out. Ever since Englishmen perfected the machinery of government in India, ever since they imposed their own standards in education, medicine, public works, trade and law, they have grown further and further away from India and become increasingly irritating to the governed. They will now have to learn to look at things from a different angle, and to practise friendship and persuasion instead of exercising authority. It will be a harder task.

British ignorance of Indian thought is gross and palpable, and a group of Indian women editing a paper like THE WOMAN'S LEADER would confer an inestimable boon on both nations. The recent bitter controversy over Jallianwalla reveals the extent to which British opinion in India lags behind the Motherland. After Sir Charles Munro, the Army Council, Secretary of State, Hunter Commission, and House of Commons had all examined General Dyer's action and condemned it; when the British Press, with only one notable exception, had declared that India must be ruled with the consent of the governed and not by force, still the whole British community in India and the Press with almost one voice furiously asserted the innocence and heroism of General Dyer. The British democracy relied on the examination of the case by experts, and on the principles of democracy. The British in India cannot think democratically, and the underlying fear already described vitiates their judgment. Men think of the Mutiny and of women and children in the lonely hill stations, and they forget that an Indian also values his child's life and may do strange things under the influence of fear. Ignorance blinds their eyes, and it is incredibly difficult to dispel the darkness. British and Indian live side by side, but they do not know each other. How can they know each other? Socially they meet only on terms of distant politeness. Intimate friendships are unknown. The Indian-edited Press is written in such a babel of tongues that only a super-linguist could attempt to form any all-Indian impressions. The English language is the sole bridge, and its buttresses rest in a morass of misunderstanding at either end. Two poets and half a dozen prose writers have done something to strengthen the bridge, but it is still deplorably weak. The partnership idea has been tried in journalism, in such papers as *East and West* and *The Calcutta Review*, but so far nothing really strong and widely read has emerged. Women have scarcely tried their hand at all, and both Indian and English women are needed to build up a literature and press for mutual education.

Political action is so new to Indian women that they have much to learn from their British partners, and both together have to learn what is possible under the newly created political state in India. Organisations of women to watch women's interests are non-existent. The whole field lies fallow and untouched. Luckily Indian women have not yet acquired the theorising, talking habit. Their inclination is still to act rather than to unpack their heart in words. It would be a great gain if their steadiness could be harnessed to the men's gift for discussion and speculation. To become an organiser of women's political activities in India would be a liberal education for the organiser. The very complications of the partnership idea, and the enhancement life gains from a possible early close, add zest to the idea of service in India under the new régime.

## WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME.

The Housing Problem is one of the most serious of the domestic difficulties which face us to-day. We all know that it is difficult; we none of us know exactly what the difficulties are, or how they can be met. Money is said to be one, scarcity of labour another, scarcity of materials a third, contractors' rings a fourth, Government delays a fifth, and so on. It is high time that women looked into these difficulties to see if they are all real, and if so, to try and remedy them. "The Woman's Leader" proposes, therefore, to publish articles on various aspects of housing during the summer months, in order to suggest to its readers subjects for their own investigations. We shall have articles on policy and on plans, on facts and on failures, and we invite correspondence on any aspect of the question.

### WOMEN HOUSE PROPERTY MANAGERS AT WORK. MISS OCTAVIA HILL'S SYSTEM OF COTTAGE MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE. FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

We came to this smoky industrial town just over two years ago, to manage an estate of over 300 huts built to house the workers who crowded to the district to make munitions in the National Factories which had sprung up all round.

When first built, these long rows of little grey huts with their black felt roofs and iron chimneys repelled the workers for whom they were planned. Perhaps it was not surprising. The site chosen was a steep hill side, which had at one time been the Corporation dust tip. No paths were made, no fencing provided to mark off even the smallest piece of garden. Baked clay banks and cinder strewn tracks between the low grey huts gave a most dreary impression, while in winter the mud was almost impassable in parts.

When first completed the estate was handed over to the care of a man who had no experience whatever of such work, the Department which was responsible for his appointment having also at that time no idea of any aspect of the housing question save that of building. The management of working class property had never apparently entered its mind.

In consequence of this lack of skilled management the estate became in about six months' time as bad a slum as any to be found in the worst quarters of a big city. Thieves, deserters, tramps, and all sorts of bad characters were scattered indiscriminately amongst better class tenants, and gave the place a bad name. When this state of affairs had lasted about two years, the Department concerned realised that something must be done, and they decided to appoint two trained women to manage the estate on the lines laid down by the late Miss Octavia Hill.

When we came to the place we found everywhere painful evidence of our predecessor's lack of training. Such records as had been kept were incomplete and sometimes inaccurate. Although the town had never dreamed of such wages as then prevailed and there was plenty of work for all, yet the arrears of rent were already heavy and increasing weekly. Partly owing to inexperience in management, and partly to the general shortage of labour, no repairs had been done. No supervision of the cottages was exercised, and therefore much damage had been done to these temporary structures by the unruly tenants always with complete impunity. Families had stripped the wooden panelling from the walls, and broken up doors for firewood, smashed all the keys and damaged the locks, and then moved into a vacant house further up the row, and often left their arrears of rent as well as their breakages behind them for the incoming tenant.

No particular day or hour for collecting the rents had been in force, so that they straggled into the office all day long, regardless of meal-times, &c., and would doubtless have continued coming all night long if the office had been open.

After a preliminary struggle with the books, or their absence, we divided up the estate into collections, and began a methodical house to house collection of rents on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

For many months this was an arduous and disappointing task. Sometimes whole rows of houses appeared to be empty, though if one came suddenly back it was surprising to find nearly every tenant at home. At other times one would be overwhelmed with shrill abuse for having dared to ask for the arrears of rent, or for not having carried out a repair which we had not even had time to order. We returned after the morning's work chilled and depressed by the dirt, misery, and apparent poverty, and the atmosphere of hostility towards ourselves.

When after repeated calls and exhortations we failed to extract the rent and arrears from the wife, in many cases we paid evening visits to the "boss" or the "master" as she called him. It meant turning out continually after dark, stumbling along the uneven paths in the pitch blackness of the

winter night, for the estate was absolutely unlighted, and often a long wait on a wind swept doorstep. When at last he returned home, weary and blackened with toil, it was sometimes after 8 p.m. At times the visit was successful. "The Boss" explained and excused himself, and promised regular payments in future. At other times it ended tragically, when on hearing our request for several pounds he turned fiercely upon his wife for an explanation of the debt, and the door closed upon terrible sounds of strife.

After a time we got to know the worst offenders, often bad payers by reason of drink or laziness, and took them to Court. By this time the shortage of houses was becoming acute, and it was impossible to get them to move out by any other means. The magistrates have always been very friendly to us, and appreciate the efforts being made to improve the estate. They grant orders in almost every case when we press for them, and in this way we have been able very gradually to rid the place of the worst characters.

It was not until we had been here nearly eighteen months that we were able to see some small result of our work. Until then we had concentrated upon the sterner side of things, turning people out, refusing to do any but the most necessary repairs until the rent was paid, and so on. We now decided to try and run some kind of play centre for the children during their summer holidays. A helper who was coming fell through, and so we ourselves took it in turns to escort a ragged and motley crowd of boys one afternoon, and girls the next, to a public park some distance away, where we played rounders, football, &c., for about two hours.

By this means we got into touch with the parents in a pleasanter way than had been possible when arguing about rent. The outcome was the foundation of a Scout Troop. One of the tenants turned out to be a first class scoutmaster, and in the nine months since it was started we have one of the smartest troops in the town.

The formation of a Guide Troop was a more difficult matter, but a start has been made, and so having provided something for the children, we turned our attention to their mothers. It struck us that the lives of the women, especially the better class ones, were almost intolerably dreary, and when there was a young family they seldom got any sort of change or recreation. Their general standard of well-being as a rule did not rise beyond "plenty to eat and drink." There was no District Nurse who would come to the estate, and the place is badly served by doctors. Skin troubles and ringworm were extraordinarily prevalent, and nothing was done for either.

We therefore called a meeting of the most respectable women and suggested to them the advantages of a Women's Institute, and they gladly welcomed the idea. One was accordingly formed, and the first piece of work decided upon was to raise funds for a District Nurse. So far they have succeeded in raising £2 weekly in 2d. subscriptions. Besides this we meet weekly for lectures, &c., followed by tea and talk. So far we have had some health talks, lessons in cutting out, and the first of a series of lectures on civics.

None of our members have done any public work before, and there have been some creakings of the wheels, but the machine is fairly going now. Our Secretary is an intelligent woman of the farmer class, who is most anxious to help in every way, but her office has caused much jealousy among her neighbours, who, when invited to join the Institute, have said, "What, put myself under the heel of a woman like that?" However, they have joined in the long run, after a laboured explanation of the duties and uses of a secretary.

After two years of hard work it is encouraging to find that the tenants themselves are beginning to think the place improved, but perhaps the change comes home to us most on

Thursday mornings, when we go round looking at the repairs which have been carried out by our workmen during the week. We generally go round "the backs" too, and in place of choked drains, litter of dirty paper and household refuse, lidless dustbins and lavatory doors off their hinges, we find a great degree of neatness and good order.

Similar work to this is being done in many parts of London and places in the provinces, by trained women managers.

Management of cottage property is first and foremost a business undertaking, and the confidence of the tenant can only be won by the manager who is capable of carrying out a landlord's duties efficiently. The work therefore demands not only right judgment of human nature, but trained accountancy, technical knowledge of repairs, rates, &c., and accuracy and method in all one's dealings.

The Women House Property Managers' Association was formed by women who are so trained to keep up this standard of work, and to supply workers to private owners of property, and local authorities who wish to do their duty to the tenants on their estates.

## EASTERN EUROPE AND THE TYPHUS EPIDEMIC.

One sometimes wonders whether the war has deadened our power of sympathy; whether we, as a nation, are peculiarly lacking in imagination; or whether our own individual losses and troubles have so stunned us that we are callous to the sorrows of others? It must be want of imagination that has made it so difficult to arouse public attention to the danger which is threatening Western Europe. It seems incredible that we, admittedly an emotional nation, are not throbbing with pity, and stirred into action by the baldest reports which filter through into this country from Poland, with their heart-breaking record of death and disease.

Must our instinct of self-preservation be appealed to? Must the false security with which we surround ourselves be shattered before we awake to the danger threatening us and all civilisation? For four years now typhus has been raging in Eastern Europe, and slowly but surely it has been creeping westward; unless we awake from our apathy this calamity will sweep onwards to the Atlantic, leaving horror and desolation in its wake.

And trade is threatened—trade, the god of western civilisation before whom politicians and diplomats tremble, and for whom wars are waged—do the captains of industry realise that unless they help to check the epidemic that they too will suffer? Even if it can be confined by a sanitary cordon to Eastern Europe and left to burn itself out there, the effects will spread like ripples on a lake—a population ravaged by disease, starving, helpless and despairing, are not a profitable people with whom to trade—the markets of Eastern Europe will be closed to us, and their food supplies will cease to reach us.

And if it spreads? Germany, with her unsettled political and social conditions, with poverty and unemployment and under-feeding, will be specially susceptible to typhus. We long for peace, and yet these epidemics are a serious obstacle in the way of post-war reconstruction. Have we not the warning of Russia before our eyes, and can we exaggerate the part typhus has played there?

Typhus originated in Russia, but the conditions of life among the poor in the surrounding countries made it inevitable that the epidemic should spread rapidly, and so disorganised and broken by incessant warfare are these unhappy nations that the problem is overwhelming them by its very magnitude. There is poverty, dirt, and ignorance on all sides, and in the hearts of the authorities only a despairing courage. The people themselves have an almost oriental fatalism, or at best the belief prevalent in England before the last cholera epidemic—that affliction is from the Lord, and human intervention is useless. They cannot be made to recognise the necessity for notifying the authorities when sickness overtakes them and so make both prevention and cure doubly difficult. Overcrowding, underfeeding, and poverty stimulate the spread of the disease, and the laws of sanitation and health are unknown.

In Poland underground cellars often house as many as twelve persons in a room, and public baths, with the exception of the Jewish Ritual Baths, are non-existent. In Czechoslovakia the housing conditions are deplorable; the people live in wooden cabins infested with vermin, in company with poultry and cattle, where cleanliness is unknown, and where there is no drainage or water supply.

The work of the authorities in Congress Poland has indeed

been heartbreaking. Again and again, after their efforts have for a time checked the spread of the disease, the infection has been re-introduced in mass from Russia. Backwards and forwards over the war-worn country have streamed the refugees, the prisoners of war, the emigrants and immigrants, actual or potential carriers of infection.

It is not possible that voluntary efforts, even those of the League of Red Cross Societies, could cope with a problem of such vast dimensions, and so it was that the League of Nations summoned a Conference on International Health in London last April to report on the measures to be taken against the further spread of the epidemic in Poland.

The Conference reported that although the Polish Health Authorities had struggled valiantly against the oncoming tide of infection, and although invaluable help had been given by voluntary bodies, yet "the demands of the case far surpass these auxiliary measures," and that nothing but the League of Nations itself was strong or authoritative enough to secure the necessary action.

The measures proposed were a chain of "quarantine stations," established along the main lines of entry into Poland, a greatly increased number of fixed and mobile hospitals, cleansing stations, greater co-ordination, and expert control.

Already, early in 1919, the League of Red Cross Societies had despatched a medical commission to report on the situation, and their report was so serious that the British Government contributed jointly with the British Red Cross on a £ to £ basis £60,000 for relief work, while the Red Cross of other countries answered the appeal to the best of their ability; even sorely stricken Serbia, with a deep consciousness of the meaning of typhus, responded with wonderful generosity.

The Mission of the Red Cross League has been at work since the beginning of the year, co-operating with the Polish authorities and co-ordinating the work of the voluntary agencies, and together, the results achieved, with the means at their disposal, have been splendid. They worked on the lines since recommended by the Conference on International Health, although lack of means and personnel has seriously limited their operations.

If the typhus epidemic were the only problem the situation might not be so desperate, but the Polish Government has had to face all the difficulties of war, of a retreating army, of refugees, of orphans and widows, of the wounded. Though every doctor and hospital is urgently needed to care for the typhus cases, yet the wounded must be the first claim on the medical profession. It is recognised that the army is acting as a first line of defence against the invasion of more than the Red Army—that it is a barrier against a further mass inroad of epidemic disease from ravaged Russia.

Whatever we think of Poland's policy with regard to Russia, however little we sympathise with her imperialistic aims, we must acknowledge that her fight, with weapons that have been pathetically inadequate, against the overwhelming odds marshalled against her by her enemy, epidemic disease, and its allies, starvation and dirt, has been a plucky one. While she guards us from the danger which is crushing her, can we stand by and see her bear the whole burden herself?

Statistics do not generally rouse people from their apathy, and we have grown accustomed to reckon the dead in thousands, so that nothing, it seems, can touch us into imaginative sympathy. Do these echoes from the reports mean nothing to us:—"In Soviet Russia 1,600,000 cases of typhus were registered during 1919. . . . In the Ukraine 80 per cent. of the population have been attacked by epidemic diseases. . . . he never saw a child under seven years of age, so great had been the infant mortality during the war. . . . two and a half million prisoners of war and refugees have crossed the Polish frontier from Russia. . . . another million are awaiting repatriation. . . . In Poland and Galicia. . . 231,206 cases of typhus were recorded in 1919."

What chance has a nation, of whose people 80 per cent. have suffered and been weakened by the ravages of disease, of building up the New World successfully? How can we replace the wastage of seven years of child life? What will the men and women of the future be like, whose childhood was passed amidst these horrors?

And this might have been our fate—the England that we love might have been, may yet be, the scene of this fierce struggle between life and death. The pity that lies dormant in the heart of each one of us must awake, and the strength of public opinion must urge our representatives on the League of Nations to take action now. The moments are speeding by, and every moment saved may mean the saving of human lives.

I. E. W.





## DRAMA.

### A PLATONIC HAREM.

#### St. James's Theatre.

**His Lady Friends.** By Emile Nytray and Frank Mandel.  
From the novel by May Edginton.

An American farce for that most English of actors, Mr. Hawtrey, gives the impression of being a hybrid. Mr. Hawtrey's individuality is so compelling that he may be said to have created a school of Hawtrey farce, in which there must be scope for his quiet, unforced humour—a humour generally of situation, say a fundamentally simple man in an awkward predicament which makes him resort to deception. Mr. Hawtrey is the stage specialist in the character of an engaging but not unworldly simpleton, and also in a different line he excels as the thoroughly expert liar. It is the former type of character that he is given in "His Lady Friends."

The story is about a good, rich man in New York, called Jimmy (Mr. Hawtrey), who, though happily married, has a wife that is unsatisfactory on account of her mania for economy, while he would prefer lavish expenditure. He, wishing to spread sunshine in the world—and his business having branches in Boston, Washington, and San Francisco—helps a poor lonely person in each of these cities with financial aid on a generous scale; it so happens that these persons are not of the same sex as himself. Although he is only kindly and quite devoid of evil motives, he finds that his philanthropy, which like all real philanthropy is secret, arouses suspicions and becomes irksome, because the recipients of his bounty, who have been in the habit of calling him "Dada" and "Uncle," now seem desirous of making a less honest man of him. To get him out of his fix he instructs his lawyer friend Edward (Mr. James Carew) to settle up the matter. As is usual in farces, Edward has a jealous wife, and his efforts to arrange Jimmy's affairs involve him in the whole burden of base suspicion. The innocence of Jimmy and the guilt of Edward seem to be so clear that Jimmy's wife takes the three ladies of Jimmy's platonic harem under her care, and gets them to stay with her in New York in order to help them to secure compensation from the wicked Edward. This situation is not comfortable for Jimmy, particularly as money supposed to be extracted from Edward will come from Jimmy. In the end Jimmy is, of course, caught out, but establishes his essential innocence; his wife turns over a new leaf and becomes a spend-thrift. It is a trifle, but wholesome.

The merit of the piece is in providing Mr. Hawtrey with an adequate part. He beams with innocence; so much so that when he says, with quiet emphasis, that he has never kissed any woman other than his wife, because "it's a sin"—we believed him. He has a genius for expressing diffidence and mental discomfort by his general demeanour; his movements are few and apparently trivial, but the expression is complete. In the second act there is one such delectable moment when he comes on to the stage to discover that his wife had unexpectedly arrived, and found the fair trio from Boston, Washington, and San Francisco in his seaside bungalow. He doesn't know how his wife will take it, nor how much she really knows; he is the complete hesitant, changing gradually into the self-assured husband as it becomes clear that his wife thinks the trio are the protégées of Edward. His malicious pleasure at Edward's stupefaction is a joyous sight.

The part of the jealous, clever, scheming wife of Edward is taken by Miss Athene Seyler. In my opinion she is one of the cleverest actresses on our stage, and, moreover, gifted with a brain which she knows how to use; I remember her entrancing Rosalind at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. A farce part she can, of course, do with supreme ease, and it is good to see her use to the utmost the few chances of showing her skill that the part affords. I long to see her in a modern play with a part

worthy of her power. Mr. James Carew as Edward is good, and is more at home in the American setting than any of the others. Miss Jessie Bateman as Jimmy's wife has one of those hard-working parts which are in every farce; her business is to supply the stupidity which keeps the story and the other characters moving; she does it well. Miss Joan Barry is suitably ingenue; she shares with Mr. Hawtrey the honour of rendering a song, which may be sufficiently criticised by the mere statement of its title, "I Want to Spread a Little Sunshine."

"His Lady Friends," like most farces nowadays, is one of those plays that are concocted rather than written. There is not quite the multiplicity of authorship as of musical comedy, but it is getting towards it; in this instance there are three acknowledged sources, two playwrights who have found their inspiration from the work of a novelist; in addition one feels that others may have had a hand in it. They work on the basic material of all farce, the suspicion of one sex of the other; they have succeeded in making it amusing and now and again witty. We have no right to expect wit in farce, but we do run the risk of sentimentality, especially in American pieces; there was one dangerous moment in the last act when the fair trio were being sweet to Jimmy's wife; I feared that the slush tap would be turned on full for us to wallow; happily it didn't last long.

The idiom of "His Lady Friends" is American and not English, except in parts, which I suspect are interpolations. They "fix things," they do not "arrange"; they say "I'm through" when they mean "I've finished"; there are other little verbal differences, some of them almost acclimatised, such as "movies." A curious thing struck me about this strange idiom, that the natural rhythm of the American colloquial sentence is different from the English, even where the wording is nearly the same; it seemed to me that, except for Mr. Carew, the players were not quite at ease with the wording; Americanisms without the American intonation come out with a queer effect. It shows that the two languages are diverging, and in a generation or so they will be foreign to each other.

I am inclined to think that "His Lady Friends" has lost rather than gained by being played with an American setting. It could easily have been transposed, and I think it would have been a better fit to the Englishness of Mr. Hawtrey. As it is the casual allusions are apt to be lost, though they add an extraneous interest and are instructive to playgoers like myself, who know America only in books and through the eyes of the cinema. For instance, I wish to congratulate the Republic on the efficiency of their long-distance (*Anglicé* trunk) telephone system; Mr. Hawtrey from New York got his number in Boston in thirty seconds and his number in Washington in forty-five seconds; they order, said I, this matter better in the U.S.A.

R. A. A.

### Carnegie Trust Supports Theatrical 'Enterprise.'

The Carnegie Trust has again come forward in the cause of the education of the people by granting £1,500 to the "Old Vic" Theatre towards the £5,000 required for the purchase of a wardrobe of its own. The theatre has been hampered by the increasing charges of stage costumiers, and the acquisition of its own wardrobe will enable it to continue an adequate production of Shakespeare and the great masterpieces of Opera in English as heretofore. No doubt those members of the public who realise how much the "Old Vic" has done towards influencing the taste of the people will be glad of an opportunity to augment the wardrobe by the gift of any fancy costumes, Court trains, any velvets or tapestries suitable for stage purposes which they may possess.

## W.A.A.C. LETTERS FROM B.E.F. (Continued)

By M. E. ROACH.

8/12/17.

I was given notice yesterday morning that six clerks would arrive at noon to-day. Accordingly I indented on Ordnance (five miles off) for beds, mattresses, pillows, towels, plates, cups, chairs, etc., as I had no equipment at all for them, only an empty hut to put them in. I rang up O. to say I wanted the things in a hurry, and that my indent was coming in by post. They advised me to see the O.C. I was coming in to town anyhow, so I saw him and fixed it all up. He was very nice, and said things should all be ready at 9 a.m. to-day. From his office I rang up Transport (which is near my camp) to ask if they could supply transport to be at Ordnance at 9, and also if they could lend me a fatigue party to save my ringing up the Labour depot. After some demur and getting O.C. Transport on the 'phone they agreed. Then I arranged with Mrs. Johnston (at the big camp) to send down her clerk to check the things as they were packed, as I could not come down myself. She was very kind about it, and said she would always do that for me.

This morning at 8.30 I telephoned my indent through to the clerk, so that she would know what she was getting. This was a lengthy operation. Then I was rung up at 9.30 by the clerk to say Ordnance would not give her goods because indent had been returned to me by post for correction! I tried for nearly an hour to get on to Ordnance, but line engaged. At 10.30 post came. My indents with a note to say "that I must specify why I wanted stores (the reason I gave was 'increase of strength by six'), and how many of each article Workers had had before, and in what condition they were now."

Controlling myself with some difficulty I seized the 'phone and got on to Ordnance at last.

"Oh, a new lot? I see! Did you want them in any special hurry? Oh, bad luck! Transport? It was sent back again. Yes, I quite understand; all right, quite all right. Just a little mistake. Captain May, whom you saw yesterday, was not on duty this morning. That's all right. You get Transport and send the indents back, and you shall have the stuff sharp at two o'clock."

I rang up Transport and fatigues. Some difficulty and a lot of "Please help me if you can." Told that fatigue parties and Transport generally get Saturday afternoons off. But finally all arranged. Special corporal told off to take down my indents and check packing.

At 12 o'clock a ring at 'phone:

"That you, Miss Roach? I'm so sorry, but clerks won't be coming after all. We think it too far for them to walk from you to Machine Gun Corps every day. So they are not to come until the hostel at — is opened." !!!!!

Miss Roach (with magnificent restraint): "All right. Thank you, ma'am."

And then rang up all three places to let them know nothing was wanted. Two of them shut for dinner. Hanging on to 'phone every five minutes to get through as soon as possible. So you see even with a tiny unit there may be occasional bursts of annoyance. I couldn't have had more bother if I had been preparing for fifty.

I strayed into the D.A.Q.M.G.'s office to ask if the court-martial was over, and found my escort of the morning had gone back before lunch. D.A.Q.M.G. said he would borrow the H.Q. car. I valiantly said I should enjoy the walk. (Six miles of steep hills in a heavy downpour!) He said the car would be all right if I sent it back immediately, which I promised to do.

I had not been in my hut twenty-five minutes when the A.C. rang up to say she must see me urgently, and could I give her supper? I quite like her and am always glad to see her, but it was unfortunate that she had to borrow the same car, and so discovered that I had only just returned it! Quite against regulations of course. But we skated over it lightly. She was not in a position to say much herself. She could only get it because the G.O.C. was dining. But if he should chance to want it unexpectedly. . . .

In the short time that had elapsed since I had seen her at the Y.W. she had seen the A.P.M. and got to the bottom of an uncomfortable rumour that was going about to the effect that two Waacs from a distance had spent the night in a café here. I had had it reported to me in the first instance by the M.P. here, and had sent information on to the A.C. We had had several interviews with M.P.'s and were anxious to get to the bottom of it because such silly rumours do get about concerning the supposed misdeeds of the poor girls.

Two of my girls asked me for a pass to go to H., as they had a day off. I gave it, and they reported back in good time saying they had had a very nice day. It appears that a transport driver told them the day before that he was going several miles on the road to H., and would give them a lift, picking them up at the corner by the café at 8.30. In the evening he had his orders changed, so he scribbled a note to another driver, "Can you meet two Waacs outside Café Bleu at 8.30 to-morrow morning, and take them to H.?" This the other man did, but he dropped the note, which was picked up by a third man and handed over to the M.P.

The two girls, who really had not done anything wrong, having only accepted a lift in a lorry that was going along their road, were much distressed when they found out what a commotion they had caused.

10/12/17.

Marching orders! This morning the A.C. rang up to say the C.C. would be here between four and half past. I felt exactly as if it were twenty-seven years ago and I was summoned to show my copy to Miss Janie! Expecting the A.C. to turn up too, I ordered tea to be got ready for three people, and brought in as soon as they arrived. I might have known that no one in the army could be punctual. I waited till 5.15, and then decided they were having tea elsewhere, so ordered mine. I was well in to my hot toast and jam when a tap came at the door, "Come i-in," I cried, thinking it was Moriando with more toast, and in blew the C.C.

She did not stop five minutes, would not have tea, just told me I was being sent in a few days to a much bigger camp some way away. She was very nice.

There are four camps in the area I am going to: Queen Mary's, Queen Alexandra's, Queen Eleanor's, and Princess Patricia's. Mine is Queen Alexandra's, and Waacs passing through the town report there for meals and beds. I shall be rather nearer things, and in the thick of air raids. The C.C. says it is being bombed almost nightly. I like that. There will be an A.A. and a V.A.D. in residence. I am glad to be going where I can talk to other women. I've liked the men here, and they have all been kind—sensibly kind—they are nearly all men of the Regulars, so it has been rather a treat, but for every day life give me women. I need hardly tell you that *now* I consider promotions in the Women's Army are done with extraordinary insight!

The Controller of the new area is a Mrs. Kenyon. She is one of the people who were doing things in France long before we were invented, Fannys I think. If she is anything like her photograph she must be very good-looking.

I would have preferred to have had something bigger in this area, as I like the way it is run. Miss Pridden is really excellent at her job. Besides, she looks the part, which really matters more than anything in a show of this kind. At first I did not think she was as good-looking as she thought herself, but her face is growing upon me.

All my girls were going to a Lena Ashwell concert at the Y.M.C.A., and I told them to bring in my supper before they started, so that no one need be kept at home. It rather filled up the table, so I thought I would eat it and get it over. This was about 6.30. I had just started when the C.C. burst into the room again!

What have I ever done that these things should happen to me?

It is barely an hour since she left me! She must either think I have been solidly stoking for the whole time, or that I have a fresh meal every hour!

(To be continued.)



CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WRONGS OF MARRIED WOMEN.

MADAM,—A handbook for information on the Public Services, published by the National Council of Social Services in 1920, has just been sent to me. I find in the chapter on the Poor Law, under the heading "Application for Relief," the following statement: "The head of the family must, if able, make the application."

Of course, this is not really the law. A married woman, if destitute or necessitous, is entitled under 43 Eliz., c. 2, to relief; and she can herself apply for it. In the case of Reg. v. Curtis (15 Cox's Criminal Cases, 746), it was laid down that if a Relieving Officer neglects his duty of giving relief in case of sudden or urgent necessity and the destitute person dies in consequence, he is guilty of manslaughter.

And on November 29th, 1906, the President of the Local Government Board, in reply to a question, said that "it was the duty of the Guardians to give medical relief to destitute married women when necessary before, at, and after confinement on their own application, just as much as to destitute single women in like circumstances."

So, in the "Underfed Children" circular it is stated that the underfed child or someone on his behalf may apply for relief. It is quite true that, very often, a married woman has very great difficulty in obtaining relief on her own application, either for herself or her children; and the statement might fairly run, "It is highly desirable that the head of the family should, if able, make the application"; or, more briefly, the word "should" should be substituted for the word "must"; and a note added explaining the right of the wife and children to apply if the "head" refuses.

A LAST GLIMPSE OF THE KITCHEN RANGE.

MADAM,—I am greatly obliged to Dr. Saleeby for his interesting reply to my article. No one can be more sympathetic than I am, in theory, with his crusade; have I not battled, day by day, with coal fires myself? Only I feel that England will not be rebuilt in a day; that the majority of English people must perforce go on living under conditions where a coal fire has positive advantages; and that, for example, the compulsory abolition of open grates and ranges—which certain enthusiasts are quite prepared to advocate—would merely entail an amount of hardship and inconvenience which might balance its general benefits.

PRACTICAL BUILDING.

MADAM,—Your housing articles are of great interest, but there is a point omitted in last week's article which is so vital to the interests of all who have to build that I venture to ask if one of your correspondents would be kind enough to advise upon it. The writer draws an idyllic picture of herself, building a pisé house, and sitting under a hedge with a carpenter, gleefully planning how to reduce expense. In other words, he angelically co-operates with her how to cut his profits for her advantage!

L. H. C.

"BUILDING HOUSES FOR OURSELVES."

MADAM,—Like "Ambitious Amateur," whose article in your recent issue I found most interesting, I am also anxious to build a house for myself. Could you or any of your readers recommend me a reliable builder willing to build a small house complete for £500 inclusive? I have chosen a site, and bricks are to be had near by. The house must be built in accordance with Government regulations so that I may have the grant. Aysgarth, S.O., Yorkshire. O. H.

THE HOUSE FLY.

MADAM,—May I confirm what your contributor, H. J. Baylis, says of the connection between flesh-meat and flies? In my childhood, when we were a flesh-eating family, in summer there was always a swarm of flies whirling under the chandelier in every sitting-room and over the bed-heads in the bedrooms. It was one's amusement to lie on one's back and watch them before getting up. Since we returned to the same house, as non-flesh-eaters, after an absence, scarcely one of these insects is to be seen. An occasional blue-bottle may stray in by mistake, but he soon strays out again if the window is opened. He doesn't want us. Banish flesh-foods, and you will also banish flies. THEODORA MILLS (former Hon. Sec. W.S.S.).

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

MADAM,—I note with surprise your correspondent, Miss Marie Harrison's letter of the 13th inst., with its reference to our Society as being comparatively useless to women sub-editors and reporters. I can only say that the Society has proved itself of considerable assistance in procuring for its members excellent positions as sub-editors and reporters on the staffs of various papers. I do not know what more can be expected of it. As regards your correspondent's reference to the desirability of trades unionism in journalism, the many appeals to me since the war from women journalists outside our Society, many of them experienced, begging me to find them any sort of position on the staff of newspapers leads me to the conclusion that editors will have no difficulty in filling vacant posts with women who are outside the ranks of any union. This may be a truly lamentable fact, but where supply appears to be greater in excess of demand, such facts must be duly faced. MARY BINSTED, Hon. Sec., The Society of Women Journalists.

REPORTS.

THE GUILD SOCIALIST WEEK AT THE FABIAN SUMMER SCHOOL.

Guild Socialist Week at the Fabian Summer School was an unqualified success. The house was crowded with enthusiastic students, the lectures were on a high level of ability and interest, and the discussion was so eager that the would-be contributors might almost be described as standing in queues for the privilege of speech. A considerable variety of outlook showed that the Guildsmen are in no danger of becoming a close sect of adherents to a creed. Mr. Cole stated the case chiefly from the intellectual side, whilst Messrs. Reckitt and Thorp gave more value to the human aspect and to the importance of Guild Socialism as a means towards the emancipation of the human spirit. Mrs. Boyd Dawson gave a most interesting description of a spontaneous experiment in Guild organisation in a small country village. It would be impossible in the allotted space to attempt even a summary of these and other discourses, but the resulting impression left on the mind of an interested and sympathetic listener was that Guild Socialism is a very live movement. Self-interest and private profit, as we have found, do not provide the leverage necessary to get the work of the country done. State administration, while more efficient in some ways (it did at least deliver the shells) is inhuman and wasteful, it tends to cast-iron methods and a certain deadening of initiative. Guild Socialism revolts against both. Guild Socialism wants State ownership combined with democratic control; it wants freedom for local initiative and experiment. It is thus in harmony with the awakening of social life which is so marked a characteristic of our time; the craving of industrial workers for a share in control, the stir of a new-born local patriotism. Even in the villages more and more the manual workers are beginning to come together, to evolve new forms of common work and common play, to use their minds as well as their hands. Women have suffered perhaps even more than men from the tyranny of the modern industrial system, for neither as workers nor as consumers have they usually a share in control or a chance to voice their needs, except, of course, to a limited extent in trade unions and co-operative societies. For women therefore especially there is a great attraction and stimulus in the Guild Socialist movement with its prospect of a wider self-expression. Asked "What would be the position of women in the Guilds?" Mr. Cole, evidently rather amused at the question being asked, replied: "It would be precisely the same as the position of men."

B. L. H.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL OF CIVICS.

For the last four years the Civic Education League has endeavoured, through its Summer School, to give wider currency to a new conception of civics. As a subject in the school curriculum, civics is far from being a new department in either England or America. But as an exposition of the art of living in communities civics is still a laggard, and those who study civics are led to believe that it confines itself to local administration, or public health, or the relation of the government to the citizen.

The meeting of the Summer School of Civics at High Wycombe, Bucks (July 31st to August 14th) did not attempt to eliminate the studies with which civics is conventionally associated, but it broadened their basis and enriched them with a new method. The courses were established with a view to appealing to three groups of students; teachers, public health and other social workers, and the less specialised body of citizens from various other occupations. The programme, specially designed for the first group, included a course on Primitive Life from the psychological viewpoint, another on the Foundation of Civics, a third on the Principles of Reconstruction. None of these courses, it is needless to say, were in watertight compartments, and even the more specialised studies, like that on Analytical Psychology, had students from all the groups.

The formal studies undertaken by the regular students were enriched and vivified in two ways. On the one hand they were related to a series of lectures on Reconstruction which took place in the evening throughout the fortnight. This series was opened by a brilliant and scholarly lecture by Mr. G. P. Gooch, the editor of The Contemporary Review, on Modern Ideas on the State and Society, and among other items it included a survey of the field of reconstruction, by Mr. Alexander Farquharson, a Study of Present-day Officialism, by the Chairman of the Civic Education League, Mr. Waldegrave, and a description of Industrial Reconstruction in the Building Trades, by Mr. Malcolm Sparkes. By this means the students were quickened into a sense of the immediacy and urgency of current social movements in fields with which many of them were unfamiliar. The presence of members of the local community, identified in one way or another with these movements, was a distinct advantage.

The second method of intellectual enrichment was the use of the local community not merely as a place to study in, but as a convenient exemplification of the various economic and social and political processes which were described in the various courses. Each of the excursions which were taken into the surrounding region—to West Wycombe, to Beaconsfield, to Marlow—were something more than the means of passing a recreative afternoon: they were so many attempts to explore and understand the regional life from the ground up: that is to say, from the chalk hills of South Bucks, with their beechwood forests, up to the furniture factories, the schools, the multiple shops, and the churches, with the attendant dwelling houses and allotment gardens. It was this part of the course, in some respects the least formal, which proved to be the most stimulating to a large number of students who have not yet learned that the social sciences can be studied by direct observation in the same fashion that botany or geology are best pursued. The regional surveys included a walk through the commercial and financial centre of High Wycombe (parallel in so many ways, albeit on a diminished scale, to great London itself), the inspection of paper mills and furniture-making factories, and the examination of various rudimentary upland villages.

The success of this experiment in regional survey, and in the use of a small industrial community, in close contact with its rural hinterland, as the centre of a summer school is well attested by a vote taken in one of the classes where the majority of the students favoured the selection of a similar town for the next meeting, and where by a unanimous vote they rejected the suggestion to choose a seaside town, such as would be especially adapted to recreation and residence: it is too early to say what the effects of the summer school will be upon the local community, but the agreement of various leading citizens on the fact that the summer school has served as helpful stimulus to improvement in High Wycombe can hardly be ignored. It may well prove that an itinerant summer school of civics, conducted on the lines that have been so successfully laid down in this High Wycombe experiment, promises rewards to the community in which it temporarily settles even greater than those which the students themselves enjoy.

THE VACATION TERM FOR BIBLICAL STUDY.

It has often been said in the past that much harm has been done by untrained workers in the Church. Those who felt this to be true in the past have made great efforts to ensure that it shall not be so in the future, and side by side with the institution of "Archbishop's Diploma in Theology" and the "Inter-Diocesan Council for Women's Work," there stands the "Vacation Term for Biblical Study" which holds a Summer School at one of our big universities every long vacation. By this means it is hoped to give students of the Bible opportunity of becoming acquainted with the results of modern Biblical Scholarship. The scheme is on a Christian basis, lecturers being invited apart from the consideration of their special religious position. The Vacation Term is now in session at Oxford, and this year the courses include lectures on "The Book of Genesis," "The Roman Empire in the First Century," "The Origins of Christianity," "The Archaeology of Genesis," "The Epistle to the Romans," "The Doctrine of Free Will in the Bible and in Christian Theology," and "The Historical Value of the Fourth Gospel." Greek and Hebrew Readings and Conversation Classes fill in the times between the lectures, and the sternest critic of women's work would be disarmed at the sight of such a desire for knowledge as characterises all in attendance.

Those attending include old and young, learned and unlearned, workers at home and abroad; but if the spirit which manifests itself here is afterwards to be spread abroad through the world, it will go a long way toward establishing the League of Nations, for which the world is crying.

The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, the Interim Report of Lord Lytton's Committee on the Employment of Ex-Service Men and Women has been unavoidably held over until next week.

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to H.M. the King.

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### NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

#### OBJECTS.

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

#### BELGIAN ORDER FOR MRS. FAWCETT.

It has been a very great pleasure to us all to hear that Mrs. Fawcett has received the Belgian Order and Medal of La Reine Elisabeth. It is our privilege to know how well it is deserved. We offer Mrs. Fawcett our warmest congratulations.

#### EQUAL PAY BY LOCAL OPTION.

We advise Secretaries of Societies not only to read the article under this heading in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of August 13th, but to send for extra copies for distribution or sale among members. This article refers to the resolution passed without division through the House of Commons on May 19th, 1920, stating "that it is expedient that women should have equal opportunity of employment with men in all branches of the Civil Service within the United Kingdom and under all local authorities, providing that the claims of the ex-Service men are first of all considered, and should also receive equal pay." The writer points out that the inclusion of the words "under all local authorities" presents "an opportunity for local effort and local achievement such as the Woman Suffrage Movement in all the fifty years or so of its long effort has never been offered," and adds: "Yet we have heard members of local Suffrage Societies complain that in the newest phase of the movement, as it has developed since February, 1918, there is not the same scope for local effort as there was in the old days of propaganda and agitation for the Parliamentary vote!"

The article goes on to show the bearing of the question of the endowment of maternity on the problem of equal pay, and also explains the necessity of clearing up our ideas as to what we really mean when we talk of equal pay and equal work.

#### WINTER PROGRAMME.

Many Societies have already formed their plans for the winter. Others are less far-sighted. We would suggest as a good basis the following, to be varied as local conditions may require:—

1. Public lectures on the reforms on our programme, and especially a public conference and discussion on the State Endowment of the Family, which, though not on the immediate programme, was recommended for study and research at our last Council meeting.

2. A less formal course of discussion classes or a study circle attended by members and those interested only on some connected group of social or economic subjects, such as Local Government, Industrial Problems, the League of Nations, etc. The programme of the Summer School is full of suggestions for these.

3. Monthly meetings of the members (not only the Executive Committees) to discuss the Monthly Letter, communications from the Parliamentary Secretary, notes and news in THE

WOMAN'S LEADER, etc. Such meetings will do much to arouse and keep up the interest of the members.

4. Some definite piece of practical work, such as a Police Court Rota; a systematic canvass of some ward or division where there is a possibility of running a municipal or Parliamentary candidate; a citizenship competition; a "Save the Children" working party.

5. A money-raising effort for Headquarters funds, such as a play, concert, social, recitations, jumble sale, sale of vanities, etc.

We propose in subsequent numbers to print a few programmes planned or already carried out by our affiliated Societies, and shall be glad to receive copies of such programmes from secretaries as soon as possible.

#### NEW LEAFLETS.

The two new leaflets on "Equal Pay for Equal Work" and "National Family Endowment" are now ready. They form an excellent basis for the discussion of both subjects, and ought to prove an extremely useful addition to our literature department. We shall be glad to hear from Societies how many copies they would like; price 2d. each.

#### SUMMER SCHOOL.

By the time this week's WOMAN'S LEADER is in the hands of our readers the Summer School will have begun. We must hope that snow in August will augur sunshine in September, for the Summer School will not be "all work and no play!" By the kindness of the Proportional Representation Society the members of the School have been invited to tea at Ruskin College before the discussion on Proportional Representation, which is to take place at 5 p.m. Thursday, September 2nd. Miss Deneke is also very kindly arranging a reception for us during the second week, and the inaugural gathering, arranged by Mrs. Stocks and Miss Deneke, will not be the least of our frivolities.

#### BOOKS FOR SALE.

The following books are for sale, secondhand. Prices may be had on application to Headquarters:—

- Vae Victis (Annie Chartres).
- Where Are You Going To (E. Robins).
- The Magnetic North (E. Robins).
- The Upholstered Cage (J. Knowles).
- Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen).
- A Double Threat (Ellen Fowler).
- The Andersons (Macnaughtan).
- Suffragette Sally (G. Calmore).
- The Return of the Soldier (Rebecca West).
- Three Plays (Mrs. Clifford).
- Sir Isumbras at the Ford (D. K. Broster).
- I Pose (Stella Benson).
- Sylvia Saxon (Ellen Cobden).
- The Devourers (A. Chartres).
- In a Desert Land (Valentina Hawtrey).
- My Change of Mind (A. L. Atkey).
- Out of the Wreck I Rise (B. Harraden).
- The Mummy Moves (Mary Gann).
- Way Stations (Elizabeth Robins).
- The Solitary Summer (Author of "Elizabeth and her German Garden").
- Tante (Anne Sidgwick).
- Autumn (Muriel Hine).
- Ma'Am (M. Ryley).
- The History of David Grieve (3) (Mrs. Humphry Ward).
- Just to Get Married (Cicely Hamilton).
- Robert Elsmere (Mrs. Humphry Ward).
- The Dream and the Business (John Oliver Hobbes).
- The Prisoner (2).
- The Marne: A Tale of War (Edith Wharton).
- Marriage de Chifon.
- Honey Comb (Dorothy Richardson).
- Summer (Edith Wharton).
- Senator North (Gertrude Atherton).
- Emotional Moments (Sarah Grand).
- Virginia (Ellen Glasgow).
- Non Combatants (Rose Macaulay).
- Maime of the Corner (M. E. Francis).
- Scholars Mate (Violet Magee).
- The Iron Gates (Annie Holdsworth).
- Whispers (G. Calmore).

### COMING EVENTS.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

**AUGUST 24.**  
 At the Welsh Baptist Union, Carmarthen.  
 Speaker: H. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P.  
**AUGUST 26.**  
 At Great and Little Horkeley, Colchester.  
 Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.  
**AUGUST 29.**  
 At "The Close," Staines.  
 Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E.  
**AUGUST 28.**  
 Open-air Meeting at Littlemoore, Rawdon.  
 Speaker: Captain J. O'Grady, M.P.  
**AUGUST 29.**  
 In the Church, Shildon, Durham.  
 Preacher: Canon Bickersteth Ottery.  
**AUGUST 31.**  
 At St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth.  
 Women's Meeting.  
 Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E.  
**SEPTEMBER 1.**  
 At Chester.  
 Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.  
**SEPTEMBER 1.**  
 At the Association for Reform of Latin Teaching, Chester.  
 Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.  
**SEPTEMBER 2.**  
 At Ruskin College, Oxford.  
 Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E.

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

**SEPTEMBER 1.**  
 At the Rotherfield Women's Institute.  
 Subject: "The Public House of the Future."  
 Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E. 3 p.m.

#### WAKEFIELD WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION (N.U.S.E.C.).

**SEPTEMBER 1.**  
 Annual Meeting and Garden Party At Yule Croft, Sandal.  
 Hostess: Mrs. E. Lodge Hirst.  
 Speaker: Lady Lawson Tancred.  
 The meeting will be held wet or fine. 3.30 p.m.

#### NURSES' LAWN TENNIS CUP COMPETITION.

**SEPTEMBER 3.**  
 At St. Marylebone Infirmary, St. Charles Square, Ladbrooke Grove, W.  
 The final tie will be played between the teams of King's College Hospital and the London Hospital.  
 The Silver Challenge Cup will be presented to the Winning Team by the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., M.V.O.  
 For invitation card apply to the Editor, "The Nursing Times," c/o Messrs. Macmillan & Co., St. Martin's-street, W.C.2.

#### THE Y.W.C.A. WORKING WOMEN'S COLLEGE.

**SEPTEMBER 30.**  
 At "The Holt," Rectory Road, Beckenham.  
 The Council and Students of the College At Home.  
 "A Pageant of Women's Work," written and acted by the Students, will be performed in the garden.  
 Tea: 4.15 p.m.  
 Pageant: 5 p.m.  
 For invitation card apply (before September 25th) to Miss Walters, Y.W.C.A., 28, George-street, Hanover-square, W.1.

### THE Domestic Servant Problem

There are readers who for years past have obtained domestic help through our small advertisement columns. Why? Because we can supply them with the kind of service which is so difficult to find at an ordinary Registry Office. See page 672.

### THE "WOMAN'S LEADER"

AND "THE COMMON CAUSE."

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All communications should be addressed to The Manager, "The Common Cause" Publishing Co., Ltd., 62, Oxford Street, W.1, who will be glad to hear from readers who experience any difficulty in obtaining copies.

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DEAN FOREST, Severn-Wye Valleys. A Beautiful Holiday Home (600 ft. up) Fifty Rooms. Five acres, pretty grounds Tennis, Croquet, Bowls, Billiards, Motor excursions. Garage. Golf within 3 mile. Board residence, 46s. to 60s. Photos, prospectus.—Hallam, Littledean House, Littledean, Glos.

HILLSIDE Holiday Guest House; charmingly situated on the Cotswold Hills, 600 ft. above sea level; sheltered from cold winds; G.W.R. Motor "Bus Service."—Apply prospectus, Managers, Hillside, Fitchcombe, near Stroud, Glos.

S. WESTOFT, "Dagmar." Minute Sea. Excellent Cuisine. Vacancies Now and from August 14th.—Mrs. Fairchild.

LOW GREEN HOUSE, THORALBY, AYSGARTH, S. O. YORKS. Paying guests received. Inquiries, enclosing stamped envelope, from Miss Smith.

VEGETARIAN GUESTS Received. Weekly, Week-ends. Seventeenth century Farmhouse. Orchard country, simple life, comfort. Generous table. Diet cares carried out. Unfired food a speciality. Moderate.—"Veritas," Bogle, Lynsted, Kent. Station, Teynham.

CUMBERLAND.—Boarders received in country cottage; garden; beautiful country. Terms moderate.—Henderson, Headsnook, Carlisle.

#### TO LET AND WANTED.

BED-SITTING-ROOM, Primrose Hill. Use piano and sitting-room, plate, linen, electric light, geyser bath. Very comfortable service house. 25s.—Box 4,373, WOMAN'S LEADER, 170, Fleet-street, E.C.4.

#### SITUATIONS VACANT AND WANTED.

WANTED, educated girls, to help with work of a Convalescent Home. State salary required.—Matron, Children's Convalescent Home, Hawkshead-street, Southport.

REFINED GIRL seeks post as help where maid or daily help kept for rough work. 21 weekly. Age 33. In or near London. Plain cooking. Free end September.—Box 4,374, WOMAN'S LEADER, 170, Fleet-street, E.C.4.

X-W.R.A.F. OFFICIAL seeks post. Head Hostel or similar. Highest qualifications.—Yofks. Women's Service Bureau, 18, Park-row, Leeds.

A GENERAL SERVANT to one lady. Unmarried mother, of respectable family, with very carefully trained baby (nine months). Very strong, hard working, and anxious to do well. Age 24. Wages £20. Would do best with good organiser, who works herself. Neighbourhood of Rye, Sussex, preferred.—All particulars from H. Sandrock Hill, Playden, Rye.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

GENEVA BELMONT HOME SCHOOL. All branches education, special languages, Gymnastics. Beautiful situation 1,200 feet above sea level. Garden. Escort September. Prospectus from Madame Mercier-Debonnville or Robertson, Morningside, Kilmarnock.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—Fellowship Services are suspended till September 5th, 1920, when Miss Roydon resumes, and Dr. Dearmer's "Five Quarters" commences September 19th.

#### LONDON (ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.

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FULL Courses of Study for Medical Degrees and Diplomas are arranged for women students.

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#### TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

WANTED AT ONCE.—Intelligent helpful girl as housemaid, 3 in household, 2 in family. Man for boots, knives, and coals. Modern house near town; pleasant village club; church; chapel; post office.—Mrs. MacLehose, Little Heath House, Berkhamsted.

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Direct from the Makers. Special light weights for Ladies' wear—all shades Patterns and Prices on Application. S. A. NEWALL & SONS, Stornoway Scotland. State shade desired and whether for Gents' or Ladies' wear

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GARDENING, Etc.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN at Heden College (formerly Udimore). Practical, comprehensive training. Individual consideration. Gardening year begins mid-September; work will include remaking rose garden, greenhouse erection, &c.—Peake-Ridley, Kingstone, near Canterbury.

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The Misses NEAL & TUCKER undertake every description of Typewriting and Secretarial work, reporting meetings, &c. First-class training for ladies as secretaries.—Walter House, 52, Bedford-street, Strand (Gerrard 1472).

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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