

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE WOMAN'S LEADER AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Municipal Elections.

As we go to press the condition of the parties in the Municipal Elections has come in. Labour shows notable gains in many parts of the country, and according to figures at the time of writing, has a net gain of 93 seats, chiefly in the industrial midlands and the northern counties. These have been gained chiefly at the expense of the Conservatives, who have lost 63 seats, whereas the Liberals have lost 21, and the already too small band of Independents have lost 9. We know little as yet of the fate of the 200 women candidates. We should, however, like to take this opportunity of congratulating Mrs. E. D. Simon (Liberal), a keen feminist and active city councillor, who has more than quadrupled her majority. We deplore the defeat of Mrs. Agnew (Ind.) of Bolton and of Miss Carver (Ind.) of Wimbledon, who only lost by 12 votes.

Conference on Maternal Mortality.

This conference of women's organizations which met in the Central Hall on Thursday, 27th October, summoned by a small self-appointed committee, was crowded with a keen and enthusiastic audience attracted by the tremendous importance of the subject. Sir George Newman's speech, referred to in our leading article, covered the whole ground in a masterly fashion. Certain of the other speeches, however, seemed to dwell too much on poverty as a leading cause of maternal mortality. There are obviously overwhelming reasons for improved housing conditions, for the removal of unemployment, and for payment of higher wages on their own merits, but it seems doubtful whether even if achieved this would have much effect on the maternal death-rate. The study of Dame Janet Campbell's classic Report on Maternal Mortality, and of the distribution of maternal deaths, referred to in these columns a few weeks ago, indicates not so much that the conditions in the home require amelioration, as that adequate advice to the mother during pregnancy and an improvement in the medical assistance at childbirth itself are paramount necessities. When we consider that in West Ham—a poverty-stricken area with flagrant overcrowding—the maternal death-rate in 1926 was only 1.9, whereas in a well-to-do non-industrial town like Eastbourne it was 8.2, some indication may be found of the true cause for this discrepancy. Is it not in the classes of the community just removed from poverty and

bad conditions, but unable to pay for the very best medical attendance, that the highest maternal death-rate ensues—deaths due as a rule to the large number of instrumental deliveries, and their all too frequent tragic consequences. In a really poor district where bad cases are frequently removed to maternity homes, while normal births are attended by midwives in their own homes, there is a greater opportunity for cases being wisely handled. We are glad to learn that large numbers of the medical profession are keenly aware of this, and anxious to do all in their power to improve the study of the best methods among medical students. We trust that the committee which called this conference will remain in being, and will become more widely representative. We hope, however, that it will try to direct pressure of public opinion where it is most urgently needed, and not dissipate its energies in tilting against evils bad in themselves, but not closely related to this problem.

Women and the Mayoralty.

Women Mayors will be elected in the following towns, including a woman Lord Mayor (Miss Margaret Beavan) at Liverpool; Bury St. Edmunds, Mrs. Greene; Chesterfield, Miss Violet Markham; Deptford, Mrs. Drapper, J.P.; Litchfield, Mrs. Stuart Shaw; Merthyr Tydfil, Mrs. Edmunds, J.P.; and Wrexham, Mrs. Edward Jones.

Breach of Promise.

Comments were made in a recent breach of promise case by Mr. Justice McCardie, who pointed out that few breach of promises cases are brought by men against women, though many are brought by women against men, and said "that seemed to be an assertion of the difference, if not the inferiority, of a woman to a man, because she comes forward as a member of the weaker sex and claims damages which few men would claim. . . . The rule of the law was drawn up when a woman was an economic slave, and now exists when woman asserts herself to be an economic equal." At first sight perhaps the inequality against men may appear to be considerable, and it is interesting to note that the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship recently made inquiries with a view to promoting legislation to repeal the present Breach of Promise Act which seemed to differentiate in favour of women. The Union realized, however, that the law in this respect is completely equal between men and women, and we have to look for the reason of the fact which the Judge points out, that it is usually women who bring cases against men, in the equally definite fact that though woman may now claim to be an economic equal, she has by no means achieved this desirable position. As long as women either desire to give up their work in view of a proposed marriage, or are forced to do so, the failure of that marriage to take place affects her economically far more than it does in the case of men, whose careers are not affected, and is sufficient to account in itself for the discrepancy.

Family Allowances for the Clergy.

We are very much interested to see that the proposals for setting up a definite minimum standard of remuneration for the clergy of the diocese of Southwark include a scale of family allowances. It is clear that faced by the terrible inadequacy of the existing stipends and the reluctance of the parishes to improve them, the promoters of this scheme have fallen back on the principle of family endowment as the way in which the

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greatest amount of good can be done with a limited amount of money. The Bishop of Woolwich will move that the South London Church fund should make no grant to parishes which pay less than £200 to a deacon, and, in the case of married priests who have been ordained for three years, £30 for a wife and £15 for each child under 16 years of age. These figures speak for themselves—if London will not provide such sums for its clergy it does not deserve to have any clergy, and only those who are willing to accept such a state of affairs can feel their consciences clear. It is, as a matter of fact, one of the great troubles of human life that no certain means has yet been discovered of making people ashamed to batten complacently upon the ardour and devotion of their betters. . . . To return to the principle, our readers will remember that the United Free Church of Scotland pays allowances to the children of its foreign missionaries, and that since the days of John Wesley the Wesleyan Methodists have done so in substance.

The Treatment of Young Offenders.

The Howard League for Penal Reform did a useful piece of work last week in bringing together representatives from the Home Office and from many organizations dealing with the welfare of young people to confer on the proposals of the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders. The conference endorsed the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the inclusion of younger magistrates of both sexes specially qualified to deal with young people on benches of every juvenile court, and the proposals to establish hostels for probationers and observation centres for the mental examination of young offenders. Some difference of opinion showed itself on the methods of Borstal Institutions and in confirming the views of the Departmental Committee against imprisonment for lads and girls under 21, the conference urged that a greater elasticity of treatment should be available. No one with the hearing ear and understanding heart could come away from this useful conference without the conviction that magistrates, probation officers, and all who handle children and adolescents showing even in a slight degree symptoms of abnormality or instability should equip themselves by special training on modern lines for their difficult task.

Marriage of Mental Defectives.

The Mental Hospitals Committee of the London County Council asks the Government to make illegal the marriage of a person who is for the time being the subject of an order for detention as a mental deficient. This is an extremely difficult question. Though work has been done on the subject to make most of us feel certain that mental defectives had better not have children, whether preventing them from marrying would achieve this object is another matter. It would bastardize their children, and make it necessary to take precautions in respect of any property they may hold which would not normally be taken by mental defectives. In fact, the measure is not one which is likely to recommend itself unless it can be shown that its effect on the birth-rate would be definite. We think, therefore, that the body which puts it forward would be well advised to publish their reasons, so that we may know whether they have considered in detail the consequences of their proposals. Or are they merely expressing the feeling, in which we share, that the spread of mental deficiency is appalling and that something must be done?

Dogma.

We publish this week a letter from Miss Maude Royden making certain criticisms of our note last week on this subject. We thank her for it, as, while criticizing our words, she makes a point which is of the first importance. It is that the "religious" should not be encouraged in an indifference to think, which, she says, is their besetting sin. It is difficult for the ordinary lay reader to compel himself or herself to read many columns in the daily Press on matters which involve some acquaintances with metaphysics. But they ought to, as Miss Royden says, for the mental gymnastics by which some keep their religion in a small compartment, sealed from the breezy free play of modern thought, is to be deplored. Faith *should* not be, as it has been suggested it is, "That faculty by which we believe those things which we know can't possibly be true."

"Dick Sheppard" and Bishop Barnes.

There is a great stirring of opinion at the present time within the Church of England, and it is significant of the interest religion arouses to-day that the daily Press should be full of the matter. As we have suggested, the controversy associated with the name of Dr. Barnes raises certain points not quite easy of apprehension by untrained intelligences. On the other hand

Mr. Sheppard's book, *The Impatience of a Parson*, has that directness and simplicity of thought and expression which is characteristic of him; for he is a popular man in the best sense of the word. Whether our readers agree or disagree with him, they cannot fail to understand what he is aiming at. We are not now concerned to discuss his contentions or those of Bishop Barnes in detail. But one thing is clear. A special responsibility rests now upon those, be they men or women, who believe that in spiritual things as in political, there should be equal opportunities of service for both sexes. They must see to it that this principle receives due recognition in this or any movement for ecclesiastical reform, for it is a fundamental, not one of those things which can be left aside for the sake of peace and progress. Miss Royden dealt with this matter at the Guildhouse on Sunday, 30th October, and her sermon is to be published in pamphlet form.

The Draughty Workhouse.

While our readers sit comfortably reading this paragraph, in a workhouse infirmary revolt is seething, because a woman doctor insists upon keeping all the windows open. These windows are on both sides of the ward, and the inmates of the beds, speaking through the lively mouths of relatives, describe themselves as sneezing, shivering, and blown from among their blankets. . . . The doctor, on the other hand, who has obtained from the Ministry of Health a confirmation of her position as sole authority in the matter of windows, considers that these complaints are exaggerated, and points out that all the best hospitals insist on the efficacy of freely-moving air. We sympathize with the doctor, who is adhering to the great truths of science in a stuffy and slovenly world. Fresh air is good for people, and the evil effects, as opposed to the terrors of draughts, are much exaggerated. But we sympathize with the inmates too. This doctor, in her rage for healing them, is making them dreadfully uncomfortable. To the inmate of a workhouse warmth, well-guarded and enclosed—the assurance of being out of the wind—is in itself desirable and beautiful. In their beds, which many of them will never leave, it is almost the last gratification left them. Their lives have been hard, their notions of hygiene hazy, and they are in the state of mind which the rest of us most nearly approach when we have come in from a long day's tramping or shooting or sailing in the rain. In fact, though only the greatest doctors must be allowed to think so, there are other things in life besides the close credit and debit account of bodily health, and one of these is surely that tired old people may be allowed to die peacefully in the way that makes them happy.

The Open Mind in Gloucestershire.

The Gloucestershire Standing Joint Committee agreed on 18th October to the employment of four extra women police in the county. The Chief Constable explained that while the superintendents of the county were not altogether favourable to the employment of women police, they nevertheless understood the desires of the committee and were determined to do their best to make the new appointments a success. It was proposed that one of the four women should be attached to headquarters under the chief superintendent at Cheltenham, to work with the Tewkesbury police division and to be available as required for the Cirencester and Campden divisions. A second should be employed at Stroud to be available for the Bursley division, a third at Staple Hill and available for Chipping Sodbury, and a fourth at Lydney for the Forest of Dean division.

A Woman on the Glasgow University Court.

The women graduates of Glasgow are making a sporting effort to instal one of their number as an assessor on the University Court. Miss Helen Rutherford, Warden of the women students in Jordanhill Training College, was nominated at the half-yearly meeting of the General Council in a speech by Mrs. Suttie, who pointed out her claim to close and practical contact with the life of the University and students, as honours graduate, the first woman to take first class honours in classics, as secretary to Professor Gilbert Murray, as teacher and finally as warden of women students. Miss Rutherford received 184 votes and her opponents 168 and 85 respectively. A postal vote was, however, demanded, and in consequence the decision will be delayed for three weeks. No woman has so far ever served on the Court of a Scottish University, though as Miss Rutherford's proposer stated, one-third of the present students and an equal proportion of the graduates are women. We know nothing of the merits of the other candidates, but to an onlooker the inclusion of a woman with Miss Rutherford's qualifications seems reasonable and right, and we hope the postal vote will confirm the original results.

THE AUTUMN SESSION.

The Autumn Session opens on Tuesday, 8th November, and will be a short one as if Parliament is to rise by 22nd December, there will be only twenty-nine parliamentary days. The Government has, of course, taken all the time. Three major Bills will be dealt with, of which two, the *Landlord and Tenants Bill* and the *Films Bill*, which still have to come up for their report stages, do not especially concern the readers of this paper. In quite another position is the Government's *Unemployment Insurance Bill*, which will probably be coming up for its second reading the day after the opening of Parliament. We have already discussed this Bill, soon after its date of publication. It will be remembered that, though based on the Blanesburgh Committee's Report, the Bill has departed from the Committee's recommendations in several important particulars. The Bill provides for a considerable reduction in the rates of benefit for a newly created class of young men and women between 18 and 21, whose benefits are thereby reduced to 10s. and 8s. respectively; it also provides for a reduction in the rates for boys and girls between 16 and 18 to 6s. and 5s. respectively. The Report had coupled the recommendation of this reduction with a recommendation in favour of industrial training for young persons, which type of training always includes a daily hot meal. Without such a provision, Miss Bondfield for one would certainly not have signed the report, and we sincerely hope that if the first part of the recommendation is accepted in the House, the second part will be adopted as well. The proposed reduction in benefit from 18s. to 17s. in the case of single men is, we feel, more than set off by the increase in the allowance for an adult dependant, usually

SPADE WORK, SOWING, AND REAPING.

We are accustomed to think of working women as a peculiarly inarticulate, and therefore a peculiarly neglected section of the community. They are, for the most part, engaged in home duties of so continuous and burdensome a nature as to leave neither time, energy, nor opportunity for the expression of their point of view. Nor is the intense individualism of home life and the intermittent sequence of home duties a favourable ground for the germination of a point of view. Meanwhile the continued reiteration of male points of view, distilled from the wholly different environment of specialized competitive economic life has dominated—and still dominates—the national consciousness. So completely indeed, as to delude many devout feminists into the tacit and uncritical acceptance of male standards, based upon male experiences, embodying male aspirations.

Into this exclusive stream came, in the later decades of the nineteenth century, the headwaters of a new flow of opinion, in the form of the Women's Co-operative Guild. It is an organization whose name is by now a household word, even among those sections of the metropolitan middle classes whose members are wholly unacquainted with the scope and functions, indeed the very existence of the Consumers' Co-operative Movement, from within whose ranks the Women's Co-operative Guild arose. It is for instance generally known that the Women's Co-operative Guild is recruited almost though not quite, exclusively from the higher grades of the wage-earning class, that its members are for the most part married women, and that its organization is democratic and of spontaneous growth. That is to say, it is not the creation of persons from a higher rank in the economic scale who have chosen to devote their advantages of leisure and education to the service and leadership of their less fortunate colleagues—and yet from time to time persons of this type have put themselves at the service of the Guild and have greatly assisted its activities. Its former General Secretary, Miss Margaret Llewelyn Davies, may be cited as an example of such co-operation. Thus it follows, and is now generally recognized, that the Women's Co-operative Guild is the most representative organization of married working women which exists at the present time, that any Government, Commission, or Committee which desires to elicit the views or command the experience of this particular class is well advised to consult the Women's Co-operative Guild, and that its actual membership of from 50 to 60 thousand women organized in local branches up and down the country is a small measure of the influence which it exercises in the sphere of politics and administration.

How an organization of this kind (a movement within a movement) came to arise, by what successive stages it attained power and influence inside the Consumers' Co-operative Movement as well as outside it, by what peculiar alchemy it generated that

a wife, from 5s. to 7s. We ourselves regret that when the whole system of unemployment insurance was being overhauled, it was not found possible to adopt the system which is successfully administered in many European countries, that of causing contributions and benefits to vary with earnings, instead of, as in this country, only with sex. We hope that the principle that contributions and benefits should depend on the rate of earnings and not on the sex of the worker will be warmly supported by all those who, like ourselves, wage war on sex discrimination.

Although the Bill is sure to have a stormy time it is not likely that tactics of a completely obstructionist nature will be used, as it is necessary, if unemployment insurance is to continue at all, for the Bill to be passed into law before the end of the year.

Apart from these Bills and the usual *Expiring Laws (Continuance) Bill*, which will deal *inter alia* with the continuance of the two shift system for women, other important matters likely to come before the House of Commons are a debate, which will, surely, be demanded by the Opposition, on the breakdown of the Naval Disarmament Conference at Geneva, the discussion on the Prayer Book Measure, which will await the Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee, and a supplementary estimate for the Shanghai Defence Force. Several important minor Bills will, it is hoped, conclude their stages. These include the *Mental Deficiency Bill*, so greatly overdue, and the *Nursing Homes (Registration) Bill*, a valuable measure in itself, though marred by the provision that nursing homes should be inspected by minor Local Authorities, instead of as at first provided in the Bill, by County and County Borough Councils. E. M. H.

blend of hard-headed sanity and social idealism which characterize it to-day, is told by Miss Catherine Webb in her recent book *The Woman with the Basket, a history of the Women's Co-operative Guild, 1883-1927* (Co-operative Wholesale Society, 1927). It is a story, told with singular lack of literary grace and coherent arrangement, hardly more than a string of facts, quotations, and resolutions flung at the reader in a series of isolated paragraphs by a well-informed narrator. Nevertheless, the bare narration of them is impressive, and it may be that in choosing this form of presentation Miss Catherine Webb has very subtly conveyed to the reader a sense of the apparent matter-of-factness which one associates with the deliberations and activities of the Women's Co-operative Guild.

Here, for instance, are its original objects as quoted in the *Co-operative News* of June, 1883:—

1. To spread a knowledge of the advantages of Co-operation.
2. To stimulate amongst those who know its advantages a greater interest in the principles of Co-operation.
3. To keep alive in ourselves, our neighbours, and especially in the rising generation, a more earnest appreciation of the value of Co-operation to ourselves, to our children, and to the nation.
4. To improve the conditions of women all over the country.

Now on the face of it, except to the convinced apostle of Consumer's Co-operation as an economic and social creed, here is a singularly uninspiring programme for a newly-fledged women's organization. Like the movement within which it arose, the common bond of its members is an economic fact, the fact of shopping day by day at a Co-operative store, fortified by an economic belief that groceries are best obtained and savings best accumulated in this way. It is indeed a programme which excludes nobody, which stipulates for no advanced protestation of social or feminist faith, and we can imagine the critical scorn which would to-day be evoked in the ranks of our strictest equalitarian feminists by the proposal "to improve the conditions of women all over the country." But organizations stand, or rise, or fall, less by their programmes than by their personnel. And as the facts of Miss Webb's story display themselves we see displaying itself at the same time the emergence of a sturdy feminist faith on the part of the Women's Co-operative Guild. The contemporary Women's Suffrage Societies, overwhelmingly middle-class, selectively recruited from the adherents of feminist principles, were demanding as it were by a process of *deductive* reasoning, certain concrete reforms. The Women's Co-operative Guild, overwhelmingly working class, indiscriminately recruited from the participators in certain

everyday experiences, found themselves demanding, as it were by a process of *inductive* reasoning, certain concrete reforms.

And with one exception—that concerning protective legislation for women workers—the reforms were identical; votes for women on the same terms as men; equal divorce laws; widows pensions; provision for women under the National Health Insurance; family endowment; freedom to obtain information on birth control; women on juries; women lawyers. It is not really possible, of course, to separate completely the two processes by which such demands were formulated. Feminist principles permeated the Women's Co-operative Guild. Recorded experience stimulated and reinforced feminist principles. Nevertheless, the processes were different, there was curiously little conscious co-operation between these two wings of the women's movement, and yet—identical demands were formulated. Experience confirmed theory. Theory justified experience.

It is, of course, impossible to recapitulate in a single article, the particular achievements of the Women's Co-operative Guild in the course of its forty-four years' of expanding life. Yet one incident stands out as so vividly illustrative of its power and vision that we venture to record it. At the Guild Congress in 1912, the recommendations of the Majority Report of the Royal Commission on Divorce were endorsed by a substantial majority. It is significant that the matter had been widely discussed in the branches, and evidence offered to the Commission on behalf of the Guild. As a result, in 1913, the Manchester and Salford Catholic Federation approached the Co-operative Union, complaining of the attitude of the Women's Co-operative Guild, and pointing out that the Co-operative Union was by way of making considerable grants to the Guild. As a result of this action, the Central Co-operative Guild yielded to threats of disruption and refused to renew its annual grant of £400 unless the Guild would undertake to abandon its support of divorce law reform. This the Guild regarded as a threat to its independence. It stoutly refused to modify its opinions or curtail its activities, and proceeded to collect a special fund of its own to replace the lost grant. It considered, incidentally, that such outside dictation would be particularly pernicious as being "exercised by men over women." Four years running the Union offered its grant coupled with the abhorred condition. Four years running it was refused. In 1918 it was offered unconditionally. The Guild by that time paid £1,600 for its independence. A trivial sum.

M. D. S.

THE DANGER IN THE BALKANS.¹

It is well not to exaggerate the danger of incidents occurring in the Balkans, for that only increases the nervousness and fear which so often causes provocation and revenge. But one cannot exaggerate the importance of finding the right way to remove the causes of these incidents. The Macedonian revolutionary movement arises from wrongs done to the Macedonians in the past, and has been fomented into fresh activity by the reports of cruelty and injustice done recently to Macedonians in Yugoslavia.

The extremists demand an autonomous Macedonia or failing that an alteration of frontier between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Either demand could at present only be obtained at the price of war, and neither would remove minority difficulties.

The more reasonable Macedonians say that they only demand the observance of the Minority Treaties and we turn to ask why the League of Nations is not seeing to this. We find that the Macedonians have not succeeded in setting forth their grievances in the form required by the Council. There are certainly difficulties in the way of doing so under Balkan conditions. If only Professor Murray's proposal at the League Assembly of 1922 for a League Commission to be sent to the Balkans empowered to inquire into complaints on the spot had been accepted by Yugoslavia and Greece, we may be sure that much more rapid improvement would have taken place in the relations between the races. Some improvement there has been, and there is reason to hope it will continue, but until it is much more marked there is great risk that some "incident" will upset the process.

The present Balkan situation is certainly one of the factors that hinders progress in the work of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria have shown signs of desiring better relations, and there is a suspicion that Italy fears this and

(Continued at foot of next column.)

¹ Contributed by the Woman's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

A meeting to consider the subject of Maternal Mortality was held on 27th October at the Central Hall, Lady Barrett presiding. Sir George Newman, the principal speaker, said that an average of 750,000 women bear children each year, out of these 3,000 die and many more are seriously injured for life. The remedies he proposed were that there should be a wider knowledge of, and a greater readiness to practise, ante-natal hygiene. The existing 700 or 800 ante-natal centres are not sufficient. Women should consult a doctor in the earliest stages of pregnancy. Secondly, more maternity homes are needed, for often home conditions are such that it would be far better for the women to go to a nursing home. Since 1919 when the Ministry of Health was organized, there have been established 150 such homes with 2,300 beds. The third need stressed by Sir Robert is more skilled help at childbirth, and a better training for medical students in the subject of maternity, it being, he alleged, an obstacle in the way that some 63,000 certified midwives are on the roll of whom not more than one-quarter actually practise.

This subject of maternity risks is not popular for many obvious reasons, as well as for some less obvious. But *The Times* did it the honour of a Leader in its issue of 29th October in which it reproduced most of Sir George Newman's statements and added some of its own.

The Times' observation is that "this subject is too apt to be looked upon by medical students as a disagreeable necessity of their training, and it is only later, when these students begin to practise that they realize its vital importance" (Yet Sophia Jex Blake was stoned in Edinburgh because she wanted to qualify as a physician!) Another *Times'* observation is that "There is need also of the education of women in the first principles of hygiene". We know what *The Times* means by this, but the phraseology angers us. What chance has the ordinary poor expectant mother of practising the first principles of hygiene? Let certain city and town councils ask themselves this question.

(Continued from previous column.)

might make use of the inflammatory material in Macedonia to prevent it. Although the countries which are specially bound by Minority Treaties resent the suggestion of a League Commission to enforce these treaties, might they not agree to a study being made by the Preparatory Disarmament Commission of how relations between states and their minorities could be improved in the interests, and for the security, of both?

Meanwhile there are two ways open to us by which we can help forward better relations between the Balkan States, and both can be pursued together.

One is to support the relief measures for the Macedonian peasants who were driven out of their homes in the country now under Greek rule and fled into Bulgaria—the so-called "voluntary" exchange of populations. It is on these men's love of their native land that the revolutionary leaders rely to raise an army, but as they settle down and become self-supporting they show themselves to be peaceful enough and ready to accept their new home and take their share in the Bulgarian State. They are having a very hard time, but the relief measures of the League of Nations and of private organizations are not only tiding them over it, but are bringing them some of the better influences of Western Europe.

The other way is to help the formation of groups of people in each Balkan State who are ready to work for better relations, and to co-operate with each other. All international organizations could help in this. The movement for women's suffrage is growing and provides a great opportunity. The Women's International League has an active branch in Bulgaria, and is trying to get branches formed in the other countries. We, who have learned the essential connection between our demand for the vote and our use of it to establish moral power in place of physical force, should surely help our sisters in the Balkans to throw their influence at once on the side of reconciliation and peace.

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REVIEWS.

TRACKS IN THE SNOW.¹

Everybody has a different taste in detective stories. *Tracks in the Snow* realizes my ideal of what such a tale should be, and gives me perfect satisfaction. I cannot tell whether others will feel the same. It is not safe to press one's own brand of mystery upon someone else, who may prefer a different pattern. I will therefore merely enumerate the points in which it appeals to me and leave readers to judge.

In the first place it begins well: there is a murder in the first sentence. No introductory matter, no circumlocution but—"On the morning of the 29th of January, 1896, Eustace Peters was found murdered in his bed at his house, Grenville Combe, in the parish of Long Wilton, of which I was then rector."

In the second place there is plenty of human interest. Though Eustace Peters dies so quickly we get to know exactly what kind of a man he was. We know it by means of his friend, the Rector, who tells the story and who was the one to trace the crime. The Rector is a delightful character, not clever, about as unlike the brilliant detective of current fiction as anybody could well be, but delightfully human. His lack of acuteness, his negligence in noting essential points and making deductions from them, his alternate suspicion and charity in his dealings with possible criminals are all an advantage to the reader. For—and here I come to my third point—this is one of the few detective stories I have read in which it is possible to feel that one is really on a level with the investigator, that one truly knows all he does, and that one can follow the development of the mystery and its explanation from point to point as if one had been by his side. It is true that one gets impatient with the Rector at times; but that only adds to one's sense of superiority and so to one's pleasure. One knows that however slow and forgetful he is, everything is bound to be discovered in the end, and that whatever his imprudences, he will have to be rescued from the traps into which he guilelessly falls. The police do not interfere at all. In 1896 they were as yet undisciplined by Sherlock Holmes and his successors. They did not, in this case, take photographs of the body, or search for finger-marks or cigarette ends or any of the clues they would have looked for if they had been brought up on twentieth century detective fiction. The Rector and the reader have therefore a fair field. The story is clearly and pleasantly written, and will make a wet week-end in the country pass pleasantly for those who enjoy detective stories, and are not prejudiced in favour of a different pattern.

I. B. O'M.

THE BACCHANTE AND THE NUN.²

Mr. Hichens' methods are perhaps a little out of fashion at the moment, but they will afford relief to readers who are wearied by modern impressionism. *The Bacchante and the Nun* is a long book, much longer than most present-day novels. The characterization is careful, almost elaborate, but on the whole very convincing. It is carried out partly by description and partly by definite scenes and a great deal of dialogue. The central character is a young actress, Valentine Morris, whose stage career is described in great detail. She is seen through the eyes of Martin Dale, her friend, a successful playwright. The description of the stage environment is painfully convincing, and Champion, the producer, is an original and powerful conception. It is his relations with Valentine and not those of Dale which give its chief interest to the book.

I. B. O'M.

¹ *Tracks in the Snow*, by Lord Charnwood. (Ernest Benn, 7s. 6d. net.)

² *The Bacchante and the Nun*, by Robert Hichens. (Methuen, 7s. 6d. net.)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

ANNUAL FAIR

On WEDNESDAY NEXT, 9th NOVEMBER,

At 13 KENSINGTON PARK GARDENS, W.11

(by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs Dighton Pollock.)

FROM 2.30 P.M. ONWARDS.

THE LAW AT WORK.

By C. D. RACKHAM, J.P.

THE RIGHT TO APPEAL.

Considerable interest was recently aroused when in the course of one day's sitting the Court of Criminal Appeal made very large reductions in the sentences of three criminals who appealed to that Court from the Old Bailey and from Quarter Sessions. As is well known, any prisoner who is convicted on indictment may appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal against his conviction by giving notice within ten days of his conviction. With the leave of the Court (though he may be satisfied with his conviction), he may appeal against the sentence which has been passed upon him.

The Court of Criminal Appeal was established in 1908, after long agitation. A good many cases had recently occurred in which a mistake had obviously been made, and it was felt that the consequences of a mistake are so serious in criminal matters that an opportunity for ratification of errors must be provided. And the Court has more than justified its existence: to take one year, 1923; in twenty-four cases the conviction was quashed, and in twenty-two the sentence was either quashed or some other was substituted.

In the three cases referred to above the sentences were reduced respectively from 5 years to 9 months, from 12 years to 5 years, and from 5 years to 12 months. In the first case an old man of 72 had been sentenced to five years for stealing 8d. from a church. On a previous conviction his sentence had been reduced by the Court of Criminal Appeal from 5 years to 3, and the chairman of the Sessions in passing the savage sentence of 5 years for the paltry theft of 8d. said that if the five years had been inflicted in the previous case the old man would not have been free to steal the 8d. Of course, if all criminals after a conviction were kept in prison for the rest of their lives, they could commit no further crimes upon the public, but this is hardly a principle on which to administer justice. The effect on the community in general of an example of cruelty and vindictiveness in high places is, as the lesson of history teaches us, so disastrous as far to outweigh any apparent increase in security. In the second case the crime of wounding had been committed in a fit of drunken passion by a man of previous good character. In the third a negro had been found in possession of firearms. He was also of previous good character, and there was a doubt as to the purpose for which he was carrying arms. The original sentence of 5 years appeared to be quite out of proportion to the offence, and the 12 months to which it was reduced much more reasonable.

It is a satisfaction to know that persons convicted on indictment can get their conviction and sentence reconsidered. Judges are only human, and therefore liable to err, and they may also acquire some personal predilection in favour of some particular punishment (such as a very long sentence), which makes it important that their decisions should be reviewed by a larger body. It must be noted that the appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal costs the prisoner nothing. The notes of the trial are furnished by the Judge to the Appeal Court; the prisoner is granted legal assistance, and the expenses of witnesses are allowed.

The generosity of these provisions and the large number of cases in which such an appeal is successful emphasize the hardship caused by the fact that an appeal from Petty Sessions to a Higher Court is so costly as to put it quite out of the reach of poor defendants. Sureties have to be found, often of £40 or more; costs may mount up to large sums, with the result that the number of these appeals is very small, not more than a few hundred in a year; while the number of persons sentenced at Petty Sessions is very great, amounting to over half a million in a year. Of course, the penalties which can be inflicted at Petty Sessions are light in comparison with those which can be inflicted on indictment; neither the death penalty nor corporal punishment nor penal servitude are involved, but, at the same time, a conviction coupled with 6 months hard labour may have a devastating effect on a man's life and prospects. And a Court of Summary Jurisdiction is, for the most part, a far less skilled and experienced tribunal than a Higher Court, and it has itself to act as both judge and jury at the trial. One hesitates to ask how many of the convictions and sentences made in Petty Sessions would be quashed or altered if defendants were not prevented by want of means from appealing against them.

We are apt to boast of English justice, that it is the same for rich and poor alike. This is no doubt its intention, but no one can maintain that it is fulfilled as long as the disability under which poor defendants labour as regards the cost of appeals remains as it is to-day.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM.
Acting Parliamentary and General Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.
Office: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AND GENERAL SECRETARIES.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee last week it was decided to divide the post held by Mrs. Hubback, as Parliamentary and General Secretary. Miss Hancock, well known to our Societies for five years, first as Assistant Parliamentary Secretary, and afterwards as Assistant Secretary, has been appointed General Secretary, and Mrs. Horton, B.Sc., Parliamentary Secretary. Mrs. Horton is a graduate of London University. She was President of the Women's Union at University College, and Vice-President of the National Union of Students. She is a keen feminist, and wholeheartedly in agreement with the programme of the National Union. Both our secretaries are well under 30 years of age.

NEW MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Hubback's services will fortunately still be retained by the National Union in an honorary capacity. She was co-opted a member of the Executive Committee last week, and will offer herself for election at the Council meeting in March. She has also been elected Chairman of a small Parliamentary Committee, set up by the Executive for the special consideration of Bills before Parliament. The Executive believe that with Miss Hancock and Mrs. Horton as General and Parliamentary Secretary respectively, and Mrs. Hubback as Chairman of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee, it has secured a strong team, and that there will be no break in the continuity, or falling off of the quality, of the work at headquarters.

CONFERENCES ON "MOTHER INDIA."

Two interesting conferences on "Mother India" are being called, the first on 8th November at 8 o'clock at the Craig's Court Restaurant, Whitehall, by the British Commonwealth League, and the second by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on 21st November, at 4 o'clock at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speakers at the first conference will be Indian, and are being asked to discuss the book; speakers at the second, which is to be representative of women's organizations, to which visitors are, however, invited, will consist of English men and women doctors, mission workers, etc., who will deal with the points raised in the book which more directly affect women and children, with a view to seeing whether there is any step which can usefully be taken by women's organizations to influence public opinion in India. Tickets and further particulars of the first conference can be obtained from the British Commonwealth League, 17, Buckingham Street, Strand, and of the second from the N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

QUEEN'S HALL DEMONSTRATION ON EQUAL FRANCHISE, 8th March, 1928.

Arrangements for the great Demonstration are in full swing. The young people are taking a keen interest: various Colleges have already signified their intention to take part on this great occasion, and the idea of appointing the Senior Student to the Advisory Council is taking root. Toynbee Hall has arranged a Debate to be opened by Miss Helen Ward which will afford an opportunity for giving publicity to the Demonstration.

The really important thing now is the singing. Mr. Martin Shaw has consented to conduct the audience, but it is essential that small singing groups should at once begin practising the few songs required, and inquiries for such groups are earnestly invited.

The unfranchised of whatever age will be asked to wear orange paper sashes to be sold beforehand at 1d. each.

Many applications for tickets have been received, and Societies are advised to book NOW. Tickets, a few at 5s. and 2s. 6d., all the rest at 1s. (12 at 1s. for 10s.). Full particulars and leaflets for distribution can be obtained from Miss Auld, Organizer, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

CHESTER W.C.A.

The very interesting annual report of the Chester Society, which was presented at its Annual Meeting on 19th October (an account of which appeared in last week's issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER) has just been received. During the year the Association has held twelve meetings in connection with the interests of women and children. Among the subjects discussed were: "The Social Evil," "The Problem of Population and the Necessity of State Action," "The Oxford Liquor (Popular Control) Bill," and "The Girl as Future Citizen." The attendance at the meetings is steadily increasing.

The Society contributes generously to the Headquarters' Funds and

since 1922 has sent over £110. The Society is in close touch with the Member of Parliament for Chester, who is in favour of Equal Franchise and has promised to do all he can in support of it. The Report concludes with grateful thanks to the local papers for their help in its work.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

The Edinburgh Society for Equal Franchise is at present actively engaged in a campaign against the legislation proposed by the Edinburgh Town Council for compulsory treatment of Venereal Diseases. Members of the Executive Committee address each week several meetings of women's societies, political and co-operative, on the subject, pointing out how such legislation would operate unfairly on one section of the community. They also make a point of attending the municipal election meetings now being held, in order to question the candidates on their attitudes towards this action of the Town Council.

GLOUCESTER S.E.C. AND GLOUCESTER N.C.W.

On 26th October a meeting arranged under the auspices of the Gloucester S.E.C. and the Gloucester N.C.W. was held in the Wellington Hall. Miss Macadam gave an interesting and encouraging account of the present position with regard to Equal Franchise. The meeting was presided over by Miss Sessions, supported by Miss Walronde.

ROTHERHAM W.C.A.

Miss Macadam, M.A., gave an inspiring address on Tuesday, 18th October, at the Temperance Hotel, Rotherham. She dealt with the thrilling situation of Equal Franchise, the great need for more women on all governing bodies, and gave an interesting glimpse of new attempts which are to be made in modifying obsolete laws, such as raising the legal age for marriage.

Councillor MacLagan, who is fighting to retain her seat on the Borough Council, presided.

ST. PANCRAS S.E.C.

The St. Pancras S.E.C. is holding a series of monthly meetings. At its first meeting last month Miss Beaumont gave a very able and interesting speech on the right of married women to engage in paid work. Miss Ethel Bennett presided over the meeting, which was followed by a good discussion.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Canon W. Hay Aitken, one of the greatest preachers in the Church of England, who died on 28th October, at the age of 86. We have no space to deal here with his fine career, though it is interesting to note that he became associated with Moody and Sankey in their visit to this country in 1873. He founded the Church Parochial Mission Society; he travelled widely and wrote numerous volumes of sermons; in 1908 a remarkable memorial signed by many bishops and clergy pointed out that he had received no official recognition of his labours, and in 1910 he was made Canon of Norwich. Canon Aitken was all his life an ardent adherent of women's suffrage, and a warm supporter of the women's movement generally. In 1925 he spoke at a meeting in the Central Hall organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on the Reform of the Marriage Service. He was also a keen advocate of the ministry of women.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"DOGMA."

MADAM,—Your public is a thinking one. May I entreat you not to lend the weight of your influence to the popular but terribly mischievous belief that, in religious matters, it does not matter what we think? It may be true that, in the controversy between Bishop Barnes and Canon Bullock Webster, "nobody knows just exactly what it is about," but, if it is so, we should try to find out. It may be that our ignorance is discreditable: it may be that something of importance is at stake. Can you be sure it is not so, if you have not tried to find out "just exactly what it is about"?

You speak of the "hungry sheep unfed" and suggest that the bishops and clergy should "get on with their pastoral job." With what should we hungry ones be fed? With lies? Is the truth of no importance?

It is the besetting sin of the "religious" that they are indifferent to the truth. Do not encourage us in our intellectual slovenliness. In the trinity of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness, there is no "tertiary place": for "in this trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another."
A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

MADAM,—Since when has it been decreed that "it is part of the duty of THE WOMAN'S LEADER to discredit dogma?" Turning to our dictionary we find: "Dogma: a settled opinion; a principle or tenet; a doctrine laid down with authority."

Feminists have one very definite dogma—the principle that women should have equality of liberties, status, and opportunities with men—and is the soundness of this dogma affected by the individual actions of individual feminists in seeking to promote it?

With regard to the protest in St. Paul's, the superior "cleverness" of Dr. Barnes or Canon Bullock Webster has nothing to do with the case. And the assertion that "nobody knows just exactly what they quarrel about" is really grotesque in its inaccuracy; the issue can be quite easily grasped from the protest itself and from the Archbishop's reply to Dr. Barnes—if one has the troubled to read them! As to the desirability of "getting on with the pastoral job" it does happen to be rather important for the pastor to give his hungry sheep the right food.

Are there any grounds for believing that religious controversy would be lessened if the Eastern Roman and Anglican Branches of the Catholic Church admitted women as priests and other religious organizations

appointed them as ministers? Is it likely that women will agree on religious doctrine any more than they have done on matters political?
FLORENCE M. BEAUMONT.

WANTED—HEALTHY MOTHERS!

MADAM,—Your note on "The Giving and the Taking of Life" filled me with admiration. It was difficult to write and it was most courageously done. Women have to see to it that girls are educated to control this tremendously responsible function which is theirs, and which should be in their keeping.
Kew.
H. M. SWANWICK.

CHARLES KINGSLEY ON "WOMEN AND POLITICS."

MADAM,—The historical value of Kingsley's essay is somewhat discounted by the fact that in the year following its appearance in *MacMillan* the writer withdrew from the "Feminist" movement. In the *Life and Letters*, edited by Mrs. Kingsley, the statement is made that "the proceedings of some of its advocates were so distasteful to him that he refused to attend their meetings; and the only branch of the subject which had his entire sympathy and support was the medical education of women." In a letter to John Stuart Mill, explaining his withdrawal, Kingsley (a) "depreciated the interference of unmarried women in this movement"; (b) objected to the discussion of sexual questions in the Press or at public meetings; (c) recommended that women should be addressed by the reformers "mildly, privately, modestly, rationally," and should continue their practice of "divine self-sacrifice" until men were shamed out of their self-assertiveness. Very excellent advice, but not in accordance with present-day understanding of "feminism"!
Liverpool.
E. C.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance gave a dinner at the Rendezvous Restaurant recently to Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L. Visitors from overseas included Señor Gaspard, Consul-General for Spain, and Señora Gaspard, the Marques and the Marquesa del Ter, Mr. and Dr. Mary Beadon from Madras, Mr. Paulit, Hon. Secretary of the St. Francis Xavier Society, Don Luigi Sturze, and Miss Tessa de Alberti from New York. Dom Gilbert Higgins' health was proposed by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, the Alliance's first chairman. In reply Dom Gilbert said that he had admired and supported the work of the Alliance from its foundation, and that it would be his aim, by speech and pen, to urge the Catholic young girls of England to be led by the members of St. Joan's Alliance, who would teach them to have the spirit of true citizenship, and to rise to their full birthright. We could wish them no better teachers.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

Hon. President - Dame MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E., LL.D.

ANNUAL MEETING. FINAL NOTICE.

Women's Service House, 35-37, Marsham Street, Westminster, Thursday, 17th November, 1927, at 5 p.m.
TEA, 4.30 p.m. (6d.), to meet Dame MILLICENT FAWCETT.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Acting President. Miss B. A. CLOUGH, proposed by Dame Millicent Fawcett and seconded by Lady Strachey, has been duly elected, no other candidate standing.

Treasurer. . . . The Hon. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES, proposed by the Lady Emmott and seconded by Mrs. Rendel has been duly elected, no other candidate standing.

Committee. . . . Only ten nominations have been received in addition to those of the President and Treasurer, and the following are all duly elected:—

*Miss CLEGG	proposed by Dame Millicent Fawcett	seconded by Mrs. Kinnell.
*The Lady EMMOTT	" Mrs. Glover	" Mrs. Oliver Strachey.
*Mrs. ARNOLD GLOVER	" The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves	" Miss Clegg.
*Mrs. KINNELL	" The Lady Emmott	" Mrs. McEachern.
*Miss J. E. NORTON	" Miss Helen Ward	" Mrs. Glover.
*Miss I. B. O'MALLEY	" Mrs. Kinnell	" Madame Nielka.
*Mrs. IVAN SANDERSON	" Miss Norton	" Miss Ward.
*Lady SPRIGGE	" Mrs. Oliver Strachey	" The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves.
*Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY	" Miss Kinnell	" Miss Auld.
*Miss HELEN WARD	" Mrs. Arnold Glover	" Miss Hancock.

* Members of Outgoing Committee.

BUSINESS.

1. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
2. Appointment of Auditor.

3. Alteration of Rules. The Executive Committee propose the addition of the following to Rules of the Society:—

Junior Council: The Junior Council of the London and National Society for Women's Service shall consist of members of the Society who have been accepted as members of the Junior Council by its own Executive Committee. The Junior Council shall work independently within the Society. The Junior Council shall subscribe to the aim of the London and National Society for Women's Service for equality of citizenship and shall work specially for equal economic opportunity and freedom for women in the pursuit of their work but there shall be no obligation upon it as a body to work for any one of the activities of the Society.

4. Resolutions. Proposed by the Executive Committee.

(1) That the London and National Society for Women's Service in annual meeting assembled welcomes with deep

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Conference on "Mother India"

will be held at

THE CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1,

ON
Monday, 21st Nov., at 4 o'clock.

The SPEAKERS will include:—

DR. A. M. BENSON

(In charge of the Women's Hospital at Bombay).

DR. ETHEL BLEAKLEY

(In charge of the C.E.Z.M.S., Ratnapur, Bengal).

DR. KATE PLATT

(Ex-Principal of the Lady Harding Medical College for Women at Delhi).

Further particulars and tickets can be obtained from the General Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1. Delegates' tickets, free. Reserved seats, price 2s.; Unreserved seats, 1s. Members of the N.U.S.E.C. can obtain unreserved seats free of charge.

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satisfaction the Prime's Minister's announcement of the Government's decision to carry through legislation early next session to enfranchise women on the same terms as men; it rejoices in the support which this measure of justice receives from all parties and calls on members of the Society to do all in their power to testify to Members of Parliament and others the urgent demand of women for complete enfranchisement before the next General Election.

(2) That this meeting records its recognition of the value of the work of women members of local government bodies, and expresses the earnest hope that their numbers will increase. It therefore calls upon the members of the Society to endeavour to secure the nomination and election of suitable women candidates for County, Town, Urban District, or Rural District Councils whenever the opportunity arises.

P. STRACHEY, Secretary.

It is hoped that Members will attend this meeting as the Committee has developments of unusual magnitude and importance to announce.

COMING EVENTS.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

NOVEMBER 12. 3 p.m. Hyde Park. Equal Franchise Meeting. Speakers: Miss Macadam and Miss Ward.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

NOVEMBER 17. 35 Marsham Street, S.W. 1. 5 p.m. Annual Meeting. Tea, 4.30.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh S.E.C. NOVEMBER 10. 8 p.m. 40 Shandwick Place. Mrs. Rackham, J.P.: "The Prisons of Great Britain."

East Lewisham W.C.A. NOVEMBER 18. 3 p.m. Courthill Road Hall. "Equal Franchise and why it is needed." Lady Balfour of Burleigh (Open Door Council).

Edinburgh W.C.A. and Scottish Branch of the Howard League for Penal Reform. NOVEMBER 9. 8 p.m. 116 George Street. Mrs. Rackham, J.P.: "The Young Offender." Chair: A. MacRobert, Esq., K.C., M.P., Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Preston W.C.A. NOVEMBER 14. 7.30. Orient Café, Friargate. Debate between Mrs. Lees and Mrs. Cox on "Should women resign paid employment on marriage?"

SIX POINT GROUP.

NOVEMBER 8. 5 p.m. Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E. "The Work of the Social Section of the League of Nations." Chair: Viscountess Rhondda.

NOVEMBER 15. 8 p.m. Assembly Hall, Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, S.W. 1. Debate on "Feminism versus Anti-Feminism," between Professor Laski and Mr. Anthony Ludovici. Chair: Mrs. C. Haldane. Tickets from the Secretary of the Six Point Group.

TOYNEBEE HALL.

NOVEMBER 17. 8 p.m. Debate on Equal Franchise. Opener: Miss A. Helen Ward.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NOVEMBER 4. 8.15. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington: "The Woman's Movement in the Irish Free State." Discussion.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9. From 2.30. Annual Fair at 13 Kensington Park Gardens (by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. Pollock). Admission, 1s.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

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GENTLEWOMAN (Craftworker), living alone in charming unspoilt village, would welcome paying guest either for long or short stay; beautiful country; terms arranged.—Miss Jean Gidley, Wren's Nest, Teffont, Salisbury, Wilts.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—Two professional women have furnished ROOMS (two adjoining if desired); electric light, geyser, gas fires; attendance optional; moderate terms.—Box 1,155, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

CUDWORTH, near Barnsley, Yorkshire, 6 King's Road.—APARTMENTS, bed and breakfast, 4s. 6d.

WINCHELSEA.—Furnished COTTAGE, winter months; 3 bed, 2 sitting, bath; servant if required; moderate rent.—Eustace, High Street.

TO LET, unfurnished, in Belgrave Road, Ground-floor Room, bathroom same floor, used two ladies only. Restaurant, tariff very moderate. Rent 18s. 6d. weekly; service 4s. weekly. Also First-floor Balcony Flat; large drawing-room, bedroom, bathroom; suit married couple; £125 p.a., service 10s. weekly. Also two small communicating rooms in house on Embankment, bathroom same floor, used one lady only, 26s. 6d. weekly; service 3s. 6d. All rents include electric light.—Owner, 78 Belgrave Road, S.W. 1. (Tel. Victoria 2750.)

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 9377.

CAR FOR HIRE, 9d. per mile.—Miss Ibbotson, Owner-Driver, Nutley Court, 43 Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead, N.W. Phone 4531 Hamp.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Classes, Lectures, Private Lessons, Speech Club.—Miss Lucy Bell, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.

POSTS VACANT.

A SMALL number of vacancies for WOMEN OFFICERS IN PRISONS will be filled during the next few months. Candidates must be at least 5 feet 3 inches in height without shoes, and should be not less than 24 and not more than 35 years of age. Women of character and personality, with good health and physique, are required. The candidates selected will be those who, by education, training and temperament, appear best fitted to take part in the difficult work of training offenders for citizenship. Knowledge of a trade, if thorough, will be an additional reason for consideration.—Particulars of pay and conditions, with application form, will be forwarded on application to the Secretary, Prison Commission, Home Office, S.W. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

HUTTON'S "NEVER-FADE" IRISH LINENS are ideal for Dresses, Curtains, etc. Guaranteed absolutely fadeless, 2/10 per yard (36 in. wide). 64 artistic colours including 10 newest shades. 64 Patterns FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

REMNANT BUNDLES, PILLOW LINEN.—Superior quality, snow-white, sufficient for six pillow-cases, 20 x 30 in., 18s. bundle. Complete Bargain List FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

DRESS.

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored; embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms; initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,141, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau, Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1 (new address), requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 7s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 6th November, 3.30, Sir George Macman, K.C.B., D.S.O., "War." 6.30, Armistice Sunday, Father Nicolai Velimira.

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Edward Wright & Cavendish Bentinck Lending Libraries.

These two libraries contain some three thousand volumes, including sections on current political, economic and social matters of special interest to women as citizens, as well as a historical section of the Women's Movement, which dates back to the 15th Century. Boxes containing approximately 20 books are available for Societies, Study Circles, etc.

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For individuals, 10s. 6d. per annum for two volumes per week, or 3d. per volume per week. Book-boxes 5s. per one month.

For Societies of the N.U.S.E.C., 15s. per annum or 5s. per book-box per three months.

For Societies other than those of the N.U.S.E.C., 25s. per annum, or 7s. 6d. per book-box per three months.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Librarian, at the above address.

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