

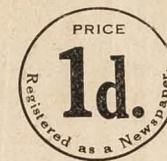
SHOULD MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS WORK?

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

AND

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NOTES AND NEWS

The European Situation.

It is strange to think that while plans are busily maturing for a peaceful Congress in Rome where women drawn from nearly every civilized nation in the world may confer together about the interests common to all women, the situation between France and Germany is becoming more intricate and menacing. One is almost reminded of the peaceful days of July, 1914, when men and women occupied themselves with their normal interests while the cargo of human fortunes was drifting swiftly towards the edge of the cataract. Who can foretell what may be happening to all of us by the time May is reached? Gloomy phrases about the destruction of European civilization have been used so often that our ears have become dilled, in spite of the lesson which 1914 might have taught us that nothing is too bad to happen so long as human reason is the slave of human passions.

Women and the Law in Germany.

In the beginning of January the first women magistrates and jurors took up their new duties all over Germany. In Berlin the judge welcomed the first women jurors in a speech addressed to "the ladies and gentlemen of the jury." After having spoken of the great responsibility of jurors in whose hands is laid not only the well-being, but in some cases the life and death, of other human beings, the judge continued: "Our jury looks different to-day; for the first time we see members of the female sex. The right to serve as jurors has long been claimed by the women of Germany. It is a well known fact that not only professional lawyers but many other people were opposed to the idea of letting women sit on a jury, and it has been seriously doubted whether the granting of the concession would not weaken the administration of justice. It will be the task of the first women called to sit on a jury to prove that the new measure has not been a failure. Anyone who, like myself, has had the opportunity of watching women in their work as probation officers, poor law guardians, or in other branches of social work, will share my hope that the entrance of women into the ranks of magistrates and jurors will greatly add to our stock of experience in criminal law and criminal psychology." It deserves to be noted that hardly any of the women called to the offices of magistrate and juror made use of their right to

exemption. On the 17th January Dr. Margarete Berent, of Berlin, a most able young lawyer, acted as public prosecutor in a case of cruelty to horses. It was the first time that this office had been entrusted to a member of the female sex.

Women Barristers.

Six women barristers were called to the Bar last week, several of whom are well known to our readers. Miss Mithai Tata, B.A. of Bombay University and M.Sc. of London University, is very well known to followers of the Feminist Movement in London. Dr. Letitia Fairfield is assistant medical officer to the L.C.C., and during the war she was medical director of the W.R.A.F.s. Miss Mercy Ashworth has distinguished herself in the Indian Education Service, and is interested in the problem of women and girl delinquents. Miss Ida May Coffin Duncan, Miss Audrey Harverson, and Miss Charlotte Mary Young are the other three women called to the Bar.

Woman Barrister's Able Speech.

Miss E. M. Wheeler, one of the recently admitted women barristers, in a speech which lasted more than an hour, argued a case with great ability at the recent Huntingdonshire Quarter Sessions. She represented her father, Mr. George Gabriel Wheeler, solicitor, of St. Ives, in an appeal affecting many thousands of ratepayers in the five counties scheduled in the Ouse Drainage Act. A test case, it raised the question of the legality of a rate recently made by the Ouse Drainage Board for administrative expenses. The appeal was, however, dismissed with costs.

Women Solicitors' Equal Rights.

At a meeting of the Law Society in London last week the President announced that a woman solicitor had been admitted a member of the Society that day and that the Council intended to admit women solicitors as members of the Society on the same terms as men. Suitable accommodation would be provided for them.

Woman Member of Congress.

Mrs. Nolan, widow of Mr. John Nolan, has been elected to fill her late husband's place in the House of Representatives. She defeated six men at the election, and she will be the only

woman member of the House next session. Her husband was Republican member for one of the San Francisco districts and a prominent Labour Leader.

American Women's Rights.

The National Women's Party recently introduced twenty-five Bills in the New York State Legislature, through Senator Salvatore A. Cottillo, to give women equality with men in the eyes of the law as regards rights and responsibilities. The Bills confer on the husband the right to sue his wife for the support of their children, and deprive the husband of the sole right to determine the family domicile and of all rights in law to her services and labour, and give her the right to demand wages from her husband for work done in the household. For civil injuries inflicted by a married woman the Bills provide that damages must be recovered from her alone, the husband not being held responsible. It is proposed also that a married woman may sue, or be sued, as if she was single. One Bill provides that a child born out of wedlock may be declared the legitimate offspring of its natural parents and entitled to the same rights as a child born in wedlock.

Family Allowances in France.

The subject of Family Endowment has been so often and so hotly debated in these columns that our readers will be interested to hear of the rapid development of this system in France. At a recent banquet held in Paris to celebrate the formation of the hundredth Employers' Association for the Payment of Family Allowances (Caisse de Compensation pour Allocations Familiales), it was stated that since the banquet had been arranged twenty new associations had been notified. Through these and through Government departments and great companies, over 300 million francs per annum are paid in allowances. It was claimed that the system now covers about a half of the wage-earners of France, excluding those engaged in agriculture. It was also stated that at one town the rate of infantile mortality among children of employees had fallen to one-fifth of the rate previous to the introduction of the system, and at another town it has fallen from 2.58 to 1.09 per cent.

Miss Rathbone's Letter.

The question of a better distribution of income as between large and small families is all the more a topical one in view of contemporary discussion regarding the economic possibility of varying wages with the cost of living. And the close connection between this controversy and the possibility of variation as between large and small families was dealt with by Miss E. F. Rathbone in a recent letter to the *Times*.

Women in the Church.

The Bishop of Sheffield, speaking at the Sheffield Diocesan Conference last week, said he hoped to give the ministry of women a permanent place in the machinery of the diocese. Next month, he said, he was summoning a meeting at which he would discuss the formation of a Women's Diocesan Council, the duties and powers to be entrusted to women workers, and the relation of the diocese to women's work throughout the Church.

Woman Public Auditor.

For years the only woman public auditor under the Friendly Societies Act and the Industrial and Provident Societies Act was Miss Harris Smith. Miss M. M. Homersham has now been appointed Public Auditor. Since 1920 these appointments have only been open to chartered and incorporated accountants, and they are bound to accept the scale of fees fixed by the Treasury for auditing the books of co-operative societies, which must be done by public auditors.

Women Teachers' Grievance.

The Rochdale Women Teachers' Association have issued a circular letter to the members of the local Education Committee in which they record profound dissatisfaction that no women are promoted to headships in the mixed schools. The letter points out that in June, 1919, the women asked that headships to mixed schools should be open to women as well as to men. Since that time there have been several vacancies, and it has been publicly stated that women are eligible for the posts. Further, both privately and publicly, many members have pledged their word to choose candidates on their merits irrespective of sex. Women ask for no favours, the letter concludes, but require justice, and wish to believe that the Staffing Committee would not willingly act unjustly. They therefore ask whether sex has again been the basis of selection, seeing that the women who applied for the vacant posts had wider experience,

longer service, and better qualifications than the persons appointed.

Miss Clough's Resignation.

Miss Clough's resignation of her post as Principal of Newnham College is very much to be regretted by all who are working for the higher education of women. She has only held the post since 1920, but for the last thirty-five years she has held various offices in the College, including those of tutor and Vice-Principal. She was also a member of the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities which reported last year.

The Licensing Sessions.

Within the next three weeks the Licensing Justices of the different London divisions will be called upon to reconsider their decisions with regard to the closing hour for the sale of intoxicating liquors in public houses. It will be remembered that last year, in spite of the strenuous efforts of the licensed Trade to the contrary, 10 o'clock was decided as closing hour on weekdays in Blackheath, Finsbury, Kensington, Newington, Wandsworth, Marylebone, Paddington, St. Margaret's, St. Pancras, Stoke Newington, and Tower Hamlets, and 9 o'clock on Sundays in Blackheath, Finsbury, Kensington, Newington, Wandsworth. The Trade intend to bring great pressure to bear on the Justices to secure 11 o'clock closing, and the Bench in each division must be convinced that there exists a wide local demand in favour of early closing if the earlier hours decided on last year are to be retained. This is pre-eminently a question which concerns the women citizens of London. Expressions of opinion in the form of letters or petitions should be addressed to the Clerk of the Licensing Justices in each division, and the Court should be crowded with deputations when the matter is under discussion. The following is a list of the dates of the Annual Licensing Sessions in the London area so far as is known to us at present: Blackheath, 13th February, 11 a.m., Town Hall, Catford; City, 7th February, 11 a.m., Guildhall; Finsbury, 5th February 12 noon, Finsbury Town Hall; Hampstead, 12th February 10 a.m., Petty Sessions Court, Rosslyn Hill; Holborn, 6th February, 11 a.m., Municipal Offices, 197 High Holborn; Kensington, 6th February, 11 a.m., Town Hall, High Street, Kensington; Newington, 5th February, 10.30 a.m., Sessions House, Newington; Paddington, 8th February, 10.45 a.m., Town Hall, Harrow Road, Paddington; St. Marylebone, 4th February, 10.30 a.m., Town Hall, Marylebone Road; St. Pancras, 14th February, 10.30 a.m., St. Pancras Town Hall; Stoke Newington, 16th February, 10.15 a.m., Library Hall, Church Street, Stoke Newington; Strand, 6th February, 2.30 p.m., Westminster City Hall, Charing Cross Road; Tower, 5th February, 11 a.m., Town Hall, Old Street, Shoreditch; Wandsworth, 2nd February, 10 a.m., Town Hall, Lavender Hill Battersea.

The Child and the School.

We are very glad to be in a position to announce that in future a section of this paper, under the direction of experienced Care Committee and other social workers will be devoted to questions specially relating to children. The first of the series, which will appear in our issue of 9th February, will deal with the new unemployment centres and other recent developments in London. Contributions of general interest to this section from different parts of the country will be welcomed, and it is hoped that it will fulfil a definite need in supplying in easily accessible form information essential to the teacher, the Care Committee, or Child Welfare worker, or, indeed, the public-spirited woman citizen who wishes to be kept abreast of modern thought and experiment on questions relating to the social well-being of the children of the race.

Our Prize Paragraphs.

In order to encourage contributions from different parts of the country, a small prize of 5s. is being offered for the next few weeks for the best paragraph of special interest to women not exceeding 200 words. The prize paragraph will be printed in the most appropriate section of the paper, and whenever possible unsuccessful paragraphs of exceptional merit will also appear in whole or part. We hope that many of our readers will respond, not, of course, for the sake of the small amount offered as a prize, but to help us widen our circle of interest by the personal co-operation of those who are in a position to give us information regarding matters affecting women and children which might otherwise be missed. Paragraphs should reach the Editor by the first post on Monday of each week.

EDUCATION AND "MARRIAGE MORTALITY."

The report recently published by the Board of Education Consultative Committee on Differentiation of Curricula Between the Sexes comprises a positive mine of carefully sifted and well-digested facts for the student of feminist problems. So many important and intriguing considerations does it raise that if we dedicated all our leading articles for a year ahead to its discussion there would still remain ample material for fifty-two leading articles more. But though we do not intend to adopt such an editorial policy, we propose to add just this one further discussion to the able summary of the report contributed to our issue last week by Miss Oldham.

Over and over again in these columns we have considered the question of expectation of marriage in relation to the position of women in industry and the professions. We have seen it as one of the indirect causes of unequal pay for equal work, and as one of the disabilities which prejudice women in respect of occupation requiring a long or expensive training. In the pages of the Consultative Committee's report we meet it again: this time in relation to the education of girls. What is its ascertained effect upon the work and general outlook of girls in secondary schools? To what extent, if any, should it be recognized as necessitating any variation in the general curriculum as between boys and girls?

To the first question the report gives a tentative answer: "The fact that the boy is, as a rule, definitely conscious that he is expected to prepare, and, in fact, must prepare, for a definite avocation, often gives a zest and stimulus to his school work which his sister may lack. It must be remembered that, to the majority of girls, the possibility of an early marriage is probably always present, consciously or sub-consciously, and that this consideration may, in many instances, tend to make them less ambitious and less interested in such school subjects as are not obviously of some use in ordinary life." Whether the Consultative Committee are justified in making this statement, there is no doubt that their verdict agrees with that of numerous observers of economic conditions who have called attention to the want of tenacity or permanent interest which women workers sometimes show in respect to their industrial conditions.

The second question is, however, the most important, for it

SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.¹

By H. B. BRACKENBURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The Board of Education is still quite properly looking for ways in which to reduce its expenditure. It seems, however, to be seeking rather those which will be least unpopular than those which will be least harmful. Unfortunately we know that the education and care of mentally defective children are not matters of popular enthusiasm or even of popular concern. Indeed the only way in which I have been able personally to get a general audience to take much interest in them is by drawing a lurid but truthful picture of the dire social and national results which must follow from the neglect of such children and the consequent increasing proportion of them in succeeding generations. We must not be surprised, therefore, if it is towards the money which is spent on such care and education that the Government turns in its desire to economize somewhere at whatever cost, and we must be on our guard to see that no unnecessary harm is done to individuals or to the nation by any action taken by the Board of Education or the Board of Control.

We have to admit that the care and education of defective children on the present system is exceedingly costly. Special Schools are costing on an average about two and a half times as much as schools for normal children and their cost must inevitably in any circumstances be considerably higher than that of ordinary public elementary schools. Local Education Authorities are feeling that they are not justified in spending, and it is probable that they will not continue to spend, on mentally defective children such large sums at the expense, as they put it, of clever boys and girls whose facilities for extended education they are, in present circumstances, obliged to cut down. In these circumstances it is clear that no Local Education Authority will be able to launch out into new schemes for building residential special schools or starting special day

¹ Reprinted by kind permission of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, from the report of the Conference on Mental Deficiency, 26th and 27th July, 1922.

involves an immediate problem of constructive policy. To what extent should the possibility of marriage be recognized as necessitating any differentiation in curriculum as between boys and girls? Now there is no denying the fact that we live at present under the sway of social arrangements which require a woman to adapt herself,ameleon-like, to the environment and interests of her husband. In our opinion, the extent to which this adaptation is tacitly demanded reflects a regrettable absence of "give and take" in the social relations of men and women. But its causes, and to some extent its justification, is economic necessity; and, at any rate for the present, there it is. If a duke marries a barmaid, it is the barmaid who becomes a duchess, and not the duke who becomes a potman. And since marriage is often determined by affinities wholly unconnected with mutual vocational interest, it follows that the future of the school-girl contains an element of adventure and uncertainty which is not present in the future of the school-boy. A girl may in the first place, and probably will be, required like her brother to choose a vocation determined by her taste, capacity, and economic opportunities. But after a few years of such vocational life she may marry, and it is beyond the power of parent or teacher to forecast or make special provision for the requirements of her subsequent environment. She may become the wife of a country curate, or she may become the wife of an ambassador. A practical knowledge of household management which would be of daily use to her in the former capacity would be wasted in the latter. A working knowledge of the weakness of the human heart, combined with an unblushing capacity to exploit it, would serve her admirably in the latter capacity, but would be of positive disservice to her in the former. Thus we are forced to the conclusion that if an education narrowly adapted to the needs of a special vocation, or type of vocation, is undesirable in the case of the boy, it is doubly undesirable in the case of the girl. "The prudent course," to quote a peculiarly happy phrase of the report in question, "would seem to be to keep open as many doors as possible from the school into the world." And this, presumably, is the consideration which urges the Consultative Committee to its main conclusion: *That greater freedom should be introduced into the curriculum both in boys' schools and in girls' schools, but more especially in the latter.*

schools, and there will be about 16,000 mentally defective children receiving no special teaching at all. We must, therefore, consider at once whether some other and less expensive scheme cannot be devised temporarily for educating and training a certain proportion of children who, under normal conditions, would be sent to Special Schools.

The Board of Education is, it appears, considering the abolition of the special teaching of feeble minded children under proper conditions altogether. It has been suggested that high-grade defectives could be dealt with in the ordinary elementary schools and that low-grade defectives could be handed over at once to the Board of Control. Another suggestion which the Board is exploring is the lowering of the School leaving age in special schools from 16 years to 14. It is to be hoped that neither of these courses will be acquiesced in by those who are interested in the welfare of these children. Whatever else goes it is a national necessity that the high-grade feeble minded children should be trained by skilled and qualified teachers, and should have every opportunity of developing what powers they have to the fullest extent. To place them in classes for the merely dull and backward in ordinary elementary schools would not be giving them such an opportunity, and would place their future in serious jeopardy. But it is very doubtful whether the low-grade children, who would eventually in a great many cases find their way into institutions, cannot receive the training and education they need in some other and less expensive way than in a special school of the usual type.

It is fair to ask us whether we cannot put forward any proposals by which such a reduction in cost may be effected. In making any proposals to this end it must, however, be emphasized that the alternative is not between the proposed action and the ideal special school, but between the proposed action and the complete, or almost complete, neglect of the children; for even statutory duties and obligations will not, under the present economic and political conditions, be enforced, and in very few places will

these obligations or duties be undertaken without enforcement.

Three suggestions for lessening the cost of special education may be considered:—(1) The employment of supplementary teachers in place of certificated teachers for the lower grade children in special schools; (2) A system of part-time education by which the lower grade children could attend in shifts and so less staff and accommodation would be needed; (3) The attendance of low grade feeble minded children at part-time Occupation Centres for training and teaching.

The first of these suggested plans is open to the objection that it would seem to some to be countenancing the notion that special schools may be staffed by an inferior type of teacher. This is not inherent in the plan nor is it intended by the suggestion. All grades of defective children, except the very low, require skilled teaching not merely up to but beyond the average of its special kind; but it may surely be admitted that children who are educable only to a very limited extent, who will never be able to earn their own living, and who will require institutional or guardianship care throughout their lives, can be managed and helped and trained by carefully selected and suitable persons who do not possess the Board's Certificate. However, if, and so long as, such a plan is viewed with disfavour by the majority of teachers, or meets with opposition from the National Union of Teachers or the National Special Schools Union, it cannot hope to be a success.

The second plan, that of part-time education, would, if well organized, further help towards the solution of the problem of excessive expenditure, but though it would reduce the cost per child it would not necessarily mean much reduction in the total cost of the schools.

The third plan, that of Occupation Centres, is deserving of somewhat more detailed consideration. The object of such Centres would be merely to provide some simple training and occupation for those mental defectives in urban areas or small towns for whom no other form of education is available. They would not replace or act as alternatives to special schools for high grade children but would supply opportunities for training other defectives in discipline, manners, and conduct, and in simple domestic and manual work. There are two essential points in connection with them. First, the number of children at any Centre should be quite small, say about twenty. Second, all the defectives attending one Centre should be such as can suitably be taught together, though it must be remembered that with small numbers it is possible for one worker to take charge at the same time of children of differing ages and mental attainments. A certificated teacher would not be needed. A supplementary teacher of a suitable type, after some training at existing Centres, could carry on the work of a part-time Centre open five half days a week under the guidance of a travelling supervisor who should be an experienced and skilled teacher. The average cost of such a Centre would be, it is estimated, between six and seven pounds per child per annum as against the twenty-seven or twenty-eight pounds a year per child in the average special day school. But this figure does not include the cost of the children's conveyance or of mid-day refreshment.

The objections raised to this suggested plan are objections rather of apprehension than of actuality. There might be a danger of Local Education Authorities sending children to Occupation Centres instead of to Special Schools on the grounds of cheapness, or in areas where no special school has been started delaying the opening of one, and continuing the Occupation Centre instead of providing the Special School for the high grade children who need it. This danger may be a very real one in the areas of the less enlightened and less progressive Authorities; but in practice it would not be found possible to train high grades and low grades together at a Centre, and suitable regulations would have to be framed which would make it impossible for high grade children to be sent to Occupation Centres at all, or for any child who appeared to be really educable to be sent to an Occupation Centre until he had been given a trial in a special school or class. Further, some teachers may be apprehensive that this plan would lend countenance to the same idea as that mentioned in connection with the first plan already dealt with. I suggest, however, that, in effect, the establishment of these Occupation Centres staffed as suggested would tend to encourage the opening of proper special schools which would then not require to be so large and so numerous as to make their cost prohibitive. Such schools would necessarily have to be staffed throughout by specially qualified, fully trained and

certificated teachers. The advocacy of Occupation Centres involves no sinister intention of supplanting special schools. They should be regarded at present as of a temporary character, enabling something to be done where otherwise nothing would be done. If they should in fact prove to be really useful for a special type of child they could no doubt take a proper place in our general system of training mental defectives under well defined conditions which would not be open to serious objection. This, however, remains to be seen.

A real difficulty in the establishment of Occupation Centres is that it would appear to be impossible for them to be recognized by the Board of Education in such a way that Local Education Authorities might send children to them and receive grants in respect of such children. Nevertheless it is possible that if the suggestion were received favourably and recommended by a large number of those concerned with the education of defective children, existing regulations might be altered to overcome the difficulty, and proper recognition of the Centres for the purpose of grant might be brought about. Clearly, if the Board of Education is desirous of promoting economy with the least possible harm, it should, at any rate, be prepared to modify its regulations when such modification will really help. It seems, too, that these Centres could not be run under the present Acts by the Mental Defective Committee of a County or County Borough under the Board of Control. It is possible, however, to obtain the help of a grant from the Board of Control to enable them to be established experimentally by a voluntary committee.

It is submitted that these various suggestions are worthy of careful consideration at the present time in order to prevent many thousands of feeble minded children being neglected or abandoned. It is not everybody who recognizes their need. Those who, like the members of this Conference, recognize it may rightly be called upon to exert their influence in order to secure for such children a fuller life, and happiness, and opportunity for self development. The State has recognized that they need its protection and care, and though it may properly call upon the Community in the present circumstances to exercise the greatest possible caution in the expenditure of money and to consider alternatives to the present necessarily costly (though not necessarily extravagant) system, it cannot be right to neglect or abandon the children or to do anything less than the best for them. True economy does not lie in that direction. The individual necessity remains urgent and the calls of national welfare are insistent and paramount.

THE LAW AT WORK: THE PRISON COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.¹

The last Report of the Prison Commissioners (price 2s., published by His Majesty's Stationery Office) is full of interest, and should be read and pondered by every magistrate. It begins by the depressing statement that the number of prisoners last year showed an increase of 7,210 on the year before. But we have to remember that the total is still less than one-third of the number who were received into prison in 1913-14.

The main cause of the increase is unemployment, which has resulted in a great many men being imprisoned as debtors or through inability to pay fines. The latter amounted to no less than 15,674, and this in spite of circulars which have been sent from time to time by the Secretary of State to magistrates urging them to allow offenders time in which to pay their fines. The number of those in prison on remand is very large, and of these over 9,000 did not return again to prison after trial. It is clear that the most important part which magistrates can play in the work of prison reform is to prevent people from going to prison at all.

Recidivism is still high; 80 per cent. of the women received into prison last year had been previously convicted, and more than one quarter had incurred over twenty previous convictions. Everyone will rejoice that the number of prisoners between 16 and 21 is decreasing. The report urges that these young people should not be received into prisons for adults at all: "however careful the arrangements, it is impossible to prevent all contact, and if persons under 21 continue to be sentenced to imprisonment, separate establishments for them are one of the first things that should be provided as soon as the money can be found."

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crofts as Hon. Solicitor.

Education in prisons is still deplorably inadequate. Certificated teachers are only to be found in eight prisons out of the forty-six; practically no prisoners over 25 are being taught at all, and not all under 25. Lectures, though increasing, are still far too few; the library grant is inadequate, being still at the pre-war figure. These deficiencies are all attributed to the need for economy.

There are many interesting new developments to record. Men visitors have been appointed to visit men prisoners in their cells in the evenings. Experienced women visitors have also been invited to visit young male prisoners under 21. This is an experiment. The Chaplain-Inspector says: "It is too early to give an opinion as to its success, though I have heard some adverse criticisms." A circular about Talking in Prisons has been issued, and is printed in full: it may be described as a model of official caution. There is also an appendix dealing with the new Stage System in Convict Prisons, which calls forth our admiration for the painstaking care with which it has been drawn up and yet at the same time strikes the reader as a curiously childish method of dealing with adults.

The Commissioners answer the objection that prisoners are

being "pampered" by explaining that it is as necessary to feed the mind as the body if men and women are to leave the prison fit to take their part in life, and they refer to the value of voluntary helpers in providing occupation for the otherwise "intolerable" interval (4½ hours) between supper and lights-out.

Last year saw the retirement of Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise. Among the many changes due to him we are asked to remember that it was he who first insisted that cell windows should be made to open. Dr. Mary Gordon, the one Woman Inspector, also retired during the year, and her post has remained unfilled.

The report closes with extracts from Prison Governors' reports, in which the same evils are referred to again and again—the need for remand homes, the need for the separation of young prisoners from adults, the evils which result from the mixture of the mentally defective with normal prisoners, the little use made of Probation, no time given to pay fines, bail not granted to prisoners on remand. One gathers that, on the whole, Governors of Prisons have not a very high opinion of magistrates. One of them makes the rather pathetic suggestion that "magistrates . . . should be provided with a concise manual which might help them to exercise the powers which the law gives them."

BURNING QUESTIONS.

SHOULD MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS WORK?

LADY TRUSTRAM EVE.

V.

MRS. F. W. HUBBACK.

In the following article I wish it to be understood that I am only speaking of the London service. In rural areas other questions arise which I have not dealt with here.

The question of employing women teachers after marriage is a very difficult one, as it has many aspects and touches wide principles. At first sight to all interested in the wide-reaching problem of women in industrial and professional life, the feeling would be that no hindrance should be put in the way of a woman earning her living if she chooses to do so. But, long ago, the State took up the attitude that the bearing of children for the nation was of too great importance to be left to individual decision, and that the prospective mother must be guarded during this period whether she likes it or not. Hence the restrictions under the Factory Acts, copied by most local authorities, in the rule of the L.C.C. that before the child's birth for four weeks, and after for thirteen weeks more, she is not allowed to be in the schools. The local authority is, in consequence, faced with the fact that more than a quarter (about 26·6 per cent.) of the teachers are likely in their early married life to be absent from school at least seventeen weeks in certain years. There are about 150 married women away annually from the London schools for confinement, on full pay for eight weeks, and half pay for the remaining nine weeks.

This brings up, of course, a large economic question, whether the services of married women are of such vast importance as to justify the large expenditure involved, and the upset to the whole teaching staff of supply teachers for such lengthy periods. Incidentally, the period of seventeen weeks obligatory is constantly extended by doctor's orders, and has been known to reach one year's absence.

The fact so often advanced that man and wife are both earning perhaps a considerable income leaves me cold, as I do not feel, personally, that this is the business of anyone, and that if a wife chooses to earn, and to work harder in consequence, it is the affair of the couple themselves. But it is the problem of the mother, not the wife, which is the crux of the whole question. In dire necessity a mother must go out to earn, and all honour to the plucky ones who support a family in this way, but to the many who are not so situated, I feel that the early years of married life should be spent at home in personal contact with the children. No paid assistance, however expert, can possibly take the place of a mother. It is a bad substitute at best, and one which may, at worst, completely wreck the children's lives. This applies, of course, to all occupations which take a woman out of her home at fixed hours, and prevent her being at leisure for the children.

The double occupation of mother and teacher is also a great strain on the individual woman. The countless little ailments of childhood are continually arising and forcing her to make

What are the chief objections felt to the enforced resignation on marriage of women teachers of the L.C.C.? In the first place, it is felt that it would act most injuriously on the efficiency of the schools. Their enforced resignation would deprive the schools of many trained teachers, who by reason of their marriage, are able to bring, in many cases, special qualifications to their own work on account of their intimate knowledge of child-life and their wider range of interests. We are informed that the married women teachers, who in London constitute about 26 per cent. of the whole number, are, in the majority of cases, regarded as a very valuable addition to the teaching staffs. The average length of absence due to maternity is only a little over 4·5 days per annum, as the birth-rate is only about 3 per cent. It is clear that the quality of new recruits is in future bound to be somewhat lowered, as our more enterprising young women will hesitate very considerably in adopting this profession, on which they cannot rely for a livelihood after marriage.

The extra expense, from the ratepayers' point of view, of curtailing artificially the length of service of women teachers in the employ of the L.C.C. is considerable. It is often pointed out as an objection to granting equal pay to men and women teachers, that more women have to be trained in proportion to the number of posts to be filled than have men, because of the resignation of women on marriage. The "Marriage Mortality" cannot be avoided in cases of voluntary resignation, but if it is increased by forced resignation it will mean that the average length of service is shorter and a still larger number of women will have to be trained.

It is being brought forward in defence of the proposed enforced resignation of women teachers on marriage that there is unemployment among teachers, and that, therefore, those who are supported by their husbands should not themselves be employed. Apart, however, from the fact that in these days many such women are not able to be supported by their husbands, the principle of refusing to employ those who have an independent source of income is introducing a new and dangerous form of discrimination. Although at the present moment—owing to the reduction of the birth-rate during the war, and to the fact that the educational developments expected under the Fisher Act have not taken place—there is a certain amount of unemployment among women teachers, the proposal that those now entering the service of the Council shall resign on marriage will only cause a reduction in numbers after several years have elapsed. By that time, no doubt, the number of the children in the schools will have increased once more and, it is hoped, that less stringent economies will be necessary in the educational world. We may, therefore, find ourselves faced once again with the great shortage of women teachers which has existed until quite recently. It is noteworthy that the Teachers' Associations, both those consisting of women only and those of men and women, consider the proposal to enforce resignation on marriage contrary to their interests.

the decision: "Can I leave them, or must I again be absent from school?" Of all professions teaching is the one that needs the whole personality, and undivided attention to the class and the needs of the class. The work is more likely to suffer than most other occupations from the home worries of the teachers. I frankly state that I think there will be a great loss of personality to the schools in the withdrawal of married teachers, as doubtless the woman who has actually borne children must be in deeper sympathy with their needs than the unmarried woman (though there are many exceptions to this rule), but on the balance the advantage, even to the school, is on the side of uninterrupted attendance. It may be urged—and doubtless will be so—that all married teachers do not have children, and it is a delicate and difficult subject to handle, but, frankly, one wishes well-educated women of personality to have children, and any fact which makes them less likely to do so is surely a misfortune to the nation.

I may add that for myself as an individual this is not a matter of economy, although economists will urge the financial view. It is, to my mind, too great a question to be decided on financial grounds—the only point worth considering is the effect on the children of the nation.

HOUSEHOLD ADMINISTRATION.

[The Editor does not hold herself responsible for the views expressed in this column—comment on them will be welcome.—Ed.]

When I read letters about domestic servants and domestic service I feel inclined to cry out "Oh! come out of the kitchen! Rise above it."

As a practical woman, when advising a girl on her future career I am bound to consider: (1) whether her training will lead her? (Blind-alley and seasonal employments are terrible, and there is middle-age to remember; some employments are only for the young, there are in fact many sides to this first question.) (2) What her training will cost? (3) How soon she can earn a living wage? From these three points of view, domestic service is the most satisfactory opening there is at the present time. The brainy girl who takes it up can mould her own career.

The details of manual service do not affect me for one instant, and no one knows them better than I do: good, bad and indifferent.

As someone justly remarks, anyone who wishes to do so can learn to scrub, clean, wash-up, sweep, cook, mend, wash, bake, etc.: all the simple practical household arts. It is quite easy for a young willing girl to acquire skill of a very high order, and skill lessens drudgery. We all like to do the thing we can do well. It is also a fine thing to conquer any natural distaste for these inevitable duties. Someone has to do them! Why should you or I go scot free? To conquer self is the first step to economic and spiritual freedom.

It is, however, neither the career nor the work I am concerned with when I wish to see practical instruction in domestic duties (given preferably in a well-ordered house) made a compulsory part of education; it is the vast possibilities, the unexplored regions of enterprise, social, economic and political, that such a practical foundation of knowledge and experience opens up that rouses my enthusiasm.

"If youth but knew, if old age only could."

I must also assure one correspondent that I would never advise a girl or woman to spend her life in serving the idle rich. That can be kept for those who have no ideals beyond personal comfort and money-making.

One more point: If a girl or woman is badly treated in any place, she should not stay; if she is worth her salt she can easily get another, as long as her health lasts, and if she chooses her situations carefully her health will benefit by domestic work.

I can get good situations for any number of sensible, well-qualified girls and women, as well as places where an intelligent girl can train: it is the feckless folk it is difficult to place; and it is the mistress who looks upon servants as inferior beings, keeps them "on the go" all day, insufficiently fed and warmed, hopeless and helpless drudges, who has made domestic service detested.

Anyone who has been a domestic servant knows!!!

Very little space is left now, and by request that shall be used for cooking. Here again "principles" as applied to "processes" are the most important point.

At Tranquillity Farm, the big house mentioned in my last article as run so successfully with one servant, the cooking was an important feature, but, when one comes to consider it, there was

Those who support the resignation of the married woman teacher often do so on the grounds that it is in the interest of her own home that she ought not to be given the opportunity of working outside. Apart from the fact that many women teachers are only able to marry and have a home at all because they know that they can contribute to its support, it is an insult to any body of adult women not to be allowed, together with their husbands, to decide whether the interests of the home can be most effectually served by the wife doing the domestic work, for which she is not trained, or by her continuing her work as a teacher for which she is trained. Not only should it be remembered that a large number of married women teachers have no children, or that their children have reached school age and so are out most of the day, but that many women feel they can give their children a better and fuller life if their economic situation is less stringent. If it could definitely be proved that women teachers are less efficient in the school than their unmarried sisters, the case of those who wish to expel them from their schools might be justified. We appeal, therefore, to our readers, in the event of the resolution of the Education Committee having been passed, to lose no time in communicating with their representatives on the London County Council urging them to reject such a resolution.

not a great deal of variety: in this case it was the excellence of the food provided that won distinction for the caterer.

The pastry, for example, was a materialized dream, and there was always something to be had made of pastry. How often, when young, we have raided what was known as the "China cupboard" where delicious mincepies and tarts were to be found.

There was a two-course dinner or supper at eight o'clock, and visitors were welcome any evening except Sundays and Wednesdays. This meal was always hot in winter, but often cold in summer.

A favourite dish was a chicken pudding made with a light suet crust. This could be made in the morning and put on early, and was very little trouble; potatoes and Brussels sprouts to serve with it could be prepared likewise early in the day. Rabbit pudding with pickled pork is also good, and partridge pudding is a feast fit for an epicure. It can be made with an old bird or with foreign game, therefore costs very little, and is made just like an ordinary beefsteak pudding. A little beef "skirt" should be cut up and mixed with the partridge, which must also be cut up in neat pieces, the whole seasoned, and just before being put in the pot a little water added and the top crust put on. Do not use self-raising flour or baking powder, but 3 oz. shredded suet, 6 oz. flour, 2 oz. bread crumbs, and a little salt for the crust. Serve in the basin with a table napkin folded round it; cut a piece out of the lid and pour in some boiling water, replace the piece and send to table quickly. It can boil four hours.

ANN POPE.

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COUNCIL ARRANGEMENTS, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th MARCH.

The preliminary agenda is now in the hands of the printers, and will be circulated to our Societies on Thursday, 1st February. Resolutions have been sent in on subjects which have not hitherto been discussed at the Council meeting, several of them of a very controversial character—such as Equality in the Divorce Laws, a Wife's Legal Share of her Husband's Income, Birth Control, the Law of Coverture, and Proportional Representation, which was postponed from last year. The agenda is full of interest, and lively and stimulating debates are expected.

A circular giving full particulars of all the events of the Council week will be issued to our Societies with the agenda, and a handbill for the outside public will shortly be ready. Visitors are warmly welcomed to the meetings or social functions, and full particulars may be had on application to Headquarters.

WHITECHAPEL (EAST) BY-ELECTION.

The public meeting organized by the N.U.S.E.C. for women voters will be over before this paper is issued; a report will appear in this column next week. As polling day is not until 8th February, we hope to continue local propaganda work and will be glad to have offers of voluntary workers willing to speak on our programme, to attend meetings, to distribute literature, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

A FAMILY WAGE.

MADAM,—With reference to Miss E. F. Rathbone's criticism of the universal payment of a five-member family wage, as referred to in your recent "Leader", would it not be much fairer for each man qualified and industrious, to receive the same wage for work satisfactorily accomplished, with an addition to income for the family, according to its size, of non-wage-earning members? It is certainly not fair that the man with family should receive no more than the bachelor, but the "subsidy" in the former case should be used for the benefit of the family, and how is that to be proved?

E. A. R.

P.S.—If a subscription list for Crosby Hall is opened, I, too, will be happy to send towards it my mite of £1 1s.

DEPUTATION TO THE HOME SECRETARY ON THE CHILD OF UNMARRIED PARENTS' BILL.

On Thursday, the 25th January, the Home Secretary received a Deputation organized by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, with representatives from the N.U.S.E.C., the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations, the Salvation Army, and twenty-three other organizations, to ask the Government to introduce and to pass into law this Session, a Children of Unmarried Parents Bill. Mr. James Wignall, M.P., introduced the Deputation, the speakers of which were: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, Mr. F. W. Sherwood (in place of Lord Muir Mackenzie, who was unavoidably prevented from being present at the last moment), Dr. Eric Pritchard, Miss K. Hart (Church Army), Mrs. Jennie Baker, Mr. Sidney Webb, M.P., and Mrs. Bethune-Baker. The Deputation laid before the Home Secretary the facts as to the present unsatisfactory position in the country of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children, and contended that the unfair proportion of the financial burden of the children's support now placed on the mothers was responsible for this state of affairs.

The Bill the Home Secretary was asked to introduce is one based on Mr. Neville Chamberlain's "Children of Unmarried Parents Bill" as it emerged from its Committee stage in the House of Commons, 1921, and on the Legitimation Bill introduced by the last Government in July. The proposed Bill includes, therefore, the following points: (1) The legitimation of children by the subsequent marriage of the parents. (2) The appointing of Collecting Officers in all Courts (this had been provided for in the 1914 Affiliation Orders Act, but had not been carried out). (3) An increase in the amount payable in the Affiliation Order from 10s. to 40s.

The Home Secretary, while he expressed sympathy with the Bill could give no pledge that the Government would introduce it. He advised members of the Deputation to try to obtain a place in the Private Members' Ballot for the Bill, and hoped that if its earlier stages could be got through in Private Members' Time, the Government would be able to give time for the later stages.

This attitude of the Home Secretary came as a very distinct disappointment. Here is a Bill on which all those interested in improving the position of the Unmarried Mother and her Children, of whatever political party, are united. The clauses it contains are admittedly non-contentious, and its passage into law would impose practically no expense on public funds. That the Government should not undertake to introduce legislation on these lines is carrying the tranquillity policy to an absurd point.

THE ROME CONGRESS.

The N.U.S.E.C. and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Societies, as the two National Auxiliaries of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, are co-operating with the Women's Freedom League with regard to the British delegation at the Congress to be held in Rome, beginning 9th May. A strong committee to collect funds in Great Britain has been formed with Mrs. Fawcett as Chairman and Miss Frances Sterling as Hon. Treasurer. It includes many women associated with women's organizations not affiliated to the Alliance but in friendly co-operation with it, who will, it is hoped, send fraternal delegates to the Congress. Fuller particulars will shortly be sent to our Societies and the N.U.S.E.C. delegates will be elected at the Council meetings.

OUR KIND FRIENDS.

The Exchequer of the National Union may be appropriately likened to the widow's cruse. Over and over again, just as our funds have become almost exhausted, one kind friend or another comes providentially to the rescue. This week we received a welcome gift of £150 from a friend who has often helped us before. She is not a member of any committee connected with the N.U.S.E.C., so that she speaks with the impartiality of an outsider, and her encouraging words give us almost as much pleasure as her substantial donation, when she says: "It is not possible to put into words the admiration many of us feel for the splendid work done by the National Union." We also acknowledge gratefully the generous half-yearly subscription of £50 from our kind friend, Miss Hovey, of Colwyn Bay.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.

The Consultative Committee held its monthly meeting this week and a number of resolutions were passed. It was agreed that the Housing Shortage was one of the most serious problems of to-day, and that there was a good deal of ignorance on many complicated questions involved. It was therefore decided to appoint a small sub-committee to prepare, in consultation with expert opinion, a Memorandum dealing with the failure to provide Houses in the past, the legal and financial aspect of the present situation, and the alternate proposals for meeting the urgent need for houses. A variety of subjects were then discussed, including Closing Hours of Public Houses, Venereal Disease in the Mercantile Marine, Women's Franchise, Freedom of the City for Women, the sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Young People, and the Matrimonial Causes Bill. Special attention was given to Unemployment among Women, and the need for further training schemes, and the expected reductions in the Women's Staff of the Ministry of Pensions.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS SOCIETY.

FEB. 5. Guildhouse (entrance Berwick Street, Victoria). 3 p.m. Dr. C. S. Saleeby will give a Lantern Lecture on "Sunshine and Health." Admission 1s. and 6d. Members free.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

FEB. 7. 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1. 8.15 p.m. "The Rome Congress." Speakers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Frances Sterling. Chair: Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., LL.D. FEB. 10. 5.30 p.m. Reading Recital, "Paolo and Francesca." Miss Clara Reed.

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

FEB. 7. Public meeting, Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. 8 p.m. "How Edinburgh is tackling its Housing Problems" (with lantern slides). Speaker: A. Horsburgh Campbell, Esq., M.I.C.E., Burgh Engineer.

FEB. 8. Dowell's Rooms, 50 George Street. 5 p.m. "The Treatment of Venereal Disease from the Public Health Aspect." Speaker: Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D.

N.U.S.E.C.

FEB. 7. BARNESLEY S.E.C. 5.30 p.m. "Economic Position of Women." Mrs. Stocks. FEB. 8. ROTHERHAM W.C.A. Speaker: Mrs. Stocks. FEB. 9. HARROGATE S.E.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Stocks.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT COUNCIL (WOMEN SANITARY INSPECTORS and HEALTH VISITORS ASSOCIATION).

FEB. 7. Royal Sanitary Institution, Buckingham Palace Road. 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

FEB. 6. Plaistow Women's Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

FEB. 7. Sutton Coldfield Women Citizen's Association. 3 p.m. "The Liquor (Popular Control) Bill." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

FEB. 8. Crouch End Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish
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Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro. tem.*).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House,
Eccleston Square, S.W. 1; Sunday, 4th February,
12 noon, Little Rally, for children of all ages. 3.15, Music,
Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmer. 6.30, Mr. W. L. Hichens (of
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