

WOMEN'S SERVICE
FILE COPY
NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XIX. No. 48. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, January 6, 1928.

CONTENTS.

THE UNSOLVED PROBLEM OF THE POOR LAW.	387
THE AGE OF MARRIAGE. By Maud I. Crofts, M.A., LL.B.	387
THE REAL THING AT LAST. By M. D. S.	388
MENTAL WELFARE. By Elizabeth M. Green, J.P.	389
IN MEMORIAM:	
Mrs. Frank Marshall. By H. M. Swanwick	390
Mrs. Albert Gray. From a Correspondent	390
NOTES FROM IRELAND. By Dora Mellone	390

Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and Abroad, 6/6.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1

NOTES AND NEWS.

New Social Legislation.

In our Summary last week, it was pointed out that several valuable pieces of legislation reached the Statute Book during the past year. Of these two came into immediate operation. The Nursing Homes (Registration) Act, shepherded by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, provides for the registration and inspection of nursing homes. The Money Lenders Act, which also comes into force, is at least a step in the right direction, as it requires money lenders to hold licences which may be cancelled in the event of conviction of abuse and limits the rate of interest. We refer below to another important piece of social legislation which came into effect with the New Year. We offer our congratulations to Mrs. Hilton Philipson on the success which has attended her little Act for the proper registration of nursing homes. The Act, which is the same as the Bill introduced by Mr. Hurst a session earlier, will prove invaluable in raising the standard of some of the nursing homes, especially those of the rather cheaper kind, for chronic and senile cases.

A New Year's Present.

An event of some importance in the social history of this country took place at the beginning of this year, when the final section of the Widows' Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act came into operation. In future an insured person can claim an old age pension of 10s. when he reaches the age of 65. The wife of an insured person is eligible for a similar pension at the same age. This extension will bring a happy New Year to many homes, and will remove the worst fears of coming of old age from many hearts. It is suggested by the Parliamentary correspondent to *The Times* that one indirect result on the problem of unemployment may be the withdrawal from industry of older men, thus leaving more room for the younger men. Women workers, too, will benefit greatly. An assured 10s. a week will give them a basis for their own savings and even the healthiest domestic servant who in some quarters still feels herself to be an injured victim of a National Insurance Scheme realizes that at last she is going to get some return for her money. Social students will watch the effects of this new development with great interest and hope.

Age of Marriage.

An interesting suggestion has been made by an official at the Home Office to the small committee of women's organizations which has been meeting to consider whether, in recommending the raising of the legal minimum marriage age to 16, marriages under that age should be automatically void, voidable, or neither one nor the other. The suggestion is that the Bill should be a simple one-clause measure, providing that any marriage under the age of 16 should be illegal. This would have the effect of making either of the parties to the marriage, the parents in the case of children under 16, and the registrar, etc., guilty of a criminal offence in the same way as are those connected with an offence under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act. The law with regard to voidability now in being with regard to the present legal minimum age for marriage would still hold good for the later age. We publish an article by Mrs. Crofts explaining both the present position and the proposed change.

Honour to whom honour is due.

Women occupy the usual insignificant place in the New Year's Honours List. We are glad, however, to congratulate Miss Jane Frances Dove, J.P., whose name will ever be associated with St. Leonard's School and Miss Jeannette Halford, whose work for maternity and infant welfare is widely recognized. The list, apart from a few notable exceptions, is otherwise of no special interest.

Standard of Examinations: Suggested Difference for Boys and Girls.

All interested in women's education cannot but regret that the Association of Headmasters should have passed at their recent conference a resolution that it was neither necessary nor desirable that the conditions of examination should be identical for girls and boys. This does not seem compatible with the statement made elsewhere that the Association is convinced that "what is sauce for the goose is and must be sauce for the gander." The question arose from the matter referred to the Association of Headmasters by the Board of Education as a result of a proposal made last autumn by the Association of Headmistresses to the Examinations Council of the Board of Education that there should be less rigidity in the subjects required to qualify for the School Certificate. This proposal resulted from the discussion which took place at their own Conference held at Oxford in the summer, on the relative importance of various subjects in the teaching of girls, and which was reported on in these columns at the time. It was agreed then that such subjects as domestic economy, art, needlework, should rank equally with the standard subjects, and this was pointed out at the meeting of the Examinations Council when relaxation of the group system was recommended. At that meeting the matter was referred to the Board of Education; they, however, wished first to know the views of the headmasters, "even if their candidates were only one-tenth of the whole in the country." It is very unfortunate that such an expression of opinion should be made by an Association which carries so much weight as that of the Headmasters. Our correspondent "A scholar of the '90's" deals with the same subject which undoubtedly raises many questions which we propose to deal with more fully in subsequent issues.

'Keep fit on
cocoa'

BOURNVILLE
SEE THE "Cadbury" ON EVERY PIECE
NAME OF CHOCOLATE

Write
Cadbury Bournville
about Gift Scheme

Superficial Judgments.

Mr. Maurice Jacks, headmaster of Mill Hill School, has been delivering strange verdicts on the development of modern home life. There is, he believes, "a real tendency towards a decay of our family life." This, in his opinion, is partly due to the growth of certain new forms of community life brought about by scientific discovery and invention, partly to the disappearance of the large family, and partly to the *feminist* movement which he regards as responsible for a tendency to distract the mother to interests outside the home. One symptom of the decay occasioned by these and other causes is, in his opinion, a loss of respect for parents on the part of children. Now it is quite clear from Mr. Jack's remarks that he is thinking in terms of middle-class existence; let us therefore oppose to his judgments our own experience of the trend of middle-class family life. We find, in the first place, everywhere a far greater readiness of young married women to dispense with the help of nurses and make the management and care of their children a major preoccupation—one which they engage in with professional seriousness and constant appeals to the works of contemporary educationalists, physiologists, and psychologists. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and the health of children is steadily improving. Respect for the parent, in the Victorian sense, has it is true, suffered a striking decline and the old isolation of the father as a remote and god-like superior has disappeared. But it has been replaced by a greater community of interest and closer co-operation in the business of everyday life between parents and children. The age at which it is thought necessary to wean a boy from the dangers of home life is steadily rising. The old social compulsion which prescribed a preparatory boarding school for boys at the age of 7 or 8, is slackening, and the boarding school itself is suffering the invasion of home influence. It is no longer a conventional necessity for a self-respecting school boy in the presence of his fellows to be distant with his mother or ashamed of his sisters. In the age-long duel between the mother and the school-master, the mother is advancing foot by foot, and the feminist movement with all its wide implications of education and self-respect is strengthening her hand and steeling her belief that the home is something more than a background for the school.

Justice for the Married Woman.

The battle for the right of married women teachers to determine the conditions of their own domestic life is still raging fiercely in Lancashire, and just before Christmas a notable victory occurred for the married women teachers. By 17 votes to 8 the Lancashire County Education Committee followed the enlightened example of the Oldham Education Committee by repeating a proposal to refer back to its Elementary Education Sub-Committee a resolution disapproving the policy of compulsory resignation on marriage. On the following day the *Manchester Guardian* threw its weight, in the form of a leading article, on the side of the married women teachers. We hope that sufficient local pressure will soon be forthcoming to force a similar policy on the Manchester and Salford Education Committees.

Maternal Mortality.

Dame Janet Campell, of the Ministry of Health, seems determined to force the obstinate and deplorable fact of our unchanging maternal mortality rate upon the dull conscience of the public. On 27th December she made it the subject of her opening lecture to the Winter School of Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors at King's College. In the course of it she indicated some interesting negative conclusions. The maternal mortality rate of England and Wales stood midway between the high rates of Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, and America, and the low rates of Holland, Scandinavia, and Italy. Why should Catholic Italy have a lower rate than Catholic Ireland? Why should Holland differ so greatly from Germany? In discussing remedies she referred to the fact that under existing conditions midwifery was not an economic proposition, and must for the present be subsidized. She considered that there was scope for the extension of the municipal service.

Public Health Survey in America.

The registration of midwives is an urgent matter to-day in many of the American States. Dr. Carl McCombs's interesting survey, "City Health and Administration," shows that there is nothing to prevent the practice of the ignorant and incompetent woman. In Wilmington, Delaware, it was found that the infant mortality rate was exceedingly high and that about one-fourth of the births in the city were attended by midwives, many of whom were ignorant and dirty; were unable to write or read

and entirely unsupervised. Apparently registration is the only requirement for a woman wishing to practise midwifery; nor test of competency is required and no examination is made of their methods or equipment. Negresses who practise as midwives are almost wholly untrained. The health and welfare services were found to be most efficiently co-ordinated in some of the "manager" governed towns, for example, Dayton and Cleveland, Ohio and Norfolk. Such management tends to "centralize administrative responsibility and control of public services and thereby to effect economies, both in money and effort."

The 10th Anniversary of "Votes for Some Women."

The tenth anniversary of the first great instalment of votes for women will be celebrated by a "suffragette dinner" on Saturday, 4th February, at the Restaurant in Craig's Court, when the tables will be presided over by ex-prisoners, including Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. How-Martyn, Mrs. Billington Greig, Mrs. Drummond, and Miss Nina Boyle. On Monday, 6th February, these ex-prisoners will address a public meeting on Equal Franchise in Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. Some of the brave women who fought in their own special way for our Cause are no longer here, but we rejoice that such a large contingent are still working with us in the final stages. A few days later (8th February) a "King's Speech" meeting, organized by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, will be held in the Caxton Hall, and a month later, when women from all parts of the country will be in London, the Queen's Hall demonstration will take place. The best celebration of the event of February, 1918, will be the achievement of the full franchise which we believe shortly will be ours.

The Shop Hours Inquiry.

The Departmental Committee appointed by the Home Secretary last March, to inquire into the working of the Shops (Early Closing) Acts, 1920 and 1921, reported this week. The two women members were Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and Miss Margaret Irwin. The report, which recommends the discontinuance of the Shops Acts but recommends that the principle of compulsory closing be embodied in permanent legislation, is signed by all the members with some reservations on the part of several. The problem is not an easy one. We are of opinion that the hours worked by shop assistants are in many cases far too long, but it must not be forgotten that West End hours, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., rule out from shopping privileges a large number of people engaged during these hours. Mrs. Philipson puts in a plea for the small shopkeeper to do as he or she personally likes, though the hours of any assistants occupied should be safeguarded. But the difficulty is that competition demands that what A does B must do too, and some kind of uniformity is essential.

The Care of the Blind.

Workers among the blind should not forget the evidence of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, which has just been reappointed by the Ministry of Health for a further period of office. There are two women members, Miss L. King and Dr. Adeline Roberts, and the secretary is Mr. F. M. Chapman, of the Ministry of Health. The Committee which has the duty of advising the Minister on matters affecting the interests of the blind, is representative of local authorities and voluntary agencies for the blind, as well as organized blind workers.

Ourselves.

Copies of the New Year's issue, 30th December, are still available, and intending new subscribers for 1928 should make a point of beginning their year's subscription with that date. Mrs. Hubback's article on women in politics in 1927 tells the students of women's politics exactly where we stand, and what we are aiming at in 1928. The other articles are also full of interest. Women with an eye to posterity will certainly file these annual numbers of ours carefully. Indeed, we believe that the present period in the story of the women's movement will far surpass the more dramatic and picturesque pre-war days in the interest of those who fifty years later will study it from our pages. Copies for distribution at meetings may still be had at a nominal charge. Will any of our readers respond to our appeal of last week and help us to secure new subscribers? A present of the New Year number will effect the necessary introduction, and we are vain enough to believe that many readers of that number will wish to meet us weekly throughout the year.

THE UNSOLVED PROBLEM OF THE POOR LAW.

The first issue of *The Times* which greeted us after the Christmas holiday contained some very rude and unseasonable reminders concerning the operations of the poor law during the financial year 1926-7. The relief of destitution cost, during the year, a round £49,500,000. This represents the maintenance or partial maintenance of an average pauper population of some 1,200,000 persons. It is the highest total of expenditure in the history of the poor law, and it exceeds that of the preceding year by some £9.5 million. This is not, of course, the full tale. Seventy boards of guardians were equipped with authority from the Ministry of Health to borrow for current expenditure, and their total loans and overdrafts on 30th September amounted to £14,015,690. Meanwhile, in three unions, West Ham, Chester-le-Street, and Bedwellty, the elected boards of guardians have been superseded by the Ministry of Health, and the administration of relief in these areas is in the hands of persons appointed by the Minister. The increase of expenditure noted above has coincided with the operation, during part of the year, of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act—which is calculated to relieve the poor law at the rate of £1,768,000 per year. Thus the increase of poor law expenditure is actually a little more than it seems at first sight.

The Press and the public have not been slow to diagnose the seat of the poor law's sickness, as evidenced by these uncomfortable facts and figures. It is generally believed that large sections of the public are becoming accustomed to finding themselves in receipt of poor law relief without experiencing the deterrent sensations of shame associated during the nineteenth century with "the stigma of the poor law." This phenomenon is of course associated with the complete and final abandonment by large numbers of boards of guardians of any attempt to enforce the old nineteenth century principle that except in cases of "sudden and urgent necessity" able-bodied persons shall be relieved only in the workhouse. There is, in fine, a very widespread increase of outdoor relief. This view of the matter is reinforced by concrete examples, quoted from various parts of the country, of families whose breadwinners are deterred from accepting employment by the fact that the relief allowances which they can obtain from the guardians equal or even exceed the wages which they are likely to earn. There are also available examples of young unemployed men who marry and beget children in continuous dependence on the poor law. It may be suspected that the number of such cases is exaggerated by the readiness of the well-to-do to believe evil of the poor, stimulated perhaps by their natural desire to associate material success with personal worth. Nevertheless such cases do exist, and there appears to be some evidence for the belief that their existence was even more widespread during the year 1926-7 than it was during the year 1925-6. And to students of social history the trend of the last few years cannot fail to recall those 37 years of cumulative pauperism which led the Reform Parliament of 1832 to make the reconstruction of the poor law its first and most urgent preoccupation.

THE AGE OF MARRIAGE.

By MAUD I. CROFTS, M.A., LL.B.

Nonage, or want of age, in the contracting parties to a marriage operates under English Law to render the marriage voidable, both because of a want of consent and because of the immaturity of the contracting parties or one of them.

English Law, following the Canon Law (which was in its turn copied from the Roman Law), has fixed the ages of matrimonial consent at 14 years for males and 12 years for females; the original assumption apparently having been that at those ages the sexes can respectively appreciate the responsibility and fulfil the duties of marriage.

The Roman Catholic Church has recently raised the age for a Canon Law marriage by two years in the case of each sex respectively, but English Law has remained unaltered.

The question whether marriages contracted between persons under the age of consent are under English Law void or merely voidable is not entirely without difficulty. The Law as generally accepted by the recognized legal authorities may be summed up perhaps as follows:—

"The age at which a person is capable of giving the necessary consent, and therefore of marrying, is fourteen in the case of males and twelve in the case of females. A marriage under the age of consent is not absolutely void, but only voidable by

There are big differences, of course, for no two historical periods are accurately comparable. To-day our whole grasp of social administration is firmer, our knowledge of social events more comprehensive, our technique of social control more developed than it was a century ago. We have, moreover, something which did not exist during the earlier period, a vigilant and continuously functioning central authority. But there are similarities to set beside the differences. The abandonment of old principles coinciding with the failure to articulate new ones, the growing burden of the rates, the cumulative creation of a pauper vested interest, the growth of widespread public scepticism concerning the adaptability of old poor law machinery to new poor law problems. We should not in all probability be very far wrong if we were to use such similarities to justify the statement that the reform of the poor law is as urgent a matter in 1928 as it was in 1832, and that its urgency is no less generally acknowledged. The reform of the poor law is indeed part of the declared intention of the present Government. It was part of the declared intention of the last government—and of the last government but one—and of the government before the last government but one.

But does anybody seriously suppose that a change of machinery, a change of name, or a change of area is going to solve the problem of the poor law—unless, of course, it involves, as it involved after 1834, a clearly articulated and consistently enforced change of principle? And have we a principle ready to hand? There are, of course, many people up and down the country who are prepared to demand a reinforcement of the principle of 1834. They urge that by hook or crook, by the "offer of the House" or the general scaling down of relief allowances, the position of the relieved person must be made so very much more unpleasant than that of the independent wage-earner as to stimulate all possible efforts for self-reliance. But are we prepared to apply this principle ruthlessly in areas containing large stagnant pools of unemployment where its application is likely to have deplorable results on human health and happiness? And yet—if we do not enforce it, how can we meet the present evil?

History is sometimes a fruitful consultant. We may have very little to learn in the matter of poor law principle and poor law practice from the records of that early attempt to reform an obsolete and demoralized poor law. But in one direction the experience of our great grandfathers may bring us a ray of comfort. From the stress and turmoil of the actual business of poor law reform they distilled a new incentive to tackle in the same spirit, the causes of destitution. It was found impossible to reform the poor law without at the same time dealing scientifically with the principal cause of early nineteenth century destitution; dirt and disease. There is this much to be said for the old poor law of 1834, it was the parent of the public health service. Perhaps our own attempts to deal with the problem of destitution as it exists in the year of disgrace 1928, will engender a comparable preoccupation with the mobility of unemployed labour and the training of unoccupied able-bodied persons.

either party on the person under age reaching the age of consent. If the girl was under twelve, either party may disaffirm the marriage on her attaining that age, and similarly, in the case of a boy under fourteen. If at the age of consent the marriage is affirmed by the parties, it becomes a valid marriage and cannot afterwards be questioned by either, and cohabitation after the age of consent is reached amounts to an affirmation of the contract." [Halsbury, *The Laws of England*, vol. 16, p. 281 and note, pp. 281 and 282.]

Where both parties to a marriage are above 14 and 12 years respectively but one or both are under 21, the legal position is quite clear. The marriage is valid even if it has been solemnized without the consents of Parents or Guardians having been obtained, though the Law will impose penalties if false declarations of age have been made.

At the present time, when either of the parties to a marriage (not being a widower or widow) is under 21 years of age, the declaration to accompany the notice of marriage (which is made by one of the contracting parties) must also include a statement that the necessary consents by parents, guardians, etc., have been given or that there is no person whose consent is so required. The Home Office also requires Registrars to insist on copies of

birth certificates being produced if either of the parties is under age, but the only statutory obligation at the present time is the declaration.

It has now been proposed that a Government Bill should be passed raising the age of marriage for both sexes to 16 years and that, in addition, any person knowingly assisting at or taking part in any marriage where either or both the contracting parties are under the age of 16 should be guilty of a criminal offence.

If such a Bill becomes Law it will not result in any great change in social conditions in England itself, for, in spite of the existing low minimum age of marriage, extremely few marriages are actually solemnized in England between parties under 16 years of age. The Census Statistics for the period 1915-26 are as follows:—

Marriages under 13 years of age . . .	0
Marriages under 14 years of age . . .	3
Marriages under 15 years of age . . .	30
Marriages under 16 years of age . . .	292

Thus, with a population of some 40 millions, less than 30 marriages a year under 16 take place in this country.

The value of the proposed measure, however, chiefly lies in the need for England to set a good example which will encourage countries, whose actual practice is far more retrograde than ours, to follow our example and to set their houses in order.

Another valuable result which would follow would be that the minimum age of marriage would conform with the "age of consent" under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922.

It will of course be remembered that by that Act (with one comparatively unimportant exception) the consent of a girl under 16 to unlawful sexual intercourse is no defence.

THE REAL THING AT LAST.¹

About a year ago we reviewed in these columns with passionate discontent a volume of collected essays entitled "Medical Views on Birth Control." They were not, on the whole, bad essays. Our complaint was that they were in the main not *medical* views, but rather ethical and political views expressed by persons who happened to be eminent medical authorities, and that with such views we were already adequately conversant. For the most part we knew perfectly well what these particular persons thought about the ethics and politics of birth control before ever we opened the book. What we hungered for—what the public hungered for—was an expression of informed *medical* opinion concerning the efficacy and the physiological harmlessness of the birth control methods at present widely in use, and advocated by the propagandists of birth control teaching.

When a succeeding volume: *Medical Aspects of Contraception* appeared last month, under similar auspices, we approached it with dark forebodings. Its title appeared no more medical than that of its predecessor. Its contents might by the same measure be no more relevant. Our forebodings became darker when we perceived that of the three women doctors appointed to serve on the committee of investigation, two were notable opponents of birth control on religious and social grounds.

But with p. 1 of the Report, doubts began to disperse. Here at last was a *medical* report, objectively compiled after the consideration of evidence of a *medical* nature. It is true of course that the bulk of such evidence must necessarily be taken from doctors who are favourably disposed towards birth control on general grounds, for it is precisely these who have most practical experience of its use, who have themselves advised methods and observed results. Thus a considerable proportion of the evidence (about a quarter of it) was taken from doctors who had themselves practised at birth control clinics and might be presumed to be enthusiastic advocates of birth control from the social and ethical, as well as from the medical point of view. Nevertheless, the rigorous and critical cross-examination to which these and other witnesses were subjected by members of the Committee was such as to convince the reader that the report is in effect an objective and unbiassed distillation of such technical experience as was available.

Three main conclusions seem to emerge from the Report and the evidence taken together, and these three main conclusions may be cited as the really important contribution which the book makes to general discussion of the question:—

In the first place, it is admitted that statistical data is as yet very incomplete, and that much of the statistical data already put before the public is unreliable. The activities of a committee

¹ *Medical Aspects of Contraception*, being the report of the Medical Committee appointed by the National Council of Public Morals. (Martin Hopkinson, 10s. 6d.)

which has met eighteen times must therefore be regarded as the beginning rather than the end of the expert investigation which this problem demands on its medical side alone.

In the second place it is generally admitted that an entirely simple and efficacious method of contraception has not yet been devised. All those at present advised by doctors are open to the objection that failures are apt to occur and that demands are made upon the patience and intelligence of the user.

In the third place, no evidence has been found to establish the contention often put forward by the opponents of birth control that no contraceptive method is free from harmful physiological results. The harmful results which do indeed occur in some cases are the result of adopting bad methods or misapplying good methods.

But apart from its conclusions, negative and positive, the matter both of the Report and of the evidence is something of a portent. It indicates to the lay reader that a number of doctors really are waking up to the fact that unless they concern themselves actively with this matter less expert persons will attempt to fill their place. Where birth control clinics exist under qualified medical supervision it is a common occurrence for patients to present themselves with letters of recommendation from private practitioners who confess themselves unable to give advice which they know to be necessary, owing to their ignorance of a technique which they believe to be sound. The writer of this review, who belongs neither to the medical nor to the nursing profession, was recently reproached by a doctor for promoting discussion of the social and administrative aspects of birth control. "It ought to be left to the doctors," was her plea. A few months later the same writer received a letter from a well-to-do fellow citizen whose application to her own medical adviser had been met with the reply: "I don't really know. You had better write to M. D. S."

For these reasons there is satisfaction in the knowledge that in addition to this above-mentioned Committee which has held its meetings, issued its report and presumably ceased to function, an expert Birth Control Investigation Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Humphrey Rolleston is now in permanent being for the collection of statistical data and the promotion of scientific study. At long last, it seems, the medical profession is preparing to lay its hand firmly upon the tiller of this fateful argosy.

M. D. S.

WOMEN AND THE OLD SCHOOL BOARD.

We have recently had the 57th anniversary of the First School Board Election after the passing of the Education Act of 1870, which provided at the same time practically the first experiment in England in the secret ballot, and actually the first in women's suffrage and the candidature of women. The new method of voting, instead of the old hustings was tried in nine of the London districts with such success that two years later it was made compulsory. Women voters made full use of their powers, and two women—Miss Elizabeth Garrett (later Dr. Garrett Anderson), of Marylebone, and Miss Lydia Beckett, of Manchester—were elected. Miss Garrett secured over 20,000 more votes than any other candidate in the country.

WOMEN GOVERNORS OF BOYS' SCHOOLS.

It would be interesting to know how many boys' schools are furnished with women governors, or whether Mrs. Shena Simon and Mrs. Mary Smith, of Manchester, are the first. At any rate, both these ladies were appointed last week as representatives of the Local Education Authority, to the boards of the South and North Manchester Boys' Secondary Schools respectively. Here is a precedent which might be followed with advantage to boys' education all over the country. It might even be conducive to an ultimate break with the exclusively masculine lines of male education which render so many men (especially those who have been educated in two boarding schools followed by a collegiate university) grievously unfitted to participate in the give and take of normal home life where persons of different sexes and a wide range of ages engage in a life of mutual compromise.

THE RIGHT KIND OF EDUCATION.

The Canadian Government has been urging upon its Provincial Governments the importance of public education in the aims of the League of Nations, and in response the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba has had a special chapter on this subject prepared for inclusion in school textbooks. It would be interesting to know how far this Canadian development is paralleled in the other Dominions by similar attempts to make a knowledge of League ideas part and parcel of the mental equipment of the ordinary boy or girl.

MENTAL WELFARE.

By ELIZABETH M. GREEN.

In view of the steadily growing interest of the public regarding Mental Hospitals and the care of the Insane and Feeble-minded, it is a matter of great satisfaction that this year the Board of Control has issued a section of its Annual Report containing the most essential information at a price (2s.) that makes it accessible to all.

The present Report is of peculiar interest. In its Introduction the Board strongly expresses its agreement with most of the findings of the Royal Commission in Lunacy and Mental Disorder, and emphasizes the need for action on the lines suggested by the findings of the Commission, especially in two important aspects:—

- (1) The provision of much extended facilities for treating early cases of insanity without certification, and by such treatment preventing many from a permanent mental breakdown.
- (2) The dissociating the treatment of insanity in all its stages from the Poor Law. "The present arrangements under which so many patients are first dealt with in Poor Law Institutions, sometimes for long periods, before entering Mental Hospitals are open to grave objection. Moreover, it seems to us indefensible to pauperize individuals merely because they become mentally ill and are treated at the public expense."

The Board considers that there is no evidence to show that the incidence of insanity is increasing, yet, on account of the normal growth of the population, further accommodation is necessary.

The number of notified insane persons under care in England and Wales on 1st January, 1927, was 136,626, an increase of 2,743 over the preceding year.

The attention of Local Authorities is called to the insufficiency and inadequacy of their present accommodation for these cases, and the need of promptly adopting energetic measures to prevent serious overcrowding, entailing as it must discomfort and hardship to the patients and an inevitable rise in the death-rate.

A scheme for the Regional Grouping of Mental Hospitals is advocated, and the provision of facilities "whereby the work of such Hospitals could form a link with the Medical Schools of the Universities"—with the object of stimulating medical research in these Hospitals.

With regard to the question of accommodation for Mental Defectives, the Report shows that it has become one of most serious moment. During the past year, no additions have been made to the number—twenty-three—of Institutions provided by Local Authorities. At a low computation one per thousand of the population is in need of institutional care, and yet the total number of available beds is only 5,301.

While allowing that the heavy financial burden of the rates largely accounts for this state of things, the Board strongly criticizes the short-sightedness of this policy. "It is difficult to convince members of Councils that the expense of maintaining the feeble-minded who cannot maintain themselves must eventually be borne by the community, and that it is a choice between maintenance under improper conditions in Poor Law Institutions, Prisons, by outdoor relief or unemployment benefit, or maintenance in Institutions where they are under continuous training and care. The present methods of supporting mental defectives leave them free to cause grave social evils by their delinquencies and depredations, and so produce children who in turn may have to be supported out of the rates. These afflicted persons should be a first charge on any civilized community."

It is satisfactory to learn that certain Authorities have already acquired estates with the object, in the near future, of developing large Village Colonies for the defective, where efficient classification and individual care can be combined with economic administration. When these schemes mature, there will be some alleviation of the position, but many Authorities will still be without any provision for even urgent cases. Yet, with improved methods of diagnosis and ascertainment, the number of defectives known to the Authorities is steadily increasing. At the close of 1926, the number was 60,234, or 1.59 per thousand, an increase during the year of nearly 5,000. Of the above total, 16,143 are under Statutory supervision, and the Board considers "that this affords, if properly carried out, at any rate for a time and for certain

cases, a fair measure of protection." Encouragement should be given for such cases to attend Occupation and Industrial Centres, of which 99 have now been opened, chiefly by the Voluntary Associations. The Board pays a striking tribute to the value of those Associations, and to the magnificent organizing and educational work done by the Central Association for Mental Welfare.

Of the many other important matters dealt with in the Report, brief mention can be made of only two or three. The Board welcomes the new Mental Deficiency (Amending) Bill, 1927, and considers that "the present definitions which require that only those defectives can be dealt with in regard to whom it can be proved that the defect has existed 'from birth or an early age' have prevented many cases from receiving the care and protection of the Act, though urgently in need of them." A very significant statement follows with respect to persons suffering from the effects of Encephalitis Lethargica. "In our opinion mental defect within the meaning of the Act may exist in persons of considerable intelligence. The criterion is whether the individual is so mentally defective that he requires care, supervision, and control for his own protection and the protection of others. In the present state of our knowledge institutions for defectives offer the most appropriate places, so far provided, for the care and training of certain post-Encephalitic cases, and if the condition has existed at the adolescent period, they may properly be certified under the Mental Deficiency Act."

The Board makes a very strong pronouncement as to the undesirability of marriage of defectives under orders, but doubts if public opinion is at present sufficiently informed to enforce legislation on the question. One may perhaps venture to hope that before the issue of the next Report public opinion may be better informed.

On the very controversial question of sterilization, the Board states that, after a year's further consideration of the question, it has arrived at no definite conclusion, but goes on to say that "we do not consider that sterilization would materially diminish the immediate need for increased institutional accommodation or for the better provision for the care and supervision of defectives outside institutions. Whether sterilized or not, a large number of defectives will continue to need institutional care on account of their inherent incapacity to look after themselves." A report which should be read in full by all interested in this question is furnished at the request of the Board by Dr. F. Douglas Turner, Medical Superintendent of the Royal Eastern Counties Institution, Colchester. He considers the question in relation to the whole of the patients under his care, taking them class by class, and shows that while sterilization would facilitate discharge in an almost negligible percentage of cases, the number discharged would have little or no effect on the necessity for Colony provision.

Altogether the Report generally is of outstanding interest and should be widely read.

A SOUND INVESTMENT.

Lady Bryce, President of the Central Employment Bureau for Women and Students' Career Association, and Mrs. Randall Davidson, have issued an appeal for the Loan Fund of the Bureau. We can imagine no more valuable method of helping educated young women than loans for professional training and we are told by the writers that with few exceptions these loans are repaid punctually, and that there are no bad debts. Money given to this laudable purpose is not twice blessed only. It is used over and over again and benefits an endless succession of women workers. We hope that there will be a liberal response to this appeal.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner
In making, use **LESS QUANTITY** it being
much stronger than **ORDINARY COFFEE**

OBITUARY.

MRS. FRANK MARSHALL.

Writing of anyone so rare and distinct as Caroline Marshall one would like to give some idea of what made her different from other people. Kind she was, and clever; a warm and welcoming hostess; a public-spirited and wide-minded woman; a rare helpmeet to her wise and capable husband. When the Suffrage movement revived in the first decade of this century, behold, Cumberland became one of the centres of activity and this was because there were some real live persons living at Hawse End near Keswick. Frank Marshall, who had retired there after years of admirable work in Harrow School, his wife and his daughter Catherine made a centre in that part of the world, from which enthusiasm radiated in all directions. Speakers made their headquarters at Hawse End; tired workers were given harbourage and nursed back to vigour—frailer and frailer as they became, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall did not spare themselves in adding all these efforts to the many others involved in a public-spirited country life. They lived in a lovely land, and they made it more gracious and lovely by the house they built, the garden they planned, the spirit of simpleness and refinement which inhabited it.

But all this sounds too generalized to give any idea of the friend who has just left us. Slight she was, small and eager, with a bright but delicate rose on her cheeks, and dark lapis-blue eyes. Until she became ill, not restless, but ever active. With an impish humour peeping out and drawing swiftly, with as it were a stroke or two of a sure pencil, a memorable picture. There was something in her that never grew old. As the wife of a Harrow master, she must often have had to deny utterance to her originality, but she did not allow it to be killed. She withdrew into herself and within her, imprisoned latterly by many physical disabilities, sat the sprite who, not unkindly, mocked the futilities and silliness and pretensions of Great People.

She had to bear sorrow and illness and the tedious waning of health and faculties, which is so hard for a fiery spirit. One remembers her in her prime, when she could laugh and be angry; very angry. She was trusty and vivid and true.

H. M. S.

APPRECIATION OF MRS. ALBERT GRAY.
FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

We record, with deep regret, the death of Mrs. Albert Gray—Mabel Henderson.

She was of Quaker stock, born and brought up in Glasgow, and, except for a few years after her marriage spent in England and Germany, her home was in that city.

A member of the Glasgow Parish Council since 1922, she served during five strenuous years. She was a strong supporter of the League of Nations Union, and as a speaker and member of Executive gave much valuable work to it. She had been a member of the old Suffrage Society for many years, and as an office bearer of the Amalgamated body (the S.E.C. and W.C.A.) took an active part in forwarding the common cause. One of her last bits of work was to lead a study circle on Maude Royden's book *The Church and Women*.

She was a devoted worker, but she was more, she was a qualified one. She went to Geneva to learn about the League of Nations' work. She went to Paris last year to attend the I.A.W.S.E.C. to have first hand knowledge of the International outlook of women and she attended the annual council meetings of the N.U.S.E.C. for like purpose. Above all what one could not fail to note was the quality of Mrs. Gray's work. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, Dr. Albert Gray, and her two sons, one of whom, Mr. Donald Gray, has recently been appointed headmaster of Botham School. The following verses by G. Jinarajadasa were spoken by a friend at the service, before going to the Crematorium, and may fitly conclude this little record of Mabel Gray.

Word that is true and voice that is kind,
Thought that is just from a selfless mind,
Help that is swift and hurt that is spared,
Grief that is hid and joy that is shared—
These be the flowers that I cull this day,
Smiling at eve in thy hand to lay.

Hope springing new each day from hope's grave,
Will that is bent on a world to save;
Love, loving many that seeks but One,
Dreams of a future when woe is done—
These be the flowers that I cull this day,
Smiling at eve in thy hand to lay.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

"IN A LOOMP?"

"The poor in a loomp is bad" said the Northern Farmer. Feminists are sometimes tempted to apply the phrase to Governments. In Northern Ireland the Government makes great parade of giving "equal treatment with England" to the people of the "loyal province." A duplicate of the Trades Disputes Act is carried against opposition from Labour, Independents, and the Nationalists, the sole argument raised in defence of the measure being the plea of the necessity for keeping "step by step with England." Yet the Government turns a deaf ear to the demand for measures on the lines of the Equal Guardianship and Separation and Maintenance Orders Acts. "Sauce à la Grande Bretagne" may evidently be suitable dressing for the Labour gander, but not for the feminist goose.

Meanwhile, the Equal Franchise Bill, introduced by Mr. Devlin, was heavily defeated, as was foreordained to be. The one woman M.P. spoke and voted against the measure. "God Almighty made them to match the men," said that wise woman, Mrs. Poyser. Belfast feminists have the written promise of the Prime Minister that legislation in Great Britain will be followed in the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

WANTED VOLUNTEERS.

In the Irish Free State matters are even more complicated. As has been related in *THE WOMAN'S LEADER*, the Government succeeded in carrying a measure excluding women from compulsory jury service but permitting the formation of a voluntary panel. This was a concession to the opposition in the Senate, which urged that legislation differentiating against women in this manner was contrary to the famous equal citizenship article of the Constitution. The argument was "childlike and bland" in the extreme. No one likes jury service. No one would serve on a jury were it possible to escape doing so. Therefore, exclude women from compulsory jury service, but leave them the chance to volunteer. No one will do so, and then it will be possible to use this failure as an argument for final and definite exclusion. The Irish Women Citizens' Association has, however, taken up the gauntlet, and is working to secure sufficient names to make a voluntary panel possible. Drawing-room meetings are being held and personal canvass carried out. The task is not easy, and it is only possible to wish those who undertake it every success. Such success will be, at least, deserved.

"ON THE SURFACE"—AND UNDERNEATH.

Meanwhile, legal lights in the Irish Free State are distressed by what a leading K.C. termed a "wave of infanticide." There have undoubtedly been some serious cases. Women are inclined to ask what there is underlying this lamentable state of affairs. Waves trouble the surface, but there is always much underneath. Letters from the Irish Women Citizens and other organizations have pointed out that the provision of machinery for establishing responsibility of both parents is at least the first step in effecting any moral reform. As usual, the method so far has been to hold up the girl—in one case a child of fifteen—to public horror, and to ask for "an example of sternness." The Government has definitely promised that a measure providing for payment of Affiliation Orders shall be introduced into the Oireachtas. The recent report of the Poor Law Commission makes the same recommendation. It should be noted that the same report urges that in cases where women and children are involved there should be women on the jury. If the suggested "example of sternness" is to be tried, the work of the Women Citizens is, indeed, necessary. It is satisfactory that the *Irish Times*, one of the two leading papers in the Irish Free State, has given editorial backing to this agitation for introduction of Affiliation Orders, and has quoted editorially from the official letters of the women's organizations.

DORA MELLONE.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER
EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

Send 6/6 to the Office of the Paper, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1
1/8 for Three Months. SUBSCRIBE TO-DAY

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: MISS MACADAM.
Parliamentary Secretary: MRS. HORTON.
General Secretary: MISS HANCOCK.
Office: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 1928.

The annual Council meetings, 1928, have been fixed for Wednesday (afternoon session), Thursday and Friday (whole day sessions), and Saturday (morning session), 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th March, and will be held at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Russell Street. This Council should prove to be of unique importance on account of the position with regard to equal franchise, and we hope to have a record attendance.

Luncheon.—The luncheon will be held at the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, 9th March. Guests of honour, who will be speaking, will be announced later. Tickets, price 5s. for members of the N.U.S.E.C., or any of its affiliated societies, and 7s. 6d. for non-members, can be obtained from Headquarters. The seats will be allotted in order of application.

Railway Facilities.—We very much hope that all our Societies and members will co-operate to make it possible for us to obtain railway vouchers for reduced fares, as we have been able to do for the last three years. This necessitates over 200 delegates and visitors travelling to the Council from stations beyond the radius of a 9d. single fare.

Visitors Tickets.—Visitors tickets, and all further particulars with regard to the Council Meeting, can be obtained on application to Headquarters.

QUEEN'S HALL DEMONSTRATION, 8th March, 1928, at 8 p.m.

Over a Thousand Tickets already Sold!

Before Christmas was over a thousand tickets for the above meeting had been sold, and now that the Prime Minister has promised to speak, we are hoping to have a large overflow meeting. On behalf of the Demonstration Committee, we cordially invite unfranchised women under 30 to take part in a Singing Procession of Young Women, which will march from the hall at the close of the Demonstration, and which the general audience is invited to follow, two and two, also singing. Young women willing to take part in the main procession are asked AT ONCE to inform Miss Auld (or Miss G. Paine, of the Guild of Girl Citizens), c/o Miss Auld, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1. Special seats will be allotted to those taking part in the "under 30" procession, and these can be had at the reduced charge of 6d., including orange paper scarf, if the 6d. is enclosed with as little delay as possible, and with full name and address.

NORTHAMPTON BY-ELECTION.

The N.U.S.E.C. has sent the Parliamentary Questionnaire to all the four candidates at the above by-election. So far answers have been received only from Colonel Malone (Labour), who has replied in the affirmative to questions relating to Equal Franchise, Equal Pay and Opportunities, Employment of Married Women, Training of Unemployed Women, Equal Moral Standard, Women Police, Nationality of Married Women, Family Allowances, Information on Methods of Birth Control, and the Separate Taxation of the Incomes of Married Persons. With regard to the question relating to protective legislation being based on the nature of the work, and not on the sex of the worker, he answered: "Yes, but there must obviously be special provisions relating to work before and after childbirth, which can only apply to women."

CONGRATULATIONS.

We wish to offer our congratulations to our good friend Mr. M. A. Spielman on his inclusion in the New Year's Honours

list. Both Sir Meyer and Lady Spielman have for many years been members and supporters of the National Union and have attended several of its summer schools. We welcome this tribute to one who has earned it by his devoted service in connexion with industrial schools and reformatories.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The Birmingham N.C.W. Citizenship Sub-section has undertaken work for Equal Franchise in neighbouring constituencies, and in this connection Mrs. Blanco-White addressed a meeting of members of the Wolverhampton Women's Co-operative Guild on 14th December on "Equal Franchise". Deep snow had fallen all day, but about fifty intrepid Guild members made up the audience and listened with great interest to a really vivid address on a well-worn subject. They were particularly in sympathy with the training of the younger generation in Citizenship, a subject on which Mrs. Blanco-White had a good deal of fresh light to throw.

A resolution on Equal Franchise was passed, and it was agreed that this should be sent to Sir Robert Bird, Unionist Member of the West Division of Wolverhampton.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EQUALITY IN EDUCATION.

MADAM,—The Headmasters of the Public Schools, at their Conference last week, dissented from the recommendation of the Headmistresses that the Arts and Domestic Sciences should have equal weight with languages, mathematics, and natural science in the examination for the School Certificate. The Headmasters replied that if the Headmistresses have decided that a more varied curriculum and wider choice is desirable for girls' schools, they must have a different school certificate examination, but must not seek to alter the standards of the existing one, which has now been accepted as the entrance qualification for innumerable training courses and occupations.

The question raised is one of great interest and importance which might appropriately be discussed in your columns. It has long appeared to the present writer that one of the outstanding difficulties of the secondary education of girls is the silent assumption made in the schools that a salary-earning occupation lies ahead of all the pupils—an assumption qualified by a more or less suppressed consciousness that a career as a wife and mother will really be the lot of the majority.

It is no matter for regret that the training in domestic science, arts, and crafts offered in many of the secondary schools has reached such a standard that, in the opinion of the Headmistresses, these subjects can fitly be offered as an alternative to languages or mathematics or natural science.

The difficulty lies in the fact that the present School Certificate is a master key, which unlocks many doors for boys and girls, and it is no light matter to alter a master key. No solution would be satisfactory which assigned all girls to a separate examination. Those whose tastes and abilities lead them to acquire without difficulty the "master key," must be left free to compete in the examination.

The solution seems to need much thought and discussion.

A SCHOLAR OF THE '90'S.

WAR FILMS.

MADAM,—At this season traditionally dedicated to the cultivation of peace and goodwill, may I be allowed to suggest that some attention might be given to the influence of British films on this matter? During the past year, sixty complete films have been produced from British studios. Of these twelve had a naval setting, eleven more were of a military character. Two more naval films are being made. On 7th December, Sir William Davison, M.P., during a discussion on the Admiralty and War films, asked, "Will my hon. and gallant Friend recognize that it is most desirable that the public, who dearly love to see the navy at work, should be able to see the British Navy on the screen rather than the foreign navies which are at present showing in London?"

The public do "love to see the navy at work"—on the screen, when a carefully edited and romanticized vision of war is presented. They are encouraged to look at the work done by the British Navy in case they should believe unpatriotically that other nations have heroic navies. Their interest is stimulated by the excitement of an artificial war. Young people who forget the realities of the past war gain thus a false impression of its effects. According to Lieut.-Col. Headlam, the Admiralty "are making it a business proposition" to produce and show these pictures of naval "warfare."

The Women's International League is attempting to collect evidence of the influence of war films on adults and young people. May I be allowed to suggest that if any readers of *THE WOMAN'S LEADER* have any suggestions of material for this inquiry, they should communicate with the secretary of the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

H. W.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, EDMUND STREET, BIRMINGHAM.
Societies Work—our Speciality.

TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 1496.

TELEGRAMS: TEMPLARS, BIRMINGHAM.

COMING EVENTS.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

FEB. 8. 8 p.m. Caxton Hall. A "King's Speech" Meeting. Chair: Viscountess Rhonda. Speakers: Mrs. Abbott, Miss Froud, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss N. Stewart Parnell. Admission free.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh W.C.A. JAN. 11. 8 p.m. Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Public Meeting. D. Thomson, Esq., "Broadcasting as a Factor in National Life." Chair: Prof. Kemp Smith.

East Lewisham W.C.A. JAN. 20. 2.45. Courthill Road Hall. Whist Drive in aid of funds.

PEOPLE'S LEAGUE OF HEALTH.

JAN. 25. 6 p.m. 11 Chandos Street, W. 1. First of series of lectures on "The Mind, and what we ought to know about it." Dr. H. Crichton-Miller. Tickets from the Secretary, 12 Stratford Place, W. 1.

WOMEN'S ADULT SCHOOL (Highgate Road Branch).

JAN. 16. 8 p.m. 69 Bartholomew Road. Miss Auld, "Equal Franchise."

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWAM—TYPISTS.—
4 Chapel Walk, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

TO LET AND WANTED.

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

HAMPSTEAD.—Pleasant B.F.D.-SITTINGROOM, private flat; gas stove with ring; healthy neighbourhood, opp. Belsiz Park Tube; 35s. weekly, including electric light, breakfast, bath. Recommended by Society of Friends. Seen by appointment. Miss Turner, 169A Haverstock Hill, N.W. 3.

WANTED.—Unfurnished or partly furnished, 3 ROOMS within easy access to West End; moderate terms.—Apply, Mrs. Thompson, Hayes Rectory, Kent.

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 0377.

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

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SALE.—COLOURED DRESS LINEN REMNANTS BARGAIN BUNDLES for ladies' jumpers, skirts and children's wear. 8 yds. per bundle, assorted colours, for 2s. 6d. Complete Sale List FREE.—HUTTONS, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

HUTTONS' "NEVER-FADE" IRISH LINENS are Ideal for Dresses, Curtains, etc. Guaranteed absolutely fadeless. 2s. 10d. per yd. (35 in. wide). 64 artistic colours, including 10 newest shades. 64 Patterns FREE.—HUTTONS, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousseaus, 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.)

POST WANTED.

UNIVERSITY WOMAN, science graduate, requires part-time work.—Box 1,459, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

GENTLEWOMAN requires post as COMPANION-HELP; no rough work; experienced. References exchanged.—Box 1,460, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

DRESS.

SPECIAL.—LADIES' CHAMOIS GLOVES, white or natural 4s. 11d. pair, grey or fawn 5s. 11d. pair; exceptional value, guaranteed washable.—Mrs. Plevin, 126 Northgate, Chester.

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.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, Votes for some Women.—PUBLIC MEETING on Equal Franchise. Speakers: Suffragette Ex-prisoners. Monday, 6th February, 8 p.m., Essex Hall. Admission free, reserved seats 1s. and 2s. 6d. SUFFRAGETTE DINNER, 5s., Craigs Court Restaurant, Saturday, 4th February, 7 p.m.—Tickets for both from Mrs. Elsa Gye, Adsett, Ridgeway, Mill Hill.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Members' Library, Books on Suffrage, Sociology and Economics, Hansard, latest Government Publications, Periodicals, Newscuttings. 10s. (except 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, 8th January. 6.30, The Rev. Harold Anson.

CHARGES FOR PREPAID CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

INSERTIONS.

	One.		Three.		Six.		Thirteen.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
12 Words . . .	1	0	2	0	3	6	7	0
18 " . . .	1	6	3	0	5	3	10	6
24 " . . .	2	0	4	0	7	0	14	0
30 " . . .	2	6	5	0	8	9	17	6

Additional words at 1d. per word.

Payment may be made by postage stamps. Postal Orders and Cheques should be drawn to The Common Cause Publishing Co., and crossed.

If a copy of the paper is required, postage should be sent.

Persons using a Box Office Number and requiring replies to be forwarded by post must send sixpence to cover expenses.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

15 DEAN'S YARD, LONDON, S.W. 1

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.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

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.

N.B.—Carriage both ways to be paid by the subscribers.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for 1½d. including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1 (Telephone Victoria 6188), and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

Name.....

Address.....