

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN THE HOME
 IN INDUSTRY
 IN POLITICS

IN LITERATURE AND ART
 IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

A Happy Day and a New Venture.

On February 6th, 1918, the Representation of the People Act received the Royal Assent, and Women's Suffrage became part of the law of the land. On February 6th, 1920, THE WOMAN'S LEADER appears for the first time. *The Common Cause*, which for nearly eleven years has served the cause of women seeking their freedom, is merged in it, and does not die, but rather begins a new life. Our new venture marks, we believe, a new stage in the struggle for a wider, freer life for women. We hope that all who care for that cause will support it and do what they can to spread it. They will find in it news of the whole Women's Movement.

Mr. Asquith and an Explanation.

Times have changed! It is impossible to avoid this platitudinous reflection. Mr. Asquith has been addressing crowded meetings of women; Mr. Asquith has issued an election address which supports the rights of women; Mr. Asquith is demanding full equality of opportunity for women. It is all very gratifying, and if it seems to need a little explanation other than the crude explanation which might be given by a political cynic, Lady Bonham-Carter is there to supply it. She says her father's old attitude to Women's Suffrage was not so much that women were not good enough for votes as that votes were not good enough for women. He is now a keen convert. We are willing to believe it, but is it because he thinks women less good, or votes still better and more useful than they were of old?

Mr. Asquith's Conversion.

But speaking seriously, we have no wish at all to throw doubts on the genuineness of Mr. Asquith's conversion. We do not forget that it was first announced not at an election at which women have votes, but in the House of Commons, at a moment when the fate of Women's Suffrage still appeared to be trembling in the balance. It was on March 28th, 1917, that Mr. Asquith moved a resolution asking for immediate legislation on the lines of the Speaker's Conference on electoral reform; and, speaking of Women's Suffrage said: "I myself, and I believe many others also, no longer regard this question from the standpoint we occupied before the war. . . . I have changed my view. . . . I have said that women should work out their salvation. They have done it." He added that what moved him most was the problem of reconstruction after the war. The questions which would necessarily arise in regard to women's labour and women's functions and activities were questions in which he did not feel justified in withholding from women the power and the right of making their voice directly heard. These words had, as Suffragists who were working at the time will remember, a very great effect on doubters, in and out of Parliament, and Mr. Asquith thus did good service to the cause of which he had, for many years, been a determined opponent.

Quite Consistent.

In a speech on January 28th, a report of which reaches us from Paisley, he said he had all his political life been an opponent of women suffrage, and "in a sense, and in a very true sense, he could appear not literally but metaphorically in the white sheet, not to say of a penitent but a convert. What had converted him was not a sudden gush of emotion, nor was it a reasoned recantation of all the views he had held in days before. What converted him—and that showed how people who had been brought up in the Liberal school had minds which were accessible to new experiences and new ideas—was the experience of the war and all the splendid and indispensable part in so many different fields of activity which women had played in the war. Next, what was even more important, was the realisation of the fact that in the great problems of reconstruction it was impossible in fairness and in justice to deny the views of women." It will be seen that he is quite consistent.

The Women Under Thirty.

As to the limitation of Women's Suffrage, he is also quite consistent. In March, 1917, he said that as to the age proposed

for the enfranchisement of women, he had always thought that once the House had resolved to ignore the differentia of sex it was difficult to introduce any other discrimination between the case of a woman and that of a man. Speaking at Paisley, on January 28th, he said he strongly maintained that once it was realised and recognised that women were to have the vote, they ought to have it on precisely the same conditions as men. A most extraordinary compromise was adopted for the benefit of the weak-kneed, that women were not to get the franchise until they were thirty. He was very much disposed to think, and he had said so, that if they wanted to discriminate it would be better to give it to the women under thirty than the women who were over that age, because he was not sure, apart from all other considerations, that they did not play a more active part in their industrial life and were not in more living touch with the actual conditions under which the industry of women was carried on. In his judgment, the distinction ought to be obliterated, and the franchise extended with the same fullness and precisely on the same conditions as enjoyed by men.

Mr. Asquith on "Equal Opportunities."

At a great meeting, almost entirely composed of women, on January 31st, Mr. Asquith said he held quite as strongly before he was convinced of the expediency of female enfranchisement as he held it to-day, that there "ought to be a complete opening of all callings, professions, businesses, and trades, including the Civil Service, to women on the same terms as men. It was impossible to justify the erection of artificial obstacles to the entrance of women into the professions and trades for which they were qualified, and they might be quite sure that in the long run the community would benefit. The women were not asking, at least he was not asking for them, any special privileges or favours, only for equality of treatment and of opportunity. In the free competition that must always take place within the area of any particular profession or trade, if a woman, or women as a class were found not to be specially qualified, or as well qualified, as men, nobody, not even the most ardent advocate of women's rights, would pretend that they ought to be given preferential or favoured treatment. What they asked was the open door—free entrance for women, and then free competition within. No restriction of any kind should be imposed upon the entrance of women to public bodies and positions of public trust. Now that we had got ladies in Parliament, it seemed more than absurd that there should be any difficulty in their attaining places upon local authorities, upon the Bench of Justices, if necessary upon the Judicial Bench itself." This seems as thorough as could be desired.

From Father to Daughter.

In the long run, we suspect that the women electors of Paisley, like the men electors, will vote for Mr. Asquith, if they agree with his political standpoint, without any recollection of the years in which he refused time for Suffrage Bills, and will vote against him if they disagree with him, because they do disagree and not because they are looking back to a past, which is indeed long passed. But whether he succeeds, or whether he does not, his campaign at Paisley is a notable one, and among the characteristic features of it are the able and amusing speeches of Lady Bonham-Carter. She diverted one of her audiences by her slightly flippant references to her father's tie. But if this is regarded as a too feminine interest in clothes, it must be remarked that it originated with a man. One of Mr. Asquith's opponents (Mr. Mackean), accused him of sympathy with Sinn Fein, because he wore a green tie. Lady Bonham-Carter drew attention to the tie Mr. Asquith was wearing when she spoke, and said she thought he must be exonerated from any charge of trying to win votes by it, in fact, she said she felt it probable that it had lost him several. But her speech was far from being all about such minor matters. She gave a rousing defence of her father's policy, and spoke, we hear, with such eloquence that many Liberals are wondering whether she would not herself make an excellent candidate. It is clear that if political gifts are hereditary at all—and in this country it is generally believed that they are—they are not hereditary only in one sex.

A Pioneer Spanish Woman.

Feminism in Spain is a thing of recent growth—but of hardy growth for all that. Prior to the war, though there were organisations of women, there were no definitely Suffrage societies, now there are many bodies rapidly growing in power and numbers. *La Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Españolas*, the National Association of Spanish Women, was founded in 1918, and is affiliated to a larger body, the Supreme Feminist Council of Spain, both of which stand for Woman Suffrage and for the equality of men and women. Mme. Maria Espinosa, the President of both these organisations, who is at present in London, is a pioneer in more senses than one. Recently she gave a lecture before the Jurisprudence Academy, the most select body of lawyers in Spain, on how the woman's vote would affect legislation, and in addition to her Suffrage work, which is well-known, she is a successful business woman, and has proved that Spanish women are not behind their sisters of other countries in ability when they have once had the courage to take the first step. It is even now a pioneer action for a Spanish woman to take up a business career—it was still more so twenty-two years ago, when Mme. Espinosa inaugurated what is now a most successful typewriting business with branches in Spain, Morocco, and Portugal. Mme. Espinosa is herself general manager, and in the twenty-two branches throughout Spain there are some 1,500 employees, the majority of whom are women. Women are employed as travellers, teachers, and clerks, and do splendid work, rivalling, in the opinion of their general manager, any similar work performed by women in England or France. Mme. Espinosa thinks that Spanish women have the makings of very successful business women, though as yet it is only the more daring spirits who venture on a career. However, some 12,000 women have now passed through her training schools for typewriting, shorthand, and languages, which augurs well for the future.

To Madrid Next May.

After her beloved Spain, for she is a great patriot, Mme. Espinosa has a very warm feeling for England. Her present visit to this country is largely in connection with the arrangements for the International Woman Suffrage Congress which, as our readers know, will be held in Madrid at the beginning of May. It is greatly hoped that the Congress will do much to forward the Women's Movement in Spain, as well by the publicity which it is bound to obtain, as by the effect of the speeches and ideas of some of the world's most distinguished women. At present there is, unfortunately, some disagreement between the promoters of the Congress and the Spanish feminists on two points which the Congress itself alone has the power to decide. The first is that the Spanish language is not one of those designated for official use at meetings of the Congress; the second is that as no Spanish Suffrage Society was in existence when the Congress was last held, seven years ago, and as Societies can only be formally affiliated at an actual meeting of the Congress, the Spanish delegates cannot vote until their Societies have been first affiliated. This would, in the usual way, be the opening business of the Congress, but this will not satisfy our Southern sisters. It is to be hoped that some arrangement will be arrived at, in order that all concerned may obtain the full benefit from this great gathering of women.

An Enterprising Institute.

The Women's Institute movement shows extraordinary vitality in those districts of Scotland where it has taken root. Longniddry, for example, not resting on the renown of a member who gained the Board of Agriculture's prize for the "best suggestions for a small-holder's cottage," is exhibiting gloves, muffs, slippers, and caps made from rabbit and mole skins, and mattresses made by plaiting oat straw. It has had a demonstration on fomentations and poultices, an exhibition of old Scottish dress and jewellery and an address on Home Rule for Scotland, as well as parties for children and grown-up people which in numbers and variety shame the monotony of southern towns. It is in variety that the secret of an Institute's success lies; it is not enough to offer good amusements and sound educational

advantages; there must be a choice among them. If there is no choice, even a model village will seem a profit to adventurous youth, and this the Women's Institutes, being managed by women, recognise more fully than Mechanics' Institutes and Mutual Improvement Societies have ever done. Women are less inclined than men to model themselves on the Indulgent Husband Who Gave His Wife Everything She Didn't Want.

Women Councillors in Ireland.

The municipal elections in Ireland were carried out on a system of proportional representation, and, according to figures furnished by the Local Government Board to Mrs. Haslam, the result has been the return of a considerable number of women of all political parties. The forty-two women returned for thirty-seven areas were divided fairly evenly between the North and South of the country. This is evidence of the influence of proportional representation in securing a more adequate representation of women on local bodies than is otherwise obtainable, and it points to the necessity for all women's organisations to spare a little time from their immediate concerns to work for this electoral reform.

Women and the Pioneer Players.

The interesting productions of the Pioneer Players owe, of course, much of their success to the work of actresses playing on their stage. But it is hardly recognised that the business and artistic organisation of the society is also largely in women's hands. The President is a woman. The Stage Director, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer are women, and two of the plays recently given had women Producers, Stage Managers, and Assistant Stage Managers, while a woman conducted the orchestra. Miss Edith Craig's work is well-known even by those who have never seen the Pioneers, and Suffragists recall her as one of the moving spirits of the Actresses Franchise League.

That Months' Notice.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries have obtained a promise from the Prime Minister that their most outstanding grievance shall be redressed. Girls discharged from Government offices will henceforth be entitled to a month's "individual notice," and the pretence of the sufficiency of a general intimation of an intention to reduce staff at a given date is abandoned. It would not have been tolerated in any other atmosphere than that in which it had its birth. What school teacher, what factory hand, what domestic servant would have accepted in lieu of notice an announcement that "half of you must go this day three months"? The theory that employees are indistinguishable units without individual personalities, rights or needs, could go no further.

Welfare Work.

Welfare workers, who hitherto have dissipated their resources by keeping up three societies, have now combined together to form the Welfare Workers' Institute and have a journal of their own. The first number publishes letters of welcome from the Women Inspectors of Factories, from the Warden of Toynbee Hall, and from large employers of labour in England and Ireland. That the welcomes at present go so far and no further is explained by Mr. Dillon's remark at the Conference, that "Welfare work is not popular with the workers." We believe this to be the result of misapprehension; certainly, if all welfare schemes were withdrawn from factories the workers would feel aggrieved, and would suffer in health and happiness as well as in efficiency. Anything that Welfare Work can do to break down prejudice against the enterprise from which it takes its name, will be well done. It should not pass the lot of man or woman to discover why all kinds of activities which are clamorously demanded from a Women's Institute should be grudgingly regarded if they are initiated in a Welfare Department, and when this is discovered the prejudice should be overcome or its results evaded. Some observers think that some call the thing by another name would in itself lay the jealous distrust.

THE FUTURE OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT.

Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

"Behind good movements lie great forces."

It is not a wholesome sign when an individual is constantly feeling his pulse and taking his temperature, or weighing out his food in the scales. Neither is a similar kind of valetudinarianism a wholesome sign in a society or in a movement of which a society is merely a symptom. Roots grow best in the dark; and it is only the very youthful and inexperienced gardener who is ready at a moment's notice to dig up his seedlings to show how well they are getting on.

Now and then, however, there are moments in the history of a movement when a general outlook at the past, and a forecast for the future are appropriate and called for by special circumstances. Such a moment seems to have arrived in the life of our paper which to-day, on the second anniversary of our enfranchisement, enters upon a new phase with an enlarged outlook, an expanded title, and, as we hope, a wider sphere of influence.

THE COMMON CAUSE was started in 1909, at the time when the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, under the Presidency of Mrs. Chapman Catt, was holding its biennial Convention in London. At that date the only countries which had enfranchised their women were New Zealand, Australia, Finland and Norway. Four States in U.S.A. had granted women the vote, but no addition had been made to their numbers since 1896, and Mrs. Humphry Ward had just triumphantly asserted that the Suffrage cause in America "was in process of defeat and extinction," a condition which she attributed to the organised anti-suffrage movement in that country. Suffrage prospects here did not appear to be particularly bright for Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who had been our friend, had died in the previous year, and had been succeeded in the Premiership by our determined and very able opponent, Mr. H.H. Asquith. Within less than two months of his becoming Premier he made it quite clear that the depth and intensity of his opposition to the extension of political freedom to women had suffered no diminution in consequence of his enlarged responsibilities. Nevertheless, Suffragists were, and continued to be, in very good heart. They were making way rapidly in public opinion, which was more and more moving to their support, and we reminded each other of Hume's wise saying that public opinion controls the action even of the greatest tyrants and despots. "As force," he wrote, "is always on the side of the governed, the governors have nothing to support them but public opinion. It is therefore on opinion only that government is founded; and this maxim extends to the most despotic and most military governments, as well as the most free and popular." In 1909, a public opinion favourable to the enfranchisement of women was rapidly growing; this growth was very humorously and dexterously illustrated in the pages of *Punch*, in many popular plays, and found its expression in other places in a great variety of ways.

That our confidence was justified is amply proved by comparing our position in 1909 with our position in 1920. Not only are there more women electors in the United Kingdom to-day than there were men electors in 1909; not only have the women municipal electors been increased in numbers from about 1½ million to over 8½ million, but all vocal opposition to the enfranchisement of women has been silenced, and Mr. Asquith himself, then our most redoubtable enemy, is to-day confessing his former errors to the factory women of Paisley and appears before them as a suppliant for their votes.

But this is only an amusing illustration of our progress—it by no means indicates its sweeping character. Women's Suffrage has now been accepted in principle by the bulk of the self-governing nations of the world. In 1909 the Suffrage States were the exception: now they are the normal rule, and Suffrage has been given to women in Great Britain and all her self-governing Dominions, with the (probably temporary) exception of South Africa; the whole of Scandinavia, as well as Germany, Austria, and the newly-created countries of Central Europe. It is not actually achieved as yet in the United States, but the Federal amendment enfranchising women has been carried by the necessary two-thirds majority, first in the House of Representatives, and then in the Senate, and is now gradually being ratified by the necessary three-fourths of the States. Twenty-five have already ratified, most of them by overwhelming

The very remarkable victories do not exhaust the list of triumphs of the women's movement. Let us look for the legislative changes in the direction of the equalisation of women which have taken place in our own country,

since the passing of the Representation of the People Act on February 6th, 1918. One of its first results was the passing of the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, which became law practically unopposed in November of the same year. Before this Act was passed no woman could legally offer herself as a Parliamentary candidate. As soon as women were enfranchised the common sense of the country accepted without opposition or controversy, the further development that constituencies had a right to be represented by women if they so desired it. Besides this there have been rapidly passed into law many Acts developing and improving the civil liberties of women; imperfect Acts passed in earlier years have been amended and their weak places removed. The Sex Disqualification Act, 1919, introduced and passed as a Government measure, goes some way, but not the whole way, towards the fulfilment of the pledge given by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law just before the General Election of 1918, "to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women." It is true that the Labour Party Bill on the same subject, introduced earlier in the same session, was much more complete and thorough-going; and it is not a little significant that it passed all its stages in the Commons in spite of Government opposition. It was, however, wrecked by Government action in the Lords and the official Bill substituted. This Act, though it does not give women the Parliamentary franchise on the same terms as men, nor admit them on equal terms to the Civil Service, nevertheless, has many important provisions in the direction of equality. It renders women capable of sitting on Juries, of becoming Justices of the Peace, of being sworn as policemen, of entering the legal profession, and makes it possible for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to admit women to membership and to degrees on equal terms with men.

With regard to the future, the easy victory in the House of Commons of the Labour Party Bill just referred to, coupled with the fact that Mr. Asquith in the course of his answers to the competent heckling of the Paisley electors, has declared himself in favour of giving the franchise to women on the same terms as to men, make it a practical certainty that in the very near future the absurdly high age limit now imposed on women voters will be removed, and consequently a considerable addition will be made to the number of women voters in every constituency. This, of course, will greatly strengthen the claim of women to equal citizenship in other directions. At the moment of writing, if we look at the history of the women's movement during the last two years, there are two, and only two, outstanding defects of the women's claim to equal citizenship. Both of these defects are due to the vigour of trade union exclusiveness: the Civil Service organisation is not called a trade union, but it has trade union determination to preserve the monopoly of the men; and in the first round the monopolists have scored a victory; and then there is, of course, the old exclusiveness of the trade unions properly so called to keep women out of the skilled trades, examples of which have been frequently given in these pages. It is not necessary here to reiterate the sympathy we have always felt and expressed for the determination of trade unions to maintain and improve the standard of living, and the share allotted to Labour from the total proceeds of industry. Labour will have to take women as well as men into its movement in this most wholesome direction. We owe a great debt to Labour for helping women to win political freedom, and we believe that the best minds in the Labour Party will be foremost to recognise that they cannot stand for the political freedom of women and at the same time defend their industrial serfdom. Abraham Lincoln said that America could not be half-slave and half-free; neither can women. We have at present in the House of Commons the rather ridiculous spectacle of Labour advocating the opening of the professions to women and the professional classes advocating the opening of the trades. There can be but one end to this—that both shall be opened. The widespread acknowledgment during the war of the high industrial efficiency of women, puts the whole subject on a new and firmer foundation, and now that there is the prospect in the near future of the addition to the electorate of the younger industrial women, it will be a practical impossibility to prevent the breakdown of the rules which have for so many generations kept women in the lower grades of industry. It is a matter of vital national concern that the productivity of the country should be stimulated in every possible way, and it is a sin against first principles that one part of the community should be able to forbid the other part to use its productive powers without let or hindrance.

WORK OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By The Right Hon. LORD ROBERT CECIL, M.P.

The question is not infrequently put to those who take part in the campaign for the League of Nations—To what end are they working? The assumption—and it is a common one—is that they are fighting for a cause already won; that the League has come into existence, and that therefore there is nothing more for its adherents to do but to wait in patience for the good fruit it will bear.

It is true that the League is in existence. It is true that this is a victory, a victory which, three years ago, we hardly dared to hope for. And it is an event of great, indeed of incalculable importance in the history of mankind. But it does not mean that the battle for the League is over. It has only begun. It has begun with an initial success. The League exists, "endowed"—in Lord Curzon's words—"with formidable powers, fortified by the allegiance of Governments, and supported by the public opinion of the civilised world."

But we have still to make sure that it will be used, that it will not be left to die of inanition, to pass after a life of formalism and unreality into the museum of diplomatic curiosities. And when I say that it must be used, I mean that it must be made the recognised instrument for the handling of all international business of general importance. Recourse to its machinery, discussion and settlement of every sort of serious international question in its Councils and Assemblies, must become so firmly established as the practice of states in their relations with one another that no attempt to deal with such matters by action of individual or grouped states outside the machinery of the League will ever be attempted.

This is a principle, the application of which should immediately be begun; every day shows us more clearly how vitally necessary is the substitution of League methods of dealing with international affairs for the sectional methods at present resorted to.

But even that is not the whole of the purpose of the present League campaign. We must ensure that the League is not only used, but that it is rightly used. We must see that it does not become a cloak for the domination of some group of Powers, or for aggression, or injustice; we must see that it provides a forum in which any State, however small, can secure a hearing, and the fair and public examination of any grievance or proposal that may put forward; and most important of all, we must see that all its organs the great cleansing principle of "open co-operation" shall replace the diplomatic methods of the past. In all this we shall only secure if the Governments who cooperate through the League are acting for peoples who understand the issues of international politics as they understand the issues of domestic politics, who have an international consciousness as well as a national consciousness, who will decide the problems with which they are faced in accordance with the dictates of an international conscience as well as of a national conscience. When the public opinion of the world is so educated, the League will be safe, for no people will allow their Government to break the Covenants of the League, even if their Government were mad enough to wish to do so.

Let me say a few words more on these two points, the use of the League, and its right use. Let me explain in more detail what I mean by the use of the League, in what general ways I think it should be used, and to what immediate purposes I think its machinery should be applied.

In the first place, then, the League should be used, whenever opportunity permits, for promoting international co-operation in every sphere in which there is a serious international interest to be served. The interests of different peoples cross and coincide at innumerable points, and in a continually increasing measure. In the past there has been no means of composing differences of interest, or of securing common action for common ends, but the intolerably slow and clumsy methods of diplomacy. If, for example, common action against the White Slave Traders were required, the only way to secure it was by correspondence through Foreign Offices, leading after long delays to the

summoning of special international conferences, which might or might not produce the required conventions. Then before anything could happen the conventions had to be ratified by all the signatory Powers—nearly always a matter of years. And even after that there was no authority to see that their provisions were observed. A good example of the inadequacy of these methods is provided by the lamentable history of the Opium Convention of 1912, which surely dealt with an urgent and universal international interest, if ever there was one.

The recent Labour Conference in Washington, and the meeting of its governing body in Paris, furnish an illustration of the new methods of co-operation which the League of Nations will introduce. They provide the first example of the League methods actually at work, and they form a striking contrast to the old. Their remarkable success deserves the closest study, for it is only an indication of what should be accomplished by the immediate establishment of similar machinery in matters of Health; Transit and Communications; the control of Drugs; the White Slave Trade and other abuses; Education; private International Law, and other things too numerous to mention. By the building up of international co-operation in every sphere where there are real international interests to be served, the League will bring home to the minds of everyone the fundamental truth that the welfare of each nation does not conflict with, but depends on, the welfare of all other nations. As this truth is understood by the peoples, so will war become a moral impossibility. In the establishment of the new machinery required there is great work for the Council and Assembly of the League to do; it is for every citizen to see that they do and do it soon.

In the second place, it must be remembered that the League is a political instrument. It is our duty to insist that it be used for the settlement of political disputes and for the removing of whatever political conditions may threaten the peace of the world. No one would wish to overstrain its power by throwing upon it duties which, in its infancy, it is not strong enough to carry out; but if the League is to be a reality it has great responsibilities and it must not be afraid to face them. Take, for instance, the Russian question. That is a problem which I believe cannot be adequately dealt with except by the Council, or if necessary by the Assembly of the League. The dangers of the present situation have not, perhaps, been fully realised. We suddenly awoke a few days ago to the fact that Poland—a new, and certainly not a strong State—was contemplating an aggressive war against the Soviet Government, and that its troops were already well beyond any frontier line to which it has a just or even plausible claim. We have not yet realised that if Poland took this step the results might threaten the newly won peace of all the other countries of Europe. The responsibility for such a step which would fall upon Poland would be grave. But other powers would share it. The essence of the Covenant is that every nation is responsible for the preservation of peace. It is therefore literally true that the relations of Poland and Russia, the relations of Russia and the other border republics which have achieved their independence, the results of the Blockade, the re-establishment of commercial relations (if they are to be re-established)—all these matters which vitally affect the Peace of the world are just the very things which should be dealt with by the Council of the League. It is not tolerable that Poland alone, or any other single Power, should be able to involve the world in war; nor is it tolerable that any small group of Powers, even if they be the three principal Allies, should be allowed to make any sectional settlement of the issues at stake which may seem right to them. This is a matter which intimately concerns the Scandinavian States as well as all the new States we have established on the borders of Russia; less directly it concerns every other Power, both in the East and in the West. Indeed, the history of the Russian policy of the Allies throughout the past year shows that some new method and some new principle are required. If the

Covenant of the League is to be anything but a scrap of paper, the Council of the League should forthwith be summoned to deal with this matter. By Article XI, it is provided that: "Any war or threat of war, whether immediately effecting any of the members of the League or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the whole League, and the League shall take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations." And further: "In case any such emergency should arise the Secretary-General shall on the request of any member of the League forthwith summon a meeting of the Council." Great Britain is a member of the League: let her make request, and that at once.

In what I have written I have not attempted to discuss the special interests of Women in the League. Doubtless they have such interests. It may be right that some special League machinery should be created to deal with them. But important as they are, these, after all, are secondary matters. The principle enshrined in Article VII of the Covenant—"All positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women"—the principle of equal citizenship for which we suffragists fought, makes all questions of international policy as much the business of women as of men. It is for them to show that they are worthy of this new trust thrown upon them. The great Albert Hall meeting on Friday will give them an opportunity of demonstrating that they accept their international responsibility. But it will do no more; and much more is required. Let them throw themselves into the national campaign for the League. Let them bring to the help of the League of Nations Union their money and their service, their matchless powers of organisation and devotion; and let them be sure that if they contribute, even by a little, to the success of this great adventure, they will have earned the gratitude of their children's children.

CONTACTS.

By ROSE MACAULAY.

I HAVE seen moths and happy drunken men
Drifting, blind as bats in sunshine, when
Caught and drowned in the pallid soaked haze
That the warm twilight ghost of July days
On Cambridge water-meadows sighing breathes
Into chill, writhing, smoke-pale wreathes . . .
I have seen sheep, I have seen dazed men,
Mist-bound and stumbling lonely, then
Blundering suddenly, with blind wide eyes,
And mouths hung agape with foolish surprise,
On fellow sheep and men. Oh brother and brother
Meet for a space in the chilly smother
That chokes their world. So each to the other
A contact is, and warm to the touch,
Solid and firm, to handle and to clutch,
To have and to hold . . . to loose and to leave . . .
Ah, the fugitive contacts they achieve!

Loose as light courtesans are all we,
Dreams before midnight all contacts be.
The austere soul of the frigid blue day
Whispers to my soul, and will not stay.
The chill small wind lays a kiss on my cheek,
Whistles and is gone; and ne'er will earth speak
The word that should link us twain for all days.
She, lovely wanton, seeks but the praise
Of lovers who kiss and go, and come again
At the least light pull of her flower-woven chain.
As earth, so heaven; and so the quiet lands
On the soul's blurred bounds, whence thin groping hands
Reach out, draw back, drop down . . . Oh, there
Are fugitive contacts everywhere.

So we, sick and dazed with impermanence,
Fall back down the tired *culs de sac* of sense
On ourselves, the frail last line of defence,
Which gives . . . which gives . . . and we flee thence . . .

SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE.

So! A flourish of trumpets and THE WOMAN'S LEADER takes the stage, and we who are of it, parade within its covers in all the pride of novelty. For now, if ever in our lives, are we sure of being read. But what will become of us then, when, instead of teasing and tempting the appetite by our strangeness, we are an old and familiar dish? Shall custom have "staled" us, or, like roast beef, shall we be the more welcome because well-known? And in particular, what will be my fate, who am destined to be the sauce and seasoning of the dish? Gentle reader, I, if any, must crave your indulgence. For the wit which I must give you may not even be my own, but the week's wit, caught and compounded to flow smoothly over your tongue. If then, on occasion, the sauce seems to your palate to be lacking in savour, blame not me, but that dull world in which we live.

One morning last week, the Gander, dear old fellow, was enjoying, in leisurely fashion, his breakfast and his morning paper at one and the same moment. Suddenly, hidden away on a back page, he sighted danger. "What's this? What's this?" he cried.

"Gratuities for Land Girls, indeed! What is the country coming to? Encouraging these unnatural young women to strut about the roads in breeches!" The offending paragraph contained the proposal of a local War Agricultural Committee that the Board of Agriculture should pay a gratuity to women of the land army on demobilisation, in recognition of their excellent work. The face of the Gander only brightened as he read the firm (and logical?) response of the Board. "We have been authorised," pronounced the official voice, "to issue fresh outfits to all female workers who elect to remain on the land. The Board can make no further concession." "And very right, too," remarked the Gander in satisfied tones as he folded up the paper. "They were anxious enough to get into their breeches. Let 'em stop in them." "They will," murmured the Goose quietly, from behind the teapot.

And so they will. The girls who have found during the war work they like and can do well, are not going to give it up in a hurry. They have spent too long clamouring to be given a trial, and now that they have had their trial and "made good," they are not anxious to take a back seat again. Nor will cries of "unfeminine" disconcert them. Feminine is what feminine does! Besides, what happened to the predecessor of the land girl? Once on a time there were dairymaids in plenty, sweetly feminine creatures with rosy cheeks, blue eyes, and big bonnets. Even they were not left at peace in their work. Out they went, and strictly masculine dairymen took their place. And, speaking at University College the other night, Professor Kenwood uttered the dairymaid's epitaph. "Her disappearance," he said, "represents an actual loss. She was, as a rule, cleaner than the man who now undertakes her work!"

Alas! how tactless even our greatest friends can be! Perhaps you too have seen and suffered from the feminist bill recently tabled in the French Chamber by the Socialist Deputy, Clause I, being translated by the ordinary mortal, reads as follows:—

"All legislative measures which establish the inferiority of the female sex as regards the male, are abolished."

Truly an excellent clause in intent, but oh! could it not be less crushingly worded?

The other day I overheard two assistants talking together in a Boots' Library:—

"I can't think," said one, "why we never have any extra books in our libraries."

The other looked at her coldly. "You forget," she said, "our books are select. What Lady Boot doesn't approve we don't stock."

As a feminist, I felt that the moment had come to discard my foolish habit of referring to the censor in the masculine gender!

Another laurel leaf for Diana, and this time with the name of Miss C. Leitch graven upon it. For you have seen, of course, that she has defeated a scratch player of the sterner sex in a 36-hole golf match on the Mid-Surrey course at Richmond. All through the match Miss Leitch outplayed her opponent—her drives were longer, her putts surer, her play generally steadier, and at the end she was six up and five to play. Not so bad an achievement, to my mind, for frail womanhood.

GOOSE-GIRL.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" AND THE TASK BEFORE IT.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER has a great task before it—it will endeavour to serve as a means of expression for the Woman's Movement in this country.

This "Movement" of ours, which a foreign statesman recently described as the most characteristic of the age, is at once vast and elusive. It is as deep as humanity, and the future to which it moves can only be seen in flashes and on a far horizon. As we look at it in our own country, and in our own day, it seems to have two main streams, which sometimes flow separately and often intermingle. One is an effort to break down barriers, the other an effort to expand into fresh life. The struggle for the vote belongs to the first; so does the struggle for equal opportunities in the professions and in industry. The development of women's education, of women's citizenship, and of women's work belongs to the second.

During the ten years between 1904 and 1914, the time that has been called "the white heat of the Suffrage Movement," the whole energies of a large number of the most public-spirited women were concentrated on the breaking down of one special barrier—the barrier which excluded half the people of the country from political freedom on account of their sex. The whole force of the British women's movement was flowing in this one channel; it was no wonder that it was a strong and at times a torrential stream. By the time the war came it had done its work, the loosened barriers fell, almost of themselves as it seemed (though people who had watched preceding events knew better), and the energies of public-spirited women were turned into a different course; their efforts were concentrated on making use of the opportunities which had suddenly been opened to them—on doing the work which the country needed.

Now, again, the woman's movement is a double stream. There are still many barriers to be broken down, and the tendency to restore the old ones has to be resisted. But there is also the need and the desire to take possession of what has already been won. The young women of to-day have before them such a field for their efforts as has not been open to the women of any other generation. It is theirs to show what contribution women, who are even partially set free, can make to the life of humanity, and in doing so, to win a fuller freedom for those who come after them. It is a glorious chance!

The woman's movement is then at a most critical and interesting stage, and it is one at which such a paper as THE WOMAN'S LEADER can, we believe, do very special service. First, in regard to the struggle for equal opportunities.

At this moment, that is itself sub-divided into a number of separate struggles—women in politics, women in local government, women civil servants, women teachers, women clerks, women engineers, women in scores of professions and trades, are moving it on, each in their own part of the field.

There is a danger that the groups should lose sight of each other, and that the at least of those who form them should cease to realise that the battle is the same. Our paper will, we believe, help to prevent this. It will not attempt to do the same work as the "organs" of the different associations of women. These are necessary, since they record and help forward the struggles of the respective groups. But we hope that all who read them will help in their own struggle for equality, they will also realise what women clerks are doing; women clerks will find help for their struggle, and realise what industrial women are doing; industrial women will realise what agricultural women are doing, and so on, and so on. THE WOMAN'S LEADER will stand for equal opportunities for women in every field, it will help on every struggle for the equality of the sexes, it will be a meeting ground for all the different groups, and will serve to remind them of the unity of their cause.

In regard to the use of opportunities that are already won, we are facing a still larger task. The women who are doing new things, the women who are doing old things in a new way, the women who are doing both, all need to know something of each other, and it is our hope that all may, as time goes on, find

some help in our pages. The special activities of women are already so manifold, and increase so rapidly, that it is an immense task to record them. It can only be undertaken by degrees, and at first our record must necessarily be grievously incomplete. But as our strength and our size grow, we hope to do more and more, and with the co-operation of those for whom we labour we believe that we shall ultimately attain—not indeed completeness, that is humanly unattainable—but such a measure of success as will make THE WOMAN'S LEADER indispensable to all who care for women's interests or women's work.

We have spoken of co-operation, and it is on this that all our hopes depend. The task that THE WOMAN'S LEADER is undertaking cannot be carried out unless women of all kinds will give it active and generous help. Appealing both to those with whom we have worked in the past, and to others whose co-operation with us is still in the future, we would say:—this is as much your task as ours. The enterprise cannot be carried through without you. We ask all the women who are using their opportunities of citizenship and of service, to let us know what they are doing; if they are writers we ask them to contribute to our columns, if they are not, we ask them to send us information; if they disagree with us, we shall be glad to hear from them, if they approve we should like to know it; if they can give us financial support, we shall be grateful. Above all, we ask them to read the paper, to get others to read it, and to give it the sympathy and constructive criticism, without which it cannot be really alive.

This is a general appeal, but there are two classes of women on whom we specially depend for help. In the first—need we say it—are the women who have worked for the Suffrage Movement. Suffrage work is not yet done. When we strove with most passion for the vote, we sought it not for itself only, but as a symbol and a key. We have got the key now, we have turned it in the lock, but of what use will it be to us or to those who follow us, unless we can push the door open, and hold it open? The symbol must be made real. In those days of striving there was never any difference between us as to the thing we wanted, or the reasons for which we wanted it. There was a division as to method, but that division belongs to the past. There is no division now. All who were Suffragists, whether they belonged to the Constitutional or the Militant side of the movement, can and should unite in the opening of the door and in the way that lies beyond it. We ask them to support us as one means towards that end.

Our second special appeal is to the young women who have come into the movement since 1914. It is for them that we hope to work, and through us they will work for themselves. In THE WOMAN'S LEADER they will find the experience of the past and the present, and we hope, some guidance as to the future. They will find in our pages the work of women of all ages, some of whom have already made their mark, and some who are going to make it. THE WOMAN'S LEADER will, we believe, be a help to them not only in making their own lives, but in doing good service to their country and to humanity.

We have spoken throughout this article of women, and of the woman's movement, we have called our paper THE WOMAN'S LEADER, but we do not forget that ours is a Common Cause. The right relationship between the sexes can never be the affair of women alone. In the Suffrage Movement, as in every other great movement, men and women have always worked side by side. Some men were among the most devoted members of the Suffrage Societies, some men are at this moment taking a leading part in the effort to secure full equality for women. THE WOMAN'S LEADER depends on women, but not on women alone. The names of two of the writers in our first two numbers will serve to remind us of what our cause owes to the men who work with us, and how much it still expects from them. More and more as the days go on men and women will work together as equals, till at last there is no artificial barrier between them, and each sex makes its contribution freely and fully to the common human task. THE WOMAN'S LEADER makes this its aim.

THE BLUE TRIANGLE IN EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST.

By EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILL, O.B.E.

SOME little time ago Lord Islington at a public meeting made the statement that the World's Young Women's Christian Association was already a League of Nations.

That statement is, of course, not true. There was not a single international society in existence in 1914 strong enough to avert the calamity of the Great War. The military clique in Berlin got its way, and no Church, no international body, Christian or otherwise, was powerful enough to prevent it. What Lord Islington doubtless meant was that the ethical basis of the Y.W.C.A. was such that war simply could not be if the nations who subscribed to it in practice built their national life upon it.

That certainly is true, for belief in the Fatherhood of God—and all it implies is the basis of the Y.W.C.A. throughout the world. Europe is perishing, and appeals come to our World's Committee from nearly every country to help them in their work of reconstruction. They seem to have unbounded faith in what we can do for them. The international character of our Association gives us a great opportunity, and in the distressed countries of Europe our American Association has led the way. In Poland, Russia, Czecho-Slovakia, American women belonging to the Y.W.C.A. have already done valuable work, and British women have lately been sent out to Serbia, Roumania, and the Near East, not to carry foodstuffs, etc., to relieve the famine—anything we could do in that direction would be infinitesimal—but to help the women of the different countries to organise themselves for the gigantic task of reconstruction that lies before them; mere mitigation of suffering is not enough, they must be helped and encouraged to work their own way.

And yet so appalling are the conditions in many cities that to some extent mitigation of suffering and organisation for the future must go hand-in-hand.

Every city in Europe is underhoused—this in spite of the death toll caused by four years of war—the reason probably being that in all that time there has been no emigration whatever. So we behold Europe to-day and find that every city is underhoused, every city in lack of coal, every city short of food—with the exception of British cities—and winter pitiful to us at home has been fierce and bitter in South and Central Europe. Prague—by no means the most needy city in Europe—the oldest University city of Central Europe has over 10,000 students in the present winter session, an enormous increase since 1915, when there was but half that number. Owing to the decreased value of the crown, which now stands at 217 for an English pound, the young students, both men and women—there are over a thousand women students—find themselves in an impossible economic situation. The question of lodgings is serious, and many walk four and five miles to their studies. A meal that before the war cost one crown fifty now costs fifteen crowns. The result is that many are living on one meal a day, and they only get that after standing in a line over an hour without any protection from rain or snow. Their clothes and paper-soled shoes give them but little protection, sickness and misery is rife.

The International Committee of the Y.M.C.A. is erecting a club in Prague with a catterra capable of feeding 3,000 students a day, the wing for the women students being administered by the Young Women's Christian Association. This is a bit of work that will leave a lasting impression of fellowship and brotherhood. As a Bohemian touchingly said: "Bohemian students know how to be grateful." We cannot reconstruct Europe, each country must work out its own salvation; but starvation produces an apathetic state of body and mind which makes any toil or desire for it impossible, so even so small a work as that in Prague has a share in the reconstruction of Europe.

One of the most interesting sights I saw in New York sixteen months ago was a uniformed company of some twenty or thirty Polish girls, brought up and educated in America. They had been trained as social and relief workers by the Y.W.C.A. and financed by the Association; when I saw them they were on the eve of going to Poland, the land of their birth, to help in various forms of social work. A fine body they were of young and hopeful women, known as the Polish Grey Samaritans, longing to return to their country and help in its new life.

To Roumania the Association has sent workers, who are organising clubs and centres where the war-worn women of the country may find a new interest, and where classes of all kinds may give them an opportunity for self-development.

Work in the other Balkan countries has not yet been definitely begun, but before long it is hoped to send workers to Serbia. And perhaps there is no country where they are more needed. An Englishwoman recently returned from that country, where she had made a special study of after-war conditions, has given it as her considered opinion that by far the most serious result of the war is to be seen in the nervous strain and lack of initiative amongst the women of the occupied areas. They are worn out by the efforts they have made during the war to maintain the spirit of free Serbia. Cut off from their menkind and thrown entirely on their own resources they have faced famine and torture; they have seen their priests and teachers massacred before their eyes, and they have experienced every horror characteristic of occupation by lawless conquerors. It is therefore small wonder that they are almost incapable of making any concentrated effort. Their bodily sufferings have been great, but in no way commensurate with their mental torture. And yet despite the general apathy there is a strong, though small, body of women who are anxious to create and foster the feminist element in their country, and to take a share in the development of greater Serbia.

To go further. Does the idea of a club and an employment bureau in the sacred city of Jerusalem jar upon my readers? I hope not, for since the armistice both have been established by the Y.W.C.A. to meet the needs of the Syrian girls, many of whom are in Government offices. At first there was some prejudice amongst the Moslem girls. These are rapidly breaking down, and with the employment bureau and a workshop for needy girls the Association is already looked upon as a friend by the women of Jerusalem.

From Jerusalem it is not a far cry to Cairo and Alexandria and Port Said. Here in all the cities the work is staffed entirely with British women, our hostels are overflowing, and if such hostels as ours are needed here in England the need is far greater in these Eastern cities.

The World's Y.W.C.A. aims at producing indigenous national leadership all over the world. It does not do direct relief work in the devastated areas, but through its representatives who are doing pioneer work in France, Belgium, Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania, Poland, it is organising clubs, hostels, restaurants, and holiday camps in these countries. Through the activities connected with the Y.W.C.A. it is training young women to think out problems affecting their countries for themselves. It is teaching co-operation. The Association for thousands of girls in Europe is affording an opportunity for united thought and action, while it fosters through international clubs and camps a spirit of international fellowship without which a League of Nations is impossible.

Perhaps, after all, Lord Islington spoke in a prophetic vein.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE
TO SECURE
STATE PURCHASE & CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE

AN IMPORTANT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
Will be held on
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th at 5 p.m.
in
THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.
on
The STATE PURCHASE of the LIQUOR TRADE

SPEAKERS: The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Oliver Strachey,
Miss B. Picton-Tubervill.

The Chair will be taken by Lady Henry Somerset.

All women interested in Social and Temperance Reform are invited to attend. **ADMISSION FREE**

Miss M. Cotterell, Organising Secretary: Parliament Mansions,
Victoria Street, S.W.1.

ARCHITECTURE AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN.

By ANNIE HALL, M.S.A.

At the present time there are very few fully qualified women architects in this country, and for this reason, that until the last two or three years it has been difficult for women to obtain any systematic training in architecture, and only a few knew how or where to get the necessary instruction and practical experience. And even when they did know, the expense and length of training and the obstacles to be overcome, added to the uncertainty of future prospects, acted as a deterrent then to some who would have no hesitation to-day.

But now it is a different story. To my knowledge there are at least forty women architectural students in the recognised schools of architecture in London alone, besides others who are gaining valuable professional experience in architects' offices. Several of these students are now in their third year, and a few in their fourth and fifth.

There are several methods of training for the architectural profession. The old-time system of training in England was that of going straight from school or college to serve a long term as an articled pupil in an architect's office, followed by a period as an improver or junior assistant. This system remained in general vogue until a few years ago. Given the proper kind of office, a conscientious and capable principal, and a conscientious and hard-working pupil with plenty of initiative, this system frequently worked well and turned out good architects. The weakness of the system has been immortalised by Dickens in his character of Mr. Pecksniff, and every prospective architect will be the wiser for having read "Martin Chuzzlewit." The old system of pupilage is now rapidly giving way to a more systematic form of training, but of this more presently.

As soon as a girl makes up her mind to become an architect, she should obtain a prospectus from each of the various schools of architecture recognised by the Board of Architectural Education. She will glean much valuable information from them, and be able to judge which school will best suit her particular needs.

Speaking generally, I think it is a mistake for girls to commence their professional training much before the age of twenty, and no harm is done if it is left even later than that, provided that the time intervening between leaving school or college and entering the school of architecture be well employed.

The following shows how this time may be well employed. I recommend a high standard of general education with, if possible, a full University course in arts or science previous to the commencement of the professional training in architecture. The association with students studying for other careers or for the pure love of learning broadens the interest in, and widens the outlook on, life. The friendships made during college days are often of inestimable benefit throughout later life. The opportunities for social intercourse, and exchange of ideas, and reasoned argument in debating societies, all form valuable parts of a college career.

It is very wise to cultivate hobbies and accomplishments, not only those of direct service or utility in professional work, such as sketching, photography, and various arts and crafts, but others more indirectly useful. These few extra years of general education give specially good opportunities for cultivating and developing any latent talents which a student may possess.

And there are other subjects, equally important for the would-be woman architect, which are best learnt at home; I refer to household management and the domestic arts and crafts. All the experience a student gains in the practical art of keeping house will serve her in good stead throughout her professional life; for it is in her special and peculiar practical knowledge of the working of a home, combined with her professional training, that her chief claim lies to consideration as a specialist in domestic architecture.

For some students I admit it may be an advantage to commence the training at an earlier age than twenty. For instance, some students learn much more easily whilst quite young; it gives them more opportunity to change over into some other career should they find the work uncongenial or unsuitable. The young student may be fortunate enough to win an entrance scholarship, the majority of which are open only to students under the age of nineteen years.

But here I should say that if the student begins her training young it will not enable her to commence in practice on her own account any the earlier, because the average woman would be ill-advised to start in practice much before the age of thirty. Private practice involves a great deal of responsibility, and besides professional knowledge and experience, it requires considerable knowledge and experience of the world, and maturity of thought and self-reliance.

All prospective students may with great advantage read the following books previous to any professional training. I suggest that they be studied in the order in which they are here given:—

Waterhouse, P. L.—"Architecture."
Lethaby, W. R.—"Architecture: Introduction to the History and Theory of the Art of Building."
Atkinson, T. D.—"English Architecture."
Belcher, J.—"Essentials in Architecture."
Gotch, J. A.—"The Growth of the English House."
Simpson, F. M.—"A History of Architectural Development."
Blomfield, R.—"Architectural Drawing."

And if the student happens to live in or near London, or can spend a holiday in the Metropolis, she will be wise to add to her list "A History of Architecture in London," by W. H. Godfrey.

Most of these books may be borrowed from many of the larger public libraries, but by far the better way is to purchase them or get kind friends to give them. All are books to keep. There are two others I should advise all prospective students to buy for reference:—

"The R.I.B.A. Calendar for 1915-1916." Last published in November, 1916. To be obtained from The Secretary, Royal Institute of British Architects, 9, Conduit Street, Hanover Square, London, W. Much valuable information is herein contained with reference to the various facilities for architectural education.

"The Year Book of the Society of Architects." To be obtained from The Secretary, Society of Architects, 28, Bedford Square, London, W.C.

And from the time that the student decides to enter the profession she will find pleasure and benefit from subscribing regularly to *The Architectural Review*, and keeping it for future reference.

Besides reading, the would-be architect will find it instructive and interesting to attend any good series of lectures on architecture or the allied subjects whenever she gets the opportunity.

A student may learn much by visiting the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Soane Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields, armed with the appropriate guide books. And every student should make a point of visiting the Architectural Room at the Royal Academy Exhibitions.

I advise every student to practise sketching in various media—pencil, pen and ink, and water-colour—at every opportunity. And above all things to avoid what—for lack of a better term—I call laboured drawing. The great object to attain is accuracy combined with rapidity, and to make one's freehand drawing really freehand. Fortunately the modern method of teaching drawing in schools and colleges is a vast improvement on the old. It encourages originality and imagination, whereas the old system more often than not succeeded in killing these qualities.

If I had my way the use of indiarubber should be abolished until a student attained the age of twenty or twenty-one years. The knowledge that everything drawn must remain as it is early gives that confidence which leads to genuine freehand drawing. And this is one of the advantages of pen and ink drawing, provided it is done directly in pen and ink without any preliminary pencil work. And in the case of ornament from the round in monochrome the main lines only should be sketched in lightly with pencil. Facility in draughtsmanship enables a student to take full advantage of the studio instruction from the very commencement of her professional course.

Save in exceptional circumstances, the best method of training undoubtedly is to take a preliminary training course in a school of architecture, followed by some years' practical experience in an architect's office. Architects are more willing to take as pupils into their offices those who have had this preliminary training, and the terms of pupilage are generally

modified for these, notably in regard to the length of time and premium required.

Besides these mentioned there are several other obvious advantages to be gained by a student from studying in a school, and amongst these perhaps the more important are the benefits to be derived from working with others, and being able to see their work and to compare her own work with that of others, and learn by their successes and mistakes as well as by her own. And most important of all, the student goes through a regular curriculum with the work carefully graded, and learns each subject methodically under the instruction of men accustomed

to teach. It is much easier and simpler for a student to study thus and saves her much time, and offers advantages for the professional examinations.

But I must add that there are some possible disadvantages, and these can best be overcome by recognising them and avoiding them. I refer to the danger that some of this school teaching may tend to over-accentuate the academical side, to the detriment of the practical side of the profession; and in some cases to produce a stereotyped style of design and draughtsmanship for all except the brilliant student with an individual style of her own.

(To be continued.)

THE HOME IN PARLIAMENT.

Because the home-loving woman so often thinks that Parliament is no concern of hers, and, because as a matter of fact Parliament has a great deal more to do with the home than you imagine,

And because, during the coming Parliamentary Session in particular, Parliament will be discussing and deciding a number of questions which every good housekeeper must understand:

For these reasons you will find, every week on this page during the session an article about one home question with which Parliament is concerned, showing just how the home comes into Parliament's discussions and debates.

You will find this article because the "Woman's Leader" knows that only the woman who understands how Parliament is dealing with her affairs can be a really responsible citizen and a really reliable home-keeper.

THE COAL IN THE GRATE.

Most of us have a weakness for sitting dreaming over our fire. We gaze into the dancing flames, and we see strange figures and pictures among the coals. Or so at least we used to do. To-day we can scarcely catch sight of the fire without thinking uneasily how much coal there may be left in our coal cellar, and wondering how big our coal ration will be next year. For coal is no longer the nice cheerful, homely thing it used to be. Somehow it has been caught up into the world of politics and newspaper headlines, and the simple-minded housekeeper wonders how one ever dared to treat it in her free and easy fashion of the days before the war.

The coal that burns so brightly in your grate has a story all its own, far more exciting and interesting than any which you fancy you can see in its glowing crannies. Hundreds of thoughts followed its life story from the moment when the miner with his mattock went down into the mine to delve it out, to the moment when the grimy looking coal-cart delivered it at your cellar door. It means far more than brightness and warmth and cheerfulness in your home. It means bread and butter to the miner, his house and lands to the rich coal owner, factories and machinery to the man of industry, speed to ships and trains, his seat perhaps to your member of Parliament.

A STRIKE TO NATIONALISE THE MINES.

You remember how, in the spring of last year, the whole country was troubled by the great coal strike that threatened to cripple all the work and the traffic in the land. Everyone knew something about the strike, but quite a number of people knew very little more than that the miners were asking for bigger wages, and would not go on working until they got them. They did not know that the miners were asking for something much more important; were asking, in fact, that all the coal mines in the country should be "nationalised"; that is to say, that the nation should buy the coal mines at a fair price from all the different coal owners, and manage them itself, paying reasonable wages and receiving a reasonable profit. The miners held that the present coal owners were charging far too heavy a price for coal, and were themselves getting far too large a profit.

The Government, naturally, could not promise so huge and so costly a change in the management of the coal mines without giving a great deal of thought to the matter first. It decided to set up what is called a Commission to go into the whole coal problem, a body of persons experienced in questions of industry, and wages, and management, who should make their business to collect evidence about the working of coal mines, to find out

what wages were paid to the miners, how much coal was taken from the different mines, how large were the profits made by the owners, what prices were charged for the coal, and so on. This Commission was then asked to consider the evidence and to make a report to the Government on the best way of managing the mines in the future.

COMMISSION SAYS NATIONALISE THEM.

The Commission was set up with Judge Sankey as its chairman. For long our newspapers flared with "Sankey Commission" headlines. Everyone took a keen interest in the coal question, for everyone felt that it really was rather a personal matter. The Commission brought all kinds of people before it to give evidence—miners and owners, and every sort of expert. And at last it sent in to the Government its report in favour of nationalising the mines.

That was an exciting moment, and everyone waited to see what would happen. Would the Government bring a Bill into Parliament to pass the report of the Sankey Commission into law or would it disregard the report of the Commission altogether? From the first the coal owners made it clear that they meant to oppose any attempt to nationalise the mines, and this was a serious matter, for the coal owners represent a very strong and influential class. At last, the Government decided to try to strike a happy medium. It introduced a Bill, not nationalising the mines, but limiting the profits of the coal owners for a year to 1s. 2d. on a ton of coal.

A QUESTION YET TO BE SETTLED.

From the very first this Bill was exceedingly unpopular. Neither party liked it at all. The coal owners objected to having their profits cut down, and the miners refused to accept any Bill which did not nationalise the mines. Last Parliamentary Session was a stormy one whenever the coal question was introduced, and at last the Government was obliged to withdraw the Coal Bill. Fortunately, the end of the session was near, and there was no chance of introducing another Bill, so that everyone has had time to think matters over.

But this is the position which our Government has to face in the coming session, and, as you see, it is not an easy one. It must be faced, and faced at once, for coal cannot wait. Coal comes into most things, and the country could not get on long without it. So remember next time you go to poke your fire how important a political person coal has become—and teach your poker to become respectful!

INEZ M. FERGUSON.

THE WOMAN TEACHER'S STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY.

By AGNES DAWSON.

(PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.)

DURING the year 1918, women teachers throughout the country, but particularly in London, made a desperate struggle to free themselves from the old customs of inequality and dependence. Though women's subscriptions to the National Union of Teachers and to the London Teachers' Association were the same for membership, and though it was clear that many able women in their midst were not satisfied with the progress that was being made inside the teachers' organisations, either for education generally or towards women's emancipation in particular, it seemed impossible without an earthquake to get any of the old overgrown walls of prejudice removed. It must be remembered that though women were in the majority as regards membership, men had the control of the machinery; they had "dug themselves in," and women, however able or however thorough, were for the most part either flattered or flouted, and could get nowhere where they might prove to their fellow women members that women should and could take on responsible work for the good of all.

Then, as readers of *The Common Cause* may probably remember, the salaries question became the all-important subject for the time being; a wave of patriotism and a general consent at the outbreak of war to sink the consideration of domestic trials for the moment, while the huge war troubles were so all absorbing, had postponed the coming demand for the raising of wages everywhere; however, just as other workers discovered, so teachers discovered, the quickly rising prices of the necessary commodities of life made it imperative that the demand for higher wages must at last be made. This was done, and various education authorities, including the London authority, set to work and prepared new salary schemes. As might be expected, the new schemes not only perpetuated the old differentiation between men's and women's salaries, but proposed even larger differences. The L.C.C. made a still bigger mistake (*i.e.*, if they really desired to keep their women teachers quiet) by proposing to introduce such a scheme that the majority of their women teachers would, under the new scheme, actually lose money during the coming two years; worse than this, the London Teachers' Association recommended, through its conference, that its members should accept the scheme—the men teachers were not in danger of losing money by the introduction of the new scheme! The women were at last aroused; the National Federation of Women Teachers was in being, but had hitherto done little independent work, its chief *raison d'être* being to prepare its members for work in the N.U.T. and so to organise women teachers that some sort of concerted action could be expected at elections of the executive, &c. Now, it seemed, more must be expected of the women's organisation, and the N.F.W.T. immediately rose to the occasion, and from that moment women have been leaving the N.U.T. and concentrating their energies and resources upon the work of the N.F.W.T.; they did not merely allow their membership of the N.U.T. to lapse, but sent in their resignations. There had been countless times during the past ten years when this step seemed imminent, but always a Griselda-like patience allowed the women to hold on just a little longer. The thousands of resignations, coming as they did, had an effect; at the Cambridge Conference, in 1918, the debate on equal pay for equal work was not shut down as it had been at Buxton, and at the conclusion of the debate it was agreed that a plebiscite be taken on the question of "equal pay." Many thousands of resignations had already taken place; none of these former members of the N.U.T. could take part in this plebiscite, yet when the results were known, nearly a year later, an almost two to one majority had voted in favour of equal pay for men and women. A similar plebiscite had been taken, during the same period, within the London Teachers' Association with a similar result. These results, of course, meant that both organisations now should have adopted "equal pay" as their policy. So they did, on paper, but it is well-known that that is where it stopped. Mr. Crook, writing as former President of the N.U.T. in the *Times*' Education Supplement, argues against the principle and endeavours to prove that there is more sickness amongst women than amongst men. Other leading members of both organisations have made it clear both privately and publicly that they have no heart in it.

Now comes the Burnham Committee. Prior to this Committee being set up, Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, found it necessary, because of the unrest amongst teachers, to call a Conference between education authorities on the one hand, and representative teachers on the other; the announcement of this proposed Conference was seen in the Press on July 23rd last, and immediately the Secretary of the N.F.W.T., by telegram and by letters, endeavoured to make it clear to Mr. Fisher that her association had a definite claim for representation on that Conference. The claim was not admitted, and the Standing Joint Committee, with Lord Burnham as its chairman, was eventually set up without a representative from the N.F.W.T.; there were forty-four members of this Committee, five of whom were women. The first report from the Joint Committee has been issued, and the old differentiation between men's and women's salaries is still to be allowed. It is reported that equal pay for equal work was introduced into the deliberations of the Committee at the commencement of its sittings by the N.U.T., but the other side refused to debate the subject, and so the subject was dropped; and yet the inequality was at the root of the unrest amongst teachers which had persuaded Mr. Fisher that a Conference was necessary. And so the fight goes on. The N.F.W.T. is now at work endeavouring to make Mr. Fisher and Parliament understand that the report of this Committee is unacceptable to women teachers.

The subject of salaries looms large in this article, and looms large in the present struggle, because inequality between men's and women's salaries is the comprehensible symbol of men's regard for women's work and women's rights; but now that the N.F.W.T. has begun work on independent lines, the question of the right to work whether married or single, the question of the right of opportunity for promotion either to headships or the inspectorate, the question of the right of little girls to be taken from their other studies and forced into domestic training at an early age, and the question of vocational training in the proposed continuation schools, are amongst the questions which women have set themselves to solve, with an ever watchful eye upon the authorities and others who still regard both women and girls as chattels.

It is only fair to the women, both inside the N.U.T. and those who have resigned that body, to point out that the N.U.T. is a body of long-standing development; it has a large political power, and if fairly wielded and courageously wielded could have effected a revolution in the education world; it has within its organisation a provident society which makes provision for its sick members, a benevolent fund which provides for orphans of members and other needy ones; it has a legal aid department; all of which have been built up after long years' of experience and with women's as well as men's money. Some women have been loth to leave this all behind; some of these have not discovered, because of good health or continued good fortune, that these funds are administered unequally as between men and women to the disadvantage of women. They do not know that during the several strikes that have been conducted by the N.U.T. that women members, whose subscription to the N.U.T. is equal to that of the men, have received less strike pay than men. But the N.F.W.T. have shouldered the women's burden; there are now within its organisation a provident fund for its sick members, a mutual aid fund which cares for its needy members and their dependents, and a legal aid fund; and if ever a strike is necessary, strike pay will be paid at a flat rate.

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THE POSITION OF WOMEN UNDER THE LAW.

By MRS. ALDERTON.

(COUNCILLOR OF THE BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER.)

THIS is a very wide subject, for it seeks to define the legal rights and duties of a majority of the inhabitants of this country.

Ancient law, roughly speaking, dealt only with men, and dealt only with them as heads of families. Woman was regarded as "sub virga," to use the technical phrase, that is as "under the rod." If she were unmarried she was under the rod of her father, if married she passed under the rod of her husband. Her father or husband was responsible for her wrong-doing, and was entitled to any property she might have. Gradually, however, largely through the influence of Roman law, a different idea grew up. It began to be thought that a woman could not be regarded as a mere appendage of her husband or father, but was a separate and distinct legal person, with legal rights independent of her husband or of anyone else. Now an idea of this kind has to be prevalent a long time before it gets recognised by and incorporated into the law of the land, but slowly and surely it is being carried out, and in due course it will be brought to its full logical conclusion.

Public Law.—During the last few years great changes have taken place in this branch of the law. Women have, after long and patient efforts, won their right to sit in the House of Commons, and on all the local governing bodies. They can vote at Parliamentary, Municipal, and County Council elections, and although they do not yet possess the vote "on the same terms as men" that reform cannot be long delayed.

A woman may now be made a magistrate, and she may serve on a jury. She may also enter the legal profession; so that the day should not be far distant, when women will be able to be defended in the law courts by persons of their own sex, and when juries will be composed of men and women as a matter of course.

Private Law.—To pass on now to what is technically termed Private Law; that is, that portion of the law which has to do with the legal relations of individuals towards each other.

Law of Property.—The passing of the Married Women's Property Acts constituted probably one of the greatest social revolutions of the nineteenth century. In order to understand this, it is necessary to consider what was the position of the married woman under Common Law.

Common Law.—The Common Law of England had very little to say about the unmarried woman. She was the normal woman in the eyes of the law. It was when a woman crossed the threshold of matrimony that she became legally eccentric and abnormal, and was classed with lunatics, convicts, and other peculiar persons. Husband and wife were regarded as one person, and for all effective purposes the husband was that person. He was the substance, she was the shadow. Our pious ancestors most thoroughly believed in that text of Scripture, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." The wife's existence was merged in that of her husband, and the modern woman had not arrived. The wife's property passed, with slight exceptions, to the dominion of her husband. No wife could enter into contracts, nor commence legal proceedings in her own name, and if any wrong were done her the damages which were obtained against the wrong-doer went to her husband. In all these respects she was as powerless as the child in her arms. In passing, one may note that, although the law has changed these anomalies, this view of the position of the married woman is still enshrined in the marriage ritual of the Church of England.

Chancery.—Married women obtained some relief from a quarter whence it might least have been expected. Whatever are the shortcomings of that much-abused institution—the Court of Chancery—it has at least earned the gratitude of the married women of this country; for it was by the Court of Chancery that the idea was first established that a wife might hold and enjoy property independently of her husband. The Court held that property settled upon a married woman by deed or will could be so settled that she should be entitled to enjoy it for her separate use, and without any interference from her husband. Moreover, if her property was in the hands of the Court, it would not pay it to the husband unless he consented to make a settlement of a reasonable part of it upon his wife. But settlements are expensive things, and still more so are applica-

tions to the Court of Chancery. The Chancery doctrines therefore on this subject of married women's property only benefited the rich. The Married Women's Property Acts were passed then, with the object of making what was a law for the rich a law for the poor also. These Acts provided in effect that a married woman could acquire, hold, and dispose of property of every description in the same manner as if she were unmarried.

Present Law.—The position then of a married woman at the present day, so far as regards property, is this: she is the absolute mistress of her own property, and she can deal with it exactly as she pleases. She can enter into contracts, incur debts, bring and defend actions, buy and sell property, and make a Will as freely as her husband. She can enter into partnership with her husband in carrying on a trade, or she can trade separately from her husband. She can be made bankrupt if she is carrying on a trade separately from her husband. She can also take legal proceedings, either civil or criminal, against her husband for the protection of her property.

In one or two respects, however, the Married Women's Property Act of 1882 still needs alteration, for by its wording the wife who breaks a contract made with a third person cannot be proceeded against except in respect of her separate estate, and if she has no separate estate she cannot be imprisoned for her behaviour. This is supposed by some to be an advantage to the woman trader, but it is very doubtful whether it is so, as it often interferes with her credit, and so hinders her trade. But, in any case, women do not wish to have this so-called privilege, believing that men and women should have the same punishment for offences against commercial honour.

Position of Wife at her Husband's Death.—So far we have been considering the legal position of a woman while her husband is alive. What is her position at his death? The husband's power of making a Will is unlimited, and he can, if he chooses, deprive his widow of all share in his property. He can leave all he has for the conversion of the heathen, and his widow to the tender mercies of the Poor Law Guardians. This is not the law in Scotland, nor in France, nor has it always been the law in England. In the thirteenth century a man's property was divided into three parts, a third went to his wife, a third to his children, and it was only the remaining third that he could dispose of by Will.

If Husband Dies Intestate.—If, however, a man dies without making a Will, his widow's position is as follows: If she has no children she is entitled to £500 clear in the first instance. If anything remains after paying her this £500 she is entitled to half the personal property, the other half going to the husband's next of kin. In default of next of kin this half goes to the Crown.

If she has children, two-thirds of the personal property goes to them, and only the remaining third to the widow. With regard to her husband's freehold property—i.e., his houses and lands—whether she has children or not she is entitled to a life interest in one-third of this, unless he has barred her right during his lifetime.

Husband's Position at Death of Wife.—Contrast this with the husband's position on the death of his wife. Should a married woman die without making a Will her husband has the consolation of knowing that the old Common Law rights, which an unkindly legislature has deprived him of during her lifetime, now revive. The whole of her personal property goes to him, by what is humorously known as "the curtesy of England." If there are no children of the marriage he also gets unreservedly all her freehold property. If, however, there are children his interest in this property is for his lifetime only. Of course, the wife no less than the husband can dispose of the whole of her property by Will.

Intestacy of Son or Daughter.—In the case of an unmarried daughter or son dying intestate, the mother inherits nothing, the whole goes to the father or to the father's next of kin, notwithstanding the fact that the children may have inherited the money through their maternal grandparents.

WOMEN'S WORK FOR THE DISABLED IN WAR AND PEACE.

"No woman is naturally mechanical," stated Mr. A. J. Swinburne, together with other strange remarks, at the last meeting of the Musical Association. It is not our intention to publish an answer to Mr. Swinburne, the extracts of his address which we have read would not warrant so much attention being given him, but at the same time we think he would benefit by a visit to the Splint and Artificial Limb Depôt at 123, Church Street, Mulberry Walk, Chelsea, and an inspection of the wonderful work performed there by women.

The Depôt was started during the war by the Surgical Requisites Association, the originators of the various processes being two women sculptors. The public knows something of the great services performed by the Association for our soldiers in war-time, and the amount of suffering and misery that its workers were able to alleviate—they do not know perhaps that the work is still being carried on, and that a scheme is on hand to extend the field of labour and to try and help crippled children and disabled civilians.

It was at the end of July last year that the organiser of the Surgical Requisites Association handed over the Depôt to the Red Cross. So far only soldiers have benefited by the treatment, and a recent exhibition of work showed what wonderful results have been achieved and what great strides have been made in the different processes since the Depôt started. At first the work was confined to various kinds of splints, but now artificial limbs are made in addition to many ingenious devices for helping the disabled. In one apparatus for a patient with dropped wrist and fingers leather rings for each finger were fastened by wire springs down the back of the hand to a metal attachment and leather wristlet. By means of this wonderful contrivance (invented by one of those women who are never naturally mechanical) a man who is unable by himself to raise wrist or fingers can play the piano; another afflicted in the same way is now earning his living making feather beds. Another of the many varieties of apparatus on view was for gradually bending stiff elbow and wrist joints; another was to support the weight of the forearm in a case where a piece of bone in the upper part of the arm was missing.

The papier-mâché splints are made with such perfection of detail and workmanship that it is difficult to believe that they are made by hand. Plaster casts are taken of the limbs, so that a perfect fit is guaranteed—whether it is a padded bed-boot, a cock-up for a rigid wrist, or a protection splint which covers without touching the injured part. The various stages through which the splint has to pass before it becomes the finished article are interesting. The groundwork is ordinary cardboard, which is neatly covered with layer after layer of papier-mâché; then the outside leather cover is affixed, which must be followed by a wait of two or three days until the article is thoroughly dry, before the leather fastenings are put on. This part of the work is done with an awl. Then the inside of the splint receives attention, and a soft cushion is made of pulled cottonwool and horsehair, the final lining being of some soft material—chamois leather or sometimes waterproof.

There is a special metal room where the metal fittings are done, and there is a large department to deal with the work of making artificial limbs. These are specially light, being made of compressed wood fibre, and are, of course, much less expensive than the ordinary artificial limbs. The newest "leg" bends both the knee and the foot, while another invention enables a man possessing no leg at all, not even a stump, to sit down in complete comfort. The latest experiments in this department are being made in light wood, as this would be of a more permanent nature than the compressed wood fibre. The workers of the Depôt have a story that so realistic are their artificial limbs that one very new V.A.D. fled the nursing profession in fright on discovering that her patient "took to pieces."

It is a pity that more of the general public cannot see the work, and know the great benefit that can be given to those who have lost their limbs. At the present moment there is plenty of work to be done, and the Depôt is urgently in need of voluntary workers. Though the work is very skilled a woman can learn enough in a fortnight, if working regularly, to be useful. Here is an interesting and useful field for the many demobilised voluntary war-workers, and the scheme for including crippled children in the Depôt's scope will make a special appeal to women.

"No woman is naturally mechanical!"—we stated at the outset that we did not mean to make an answer to Mr. Swinburne, but it would almost seem that we have answered him without setting out to do so!

Maintenance.—To pass now to the personal relations between husband and wife. The husband is liable to maintain his wife, and if she become chargeable to the parish, he can be compelled to contribute to her maintenance. These contributions however, are often very difficult to get from the husband, and the wife may have to sue him again and again without getting what has been awarded to her for maintenance. It is true she can have him sent to prison after four weeks of non-payment, but she seldom takes this course, as by so doing, she still further lessens her hope of any allowance in the future. It should be made legal, that when a woman—whether she be a wife or an unmarried mother—has been awarded a sum for maintenance, that sum should be a first charge on the man's wages, obtainable from his employer if necessary. Further, it would greatly increase the woman's chances of receiving her money, if all maintenance grants had to be paid to an official of the police courts. In considering maintenance, it must be remembered that a wife is—since the Married Women's Property Acts were passed—bound to support her husband and children if she have any separate property or income.

Connected with the wife's right to be maintained by her husband, is her right to pledge his credit for necessaries. She may go to the grocer and other tradesmen and buy food and necessaries suitable to the position in life of her husband, and he is liable to pay. He can, however, escape liability by forbidding her to pledge his credit, or by pleading that he is suitably maintaining her.

Children.—Where there are children of the marriage, the father is bound to feed, clothe, and educate his children of tender years. The mother is also liable for their maintenance, if she has separate property. Notwithstanding this fact, the father has, by law, sole control and custody of the children. A wealthy man can—if he pleases—force his wife and children to live in the most humble circumstances. He can decide to what schools his children shall go, to what trades they shall be apprenticed, and, most important of all, in what religion they shall be brought up. The right to decide the religious training of the child belongs to the father absolutely, and he cannot contract it away. Moreover, the father can appoint a guardian to have the custody and control of the child after his death. It was not until the year 1886, that a mother was entitled to the custody of her own child even after the father's death! Mr. Bryce, however, in that year, succeeded in getting an Act passed by which the mother might be her children's guardian at her husband's death, either alone or jointly with a guardian appointed by him.

On the other hand, if the mother appoints by will a guardian to act for her children in the event of her death, the Courts do not recognise such a guardian unless it is proved that the husband is not a fit person to have charge of the children.

Illegitimate Children.—If a woman has an illegitimate child, the law declares that she is responsible for its maintenance, and yet no rights over it are given to her by law. If she dies without making a will, it does not even inherit her property. The helpless position of the mother of an illegitimate child is a standing disgrace to the law of England.

Divorce.—A man can get a divorce from his wife if she has been proved to be guilty of infidelity. A woman, however, cannot get a divorce from her husband unless, in addition to infidelity, she can prove cruelty, desertion, or bigamy on his part.

It will be easily seen, from a perusal of this article, that the position of women under the law is still most unsatisfactory. It is true that changes in public opinion and humanitarian instincts have modified some of the older doctrines of the law, yet there is much which needs drastic alteration. For instance, there is a universal demand among women that the laws regarding the custody and guardianship of children shall be amended. Also that the laws relating to the devolution of property, when there is no will, shall be made more just to the woman. With regard to the divorce laws, all fair-minded people agree that there must be absolute equality of treatment for husband and wife in the Divorce Courts. In addition to these, the laws relating to immorality, and those regulating the punishment and responsibility where there is an illegitimate child, need immediate adjustment in the interests of women. At present they are cruel in the extreme to the woman, while her companion in guilt too often gets off scot free.

Enfranchised womanhood can get these injustices and inequalities swept away, if they will but stand shoulder to shoulder in support of the equality programme of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

THE FROG BABY.

A Story in Four Parts.

By ELIZABETH ROBINS.

PART I.

LIKE every other woman of position in the land she had her War Work Committees, her V.A.D. Selection Board, her Soldiers' Comforts Depot, her Hospital days. Lady Terence's busy husband, her servants, too, even the dogs were well accustomed, by now, to her new activities; to her driving away (with the motor full of books for the camps, of socks and vests for the trenches, or home-made cakes for soldiers' teas)—at an hour when of old her own breakfast would hardly have appeared at her bedroom door.

More revolutionary still, in the life of a conventionally fastidious lady, those comings home, with the motor full of queer people. Pitmen and dockers in hospital blue; women who, till they stood up, looked like young men; strange Entertainers with manners stranger still—a bewildering variety of visitors never seen beneath that roof before, were welcomed in those amazing days on the ground of some connection, real or supposed, with the great struggle then nearing the close of its third year.

All the same, Lord Terence's absorption in his Admiralty work, did not prevent his exercising a very definite control over his wife's apparently erratic manifestations. The queer people she had been bringing to Grosvenor Square weren't half so queer as some she might have brought, but for the thought of what Terence might say—or even look. Her sense of the paramountcy of Terence's wishes was of the kind not only familiar in the devoted wife Old Style, but peculiar to the wife whose thoughts and affections have never been divided, or diverted, by a child.

On a certain June afternoon, the butler opened the door to his mistress, and to the queerest visitor yet admitted. Followed, as usual, by the two best-beloved of the Pekinese, Tou-Tou and Beryl, Lady Terence Carrick, with her airy step, advanced from the motor holding by the hand a minute person dressed like a Jack Tar of the stage. The minute person, slightly unwilling and more than slightly grave, was himself provocative of smiling, at least in any one below the level of a butler. Mr. Dowling's smooth greyish face, which commonly looked as if modelled in plasticine, relaxed no muscle. His filmed eye regarded the sailor with coldness for the first instant, and then regarded him not at all.

"No, m'lady, his lordship is not back."

"Never mind, we'll have tea earlier. Send it up now."

Dowling's eyes made appeal to the face of the tall clock. The clock sided with Mr. Dowling. The clock said it wasn't yet four.

"Ask for an extra jug of milk, Dowling. And—a—" on her way to the stairs she turned with a smile of semi-embarrassment—"Oh, I'm not at home. And Dowling—"

"Yes, m'lady." His eyes remained at a level at least three feet above the sailor's hat. To perfection Mr. Dowling conveyed the idea: I am not aware of the object your ladyship holds by the hand. If I were aware, I should be surprised. Knowing as I do, the nephews and nieces and friends of the family, I am unable to account for this visitor. Knowing, above all (Dowling's increased dignity seemed to say), that the only interest your ladyship and Lord Terence have ever been able to take in the immature, has through eight and twenty years been confined to puppies, I cannot be expected to unbend to this latest queer visitor, who for all his seriousness, I cannot regard as a War-worker.

That was precisely where Dowling was out, but there was no time to explain. Lady Terence addressed herself a little self-consciously to the visitor. She took off his cap. He grabbed at it with remonstrant squeaks. She tried to smooth his hair; he ducked.

"Come then—this way—But those stairs are too much for you. For such very little legs, it must be like climbing the pyramids." She sent a look over her shoulder, appealing to the humanity of the butler. Dowling stood impassive. The lady picked up the sailor with a palpable absence of skill and the sailor objected.

"Walk self," he struggled out of her arms.

She laughed. "An independent person," she announced, as though commending him to Dowling on fresh ground. It was no use.

"And he can do it all alone!" She recovered her spirits a

little, watching how the sailor holding stoutly to the floored design of the bannister, brought his backward leg up to join the one already on the step. With determination and profound seriousness he accomplished his first ascent from lower regions to the drawing-room.

"You can keep Tou-Tou and Beryl till I ring," Lady Terence called over the bannister. "Oh, and—a—Dowling, don't—you needn't say anything about my having—a—anyone with me." Into the butler's barely perceptible pause she tossed down: "It's—a—a little surprise."

It'll be that all right! Dowling seemed to say before his lips shaped: "Very well, m'lady."

The sailor seemed to think it was a nice play-room. He was particularly taken with a priceless Chinese pagoda hung with exquisitely wrought gold bells. John Mundy chuckled as they tinkled. Just as tea came in he twitched off one of the bells and nearly brought the whole fantastic fabric down on his head.

"Oh, what will Terence say! You mustn't, baby." She turned the pagoda round to hide the ravishment and coaxed the bell out of the chubby hand in exchange for a cake. Immense fun it was giving John Mundy tea. When he lifted his rosy face out of the cup—"Good milk?" she asked and wiped the white moustache off his upper lip. His sufficient, his enchanting answer was to hold out his cup for more. And when he had finished it, he held out his arms for her to take him on her lap. This so melted Lady Terence that she hadn't the strength of mind to remonstrate when he discovered the little gold bell down between the cushion and the arm of the chair. He could have played with that tiny bell forever! He was as good as the gold of the bell so long as he might turn it, and tinkle it, and roll it about, and put it in his mouth. She lay back in the great chair, watching him and thinking back, seeing herself at those stages, one after another, which had led to her sitting here in the stately, shining room, with this small salvaged human in the haven of her lap.

They had wanted merely her name on the Hospital Committee. Institutions and Charities were always wanting her name. She had come secretly to resent the knowledge that, after her name, what was wanted was a subscription. Beyond that, nothing. Too often she had met the unblushing assurance that no claim whatever was to be made upon her time. What they meant was that they regarded her as useless except as a figure-head and a guarantee of solvency.

Before the war Lady Terence would not have objected to this definition of her place and use. But, where everything else was changing, that was changing too. She had not even been able without a prick of her stirred conscience, to hear: "Nobody thinks of anything now but soldiers. Women and babies—oh no."

That was the inauspicious beginning of her interest in a certain heavily encumbered Lying-in Hospital in East London. Not to speak of her aid in raising money, and not to make too much of the comforts with which she loaded her car for the weekly visit, Lady Terence's passage through the wards must have brought some little momentary distraction into the grim routine. For one thing Lady Terence wore charming clothes, and nearly always different ones. That was something. She was tall and slight and graceful still, with the lightest step, surely, that ever carried eight and forty years about the world. It carried her from bed to bed with a gentleness that could not hide from mother eyes the fact of the unreality to this visitant from another world, of the happiness, as well as the sordidness and sorrow, that met its climax here.

"She's never 'ad one 'erself," an East-end mother told another. She didn't even seem to know the difference between the respectable married woman (who looked forward to her periodic two weeks in the hospital with all its pain and danger as her only holiday) and the little domestic servant, the unmarried factory hand or shop girl—passed in by a merciful matron if this was "the first time."

The respectable woman even suspected Lady Terence of taking a disproportionate interest in that white-faced thing with no ring on her hand, the girl who hadn't so much as told her name. She had been found unconscious at the bottom of those three steps which lead out of Tufnell Street into

Commercial Road. Beside her, a loaf of bread about to cast its wrapping, and a packet of granulated sugar spilling out of its blue cornucopia. She was clearly ill-nourished but had seemed to be unhurt by her fall. Yet she refused to speak. There was no mark on her plain clothing; and nothing in her pocket to offer a clue. The matron thought Lady Terence might win the girl to say something. Lady Terence was more than disappointed, a little hurt, at her failure.

The baby had come soon after the lady's last visit, six days ago. And the baby—well, the least said about the baby the better. But the mother seemed all right up till this morning. Half an hour ago she had died. "For no reason at all."

The low hum of talk at the bottom of the ward increased. There was the lady, coming in now, in one o' them short, fringed, little-girl frocks. My word! if she hadn't made strite for the bed with the screen round it!

Lady Terence glanced over the screen and stood transfixed. Her floating veil and flying laces all at half mast. The jangling chains, the chateleine, the bangles, stricken for once into silence. Even that bird-like quick turning of the head stilled by the stillness of the dead girl's face.

A visitor wasn't expected to look over screens.

The matron came down the ward. The woman in the next bed heard Lady Terence ask: "Did the baby die too?"

"Not yet," the matron answered. He wasn't expected to live, and his mother wasn't expected to die. But there you were. "Is that her baby?" Lady Terence turned in her impulsive way to a nurse going by with an infant in her arms.

"No, that's mine"—a proud voice claimed the flannel bundle.

"Oh, you're taking care of it!—nice of you!" Lady Terence's pitying eye fell on a woman lying with a baby in the hollow of each arm.

"No. Twins."

Again Lady Terence looked over the screen. "But her's—where is it?"

"It's there by the fire." The matron checked the visitor's movement: "Better not. It's—a—not a pretty sight."

"What's the matter?" Lady Terence asked.

"Nothing very special, it's just a little misery, and it'll soon be out of its trouble."

As they stood there a young woman not in uniform, but with an air of being at home, came into the ward, looked about in a lack-lustre way and then sauntered over to the fire. The matron, whom nothing seemed ever to escape, followed Lady Terence's eyes to the slim languid figure, the colourless face.

"My niece," said Miss Neal.

The young woman went out of the ward a moment after, hiding a small bundle against her breast.

"Is she a nurse—your niece?"

"No. But I suppose she knows it's better for these women not to be looking at—that sort of thing."

Lady Terence's mind shrank from the subject. Yet there had been in the sheltering action of the girl, something—Lady Terence couldn't have said what—something that kept the incident, kept the nameless child, alive in the memory days after he must in due course have joined that tragic procession to the workhouse, or the grave.

She did not, as her friends had prophesied, weary of visiting "the mothers," of admiring the fine babies that week by week came tumbling into the world. Not that her admiring was wholly without sophistication: "Every woman," she confided to the matron, "thinks her baby is perfectly beautiful." Lady Terence smiled.

"The odd part of it," said the Good Genius of the place, "the odd part is: each woman is right." Over a cup of tea in her charming sitting-room, the matron recalled for Lady Terence's benefit certain youthful experiences as district nurse in a Manchester slum; and a kindred result of the long years here. "Nature is on our side!" The rosy face under the snow-white hair shone with conviction. "If you except one disease, it doesn't seem to matter how ailing and miserable the parents are—nature gives each child a fresh start. Thousands on thousands of these babies I've seen come into the world. They are beautiful! Sound and splendid. What's wrong, is what comes after. Nobody can frighten us with the hereditary bogey. That's why," she lowered her voice, "it makes such an impression on the nurses when a baby comes along like that poor girl's—" She would have changed the subject if the visitor hadn't said: "He died, I suppose?"

No, he hadn't died.

Lady Terence saw in her mind's eye a certain crèche for waifs and strays. Not even such featureless succour as that for the dead girl's baby. "The workhouse, I suppose?" "For

a little while yet," the matron smiled apologetically, "my niece is taking care of him."

It was all a new experience to Lady Terence—the matron as much as any part of it. One couldn't 'place' her. A matron of a hospital who read French! Lady Terence came to look forward to the little talks in that sitting-room which had been part of the general surprise. Not only the books and flowers. The old furniture, the reproductions of Carpaccio and of the early Siennese. For a modern note, there was a glorious picture by Eleanor Brickdale which Lady Terence wouldn't have minded hanging on her own wall. One of the rugs she was reduced to wondering how 'a woman like that' had got hold of. Like that! Like what? If you could detect in Miss Neal's manner any consciousness of a difference in station, you'd say that her supposition—never obtruded but firm—was that the advantage lay with the matron. She had been disconcertingly firm about admitting dogs. "Dogs!" She called the absolutely human Tou-Tou and the hitherto irresistible Beryl—"Dogs!" Called them dogs, and wouldn't suffer them over the threshold. But she seemed rather kind to her niece.

"Wa-eh wa-eh!" came a baby's wail out of Marna's bedroom. The matron consulted her watch. It was time Marna was back from the dentist. "I was very anxious about Marna three weeks ago," she said, pouring the China tea out of a charming old Wedgwood pot. "We couldn't rouse her. She had over-studied, I think."

Miss Marna, it appeared, was science teacher in a celebrated girl's school. The man she had been going to marry was a schoolmaster with militaristic enthusiasms. He had brought his school corps up to a high pitch of proficiency and he'd been one of the first of his profession to volunteer for foreign service. He was killed at the battle of the Somme. The girl had broken down under combined grief and over-work. The worst of it was, according to her aunt, Marna's convalescence was retarded by a quite morbid hatred of her old occupation.

"I brought her here," said Miss Neal pausing an instant to gauge the degree of rebellion implied in the intermittent protests from the next room—"just for a week or two as I thought. Till she could right herself. She must right herself."

"I'd hate to be a science mistress, too," observed the visitor. The matron smiled. "Yes, but Marna, you see, has no choice. She has to earn her living."

"Wa-eh! Wa-eh-eh!" came louder out of the adjoining room. Miss Neal rose. "I won't be long." She had been left in charge of the workhouse baby. The matron! As for him, he didn't seem to know he was a workhouse baby. He screeched with as much abandon as a Prince. Furious about something. What could the matron be doing to him? Lady Terence went to the door and looked in. The matron was heating milk. Kind Miss Neal! Except in that matter of Tou-Tou and Beryl! As for the workhouse baby he was quiet a moment as though some mitigating circumstance had occurred to him. He lay on his back. In the unusual heat the clothing had been lightened. The blankets, even the sheet thrown back. The first Lady Terence saw of him was a small red foot curled inwards but so drawn up it was higher than his head. Almost as if he'd had the sense to wish to hide his head. Bald, misshapen, with no top to it. A gnome-like face, with broad squat features crowded together in the insufficient space and making up laterally for what they lacked in the nobler direction. The negroid nose sprawled till you could hardly tell where it began and where ended.

Lady Terence was sufficiently repelled before the little monster lifted the hairless lids from its eyes and looked at her with a horrible squint. If she didn't like what she saw, no more did he. He burst into a roar of displeasure. The matron did not improve things by offering him his bottle. His action of indignant repulse brought the rubber into collision with the flat nose. The milk squirted in his face. The kindly whiteness but emphasised more the purple that spread a dull mottle up over the palpitating cranium. The horrid little atomy was on the verge of a fit, when the door of the next room opened and Marna walked in.

She put down her gloves and umbrella with the remark: "There, there, my pretty. Did he want Marna?"

And apparently he didn't want an earthly thing beside. He cut his largest howl in the middle and swallowed it with a gurgling of content as Miss Marna held him and patted him and whispered reassurances in his ears. These, to Lady Terence's mingled amusement and disgust, were flattering comments on his character and personal appearance.

"You are fond of babies," said the visitor.

"No," answered the girl, "I've always thought them a nuisance, and this one wants to justify me."

(To be continued.)

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN LITERATURE.

A BYGONE AGE.

The Skilled Labourer. By J. L. Hammond and Barbara Hammond. (Longmans. Price 12s. 6d. net.)

In "The Skilled Labourer" Mr. and Mrs. Hammond have added a third volume to their brilliant study of working-class conditions in this country during the Industrial Revolution. "The Village Labourer" and "The Town Labourer" are already familiar to students of economic history; they have become indispensable text books for the period 1760-1832. "The Skilled Labourer" is a work of narrower scope than either of its predecessors, and the subjects which it touches it touches in minute detail. For this reason it may possibly prove less of a popular success, though, to students of industrial history, it is no less valuable. The authors have confined their investigations to a limited number of skilled industries: the Northumberland and Durham coal mining industry and certain branches of the textile industry. Thus, with the help of local press records, early trade union documents, and the archives of the Home Office, they are able to present to us, in each case, an extraordinarily full and graphic account of the relations between employers and employed in the industries concerned.

In order to appreciate the full significance of the story, however, the reader will require some background of general economic history, much of which has already been provided by "The Town Labourer." He must know, for instance, something of the state of the law during this period, with regard to workmen's combinations. He must know something of the composition of the Statute Book in respect of unreppealed labour legislation. He must know something of the economic philosophy which dominated the minds of the governing classes. And he must know that "Jacobinism" is the early nineteenth century for "Bolshevism." So equipped, he will be in a position to revel in the bright circle of limelight which "The Skilled Labourer" throws upon an aspect of the Industrial Revolution. Our impression of Mr. and Mrs. Hammond's story is briefly this: During the opening years of the nineteenth century this

country was ruled by a Government whose sole panacea for industrial unrest was physical repression; a Government in whose ears the explosion of the French Revolution was eternally buzzing; a Government which honestly believed itself to be sitting precariously on a kind of spring whose expansive force was political revolution on the best Parisian model. Against this expansive force it possessed three counter-weights—the army, the law, and the secret service.

That is one side of the picture. On the other we see the skilled workers fighting intermittently for specific concessions, and for the right to organise. Looking at the mass of facts presented to us by Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, we find no evidence whatever to indicate that during this early period any considerable group of wage-earners was actuated by a coherent revolutionary philosophy. It is true that in many cases their specific demands involved violent resistance to the introduction of machinery, and that their attempts to organise involved breaches of the Combination Acts. The story of their activities is, therefore, enlivened by constant references to riots and prosecutions. But the widespread revolutionary turmoil, against which the forces of law and order were being mobilised, appear to have been pure chimera—"such stuff as dreams are made of" in the excited brains of secret service men. This conclusion confirms our rooted conviction that a secret service will always justify its existence and produce a conspiracy of some kind, even if it has to go to the pains of manufacturing that conspiracy itself. It is possible, of course, that Mr. and Mrs. Hammond have, by carelessness or prejudice, allowed some vast current of working-class opinion to elude their grasp. Frankly, however, we do not believe that this is the case, and with Mr. Lloyd George's famous railway strike manifesto fresh in mind, we are conscious of a wonderful historic insight into the brain which directed the Home Office during the closing years of the Napoleonic War and the opening years of the Napoleonic Peace.

But quite apart from its political and economic interest, "The Skilled Labourer" has a considerable dramatic interest of its own. The obscure agitators, who emerge from the

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shadowy underground existence of their illegal combinations into the fierce limelight of the Law Courts, are live personalities whom we are glad to meet for their own sakes. We shall not forget the story of John Brook, the wounded frame-breaker, whose death agony was brightened by a grim joke at the expense of the clergyman whose last ministrations took the form of a nagging exhortation to betray accomplices. "Can you keep a secret?" asked John Brook. "I can," eagerly replied the expectant clergyman. "So can I," the dying man returned, and soon afterwards calmly died.

No less interesting from the human, as well as from the political and economic point of view, is the story of Oliver, the Spy. There were, as the reader will learn, numerous spies at work in the industrial districts during the period in question. There were local spies, such as those employed by the implacable Colonel Fletcher, J.P., of Bolton, and there were Whitehall spies, such as Oliver, employed by the Home Office. It appears that the unco-ordinated activities of these gentlemen would sometimes give rise to temporary misunderstandings such as that indicated in the last act of the "The Man who Stayed at Home." But in spite of their absorbing interest these spy stories are uncomfortable reading. We are beginning to dream of spies—spies disguised as shop-stewards; spies disguised as Bolshevist agents. It is comforting to look at the date of "The Skilled Labourer" and remember that it all happened so long ago.

As Mr. and Mrs. Hammond conclude: "Probably no English Government has ever been quite so near, in spirit and licence, to the atmosphere that we used to associate with the Tsar's government of Russia as the Government that ruled England for the first few years of the peace." The authors are referring, of course, to the peace of 1815.

MARY STOCKS.

A GREAT WOMAN'S WORK.

A History of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. By Eva Shaw McLaren. (Published by Hodder & Stoughton. 7s. 6d. net.)

A PLAIN grey book at a modest price! But the story inside is of any colour but grey. Black there is—terrible stories of days when the nurses and doctors in the Scottish Women's Hospitals had to cover their heads at night with their bed-clothes to shut out the moans of those for whom there was no room, who sat freezing, starving, wounded, round the meagre fires in a Serbian courtyard,—when during the retreat in the Dobrudja there was at Braila 11,000 wounded and only seven doctors, of whom Dr. Elsie Inglis was one. There are purple patches in the chapter on the transport columns, where the feats of the girl drivers on the shell-torn roads of France or the hair-pin bends of the mountain tracks of Serbia, are described. And there are places as gay as the tartan facings on the grey uniforms of the staff of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, where the gratitude of the patients and their friends showed itself in all sorts of embarrassing ways.

But grave or gay, the "History of the Scottish Women's Hospitals," told chiefly in the plain words of the staff and the onlookers is a most notable compilation of women's heroic deeds. The spirit of the founder, Dr. Elsie Inglis, was shared by every unit—indomitable, courageous, practical, resourceful, tender and firm,—every page makes one feel that until the great agony of the war, no one knew what women could do.

They were off "from the mark," as the saying is, for Dr. Elsie Inglis had her V.A.D.'s ready trained long before that first August, and at the back of the Hospitals was the experienced organisation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. They were women who were ready, and ready for anything.

The personnel and the money seem to have been produced without clamour or advertising. There must have been 700 or more women connected with the Scottish Women's Hospitals, serving in all sorts of capacities—from cooks to surgeons, and the £500,000 was quietly raised in many ways and in many countries. We read of one local committee getting £2,000 by the sale of wastepaper, as well as of Mrs. G. F. Abbott, well-known to suffrage workers—coming back from her tours in India and Australia with a harvest of £62,000, and Miss Burke taking by storm not only the hearts of the people of the United States and Canada, but their purses!

"A History of the Scottish Women's Hospitals" will interest every kind of woman but she who discounts everything done by her sex. The romantic will linger over the story of the saving of the Division of the Serbian Army by Dr. Elsie Inglis's messengers carrying a message of 2,400 words committed to memory, from Russia to the Foreign Office at home—

the motherly will dwell on the pictures of rescued Serbian babies living under the kind care of the Scottish women in Corsica—the adventurous will follow with avidity the story of the Three Retreats, and the imprisonment of the workers and their escape—the practical will love to hear that there was never an occasion where the resourcefulness of the Scottish women failed to meet the emergency.

The tragedy of the death of Dr. Elsie Inglis in November, 1917, will move everyone. But her great personality lived on in her work. It is her story both before and after her death, and having read it, one can only wonder that no national memorial has yet been raised to so great a memory. It will not be much longer delayed with the Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London Committees for the National Memorial all at work. And it will fulfil her wish that her work should not perish with her, but should strike fresh roots in her grave.

Village Libraries. By A. Sayle. (Grant Richards. 5s.)

MISS SAYLE herself started a village library fourteen years ago in a Hampshire village of 700 inhabitants, which has survived to the present day, has over six hundred books in constant circulation, and not only a balance in hand, but investments to the extent of three War Savings Certificates. So rare is the village which not only buys but reads library books, that Miss Sayle's experiment is certain of imitation by country book lovers, who will be grateful for the careful detail in which she describes her campaign, and the meticulous accuracy with which she chronicles expenditure. Her recipe for success is to have an elected committee, chosen rather for its willingness to act as librarians and book-repairers than for their literary tastes; to discard books which are not read, whatever their merits; to buy some new books every year out of the readers' subscriptions, and to choose these, so far as may be, from among the works of authors already approved by the library subscribers. She shows how subscriptions ranging from a halfpenny to twopence a month will provide for the upkeep of the library, and its necessary expansion if it starts with a gift of a hundred books for adults and fifty for children, and if half-a-dozen vice-presidents subscribe about ten shillings a year, to be spent chiefly on shelves. She is shrewd and illuminating on the abundance of tact and diplomacy essential if the whole scheme is not to come to grief.

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"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN DRAMA.

THREE PLAYS BY ANTON TCHEKOV.

The Pioneer Players.

"No wonder they want a revolution in Russia to kill everybody, if all the people there are like that." This remark was overheard on Sunday as the curtain fell on 'The Wedding.' How accurately it represents the aim and causes of the revolution in Russia is open to doubt, but the general spirit of the remark does describe exactly the feelings of most English people on their first introduction to Russian literature. The people are all so unpleasant. There is really no one whom one can respect or admire, much less like. This truth was certainly exemplified by the three plays chosen by the Pioneer Players.

The first was very properly called "The Bear." The blustering bully breaks into the parlour of the pretty, inconsolable widow. Her husband owed him money, and nothing will induce him to go away without it. He storms at the servants. The mistress comes in and orders him to go away. He shouts at her—she screams at him. He is to leave the house at once—she will pay him the day after to-morrow. He will not leave the house without his money—he will stay there till the day after to-morrow. The old butler comes in and has a heart attack, but no one takes any notice. The altercation grows louder and shriller. Finally, the couple decide to fight it out with pistols. The lady goes upstairs to fetch the pistols. While she is gone, the Bear realises the full importance of a fact he had been dimly conscious of from the beginning—that she is a very pretty woman. He adores pretty women. He has refused twelve and nine have refused him. When she returns, in the intervals of showing her how to use the pistols, he proposes to her much in the same way as he had asked for his money. She refuses in the same tone as she has the money. She sends the butler, now partially recovered, to fetch the coachman and the gardener to turn out her suitor. By the time they arrive the lady is in the Bear's arms. So they are sent back to the pantry, the garden, and the stable, and the curtain falls. One feels that the pair are well matched.

The second play, "On the High Road," inevitably recalls the Lower Depths, though it was written earlier. The scene is laid in an inn in South Russia. It is night, a storm is howling outside, and within the travellers sprawl on the floor, huddle against the wall, or slouch up to the bar for vodka. The scene looked so exactly what one imagines Russia to look like that it was quite a shock when the characters began to speak Cockney. For a long time it seemed as if there was to be no action at all, only the random, incoherent, significant talk of strangers shut up together. There was an old man dying, and two women with him—superstitious old women who kept crossing themselves and believed in the Evil Eye. There was a restless intelligent peasant who worked in a brickyard (Mr. George Hayes), a handsome, swaggering thief (Mr. Henry Caine), who turned the peasant off the bench, frightened the women, and made the innkeeper pull off his boots. The innkeeper was a surly, mercenary, rather attractive young man, but the actor (Denis Wyertly) hadn't had time to learn his part and couldn't hear the prompter, however loud he spoke. There was a mujik on the way to fetch the midwife, and a dipsomaniac nobleman who had once been the mujik's landlord. At the last moment there is a sudden gust of action. The lady who had driven the nobleman to drink comes in. Her coach has broken down. She is recognised by the nobleman and driven out by the thief. The old man dies. The curtain falls.

It was a relief when it went up on "The Wedding." The table was all red festoons—lobsters and champagne. The people were in their best clothes. But though more prosperous and amusing than the people in the High Road, they were even more unpleasant. The wedding is only just over, but the bridegroom pesters his mother-in-law about the dowry. The absurd midwife carries on a ridiculous intrigue with the telegraph operator. The bride's father gets drunk. A delightful little Greek confectioner (Jean Varda) makes an entirely senseless speech. To crown all, the bride's uncle arrives with a second grade sea captain, whom he tries to pass off as a general. The captain (W. R. Staveley) is rather deaf, and seeing a young naval officer in the party, bawls a series of highly technical and unintelligible nautical reminiscences. The party grows restive, and in the general disorder it transpires on the one side that he is not a

general, but a second grade captain, and, on the other, that the uncle had been given twenty-five roubles to bring a general. The captain leaves the table in a rage. The master of ceremonies is trying in vain to pull things together by a speech when the curtain falls.

Indeed, the whole effect of these plays is dreary. Yet in the slightest of them there is a power, a delicacy, an all-pervading inspiration almost unknown in modern English work. No isolated quotation can give the least idea of the amazing perfection of the whole and of each individual part. Each random remark breaking the silence of the long night in the inn has the weight of a living personality behind it. It is the same in the wedding. Sordid bourgeois they may be, but they are all living people. Shaw says, "Every time I read a play of Tchekov I want to throw all my own stuff on the fire"; and it can be said, without disrespect, that he is right.

Yet Tchekov's plays are so different from the plays to which we are accustomed, the best, as well as the worst, that it is not easy, at first sight, to realise how very great they are. There are two great stumbling blocks in the way.

The first great difference is that their realism in the handling of characters has reached a stage undreamed of in our most lurid work. They draw their characters, as it were, naked. No blemishes hidden, no beauties added, nothing heightened, nothing softened. Accustomed as we are to people decently clothed, not to say powdered and painted, we, naturally, do not like it. The effect from its very truth appears distorted and untrue. Not, of course, that it is the truth alone which repels us. There is no doubt that the Russians have a peculiar feeling for the sombre side of truth, for the bitterness and isolation of human beings even in their happiest moments.

The other great stumbling block is a difference in technique. In a word, the Russian method is centrifugal while ours is centripetal. With us the interest of the whole play is centred round one or two principal characters—and at each moment of the action on one or two central figures. There is a centre to which everything points and from which it gains its significance—for instance, in Gilbert and Sullivan:

CHANCELLOR: Which really tries my temper, for I'm such a susceptible chancellor.

CHORUS OF PEERS: Which really tries his temper, for he's such a susceptible chancellor.

Less crudely, though none less clearly, is Abraham Lincoln the centre of his little world.

With the Russians, however, the centre is everywhere. Each character owes its importance to its relation to the whole—not to one or two central figures. For instance, in "The Wedding" the bride, the bridegroom, mother-in-law, father-in-law, the captain, and the midwife are almost all equally important and alive. To those accustomed to see in every group a central figure, and every play a hero, the Russian method seems merely incoherent.

To break up new ground is, of course, the very *raison d'être* of the Pioneer Players. They could not have chosen better ground; but did they really break it up? Did they really interpret the plays they acted? More—did they understand them themselves?

They certainly did not understand the peculiar Russian technique. From the way in which they acted it appears that they thought the plays sadly lacking in concentration and unity. They, therefore, tried to pull them together and sharpen them up by the acting. This work fell to Mr. William Armstrong, as Barstov, in "On the High Road," and Mr. W. P. Staveley in "The Wedding." These two actors made themselves like central figures in their plays in a way certainly not intended by Tchekov—as the most cursory reading of the text will show. The result of the performance is, of course, that Tchekov appears to have written the plays very badly. If the nobleman and the Captain are really the central figures, why has so much of the play nothing to do with them? The mistake was emphasised in the "High Road" by the lighting, which by its shifting and changing of colour gave an entirely false and unnecessary emphasis, and contributed with the actors to over-balance the play.

Still more melancholy was the failure of the actors to under-

stand the characters. In "The Wedding," especially, they seemed entirely at sea. They could hardly bring themselves to represent such unpleasant people. So in order to distract attention from what they were saying, and also to give a general air of joviality suitable to a wedding, they all shouted at the tops of their voices. The result, of course, was that the exquisite edge of the wit and character drawing was entirely blunted. It was in the exit of the Captain, however, that they really gave themselves away. As a piece of acting it was quite good. When he discovered that he was supposed to have taken money for coming to the wedding, the poor old man was completely broken down. He reeled with emotion—back against the table, then forward into the arms of the naval officer. He was choked with tears—an old man's tears. He had to be guided to the door. Even the heartless company at the table was sobered for a moment, and the audience burst into applause. In Tchekov's version, however, the old man is described as "muddled." Hence his broken and reiterated remarks, and his difficulty in finding the door.

If the Pioneer Players really thought the play was to be improved by this sort of thing, why did he choose it? Surely their Sunday afternoons would be better spent in bringing to light the plays of some budding, but as yet unknown, Masfield or Drinkwater, than in misrepresenting men of genius.

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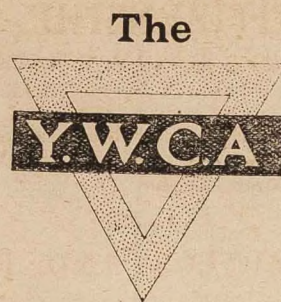
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Need Pressing.

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NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

TO READERS OF THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

ALL who belong to the National Union must wish our old friend, THE COMMON CAUSE, good speed in its new venture. Although its name and form are changed, the aim of the paper is still to promote the common cause for which we are all striving—a real equality between the sexes and the "self-determination" of the woman citizen.

Those of us who worked together during the long stormy years of the suffragist agitation were moved to persevere by the thought of all that could be done with the vote if once we held it in our hands as a weapon. We coveted it for ourselves, as the outward and visible sign of our citizenship, but still more for the sake of the other women, who were suffering under the disabilities and injustices of the law as it stood. We asked for it in the name of the exploited woman worker; of the deserted or unhappily married wife; of the widow with young children who could not obtain State aid without the humiliation of pauperism; of all women, in short, who were "desolate and oppressed." We owe it as a debt of honour to these women not to give up the struggle until we have won their release. Further, we wish that the contribution of women towards the solution of national problems shall be the real expression of their own individuality and experience, not a mere parrot repetition of the thoughts and opinions of men. We believe that this can best be achieved if women remain banded together to think and act collectively, at least in those matters where their interests are distinct from, though not necessarily or usually opposed to those of men. In both these aspects of our work, a weekly newspaper such as THE WOMAN'S LEADER is an invaluable auxiliary. Every woman who wishes to keep abreast of the Woman's Movement should subscribe to the paper and read it regularly. If she has not done so already, she should take a further step and become a member of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. The knowledge she gains from the one, she can translate into action through the other.

We have a heavy session before us, and need many new helpers. Two Parliamentary Bills, drafted for us, are about to be launched on their Parliamentary career:—A Bill to confer pensions on widows with dependent children, and a Bill to secure Equal Rights of Guardianship for both parents. We must see to it that the chief blot on the Representation of the People Act is removed by the enfranchisement of the women under thirty, since they include the majority of women workers who so sorely need the protection of the vote. In the interests of national productivity no less than of women, we must secure for women workers an honourable place in skilled industry, and by this we mean a place that is won in fair competition and not by undercutting men and undermining their standards of life. We must keep a vigilant guard against the repeated attempts to reintroduce, under the guise of measures for the prevention of disease, the principle of State Regulation of Vice, and must fight for the recognition of an equal moral standard in legislation and in public opinion.

We invite all readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER who are interested in these and kindred reforms, to put themselves in touch with our Honorary Secretary; to join one of our affiliated societies; and, if in London, to visit our Information Bureau and Lending Library. We appeal to men as well as to women, for the work we have to do implies no sex antagonism, but is for the good of all.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

THE NATIONAL UNION AND ITS SOCIETIES.

As this first number of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is certain to reach a wider circle than its predecessor, THE COMMON CAUSE, it may be useful briefly to re-state the methods of organisation adopted by the Union. The N.U.S.E.C. is a thoroughly democratic body which works through its constituent societies. These

are scattered all over England, Scotland, and Wales. Where no such societies exist, Women Citizens' Associations or other women's organisations are urged to affiliate in order that the work of propaganda for the reforms on the Union's programme may be carried on. Groups of not less than ten persons, whether within an affiliated society or independently may affiliate to the Union, even if they exist for other purposes, provided that they support the main object of the programme. In places where no such groups exist, Local correspondents, to promote the work of the Union, may be appointed. Societies, whether of men or women, not yet affiliated to the National Union but in sympathy with its objects, are invited to make application to the Executive Committee for affiliation. The affiliation fee for societies up to 100 members is 2s. 6d.; for societies from 101 to 1,000—10s.; and for societies above 1,000—two guineas.

A handbook giving full particulars as to affiliation may be obtained at Headquarters. Members of affiliated societies, or societies desiring to affiliate, who may be in London, will always be welcome at the head office and are invited to call to inspect the Library.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

It is proposed in future, with the help of local Secretaries, to give a good deal of space on this page to news from our Societies. It is not fully realised how much work is going on throughout the country. For instance, the list of meetings for the past week, which have either been arranged by our Secretaries or for which we have provided speakers, indicates a good deal of unexpected activity: Hendon, Stoke Newington, Chiswick, Fife, Carnforth, Silverdale, Sunderland, Doncaster, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Morecambe, Middlesbrough, Lincoln, Huddersfield, Olton, Goole, Bradford, Liverpool, and we believe that this list is incomplete. There is every reason to hope that the inevitable period of reaction and war weariness is coming to an end, among women at all events, and that they are buckling to with fresh energy. May we urge Secretaries of Societies to send us reports of meetings held or of any events of interest so that readers of this page will be able to form some idea of the extent of our activities throughout the country.

£10,000 APPEAL.

It may not yet be generally known that the N.U.S.E.C. has made an appeal for £10,000 in order to enable it to plan its work with some security. Nearly £3,000 has already been raised, and we ask those who are interested in our programme to send us a contribution. Such contributions may, if desired, be earmarked for any particular reform on the programme in which the donor is specially interested.

The list of contributions received up to date will be published in a subsequent issue.

MEETING FOR WOMEN M.P.S.

Much interest has been aroused by the meeting to be held in Queen's Hall on February 12th, on the need for Women in Parliament. This meeting has been arranged jointly by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, the President of the National Council, will preside, and the speakers will include the Prime Minister, the Viscountess Astor, M.P., the Rt. Hon. Sir Donald Maclean, K.B.E., M.P., Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., and Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, the President of the N.U.S.E.C. Every effort is to be made to make this meeting a success, and a fund is to be inaugurated to start a campaign through the country on the need for women in the House of Commons.

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(Letters intended for publication must reach the Editor by first post on Monday.)

THE N.U.S.E.C AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

MADAM,—Last year, by an almost unanimous vote, the Annual Council meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship affirmed, that believing that the cause of women's permanent progress is involved therein [italics mine] it supports the institution of a League of Nations on really democratic lines and . . . emphasises the urgency of the need that women shall be represented on all bodies set up in connection with the League," &c. A month ago a manifesto from women to women was issued signed by people of such diverse views as, among others, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, and Miss Mary Macarthur. This manifesto called upon women to do their part to save the League of Nations idea. I write to urge that the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship show the strength of conviction underlying its affirmation of 1919, by giving a generous, instant and unequivocal response to the great appeal, and placing work for the effective building up of a democratic League of Nations with equal status for men and women, upon its immediate programme for 1920. There are a thousand reasons that can be urged, that are urged, why the N.U.S.E.C. should not do this. I would gladly deal with these if you give me any space later. There is one reason why it should. Enfranchised woman sees a little baby just born in 1920, the heir of all the ages. It is fractious, full of evil tempers, very very weak, disowned by those who should cherish it. If it is fed and warmed, and loved and trained, it will grow up strong and good. If it dies, the great hope of womanhood and the world dies with it. I plead in this first number of THE WOMAN'S LEADER that at least no woman and no woman's organisation shall pass by on the other side, leaving it to thieves and hirelings. And what they do let them do quickly.

HELEN WARD.

WOMEN'S GUILDS.

MADAM,—While cordially agreeing with Mrs. Ward's views, as expressed in her article on Women's Guilds in your issue of January 23rd, may I venture to point out a danger to which incipient undertakings will be open? They will meet with opposition and obstruction, and one form this will take will be the stoppage of necessary supplies of material. A Guild of women decorators would fill oh! what an aching void; but I believe it would be better if a Guild, when first formed, aimed chiefly at work, the supplies for which do not come through special trade channels. A promising shoe-making or cabinet-making enterprise might be easily ruined by the refusal (induced by the men of those trades) of wholesalers to supply leather, wood, varnish, &c. That this is a real danger will be believed by anyone who will talk confidentially to a small man in, say, the decorating trade. One learns that if he does not charge as exorbitantly as his fellows for his work, they will cut him off from obtaining material. To gardening, poultry, bee and pig keeping these conditions do not apply, nor to the hopeful enterprises connected with Public Kitchens, but they do the work of druggists, builders, and even upholsterers. One longs to see every talent put to its appropriate use, but, till the opposition is a little less fierce, this weapon in the hands of the wholesale trade ought, I think, to be borne in mind.

MARGERY SMITH.

MISS B. PICTON-TURBERVILL.

MADAM,—In last week's COMMON CAUSE I notice, in an account given of a meeting held in Liverpool, that "Lady Astor, M.P. and Miss Picton-Turbervill" spoke on State Purchase and Control of the Liquor Trade. I know nothing of that subject, it was my sister Miss Beatrice Picton-Turbervill who spoke, and probably will often speak on the Liquor Trade. I write this to avoid confusion in the future.

E. PICTON-TURBERVILL.

[Other Correspondence is unavoidably held over owing to lack of space.]

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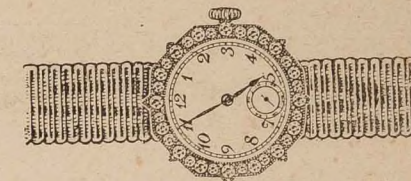
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Coming Events.

BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEBRUARY 7.
At the Y.W.C.A. Meeting.
Speaker: Mrs. Ring.
Subject: "Civic Education, to Foreign Students." 5.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9.
Meeting at St. Monica's.
Speaker: Mrs. Ring.
Subject: "European Famine." 3 p.m.
Also at Selley Oak Institute, same subject, at 8 p.m.

WILLESDEN WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

FEBRUARY 11.
Annual General Meeting to be held at the Friends' Meeting House, Harlesden Road.
Speaker: Miss Alison Neilans (A.M.S.H.).
Subject: "The Equal Moral Standard."
Chair: Miss Suttill. 8.30 p.m.
Business Meeting for Members at 7.45 p.m.

UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN.

FEBRUARY 9.
Annual General Meeting, at 9, Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park (by kind permission of Mrs. A. Tanburn).
Admission for members by invitation notices. 3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

FEBRUARY 11.
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.
Speaker: Miss St. John Wileman.
Subject: "Careers for Women Overseas."
Chair: Lady Askwith. 8.15 p.m.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND AND NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEBRUARY 12.
Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W.
Mass Meeting for Women on the Need for Women in Parliament.
Speakers: Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George (Public engagements permitting), The Viscountess Astor, M.P., The Rt. Hon. Sir Donald Maclean, K.B.E., M.P., &c.
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