

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

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Townswomen's Guild  
Supplement

No. 4.

January, 1931.



## EDITORIAL NOTES.

## THE NEW YEAR.

By the time this number reaches our readers, Christmas will be over and we shall be welcoming a New Year, which we hope may bring good fortune to all our Guild members, and many new Guilds to join our great movement. Would every Guild Secretary send us a post-card saying exactly how many members belong to the Guild on New Year's Day. It would be interesting to know the total number of Guild members. We hope all Guilds are like Stonehaven, our first Scottish Guild, where a regular increase in their numbers each month is shown in their Annual Report.

## SUSSEX LEADS THE WAY.

Our first Guilds were formed in Sussex, so it is not surprising that they should lead the way in some new experiments in Guild Organization. A report will be found in this Supplement of the Singing Day they arranged, at which four Guilds took part in a Singing Competition which was judged by Miss Nancy Tennant and each Guild received helpful criticism. We shall endeavour to have an article in this Supplement shortly on "Singing for Guilds." At a meeting held on 3rd December, the Sussex Guilds arranged to set up a County Committee composed of representatives of every Guild in the County; this Committee will arrange County Conferences, County Handicraft Exhibitions, and County Singing and Dramatic Competitions, etc. No doubt other County or Group Committees will be set up soon, as a means of bringing Guilds together in conference and friendly competition.

## GUILD PROGRAMMES.

Guilds are now starting on their new Programme for 1931 and we shall be very grateful if every Guild will send us a programme as a New Year's present to Headquarters. It is a tremendous help to our Organizers and to new Guilds to see the various programmes, so that they may be able to receive help for their programmes, as we received help in early days. We hope that every Guild *does* have a printed programme for six months or a year ahead; it is so helpful in keeping the members in touch with our doings should they be obliged to miss a meeting.

## THE T.G. SUPPLEMENT.

This Supplement was started as an experiment in its present form, for three months, in October. We have had a most encouraging steady rise in circulation each month, but there are still some Guilds that do not take the Supplement or only order very few copies. We appeal to all Guild members to support their own news sheet. *What we want* are regular orders for so many copies (or dozen copies) for six months or a year. We are always glad to send a few extra copies on sale or return for new members or visitors. If you do not get *what you want* in the Supplement, please write and tell us.

## INEXPENSIVE CRAFTS FOR GUILDS.

Following on my articles on Handicrafts and a Handicraft Exhibition, I have been asked by several Guilds to draw up a list of Handicrafts which can be undertaken with no great initial cost of materials, etc., and I suggest the following:—

(1) *Embroidery*.—A comprehensive course of classes embracing instruction in the rudiments of a number of methods:—

- (a) Simple Stitches on Wool Embroidery.
- (b) First Stitches for Raffia Work on Canvas.
- (c) Treatment of Hems. English and Italian Hemstitching and decoration of Hems and Borders.
- (d) More Stitches for Raffia Work, Canvas and Fabric.
- (e) Appliqué.
- (f) Silk Embroidery Stitches.
- (g) Smocking.
- (h) Richelieu.
- (i) Cross Stitch.
- (j) Tapestry Stitches.
- (k) More Tapestry Stitches.
- (l) Broderie Anglaise.

Note.—After such a course, a keen Guild might elect to study seriously, one expression of embroidery.

(2) *Rug-making*.—

- (a) Hooked Rugs on Canvas, from waste material, excluding the use of old blankets.
- (b) Half Cross Stitch Rugs on Canvas. This is a method of producing long wearing reversible rugs and mats at half the cost of material and labour than the usual way of making them.

(Continued on page iii.)

## THE STUDY OF MOTHERCRAFT.

Few, if any, women can be said to-day to be born with an innate knowledge of the art of Mothercraft. Civilization has blunted our instincts and has rendered life so full of complications that the rearing of children has necessarily become a matter which requires real knowledge and skill.

Furthermore, we are no longer content with the attitude of past generations when the infant death-rate was appallingly high, and to have given birth to ten children and to have buried four was not an uncommon event.

But many mothers ask: how can I learn to rear my children according to the most up-to-date modern methods? I find they are at a loss as to how to proceed, and I am often asked how I learned. Well, I learned by the simple process of reading all the books I could find on the care of children, and I was lucky enough to have the right books put in my way. I also think I learned a great deal from taking part in Child Welfare work, and so came into touch with experts devoted to the care of children. Any mother can do these things; she can firstly read, and in order to help her in the choice of books I have compiled a little Bibliography called "The Parents' Bookshelf" which is published by the New Health Society and costs 6d. In it I have made a list of books that are thoroughly sound but not too technical for the ordinary mother to understand, and I have divided the lists up into sections according to the different ages dealt with by the authors. I have tried to give a short account of each book so that it may be easier to choose which one is wanted, and I have also tried to include books at varied prices, as I know that many cannot afford a number of books.

I feel that every Townswomen's Guild should endeavour to form a library of books on children. Often the publishers will very kindly give a copy for such an object; it is certainly worth while writing to ask. I think it would also be possible for a Guild to join the excellent lending library of the National Council for Infant and Child Welfare, at 117 Piccadilly. I would emphatically advise Guilds to get in touch with the Librarian there.

Now, as regards Infant Welfare work, any mother who can spare even one morning or afternoon a week to give voluntary service at an Infant Welfare Centre or a Day Nursery will gain much valuable knowledge; but if she has no time to give service I would advise her at least to visit such institutions as are in her neighbourhood. It would be an excellent plan if a group of members from every Guild made it their business to visit all the institutions caring for children in their neighbourhood, and if they would afterwards give an account of what they had seen to their Guild I feel it would be of great interest and benefit to them all. No doubt the Doctor or Superintendent of a Clinic would often be delighted to address a Guild on the work of his or her institution, and if that institution had been visited such an address would be particularly interesting.

I have always found that by taking an interest in the health and well-being of many children I have learned the most valuable lessons in regard to my own children.

If it is possible to arrange, I think a series of six or eight lectures at which questions can be asked the lecturer on points raised for discussion can be very valuable. Take, for instance, three lectures on the little baby—general care, feeding, habit forming—then three on the older child—the difficult weaning period and feeding between 9-18 months, the management of the child, how he should be helped to grow up and taught to do things for himself, and perhaps a lecture on naughty or difficult children of that age.

Later on one can have a further series, either taking one point and having several lectures on it, or taking the older child at school and the problems as regards sleep, sex instruction, discipline, etc., with which every mother is faced.

One piece of advice I would earnestly press. Do not wait until your child is 2, 6, 15, to read and attend lectures on that age, but always read and listen for two or three years ahead so that you may be prepared to meet the problems when they arise, for once the horse is out of the stables it is no use shutting the gate.

Finally, may I add that I will gladly help any Guild to draw up a programme of reading and lectures if they care to write and ask me.

EVA ERLIEGH.

## THE WOMAN'S YEAR.

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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## RETROSPECT.

The further we get from the great landmarks of 1918 and 1928, the further afield do we have to look, and the deeper into the social structure do we have to probe, for symptoms of feminist advance.

In Parliament women have shown themselves redoubtable office bearers. Miss Susan Lawrence as Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Health has still further increased the reputation whose foundation she laid by her piercing criticism of the 1929 Local Government Act. She has held the pass for the Government, and the House has learned to respect the acuteness of her intellect, and perhaps even to be a little afraid of her. Meanwhile, Miss Bondfield as Minister for Labour has carried through as rough and tumble a job as any post-war Cabinet has had to offer. Baited by the trade union movement, and not always (or so it would seem to the outside observer) very adequately supported by her colleagues, she has had to grapple with the ugly consequences of an unprecedented wave of unemployment. May we venture to say that imperturbable good temper and transparent honesty have characterized her handling of this unhappy problem. There is, about our first woman Cabinet Minister, a quality which inspires a quite unique respect and confidence.

Of that entanglement of difficulty with which she has been concerned, two aspects closely affect the industrial position of women. The first is the question—precipitated by a paralysing onslaught of unemployment in the textile trades—of whether domestic service may be properly regarded as a desirable alternative employment for unemployed industrial women. It would seem that Miss Bondfield and an active section of the organized Labour women are determined to explore the possibility of making it an attractive field of employment, and in this respect a big job confronts women during the coming year. In the second place, preliminary steps have been taken towards raising the status of another huge field of women's work, and negotiations are on foot for the statutory regulation of wages in the catering trades. But here, too, we are dealing with the prospects of 1931 rather than with the achievements of 1930.

In another domestic sphere of vital and far-reaching importance to the everyday lives of women, events have moved during the year with spectacular rapidity. During the summer a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health opened the way for local health authorities to make birth control information

available for married women in cases of medical need. The conditions under which this might be done were somewhat narrowly, and perhaps not very clearly defined. But the memorandum constitutes an important step in the direction long sought by the great majority of organized women; and up and down the country local health authorities are preparing to take advantage of the qualified permission which it accords. A few weeks later, the Church of England, speaking through a resolution of the Lambeth Conference, voiced the opinion that under certain conditions of individual need the practise of birth control is morally justifiable.

In fields other than those of politics and economics women have done great things. 1930 has proved triumphantly, and conclusively that women are going to hold their own in the air. Amy Johnson's flight to Australia, Winifred Brown's seizure of the King's Cup, and Winifred Spooner's able competitive effort in the air race round Europe, are a few of the fine exploits to which 1930 may lay claim. They are recorded by a more expert pen elsewhere in these columns.

Meanwhile, new and grave responsibilities, foreshadowed in our retrospect of last year, have loomed more ominously on the feminist horizon. Uncomfortable suspicions concerning the position of women under the British flag in East Africa have been terribly confirmed by an all-party unofficial committee of the House of Commons. In India the inadequate steps taken to enforce the Child Marriage Act passed in April, and the presence of only two Indian women and no British women on the Round Table Conference do not seem to carry us very far in the direction of confidence that 150 million or so Indian women are likely to receive greater consideration in the future than they have received in the past. Nor do official and unofficial reports from Hong-Kong suggest that adequate progress has yet been made with the policy of freeing the unfortunate Mui Tsai.

Finally, it is our painful duty to record in one sphere very near home, not merely stagnation, but actual retrogression. Women are once again beginning to flap about in long skirts. Individually, the majority of them are ready to declare that they do not welcome this return of physical thralldom, but some sheep-like quality has, it seems, forced them into line at the crack of the dress designers' whip. Very urgently do we hope that a returning spirit of revolt will, in 1931, impel them to kick over the traces!



## WOMEN IN POLITICS.

By EVA M. HUBBACK.

As the number of years since the franchise was won increases, and as, one by one, Acts removing injustices between men and women and contributing towards improvements in the status and welfare of women are placed on the Statute Book, so do we see the influence of women in politics finding expression not so much in the initiation of new measures, as in the bringing of pressure to bear on the administrative departments to carry out permissive measures already passed and in seeking to amend legislative proposals brought in by others.

It is therefore not surprising to find that in 1930 there were only four Bills and one motion which originated in the first instance from women's organizations. Of these the two relating to Scotland—the *Illegitimate Children (Scotland) Act*, in charge of the Duchess of Atholl, and the *Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act*, in charge of Mr. Mathers—reached the Statute Book in the session which ended in August. The former, which was initiated by the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, places the unmarried mothers in Scotland as regards affiliation in the same position as those in England, though it does not, as does the English law, provide a maximum rate. It also provides for an application before the birth of the child for lying-in expenses and maintenance, and for funeral expenses in the case of its death. The *Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act*, which also originated from the Scottish Federation, brings the law of Scotland into line with that of England as regards adoption.

The *Married Women Teachers (Employment) Bill*, which provides that a woman shall not be refused employment as a teacher by any Local Authority on the grounds only that she is married or is about to be married, was introduced under the Ten Minutes' Rule by Mr. Percy Harris on 2nd July, and passed without a division. It is hoped that the Bill, which is being promoted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the London Teachers' Association, and the National Union of Teachers, will be reintroduced into the House of Lords this session. Last session also, Lord Astor again championed the cause of *Women Peeresses*, when he moved in the House of Lords on 16th July a motion in support of a measure admitting women to the House on the same terms as men. The motion was lost by only six votes. This tiny majority against the principle gives reason to hope that it will not be long before it succeeds.

The fate of the *Nationality of Women Bill*, which passed its second reading in charge of Dr. Bentham on 28th November, is still unknown. The Bill proposes to give to a British woman the right, if she so wishes, of retaining her British nationality on marriage with an alien, and provides that an alien woman shall not acquire British nationality on marriage with a British subject unless she wishes to do so. It is very recent history that the Government wishes to torpedo Dr. Bentham's Bill on the grounds that the Dominions are not yet agreed upon the principle, and to substitute a measure which, though it would remove certain definite hardships, in no way affects the status of the wife.

With regard to Bills of special interest to women introduced by the Government and others, pride of place must be given to the *Housing Acts (England and Scotland and Wales)*, which passed into law last summer. These impose on Local Authorities the imperative duty of clearing slum areas and pulling down or reconditioning unhealthy houses. They introduce the new principle that the subsidy provided under the Acts should be based on the number of persons rehoused. With regard to rents, they adopted the important new principle that rents could be differentiated, and that they should be based, within the limits of the subsidy, upon the needs of the tenants. The endeavour to specify that the rebates given should be based mainly on the number of children failed, but sufficient support was given by the Government and others to the principle of taking into account family liabilities for us to be hopeful that a fair proportion of Local Authorities at least will try the experiment. An important circular issued in August should be in the possession of all those who are anxious to bring pressure to bear in their own localities where Local Authorities are likely to be lethargic.

The *Education (School Attendance) Bill* affects very closely the interests of women as mothers. The coming into force of this Bill—which provides for the raising of the school-leaving age to 15 years, and for the provision of maintenance allowances of 5s.—has, as is well known, been postponed until September, 1932. In the course of its passage through the House the Bill was so amended as to improve the mother's position by providing that

it should be left to each individual family to decide whether the maintenance allowance should be paid to the father or mother, Local Authorities only intervening when the parents do not agree. The *Mental Treatment Act*, which attempts to improve the provision for the treatment of the mentally afflicted, especially border-line cases, will, by its provision that women shall be among the commissioners and among the members of visiting committees of all mental hospitals, create opportunities for an increase in the part to be played by women in assisting the mentally afflicted.

A Bill which aroused both indignation and interest was the *Canal Boats Bill* which, as a result of an amendment moved during the Committee stage, provided that women should not be allowed on refuse boats. The indignation of the barge women themselves and of others on their behalf at this proposal, and at the proposal that no child under the age of 16 should be allowed to live on a canal boat, was sufficient to defeat the Bill.

When we turn to administrative matters there are definite signs of progress. For many years now women's organizations have united through the Maternal Mortality Committee, organized by Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, to urge inquiries into the causes of maternal death, and the provision of an adequate maternity service. This concentrated demand had resulted in the appointment in 1928 of the *Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity*. It was a great event for those interested in this particular movement when the interim report of the Committee was published in July. It may be remembered that its conclusions verified the previous impression, to wit, that about one half of these deaths were due to the combined evils of lack of ante-natal care, bad judgment on the part of doctor or midwife, lack of hospital provision and ignorance on the part of the mother. This committee recommended, as had several other committees in their references to the same subject, the co-ordination and extension of existing services in order to form a National Maternity Service. The Minister of Health announced that the Government intends to help to carry out this recommendation as soon as possible, and has circulated all Local Authorities urging them to develop their services as much as possible.

The second important instance in which organized public opinion made itself felt during the year was with regard to *Information on Methods of Birth Control*. At a large Conference of voluntary organizations and Local Authorities, organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and three other organizations, held on 4th April, a resolution was passed calling upon the Minister of Health and Public Health Authorities to recognize the desirability of making available medical information on methods of birth control to married women who need it. In July a memorandum was drawn up by the Ministry of Health stating the conditions under which schemes of Local Authorities could be sanctioned by the Minister. These must be limited to married women who need the information on the ground that further pregnancy would be detrimental to health. Information may be given to mothers in this category who attend maternity and child welfare centres or to married women attending any centres which may be set up for the purpose of giving advice to women suffering from gynaecological troubles.

To turn to another sphere, it will be remembered that at the *Lambeth Conference* the Committee on the Life and Witness of the Christian Community reported that "we cannot condemn the use of scientific methods to prevent conception, which are thoughtfully and conscientiously adopted", and that this was the view of the majority of Bishops as expressed in the resolutions passed by the Conference. Finally, the *British Medical Association* at its Annual Representative Meeting passed a resolution expressing the view that doctors at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres should be free themselves to decide whether or not to give such information.

Another step forward in the Birth Control movement was the formation in July of this year of the *National Birth Control Council*, whose object is "To advocate and to promote the provision of facilities for scientific contraception so that married people may space or limit their families, and thus mitigate the evils of ill-health and poverty."

In March a White Paper was issued by the Government on the effect on *Women's Employment* of protective legislation. It arrived at the conclusion that employment had been affected by such legislation but to a very slight extent. Feminist organizations protested against the Government's issuing a White Paper what they felt to be a very ex-parte statement on this question, and pointed out the incompleteness of the inquiry.

Considerable interest has been aroused among women's organizations by the decision of the Governing Body of the Inter-

national Labour Organization to open the question of the revision of the *Washington Night Work Convention*, 1919, at the request of the Belgian, British and Swedish Governments. The British Government had itself pointed out that in countries which ratified the Convention it would be impossible for women to hold positions of supervision or management in certain employments in which continuous working was necessary. The Government is now being urged by feminist organizations to propose the revision of the Convention in such a way that the prohibition on night work shall be applied on the basis of particular trades and processes and not on the basis of sex.

There is no need to enter into any details of the many *Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees* which have been set up during the year. A full account of these appeared in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of 5th December. Those of special interest and importance to women are the *Royal Commission on Currency*, the *Royal Commission on the Civil Service*, the *Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance*, the two *Royal Commissions on Licensing Laws*, for England and Wales and for Scotland respectively, the *Departmental Committee on the Local Government Service*, the *Select Committee on Capital Punishment*, the *Select Committee on Shop Assistants*, the *Committees on the Rent Restrictions Acts*, the *Committee on Allotments*, and the *Departmental Committee on Private Schools*. Women have been appointed to all these with the exception of the Royal Commission on Currency.

The number of women in Parliament has been increased by one by the return of *Lady Noel-Buxton* in the place of her husband, as Labour Member for N. Norfolk last July. Lady Noel-Buxton has distinguished herself in the short time she has been in the House of Commons by her admirable speeches on agriculture.

## WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

By MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

In the wealth of world information supplied us daily by press and wireless, it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish at short range events which are immediately important from those unnoticed or chronicled perfunctorily which have within them the seeds of world changes in thought or which are the token of a social upheaval.

As regards the woman's movement in 1930, is the grant of the vote to women in South Africa more important than the appearance of the Japanese women before the Naval Conference, the Age of Marriage Act in India or the women's Pan-Pacific Conference?

Personally I am inclined to think that the women's deputation to the Naval Conference is most significant of the new attitude of women to human affairs. The French, British, Japanese and United States women, with different history, political opportunity and race, calmly intervened in a supremely difficult and technical conference because they were afraid that the human and world issue of peace would be choked in the priority of French and Italian prestige, the different needs of islands and continents or the equivalence in fighting value of gun and speed. Equally significant was the genuine welcome given them by statesmen, Press and public.

Again the appointment of Madame Mayorati to the Commission on Forced Labour set up by the International Labour Office shows that women are now definitely accepted as helpful in and indeed necessary to the right solution of racial clash problems.

As regards women's special interests, by far the most important event of 1930 was the rôle women played at the Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law. Belgium created an invaluable precedent by appointing Mlle Renson, a distinguished woman lawyer, as member of their delegation. How revolutionary to ask women's advice on their own status. Great Britain, Holland, Czechoslovakia, the U.S.A., and the Irish Free State followed. These women could only act under the orders of their governments but it was largely due to them that the clauses designed to avoid statelessness and economic disadvantage to a woman on marriage with an alien were inserted. The resulting convention is disappointing, but the recommendations attached were better, suggesting that all governments should consider the possibility of bringing their national legislation on this subject into line with the principle of sex equality in nationality.

An immense amount of work was done outside the Conference. The Alliance and the I.C.W. held a joint conference at which many other women's international bodies were represented, and this together with the action of a group of American women, resulted in great publicity for the feminist point of view.

The Round Table Conference is unique from many points of view striking evidence of the growth of better international and interracial understanding. It is amazing to find two Indian women sitting among the men to decide on the form of New India, not only taking part in plenary sessions, but as members of committees. Clearly women are not only governed but governors.

The suffrage victories of 1930 have been few but important. South Africa has abandoned its unenviable position of the most reactionary dominion. The enfranchisement of white women is now on more democratic lines than the existing franchise for men. We shall watch with some anxiety to see if the new voters are more conscious than the old of the reasonable claims of their coloured fellow countrymen.

Ceylon enfranchised its women on 29th December, but too late for us to announce it until 1930.

Greece and Turkey have granted the municipal suffrage and Turkey has promised the parliamentary vote this year. This awakening of the East of Europe and of the near East is matched in the West by the new declaration in the Constitution of Ecuador that the sexes have equal rights and by the grant of eligibility and municipal suffrage in Jamaica.

Suffrage is not the only evidence of changes in the East. In Palestine the Supreme Court ruled that word "person" in Advocates Ordinance applied equally to men and women. Effect of this victory somewhat destroyed by subsequent Ordinance restricting rights of women barristers to appear in religious and tribal courts. The ordinance as drafted was extremely drastic and modifications were secured by action of women's organizations.

In India the Child Marriage Act has set a new standard of age in marriage which should prevent an immense amount of suffering and lower the figures of maternal and infant mortality, especially when implemented by registration of births and the strenuous education of public opinion.

1930 has seen the first Pan-Arab women's congress in Damascus, where Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, and Syria India were represented and the resolutions adopted had the real feminist ring. It has fostered the idea of a Pan-Asian women's conference to be held in India early in 1931. Further East the Pan-Pacific Congress of women met in Honolulu and by the most modern method of the Round Table covered vast problems of health, industry, economics, education, and politics.

As regards Europe, two interesting steps have been taken in regard to an equal moral standard. Roumania has courageously abolished her regulated houses of ill fame, and in the Irish Free State an Affiliation Order Bill has passed, improving the laws dealing with illegitimacy.

A great stumbling block to the co-operation of women at Geneva and in international affairs generally is their lack of political and administrative experience. It is therefore very cheering to chronicle that in 1930 Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, member of Congress, has been appointed as the first woman to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the U.S.A. Finland has appointed a woman diplomat to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Canada, Mrs. Wilson is the first woman senator. Newfoundland has elected Lady Squires its first woman M.P., and in Norway two women have been elected to Parliament. Germany still heads the list with thirty-nine women in Parliament as against thirty-five last year.

Mlle Gourd has replaced Miss Rathbone resigned as representative of the women's international organizations on the League Commission for the Protection of Children.

On the whole 1930 has brought us steady progress and gain, but we have, alas, to mourn the passing of four great women who sowed the harvest we reap. Dr. Helene Lange and Dr. Elisabeth Altmann Gottheimer, of Germany, suffragists who revolutionized the education of girls, have passed on to their rest. Miss Anna Whitlock, of Sweden, was revered and followed not only in her own country but by all Scandinavia. Saddest is the loss of Mlle Camille Vidart, of Switzerland, who has gone from us before seeing the realization of her work in the enfranchisement of Swiss women but who has laid the foundations of a noble conception of citizenship among the young.

**THE WOMAN'S LEADER**  
EVERY FRIDAY. TWOPENCE.

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## WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

By BERTHA MASON.

*Local Government Acts, 1929.*—The coming into operation of the Local Government Acts (England and Wales) and Scotland, was the outstanding event of the past year.

This article is concerned only with the first-named. A later article will deal with the position in Scotland.

*England and Wales.*—It will be remembered that during the passage of the measure through Parliament, the attention of the organized bodies of women was mainly directed to the proposals which provided for:—

(1) The discontinuance of the existing grants in aid of certain of the Health Services in favour of a general Exchequer contribution to be distributed among the services by the various local authorities (see Local Government Act, Part VI, clauses 85 to 104).

(2) The transference of the functions of 630 Boards of Guardians to the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs (L.G. Act, Part I (1)), which carried with it a menace to the position of women in local government work.

The measure passed into law practically unaltered so far as the provisions referred to were concerned, and received the Royal Assent on 29th March, 1929.

"The appointed day," 1st April, 1930, witnessed the Act in operation, the abolition of 625 Boards of Guardians, the displacement of 20,000 elected Poor Law Guardians, of whom 2,300 were women, and the transference of their functions and responsibilities in connection with Public Assistance to the Councils of 62 Counties and 83 County Boroughs.

*Health Services.*—(1) With regard to this point it is too early to express a considered opinion as to the effect of the Act on the Health Services of Local Authorities and on the work of voluntary societies receiving grants in aid of efforts approved by the Minister of Health.

(2) It is not necessary to wait before calling attention to the effect of the Act in regard to

*The Position of Women.*—The immediate effect of the Act in this direction was:—

(a) To displace 2,300 elected women actively engaged in rendering admittedly valuable service not only to the destitute poor, of all ages, but to the community generally;

(b) To curtail the opportunities for women to engage in this sphere of public service as directly elected representatives.

It is obvious, without further comment, that it is impossible for 2,300 women displaced by the Act, to secure seats either by election or co-option, at once or in the immediate future, on the Councils of the 62 County and 83 County Boroughs, or on the Public Assistance Committees now responsible for the care and relief (institutional and otherwise) of the sick, the aged, the children and the able bodied destitute poor, of whom 75 per cent are women and children.

If proof is required, a glance at the table which follows supplies it, approximately.

1st January, 1930.	31st December, 1930.
On Boards of Guardians . . . 2,300	On Boards of Guardians . . . None
On County Councils . . . 156	On County Councils . . . 160
On County Boroughs . . . 205	On County Boroughs . . . 240
On non-County Boroughs . . . 196	On non-County Boroughs . . . 213
On Metropolitan Boroughs . . . 180	On Metropolitan Boroughs . . . 180
On Urban District Councils . . . 189	On Urban District Councils . . . 189
On Rural District Councils . . . 500	On Rural District Councils . . . 500
Approximate totals . . . 3,726	1,482

*Women on Public Assistance Committees.*—It may be said that women other than elected women are taking part in the work of Public Assistance.

It is true that County and County Borough Councils, which are the local authorities now responsible for the administration of Public Assistance, must appoint *Public Assistance Committees* on which persons who are not elected members of the Council, may be co-opted. The power of co-option is, however, *permissive*, and 21 County Councils and 30 County Borough Councils have decided not to make use of the power. Even if exercised the number of women, other than those elected, must be small, as the total number of co-opted persons on Public Assistance Committees is limited by the Act.

Statistics show that the number of women serving during the past year, mainly co-opted, on Public Assistance Committees is approximately 750.

*Sub-Committees.*—It is also true that County Councils must divide their counties into areas, each area consisting of one or more districts, and must provide for the constitution in each area of a Local Sub-Committee of the Public Assistance Committee (to be called the Guardians Committee) of from 12

to 36 members, consisting of (a) members of the district Councils nominated by the district Councils; (b) members of the County Council representing electoral divisions in the area; (c) persons (non-elected members of the County Council, including women as well as men) appointed by the County Council.

It is difficult to get accurate and complete returns of the women serving as appointed or co-opted members of the Guardians Committees, as, to quote the reply of a Clerk to a County Council in response to a request for figures, "the number is constantly changing owing to resignations, re-appointments, etc." What can be said is that the number of women serving on these Sub-Committees, in an appointed or co-opted capacity, runs into some hundreds.

It is necessary, however, to point out that (a) the work entrusted to these Sub-Committees is limited to one *phase* only of public assistance work, (b) "Co-option," even to an important committee such as a Public Assistance, is a poor substitute for direct election.

These facts and approximate figures seem to show that: (1) The number of elected women actively engaged in the administration of Public Assistance (institutional and outdoor) has been seriously reduced since the L.G. Act, 1929, came into operation. (2) The opportunities for women to engage in Public Assistance work, even as co-opted members, are greatly restricted. (3) The displacement of the 2,300 women Poor Law Administrators has deprived the destitute and the community of a band of elected and active women workers. The deplorable facts must be faced.

**THE OBVIOUS LESSON.** The number of women members of County and County Borough Councils must be greatly increased and without delay. A great opportunity occurs this year.

*Women Mayors.*—The numbers serving during the year was 12.

*Women Magistrates.*—The number now stands at, approximately 2,300.

*Maternal Mortality.*—Another outstanding feature of the year was the publication of the Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality. The Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, gives wide powers to Local Authorities, to provide for the needs of a woman expecting a child. Many local authorities have used those powers and in this way the foundations of a National Maternity Service have been laid. The memorandum issued to Maternity and Child Welfare in December last by the Minister of Health "for improving and developing their maternity services, and for securing that the women most in need of these services should use them" will doubtless receive at once the earnest attention of the local authorities concerned.

*Departmental Committees.*—A Committee has been set up "to inquire into and make recommendations on the qualifications, recruitment, training, and promotion of Local Government Officers, comprising 16 men and one woman.

*Legislation affecting Local Government Acts,* which received the Royal Assent during the year:

The Housing Act, 1930.  
The Mental Treatment Act, 1930.  
The Public Works Facilities Act, 1930.  
Land Drainage Act, 1930.

Government Bills before Parliament:

Agricultural (Land) Utilization Bill.  
Education (School Attendance) Bill.  
Private Members' Bills.  
Local Authorities (Admission of the Press).  
Children (Provision of Footwear).  
Humane and Scientific Slaughter of Animals.  
Rabbits.

## WOMEN AND BROADCASTING.

By HILDA MATHESON.

Has broadcasting any special value for women? Is there any particular service it can render them? Is there any evidence of women's interest in broadcasting? Do women take their due share in broadcast programmes?

If we are to answer questions like these we cannot ignore the perennial problem—how far do women differ in their tastes from men; how far have they peculiar likes and dislikes, or peculiar interests in different sides of life? Most readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER would, I think, accept the view that women are human beings first and women afterwards; that many women, like many men, appreciate books, music, pictures, gardening, and many do not. In so far as this is true, women can find very much what anyone finds in broadcast programmes. But it is

## WOMEN ON THE LAND.

By MARGARET WINTRINGHAM.

Since the dawn of history women have worked on the land. This agricultural work, linked as it usually is with that other traditional occupation of home-making, remains the world over, the most important of the employments of women. A moment's thought of the services rendered to agriculture in our own day by the women of such countries as India is convincing proof of this. Even in our own small and densely populated country agriculture remains the basic industry and the women's contribution is undoubtedly one of the foremost services they render to our national life.

The latest returns show that, of some 770,000 agricultural workers in England and Wales 102,000 are women and girls. When we add to these totals the wives of farmers, small holders and agricultural workers, domestic servants on farms and about 20,000 women farming on their own account, it seems likely that the position revealed by the last Census (i.e. that agriculture ranks third among the industries as regards numbers of women employed) is now an under-estimate.

The work carried on by these women is extremely varied, ranging from general farm activities to specialist work in dairying, poultry keeping and horticulture, and their services supplement, in the most wonderful way, that of their men colleagues. This is seen very clearly on the family farm where the womenfolk while specializing on some, are ready to lend a hand with all operations. In such cases too the importance of the woman's function as a rural home-maker is evident. The centre of the farm business is the farm home where a proper relationship has to be maintained between outdoor production and sales and indoor consumption. There too the moral, social, and intellectual standards of the countryside are largely established.

Looking back over the year it would seem that the proportion of women in agriculture in this country and the diversity of their work has been maintained and that everything points to an expansion of their employment. It is the specialist branches of agriculture, traditionally the concern of women, in which the greatest development is now taking place. Further, the new proposals for land settlement foreshadow an enormous extension of small holdings on which, as noted, the services of women count for so much. In these circumstances it is disappointing that there is no improvement of the economic situation to chronicle. The general depression of the industry hits the women peculiarly hard. The women working in family farm partnerships are not likely to have much financial independence until the movement for a revaluation of the "women's" trades has made more headway. And the woman wage-earner in the industry is hampered by the shortcomings of the Agricultural Wages Act of 1924 to indicate any standard of payment in her case.

It is also regrettable that there is not further progress to report in the matter of training facilities for the women on the land. Reasonable provision is made for the higher education of women in agriculture (at University Departments of Agriculture and at Colleges) and a number of counties provide excellent short courses in specialist subjects at Farm Institutes. Peripatetic instruction in these subjects is now more or less available in all counties but it is not always so well adapted to women's needs as it might be. Moreover, there is urgent need for the introduction of that concurrent instruction (known as rural domestic economy) in agricultural and domestic work, which is so successful a feature of agricultural education in America, Belgium and many other countries. The need is the more pressing in view of the land settlement schemes, and it is unfortunate that the Ministry of Agriculture has not yet seen its way to inaugurate special training for the instructresses in this subject who are, and will be, greatly needed. The appointment by the Department of an additional Inspector to assist with supervision of this subject is perhaps some guarantee that increasing importance will be attached to the subject, which certainly needs encouragement at a time when the raising of the school-leaving age opens up possibilities of laying a foundation in the schools in the way of increased instruction in domestic science and gardening. Improved provision for representation of women's interests at the Ministry would facilitate progress and assist countrywomen to make an even fuller contribution to material production and to the preservation of the beauty and humanity of the countryside. That wonderful organization, the Federation of Women's Institutes, affords unique opportunities for turning to account any assistance offered to rural women.

This collective survey may perhaps be rounded off by mention

also true that people's surroundings and occupations, over and above physiological and psychological factors, play a large part in determining their tastes; and since women have been specializing for several thousands of years in important and sometimes dangerous occupations, they have naturally acquired a personal interest in housekeeping and in children. Wider education and opportunities have not lessened this interest; in some senses they have deepened and extended it. But for a large number of married women trying to make ends meet on a small income, there is still little time and strength left over for developing the larger outside interests that are latent in most people.

Broadcasting can, I think, render quite special services to everyone whose life is in any way circumscribed by isolation, ill-health, age, lack of leisure, or lack of means. And for the majority of women whose active lives centre in their own homes, broadcasting can be used, and is being used, not only as a means of getting practical help on everyday problems, but also as a link with outside interests, persons, and things, to a degree never yet experienced by them. It is possible to follow courses of talks by first-hand authorities on a wide range of subjects, to get help in preparatory or subsequent reading and study, and in general to keep abreast of what people are thinking and doing and saying in a way not possible before. This, of course, is over and above the possibilities of listening to good music and entertainment, and to great public occasions.

The development of the special morning talks, which are designed particularly for women, grew out of an apparent need for talks at a time when they could listen without undue interruption. Once children are home from school and husbands from work many women have no leisure till a time of the evening when such talks would be difficult to find room for. These talks aim at meeting requests for authoritative practical help, along with talks on quite other sides of life, politics, books, travel, and so on. One countrywoman wrote that it made all the difference to cleaning saucepans if she could listen to an intelligent person talking about something far removed from household drudgery. The peculiarly personal quality of broadcasting means that, from the point of view of talks, the right kind of broadcast speaker becomes a sort of household friend, and establishes a relationship which is more intimate than any achieved by the printed word.

Turning to the broadcasting end, it may be asked what part women have played in developing the broadcast programmes. I will not attempt to deal here with their contributions in the region of music and drama. Many women artists occupy a foremost place, which they have created either outside or inside the B.B.C. But taking the sphere of talks, with which I personally am concerned, women broadcasters have made notable contributions to the programme, in spite of the fact that voices with the range of frequencies most common in women—the higher tones—are not usually so successfully transmitted as voices with lower tones. Among regular broadcasters are to be found a large number of women M.P.s, Miss V. Sackville-West, who is one of the regular B.B.C. literary critics, Mrs. M. A. Hamilton, Mrs. Oliver Strachev, Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, and others too numerous to mention. Dame Ethel Smyth, Lady Bailey, the Duchess of Bedford, Miss Amy Johnson, Professor Winifred Cullis, Dame Janet Campbell, Mrs. Stocks, Lady Moore-Guggisberg, Dr. Barrie Lambert, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, Miss Rebecca West, Mrs. Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Agatha Christie, Miss Dorothy Sayers, Lady Chatterjee, Lady Trevelyan. All these have been heard on the wireless; one could go on for a page or more, and it is almost invidious to specify.

As regards women on the staff, the B.B.C. has set an example which is not always to be found among public bodies. Women are not compelled to resign on marriage, and equal pay for equal work is on the whole respected, while married women are not debarred from applying for posts. Out of the five Programme Departments, one Director is a woman; Miss Mary Somerville is head of the School Section, and acts as secretary of the Central Council for School Broadcasting, while Mrs. Mary Adams is a member of the Adult Education staff, Miss Janet Adam-Smith on the editorial staff of *The Listener*, Miss Mary Allen on the research staff of the Productions Department; other women occupy executive posts in the Foreign Department, in the Publications Branch, in the Children's Hour, in the Administrative Branch, and at each of the Regional Stations.

Broadcasting is a post-war development, and the B.B.C. a post-war institution, with a largely post-war staff. Perhaps this helps to account for the general open-mindedness and tolerance which on the whole prevail, and which one hopes find some reflection in programme building and administration alike.



of a few individual triumphs scored by women agriculturists during the year—Mrs. Pelly and the Hon. Mrs. Adams have been elected Presidents of the Dexter Cattle Society and the Central Council of Milk Recording Societies respectively. Several smaller organizations (e.g. the S.E. Jersey Club, the Anglesey and the Wetherby Agricultural Societies) have elected women Presidents. Miss Little carried off first prize in the Large Black Pigs Society's herd competition, while Miss White scored premier honours in the National Utility Poultry Society's Laying Competition. Miss Matthews won the Stapleton Challenge Cup for the Inter-County Clean Milk Competition and Miss Smith carried off the British Dairy Farmers' Association Challenge Cup for butter-making. Miss Earle, the only woman in the Dairy Show Milking Competition for herd attendants, attained second place, as did Miss Edden in a Tractor Ploughing Class at Thame Show. Miss Purser made history by winning the King's Silver Cup for best cultivation of root crops at the East Berkshire Agricultural Society's Show. Other successes include that of the two girls, who, representing England in a team of three, helped to vanquish teams of boy farmers from America and Canada at the Young Farmers' Cow-judging Competition at the Royal Show.

### WOMEN IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

By FRANCES IVENS-KNOWLES, C.B.E., M.S.

During the last year medical women have continued to make steady progress. It is interesting to note that this progress has not been limited to the branches of medicine which have always been regarded as their special province, such as maternity and gynaecology, but that medical women are now holding their own in such varied lines as ophthalmology, pathology, medical politics, orthopaedics, dermatology, cancer research and tuberculosis.

#### Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The principle of equal pay for equal work is not yet fully conceded by the General Post Office. To a deputation of the Federation of Medical Women introduced by Dr. Ethel Bentham, the Postmaster-General explained the difficulty of differentiating between medical women and those of lower grade, and also laid stress on the financial aspect. He stated that no terms or increases would be made until the Royal Commission on the Civil Service issued its report. The Scottish Board of Control, which does not give proper status and salary to the Woman Assistant Commissioner, agreed to increase the salary after strong representations were made by the Federation of Medical Women, but the principle of equality has not yet been conceded, the total amount received still falling considerably short of that paid to a Junior Assistant Commissioner.

In the Public Health Services the position of women shows decided improvement and the British Medical Association's memorandum of recommendations has been accepted by all bodies represented at the Conference, with the exception of the County Councils Associations; but a number of individual County Councils have agreed to the salary scale. The influence of Dr. Barrie Lambert, Chairman of the Public Health Committee of the London County Council, in obtaining recognition of the principle of equality, has been most valuable.

#### Medical Co-education.

The decision of some of the London hospitals to refuse to admit women students still holds except in the case of King's College Hospital, which has decided to readmit a limited number of women students each year. The Royal Free Hospital, which is the hospital specially given up to the medical education of women, is, however, making wonderful progress, and the need for additional teaching facilities at this hospital (owing to the reactionary decisions of other London hospitals) will be largely met by the central extension which is now being carried out and which has been made possible by the Honorary Treasurer (Sir Albert Levy) and the President (Lord Riddell). In this block a special maternity ward is to be erected which has been endowed by the Scottish Women's Hospitals Memorial Association.

#### Maternal Mortality.

Medical women were very fully represented at the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, and evidence was given by representatives of the Federation of Medical Women, who also presented their scheme for a National

Maternity Service. In the Interim Report issued later by the Departmental Committee, it was satisfactory to note that nearly all the recommendations made by the Federation of Medical Women were embodied and endorsed.

#### Women's Hospitals and Organizations.

Special attention has been drawn during the year to the work of hospitals organized by women. In a recent account of her visit to Australia, Dame Janet Campbell refers to the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital in Melbourne, established and staffed entirely by women, which she says is one of the best equipped women's hospitals in the city. The Marie Curie Hospital at Swiss Cottage, for the treatment of cancer by radium, to which attention was drawn last year, was formally opened on 10th July by Mr. Stanley Baldwin. This hospital is doing most excellent team work and the results are believed to be extremely encouraging.

In Edinburgh a Committee has been formed (based on the special lines of the Marie Curie Hospital) of an organized band of medical women working on a settled plan at one aspect of the cancer problem.

The Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital in Edinburgh was formally opened by Mr. William Adamson, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, on 28th February. It has now completed its Nurses' Home, and 60 beds are available, with every facility for the obstetrical education of medical students and midwives.

In this beautiful memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis, the important side of the work will be the training of medical students and young graduates who can there carry on her glorious tradition in ideal surroundings.

In the provinces as well as in London special efforts have been made for the provision of Radium for the treatment of cancer. In Liverpool a Women's Radium League was started in 1929, and at their first annual meeting in November, 1930, it was stated that £8,000 for the provision of radium had been raised, which was destined for the newly constituted Radium Institute, on which medical women are represented. The League's activities also include lectures by women doctors to all kinds of women's associations specially to point out the early symptoms of cancer and the need for prompt treatment.

The International Association of Medical Women will hold its next Congress in Vienna in the autumn of 1931, one of the subjects for discussion being the legal protection of women workers.

#### Obituary.

The news of the passing of that great pioneer of women in medicine, Dame Mary Scharlieb, at the age of 85, was received with deep sorrow and regret by her innumerable friends, her patients and her old students. In the early days her brilliant and masterly technique as a surgeon was of inestimable value to medical women, when their reputation in the field of surgery was yet to be made. Her personal charm and noble and unselfish character made her beloved by all those who came in contact with her: and they were many, for not only was she well known as a gynaecologist and obstetrician, but her activities on the social and philanthropic side were most extensive. As a teacher Dame Mary Scharlieb was most stimulating and encouraging: she delighted in helping her junior colleagues to make good and they repaid her with a devotion which is given to few.

The untimely death of Dr. Phoebe Bigland has made a gap in Liverpool which will not readily be filled. Always ready when there was any pioneer work for medical women to be done, and an ardent supporter of all social activities where the energy and zeal of a leader were needed, her frail body was unequal to the demands made upon it by her unquenchable spirit.

We have also to record the death of Dr. Edith Shove, another pioneer who was the first woman doctor appointed by the Post Office when Mr. Fawcett, then Postmaster-General, created the post for a woman. She had no easy task, but her efficient work and high character gradually overcame every difficulty.

Another medical woman, whose work lay in a different sphere, has also passed away—Dr. Edith Young. She spent 24 years of her life in India: chiefly in Palwal, where she built a hospital and organized medical work for the women of a large agricultural district near Delhi. When the hospital was well established and a new doctor installed, she resigned from the Mission and she and a friend for three cold winters lived in a native house in a distant village to satisfy their desire to get more into mental accord and sympathy with the Indian mind.

### WOMEN IN LITERATURE.

By V. SACKVILLE-WEST.<sup>1</sup>

Having lightly undertaken this survey, I remain aghast at my own temerity. For there is no work of reference which will give me all the books published during the year; the only work of reference available is my own most unreliable memory. Who knows but that by a trick of the mind I may forget the very book which has impressed me most? That is the sort of thing which happens; and on the 1st of January I shall remember, and then it will be too late. Besides, in the early part of the year, for reviewing purposes, I was reading novels; in the latter part, books of a more general character, so that something valuable is certain to have escaped my net. However . . .

The number of novels written by women is as formidable as ever, but then so is the number of novels written by men. Nor would one always guess rightly at the sex of the author, lacking the guidance of a name. The fact that many women write novels has no special significance. It is worth noting, however, that one of the most important and possibly one of the most durable novels of our time is by a woman, and has this year been issued in its completed form; I mean *Richard Mahoney*, by Henry Handel Richardson. I hope no one will be misled by the name: the author of *Maurice Guest* is merely following the example (but one wonders why) of George Eliot and others in concealing her sex under a pseudonym. Among other novels by women, I think *The Island*, by Naomi Royde-Smith, and *The Lost Crusade*, by Daphne Muir, have impressed me most; they both seemed to be invested, though in very different ways, with a peculiar poetry. *Red Wagon*, by Lady Eleanor Smith, was a brilliantly successful first novel on that amaranthine subject, circuses; *The Triumphant Footman*, by Edith Olivier, was immensely entertaining; *The Forgotten Image*, by Eleanor Scott, deserved a great deal more notice than it received, and was in many ways comparable with Miss Clemence Dane's *Regiment of Women*. From abroad came that strange, almost great, novel, *The Lost Child*, by Rahel Sanzara—but I must not expand my list of fiction further than to recall the delightful *Miss Mole*, by E. H. Young. Many pens have failed to blossom into fiction this year; neither Mrs. Woolf nor Miss Stella Benson has published a novel; while Miss Rose Macaulay and Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith, the one with *Staying with Relations* and the other with *Shepherds in Sackcloth*, have not quite succeeded in equalling their own best.

The names of outstanding women poets (nothing will ever induce me to use the word poetess) are deplorably few. Miss Edith Sitwell, however, has this year published her collected poems, and moreover has written a critical biography of Pope; she has also published the first volume of an anthology with an introduction, entitled *The Pleasures of Poetry*. Miss Sitwell's criticism, as ever, is keen, sensitive, and emancipated from the stock-in-trade of critical ideas and jargon; so that although she sometimes annoys (I cannot forgive her for her gibes at Mathew Arnold) she always stimulates. Miss Stella Gibbons, whose name I have occasionally seen in periodicals, has published a volume of verse and is a poet who for my own part I shall watch with interest. Nor must one forget that a woman has again won the Newdigate prize, for, I think, the third year running; or that this year we celebrate the centenary of Christina Rossetti. And we have had that exquisite poem-sequence, *Deserted House*, by Dorothy Wellesley, which should be remembered long after many sensational but ephemeral novels are forgotten.

In biography Miss Elizabeth Haldane's study of *Mrs. Gaskell and her Friends* is memorable, partly for the hitherto unpublished and extremely interesting material in the form of letters concerning Florence Nightingale and Charlotte Brontë. The biographies of women should, I think, always be written by women, and if it may be objected that Mrs. Gaskell's own life of Charlotte Brontë is not a very good case in point, I would reply that Mrs. Gaskell went wrong in her interpretation of Bramwell Brontë, not of Charlotte herself. Then, as to other biographical studies by women, we have had *Fighting Fitzgerald*, by Mrs. Desmond MacCarthy, to prove, as it were, that women can write biographical studies of men as well as of their own sex, and the *Life of Burns*, by Catherine Carswell.

<sup>1</sup> We have on several occasions had to remind our readers of one grave disadvantage attaching to our policy of inviting leading experts to review the development of their own subjects. It is that misleading blanks are apt to occur where their own exploits are concerned. This is precisely what has happened here, for who else, writing upon women in literature during 1930, would have failed to record the publication of *The Edwardians* by Miss V. Sackville-West!

That women should write books for children seems almost too obvious to be true, but Miss Enid Bagnold has confounded the truism by writing *Alice, Thomas, and Jane*. Miss Bagnold represents that rare phenomenon, a born author who does not write nearly enough. Most authors write too much. How often one hears the phrase, "He, or she, has over-written him- or herself." Of Miss Bagnold one feels that with a rare extravagance she leaves half her ore unquarried in the earth. From time to time she brings up a nugget and lets us see it. We ask for more, but with a secret smile Miss Bagnold retires into her cabin—or is it into her nursery? Such extravagance amounts to niggardliness, and brings the wheel full circle. Anyhow, this year, let us be thankful, Miss Bagnold has produced *Alice, Thomas, and Jane*. It remains only to be said that everything Miss Bagnold writes is stamped with its own peculiar quality.

### WOMEN IN AVIATION.

By F. M. WOOD.

The year 1930 has seen a series of first-class achievements by women pilots, who are certainly taking full advantage of the opportunities afforded them in the comparatively new field of aviation. The publicity given to some of their exploits shows how surprised the average members of the public still are that women should not only do what men do, but should also compete with them successfully "in a fair field with no favour." Among aviators, however, women pilots are being looked upon more and more as "just pilots," regardless, or almost so, of their sex. Women like Lady Bailey have shown that women can fly where only very good men pilots would like to follow. Her exceptionally courageous flight round Africa, the return journey of which was peculiarly dangerous, was a most valuable achievement for civil aviation. Although this flight was accomplished in 1929, it was at the beginning of 1930 that Lady Bailey was created a Dame of the British Empire, and was unanimously awarded the Britannia Trophy of the Royal Aero Club in recognition of this pioneer solo flight of 18,000 miles.

Miss Amy Johnson's spectacular flight in May caught the public imagination completely, for although she was by no means the first pilot to cover that stretch of nearly 10,000 miles, she was the first woman to do so, and for her accomplishment the King bestowed on her the honour of Commander of the British Empire. She obtained her pilot's licence in the summer of 1929, and by sheer determination won through many obstacles to gain her certificate as a ground engineer before the end of the year. She was the only woman to succeed in getting the necessary training for this qualification at that time, though there are now more facilities for the training and two or three other women are taking advantage of them. Her flight to Australia began magnificently, for she reached Karachi in the record time of six days; unfortunately very bad weather conditions and a series of minor accidents caused delay on the rest of the route, so that in spite of her splendid energy and enthusiasm, which allowed her to take only a few hours' sleep each night, she was unable to break the record. The actual time taken for the flight was 20½ days, and is another example of the excellence and reliability of the "Gipsy Moth" light aircraft. The exciting incidents of her flight are all well known, how she was compelled to land in the desert during a fierce sandstorm, how she had to cross the mountains between Burma and Siam through torrential rain, how she flew against strong head winds over the Gulf of Siam, and landed among savage-looking but friendly natives of Halilulik, where there was no telephonic communication with the outside world. Eventually her 500 miles flight across the Timor Sea brought her to Port Darwin, where she had to face the first of the many enthusiastic crowds which have cheered her plucky achievement. Perhaps the greatest value of Miss Johnson's flight was that it drew the attention of the whole world to the possibilities of light aeroplane flying.

Before Miss Johnson had returned to England, another woman had distinguished herself in aviation. Six of the eighty-eight starters in the King's Cup race round England were women, and two of these six finished amongst the first four. Miss Winifred Brown carried off the Cup, and was also awarded the Siddeley Trophy for the first light aeroplane to cross the line Mrs. Butler, the wife of the Chairman of the De Havilland Aircraft Company, came fourth. There was an exceptionally large number of entries for this race, which was flown on a perfect July day; and while there is always an element of luck, especially in a handicap race, Miss Brown's achievement was a very fine example of skilful piloting and able navigation.



When Miss Spooner, who is one of our most brilliant women pilots, returned from Kenya early this year, she obtained her navigator's certificate after only a fortnight's study, the normal time being about six months. She was thus enabled to renew her "B" licence, and is now the only woman with this qualification to be allowed by the Air Ministry to regard flying as her profession. In July she took part in the International Touring Competition which consists of a flight round Europe, combined with a number of technical and other tests. Miss Spooner flew a "Gipsy Moth" and was placed fourth in the whole Competition, winning first prize in Category I. Lady Bailey also took part in this race and would probably have won a good place had she not been more daring than all the other pilots by trying to cross the Pyrenees direct. She was, unfortunately, forced to turn back, which lost her much valuable time.

Very shortly after the International Competition, Miss Spooner, with the same "Gipsy Moth" took part as the only British competitor in another international contest, the Circuit of Italy, and again won fourth place. Her magnificent piloting unfortunately, could not make up for the points lost in the awards for various features of the machine and technical tests, but her undoubted flying ability greatly impressed the Italians. Two of the four stages of the race she completed in the fastest time.

The last outstanding woman's flight of the year has been the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce's success in flying solo to Japan. She did not set out to make a speed record, but to be the first British pilot to fly alone to Japan. She required great courage and tenacity to master the many obstacles over that long distance of nearly 11,000 miles. As recorded in the Press at the time, she had several forced landings, one in wild country inhabited by Baluchi tribesmen, but with amazing perseverance she carried through her programme and reached Tokio two months after leaving England, and in twenty-four flying days. An interesting feature of Mrs. Bruce's journey is that she used a dictaphone, while flying, to record her impressions.

No record of women's service to aviation during 1930 would be complete without reference to the "Flying Duchess." Although on her various record-making flights, the Duchess of Bedford has not been the sole pilot, she has been no mere passenger; she shares the perils and discomforts equally with her pilot and navigator and takes an active part in the running of the machine, for example, pumping petrol from the reserve tanks to the feed tank—no light task. In April, 1930, she flew to Cape Town and back in her Fokker monoplane, the "Spider," in the shortest time in which the return journey has ever been made, twenty-one days. Captain Barnard and Mr. Robert Little were again her pilot and navigator, but on several occasions during the flight the Duchess herself took over the controls; only the day before they left for the Cape she made her first solo flight.

The popularity of flying is growing apace; the number of women qualifying for their "A" licence in England and Scotland during the year being as much as forty-three, an increase of seventeen over last year. Amongst them is Lady Drummond Hay, who crossed the Atlantic in the Graf Zeppelin. 1930 has also seen the steady development of the Aviation Group of the Forum Club, started in the autumn of 1929. From an international point of view, an incident at the end of Mrs. Bruce's flight to Japan is especially interesting, for it shows how widespread is the entry of women into the field of aviation. On her arrival at Tokio one of her escort was the Korean airwoman, Miss Boku. In the United States of America, we find there are 270 women pilots, of whom 24 are transport, 32 limited commercial, and one industrial; the first airport manager received her appointment in September. In France, Mlle Maryse Bartie, early in September, broke the air endurance record of 35½ hours for women, created last May by Mlle Lena Bernstein, by flying over Le Bourget for 37½ hours. Mlle Bernstein holds the record of 1,687 miles for the longest non-stop flight in a straight line.

While we are proud of the notable flights recorded above, the record of "Women in Aviation in 1930" would not be complete without a reference to the part they are playing in less spectacular, though exceedingly useful ways. In research, Miss Cave Browne continues to work at South Kensington, and Miss Hilda Lyon, who was in the research department at Cardington, has gone to America to hold a Research Fellowship in Aeronautics; while the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough has recently appointed a woman to one of their scientific research posts. Miss O'Brien has continued to give her services in lecturing on aviation, and Miss Slade to act as an efficient

secretary at the Heston Aerodrome. Last, but by no means least, we must remember that the manufacture of aircraft has provided another branch of industry into which women can enter, and several hundred women have been employed in aircraft factories during the last year.

### WOMEN IN THE THEATRE.

By CICELY HAMILTON.

In the matter of plays written by women, one of the most important events of the year was reserved for the month of December, when E. M. Delafield's comedy *To See Ourselves*, was staged at the Ambassadors' and scored an instant success. The play is not only of importance in itself; it marks Miss Delafield's first appearance in the theatre; and it has the further merit of providing a part that is a real opportunity for Marda Vanne. And Marda Vanne is one of the actresses whose work, in 1930, has more than maintained her position. . . . It was in December, also, that another novelist, Agatha Christie, made her first essay as an independent dramatist—on the stage of the Embassy, in a thriller entitled *Black Coffee*. The Embassy is not the first theatre to print the name of Agatha Christie on its playbill; but the successful *Alibi*, of a year or two ago, was founded on one of her novels and not, I think, adapted by herself.

Among the more noteworthy plays of the year was *Nine to Six*, the comedy dealing with life in a dressmaking establishment which attained to popularity in more than one theatre. *Nine to Six* was, in every sense, a woman's entertainment; it was written by a woman and there was not a male character in the cast. Several all-men plays have appeared of late years but this is the first time that an all women drama has been produced with any real success. The vogue for these one-sex pieces is interesting because it denotes that the love-story is no longer, as of old, an inevitable ingredient of theatrical fare. Our modern tastes are becoming more varied than those of our playgoing fathers and, if we are given other matters of interest, we are willing, now and then, to dispense with the sweetness of the love-story. Some of the most successful of modern plays—*Journey's End*, *St. Joan* and *Outward Bound*, for instance—have relied very little or not at all upon sex appeal and the love-story. To return to the women's plays of 1930: a revival of interest was Dorothy Brandon's *The Outsider*, dealing with the conflict between the medical profession and the quack, and remarkable, as on its first production, for Isabel Elsom's performance of the crippled heroine.

On the managerial side one records with regret the failure of Edith Evans to attract the public by her recent venture, in a version of the biblical story of Samson and Delilah; while Sybil Thorndike has of late been touring the provinces and has submitted no novelty to the London theatrical market. One of the actresses who have made a real success during the autumn season is Gwen Frangcon-Davies, in the *Barretts of Wimpole Street*, at the Queen's Theatre; her delicate portrait of Elizabeth Barrett Browning is a picture that satisfies alike the mind and the eye. Louise Hampton, as the dressmaker in *Nine to Six*, is one of the finer memories of the year and she appears to have repeated her success in Eden Philpott's latest, *Jane's Legacy*.

### WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS.

Contributed by the London and National Society for Women's Service.

The year 1930 has often and justly been referred to in the Press as the Woman's Year. The gallant and inspiring enterprises of Amy Johnson, Winifred Spooner, Winifred Brown, and the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce in the air, and Marjorie Foster's great victory at Bisley, have moved the imagination of all, and appealed with extraordinary strength to the hearts of the public.

While there is nothing so spectacular to report in the professional field, the position of women has been consolidated and important advances have been made all along the front.

First of all, the service which women have been enabled to render by their appointment to serve on important Committees is notable. Mrs. Rackham has just been appointed to the newly-formed Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance; Lady Bridgeman is a member of the Commission on the Relations of Church and State; Dr. Ethel Bentham was on the Select Committee on Capital Punishment whose report has just been issued; Mrs. H. L. Nathan is one of the four persons representing the consumer on the National Committee of Investigation set up under the Coal Mines Act of 1930; Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Picton-Turbervill are serving on Committees dealing with

the Rent Restriction Acts, while women are sitting on the Departmental Committees on the recruitment, training, etc., of Local Government officials, on Private Schools, on Colonies for the Mentally Defective, and on each of the principal Committees of the Empire Marketing Board. Half the members of the newly appointed *Lancel* Commission on the position of Nursing are women, and among them is Mrs. Oliver Strachey, chairman of the Employment Committee of the London and National Society for Women's Service. Above all, one must not forget the two Indian women delegates to the Round Table Conference—Begum Shah Nawaz and Mrs. Subbarayam—nor the speech of the former which won golden opinions from all.

The position of women in the Civil Service has not altered, but the Royal Commission is still sitting, and the future place of women in the Civil Service and such questions as the removal of the marriage bar and equal pay are under discussion. It is satisfactory to note the progress that has been made by some of the first women to be admitted by open competition to the Junior Administrative Grade. As will be remembered, women were admitted to this examination for the first time in 1925, and the first two to pass into the Civil Service by this means have both this year been appointed to be private secretaries, one to the Secretary of the Minister of Health and the other to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Department of Overseas Trade, while the successful woman candidate of the following year is now secretary to the recently appointed Committee on Local Government Officials. These appointments are most reassuring, since they are such as the young man of marked ability might normally be expected to hold on his way up the ladder of promotion. This year, too, a woman has been appointed as Assistant Principal at the Home Office, while two other women have passed by the competitive examination into the Administrative Grade. It is of interest to note that one of these began her education in an elementary school.

Of promotions within the Service, perhaps the most interesting is that of Miss Brabrook, Higher Executive Officer in the Post Office, who has been promoted to be Deputy Superintendent.

Six women were successful in the Tax Inspector Group of examinations, and twenty-one in the Executive Grade examination. Of the latter the majority have been assigned, as was the case last year, to work dealing with revenue, nine going to the Estate Duty Office, and seven to the Board of Inland Revenue. The remainder of the successful candidates have been distributed between the Insurance Department of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, and the Department of Overseas Trade.

An extension of opportunities for women in the Civil Service has been afforded by the decision to increase the Factories Inspection Staff and by the amalgamation of the men's and women's staffs. As a result of this amalgamation the men and women will be recruited by the same methods, will be treated as one establishment with a single seniority list, and will, generally speaking, perform the same duties.

Lord Passfield, in opening the Colonial Conference in London, gave us reason to hope that there may be greater scope for women's service in medical and educational spheres overseas, as he stated that women are increasingly being brought into the Colonial Service. Several interesting appointments have, in fact, since been made in West Africa.

In February, Miss Dorothy Peto was appointed to the post of adviser at Scotland Yard on the organization and training of the Women in the Metropolitan Police Force, and at the same time it was decided to increase the number of these women from 50 to 100.

A woman was for the first time appointed Chairman of the Visiting Justices' Committee for Holloway Prison.

With regard to the legal profession, Dr. Ivy Williams, the first woman to be called to the English bar, was appointed by the Government as a technical delegate to the Conference for the Codification of International Law, which met at the Hague in March. There are now about 100 women barristers in this country. In February, Scotland appointed Miss Eileen Paterson its first woman Burgh Procurator Fiscal, and in July Miss C. F. Harper was given the post of Burgh Prosecutor of Renfrew.

In the sphere of local government, Dr. Julia M. Browne now fills the responsible position of Medical Officer of Health for Stepney, at a salary of £1,500, and has in her charge the public health of a borough with a population of nearly a quarter of a million. The London County Council which with the coming into force of the Local Government Act now controls 140 hospitals, has decided that medical appointments in all grades shall be open on equal terms to men and women doctors. Apparently the same spirit prevails in Manchester, where applications for

the vacant post of Director of Education were invited from both men and women.

Another enlightened local authority is the Urban District Council of Brentford and Chiswick, which has just appointed Miss Mizpah Gilbert, M.L.A., as Chief Librarian and Curator of their two big libraries and the museums attached thereto, in succession to the retiring male librarian.

Westminster City Council has shown itself a pioneer among London Authorities by appointing Miss Marian Cooper as woman Property Manager to the Grosvenor Housing Estate, Millbank.

In the educational world, Mrs. Leah Manning, now a member of the Private Schools Committee, was this year elected President of the National Union of Teachers, while Dr. Beatrice Edgell, of Bedford College, Professor of Psychology in London University, was elected the first woman President of the Aristotelian Society, the principal society in the British Empire for the discussion of philosophical questions.

Miss L. B. Morris was appointed to the headship of a new Central Mixed School, the first appointment of the sort to be made in London.

At Oxford, Miss Charis Waddy, of Lady Margaret Hall, was awarded the Pusey and Ellerton Scholarship, and the Newdigate Prize for the fourth year in succession went to a woman.

A pleasing change of heart has shown itself in the decision of King's College Hospital to reopen its doors to intending women students.

In the realm of science, women have made their voices heard, for at the British Association meeting at Bristol no less than thirty of them read papers. The Royal Geographical Society, which has some hundreds of women Fellows, celebrated its centenary year by giving a woman—Mrs. Patrick Ness—for the first time a seat on the Council.

A young astronomer, Miss Violet White, has been made an Assistant at the Imperial College, South Kensington, and the Board of Education has, for the first time, chosen a woman, Miss M. S. Taylor, A.R.C.A., as an Assistant to the School of Architecture at the Royal College of Art, while several public memorials erected this year have been designed by women architects.

Turning to art, we have to record that Mrs. Annie Swynnerton's portrait of Dame Millicent Fawcett was bought for the nation. In music, Miss Ethel Leginska conducted an opera—an unusual event in London—and Miss Elizabeth Maconchy, a young composer of twenty-three years of age, received the highest praise when her orchestral suite "The Land" (inspired by the poem of Miss Sackville-West) was presented by Sir Henry Wood at a Promenade Concert.

During the course of the year several women have been appointed Political Agents by the Unionist and Liberal Parties, one of the most interesting appointments of this class being that of Miss Aileen Mackinnon to act as liaison officer between the Women's National Liberal Federation and the Liberal Whips' office.

### WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

By DOROTHY M. ELLIOTT.

The general trade depression during 1930 has inevitably meant that there are no startling advances to record in the position of women in industry, but as the processes of development and rationalization in the great industries proceed, the tendencies which had begun to make themselves felt during the last three or four years are becoming more clearly defined in their effects on the position of women.

The White Paper<sup>1</sup> issued by the Home Office during this year shows that the percentage of women employed in the non-textile group—a group which includes a great many of the new or newly organized industries—has increased from the early figure of 15.51 per cent to 27 per cent. It may interest readers to see how this general percentage works out in specific groups:—

China and Earthenware . . . . .	37.68	50.10
Food and Drink . . . . .	15.81	36.03
Tobacco . . . . .	63.31	72.07
Metal (except extraction and founding) . . . . .	7.27	13.04
Printing, Bleaching, Dyeing and Lace Warehouses . . . . .	27.09	32.32
Clothing . . . . .	59.59	67.96
Paper, Printing, and Stationery . . . . .	26.82	37.45
Chemicals . . . . .	9.56	18.69

<sup>1</sup> Cmd. 3508. "A Study of the Factors which have operated in the past and those which are operating now to determine the distribution of Women in Industry," 1930.



There is no doubt that in trades such as electrical engineering, wireless, gramophone making, the percentage increase of the employment of women, as a result of standardization, is even greater than those in these groups of figures.

In spite of this increase, and in spite of the fact that piecework earnings, in some cases may be comparatively high, 1930 again is a record of failure of any attempts to raise the basic wages of women in the engineering industry. The time-rates imposed by the employers still remain lower than those fixed by many Trade Boards.

Women in the textile industries have again been involved with their men fellow-workers in problems arising from rationalization and reorganization. The question of the introduction of new automatic looms, and the problem of how many looms should be worked by one weaver, and all the surrounding wage questions, have been to the fore in the cotton industry.

Women in industry have again been disappointed this year by the impossibility of the introduction of the new Factory Bill; they are eagerly awaiting, both that Bill and the Hours of Employment Bill. They are watching also with keen interest the meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. when the Night Work Convention is to come up for revision. While industrial women are quite in agreement with the Government's request that the Convention should be revised in order to allow women in supervisory grades to work at night, they are watching keenly to see that no further encroachment shall be made on the right to prohibit employers from working women at night. They feel so strongly that the enforcement of the Night Work Convention for women in industry is both in itself a right thing and a step towards the securing, as far as is possible, the abolition of night work altogether.

In spite of the fact that, because of economic conditions there can be very little of general advance to report with regard to wages and hours, it is nevertheless true to say that during 1930 women have, largely owing to the legislation which they have secured during earlier periods, been able at least to maintain their standard.

A great deal of interest has been aroused during the year amongst two great sections of women's work which while perhaps not industrial in the narrow sense of the word are closely bound up with industrial problems—that is, the catering trade and domestic service. The Minister of Labour has issued a draft special order to bring the light refreshment side of the catering trade under the Trade Boards Acts—an order which affects over a hundred thousand women. The public inquiry which was held as a result of the Minister's action brought out the large proportion of sweating which still exists in this trade, the official figures showing that at least 10,000 women in this branch of the trade receive less than 25s. a week *total remuneration* including meals and tips where received, and it should be noted that a week in this trade does not mean a forty-eight hour week, but very much longer. It seemed a pity that organizations of women purporting to care about the status of women should join with Lyons, the licensing trade, and the hotel and restaurant proprietors in opposing the Minister's proposal to protect the men and women working against exploitation.

Unfortunately there are still many thousands of women unemployed, especially in the great depressed areas of the North, and the fact of their continued failure to return to their own trade has brought once again the controversy with regard to domestic service to the fore. The Labour Women's Conference last year initiated a movement which they hope will result in the drawing up in the spring of next year of a Domestic Workers' Charter, for it is generally agreed that if industrial women are obliged by force of circumstances to turn to domestic service as an alternative occupation they should at least be able to be assured of general conditions which are acceptable and just. This has also raised the important argument of the desirability or otherwise of domestic workers being included in the Unemployment Insurance Act.

From the point of view of the organization of women in industry, which, after all, must always be the primary consideration to those who are anxious to raise the status of women, 1930 has been a year full of hope. In spite of unemployment, and in spite of trade depression, the numbers of women organized in industry have risen during the year by 8,000—a very considerable achievement under all the difficulties.

But more important even than this actual achievement, is the fact that the Trades Union Congress is now keenly alive to the importance of concentrating on the question of the organization of women in industry, and they called during the year a national conference of women to discuss this question,

as a result of which recommendations were made to the Trade Union Congress at Nottingham, and accepted unanimously by them. These recommendations involve the calling of an Annual Conference of organizations catering for women to discuss organization and to elect representatives to act with the Women's Group of the General Council, thus forming a Women's National Advisory Council. In addition, the Trade Union Congress has already arranged for numerous district conferences along similar lines to which it will be possible for rank and file women trade unionists to be delegates, hoping that these district conferences will in turn set up Advisory Committees in each district. There should, therefore, be efficient machinery set up all over the country by which attention can be focussed on women's questions, and the women themselves encouraged to carry on the work of organization. This is the greatest step forward in the organization of women which has been taken since the war, and means that we face 1931 knowing that, in spite of all the difficulties with which we shall be met, it should be a year of great advance in the most fundamental of the questions affecting women in industry.

### WOMEN IN COMMERCE.

By CAROLINE HASLETT.

Women's work in commerce is not so spectacular as some of the wonderful feats achieved by women in other fields of activity. The career of women in commerce is rather that of day to day, solid work, the influence of which is only felt over a number of years. Women are, however, being taken much more for granted in the commercial world, and the question of sex is very rarely a barrier where real ability is shown.

Interesting discussions have arisen from time to time as to whether women would be good in commercial posts overseas, especially in connection with Civil Engineering or the opening up of new markets in hitherto unexploited countries. Such work might, of course, entail climatic hardships, difficulties of negotiating in business with other nationalities, and the hundred and one handicaps of doing business in strange circumstances and amongst unknown peoples. In this connection, both Miss Amy Johnson and Miss Winifred Spooner have broken down a good deal of prejudice in the past year. In listening to the account of Miss Johnson's flight and the difficulties she had to overcome in different countries in connection with the care and maintenance of her engine, one felt that it was conclusively proved that the modern girl with a business training and common sense can overcome difficult situations no matter in what part of the world she may be.

Turning to the work that women have done in this country during the past year, we find instances of a woman in Manchester who after three years spent in studying the commercial and financial side of a large firm of machine tool makers, and two years as secretary and director, becomes a joint managing director. Another woman, in London, is a director of a firm of granite engineers and general merchants. She is also a member of the Institute of Quarrying and the London representative for *The Quarry Managers' Journal, Good Roads, Cement, Lime, and Gravel*, and other such papers. From America comes the news that Miss Mary Dillon has been appointed President of the Brooklyn Borough Gas Company, which is one of the largest firms of its kind in the U.S.A. From America also we learn of Miss Kate Gleason, a Director of the Rochester Gear Works, Rochester, N.Y., who was for fifteen years the only woman member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

One of the most hopeful signs is the way in which women are gradually beginning to assist in meeting and dealing with financial problems, and quite a number of women have recently had a hand in the foundation of new companies.

### WOMEN IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

By SYBIL PRATT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The outstanding event of 1930 in the Church of England was the Lambeth Conference.

That part of its Report which dealt with the Ministry of women had been eagerly awaited by the ever increasing number of Churchwomen, who earnestly desire that women shall be admitted to the Priesthood. To them, the Lambeth Report brought heavy disappointment because, as Canon Raven remarks, "Lambeth has not moved beyond the Miltonian or indeed the ancient Roman concept of women's inherent inferiority." It is stated in the Report, with a confidence that will not be shared by those who are in touch with the thoughts and aspirations of the younger women, that "the Order of Deaconesses . . . can

satisfy the fullest desires of women to share in the official work of the Church."

The Bishops have, it is true, decreed that a Deaconess may now preach, subject to the sanction of the Province, the approval of the Bishop, and at the request of the Parish Priest, at services other than the Holy Communion. This is a very slight advance on the regulations of 1920, but, on the other hand, the acceptance by the Bishops of the proposal to ordain "voluntary" or "auxiliary" clergy constitutes, as Miss Maude Royden says, "the worst assertion of the spiritual inferiority of women to men that has been made yet."

Men, who make no claim to having received a vocation to the priesthood, are to be ordained in order that they may celebrate the Holy Communion where there is a shortage of "professional" clergy, but no woman, however consecrated her life, however deep her sense of vocation, however highly trained intellectually and spiritually, may take any part in the service of Holy Communion.

In their report, the Bishops state, somewhat naïvely, that "many women to-day hardly regard the Church as a possible sphere for their gifts and capacities . . . the primary need on all sides is a larger vision of what Church work is, and should be, together with a clearer sense of vocation."

We are to understand, in fact, that the Church of England would officially welcome the services of any young woman who "has taken a double first and whose soul is aflame with desire to serve Christ" on condition that God's call to her is subject to alteration and limitation by the Bishops and her vision of what Church work is and should be, restricted to that which is subordinate and without high responsibility or power of initiative.

The Lambeth Conference justifies this attitude towards women by stating that "there are theological principles which constitute an insuperable obstacle to the admission of women to the priesthood." The Society for the Ministry of Women (Interdenominational) is devoting time and energy to finding out what exactly is meant by these "theological principles." The answer is one which concerns everyone interested in religion, whether man or woman, Anglican or Free Church, because the status of women in the Church has an influence, not only upon all women outside the Church, but upon such far-reaching problems as peace and war, industrial and social difficulties.

The Society for the Ministry of Women (Interdenominational) is a young and struggling one, faced with the combined forces of prejudice, ignorance, and apathy. During 1930 the apathy has been changing rapidly to sympathy and co-operation on the one hand, and to awakening hostility on the other, a change which all old suffragists will recognize as hopeful and invigorating.

If the Lambeth Conference of 1930 brings a flood of eager subscribers to this Society (the hon. secretary is Miss Pryke, 1 Catherine Street, S.W. 1, and the minimum subscription is 1s. per annum) the disappointment of its Report will be robbed of its sting, and those who are working for this great reform encouraged to meet 1931 with patience and hope. *The Coming Ministry* (price 3d., a copy or 1s. a year) has just been published by the Society. It contains an excellent article by Canon Raven, of Liverpool Cathedral, on the Ministry of Women and the Lambeth Report.

In March, 1930, the Central Council of Women's Church Work came into being, as a result of the amalgamation of three existing organizations. The Central Council renders most valuable service in studying the problems connected with pay, status, and conditions of work, the supply of workers and the demand for them. It also follows up new openings and possibilities affecting the service of women to the Church. In pressing for a high standard of training among women Church workers and for a general raising of the rates of pay, at present so inadequate as to cause a low standard of health, in addition to the establishment of pension schemes, this Central Council is deserving of the support and gratitude of all who care for the welfare of the woman worker.

### WOMEN IN THE FREE CHURCHES.

By Rev. E. ROSALIND LEE, M.A. (Hon. Sec. British League of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women).

The most definite step in advance with regard to the ministry of women this year has been in Scotland, where the United Free Church has decided that women should be eligible for ordination and induction as ministers. This Church represents the minority that did not join in the Union last year. In the larger Presbyterian Church of Scotland it is apparently

the question of administration of the Sacrament that is the stumbling block. There are eight women students for the United Free Ministry at the new College at Edinburgh. Meanwhile, the Church of Scotland has a regular Order of Deaconesses. There are at present sixty of these qualified. The first was appointed in Glasgow in 1891. A two years' training is expected at Deaconess House, George Square, Edinburgh, where teaching is given in the practical side of Home Mission work and there is also systematic class instruction. The training can be extended for those who wish to take a Nursing Course. Six months of this period can be taken in the Deaconess Hospital, but those who intend to be Deaconesses or Missionary Nurses take a three years' Nursing Course after their training at Deaconess House. They may also take a four months' course at the hospital in preparation for the Central Midwives Board Certificate. There is scope in this work for women of high educational qualifications. They are officially recognized at a public religious service where they promise to obey the Churches' Courts and definitely pledge themselves to the duties of their office. Much of the Sunday School work, which is well-organised, is in the hands of women, and a very capable woman organizer has been devoting much time to explaining the Union to women's societies in connection with the Churches all over Scotland.

No change can be expected in the Wesleyan and Methodist Churches until the question of the Union is decided. They, of course, have for a long time made use of women as Sisters, as is also the case with other denominations, but it is a matter of opinion whether or not it is in the interest of the Ministry of women to encourage such organizations as Deaconesses and Sisters. Will they tend to strengthen the desire to go on to the full ministry or will they rather side-track women into this limited sphere who might otherwise have helped to open the doors of the Ministry? There is much to be said for the latter view, but in practice the motive of service that leads women to work in any way for their Churches is likely to urge them through any door that opens, especially where training is offered that will make their service more effective, even though the result may be only "half a loaf."

We cannot expect much progress, unless adequate opportunities for training are provided for Women Students for the Ministry. As far as I know, the following Colleges admit women students:—Mansfield College, Oxford (Inter-Denominational), where the Rev. Constance Colman, B.D., was the first woman student; New College, London (Congregationalist), where there are at present three women students. Regent's Park College (Baptist), now moved to Oxford, where the Rev. Violet Hedger took her course; Manchester Congregational College, where the Rev. Margaret Hardy was one of the first two women students and as above mentioned, the new Presbyterian College in Edinburgh, and the Scottish Congregational College in Edinburgh, where the Rev. Vera M. M. Findlay was trained. The Unitarian College at Manchester now has one woman Theological Student and a second woman taking her Degree course preparatory to the Theological course. Manchester College, Oxford, where several Unitarian Ministers obtain their training has had at least six women students who have afterwards entered the Unitarian Ministry. For a short time, the authorities decided to admit no more women, but I understand that under a new scheme there will be no bar to women. There will be, however, a definite academic standard expected of both men and women students, which may indirectly work out unfavourably for women who have not obtained an Oxford degree. This is due to the Oxford University regulations about the number of women students. It is hoped, however, that this difficulty will be overcome in some way for the really well qualified woman candidate.

Of the women at present in the active ministry, I can only speak with intimate knowledge of the eight Unitarians. The Rev. Margaret Barr has been co-opted on the Educational Committee at Rotherham. Rev. Wilna L. Constable has had an interesting but strenuous time in New Zealand, but is unfortunately now having to take things easy owing to illness. She and her husband not only share the ministry of the church in Auckland but also have to pay periodical visits to distant parts to visit scattered families. On one occasion, Mrs. Constable had to drive many miles through the Bush under the escort of three Maories. She also had the interesting experience of taking the service in a village Church, built by the voluntary labour of the inhabitants and used by all denominations. Although New Zealand was to the fore in giving votes to women, it is not legal for a woman to conduct a marriage ceremony. She is seeking to get the law altered. Rev. Joyce Daplyn is



unfortunately having to take a prolonged rest. The others are still at the same places as a year ago. Some reference should be made to the fine work being done by Mrs. Edgar Martin in a quiet way ministering to a small group at Bury St. Edmunds. Although not technically qualified as a minister, on account of health, she had worked in co-operation with her late husband during his training for the Ministry, and is a minister in all but name. I, myself, though unable to take full-time ministry at present owing to my other work, am glad to be in charge this winter of the New Gravel Pit Church, Hackney. At Lancaster recently I heard the Rev. Dorothy F. Wilson, B.Litt., was making her mark in that neighbourhood, and I have heard the same of the Rev. Margaret Hardy at Leeds. The Rev. Constance M. Coltman's work at Oxford is well known. Unfortunately I have not had any opportunity of learning any recent news of the other Free Church women Ministers.

Apart from the definite work of the ministry, there is little doubt that women are taking an increasing part in Church work and management. They have always been welcomed in Sunday School work and the various forms of social service in connection with the Churches. The former is demanding better trained teachers, which gives more scope for educated women if willing to do it, and with the general raising of the standard of education, Women's Meetings make much heavier claims on the leaders than the similar meetings of even a generation ago. In some Churches there are very large weekly gatherings of women where addresses on a great variety of subjects are given and much organization is needed. For the first time this year the Free Church Women's Council held a National Rally of the Mothers' Guild at the City Temple where Mrs. George Cadbury took the chair and Dr. Westlake gave the address. In connection with my own Women's League, which has branches in not quite two-thirds of the Unitarian Churches, much latent talent has been revealed during the 22 years of its existence. Many of our Lay-women are now prepared to take services and address meetings not of women only. In some Churches one Sunday a year the services are taken entirely by women. We also have some able women amongst our Lay-preachers.

It seems that the ministry of women in the Free Churches has reached a stage when progress depends mainly on the success of those already working in this field. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

## WOMEN AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

By CLARA D. RACKHAM, J.P.

The year just closing has not seen many very remarkable changes in our methods of administering justice in the courts of law. Interest in the subject abounds and the penal reformers are ever busy, but at the moment of writing there are not many items to record.

The Poor Prisoner's Defence Bill has passed into law and comes into force on 1st January, 1931. If magistrates make proper use of its provisions, many poor prisoners who at present go undefended will have the advantage of professional advice without expense to themselves. It is to be hoped that the authorities at the Home Office will see that all Benches are fully informed of their powers under this Act, and that the information will reach the magistrates and not only the clerks. The Act does not deal with the cost of appeals, and that is the next subject to be tackled with the object of securing greater equality in the police courts between the rich and the poor.

Repeated questions have been asked in the House of Commons about the promised Children's Bill—when is it coming? The last reply from Mr. Short was that "The Bill is being drafted, and it is hoped it may be introduced at an early date". In July a Private Member's Bill, to amend the law relating to Juvenile Offenders, containing many admirable provisions, was introduced by Mr. Rhys Davies, and it is hoped that the Government measure when it comes will be on similar lines.

One of the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Children and Young Persons was that those who repeatedly committed these offences should be subject to prolonged detention in suitable institutions. Cases were quoted in the Report of men who had been sent to prison 13, 12 and 16 times respectively, and every time for an offence against decency. Recidivism, illustrating the feature of our prison system either to reform or deter, is rife both in local and convict prisons, and the announcement made by the Home Secretary to the Magistrates' Association in October that he

proposed to set up a Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Recidivists will be generally welcomed. As the proportion of recidivists is even greater among women prisoners than among men it is to be hoped that there will be women on the Committee so that the problem can be studied from every angle.

The three existing Borstal Institutions are much overcrowded, and the individual treatment of the boys, which is an essential element in their training, is thereby rendered very difficult if not impossible. Another result of the shortage of room in the Institutions is that the lads have to remain at the prison at Wormwood Scrubs for a much longer time than is necessary for the preliminary examination which decides to which of the Borstals they shall go. It was therefore welcome news that building operations on a fourth Borstal had begun. The new Institution is in Nottinghamshire, so, when it is opened, not all the Borstal lads from the North and Midlands will have to go so far from home as at present.

To turn to more savage penalties than prison or Borstal. A resolution asking leave to bring in a Bill for the abolition of corporal punishment was introduced by Mr. George Benson, M.P., and passed the House of Commons by a majority of 62. This shows an advance in public opinion which is borne out by the reduction in the number of prisoners sentenced in the courts to the cat or the birch. This reduction is clearly marked in the case of adults, while in the case of boys the reduction has been startling, the number birched having fallen from 2,079 in 1913 to 178 in 1928. The number of floggings inflicted in prison for breaches of prison discipline also show a great reduction as compared with 20 years ago, but it is deplorable that the number in 1928 should have been the largest since 1912, sixteen in all. These took place in eight prisons (six in one prison), while seventeen prisons were without any case of corporal punishment.

The Select Committee on Capital Punishment continued its sittings during the year, and at the close issued its Report (price 1s. 6d.). The majority of the Committee recommend that the death penalty should be abolished for an experimental period of five years. Six members withdrew from the Committee at the close, and have not signed the Report. It is not surprising that unanimity was not reached. This question has long been the hardly annual of debating societies, and the evidence given before the Committee showed very conflicting opinions. The important point is that a body of responsible persons, after weighing all the considerations, have recommended that the death penalty shall be at least suspended. This marks a great step in advance, and puts the whole subject on a new plane. The Report is a long document, showing a complete grasp of the whole question, and will well repay study.

## WOMEN AND THE HOME.

By SYLVIA ANTHONY.

"The Woman-in-the-Home Question" is almost as wide as "The Condition of England Question", and consequently even an annual survey is difficult to limit to the scope of a column. But the things that have most weightily affected women in their homes are common knowledge: this is simply a summary.

An essential feature of home life is the production of children; women are intensely interested in the control of this activity, and a Conference organized in London last April to discuss the giving of information on Birth Control by Public Health Authorities, was attended by a large number of people, mostly women, many of whom had travelled from far afield as Durham or South Wales to attend. Subsequently to this Conference a National Birth Control Council was founded, to co-ordinate the work of various organizations, and to further the demand that Birth Control information should be made available for those who ask for or need it, as a branch of Public Health work. The Ministry of Health issued in May a memorandum defining the conditions under which, in future, Local Health Authorities would be permitted to provide such information.

From the point of view of Public Health, Birth Control is a positive, not a negative activity; but from the more warm-blooded private and individual aspect the idea has an indiscoverable atmosphere of chilly negation. To turn to its more positive counterpart—a National Maternity Service. If only the opponents of State-aided Birth Control would devote their funds to financing a Maternity Service—how delightful a Christmas present for the nation! As it is, we are constantly reminded that the chief obstacle to the implementing of the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality (which reported in June) lies in the shortage of national funds available for this social service. The Press has informed

the public so many times, during the last year, that half the mothers who die in childbirth might have been saved, that we suspect the public is getting bored about it. When will it also be realized that, compared with one mother that dies in childbirth, there are seven times as many babies stillborn, and that the diminishing infant mortality rate on which we pride ourselves has not yet affected this problem? There is more work ahead of us than behind us.

I hope I shall be forgiven if I say here a few words about a venture very relevant to this subject, but not yet grown to national stature. A new feature of infant care is the establishment in London of two "Babies' Clubs"—infant welfare centres for parents who subscribe funds, appoint their own doctor and health-visitor, and manage all affairs through their own committee. The pioneer Club of this kind was begun in Chelsea some years ago; another has opened during the year near Hampstead Heath, and it is hoped that they will rapidly multiply, to supply the needs of children who are not receiving regular preventive medical advice.

Among those who pronounce philosophically upon the fate and the future of the Home, there are some who seem to envisage its function simply as a nursery, others who propose to divest it of all such responsibilities and cast them upon the community. At present we have homes of both kinds: the child-producing may be more nationally important, but the others are more numerous. Round them all the political question of the hour has been raging: Free Trade or Protection—Imperial Preference, Quotas, Import Duties, Safeguarding. The Imperial Conference in October, the recent Mosley Memorandum, and many other incidents of the political year, have in reality centred round the Woman with the Basket. And somewhere in the political background sits the despised, if not rejected, Consumers' Council Bill, which, when the Woman with the Basket really takes a hand in political affairs, may become the head of the corner—but that is not yet.

The other major political question is Unemployment, and we hardly need to be reminded how that affects the home. But only recently an important pronouncement was made by the Minister of Labour, especially with regard to unemployed women and domestic service. Miss Bondfield said that domestic service would be considered suitable alternative employment for unemployed women textile workers, and she added that it was an honourable occupation. The implications of this pronouncement are too wide to be dealt with here and now. We cannot help feeling that if it had been made by anyone less sympathetic to the woman's point of view, women would have been more ready to criticize it. Domestic service does not, unfortunately, rise in status when Miss Bondfield reminds us that it is honourable. Its low status is the other side of the picture that we have already been looking at: the counterpart of the low value which is set on all the domestic activities of women. The indifference to unwanted births and unnecessary maternal and infant deaths is a sign of the same fact, and the provision of public funds to prevent them is one of the tests of it. The past year has shown little change in the old valuation; we have listened to much lip-service, but have seen little action towards a new ideal.

## "THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN 1930.

In April of last year fell the twenty-first anniversary of the birth of the *Common Cause*, which after the war added to its title *THE WOMAN'S LEADER*, by which it is now popularly known. On 15th April, 1909, the first number was published in Manchester with Mrs. H. M. Swanwick as Editor. We turn back with curiosity to the pages recording the exciting story of those bygone days. The New Year issue of 1910 corresponding to that printed to-day, wastes no space on retrospect. It plunges at once into ambitious schemes for the approaching General Election campaign when women's suffrage was before the country as never before in political history. Only those readers who are of an age to remember the campaign of January, 1910, can really appreciate the enormity of the change betwixt Now and Then. The succeeding numbers, more richly illustrated than is possible for us, show an interesting series of portraits of distinguished Parliamentary supporters, many of whom are still living and still our friends. Some, however, of the early contributors are no longer with us; chief among these is Dame Millicent Fawcett, the first Chairman of our Board of Directors, then in the fullness of strength preparing for the great International Alliance to be held in London. Many whose names appear frequently have in the intervening years risen to

distinction. The first editor is recognized to-day as an authority of the first rank on International affairs, and has served as a delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations. At least two early contributors now have seats in the House of Commons, and many others have filled offices unbelievably remote in 1909. "Younger suffragists" of that day, known to us by different names, mothers of tall sons and daughters, are now in the forefront of the movement. This is as it ought to be. One of these has taken Dame Millicent's place as Chairman of our Board. Three others serve on the Editorial Board, and still another is President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to which this paper still looks for its policy.

Having looked into the past, we turn to the future. After twenty-one years which have seen the achievement of equal franchise, is our work complete? The answer to this question is to be found in the pages of our paper throughout the year which has just closed. On 9th April, almost exactly twenty-one years after the issue of the first number of *The Common Cause*, we printed the first Townswomen's Guild monthly number. In October, a step forward was taken, and a supplementary four-page cover, containing articles and news of special interest to the Guilds, enclosed our normal eight pages. In November, this cover appeared in the familiar green hue of the colours of the National Union, giving just that touch of distinction which the new monthly issue had hitherto lacked. The result of this adventure clearly marks the line of future advance. The friends and supporters of past years are disappearing in the course of time. The "suffragist" of yesterday is the voter of to-day, and she exercises her vote and its accompanying privileges and obligations at a time of unprecedented perplexity. *THE WOMAN'S LEADER AND COMMON CAUSE* must help her, and the successful experiment of the Townswomen's Guilds in co-operating to issue special monthly numbers shows that such help is appreciated. It remains for the future to show what kind of fare the women of the Guilds can digest without inconvenience. The experienced reader of our paper accustomed to politics without party, with appetite sharpened in the suffrage fight or even the post-war struggle for the removal of the more obvious legal and economic inequalities between the sexes, has no use for nursery pap. But can the new reader assimilate the strong meat she craves for? The new reader is younger, less experienced, but what she lacks in experience, she gains in vigour and freshness of outlook. We shall be surprised if a different diet will long be required.

It only remains to express our grateful thanks to both our regular and our occasional contributors, to guarantors for their generous support, and we add to these a new group—the leaders and organizers of the Townswomen's Guild movement. May we close by suggesting that our older regular subscribers should take the twelve page monthly number<sup>1</sup> with the green cover and watch the development of the Guilds, and that the Guild subscribers should, in turn, subscribe to the weekly paper, and keep fully in touch from week to week with the critical events of the coming year.

## OBITUARY.

Those of our readers who are accustomed to attend the annual council meetings of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship will find that 1930 has taken a heavy toll of its old and active participants. The familiar figure of Miss Milton will no longer confront the platform from the front row. Miss Wilkie, active feminist and firm friend of animals, will no longer come up from North London. And what the Birkenhead delegation will do without Mrs. Abraham, old perhaps in years, but eternally young in energy and racy humour, we do not know. It is somehow characteristic of Mrs. Abraham's life that she should have met her death in a climbing accident, and it is perhaps selfish to express regret when people who would never gladly tolerate decrepitude or inactivity, pass swiftly and unceremoniously from the scene. Bolton has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of Mrs. Agnew; Petersfield by the death of Mrs. Hanna; St. Pancras by the death of Miss Lily Boileau. And not only the N.U.S.E.C. Council, but all assemblies where feminists are gathered together for keen discussion and the promotion of active work, will seem strangely unfamiliar by reason of the absence of Miss Sarah Clegg of the London and National Society for Women's Service. Seldom has more consistent and unostentatious support been given to any cause, than was given to the feminist cause by Miss Clegg—year in, year out.

<sup>1</sup> Regular subscribers can have the monthly copy with the green cover for 1s. a year.



It is to be expected that the generation of pioneer women should, as the twentieth century winds on its way, pass from the scene of their successful and enduring labours. With the death of Dame Mary Scharlieb in November, one of the most brilliant of the first generation of women doctors disappeared, and in April, with the death of Miss Constance Smith, a pioneer woman factory inspector departed. Meanwhile a great company of veteran suffragists and personal friends have gone to join Dame Millicent Fawcett: Miss Lees of Edinburgh, Miss Mary Burnett of Glasgow, Mrs. M. L. Atkinson with her peculiar quality of radiating energy and interest, and Miss Mabel Holland whose Victorian gentleness of speech and movement accorded more accurately with the old house which she inhabited in old Kensington, than with the modernity and tenacity of her feminist faith.

It is with a more acute and unrestful quality of regret that we record the death of Mrs. Corner—a young feminist, whose work in the national and international field was full of promise, and in the full tide of its vigour.

In public life outside the feminist movement, two great men who dared to be suffragists in pre-war days before women's suffrage became a popular cause, are no longer on the scene. Lord Balfour, a friend to our cause and to many other good causes, died full of years, his work done. But Lord Melchett,

whose death occurred a few days before these notes went to Press, might have expected a longer term of fruitful and significant activity. His efforts to secure a working partnership between capital and labour for the discussion of post-war problems of industry will cause his death to be regretted among all who care for industrial peace.

And in removing many of our friends, 1930 has removed also one of the most formidable of our enemies, Lord Birkenhead. He used to hit us fair and square. There was no cant about his enmity, and no sentimentalism. We have always preferred that kind of enemy.

### THE KEY OF PROGRESS

A Survey of the Status and Conditions of Women in India

By SEVERAL CONTRIBUTORS

With a Foreword by H.E. THE LADY IRWIN

Edited by A. R. CATON

Published by the Oxford University Press under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

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#### SINGING PARTY.

AN INTERESTING EVENT—NEWHAVEN CHOIR WINS  
FIRST PRIZE.

A "singing party" arranged in connection with local Towns-  
women's Guilds, was held at the Malthouse, Cooksbridge, on  
Friday, 28th November, and proved both interesting and  
successful.

The chief item on the programme was a singing competition  
for choirs of eight ladies, open to Guilds in the district, and the  
competitors were East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Moulscombe,  
and Newhaven. The adjudicator was Miss Nancy Tennant, of  
the National Federation of Women's Institutes, who, at the close  
of the competition, gave a helpful criticism of the choirs' efforts.  
She took the place of Mrs. Lampson, who had arranged to be  
present, but who unfortunately was prevented from so doing  
owing to another engagement.

This was the first event of its kind arranged in connection  
with Guilds, and it is interesting to note that it was in Cooks-  
bridge that the first singing competition took place which led to  
the successful annual Musical Festival arranged in connection  
with the East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes now held  
at Lewes.

Sir Hubert Parry's composition, "England," had been chosen  
as the competitive work and, in addition, the Moulscombe  
Choir rendered "Be gone, dull care," and the Newhaven Choir  
the well-known "Londonderry Air."

Results: 1st, Newhaven, 90 marks; 2nd Moulscombe, 85  
marks; 3rd, East Grinstead, 83 marks; and 4th, Haywards  
Heath, 81 marks.

After the choirs had sung Miss Tennant said she had enjoyed  
their efforts immensely. She hoped those taking part would  
understand that her criticism would only be with the idea of  
helping them in their next competition. The singers were  
rather inclined to be too keen on looking at their music and with  
watching their conductor. She recommended that with short  
pieces like the one selected those taking part should make a point  
of learning the words off by heart. It was not very difficult and  
was all a question of confidence.

In general, Miss Tennant said as that was their first singing  
party she thought the standard was extraordinarily high. It  
was a fine thing to know that the Lewes Festival was started at  
Cooksbridge, for now it was the envy of all the other counties.  
They heard of it as being a model. (Applause.)

Lady Monk Bretton, in handing the awards to the choirs,  
welcomed the visitors to Cooksbridge. She referred to the  
regretted absence of Mrs. Godman and said it was in 1919 that  
lady offered a prize for the Women's Institute that got the  
highest mark for singing "Now is the month of maying."

Community singing, led by Miss Tennant, brought the  
interesting event to a happy conclusion.

#### Inexpensive Crafts for Guilds. (Continued from page ii.)

To include simple methods of dyeing—where waste materials  
are to be employed.

(3) *Dressmaking for Children.*—Featuring particularly the  
use of old garments, and clothes from the use of oddments of  
material.

(4) *Toy-making.*—A scheme to include the use of waste  
materials to make popular toys.

(a) *Soft Toys* from cloth, old woollen and silk stockings,  
etc., such as Gollywogs, Rabbits, Rag Dolls, and Knitted Toys.  
(b) *Working Toys* from waste material, roundabouts,  
rocking cradles, lorries, trucks, from household waste with the  
added purchase of perhaps wooden wheels, etc.

(c) *Model Farms*, the houses, sheds, fences, and some animals  
to be made from waste or cheap materials.

(5) *Simple Upholstery.*—Particularly the repair section and  
the use again of waste material in alliance with other crafts.

(6) *Chair Seating.*—In rush, sea-grass and cane seating.

(7) *Raffia Work.*—I advise this craft because the outlay is  
very small and really beautiful work both in canvas work and  
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### THE FEBRUARY SUPPLEMENT

The ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
SINGING FOR GUILDS  
COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS  
BULB COMPETITIONS

#### TWO YEARS OF TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILDS.

When two years ago the idea was first discussed of forming  
Townswomen's Guilds, we were met by a fire of criticism ending  
in a wail that there were far too many organizations already,  
and that all possible wants of all possible people were already  
adequately provided for.

The criticism was answered by the question were the younger  
women joining the older groups? were they carrying on the  
work of their mothers and aunts? and if not, why not?

It seemed pretty evident that the younger women needed a  
society of rather a different type, with a wider basis of interest.

The experiment was therefore begun in January, 1929, and  
Mrs. Clowes, who was already the parent of so many women's  
institutes, agreed to help us as organizer. By the annual council  
meeting in March, five Guilds had been formed, and after long  
discussion, it was evident that the Council welcomed the new  
societies, and the movement was launched. We hope the five  
pioneer Guilds, Burnt Oak, Haywards Heath, East Grinstead,  
Moulscombe, and Romsey, will hold their heads high in pride  
of place.

As members of the N.U.S.E.C. executive were specialists on  
feminist citizenship rather than other aspects of the new pro-  
gramme, special organization and education committees were  
set up, and these committees had the immense advantage of  
help from such well-known leaders as Mrs. Watt, Lady Denman,  
the Viscountess Erleigh, and Lady Trevelyan.

The work grew out of hand at once, it was impossible to  
satisfy the requests for Guilds without the help of extra organizers,  
and in the autumn an appeal for funds was started by a wonder-  
fully representative committee, under the presidency of the Lady  
Cynthia Colville, with the influential backing of Sir William  
Plender.

Among the vice-presidents were women of every political  
party, of every social movement, of every intellectual interest.

Lady Denman generously gave us the first county meeting in her  
lovely garden, so that Sussex started the ball rolling which should  
gather £15,000. Then Lady Melchett followed with a Hampshire  
meeting, the Hon. Mrs. Roland Cubitt and Mrs. Philip Snowden  
encouraged us in their beautiful houses to beg for Surrey and for  
London, and this autumn the Hon. Mrs. Compton has raised  
enough funds to organize Yorkshire.

We were extremely fortunate in enlisting Miss Elizabeth  
Acland Allen as hon. secretary for the Guilds. Lightly  
promising three mornings a week, she was soon working full  
time, overtime, and Saturdays, but the Guilds she helped will  
not forget her.

At the end of 1929, Mrs. Grey, Miss U. Millett, Miss A.  
Williams, Mrs. Pedler, Miss Bury and Miss M. Williams were  
working for us, and by March we had the pleasure of welcoming  
thirty Guilds to the annual council meeting, including one in  
Scotland (Stonehaven) and one in Northumberland (Tweed-  
mouth and Spittal).

Generous gifts from City companies helped us to go on, and  
Guilds were started in Lancashire and Derbyshire in May, 1929.  
We now have seventy-seven Guilds with many in process of  
formation, and the proceeds of the magnificent ball organized  
by Mrs. Ernest Shaw and a wonderful committee has carried  
on the work until the end of the year. By next Council meeting  
we expect to pass the first hundred mark.

A little more help and drive, a little more begging for funds,  
and the movement will be so important as to grow by its own  
power, but even a hundred guilds scattered among the 600 towns  
needing them, cannot carry the whole weight just yet.

Sussex has again led the way, and has formed a county  
committee so that the Sussex Guilds may help one  
another and assist Headquarters in forming new Guilds in  
that county.

County conferences have also been held in Hants, Warwick-  
shire, Buckinghamshire, and London, and delegates have been  
immensely interested in discussing common problems.

A conference of London Guilds on local government was  
largely attended. London heads the list with ten Guilds, Hants  
and Lancashire tie with eight apiece, and Sussex has seven.

The campaign in Scotland is well under way, and will flourish  
we hope, especially in the coming year.

The Guilds have proved an unqualified success, their pro-  
grammes which include mothercraft and citizenship, handicrafts  
and home-making, have struck the imagination of the public  
and of the Press.

Each officer and each member seems to realize that they are  
pioneers in a great national movement. Like, and yet unlike,  
older societies, the Guilds attempt to fill the modern woman's  
craving for wider interests, wider knowledge, wider friendships,  
and greater responsibilities. MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.



## GUILD NEWS.

## NORTH KENSINGTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.

*First Annual Report.*

*Inauguration.* The Guild was formed on the initiative of the Kensington and Paddington Society for Equal Citizenship, an *ad hoc* sub-committee of which organized a meeting in St. James's Parish Hall, Wilsham Street, on Wednesday, 20th November, 1929, Chairman: Lady Maurice. There was an attendance of about 150 people, and a resolution to form a Guild was carried unanimously. It was decided to hold meetings on Wednesdays at the same hour and in the same place, the next one to be on 4th December, 1929.

*Programmes.* Two printed programmes have been drawn up and issued in advance, each covering six months of the Guild's year of life.

*Monthly Meetings.* A meeting has been held in each month, excepting August. Each meeting has included Business, Headquarter's announcements, a Citizenship address (by a member of the K. & P.S.E.C. Committee), and a practical talk or demonstration. Under the last heading, the following subjects have been dealt with: The History of Kensington (Miss Pickton); A Holiday in Sweden (Mrs. Gun); Cookery (Miss Watson); Sea-Grass Stool Making (Miss Mills); Home Nursing (Miss Jocelyn); The Life of Dame Millicent Fawcett (Miss Macadam); Dress-cutting (Miss Lipman); Indoor Gardening (Mr. William Stewart); and Handicrafts (Miss Evans). A useful and profitable feature of the meetings since February has been the Trading Stall. On several occasions friends have organized music, singing, dancing and games, and various competitions have been held, based on a previous talk or demonstration.

*Citizenship.* The following subjects have been dealt with under heading "Citizenship": Non-Party Politics; The N.U.S.E.C. Annual Council Meeting; Women Police; Films Shown to Children; The League of Nations; The Problems of India; Maternal Mortality. By request of members, demands for action have twice been addressed to the authorities concerned. In April, the L.C.C. was asked to forbid the exhibition of "adult" films at performances attended by children; and in October the Minister of Health and the local Member were informed that the Guild desired the provision of a National Maternity Service.

*Pembroke Lodge Meeting.* By the generosity of Mrs. Corbett, a very happy gathering took place in June at Pembroke Lodge. Miss Evelyn Sharp spoke on Country Dancing and a delightful display was given by dancers who accompanied her. A Produce Stall brought in a handsome sum.

*Outings.* In July the Guild was invited by Sir John Fitzgerald to visit Warren House Farm, Stanmoor. The 43 members who accepted the invitation travelled by special motor bus and greatly enjoyed the afternoon.

*Membership.* The membership has steadily increased and now numbers 100.

*N.U.S.E.C. Council Meeting.* The Guild was represented by two delegates at the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C.

*Handicrafts Exhibition.* In May the Guild entered ten articles made by members for a Handicrafts Exhibition at Canning Town, and secured the fourth place in its class with 84 marks.

*Press Publicity.* The *Kensington News* publishes reports of all meetings; notices also appear in THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

*Thanks.* Thanks are offered to all those friends, too numerous to mention, who have spoken, demonstrated, recited, sung, led games, judged competitions, given prizes and articles to be sold for the funds, acted as sellers and tea helpers, organized one or other of the varied activities and generally by their spirit of goodwill helped to make the Guild the happy centre of social life and civic activity in North Kensington that it aims at becoming.

## NEWHAVEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.

*Annual Report.*

Membership, 70; 16 monthly meetings held, average attendance 45; 8 committee meetings.

During the year 8 speakers have visited the Guild and dealt with subjects very interesting and educational.

The Stall has done very good work during the year, and it is hoped further progress will be made.

Competitions of various kinds have been arranged and a very keen interest taken by the members.

Exhibitions, including Embroideries, Jugs, Teapots and Babies' Garments, etc., proved very successful.

Handicrafts. One class was held this year, when Grass Stools were made, and judged by Miss Clowes.

Monthly Letter. Miss M. M. E. Coker undertook to explain these letters to the Guild.

Woman's Leader. 24 copies sold monthly.

Song, "England." The Guild Choir, under the conductorship of Mrs. W. G. Sargeant, competed at Cooksbridge and gained first place with 90 marks.

Country Dance Class held Tuesday weekly at 3 o'clock in the Gymnasium, Church Room. These classes are very enjoyable. It is agreed that each member will propose a new one this year and that the Guild will work with unity as in the previous year.

## RINGWOOD TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.

*First Annual Report.*

At "Greyfriars," the residence of Mrs. Christy (Vice-President), on 28th January, 1930, the idea of a Townswomen's Guild for Ringwood was discussed and considered by representatives of various women's organizations in the town. This was followed

by a public meeting in the Old Hall on 17th February, 1930, over which Mrs. J. D. Mills presided, and at which Mrs. Clowes, organizer of Townswomen's Guilds, gave an explanatory address. It was decided that a Guild should be formed in Ringwood, and it was resolved that meetings should be held on the first Tuesday in each month. 4th March was the meeting in which enrolment of members took place, the number that day being 48, and the following meetings have gradually added to that number, membership to date being a total of 70.

Parry's "England," words from Shakespeare's "King Richard II" by John O'Grant, is the song selected for Townswomen's Guild meetings.

The subjects dealt with in the lectures have been varied and listened to with interest. Miss Williams (Romsey), "Dress Through the Ages," illustrated by drawings. The Rev. H. M. Livens (Totland Bay, I.O.W.), "Birds in the Garden" and practical hints on how to scare birds off the fruit and vegetables in the garden. Mrs. Cobbett (Burton Vicarage) described "Character by Hand." A Garden Meeting was held in July at "White Gates" by kind permission of the Chairman, Mrs. Payne; speaker: Miss Fowler, of Winchester, on "The Work of the League of Nations." In October Mrs. Christy spoke on "Fairs," ancient and modern. The speaker picturesquely described the ancient custom of "Merrie England" associated with the fairs in their respective counties. Demonstrations have been given in stool seating, with sea-grass, the possibilities of an electrical cooker, and cooking in a "Quick Fri" pan. The social part of the afternoon proceedings has been in the form of various competitions, gramophone selections, and tea is served by the ladies of the tea committee. Delegates were sent to the Conference of Townswomen's Guilds at Southampton.

The average attendance of members at the meetings have been 35. This Guild has representation on the Committee of the "Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre." THE WOMAN'S LEADER, including a Supplement for Townswomen's Guilds, is sold at the meetings. A substantial sum of money has been added to our funds by means of a Gift Stall each month and a successful Whist Drive held in November.

## STONEHAVEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.

*First Annual Report.*

The Inaugural Meeting was held in the Upper Town Hall, Stonehaven, on Monday, 17th February, 1930. Chairman: Miss Burgess, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., J.P., then member of the Aberdeen Education Authority and the Aberdeen Parish Council. This meeting took the form of a Model Guild Meeting. Miss Bury, Parliamentary Secretary, gave an address on Parliamentary and Local Government. A demonstration on Leather Work was given by Miss Lothian, and it was agreed to hold the monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 p.m. The Monthly Letter was read at each meeting.

*March.* Speaker: Miss Henderson, of the Town and County Club, who gave a Lantern Lecture "With Dr. Elsie Inglis in Serbia." Demonstration: Sealing Wax Craft, Miss Ferguson, Aberdeen. Singer: Miss Callan. 57 new members were enrolled; total membership 136.

*April.* Open Meeting. Mr. G. E. Greenhowe, of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, on "Gardening," illustrated with lantern slides. A musical programme took the place of a demonstration. Total membership 147.

*May.* Speaker: Miss Fulton, from the Occupation Therapy Department of the Royal Mental Hospital, Aberdeen. Subject: spoke on the work done by the patients. Specimens of work were shown. Demonstration by Miss Oliver on pastry making. Singer: Miss Scatterty. At this meeting, Mrs. Jolly, on behalf of the members of the Guild, presented to Mrs. Cromar Bruce a gold wrist watch and a travelling rug on the occasion of her leaving for Canada. Expressions of regret were coupled with tributes of praise for the splendid work she had done in organizing the Guild. Total membership 165.

*June.* Speaker: Mrs. Trail, President of the Women Citizens, Aberdeen. Subject: "Mother of Parliaments." Demonstration by Miss Scatterty: Summer Salads. Soloist: Miss Jean Donald. Total membership 172.

*July.* An outing to Craibston Experimental Farm.

*August.* Holiday month.

*September.* Speaker: Miss Burgess, Aberdeen. Subject: "Women and Public Work." Demonstration by Mrs. Hunter: "How to Bone a Fowl." Soloist: Miss A. J. Cormack. Total membership 174.

*October.* Speaker: Dr. Mary Esslement, Aberdeen, on "Medical Work of the League of Nations." Report on the Autumn Week-end School by Mrs. O'Connor, Stonehaven. Demonstration by representatives from the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Total membership 185.

*November.* Speaker: Mrs. Johnstone, Laurencekirk. Subject: "Local Government." Demonstration on Basketry by Miss Muriel Low. Soloist: Mrs. Gordon Mowat. Total membership 201.

During the winter, in addition to the monthly meetings, the following classes were organized by the Guild: (1) A Study Circle; (2) A Scottish Country Dancing Class and (3) An Art Needlework Class. These classes are well attended and self-supporting. In addition to the foregoing meetings, nine committee meetings have been held at which the Guild's business was transacted.

[Many reports have been held over owing to lack of space.—ED.]