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THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

LETTERS TO A NEW VOTER.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXI. No. 1. Twopence.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, February 8, 1929.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and Abroad, 10/10.
Common Cause Publishing Co., 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1

NOTES AND NEWS.

Voters, Watch the Lists!

It is most urgent that all qualified voters should examine now the election lists which have been published and are posted in such public buildings as the Town Hall, etc. Objections must be made before 9th February, and claims before 16th February in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and claims and objections before 2nd March in Scotland. With the very large increase in the electorate, unavoidable errors are sure to have crept in, and it is, therefore, particularly important that everyone should examine them carefully.

Unemployed Women and the Formula.

Another small mercy has emerged from last week's Committee stage of the Local Government Bill, in the shape of a concession by Mr. Chamberlain in connection with the formula for the weighting of population in the calculation of Exchequer grants to local authorities. It will be remembered that in the Bill, as originally introduced, the factor of unemployment as comprised in the formula, related only to the number of unemployed *men* in relation to the total population. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence was the original sponsor of a demand that unemployed *women* should also be included, and this found ready response in textile areas where large numbers of women are normally employed, and where their unemployment creates a special local need of the same kind as unemployment among men. On this demand Mr. Chamberlain has compromised. Unemployed women are to count as a factor, but only to the extent of 10 per cent of their number, on the ground that having fewer dependents they are a correspondingly smaller burden on their locality. A vigorous plea for equality of treatment was made by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, but his attempt to secure it was defeated by 199 to 101.

Local Government (Scotland) Bill.

Now that the Local Government (Scotland) Bill is being considered in committee, every effort is being made by the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to have it amended on the same lines as those amendments which women's organizations had hoped to see adopted in the English Bill. For example, another attempt will be made to have removed from the block grant the public health services, particularly those for child welfare and maternity work. There is, further, the anomaly in the formula for determining the weighted population, and it is hoped that unemployed insured women equally with men will be taken into account. The Bill already provides for the inclusion of women on committees for education, and amendments will be introduced to extend this principle to all the statutory committees which can be set up under the Bill.

Equal Pay in the Civil Service.¹

In answer to a question by Sir Walter de Frece, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave an answer which has caused considerable

¹ See Questions in Parliament, page 4.

surprise. The answer was the stock Treasury answer, that he could not see his way to instituting equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service as "the present state of the country's finances will not admit of the great increase of expenditure involved." This answer has served for eight years—ever since the House of Commons definitely approved and adopted the principle itself, in fact, and, though unwelcome from Mr. Churchill, it is not particularly surprising. But what is new—and intolerable—is what he proceeded to add, namely that this was the settled policy of the present Government. He implied that owing to "recent representations" the subject had been reconsidered, and redecided on these lines; but in spite of the authority and dignity of an answer given from the Front Bench we venture to disbelieve it. Unequal pay has indeed been the policy of all Governments up to now, but that this Government should have taken a fresh decision to adhere to it on the eve of an election in which women workers will predominate among the new voters is absolutely incredible. What has happened no doubt is that the Treasury has wished to reaffirm the unequal position; but we believe that it has overshot its mark. The system of allowing Government departments to dictate policy is highly unpopular in the House and in the country; and this matter of equal pay is policy, not administration. The Government will certainly have to take a decision about it; but it must take more into consideration than the Treasury attitude when it does so.

The Public Demand.

The actual demand for equal pay is much more widespread than Mr. Churchill seems as yet to be aware. Not only are the women's organizations all over the country fully alive to the need, but the whole of the Civil Service itself is urgently pressing for the reform. The men in the Civil Service are as determined to secure it as the women, and there is an absolutely unanimous demand for the establishment of a Select Committee to make public inquiry into the various methods of bringing it into force, and the cost of each of them. Five years ago an inquiry made by the Federation of Women Civil Servants revealed the fact that one of the possible methods of procedure would involve an initial cost of only £200,000—a cost which surely even our present diminished resources would face. At the same date an unpublished Treasury inquiry gave an estimate of 12 millions; so there is obviously need for a real investigation and a bona fide publication of the possibilities. The Government must realize that the demand for this is not only widespread but passionate. If the Conservative Party wishes to keep the goodwill of the new voters it must treat this question, which vitally and personally concerns them, with proper seriousness and respect. And the treatment hitherto accorded to the matter of equal pay has been ignorant, casual, and tortuous. To paraphrase Mr. Churchill's words, the present state of the Government's credit will not admit of the great increase of hostility involved in a continued refusal to deal with this vital issue honestly, publicly, and justly.

Maternal Mortality.

Last week Mr. Neville Chamberlain was the principal guest at a public lunch given in connection with the Queen Charlotte's Hospital Maternal Mortality Campaign, by Lady Howard de Walden. In a subsequent address to the guests, he submitted some of the outstanding facts and figures of the problem. In all, he said, two million per annum public money goes on the maternity and child welfare service—divided equally between the rates and taxes. In addition, a large sum, difficult to measure, was being spent on the same service from voluntary sources. On the whole, we were, he thought, "getting very good value for our money." Infant mortality had fallen heavily since the

service was instituted: from 132 per 1,000 in 1906 to 65 in 1928. Maternal mortality had, however, remained roughly constant over the same period, at round about four deaths per 1,000 births, with a slight tendency, indeed, to rise. It was, he said, "one of the most baffling problems that we have to deal with." He is right—it is a baffling problem. Equally baffling is the extraordinary reluctance of the public to spend money on its solution. Two million is a niggardly sum compared with the hundreds of millions spent annually on the fighting services. Even among the social services it is a minor item. And now Mr. Chamberlain has himself cramped its future expansion by withdrawing the stimulus of the percentage grant. We should, perhaps, find it easier to forgive him for that blow if he would, for a time at least, refrain from verbal expressions of sympathy with the service he has treated so badly.

Solicitation and Annoyance.

There has lately been a tendency among London magistrates to hesitate to convict women who are brought before them charged with soliciting to the annoyance of passengers on police evidence only. In some cases the accused women have been discharged by the magistrate on account of the weakness of the evidence of annoyance, or because the alleged annoyance was very slight. According to Press reports this has happened three times during the last week at Marlborough Street Police Court. On the first occasion Mr. Mead dismissed a charge against two girls brought by a policewoman because "the alleged annoyance is very slight. I do not think it is sufficiently grave to allow me to convict either of these women of this serious charge". The next day he again dismissed a charge of soliciting brought by a policewoman on the ground that there was no proof that more than one person had been annoyed and the Act required "annoyance to passengers". A day or two later Mr. Mead took the trouble to point out to a policewoman (who was giving evidence against a young woman for soliciting) the exact state of the law and the proper attitude of the police towards solicitation, which he pointed out was not a criminal offence. All this is to the good, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Mead's example will be followed by other magistrates and that he himself will be equally vigilant in judging similar cases brought before him by the men of the police force.

Child Marriage in India.

On Tuesday of last week the Indian Legislative Assembly voted by 53 votes to 34 for the adjournment *sine die* of Mr. Sarda's Bill for the prohibition of child marriage. The Bill defined child marriage as marriage under the age of 18 years for boys and 14 years for girls. It sought, not to invalidate such marriages, but to impose penalties upon the participants. It had, as a matter of fact, undergone radical alteration at the hands of two Select Committees of the Assembly. During the early part of the debate, the opposition to the Bill took the form of technical and constitutional objections, and these assaults it managed to survive. Defeat came, however, with a proposal to postpone the Bill "on the grounds that the Assembly having agreed in regard to the age of consent the Committee should await its report." The Government and most of its supporters upheld this view, a motion for postponement being finally carried by the majority above mentioned. This action led to angry accusations of Government connivance at the continuance of child marriage. We ourselves hesitate to criticize the action of the Government in this particular case, owing to insufficient knowledge of the precise scope of the Bill and the chances of more effective action at a later date. But, on the face of it—and from the publicity point of view—the Government's action appears as a deplorable mistake. Any delaying action of the kind that may be tactically necessary, and we are giving the Government the benefit of any doubt as to its real necessity, should be carried through with some show of positive intention. To judge from Press reports in this country, it appears to have adopted a purely negative attitude. If this impression has also been created in India, the Hindu reform parties have a very real grievance.

The Forty-eight Hour Convention.

We are glad to see that Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck has been asking the Minister of Labour to speed up the preparation of the British Government's proposals for the revision of the Forty-eight Hours Convention of the I.L.O., so that they could be submitted to the other Governments concerned in good time before the discussion of the draft report in March. Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland replied in effect that he could see no cause for hurry, as "the question is coming up in any case at the beginning of March." This answer appears to evade the whole purpose of Lord Henry's inquiry, and appears wholly unsatisfactory.

The Problem of the Mining Areas.

It is well known that the Royal Family have for a long time been deeply concerned by the extent of distress in the mining areas. It is an open secret that the initiation of the Lord Mayor's Fund was due to a suggestion made by the Queen and the visit of the Prince of Wales to the North last week has thrown a new and very desirable flashlight of publicity on the conditions which still prevail though the fund has been in operation for many months. While we appreciate the methodical working of the relief scheme and the dissipation of the confusion threatened at the beginning of the winter, we cannot feel altogether satisfied. It was elicited in the House of Commons last week that of the total sum subscribed amounting to £623,000, excluding the fifty-fifty treasury grant, only £216,277 had been expended. In the House of Commons, Mr. Ernest Brown asked if there were any women members on the Central Executive Committee, and the reply was in the negative, and indeed while we appreciate what has been done in the way of more efficient organization, we believe that women would speed things up. The situation revealed in the reports of the Prince's visit is intolerable, and money given for its relief should not be hoarded. We recognize the difficulties, and we still hope that the visit of the Prince may lead to something more constructive than mere relief. Meanwhile the situation is a little brighter in South Wales; several collieries have reopened.

Equal Pay in France.

A correspondent quotes the following from *Industrial and Labour Information*, January, 1929: "A Conference was held in Paris in March, 1928, attended by French and Polish Government delegates, at which certain regulations were made relating to the emigration of Polish agricultural workers into France. With reference to Polish women employed in agriculture in France, it was decided that as a matter of principle these women should not be employed on work which is considered to belong to men, and that if they were so employed they should receive remuneration equal to that of men." Equal pay, of course! The French are a logical nation. The second decision appears to nullify the first.

Broadcasting for Women Voters.

We draw our readers' attention to the talks and discussions to be broadcast during February and March which should prove specially interesting. These are the fortnightly "Questions for Women Voters," from 7 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays, when well-known speakers debate on topical controversial subjects somewhat on the lines of our own former series of "Burning Questions." The woman's commentary by Mrs. Oliver Strachey from 5 XX only, on Wednesdays, a weekly survey of recent events, and the series entitled "How to study Social Questions," by Mrs. Sidney Webb, which will begin on 6th March, should prove especially valuable. Miss M. E. Green contributes six talks on health in the home; Mrs. M. M. Priestley on reading for busy women, with a view specially to the needs of members of Women's Institutes. Besides these are weekly talks arranged in collaboration with public departments, including two on international affairs. From Daventry only, Mrs. Crofts, M.A., continues her important series of twelve talks on how the law affects our home, seven of which are still to be delivered. We hope to select from week to week the subjects of such talks and we urge our readers to make them known as widely as possible as valuable means of education of the woman voter about whom everyone is talking. While grateful for all that the B.B.C. is doing in this respect, we cannot help wondering why the women's commentary and Mrs. Croft's talks on law and the home are only available from Daventry 5 XX. This rules out from participation in this privilege many hearers.

This Week's Issue—the Education of the "New Voter."

We print this week the first of a set of letters from an "Old Voter" to a new voter. We hope that they will be widely read in circles inside which THE WOMAN'S LEADER is not habitually read. We invite questions and correspondence, and propose to offer book prizes for the best answers to the questions which have been set. If of sufficient interest and merit we propose to print some of these answers. Fuller particulars with regard to answers to questions will be given in our next issue. Another feature of interest is the careful summary of the Local Government Bill for England and Wales, which has now completed Committee stage. It is not easy to find one's way through the intricacies of the Bill, and Miss Mason's abstract deserves close study on the part of all women voters too busy to read Hansard or wade through newspaper reports of debates.

WOMEN IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

The report of the Senate Committee on this subject—outlined in our last issue—has been followed by important letters in *The Times* by Sir A. G. Anderson, Dr. Graham Little, and Lady Rhondda. The first of these, writing as Chairman of the London School of Medicine for Women, points out that whatever be the general merits of co-education, the students of the Women's School are not merely trained, but "have the opportunity of competing for those staff appointments which are the key to the best medical practice." Dr. Graham Little, arguing in favour of the solution put forward in the Committee's report—that a quota of women should be admitted to the other medical schools—points out that the majority of the responsible staff at the Royal Free Hospital are men, and claims "that the question of staff appointments for women at schools hitherto 'run exclusively for men' may be . . . wisely postponed." Whatever their views upon the quota system, which at best can only be an inferior and invidious substitute for real equality of opportunity, and however grateful they may feel for his valiant and persistent championship of the principle of co-education—our readers will agree with us in emphatically rejecting Dr. Graham Little's conclusion on the question of staff appointments. The principle of selection in Royal Free Hospital appointments is, or ought to be, one of complete equality of opportunity. So long as the vast majority of medical practitioners are men, and so long as the vast majority of the best opportunities of obtaining medical experience are exclusively reserved for men, it is only too likely that even under a system of equal opportunity a majority of responsible appointments will fall to men. But that gives no reason for concluding that, in proportion to their numbers, fewer women than men are capable of holding these higher posts. We doubt whether even at the hospitals which temporarily admitted women as students and have now ceased to do so, women candidates for posts other than the lowest have been encouraged to apply or considered on their merits when they did apply.

Yet in all these hospitals, as in the Royal Free, the patients are of both sexes. There are doubtless some among them, both men and women, who prefer to see at their bedsides physicians and surgeons of their own sex, while there are also some to whom the question of sex is indifferent. Both groups deserve to have their wishes and feelings in this matter respected, for the

THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.¹

The question of the protection of Minorities does not grow less pressing as time passes on from the date of the signing of the Treaties for the facts underlying it penetrate into the most vital aspects of life—domestic, religious, and educational. It is indeed at the moment one of the most important peace problems, not only because neglect is so dangerous where there are wounds to heal, but because the possibility of facing root difficulties with some hope of success, increases as the processes of Arbitration and Conciliation develop generally and the fear of war recedes.

As far back as 1921, Sr. Tittoni declared at Geneva that he regarded the protection of Minorities to be not only a "right but a duty," and Lord Balfour at the second Assembly of the League, gave point to this statement when he said "We have set up machinery for the protection of minorities and we mean that that machinery shall work." It would be foolish in any short statement to attempt to summarize the effect of the Treaties for the protection of Minorities; this depends so much on the general level of administration, and it is clear that in some countries improvement still lags far behind the standard set by the Treaties, and the Minorities feel that the protection promised them is inadequate. In others where the war mind is being replaced by more liberal feeling the outlook is much more hopeful and one can see far afield many interesting developments, most of which can be traced directly or indirectly to the influence of the League of Nations. For instance in Upper Silesia under the Convention of 1922, the civil rights of Minorities have been more completely elaborated than in any other text and the machinery for securing them includes a mixed Commission and Tribunal for arbitration and conciliation purposes respectively, with the right of final resort through the Government to the League Council: by the Austro-Czech Convention, also a Court of Arbitration is provided for dealing with Minority disputes; in Estonia advanced laws of cultural autonomy have been adopted, and elsewhere special provisions have been made in the Constitutions of various countries for safeguarding minority rights. It is in the results of these and similar develop-

patients' ease of mind and confidence in his or her medical practitioner must inevitably be an important element in the chance of recovery; further, this is true not merely of hospital patients, but of the private patients who will reap the benefit of the experience gained in hospital. These considerations ought to be present to the mind of every member of a profession with the tremendous aims of the medical profession—a profession which has as its stakes ease or pain, health or sickness, life or death. Yet the evidence is only too clear that women in this matter are up against "one of the strongest and most jealously exclusive trade unions in this country." But they have this in their favour that within the gates of that trades union there are a not inconsiderable number of men whose own qualifications, aims, and ideals are high enough to set them above sex prejudice and jealousy, and who may be trusted to make our cause a 'Common Cause.'

But in the meantime women must not give anyone or any institution which champions their claim cause to say that they are ungrateful. We suggest that each one of our readers should take careful note both of individuals and of the hospitals that stand by women in this matter and should see to it that they gain and do not lose by their championship. There are men who have risked much professionally or otherwise in standing by women. Let them see that we have not forgotten it whenever the opportunity offers to show our gratitude. There is also the one hospital in London and some outside London to which women owe whatever facilities of training and of preference they have received. Lady Rhondda in a letter to *The Times* has urged the necessity for more widely extended clinical facilities at the Royal Free Hospital. We do not know this hospital's own aspirations for its future development. But in the meantime it needs, like all hospitals, a widely extended subscription list. Is it too much to suggest that every one of our readers, Londoners at least and where possible also those outside London, should become an annual subscriber even of a modest amount, at once, to this hospital; or that in choosing their own medical practitioners it shall not be forgotten that example is better than precept, and that those who express their belief in the future of women doctors cannot prove it better than by employing them.

ments that a great part of the interest of Minority problems lies, and further information is much needed.

At Geneva during successive sessions of the Council, and the Assembly the question of Minority procedure has been discussed, and outside the League various proposals for developing it have been put forward in the publications and at the Conferences of well-known International organizations especially interested in the subject, such as the International Law Association, the Interparliamentary Union, the Federation of League of Nations Societies, and at the recent meeting of the Minorities Congress at Geneva. The questions considered cover a wide range including the relation of minorities to judicial and conciliation procedure, improved methods of investigation into actual conditions, developments in local organization, facilities for fuller publicity and the establishment of a permanent Commission. On some of the proposals advocated there seems to be already a considerable similarity of opinion. In the League itself, recent cases of Minority petitions which have come before the Council and of numbers which have never reached it, have raised discussion on the difficulties which may arise if the Council is unduly burdened with the consideration of details "at a time when its members are overwhelmed with work," and at the last meeting at Lugano in December, M. Dandurand, Second Delegate for Canada, notified that he would raise the question of procedure to be followed in regard to Minority petitions at the next Session of the Council in March. The Session will be one of especial interest, for as Lord Parmoor said a month or two ago in the House of Lords, when speaking of the need for fuller publicity on the subject of Minorities, "Procedure is enormously important if you are to have a generally friendly and peaceful attitude throughout Europe. It can only be created through a long process of careful and sympathetic treatment."

It is in the hope of gaining information, and opportunities for

(Continued on p. 6.)

¹ Contributed on behalf of the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

LETTERS TO A NEW VOTER FROM AN OLD VOTER.—I.

DEAR MADAM,

I address you with diffidence, because I know very well that some new voters are elderly ladies of great wisdom and definite political views, holding responsible offices, who happen to be new voters merely because they have lived in furnished rooms, and were not entitled to vote until Mr. Baldwin's Franchise Act gave the vote to all women of twenty-one and over, whatever kind of rooms they may happen to live in. Why, therefore, should an old voter, who may after all be younger or less eminent, presume to address letters of advice or instruction to such new voters? I, for my part, do not intend to do that. I am going to suppose that my correspondent is not only a new voter, but also a young voter. Not only a young voter, but a voter who has not bothered about politics in the past because politics have not bothered about her, or because she has been too busy with other things—though what things she has been busy about I will not venture to suggest! And, by the way, I call her a *correspondent* rather than the victim of a monologue, because she can, if she chooses, answer me back in the correspondence columns of this paper. The only thing she cannot do is to tear up my letters and fling the pieces in my face—because my face will not be within reach. So now to business.

IS IT WORTH WHILE?

I think perhaps that one of the things that is apt to puzzle new voters of the kind I have in mind, is the question of whether all this voting is much catch after all. You go to Italy and you find that the Italians appear to get on very well with a Dictator, who does what he thinks best for his people without having to waste time in finding out what they think best for themselves—and probably most of them are too stupid to know. Indeed, if you go a little further than Italy you will find that a good many other countries seem to be coming to the same conclusion: Greece, Jugo-Slavia, and Spain (though Spain appears at the moment to be in some confusion of mind)—all seem to think that democracy, with its parliaments and parties, its speeches and elections, is, to say the least of it, a painful waste of time, and to say the most of it, an arrangement which brings the wrong people to the top merely because they are talkative or corrupt or too ready with promises which they cannot keep. That, at any rate, was the point of view expressed to me some months ago by a very young and very brilliant new voter, fresh from college. Democracy, she said, was no good. *Fascism* was the only way to get efficient government. By which she meant, I suppose, that King George V had better look about for the nearest thing to a Mussolini—some really efficient business magnate, perhaps—dissolve Parliament, and leave the new Mussolini to organize the country. And I have no doubt that in this young woman's opinion Mr. Baldwin's effort to bring every grown-up person into the scheme of democratic self-government, and all our own efforts to persuade him to do it, was so much dreary waste of effort.

PAINS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Now it is just possible that she was right in one respect. It is just possible that at any particular time we might be able to run the country more efficiently—certainly more cheaply in time and money—if we could manage to find the right kind of Mussolini, and "cut the cackle" of so-called self-government. But I am certain that she was on the whole more wrong than right for a good many reasons. And one of those reasons was this: She forgot that *efficient government at any particular moment is not the only object of democratic self-government*. Why—democratic self-government might produce a muddle as tangled as my youngest daughter's knitting and still be worth while. For it is one kind of education. It gives out something to those who take part in it—as cabinet ministers, M.P.s, town councillors, jurywomen, or even as mere voters. It gives them a sense of responsibility for what their country does and for what their country is. That may not be a very pleasant sensation. I do not myself find it at all a pleasant sensation when I read of the kind of things that the Prince of Wales saw last week in Durham. One does not care to feel in any way responsible for that. But with a feeling of responsibility, in spite of its pains (and perhaps because of them) there comes an impetus to acquire knowledge and play a self-reliant part in a corporate enterprise which the best of dictators cannot inspire, and for want of which the most efficient dictatorships, whether Fascist or Bolshevik, are like houses built upon sand.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

HOURS CONVENTION.—Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck asked the Minister of Labour when the governing body of the International Labour Organization meets in March to consider the draft Report on the Hours Convention prepared by the office the British Government representatives present the detailed proposals on the particular points on which the British Government desire revision; and whether he will arrange to circulate these proposals to foreign Governments at the earliest moment in order that their representatives may have exact knowledge of Great Britain's proposals when the draft Report is discussed in March.

Sir A. Steel-Maitland: The terms of the statement to be made on this occasion are still under consideration. In reaching their decision His Majesty's Government will take account of all the factors affecting the situation.

31st January, 1929.

LORD MAYOR'S FUND.—Mr. Ernest Brown asked the President of the Board of Education if there are any women members on the executive committee of the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund; and, if so, how many.

Lord E. Percy: There are no women serving on the joint executive committee of the Lord Mayor's Fund.

Mr. Brown: Will the Noble Lord consider the advisability of adding some women to the Committee?

Lord E. Percy: It is entirely a matter for those who appoint the members of the Committee. The voluntary organization who appoint half the members originally had two women members. They have now changed their representation. I really cannot interfere with their discretion.

WOMEN.—Sir W. de Frece asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the Government Departments to which for the first time women have been appointed within the last year; and whether, in view of the success of women candidates in the examinations, he will give further consideration to the adoption of the principle of equal pay for equal work, irrespective of sex in the Civil Service?

Mr. Churchill: Within the twelve months preceding the 28th January, 1929, women have been appointed from open competitive examinations for the first time in the capacities stated to the following Departments:—

Ministry of Transport: Junior Administrative Officer.
Customs and Excise: Executive Officer.
Inland Revenue: Executive Officer.
Ministry of Labour: Executive Officer.
Estate Duty Office: Assistant Examiner.
Exchequer and Audit Office: Assistant Auditor.

With regard to the last part of the question, His Majesty's Government have given renewed consideration to this matter in view of the representations recently made on the subject. They have, however, found it impossible to depart from the decision already announced both by this and by the late Government that the present state of the country's finances will not admit of the great increase of expenditure involved in the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service.

Viscountess Astor: Does that statement really carry out the sex equality which this Government passed—the Bill for sex equality? Is that fair or just?

Mr. Churchill: It really represents the decision and policy of His Majesty's Government and the decision and policy of their predecessors.

Viscountess Astor: Does the right hon. Gentleman think that because his predecessors made a mistake, or were unjust, he has any right to carry on the injustice?

Mr. Churchill: I should be perfectly prepared, on a suitable occasion, to argue the matter with the Noble Lady, but this is not the occasion.

(Continued from preceding column.)

ONÉ VOTE AMONG FIVE AND A HALF MILLIONS.

But now you may be tempted to say: "Not so fast, Old Voter. One vote among five and a half millions is a very small thing. Am I really so much more responsible now than before I had it? For how can I make that vote really count?" Well—that is a ticklish question. I will do my best with it next week. Meanwhile—greeting to you from AN OLD VOTER.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION IS: "IS THE VOTE WORTH WHILE?"

[No replies are invited until several more letters have appeared. Full particulars will appear next week.—Ed.]

A PIONEER IN CLUBLAND.¹

Miss Constance Smedley's *Reminiscences*, published to-day, make excellent reading. There is in their author a robustness coupled with a romanticism, most attractive. It is, after all, romanticism, combined with common sense and organizing ability which makes the world go round, and Miss Smedley's world positively spins with life. Why "Crusaders"? some critic will ask; the answer comes quick, "Why Not?" You may as well adventure against fearful odds to forward internationalism among women as to slay the paynim because he sits too tightly on the Holy Sepulchre.

The book tells the story of the foundation of the British Lyceum Club, made possible only by the generosity and enthusiasm of Mr. Smedley and his daughter, and later of similar Lyceums in many lands. To-day our London Lyceum is such an ordinary factor in our life that it is not easy to remember that its birth made history. Yet so it is. Everything and everybody Mrs. Armfield comes in contact with is in her eyes, part of history, all therefore tremendously worth while. Her clubs, her books, her dramatic societies—all of value, and, not least, her city of Birmingham (is it a city? We dare not doubt it). The Smedleys are a family typical of the best among those who have made the prosperity of Birmingham. Constance's youth was wholly free from money worries, but it was full of every kind of interest in the public welfare. She went to the Art School while little more than a child, "making occasional journeys to London with other girls and (characteristically) going the round of the editors." Her first "full page" she sold to the *Pall Mall Magazine* at the age of 16, and from that time on, her pen has been busy. Of novels, *An April Princess* and fourteen others, of children's books, *The Armfield's Animal Book* and six others, of *Greenleaf Rhythmic Plays* and *Greenleaf Elements*, eight in all, together with her early little success "Mrs. Jordan" acted by Mrs. Patrick Campbell. Of sociological publications three only, including "*Woman—a Few Shrieks*," which, she complains, was not fully appreciated by the law-abiding suffragists. Miss Smedley was not born a suffragist, she became one by conversion, a conversion so sincere (even if in some ways misguided) that she drove in an open carriage, with Mrs. Patrick Campbell and her daughter Stella, in one of the great suffrage processions, "the pavement was lined with crowds, and at each halt a storm of hoots, hisses, and abuse . . . I turned to Stella, then a child, with an apology—'I like it,' said she, 'I feel as if I were going to the guillotine in the French Revolution.' The abuse grew more threatening till 'suddenly a young man—very quiet looking, held some small bunches of violets evidently just purchased. He raised his hat, stood with it uplifted, and offered the flowers to each of us . . . a hush seemed to radiate from him until the entire storm of hoots and insults was silenced."

Mrs. Campbell's friendship gave Constance much delight, "her beautiful old rooms in Kensington Square . . . her Kelmscott books, her medieval gowns, things that belonged to that land of faery which Rossetti's poems had opened to me."

Miss Smedley found herself at ease with many sorts of people. Of Ronald McNeill (now Lord Cushendun) "at that time editor of the *St. James' Gazette*," she says, "a huge Irishman with a keen sense of humour," adding, "my politics at that time out-jingled McNeill's!"

Miss Smedley quotes a charming story which Dame Millicent Fawcett told in a speech at the Lyceum: how, when discussing the desirability of living to see the triumph of the suffrage movement with Miss Frances Willard, this famous lady had observed, "I am one of those who prefer to assist the chicken to emerge from the shell rather than to hear it crow." Of Lady Frances Balfour, the Club's first president, she says: "Lady Frances was Scottish in every fibre of her being. She had their full measure of humour and many a time tension would be relaxed and problems fall into a right perspective by some 'canny crumb' of wit and humour" (n.b. *Is Lady Frances' humour wholly derived from her nationality or is it all her own?*). Of another distinguished President our author writes: "another development of the social side came from the billiard room which we had found equipped when we took over the Club. Billiards was voted just the right form of exercise for intellectual women, and one of our most beloved experts at the game was Lady Strachey, still Vice-President of the Club. The achievements of her large family are world-famed; and her sense of

¹Crusaders: *The Reminiscences of Constance Smedley* (Mrs. Maxwell Armfield). (Duckworth, 3 Henrietta Street. 1929. Price 15s. net.)

humour, naturalness, and wisdom endeared her to every member of the Club. She was, and is, regarded as the most perfect example of the modern mother, and the Club members received the benefit of her tolerant attitude to the idiosyncrasies of a large and varied brood, whose first needs were independence and freedom."

The author's first meeting with Mrs. Snowden is vividly described: "My first impression was one of sheer amazement. Instead of a serious looking pioneer, I beheld a girl characterized by smiling poise, with soft golden hair, blue eyes, candid yet shrewd, and rose leaf complexion. She was as startling to look at as Pauline Chase . . . I felt as if the harbour I had been accustomed to was suddenly receding and beneath me were the giant waves of the high sea. Mrs. Snowden's point of view was perpetually shaking me out of accepted limitations . . ."

The later pages of the book tell of the author's marriage with the artist Maxwell Armfield, of their life and dramatic work in the Cotswolds and in America, of their return to England—to the New Forest—of their contact with the artists and craftsmen of the forest, and, in April, 1927, of their settling again in London, where they founded the Greenleaf Theatre Studios, and came into close touch with William Poel. . . . But Mrs. Armfield's heart is still in the Lyceum Club. She speaks with appreciation of its present historic home at 138 Piccadilly and expresses her hope of again joining and working for it.

These *Reminiscences* give the story of their author's life and work quite frankly from the personal point of view, but her friendly recognition of all with whom she comes in contact, disarm any desire to find fault with her presentment of facts, even if such fault could justly be found. All who care for art, or the drama, or the woman's movement, or music, or, who are pleased for once to discover a really cheerful human document, free from all subtleties, will read with pleasure and profit.

A. H. W.

EVENTS THAT MUST NOT BE MISSED.

We propose from time to time to give under this heading information of dramatic, artistic, and literary events of special interest to our readers. Under "Forthcoming Events" we shall continue to chronicle notices of meetings mainly of women's organizations, which are sent us. We invite the co-operation of our readers in this, and shall be glad to have suitable events brought to our notice.

Interpretation of Classical Plays. By Dorothea Spinney, *Trojan Women of Euripides*, 13th February, 8.30. Rudolf Steiner Hall, Park Road, N.W. 1. Particulars from Miss Alice Michaelis, 10 Canfield Gardens, N.W. 6.

The Lady with the Lamp. By Reginald Berkeley. Garrick Theatre (transferred from Arts Theatre Club; see "The Real Florence Nightingale," page 388, in issue of 18th January.

The Westminster String Quartet (Women) Lunch Hour Chamber Music. Every Tuesday, 1.15-2 p.m. Christ Church, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

BROADCAST FEATURES.

Mondays, 10.45 a.m.—Law and the Home: The Law and Parents, Mrs. Crofts (5XX only).

Tuesday, 10th February, 7 p.m.—Questions for Women Voters. Should Wages be supplemented by family allowances? Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., Professor W. L. Macgregor.

Wednesday, 10.45 a.m.—A woman's commentary. Mrs. Oliver Strachey (5XX only).

Wednesday, 7 p.m.—Public Departments (all B.B.C. stations except 5GB). 20th February: Department of Overseas Trade.

THE POLICEWOMEN'S REVIEW.

A MONTHLY PAPER.

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Published by WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SERVICE, 51 TOTHILL STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

By BERTHA MASON.

THE BILL IN COMMITTEE.

Our readers will remember that when Parliament rose on 20th December, the House of Commons had spent four of the thirteen days allotted to the committee stage of the Local Government Bill on the first four parts of the Bill with the result that fifty-three of the 115 clauses of the Bill were disposed of.

When Parliament reassembled on 22nd January the House of Commons at once went into committee on Part V of the Bill relating to Rating and Valuation.

An amendment to Clause 54 moved by Mr. Briggs, supported by many Unionist Members, sought to exclude from relief from rates breweries, distilleries and tobacco factories.

Opposition to the Bill, said Mr. Briggs, had come from certain organized bodies of women who feared that the health services might suffer owing to the substitution of the block grant for the percentage grant. In the pool created by the Bill there was £750,000 or £1,000,000, which it was suggested should be handed over to the industries which he proposed should be excluded from relief of rates. This sum, he suggested, if the amendment was carried, might be used for the improvement and expansion of the maternity and child welfare service. The amendment was resisted by Mr. Chamberlain on the ground that it was impossible to differentiate between prosperous trades, and that it was out of the question to make distinction between the prosperity and the morality of individual industries.

On a division the amendment was defeated by 219 votes to 135, a majority of 84.

HEALTH SERVICES AND BLOCK GRANT

On the following day, 25th January, when the House went into committee on Part VI, which deals with *Exchequer Grants* and other financial provisions, Mr. P. G. Gates moved to omit from the operations of Clause 68 grants for maternity and welfare service. The object of the amendment was to keep this service as at present on the percentage grant system, instead of bringing it under the block grant system. The arguments and facts which were skilfully marshalled by the mover of the amendment are well-known to our readers. Briefly, the service is new, growing, and very important. The expenditure was growing also, having increased during the last five years by 35 per cent.

Mr. Gates added that under the Bill a block grant would be made to the local authority who would decide, how much of the grant should be paid to the maternity and child welfare service. Those who were responsible for the work were gravely apprehensive as to whether the service would receive an adequate proportion of the block grant to allow for the much-needed expansion of the work. The apprehensions were shared by voluntary societies who at present were receiving Government support and stimulus, including one of which Mr. Chamberlain was president.

An interesting debate followed. In reply, Mr. Chamberlain stated he had no hesitation in claiming that the Government proposal (Clause 68) to substitute a block grant for the percentage grant in aid was in the best interest of the maternity and child welfare service.

The block grant would give more money than the service would cost. Under the Bill the Minister could demand that the service should be provided and could fine any authority which "lagged". Voluntary societies would be expressly protected by the power of the Minister to refuse sanction to any scheme submitted by local authorities which did not provide for their support. In his opinion the percentage grant had failed to produce an ideal service, why not try the block grant?

In conclusion the Minister promised certain amendments to ensure that any scheme submitted might be altered to include provision for a fresh service for a voluntary society; that if Parliament ordered a new service Parliament would find the money; that the Minister's powers of stimulation would be strengthened.

On a division the amendment to exclude the Maternity and Child Welfare Service was defeated by 200 votes to 130.

Those in favour of the amendment have announced their intention of repeating the amendment on Report Stage.

On the ninth and tenth of the allotted days beginning 28th January, discussion on various phases of the health services was resumed. On Clause 83 (contributions by County Councils

to voluntary societies providing maternity and child welfare services), a concession which we welcome, was made by the Minister of Health by the introduction of a new subsection giving opportunity to a voluntary association carrying on maternity and child welfare work direct appeal to the Minister for a revision of the approved scheme within a fixed grant period. Another amendment, moved by Sir Walter Greaves-Lord (and supported strongly) had for its object the continuance of propaganda on a national scale for the prevention and treatment of venereal disease. Mr. Chamberlain only undertook "to exert such influence as he could" to convince local authorities of the importance and need for this work and the amendment was lost.

Clause 86, which gives power to the Minister to reduce grants, if in his opinion a local authority has failed to achieve or maintain a "reasonable standard of efficiency in regard to health services," amendments were moved to strengthen the clause by the addition of the words in the one case "and adequacy"—and in the other "progress". Both amendments were lost.

An amendment by the Minister to specify the services coming under the operations of the clauses was adopted.

An outstanding feature of the debate on Clause 86 was (1) the fear of Members that under the block system some at least of the health services might suffer and this in spite of the Minister's concessions, and (2) the opposition to the increasing encroachments of bureaucracy under the Bill, opposition which in the latter case became more pronounced when Clause III which provides that "if difficulty arises in connection with the application of the Act, the Minister may by Order remove the difficulty, or do any other thing which appear to him necessary for bringing the provisions of the Act into operation." An amendment to restrict the powers of the Minister, moved by Mr. Gerald Hurst (C.), and supported by Members of all parties, was withdrawn on the promise of the Minister to amend the clause in conformity with the views expressed.

The remaining four clauses and the twelve schedules were quickly disposed of and on the following day (the last of the thirteen days allotted to committee stage), 1st February, the Bill "as amended" was reported and the House adjourned. Report stage, to which three days are allotted, will be taken, we understand, during next week.

OBITUARY: MISS MORAG BURN MURDOCH.

There has just passed away in Edinburgh Miss Morag Burn Murdoch, sculptor, artist, and lifelong suffragist. She was one of the original members of the Women's Social and Political Union, and worked and spoke for the Society from its earliest days. For some years past her health did not permit her to take any active part in public affairs, but her interest in all women's questions was undimmed. She belonged to a good old Scottish family whose interest in all things pertaining to the nation was unfeigned. To a marked extent she carried on this tradition, and with the man in the street she was a true democrat and a great favourite.

THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES (continued from p. 3).

discussion, that a Conference initiated by the W.I.L., British Section, is being called on 21st and 22nd March, at Caxton Hall, to consider some of the problems which have arisen in Europe over the protection of Minorities of race, language, and religion. Amongst those who have already promised their support, and whom we look forward to hearing, are Dr. Gooch, Professor Noel Baker, Sir Willoughby Dickinson, Sir Walter Napier, Professor Bovet (Lausanne), Mme Bakker Van Bosse (The Hague), Professor René Brunet (Paris). Further particulars can be had from the Secretary, Minorities Conference, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

E. M. LEAF.

POLICY.—The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the woman's movement but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELIZABETH RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM.
General and Parliamentary Secretaries: Mrs. HORTON.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.—6th-9th March, 1929.

May we remind Secretaries of Societies that the latest date for receiving amendments for inclusion in the Final Agenda and all applications for tickets is 12th February.

We should be glad to receive the names of those willing to act as proxy delegates for those Societies who find it quite impossible to send a delegate, or their full quota of delegates. The Society for which a proxy delegate is required supplies the delegate with tickets and full instructions with regard to voting, etc., and the proxy delegate is asked to send an account of the Council proceedings to the Society represented.

BY-ELECTIONS.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.

A letter has been received from the Conservative candidate, Mr. Thompson, in the above by-election. While not replying to the Questionnaire, he writes: "Speaking generally, I accept the principle of equality for the two sexes, but at present I am not inclined to give a definite reply to the points you raise. If elected I should prefer to listen to the discussions on the various subjects in the House of Commons before coming to a decision." Our readers will remember that the replies received from Mrs. Dalton (Lab.) were published last week. No reply has yet been received from the Liberal candidate.

SOUTH BATTERSEA.

Mr. Vivian Albu (Lib.) has replied in the affirmative to all questions on the N.U. Questionnaire, but so far we have received no replies from the other candidates for South Battersea.

WANSBECK.

The Liberal and Conservative candidates at Wansbeck have both declined to answer the Questionnaire. Mr. Briggs (Lib.) writes that he is "in general sympathy with our proposals", while Mr. Moffatt-Pender (Con.) considers that the questions "are matters of national importance and should be subjects of parliamentary debate," and that it "would be premature for him to give an opinion before he is able to hear all sides and form a considered judgment." Mr. Shield (Lab.) has replied in the affirmative to all questions with the following exceptions. He "would have to consider further" the question of the employment of married women; if satisfied that the compulsory appointment of women police is necessary, he would support it; the question of the giving of information on methods of birth control, he considers "does not enter into the realm of party politics" though he believes "in equality of treatment for all parties in the community"; as regards family allowances his reply is "As an individual, I believe in the principle of family allowances, but the Labour Party have not yet determined their policy on this question."

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

BARNSELY S.E.C.

A well-attended meeting was held in St. Mary's Parish Room on 30th January, when Miss Patricia Hall gave a most inspiring address on the aims and ideals of the "Under Thirties" especially towards peace and the work of the League of Nations. Discussion followed. Councillor Joseph Jones presided, and members of other women's organizations were present.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE "WHITE LUNCHEON."

MADAM.—I see in your note on the White Luncheon, organized on 24th January, by the Six Point Group, a remark that unfortunately "The supreme and shining white of the *Manchester Guardian* was represented only by a letter of regret from its editor." But though we were unfortunately not able to have Mr. C. P. Scott among us, his paper was represented by the London Editor and by Mr. Neville Smith, who has done such admirable work as a journalist for the cause of women's equality. One of our chief speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, was also for many years associated in her journalistic work with the *Manchester Guardian*.

Perhaps you would be good enough to insert this note, as we should be sorry for your readers to think that we failed to recognize the very great service which the *Manchester Guardian* has given to the cause of women's enfranchisement.

WINIFRED HOLBY,
Political Secretary.

The Six Point Group,
92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

[We are glad to know that Mr. Neville Smith was present. As another correspondent kindly reminds us he was for many years the Hon. Press Secretary of the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage, and took part in many historic processions. We are informed that Mr. James Bone, also of the *Manchester Guardian*, was present.—Ed.]

THE CAUSE.

MADAM.—My attention has been called to the fact that on page 311 of my history of the women's movement, *The Cause*, I have been led into a mis-statement regarding the methods of organization of the Women's Social and Political Union. I am very glad, therefore, to give what publicity I can to the fact that between the years 1906 and 1912, lists of all moneys received at the headquarters of the union were compiled, and that these, together with cash statements of receipts and expenditures, for the year, audited by Messrs. Sayers and Wessen, Chartered Accountants, were duly published.

I shall be much obliged to anyone who will point out to me any inaccuracies or omissions which they observe in any part of my book. I am conscious that in dealing with such a mass of material I must have made many mistakes, and I shall endeavour to correct them in future editions.

RAY STRACHEY.

53 Marsham Street, S.W. 1.

A REAL FRIEND TO THE WOMEN WORKER.

MADAM.—The following words occur in an excellent article on Women and Trade Unions, by Walter Citrine, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, in the *Labour Woman* of 1st January: "At the present time women are paid lower wages than men, even for the same class of work, in practically all occupations, because they do not combine in their unions and demand equal pay for equal work. Women will never win equality of status and pay until they combine and fight to secure it for themselves. . . . They tend to think that as they might be in industry only for a few years, it is not their business to concern themselves with trade union matters, or to use their influence to secure improved conditions. This is an extremely short-sighted view to take. . . . Women's connection with industry is, however, not so transitory as is sometimes imagined. Many women spend their lives in it, some supporting dependents by their efforts; others are driven back to the factory and workshop by the loss of their breadwinner, and it is then especially that advantage is taken of their necessity by an unorganized trade."

These breezy words speak courage and hope to the women workers, and are entirely free from the sheer patronizing philanthropic attitude of those who maintain that the woman worker is altogether unable to look after herself, and must be legislated for, and specially set apart from other workers throughout her adult life.

A. HELEN WARD.

PROGRESS AND BIRTH CONTROL.

MADAM.—May I first say how warmly I concur with your sympathetic obituary to the late Dr. Alice Drysdale Vickery, and pay tribute to her fine personality and broad-minded work. Her biographer, however, is doing another great pioneer an injustice when she says, "With the victory of woman's suffrage in 1918 the birth control movement entered a new phase." It was the publication by the great pioneer, Dr. Marie Stopes, of her books "Married Love" and "Wise Parenthood" in 1918, which initiated a veritable revolution in the country's attitude towards sex matters.

A. W. GOODMAN.

1 The Cloisters, Temple, E.C.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION CONFERENCE ON FORCED AND CONTRACT LABOUR.

An important conference on forced and contract labour has been organized by the League of Nations Union for 6th and 7th March, and the programme may be obtained from the secretary. One morning is devoted to the consideration of woman and child labour in the East, when the Earl of Lytton will take the chair, and the speakers will be Lady Chatterjee, Dame Adelaide Anderson, and Miss Sybil Thorndike. All the meetings will be open to discussion.

The New Voter

The first of a series of Letters to the "New Voter" appears in

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

On FRIDAY, 8th FEBRUARY.

This series will continue until the General Election. These articles should be useful for meetings of women, girls' clubs, etc.

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COMING EVENTS.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

20th February, 8.30 p.m. Lyceum Club. Reception to Miss Maude Royden.

FABIAN SOCIETY (WOMEN'S GROUP).

12th February, 8 p.m. Caxton Hall. Miss Evelyn Sharp, "The Growing Pains of Emancipation." Chair: Mrs. Charlotte Haldane.

GUILD OF GIRL CITIZENS.

13th February, 8 p.m. The Guildhouse, S.W. 1. Public Meeting, Miss Ishbel MacDonald, "The Work of the L.C.C." Chair: Lady Maurice.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

14th February, 3 p.m. Aeolian Hall, Bond Street, W. Public Meeting on "The Servant Problem." Chair: The Lady Emmott, J.P. Speakers: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Professor Winifred Cullis, and others.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

6th-9th March. Annual Council Meetings. King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Gt. Russell Street, W.C. Wednesday, 6th March, 2.30 p.m., First session; 8.45 p.m. Reception at King's College for Women, Campden Hill, W. 8. Thursday, 7th March, 10 a.m.-12.45 p.m., Second session; 2.5 p.m., Third session. Friday, 8th March, 10 a.m.-12.45 p.m., Fourth session; 1 p.m., Public Luncheon, Criterion Restaurant; 3-5 p.m. Fifth session; Saturday, 9th March, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sixth session. All sessions open to the public. Tickets and further particulars from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

Barnsley S.E.C.—13th February, 5.30 p.m. T. Francis, Esq., M.D., M.O.H. "Women's Place in Public Health." Chair: Mrs. Willis.

Cardiff W.C.A.—21st February, 7.30 p.m. Unitarian School Room, West Grove. Dr. Mary Phillips (Merthyr), "A Recent Visit to Yogo Slavia."

Hendon W.C.A.—13th February, 8 p.m. Snape House, Linnell Drive, N.W. 11. Miss Elkin "Local Government Bill."

Horsham W.C.A.—22nd February, 3.15 p.m. W. E. A. Hall, Carfax. Miss Caton, "Women in India."

Liss (Hants) W.C.A.—12th February, 2.30 p.m. Liss Sunday School. Miss Elkin, "Protective Legislation."

Newport and District W.C.A.—11th February, 7.30 p.m. Town Hall Assembly Rooms. Mock Election. Chair: Professor Barbara Foxley.

Petersfield S.E.C.—12th February, 7.30 p.m. The Tea Shop, High Street. Miss Elkin, "The Local Government Bill."

OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

14th February, 12.45 p.m. Pinoli's Restaurant, Wardour Street. Monthly Luncheon. Mr. Frank Briant, "Economic Equality for Women."

SOUTHALL WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

12th February, 3 p.m. Public Library. Miss Berry, "The Block Grant and Local Government."

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

18th February, 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. Councillor Helen Fraser, "Women in Business." Chair: Miss Eleanor FitzGerald.

1928 GROUP.

11th February, 6 p.m. 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1. Meeting on "The De-rating Bill," followed by discussion.

TYPEWRITING.

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

WANTED to Buy, Second-hand Desk or Typist Table with drawers. Cheap.—Box 1,259, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

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GOWNS well cut and fitted by experienced dressmaker. Terms from 21/-. Ladies' own materials made up. Renovations a speciality.—Grace Mayman, 168 High Street, Notting Hill Gate. Phone: Park 2943. Appointments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 10th February, 3.30, Prof. Poulton, D.Sc.; 6.30, Maude Royden.

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2/6; workers, 1/-. Suiting fee: Employers, 10/6; workers, 2/-. (Victoria 5940.)

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