

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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**NOTES AND NEWS.****The King's Speech.**

It is rarely that just a week before the opening of the Session so few indications are given of what will be contained in the King's Speech. An *Equal Franchise Bill* is, of course, a certainty. We have reason to believe that it will be introduced in the early days of March. What appears not to be settled, however, is whether there should be in the Franchise Bill any clause relating to the disfranchisement of recipients of poor relief, and if so what form that disfranchisement should take. *The Times* points out the grave administrative difficulties which arise whatever plan is suggested. If the receipt of such relief during the qualifying period is to be the test of being on the Register or not, it would follow that those who had been receiving poor relief for some months or even a year previously, might be disqualified; whereas those in receipt of relief at or shortly before the election, would be qualified to vote. Any adjustment immediately before the election presents equal difficulties, and would prevent a candidate from knowing in advance the size of his electorate. When we turn to the *Poor Law Bill* itself, the prospects do not appear very bright. With regard to the *Factories Bill*, the absence of the Home Secretary has made it difficult, no doubt, for a point on which he feels so strongly to be decided. We ourselves should be very surprised, however, if this were finally included. The Home Secretary may succeed more probably in inducing the Cabinet to proceed with a *Children Bill*, which he has had in mind for some time, and which will include some of the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders, and also certain recommendations from the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons. It is possible that legislation to raise the minimum legal marriage age to 16 years will be a clause in this Bill, if it is brought before the House.

**The "Electorate Elect".**

It appears to be regarded in many sections of the Press as a foregone conclusion that the equal franchise which has been our objective for so long will be achieved this year. The *Spectator* has instituted a political competition, which offers two prizes of 10 guineas each for men and women under the age of 25, for the most "practicable programme for the next Unionist Govern-

ment." We are told in the current number that this competition has not attracted the interest that was expected, and a special challenge is directed to young readers. "A part of the Press has inveighed against "the Flapper Vote": will not this electorate-elect give it the lie?" Possibly the competition might have elicited a larger response if it had not applied to the programme of one particular party. More probably the explanation lies in the fact that the young of both sexes are not in the habit of reading the pages of our distinguished contemporary. And we fear that this applies in equal degree to ourselves. But there is plenty of time yet, as the competition does not close until 13th February, and we hope that Unionist readers of this paper will bring it before the notice of their young people. Another indication of the course of events is to be found in a weekly paper of a very different type. The *British Weekly* is about to publish a series of letters from "one of the most brilliant men in the political life of the country" to an intelligent daughter who will shortly possess a vote. This is as it should be. It is not too soon for preparations for arousing the interest of the new electorate, and suggestions will be warmly welcomed in these columns.

**"Equality" in an Election Address.**

Lady Clare Annesley, the Labour candidate at the Bristol by-election, comes out well in her election address on the feminist side. She states that she advocates equality for men and women, both in the political and economic spheres. "Women should vote on the same terms as men, receive equal pay for equal work, and be afforded equal opportunities." We hear from the Bristol Society for Equal Citizenship that Lady Clare has replied in the affirmative to all the questions sent her, except those dealing with the nationality of married women, and on information on methods of birth control at maternity centres. Many candidates for Parliament, both men and women, profess belief in the equality between the sexes, but very few consider it sufficiently important for inclusion in the limited space available for an election address.

**Edinburgh Corporation (Substituted) Bill.**

The Edinburgh Corporation (Substituted) Bill, which provides for the compulsory notification and treatment in certain cases of those suffering from venereal disease, has been allocated to the House of Commons. The date of its second reading is not yet known. We print elsewhere a preliminary list of subscriptions to the expenses of the campaign against this Bill.

**Legal Aid for the Poor.**

The first report of the Committee on Legal Aid for the Poor was issued in June, 1926, and was the subject of an article by Mrs. Rackham, J.P., in these columns (see 25th June, 1926). The second and final report has now been presented to the Lord Chancellor. Readers may or, more probably, may not remember that Miss Dorothy Jewson was the only woman member on this Committee, and that it had a woman secretary, Miss Enid Rosser. We shall await with interest the opinions of experts on the findings, for it strikes the unknowledgeable lay person that they are singularly ineffective. The report praises the efforts of "Poor Man's Lawyers," and urges their extension. In London alone it appears there are twenty-seven general centres where such advice is given in addition to twenty-seven others conducted under the auspices of the three political parties. A minority report which was signed by Miss Jewson and Mr. Rhys Davies, M.P., recommended that local authorities either singly or in co-operation should be empowered to employ a qualified person to give legal advice, and that legal assistance should be given by the remission of fees in the County Courts and Courts of Summary Jurisdiction.



### A Gross Injustice to Women.

In view of the Committee on Street Offences which is now sitting, a special significance is attached to a recent debate at the Gray's Inn Debating Society last week, when the reform of the law relating to street offences was the subject of discussion. Mr. Clarke Hall, who spoke in favour of the need for drastic reform of the present law, pointed out that women are placed in a separate category from men, and that the methods of dealing with the so-called "common prostitute" were so inconsistent as to be farcical if the results were not so tragic. Though a case was put up for the *status quo* without substantial alteration, Mr. Clarke Hall's motion was carried by a majority of 18 votes, the number of those present being 53.

### Octavia Hill and Modern Housing Problems.

Two weeks ago, in a note dealing with recent appointments of women as house property managers, we referred to a deputation of the Chester Housing Committee which had been appointed to inquire into the Octavia Hill system of management in London and in Chesterfield. This deputation consisted of the chairman, deputy chairman, and two members of the housing committee, including Councillor Phyllis Brown, J.P. At a recent meeting of the Housing Committee, its report, a document of remarkable interest and unanimity, was presented, with the result that a recommendation to the Council was passed that a House Property Managing Department be constituted, and a trained woman manager with an assistant be appointed. It is good news now to learn that last week the Council, by a large majority, approved this recommendation. Many of our readers are no doubt more or less familiar with the methods of house property management by trained women carried on in London on the estates of the Ecclesiastical Commissioner and of the Commissioners of Crown lands. But they may not have realized that Chesterfield has the distinction of being the pioneer among local authorities in adopting the system for housing estates built under the Acts of 1919, 1923, and 1924. We wish we could quote the text of the above-mentioned report in full, for as it states, "the difficulties in Chesterfield are the same as those with which local authorities all over the country are faced in dealing with the large housing properties erected under the post-war Housing Acts." After a careful investigation, the adoption of the Octavia Hill system is pronounced "economical in the truest sense of the word." The Liverpool City Council has, we understand, recently made a similar appointment, and it seems probable that other housing authorities will take similar action. Once again we have an instance of an experiment in constructive social reform initiated on wholly voluntary lines, pointing out the way for public authorities to follow. Once again we have proof of the fact that in the long run it is the original thinker who does most for his own and future generations.

### What Women can do when they try!

The case of Mrs. Florence Knapp, Secretary of the State of New York, which has recently been the subject of a detailed report published in the U.S.A., shows the capacity of women to engage with success (if they chose to do so) in a sphere hitherto dominated by men. Mrs. Knapp was the first woman to hold office in the State of New York, and she came to her work with a distinguished career as university professor. On entering upon her official duties she determined to make the most of a pioneer opportunity on lines which were not unfamiliar to politicians of the other sex. The system of "graft" which she instituted involved the appointment of members of her own family to remunerative posts in connection with which no work was required of them. One such recipient of her family solicitude was her own mother aged 80. Others, similarly commissioned, lived many hundreds of miles from the scene of the labours for whose nominal performance they were responsible. In addition very many cheques were signed by Mrs. Knapp and paid into her own account. These operations involved sums amounting to some £40,000. Our readers may feel some satisfaction in the knowledge that when a woman enters the field of political "graft" she should conduct her operations on a large scale and with a high hand. It is, however, possible that we have here a sphere whose opportunities should be closed to men rather than opened to women.

### "Station Mistresses on Men's Pay."

This headline caught the eye in the *Evening Standard* of 17th January as the result of disclosures made by an official of the L.N.E.R. after the recent appointment of Miss Margaret

Cochrane to succeed her father who has been for nearly half a century stationmaster at Eddleston, Peeblesshire. It appears that twelve women serve as "stationmistresses" at stations on the London and North-Western Railway in Scotland. They wear uniform, and "they receive the same rates of pay as men in similar posts, and are treated in every way as if they were men". There is, we are informed in the same report, only one stationmaster in England, at Braystones, Cumberland, whose mother before her occupied the same post; there is also one at Dol-y-Gaer in Wales.

### Business Girls and the "Rush Hours".

Those who are caught shopping in the West End about one o'clock on Saturday morning or who attempt to return from a Committee at six o'clock in the evening get an unpleasant taste of the discomfort endured by those who habitually have to travel at those hours. A letter recently appeared in the Press signed by influential women urging special means of transport for business girls, and an inquiry has recently been undertaken by the Industrial Committee of the National Council of Women on this question. Over 3,000 forms were issued to girls through employers, girls' clubs, and the Y.W.C.A. The replies indicate the extent of the need. Out of a total of 2,654, only 373 live within walking distance of business, and many spend an hour, many even more, in transit each way. Many describe long waits in pouring rain, "terrific scrambles", many complain of inability to find seats after perhaps standing behind counters most of the day. Clearly reform is necessary and this interesting report suggests "queues" and special buses for long distance passengers who travel daily to and from the same points at given times. Surely the hours of work are long enough for both men and women without unnecessary additions at both ends.

### Sunday Music in Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh Council has recently agreed to let the Waverly Market to a promoter of a series of Sunday concerts. A difficulty, however, has arisen owing to a resolution of the Council in 1921 which decided that "no political meetings should be held on the first day of the week, and that the programmes of all concerts held on that day should consist of sacred and high-class music only". The Town Council was faced with the problem of deciding what is sacred and what is high-class music, and whether all sacred music is high-class or all high-class music sacred! The Council finally solved the problem by resolving that all programmes should be submitted to the City Chamberlain and when necessary to the Treasurer's Committee. Commenting on the discussion the *Municipal Journal* points out that the City Chamberlain holds the Bachelor of Commerce degree, and goes on to inquire "in what manner is a person fitted, because of his acquaintance with the theory of Free Trade, to pass an opinion on the quality of Handel's minuet in 'Samson' or to decide whether Wagner's 'Venusberg' music is high class." In what manner indeed? And yet we should feel inclined to trust the City Chamberlain further than the bulk of our modern musical critics, for though he may know less than they do about the objective quality of music, he probably knows as much and more about the reactions to different types of music of untrained listeners.

### Why not more often?

The registration of a Caterham fish and poultry business under the title H. Marment and Daughter, Ltd., provokes comment in the *Manchester Guardian* under the title "Woman earns mention in title of business". In explanation of this strange novelty of nomenclature Mr. Marment has explained that his daughter has in fact been in the business for a long time, and incidentally kept it going during the war. But why, after all, should it sound so strange? . . . and Daughter, Ltd.? Why should it be necessary for the Press to refer to Miss Marment as though she were a recipient of the O.B.E.? There must be quite a number of daughters in business. Anyhow, it was sporting of Mr. Marment to make a start.

### A Woman Candidate for East Grinstead.

We are glad to welcome the most recent recruit to the small group of women who propose to stand as candidates for Parliament in the Liberal interest at the General Election. Miss Barbara Bliss, one of the most prominent of the young women of the Liberal Party, has been unanimously adopted as candidate for the East Grinstead Division of Sussex. Though young, Miss Bliss has served her apprenticeship to politics since she took the Historical and Economics Tripos at Cambridge.

### THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S HOME IS HER WORKHOUSE.

In various parts of Lancashire the controversy over the employment of married women teachers has been in eruption during the past year. At Leigh, the married woman teachers have sustained a defeat. At Oldham and in the county of Lancashire their right of self-determination has been successfully vindicated. We were able to report last week that on the initiative of Mrs. E. D. Simon, the matter had once again been raised in the Manchester Education Committee in such a form as to cause the maximum of embarrassment to advocates of the existing policy of dismissal, and that a special meeting of the Education Committee had been called to discuss the matter further. This special meeting is to take place on Monday, 6th February, and we shall await with deep interest the result of its proceedings; 6th February is a significant anniversary for those who champion the freedom of women. May the spirit of 6th February brood over the deliberations of the Manchester Education Committee and guide its corporate mind into the path of equity!

Meanwhile we would remind women's organizations in other parts of the county that it is not really necessary to relegate to to-morrow the consideration of what Manchester is thinking about to-day. Our readers will remember that on 29th April of last year a Private Member's Bill which sought to make illegal the imposition of such regulations by public authorities was defeated by 84 votes to 63. This means that for the present at any rate the matter must be fought out round the parish pump. Up and down the country local authorities are penalizing their professional women employees in this manner. Up and down the county therefore it is the business of all women's organizations which are concerned for personal freedom and equity of treatment to mobilize local opinion, secure local publicity for the pros and cons of the matter, and promote local action for the conversion of such local authorities as adhere to the policy of dismissing women on the sole ground of marriage.

"Publicity for the pros and cons of the matter." The double task may provoke the criticism of those who are disposed to stick to the pros and let the cons take care of themselves. There is no doubt, of course, that the pros need airing. Experience shows that large numbers of persons are disposed to cherish the general belief that married women with young children are, on the whole, more usefully employed at home. From this somewhat indeterminate belief they move by an easy leap of semi-conscious deduction to a position of acquiescence in the compulsory retirement by public authorities of the minority of exceptional women to prefer to retain their employment on marriage. When seriously asked to distinguish between the general desirability of a particular course of human action for normally situated persons and the desirability of imposing that course by official rule upon a minority of persons who do not consider themselves to be normally situated, they are able to do so. When further pressed on the subject of personal liberty and domestic privacy they are

often ready enough to admit that although it may be generally desirable for married women to avoid full-time work outside the home, yet this is a matter for the woman herself to decide. And this done, from opponents they may easily be transformed into active supporters of self-determination for married women. Here, indeed, is a cause which offers considerable scope for conversion, as we ourselves have found on innumerable occasions. It is largely a matter of focussing attention upon the concrete question of whether or no it is desirable for public authorities to force general rules upon particular cases, and incidentally of emphasizing certain inequitable implications of such action where it occurs.

Nor, in practice, is it desirable to leave the cons to look after themselves. Two popular arguments that have been used over and over again in defence of compulsory retirement on marriage are (a) that married women have a tendency to work broken time owing to the interruptions of maternity, (b) that while so many unmarried women are unemployed it is desirable that the married women should make way for them. It is true that both these arguments can be logically met by the assertion that the efficiency of the work rather than the domestic circumstances of the worker should be made the test of the employee's desirability, and that a woman who demands leave of absence for child-bearing may reasonably be dismissed *qua* inefficient worker if her absence is likely to cause inconvenience. Nevertheless, it is also advisable to challenge the facts which inspire such arguments. In our issue of 28th October, 1927, we quoted figures showing that in the case of the Leigh Education area the generalization that married women were irregular workers was found to be wholly without foundation. Similarly without foundation in the Manchester area is the assertion that hordes of unemployed but qualified spinsters are clamouring for the places vacated by the women teachers who marry. Wherever possible local efforts should be made to examine in the light of precise figures these airy, but genuinely misleading assumptions.

And yet all said and done, it is the underlying principle of equity which matters most. So long as men are employed and remunerated because their work is in itself valuable so long must women be employed and remunerated on a similar basis. We are accustomed to boast that "the Englishman's home is his castle" and behind that boast lies the implication that only the weightiest considerations of social expediency should be allowed to limit his and his wife's right to determine their mutual domestic spheres and economic adjustments. To impose determination from outside and to subject normally functionary adult citizens to the indignity of a kind of "workhouse test" before public charity in the form of a salary is graciously extended to them, is to violate most grievously the spirit of that proud boast—if, indeed, the Englishwoman is to be regarded as an equal partner with the Englishman in the sovereignty of that little constitutional monarchy of the home.

### THE EMPLOYMENT OF POLICEWOMEN.

By D. O. G. PETO.

It is a good thing, on beginning the New Year, to take the opportunity of surveying afresh the progress of public movements, even of a movement such as that for the employment of policewomen, about which so much has already been written. Indeed, the desert routes to Mecca cannot be more freely strewn with the bones of baggage-camels than are the literary approaches to the subject of policewomen with pronouncements, official and unofficial, whose skeletons have been dissected and reassembled by pilgrim after pilgrim towards the shrine of progress—and by some, moreover, whose steps are turned another way.

One cannot do better than begin by getting down to facts and figures; although unfortunately the latest available at the present moment are those of H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary for 1926, as the 1927 Report does not come out until somewhat later in the year. From the report we glean the following:—

County Forces.	Women	
	Attested.	Non-attested.
Lancashire . . . . .	23	
Gloucestershire . . . . .	8	(just raised from 4).
York, West Riding . . . . .	2	
Oxfordshire . . . . .	2	
West Sussex . . . . .	1	
Shropshire . . . . .	—	2
Metropolitan Police District . . . . .	50	
<b>Borough Forces.</b>		
Bolton . . . . .	4	
Sheffield . . . . .	3	
Cambridge . . . . .	2	

	Women	
	Attested.	(non-attested).
Colchester . . . . .	2	
Leeds . . . . .	2	
Northampton . . . . .	2	
Nottingham . . . . .	2	
Stoke-on-Trent . . . . .	2	
Walsall . . . . .	2	
Bootle . . . . .	1	
Bradford . . . . .	1	
Chesterfield . . . . .	1	
Eastbourne . . . . .	1	
Folkestone . . . . .	1	
Great Yarmouth . . . . .	1	
Ipswich . . . . .	1	
Norwich . . . . .	1	
Oldham . . . . .	1	
Oxford . . . . .	1	
Sunderland . . . . .	1	
Tunbridge Wells . . . . .	1	
Birmingham . . . . .	—	7
Bristol . . . . .	—	6
Liverpool . . . . .	—	3
Manchester . . . . .	—	3
Newcastle-upon-Tyne . . . . .	—	3
Reading . . . . .	—	2
Southampton . . . . .	—	2
Birkenhead . . . . .	—	1
Carlisle . . . . .	—	1
Hove . . . . .	—	1
Huddersfield . . . . .	—	1



Comparing these figures with former years, it is encouraging to see that there has been a steady rise in the proportion of attested as against unattested women employed; and that at the present moment only one county and eleven boroughs employ unattested women, whereas four counties and twenty-one boroughs employ attested women. Those who are in fairly close touch with the movement realize, moreover, that an increased importance is attached by Chief Constables to the selection and training of the women employed.

It is not until one gets behind the bare figures, and begins to consider the nature of the towns employing—and not employing—policewomen, and their conditions of service, that one realizes the great diversity in the matter which still exists. It seems obvious that local conditions are not enough, in themselves, to explain why the women of one force are attested, whilst those of another are not, why the Lancashire women are all members of the Criminal Investigation Department, and those of the Gloucestershire Force belong to the Uniformed Branch, or why Cambridge needs two women whilst Oxford manages with only one? Are we not justified in assuming that these, and other, variations represent the personal views of the Chief Constables appointing the policewomen, modified in some cases, no doubt, by the views of Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees as to the expenditure which they are justified in sanctioning?

In granting as much as this, however, it is only logical to go a little further, and assume that reports showing the futility of employing policewomen at all are also, in fact, expressions of personal opinion. If we grant that Salford, for instance, as stated in a report recently issued by the Chief Constable, is a seaport town, we must find it difficult to believe that there is any inherent difference between its inhabitants and those of Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool, or London; yet whereas policewomen have been employed for years in the last four ports, under various conditions of service, it appears to be largely upon the ground that Salford is a seaport that the Chief Constable of that town recommends that policewomen be not employed. Or again, if we grant his contention must we not inquire whether the same conditions are inherent in the populations of Hull, Portsmouth, and Plymouth, which have also decided not to employ policewomen, and if so, try to discover what subtle bond unites them? Is it geographical, racial, or climatic?

It seems a pity, with so much definite experience available, that the Chief Constable should have "endeavoured to imagine the employment of policewomen either with or without uniform in the cosmopolitan quarters of this city and port" of Salford. One may hope that during the coming year he and the Chief Constables of other towns where a like decision has been made will make a point of studying the work of policewomen whose Chief Constables have published favourable reports, notably those of Birmingham, Bolton, Glasgow, Liverpool, Nottingham, Northampton. Here he will find women who, "by their training, their experiences with the public, and the part they play in the courts of law" have, like their male colleagues "become possessed of a sense of the fitness of things" and of skill in carrying out their duties. Here, too, he will find women who are capable, in the interests of justice, of investigating sexual crimes without allowing their personal feelings to interfere with the performance of their duty, and who recognize that it is their womanhood which gives them the privilege of supporting the women and child witnesses involved.

May we not hope, too, that the Home Office, adopting the recommendations of the Committees on Policewomen set up by that Department, will see fit during the present year to make Regulations governing policewomen's conditions of service, which would do more than anything else to facilitate their employment.

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### STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

On 27th January the witnesses were Mr. C. A. Macpherson (Public Prosecutor for Edinburgh), Mr. R. Ross (Chief Constable of Edinburgh), and Mr. George Smith (Stipendary Magistrate for Glasgow). In Scotland there is no need to prove annoyance as it is an offence for a "common prostitute" to loiter or importune for purposes of prostitution. The witnesses agreed that if the words "common prostitute" were omitted "you remove one of the main safeguards of the virtuous woman." Mr. Ross said that in Edinburgh, even if a woman complained to a police officer of the conduct of a man, but would not give evidence, the police would not interfere. Asked if the professional woman was being replaced by the "amateur," Mr. Ross said there was a certain amount of this about. "I think that if our prostitutes were driven off the streets there would be a danger of respectable women," he said.

The Chairman asked why he thought that. From his own experience of human nature, he would say that men built that way would, in the absence of the other women, interfere with respectable women.

Mr. Ross said the present system of repeated fines or imprisonment very rarely brought about any reform of the women.

Mr. Smith (Glasgow) thought there were very few mistakes of women wrongly charged. A woman got £300 damages against the police in 1926, for wrongful arrest, but the case never went beyond the charge-room. He believed the constable was dismissed.

On 17th February the witnesses for the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, the Rev. W. C. Roberts and Miss Alison Neilans, will be heard, beginning at 10.30 a.m., and occupying the rest of the day.

### Tenth Anniversary Celebration of Votes for Some Women.

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On 8th FEBRUARY, 1928 (the day following the Opening of Parliament),  
AT 8 P.M.

CHAIR: THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA.

SPEAKERS:

Mrs. G. F. ABBOTT (Open Door Council) Miss E. E. FROUD (National Union of Women Teachers)  
Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE (Women's Freedom League) Miss NANCY STEWART PARNELL (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance)

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### SOME THOUGHTS ON "THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WAR FILMS".

In his book, *The Fighting Instinct*, Pierre Bovet comes to the following conclusion, amongst others: "In individuals what we have to do is to destroy belligerent suggestions coming from tradition and from war pictures which do not correspond to reality."

Now this may seem rather irrelevant in an article on the question of war films. It is so easy but so crude to talk about greedy imperialists and dishonest politicians in this and other countries. Imperialists are often greedy, politicians are by no means always honest, and both play the chief part in the making of wars. But behind them both there are the masses of people who have always been ready to fight when the bugle sounded. And, first and foremost are the young men who, in addition, receive a powerful stimulus in the "patriotism" of young women. This psychological fact is one which has never yet been adequately faced up to, and I am not at all sure that the problems of pacifism can ever be solved unless it is.

It is admitted, I think, by most psychologists that "suggestion" plays a very important part in the development of the individual. How can we trace this connection in the question of war and the war films?

Let us imagine a crowd of young people going to see the "Somme" film, remembering that the war ended ten years ago so that there are two generations which have no vivid memories if any of it. Outside the Cinema is a Scottish Highlander gaily blowing his bagpipes. Thrill No. 1. Inside the vestibule are flags and brightly coloured bunting, whilst much to the amusement of our crowd, the pay office is disguised as a trench in which the cashier becomes "Ole Bill". Thrill No. 2. In the picture palace itself there is not only the film, but there is the orchestra playing "It's a long way to Tipperary" and many another war-time song in which the crowd instinctively respond, and so become thoroughly worked up to cheer the boys off to the front. Thrill No. 3. Soon picture after picture shows fighting and killing and all the inevitable episodes in war. But it is so easy to mix up the killing with gentle little "shots" of the "brave women at home" and so clever to combine the fighting with deeds of almost incredible heroism and self-sacrifice. These are duly applauded by our young people who have never seen the other side of war and who have not been taught to think how infinitely wasteful it is to dissipate bravery in this way and how much more constructive it would be to have this heroism expressed in other ways. The end of it all is a "glorious victory"; the band plays boisterously, appropriate stage noises are produced, V.C.s and other medals are distributed here and there, and Thrill No. 4 culminates in a burst of the National Anthem as the troops march back to their homes.

Let us try to estimate the psychological reaction which this film has had on those young people.

First of all—and in analysing the statements made by children it would seem to be the most important—this film has given that adventure and excitement which youth must and will have.

Secondly, there has been a subtle appeal to sentiment of different kinds—that of the father kissing his child farewell, that of the girl proudly waving to her soldier sweetheart, that of the man in the trench bravely risking his life to get a can of water for his dying comrade.

Thirdly, there has been humour. It may have been crude, but the film has never become very famous for subtlety or delicacy in that direction.

These traits, desirable and admirable in themselves, have been associated throughout with war, and it is possible that it is in this association of ideas that we shall find the greatest danger in war films. It is this association of ideas which will assist and encourage the development of that mentality which accepts war as the inevitable way of settling disputes between nations. Here is the "belligerent suggestion" mentioned by Bovet, which succeeds in appealing to and often attracting the development of the fighting as well as other instincts on the level of war.

Governments have been quick to recognize this fact, so that it is not at all surprising to find that their policy definitely is to encourage the production of war films, and already there are several being carefully planned for general release next Armistice week. They have been proved a valuable medium of recruiting, and particularly at that time.

In the meantime, it must be the duty of all those who are working for International Peace to prove that they are as expert psychologists in their propaganda.

Correspondence on this subject is invited by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

DOROTHY WOODMAN.

### A GREAT SCHOOL.<sup>1</sup>

The appearance of Miss Dove's name in an otherwise dull New Year's Honours List reminds me that I have not yet obeyed the Editor's instructions to write a short review of the book recently published in which the story of St. Leonard's School from 1877 to 1927 is delightfully told.

The Editors have wisely made the book a joint production. In the first part different writers describe different aspects of the School's development; the second part is composed of personal recollections written by the three distinguished women who became the first three head mistresses, all happily still alive. Dr. Louisa Lumsden, D.B.E., from 1877-82, Miss Dove, J.P., and now also Dame of the British Empire, from 1882-96, and Miss Grant from 1896-1907. It closes with a memorial sketch of Miss Bentinck Smith, the fourth head mistress in a great succession, who died at her post in 1921. Dr. Lumsden's retrospect sets us thinking. She describes the efforts to overcome the superficiality and want of thoroughness to be found in girls' education in the seventies as compared to that of boys, and the high standard of intellectual work that was aimed at from the small beginnings of October, 1877. She tells us of the "new" ideals of co-operation between mistress and girls and of self-government which are to-day a commonplace. Not least interesting are her pioneer efforts to establish games and physical training. "It is doubtful," she tells us, "if any girls' school in Great Britain had a gymnasium in 1877."

This great experiment in women's education was blessed with an ideal setting. The grey city of St. Andrew's is indeed hoary with history and St. Leonards has its own link with the past, for the original St. Leonards was founded in 1512 "for poor clerks." The success which has crowned the faith of those who built on the foundation of the past is now recorded and will be of great interest far beyond the circle of those who have come under the influence of the school. Of the lighter chapters those on "dress" and "entertainments" gave us a special satisfaction. In the latter we get welcome glimpses of some of our honoured contemporaries in their schoolgirl years entering heart and soul into the St. Leonards' dramatic venture. We read of a performance of *The Princess* in which a future editor of this paper, Ida O'Malley, was "the adapter and the life and soul of a charming production" and of a performance of *Twelfth Night* when Chrystal Macmillan as the Duke was magnificent in doublet and hose. The book is beautifully got up and the very attractive and well selected illustrations add greatly to its charm. It is perhaps too much to expect that a book costing 10s. 6d. should have a very wide circulation, but it will certainly find a place on the shelves of every "senior" and we are told that they alone number nearly 2,000. It should moreover be available in every girls' school library, for it is a "school story" of the best possible type; it will enable girls of to-day to realize how their present opportunities and liberties have been won for them.

L. H. S.

### THE LESSONS OF PHYSIOLOGY.

When we are faced with a book which professes to be a physiological work on the differences between men and women, we anticipate the recital of a series of structural comparisons each of which provides an explanation of the muscular, psychological, mental, moral, and spiritual inferiority of women. That is what we expect, and that is what we get in the latest book of the kind which has come our way, *The Opposite Sexes*, from the German of Dr. Adolf Heilborn (Methuen & Co., 6s.), though it must be admitted that we get it in a relatively less offensive degree than we are accustomed to. But we still await the enterprising woman physiologist who will provide us with an explanation of why, in fact, women are less criminal, less drunken, less suicidal, more controlled in their sex passions, and constitutionally tougher (especially during the first year of life when sickness takes its heaviest toll of the weaker male) than the sex whose apologists glory in the fact that its brain measurement approximates more nearly to that of the elephant than does the brain measurement of women.

M. D. S.

<sup>1</sup> *St. Leonards School, 1877-1927.* (Oxford University Press. London, Humphrey Milford. 10s. 6d. net.)



## THE PRISON REPORT FOR 1926.

Our review of last year's Prison Report in this column began with the remark that the Report had a depressing effect upon the reader, that no new experiments were recorded, and no particular advance in any direction. These words can be repeated this year with emphasis: the Report is shorter and less interesting than it has been for many years, and there is the further most unsatisfactory feature that, whereas last year there was a small decline to record in the prison population, this year's Report shows an increase in the number received under sentence from 54,737 to 56,211. The number of lads under sentence 16 and 21 sent to prison also shows an increase from 2,064 to 2,464. As against this we can report that the number in prison on remand, the number of sentences of less than two weeks, and the number of girls between 16 and 21 committed, all show some decrease.

The position of the Borstal Institutions is most unsatisfactory. The number of lads committed to Borstal is increasing year by year, and the total number in the Institutions is now 1,164. They are seriously overcrowded: the average number to a House was intended to be 60 (far too large, many schoolmasters would say), but under present conditions the number in a House is in many cases as high as 80. It is clearly impossible that with these numbers the House Master can really know his boys, and the result must be that less can be done to counteract the continuous and often deleterious effect that lads of this age massed together in an overcrowded institution must have upon one another. And it is to deal with such a situation as this that the Home Secretary is appealing to the charitable public to come forward and give the money for a new Institution. It is almost incredible that the authorities should take their responsibilities so lightly: not thus do other Government departments that we could name bow down beneath the requirements of the Treasury. Nor do the Borstal results give us any ground for thinking that we can afford to slacken the efforts made on behalf of the lads. The number of re-convictions remains high; of the lads discharged in 1924, 33 per cent have been re-convicted. Attention is rightly drawn to the very difficult material on which the Borstal system has to work. A large number of the lads have already been in a reformatory or prison or come from bad homes, but this only makes it the more desirable that they should receive careful and individual treatment at Borstal.

There is no mention at all in the Report this year of any developments in the educational work, nor in the libraries, nor in the Leagues of Honour, nor any form of self-government. From what one reads it appears as if the authorities are resting on their oars, and prison reform is at a standstill. The usual Reports from Governors and Medical Officers of Prisons from which one used to gather a good deal about the prison population, are entirely omitted this year. There is a page on Prison Industries from which one gathers that there has been less work available for the short sentence men and the unskilled, but there was more better class employment and more machinery has been introduced.

The figures of recidivism remain very high, and show how far we have yet to go before we can regard prison as having any reformative value on the majority of the inmates. Of the men 64 per cent had been previously convicted and 87 per cent of the women. Nearly 3,000 of both men and women respectively had been convicted over 20 times. In truth we have done much to reform the prison and little to reform the prisoner. This makes it the more disappointing that another year has gone by with no new developments to record.

There are other items of interest which may be gathered from the Report. Though we may protest against prostitution being cited as an offence it is satisfactory to note that the number of women imprisoned for it has fallen from 7,952 in 1913 to 1,219 last year. It is not satisfactory to read that 14,910 persons were received into prison on conviction in default of paying a fine and that of these 11,180 had not been allowed time in which to pay. When we consider also the 10,683 received into prison as debtors we realize what a very large part is played by lack of means in piling up our prison population.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

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## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Offices: 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

## EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION: 8th MARCH at 8 p.m. Queen's Hall Tickets Nearly all Sold.

## OVERFLOW MEETING.

As there are only about forty tickets at 5s. and 2s. 6d. left in the Queen's Hall, applicants for seats will now have them allotted for the Overflow Meeting to be held in a hall a few minutes from the Queen's Hall.

It is hoped that the Prime Minister will address this meeting also, and arrangements are being made for the other speakers to address both meetings.

Those who want any of the remaining seats in the Queen's Hall, or good seats at the overflow meeting, are urged to apply at once.

Song Practices will be held on Thursday, 9th February, at 8.30 p.m. at the Minerva Club, 56 Hunter Street, W.C. 1 (by kind permission of Miss Reeves), and on Friday, 10th February, at 8.30 p.m., at 35 Abercorn Place, N.W. 8 (by kind permission of Miss Bell).

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## "RETROSPECT."

MADAM.—The extraordinary confusion of mind betrayed by Mrs. Abbott and Miss Beaumont in their misquotation and criticism of your "Retrospect" statement, convinces me that, however clear the issue may have been last March—and I am by no means sure that it was clear—it is now utterly befogged. Nothing but the publication of a most carefully written question and answer primer, between, say, Mrs. Abbott and Miss Rathbone, will avail to clear the minds of the many.

## BRISTOL BY-ELECTION.

The Bristol S.E.C. has approached the three candidates at the above by-election with the Parliamentary Questionnaire. It reports that Mr. Culverwell (Unionist) "intends to support the Government's proposals for enfranchising women of 21," and gives his "whole-hearted support to the League of Nations." He is "not disposed to pledge his support to our various proposals,"—they will receive the usual "careful and sympathetic attention." Lady Clare Annesley (Labour) has answered all questions in the affirmative except those relating to the nationality of married women, and to information on methods of birth control. No answer has as yet been received from Mr. Marcy (Liberal), but in his speeches he has declared his belief in absolute equality between men and women.

## TESTAMENTARY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN.

At the request of the N.U.S.E.C., Lord Astor proposes shortly to introduce a resolution into the House of Lords recommending an alteration in the law so that it will be illegal for a testator to will away his property without making provision for the surviving spouse and children. At present, in England, these, whether dependent during the lifetime of the testator or not, have no claim on the estate if this has been left by will to others, even though they may be otherwise completely unprovided for. In those countries, such as Scotland, where Roman Law is in force, a proportion of the property always goes to the surviving spouse and children, including those who are already independent. We are carrying out an investigation now with regard to this question in the Dominions and Colonies, in some of which legislation has already been introduced to ensure adequate provision being made for the dependents of testators.

## TRAINING OF UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

The Executive Committee has decided to ask the Minister of Labour to receive a deputation urging him to include in the estimates for the coming year a larger grant for the work of the Central Committee on the Employment and Training of Women, and to put this work on a permanent basis. In preparation for the deputation the Parliamentary Secretary has investigated the whole question of unemployment training for women and girls, and has now drawn up a memorandum, based largely on facts obtained from official sources. Copies of the memorandum (price 4d.) may be obtained on application to Headquarters.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES FOR WOMEN.

The Health sub-committee met on Monday, 23rd January, at 15 Dean's Yard, when the Chair was taken by Mrs. Corbett. The question of common lodging houses for women in the provinces was discussed, and, in order to obtain information on the matter, it was decided to recommend that inquiries should be made of the authorities in some of the larger towns as to the provision of this type of lodging made for men and women, and the proportion of the supply to the demand. In view of the fact that in the L.C.C. Report on Common Lodging Houses it was acknowledged that, while the quantity of beds available for women was sufficient, the standard of the sanitary accommodation was in many cases very low, it was urged that a paragraph should be included in the proposed questionnaire for the candidates of the coming L.C.C. elections asking them to remedy this; and also to initiate an inquiry into the need for the provision of lodging houses for working girls in regular employment.

## NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

## CLACKMANNANSHIRE.

The Clackmannanshire Society for E.C. held a meeting at Alloa on 10th January, when Miss Macadam was the speaker. She dealt in a very interesting manner with various points in the National Union programme—among them Equal Franchise, Unemployment Insurance, Raising of the Marriage Age, etc. The meeting was followed by a good discussion.

## BARNSELY S.E.C.

Mrs. Stocks addressed a well-attended meeting on 18th January, on "The Employment of Married Women." There was much discussion afterwards. The Mayoress kindly presided, and voiced the feeling of the meeting when she expressed the hope that Mrs. Stocks would visit Barnsley again before long.

MADAM.—The extraordinary confusion of mind betrayed by Mrs. Abbott and Miss Beaumont in their misquotation and criticism of your "Retrospect" statement, convinces me that, however clear the issue may have been last March—and I am by no means sure that it was clear—it is now utterly befogged. Nothing but the publication of a most carefully written question and answer primer, between, say, Mrs. Abbott and Miss Rathbone, will avail to clear the minds of the many.

In Mrs. Abbott's propaganda in the Societies, she has always conveyed the impression that her party alone believed that protective industrial legislation, for women only, was undesirable and dangerous, whereas this is the recorded and unaltered belief of the N.U.S.E.C.

How can we force it into the minds of Mrs. Abbott and of those whose ideas are now confused by her, that the difference of opinion which split the Executive was as to which path to equality should be pursued. The question was—were regulations, desirable in themselves, invariably to be opposed and refused until they were applied to men too, or were our efforts to be directed in these cases to having them extended to men?

Before the next Council meeting will not somebody put the question so clearly that the merest child can understand?

L. M. MOTT.

## "L.C.C. CANDIDATES."

MADAM.—While much appreciating your kind reference to our Alliance in this week's WOMAN'S LEADER, in connection with our L.C.C. candidates whose association with St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance guarantees their faith in the objects of our programme, I would like to make it clear that while the Alliance, like the N.U.S.E.C. and other feminist societies, stands for equality between men and women, as is well known, it opposes the giving of information on artificial birth control at welfare centres in receipt of Government grants, which is one of the points on the programme of the N.U.S.E.C.

FLORENCE BARRY,  
Hon. Secretary,

55 Berners Street, W. 1.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

## WOMEN GOVERNORS OF BOYS' SCHOOLS.

MADAM.—Referring to your query about women governors in boys' schools. I have been one of two women on the governing body of the Newport, Essex, Grammar School since 1912. We are appointed by the Essex County Council. I am also the only woman on the "General Purposes" Committee of this school. I might add that I am also one of two women on the Management Committee of a large training college for men. The Saffron Walden Grammar School had at one time a woman governor, but as this school no longer receives the county grant, I think it has no woman now on its governing body.

A. M. BROWNE.

Belmont House, Newport, Essex.

MADAM.—I find that in Bradford there have been women governors of the Bradford Grammar School since 1918, when Mrs. Barker, a member of the Education Committee, was appointed, and that since 1920 there have always been two women governors.

Also one of the largest of the Municipal Secondary Schools has had a woman (Miss Margaret Law) as chairman of the Boys' School Committee for several years.

H. BURNHAM.

Brantnook, Ilkley.

## OPENINGS IN SOCIAL WORK.

DEAR MADAM.—I thought it might interest some of your readers to know of the facilities for social work and study which are available at the Queen Margaret Settlement, Glasgow. We need two or three more residents in order to make our work more comprehensive and more thorough, and it is the hope that this letter may be read by some who would like to take up such work that I am writing. There are special conditions prevailing in Glasgow which are worth detailed study and there are wide opportunities for research, open to Settlement workers. Every week Settlement workers visit some 400 houses in a friendly and natural capacity as Bank Collectors, and through their visits we hope that it may prove possible to assemble valuable up-to-date information regarding housing, employment, and family budgets. The Settlement factors some house property on Octavia Hill lines. We hope also to assist in an inquiry into the budgets of single women living alone and who are in receipt of about the trade board rate of wages. The Settlement is the laboratory for the Glasgow School of Social Study, and some of the students taking the Endorsed Diploma live at the Settlement. Every year one Scholarship is awarded which covers fees and cost of residence. The Warden is tutor in practical work to the School of Social Study.

In addition to research work the club work usually associated with settlements is carried on. The largest club is the Girls' Club, which numbers 500 members. There is also a Nursery School, a Mothers' Club, and a play centre. The Settlement is responsible for the staffing of one of the branch offices of the Glasgow Society of Social Service, and is in very close touch with the educational and philanthropic agencies in the city and with the departments of the City Corporation.

I shall be very glad to hear from any of your readers who are interested.

ELEANOR LEIGH,  
Warden.Queen Margaret Settlement,  
77 Port Street, Anderston, Glasgow.



## COMING EVENTS.

## EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

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

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

**Clackmannanshire S.E.C.** FEB. 6. 7.30. Townhead Institute. Miss Alison Neilans, "The Josephine Butler Centenary." Chair: Dr. Ferguson, President B.W.T.A.

**Dunfermline S.E.C.** FEB. 6. 8 p.m. Y.M.C.A. Institute. Miss Alison Neilans, "The Solicitation Laws."

**East Lewisham W.C.A.** FEB. 17. 3 p.m. Courthill Road Hall. Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, "Cecil Houses and how they are made."

**Edinburgh S.E.C.** FEB. 10. 8 p.m. New Gallery. Miss Alison Neilans, Dr. Ethel Williams, Dr. Amee Gibbs, Dr. Olive Watson, on "Josephine Butler's Principles and their Application to Present Day Problems."

**Edinburgh W.C.A.** FEB. 7. 5.15. 27 Rutland Street. First of series of Study Circle Lectures on "The State and the Young." Miss Turnbull, M.B.E., "Health."

**Fatirk W.C.A.** FEB. 7. 7.30. The Temperance Cafe, Lint Riggs. Miss Alison Neilans on "Josephine Butler and the Equal Moral Standard." Chair: D. Inglis.

**Glasgow S.E.C. W.C.A.** FEB. 6. 7.15. Cadoro Restaurant. Dinner to commemorate the passing of the People Act (1918). Speaker: Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc. Reception 7 p.m.

**Preston W.C.A.** FEB. 14. 7.30. Orient Cafe, Friargate. J. H. Harris, Esq. (League of Nations Union), "Our Responsibility to Backward Races."

**Southall W.C.A.** FEB. 14. 3 p.m. Public Library. Mrs. Bell, "Mother India."

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

**FEB. 6.** 8 p.m. Caxton Hall. New Year's Party. Attractive musical programme. Speakers: The Bishop of Pella, Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, Mrs. Laughton Matthews. Tickets from 55 Berners Street, W. 1.

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF VOTES FOR SOME WOMEN.

**FEB. 6.** 8 p.m. Essex Hall, Strand. Public Meeting. Speakers: Suffragette Ex-Prisoners. Tickets from Mrs. Gye, Ardsett, Ridgeway, Mill Hill. Admission free.

## THE GUILDHOUSE, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W.

**FEB. 6.** 5.45. Miss Sybil Thorndike will give a reading of "The Trojan Women." Chair: Dr. Percy Dearmer.

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**WOMAN DOCTOR** requires, in the district between Baker Street Station and Great Portland Street Station, two sunny, unfurnished ROOMS, with attendance and use of bathroom; must be clean; terms moderate.—Apply, E. R., 4 Redcliffe Street, S.W. 10.

**SMALL BED-SITTINGROOM,** small kitchen and scullery; gas-fires, cooker; part furnished, no attendance; suit one or two business women.—Apply after 3 p.m., 155 Oxford Gardens, North Kensington.

**HAMPSTEAD.**—To let, well-fitted four-room FLAT, near Tube. Seen by appointment.—Farmer, 16 Howitt Road, N.W. 3.

**SMALL furnished HOUSE** to let, March and April; careful tenants, no children nor dogs; near church, station; 3 bedrooms, bathroom, gas, electric light. If housekeeper kept, 3 guineas.—Miss B., Bridge Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

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**JESSIE D. WALLINGTON** (Drugless Practitioner) treats all conditions of ill-health by natural methods—spinal therapy, osteopathy, dietetics, etc. Particularly successful with nerve cases. Consultation by appointment.—37 St. George's Road, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1. Telephone, Franklin 6487.

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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.)

## DRESS.

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

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**LACE.**—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,141, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**SUFFRAGETTE DINNER,** 5s., Craig's Court Restaurant, Saturday, 4th February, 7 p.m.—Tickets from Mrs. Elsa Gye, Adsett, Ridgeway, Mill Hill.

**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.)

**EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU,** 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1 (new address), requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Sitting fee: Employers, 7s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES,** Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 5th February. 3.30. Major Manning. 6.30. Dr. Percy Dearmer.

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **1½d.** including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1 (Telephone Victoria 6188), and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

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

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