

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Amendments to the Address.

We were glad to note that in the debate on the Address, Lord Beauchamp expressed the hope that the Speaker's conference on the extension of the women's franchise would be held this year. Mr. W. Baker, Mr. Frank Briant, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, and Mr. Fenby had put down amendments to the Address regretting that there was no mention of the franchise extension in the King's speech, but there was no time for discussion on these amendments.

#### Result of Private Members' Ballot.

Although none of the measures which this paper is specially advocating have been chosen by those who obtained good places in the Ballot, there are certain Bills whose career will be followed with great interest. Mr. Greaves-Lord, who won the first place, is introducing a Bill to increase the powers of the Court to inflict punishment in the case of certain crimes, on Friday, 19th February. He had originally undertaken to introduce a Bastardy Bill, but was asked by the Government to introduce this Bill in order to deal with a point raised by the Lord Chief Justice, in dismissing the Hayley Morris case appeal—that in the case of offences against women and children a sentence of penal servitude may be imposed where the prisoner has been convicted of a series of offences each of which was punishable by hard labour. Mr. Galbraith will be introducing an Adoption Bill based on the Tomlin Report on 26th February. Miss Wilkinson, who obtained the eighth place in the Ballot, will introduce the Factories Bill as drafted by the Labour Government in 1924. Mr. H. Williams is introducing a Bill to extend the Protection of Animals Act, and Mr. Ammon a Bill to amend the Education Act, 1921, though it is unlikely that there will be time for further stages of these. Mr. T. Kennedy has introduced an Offices Regulation Bill, and Captain Wedgwood Benn an Equal Franchise Bill, but these, not having any places at all, can be regarded as little more than gestures.

#### The Working of the Contributory Pensions Act.

The existing facts with regard to the working of this Act were given by Sir Kingsley Wood during the debate on the Address. He stated that over 86,000 widow's pensions had been granted, and that about 2,500 claims are being received each week. A higher proportion of claims are being made from Scotland and Wales. As Sir Kingsley Wood said: "The people

in Scotland know that a good thing exists and as we should expect, they are pushing their claims much more vigorously than people in this country do." Still more interesting were his remarks with respect to Voluntary Insurance. "In connection with National Health Insurance, voluntary insurance was practically a failure. There is now, however, a very different state of affairs as far as this new scheme is concerned, because I can tell the House that there has been a considerable demand for voluntary insurance, and it is not unlikely that the estimate of the Government Actuary of the number of new voluntary contributors will be exceeded." We, ourselves, had always predicted that the provisions under the Act to enable people to become a Voluntary Contributor would be a great success, and are glad to see that we were true prophets.

#### Birth Control in the House of Commons.

On Tuesday, 9th February, Mr. Thurtle introduced under the Ten Minutes Rule the Local Authorities (Birth Control) Enabling Bill, "to authorise local authorities to incur expenditure, when deemed expedient, in conveying knowledge of birth control methods to married women who desire it". He had consulted with none of the organizations primarily interested in this reform, or he would have been told that the time was premature and that the raising of the question in the House of Commons—especially under the Ten Minutes Rule, when there is no time for adequately expounding the subject and no opportunity at all for answering objections—was only courting defeat. And defeat came sure enough, the voting being 167 to 86 against the first reading. No wonder that we felt "preserve us from our friends"! We have not as yet seen the division list, but, as the proposer and opposer both emphasised, this was a question cutting across all parties. Mr. Thurtle introduced the subject ably, but in our opinion did not stress sufficiently the danger referred to in our leading article of the extent to which the wrong kind of information is given in the wrong kind of way. The speech of Mr. James Barr, Labour member for Motherwell, and the favourable reception it received by the House, made us almost despair of the good sense of our legislature. It was little more than an appeal to sentiment—an exposition of his views that "a bountiful Creator had provided ample resources for all if there was wise production and just distribution". (We wonder if he expounds this creed among the unemployed men and overburdened mothers of his own constituency!) We much regretted to hear him quoting a statement of Mrs. Harrison Bell, ex-chairman of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations, to the effect that, far from its being difficult for working women to obtain the necessary information, now it is thrust upon them by suggestion and advertisement at every turn. That is indeed possible in certain districts, but again we ask—what kind of information?

#### Our Daily Bread.

The National Food Council, which enjoyed last week a renewed burst of activity and publicity, has once more startled the apathetic consumer with its allegations against food traders. In a white paper published on its behalf by H.M. Stationery Office (price 1s. 6d.) it levies a heavy indictment of habitual "short measure" against milk dealers, greengrocers, and grocers. These are startlingly supported by the evidence of Mr. Buckley, of the National Clean Milk Society, and Mr. Davies, of the L.C.C. Public Control Department, concerning various specific accusations. It is only natural that a number of traders (many of whom are, of course, wholly guiltless of such dubious practices) should accuse their critics of exaggeration. Nevertheless, the traders themselves are sometimes far from reassuring in their attitude to the Council's activities. We quote the

following contribution made on behalf of the National Association of Master Bakers, Confectioners, and Caterers, to the *National Association Review* of 22nd January: "We have had it put to us recently that if only bakers would stick to their own millers . . . instead of playing off one miller against another . . . then the two trades would be able to work in harmony and laugh at the Food Council. There is a great deal in this thought, and the day may come when the bakers turn a deaf ear to the syrens who offer flour at '3s. under.' We therefore readily say to the miller, 'get wheat importers, brokers, and shippers to support you and then in turn give your aid in dealing with the ubiquitous under-cutting baker.'" In other words, with importers, millers, and bakers firmly organized for the maintenance of high prices, the consumer will be at the mercy of the trader. It is sometimes urged by the apologists of private enterprise that the action of competition ensures a practical identification of the interests of the trader with those of the consumer. The time appears to be approaching when a new apologia will have to be drafted for the long series of private traders who supply us with our daily bread. For the old one will soon be out of date.

#### Women and Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture has published a report of proceedings under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924 (H.M. Stationery Office, 1s.), which contains some unpleasing records of discrimination against women. The report confesses that in the case of a number of local Agricultural Wages Committees "the steps taken in regard to women fall short in one respect or another of the provision made for men." They certainly do! Where the rates of wages fixed for men range over from 29s. to 37s. 6d. per week, the pay for women is from 3d. to 6d. per hour. In the graduated scale for young persons, boys under 15 receive from 9s. to 17s. 6d. per week; girls, from 2d. to 5d. per hour. While in all areas a minimum weekly rate for males is in force, in only 15 areas do the orders affecting women provide for such a minimum. Truly a curious reversal of the widespread view that women require special legislative protection! Yet "curiouser and curiouser" is still to come. Forty-two of the Committee had provided for a weekly half-day for males, but only 16 had provided a similar concession for females. We are glad that the report takes special cognizance of this inequity, and we agree with the spirit of its criticism: "In any case, even though the number in certain areas is very small, such women as may be employed are entitled to the protection provided by the Act, which makes no distinction between male and female workers."

#### Women Help to Launch a Lifeboat.

We read in *The Times* that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has decided to give a testimonial of its thanks, inscribed on vellum, to the thirty-five women of Boulmer, Northumberland, who helped to launch the Boulmer lifeboat early in the morning of 20th December. During the severest snowstorm of many years the launchers, more than half of whom were women, struggled in the teeth of the gale and dragged the lifeboat, weighing 3½ tons, for a mile and a quarter. They remained on duty until after the Alnmouth lifeboat had been launched and returned in safety—from 3 to 9 a.m.

#### Questions in Parliament.

WOMEN AND THE MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.—*Mr. Briant* asked the Minister of Pensions whether women are eligible for promotion to all the higher posts in his Department; whether the women higher executive officers are allowed to deputise in the grades above them so that they may be equally eligible with their male colleagues for consideration for promotion; and, if not, how it is proposed to give these women equality of opportunity with men? *Major Tryon*: Except in so far as the work of the Department is divided between men's and women's branches, eligibility for the higher posts does not depend on sex. Arrangements for providing deputies for officers during absence are of an informal nature, depending on the particular circumstances of each individual case, and do not give a prior claim to consideration for promotion. The last part of the question does not, therefore, arise. *Mr. Briant*: I have not had a definite answer. Is it a fact that women are allowed to deputise? If they are not, are not their chances of promotion very seriously affected? *Major Tryon*: The point is that this question of substitution does not affect the question of promotion.

WOMEN AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.—*Mr. Briant* asked the Minister of Health whether women are eligible for promotion

to all the higher posts in his Department; whether the women higher executive officers and Health Insurance inspectors are allowed to deputise in the grades above them so that they may be equally eligible with their male colleagues for consideration for promotion; and, if not, how it is proposed to give these women equality of opportunity with men? *Mr. Chamberlain*: All posts in the Ministry are open to both sexes, with the exception of certain higher posts on the outdoor insurance staff, where there are at present separate establishments for men and women with higher posts for each. The whole basis of this organization will, however, shortly be reviewed. Women higher executive officers and Health Insurance inspectors are allowed to deputise in the grades above subject to considerations of relative seniority and suitability for the work.

FACTORIES BILL.—*Mr. Robinson* asked the Home Secretary when it is proposed to introduce the Bill consolidating and amending the Factory Acts? *Sir W. Joynson Hicks*: For the reasons which I explained in a recent speech it is not proposed to proceed with the Factory Bill during the present Session, but it is the intention of the Government that the Bill shall be passed during the course of the present Parliament.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.—*Mr. Gerald Hurst* asked the Minister of Health whether he intended this Session to appoint a Committee to inquire into the desirability of legislation with regard to the registration of nursing homes, and, if so, what type of Committee would be set up. *Sir Kingsley Wood*: In accordance with the undertaking given by my hon. and gallant friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health for Scotland, on 19th June last, steps are being taken for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into this question.

WOMEN MAGISTRATES.—*Captain Wedgwood Benn* asked the Home Secretary how many benches there are in England and Wales with no women magistrates; and how many with only one woman magistrate? *The Home Secretary*: The appointment of magistrates in England and Wales (excluding Lancashire) rests with the Lord Chancellor, who has the assistance in each county and borough of an advisory committee. I understand from my noble friend that there is at least one woman magistrate in every county commission in England and Wales. The commissions for the counties of Carmarthen, Radnor and Rutland contain only one woman's name. There is more than one woman on every other county commission. There are 221 boroughs in England and Wales having separate commissions of the peace. Sixty-five of these have no women magistrates and 34 others have only one. The majority of boroughs which have no women magistrates are boroughs having populations below 10,000. 1,275 women have been appointed in England and Wales during the last five years. It is the Lord Chancellor's practice, whenever new appointments are proposed, to request his advisory committee to consider the question of including women's names in the list of persons recommended for appointment. I understand from my Noble Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster that the Commission of the Peace for Lancashire includes 81 women; 28 commissions for boroughs include more than one woman; two include one; there is no borough commission with no women.

OFFENCES AGAINST YOUNG PERSONS.—*Sir W. Joynson-Hicks*, replying to *Mr. Pethick-Lawrence* (Leicester, W., Lab.), who asked whether the Government intended to take action during the Session along the lines of the report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, said:—This report, which was only recently presented to me, is receiving my careful consideration, but I am unable to make any statement at present. *Mr. Pethick-Lawrence*: Will the right hon. gentleman take into account the fact that large numbers of organizations of women are very anxious that something should be done along these lines? *Sir W. Joynson-Hicks*: There is another report coming from a Departmental Committee, and I propose to ask for no legislative sanction for either till they are both ready.

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.—*Mr. Briant* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what countries have placed women on an equality of franchise with men? *Sir A. Chamberlain*: I regret that this information is not in the possession of His Majesty's Government.

FRANCHISE AND ELECTORAL LAW CONFERENCE.—*Mr. Briant* asked the Prime Minister when the Conference will be called to consider alterations in the franchise and electoral law? *The Prime Minister*: I can make no statement on this subject at present.

#### MOTHERS AND WELFARE WORKERS.

*Mr. Thurtle's* move in the House of Commons to introduce under the ten minutes rule a Bill enabling Infant Welfare Centres to give information on birth control methods to such married women as desire it, embodies a demand which has been advocated by this paper for some time past. That it is a demand which commands widespread support among the two classes of persons most immediately and vitally concerned: the working mothers and the infant welfare workers, is plainly indicated by recent expressions of opinion.

To begin with the working mothers: those to whom by reason of poverty the ordinary private channels of expert medical consultation are closed. For two consecutive years past the National Women's Conference of the Labour Party, a body which represents the interests and point of view of this particular class of the community, has voiced, by overwhelming majorities, the demand which *Mr. Thurtle's* Bill embodies. This is, we believe, the first time that the organized women of the Labour Party have spontaneously, and without a gesture of encouragement from their official leaders, forced on to the somewhat reluctant attention of their Party a demand which peculiarly affects women. The fact is significant of the feeling which this subject generates among them. And unless the Party, as a Party, adopts the sympathetic attitude displayed by *Mr. Thurtle*, the political prophet has good reason to see in this demand the seeds of a controversy which may produce something very like a sex cleavage in the Labour ranks. For certain it is that the organized Labour women are conscious of wanting something very badly and almost unanimously. And recent women's conferences reveal a tenacity and an independence among their members that time is not likely to diminish.

When we turn to the other set of persons who are immediately if perhaps less vitally concerned: the workers at the welfare centres, opinion on a national scale is less easy to gauge. But the outcome of a meeting of the London Workers' Section of the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres, held on 12th January, throws light on the way in which opinion is moving among them. This meeting passed by a majority of 32 to 7 votes, the following resolution:—"The London Workers' Section beseeches the Ministry of Health to remove the embargo on the giving of information on birth control at Infant Welfare Centres by the medical officer in charge to cases when he or she considers it necessary, and draws the Ministry's attention to the danger of the indiscriminate sale of birth control literature and the display of contraceptives."

At the meeting in question this policy was vigorously championed by *Dr. Jane Hawthorne*, *Dr. Elizabeth Sloan*

#### NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

##### BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Parliament met on 2nd February, and was opened by the King in person. The debate on the Address followed traditional lines, that is to say, it was carried on in a non-partisan spirit, and indeed for the most part was dull. The King's speech contained what was expected. Economy, the coal trade, electrical reorganization, and assistance to agriculture were the main topics which Parliament was asked to consider. The debate was opened as usual by the Mover and Seconder of the Address, followed by *Mr. Clynes* as leader of the opposition. He traversed familiar ground, and it was not until the ball was thrown into the hands of the back benches that matters became really interesting. However, before this point was reached, *Mr. Lloyd George* attacked the Government for the settlement of the Italian debt, and for the coal subsidy, to which the Prime Minister replied, not ineffectively, and the debate was continued under somewhat depressing conditions.

Next day, however, the pace quickened. *Mr. Wheatley* delivered a general attack, and after that the debate ran out into separate channels. War debts, the coal trouble, war pensions, colonial policy, and unemployment all had their turn. But not until Thursday, 4th February, did the interest really begin. *Mr. Snowden* moved the official opposition amendment. That again followed ordinary lines, but was remarkable from the fact that a large part of it was on land policy and obviously addressed to *Mr. Lloyd George*. Indeed, the Press has since been full of talk of an alliance or understanding between those two gentlemen. It is difficult to say how far the rumour is to be credited. No one can doubt that *Mr. Lloyd George* has held out the hand to the Labour Party and that this hand has been taken. That is true, but it is a long way from that to a definite alliance.

*Chesser*, *Dr. Dorothy Shepherd*, *Dr. Margaret Emslie* (Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, Croydon), *Dr. Oldenshaw* (Gynaecologist to the Hospital for Women, Soho Square), and *Dr. J. B. Howell* (Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Hammersmith). We are inclined, for our part, to criticize the wording of the resolution on one point. We should have preferred to substitute for the words: "in cases when he or she (i.e. the medical officer) considers it necessary" the words: "in cases where the mother asks for it". It is true that there will be cases in which the medical officer will be of the opinion that further childbearing is medically undesirable; and it is of course necessary that in such cases the woman should be clearly informed of her condition and prospects, and of the fact that various means exist for the avoidance of further pregnancies. But we consider that the initiative in asking for precise information should come from the mother herself—whether her desire for knowledge be motivated by financial or physical reasons. For in propagating the demand embodied in the resolution we should wish to avoid all suggestion that welfare centres in receipt of public funds should be used for the propaganda of birth control; or that those mothers who are members of religious bodies to which all methods of birth control other than the suspension of marital intercourse are repugnant, are likely to have such methods urged upon them. We stand for the freedom of the individual mother to have access to such expert and disinterested information as she may, in the light of her own ethical standards, desire. Nor do we doubt that this is, in fact, the real intention of the resolution whose detailed wording we have criticized.

Meanwhile, from day to day, we are reminded of the urgent need for a change in the policy of the Ministry of Health. Profit-making agencies, third-rate drug stores, and ignorant (if sometimes well-meaning) amateurs continue their indiscriminate propaganda of contraceptive and abortifacient practices to married and unmarried alike. Maternal mortality preserves its obstinate high level. A little while ago one of our readers found herself in discussion on the subject with a small group of north-country women—for the most part very poor women and terribly tired women. Four of them complained that they had been discharged from the local Hospital for Women and Children after difficult or dangerous confinements with the instruction to risk no more pregnancies but with no information concerning their avoidance. We believe that this particular hospital does not stand alone in its pursuance of such a policy. It is a policy which, in our opinion, combines in a peculiar degree the qualities of personal cruelty and professional short-sight.

The difficulties in the road are perhaps personal rather than political; for there is nothing extraordinary in the fact that *Mr. Lloyd George* should gravitate towards the left. But personal difficulties, which have been enough to break up the Liberal Party when there was every reason that they should stick together, might be a formidable obstacle against a new alliance. That is all that can be said, and there the matter rests for the present. The first moves have been made on the political chessboard, and it remains to be seen what the two players will do next.

That perhaps was the most interesting incident in the first three days, but there was another, less noticed but of more real import, and that was the manner in which the back benches on both sides took the debate out of the hands of their leaders. It should be said in explanation that when *Mr. Snowden* had finished, the discussion turned almost entirely on unemployment. *Major Cadogan*, on the Unionist side, suggested a league for industrial peace, telling both front benches that they had done little to solve unemployment. *Mr. Johnson* endorsed this from the Labour side of the House, and finally on the following day, Friday, 5th February, *Mr. Boothby* made what perhaps was the most illuminating contribution to the discussion. Altogether the private member asserted himself.

On Monday, 8th February, came the turn of the Liberal opposition and they chose education. *Sir John Simon* moved the amendment, and *Mr. Fisher* supported it later in the afternoon. As the debate wore on, the attack on the Government developed into two separate assaults. *Sir John Simon*, *Mr. Fisher*, and others supported the percentage grant against the block grant. *Mr. Trevelyan* and his friends said nothing

about this, but girded at the Government for economizing on education. The dialectical honours were fairly well divided, Lord Eustace Percy more than holding his own against his Liberal assailants, but being hard pressed on the charge of economizing.

The opening, therefore, was a quiet one, and the next week will show little change, for it is to be devoted almost entirely to supplementary estimates. The clash will not come until the House is closely engaged upon the Economy Bill, which is coming shortly.

### KENYA COLONY AND THE BRITISH TAX-PAYER.

In the King's Speech on 2nd February, the House of Commons has been asked to consider the granting of a loan of ten millions for "the development of the British dependencies in East Africa and the mandated territories." If this is granted, we may presume that a part of the loan will go to Kenya Colony, formerly British East Africa.

Into what development is it likely to go? The loan is intended to encourage the production of tropical raw materials, for export. In Kenya, the chief products so far exported have been maize, coffee, sisal (a coarse fibre used for rope), ground nuts, wool and hides. Of all these commodities the native African produces some maize, most of the ground nuts and hides. Cotton is grown by the Africans in Uganda further inland, but Kenya is not suitable for it generally. The increased production of these commodities will necessitate the extension of communications, the building of railways, roads, bridges, harbour works; to ensure the minimum of waste from diseases and pests there will have to be further research and increased agricultural and veterinary services; and finally as all development is dependent on the health and skill of the native African there will have to be study and publication of facts as to industrial conditions, and improvement and enlargement of the medical and educational services for the native, whether he is a producer in his own Reserve or on the farms of European owners.

On any or all of these lines may this loan be spent. For the last quarter of a century the British taxpayer has been paying £339,000 every year as interest and sinking fund on the cost of the first railway that was built in the country—the famous Uganda Railway. The final payment was made in November last. The British taxpayer will now be invited to pay for some years the interest on this new loan. He, or she, may reasonably be expected therefore to want to know if the loan is going to be spent for the good of all the inhabitants of the Colony or only for the benefit of a few.

Unfortunately, those who have watched recent political developments in Kenya cannot avoid the fear that there is likely to be strong pressure brought to bear by the privileged few in Kenya to spend the greater part of the loan they get on services for the benefit of the European only. If that were so, the development would take the form of railways built into the areas of European farms instead of into the native reserves (where very few railways have so far gone), and increased agricultural and veterinary services to European planters and stock owners (who already have almost the whole veterinary services at their beck and call). One result of this policy would be a renewed demand for forced labour, to develop these European farms, for even at present the labour supply is inadequate, and the relationship of employer and employed not of the best.

But we British have two notable statements on the Government of native peoples, for our advice, if we choose to act up to them. Lord Cromer once said that of any loan to a tropical dependency, 50 per cent. should be spent on the native. Under the last Conservative Government (1923), the Secretary of State in his settlement of the Indian Question in Kenya, wrote thus: "Primarily Kenya is an African territory, and his Majesty's Government think it necessary to record their considered opinion that the interests of the African natives must be paramount, and that if, and when, those interests and the interests of the immigrant races should conflict, the former should prevail."

Both of these statements show vision, both are apt to be forgotten.

What can we do here to see that this promise of trusteeship is to be carried out, now that Kenya is perhaps about to receive more money than she has had for many years? We can influence public opinion, and also write to our members in the House, that they see to it that when the discussion of the loan

comes up, it shall be specifically laid down that at least 50 per cent. of it shall be used in the interests of the native African. He urgently needs veterinary services, means of communication, increased medical services and education. The African native needs much teaching in sanitation, he needs both wealth and knowledge to improve his huts and make them immune from the plague-carrying rats, he needs to have his tropical diseases dealt with on a wide scale, and there is urgent need to cope with the tragically high infant mortality rate, which in some districts is 500 per 1000 babies born.

Up to now the education of the African boys and girls has been sadly neglected by Government, though the Missions have often done their best to supply the lack—at any rate in so far as the education of boys is concerned.

It is obvious that unless a wise education of an all-round character is embarked upon, such for example as the Rev. Alec Fraser is beginning at Achimota on the West Coast of Africa, then the Government will be throwing away a great opportunity for the development of Kenya Colony.

ISABEL ROSS.

### BREAKING THE QUININE MONOPOLY.

By LESLIE R. ALDOUS.

One of the most serious menaces to the health of the world at the present time is the malaria plague, which has gained considerable ground since the war. At the request of many Governments, the Health Section of the League of Nations has been conducting searching investigations in the Balkans, in Asia Minor, in the Mediterranean, and in Africa, where malaria is particularly rampant. The consensus of opinion from these inquiries is that the evil must be attacked in two directions at the same time. First, action must be taken to exterminate as far as possible the germ-carrying mosquito. Secondly the use of quinine or other preventive drugs must be extended.

Unfortunately there is at present a world shortage of quinine. Moreover, it appears from the investigations of the League's experts that this shortage is deliberately aggravated by the Dutch Syndicate, which has the monopoly of quinine, for the purpose of keeping up prices. Nine-tenths of the world's supply of quinine is grown in Dutch colonies such as Java, the remainder coming from British colonies, certain part of Africa, and Peru. There is a possibility that, in the future, the cultivation of the cinchona plant, from which quinine is obtained, may be extended to other regions. In countries like Persia, for example, where at present the deadly opium poppy is grown, it will probably be found practicable to substitute cinchona. For all this, the problem is a serious one to the civilized world.

The League of Nations is setting itself seriously to the task of breaking the Dutch monopoly which restricts the output of quinine with a view to keeping up the price and providing a dividend of 36 per cent. for the shareholders. It tried first to influence the syndicate and to persuade the Dutch Government to regulate the actions of the syndicate. The excuse that it received was that the ring was acting simply to "stabilize the market." The League is now having to find means of breaking the ring by other methods. The mere increase of the world's supply of quinine outside Java, though important, will not be sufficient. At present experiments are being carried out with other alkaloids obtained from the cinchona plant, which may be equally as effective as quinine itself.

Recent medical research provides grounds for belief that "quinidine" is likely to prove quite as valuable against malaria as quinine. Experiments are still going on. The problem of cheapening the price of anti-malarial drugs thus appears to be progressing along the road to solution. The League, if it is able to break the quinine monopoly by "direct action," will earn the gratitude of all people whose countries are afflicted by malaria. Only the shareholders of the Amsterdam syndicate are likely to object.

A  
DINNER AND RECEPTION  
to welcome  
MRS. PANKHURST  
at the  
HYDE PARK HOTEL, on Wednesday, 3rd March.

Tickets from the Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Dinner (including Reception) £1 1s. Reception only 5s. Dinner 7.30 for 8. Reception 9.30.

### WOMEN UNDER ENGLISH LAW.<sup>1</sup>

This volume has been published with the assistance of the Stansfeld Trust, which was founded so long ago as 1906 as a testimonial to the late Right Hon. Sir James Stansfeld, with the object of promoting equality of men and women before the law and of diffusing knowledge of the position of women as compared with men under that law as it is or might become under any suggested alterations. The Trust has always adapted its activities to the particular requirements of the moment. Before the War it employed a Scrutineer to examine Bills before Parliament with a view to supplying information as to proposed changes in the law as they might specially affect women as such. In 1922 and the two following years lectures were organized at the University of London on the position of women legally, economically, and as employees. The action of the Trust in making it possible for the National Council of Women to publish this excellent short and popular statement of the law of England as it affects women is well timed. The recent crop of legislative improvements resulting from granting the suffrage to women over 30 in 1918 has made previous books on the subject out of date.

The book is divided into four chapters and it is of interest to note that in each department definite legislation has been made in these few years.

The value of a book of this kind is largely dependent on its table of contents and index. It therefore seems right to state at once that these are both admirable. The first chapter on women as citizens includes particulars of the qualifications of both parliamentary and local government electors and of the qualifications and duties of women justices and jurors—all reforms of recent date. Women as wives, with sub-headings on marriage, divorce, the rights and liabilities of husbands and wives towards each other and to third parties is the subject matter of Chapter II. Under this heading it has been possible to report the improvement in the law by which a woman is now enabled to get a separation order without having to leave her home. But in it we are reminded of many of the absurdities of the law still in force dating from another age. A girl may marry at the age of twelve or even before it with the right to repudiate at twelve any marriage made before that age. A husband and wife cannot conspire together because they are one person in the eyes of the law. A woman who commits certain crimes in her husband's presence is deemed in law to act under his coercion unless she is proved to have been the instigator of the crime. This last, however, since the publication of the book, has been removed by the Criminal Justice Act of last year.

The third chapter deals with women as mothers, their duties and powers as parents. It includes a description of the new Guardianship of Infants Act, by which the mother of legitimate children is given certain parental rights. There is also recorded the new provision by which, since 1922, a woman who has willfully caused the death of her newly born child before fully recovering from its birth is not sentenced to death.

Under the heading "Women as Workers" the legal changes include the opening to women of the legal, veterinary, and other professions, the power given to employ women on the two-shift system, and pensions for widows and their children. This section, comprehensively dealt with by Miss H. C. Escreet, contains information about hours and conditions in factories and workshops and particulars about the Truck, Trade Boards, and Insurance Acts. It is unfortunate that countenance should apparently have been given to the common fallacy that women only are affected in their capacity as healthy parents by lead-poisoning, by the omission of all reference to the fact that male parents suffering from lead poisoning may also transmit the disease to their offspring and so be a danger to the life or health of their unborn children. Stillbirths are often traceable to the disease of lead-poisoning, not of the mother but of the father.

The last chapter gives a short description of offences and actions affecting women as such, including rape, procurement, seduction, etc. Here, too, the fact that a man over 23 cannot now plead as a defence to a charge of criminal assault that he had reasonable cause to believe that the girl was under 16 is a new legal provision. Appended is a supplementary chapter by Miss Margaret H. Kidd, the one woman advocate at the Scotch Bar giving an

(Continued at foot of next column.)

<sup>1</sup> *Women under English Law.* By Maud I. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., solicitor of the Supreme Court, with a foreword by Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D. Published at the office of the National Council of Women of Great Britain, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London. Price 2s. 6d.

### WOMEN AND THE LAND.

By MRS. COOMBE TENNANT, J.P.

Opinions will be divided on the question of the merits or demerits of the schemes for dealing with the problems of Urban and of Rural land which are to come up for consideration at the Liberal Land Conference which takes place next week. They are based upon two Reports issued by the Liberal Land Committee 1923-5, and a White Paper which contains modifications of the Rural proposals arrived at in consultation with the Liberal and Radical Candidates' Association last December. Whatever their political views it is safe to say that both reports (commonly known as the Brown Book and the Green Book, and published at 1s. each) contain a mass of information of great interest to women. It is impossible to do more here than to draw the attention of readers to the valuable contribution made to the Rural Land Report by Mrs. Wintringham. Perhaps inevitably the difficulties of the rural woman and her problems are less known and less thought about in the community at large than those of her sister in the towns. "Movements" naturally tend to hinge on towns, and the "townyness" of the minds of many speakers and organizers raises a barrier between them and the shrewd, if slow-tongued woman of the fields. The Women's Institutes movement has been blessedly free from this, and the fact accounts for much of its success.

Mrs. Wintringham knows the lot of the agricultural woman at first hand, and what she has to say upon her interests and needs will command attention outside the circle of party politics. The latest census returns show that some 83,000 women were engaged in agriculture, and that the industry ranks as amongst the most important in the country from the point of view of women's employment.

In the chapter upon "Agricultural Policy and Women," which she contributes to the Rural Land Report, Mrs. Wintringham points out that the dissatisfaction of country women with their own condition of life and their desire for a better future for their children has been one of the main factors in the rural exodus, and that it is vital that in the framing of any land programme the interests of women—whether as paid workers or members of a family partnership—should be considered. Women who are working for wages need legislative or administrative reform in three directions—in the improvement of wage standards, the amelioration of conditions, and increased opportunities of employment. A strong case is made out for the provision of better opportunities for agricultural education for women, not only in regard to dairying, poultry keeping, and horticulture, but in the function of rural home-making. Other sections deal with the rural education of the young and rural housing. It is interesting to note that in Mrs. Wintringham's opinion "the root difficulty of women's agricultural education in this country is the inadequate representation of women on the administrative machinery." Isn't this the root difficulty of a great many other questions affecting women's interests—and how terribly slowly we are securing any improvement in the matter!

### OURSELVES.

It is obvious from this week's issue that things are happening, and we once again express the hope that our readers will file their copies of the paper for future reference, especially as in some cases the articles will be followed by others on the same subject. Dr. Herman Finer's review of a recently published attack on Proportional Representation will be replied to next week by Mr. John Humphreys, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society. We call our readers' attention to the special 12-page Equal Franchise Number which will appear on Friday, 26th February, on the occasion of the demonstration in the Central Hall, Westminster. Orders for additional numbers should be sent *at once* so that we may know how many copies to print, otherwise our experience at the beginning of the year will be repeated when we were entirely unable to supply the demand. Fuller particulars will be given next week.

(Continued from previous column.)

account of the marriage, property, and parental rights and responsibilities of women.

The book does not profess to be a legal textbook. Its aim is to give a short general outline of the position of women under English law in a form which will be understood by readers without legal training. Mrs. Crofts has succeeded in her aim in producing a volume which every worker in the woman's movement will find it well to possess.

A. B.

### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.<sup>1</sup>

This book, says the legend on the dust-cover, is the first book published devoted entirely to a criticism of the P. R. method of election. It is, indeed, time that the case against P. R. were stated with a fulness and continuousness to match the organized campaign in its favour. But I cannot believe it is necessary to produce books the size and price of Mr. Horwill's for the purpose. Nor do I think that the author has done an ideal piece of work. Far from it. The arguments against P. R. can, as a matter of fact, be stated in a very few paragraphs, but the author has produced a book. The effect is to force into the condition of rank and proliferating weeds of speculation what were originally a few healthy vigorous roots. A clear distinction must be drawn between the merit of the book written by the author and the merits of the case which can justly be made against the advocates of P. R. In this instance the former are overwhelmingly better than the latter.

The author is at much pains to show, first, that the instinct of self-preservation (minority egotism) and the emotion of fear of majority rule are some of the impulses behind the agitation. He does not analyze these impulses, and ask whether, indeed, they are not useful social factors. A statement of this kind without analysis reevaluation arouses an immediate and sinister antagonism to one's opponents, and those who find themselves, on rational grounds, against P. R. do not need such support to their case. We ought indeed to recognize, at once, and keep the tablets forever on our brows as a reminder that there is virtue in minority egotism and that the minority has a good reason to suspect the action of the majority, and demand safeguards against it. The machinery of democracy is not yet so perfect that we can treat the claim of a minority to decent treatment so lightly.

The author then insists that P. R. would enable and help small groups of individuals to break away from the general political parties, and give us all the parliamentary troubles from which European countries with the group system now suffer. This is a valid point. But any scholarly study of foreign governments will put the reader on his guard about accepting this proposition without reservations. The truth is that foreign politics are so alien from our own that we cannot argue from them, and they are so much the product of a complicated intertwining of social elements that only the most careful investigation will reveal what is caused by P. R., and what by other things. The author gives copious figures to support his proposition from recent European elections. They are almost completely worthless, for apparently he has not the necessary equipment to estimate their real meaning. No student to whom the science of government is precious, would care to be the author of a sentence such as follows: "The political party machine would soon reproduce the worst features of French over-centralized government, and original and independent minds would form separate groups and create innumerable conflicting centres." (p. 62). Shades of de Tocqueville!

No. Our own national political aims and nature must be our guides in matters of political innovation. And the net result of the introduction of P. R. in this country would be this. We would lose the single-member constituency, which is simple for candidates, electors and local party executives. The régime of big and responsible parties in the country and in the House of Commons would be threatened, and with that would arise the possibility of indecisive and vacillating government waiting upon electoral and Parliamentary bargains. The close personal relationship of member and constituency would give way to a rather dehumanized operation of the Party machine, seeking to bring its principles into the elector's line of vision. "The swing of the pendulum" in elections would be diminished in amplitude, and the political life of both majority and minority tend to stagnation. The type of referendum known as the by-election would be lost.

To compensate for these clear losses no substantial advantages are offered by P. R. Accurate mathematical representation is practically impossible and is undesirable, given the congestion of business in Parliament, and as a matter of fact, there is representation of all opinions in the House. No cause which arises for discussion in the encyclopaedic programme of the House ever lacks a champion: none a challenge. While it is a theoretical possibility for a minority of electors to get a majority

(Continued on next column.)

<sup>1</sup> *Proportional Representation, its dangers and defects.* By George Horwill, B.Sc. (Econ.). (Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net.)

### DR. HELEN WEBB.

Dr. Helen Webb, who died on 29th January, at the little house she had planned herself at Welwyn Garden City, and lived to enjoy, alas! less than a year, comes to one's mind as essentially "the beloved physician". She took the degree of M.B. at the London School of Medicine for Women in 1888, obtaining honours in Obstetrics and Medicine. She joined the staff of the New Hospital for Women as assistant physician, later physician, and when the Children's Hospital, Harrow Road, was opened in 1911-12, she was appointed consulting physician there. For at least 25 years she was medical inspector at St. Paul's School for Girls, and was actively interested in all associations for the welfare of children—mentally and bodily—notably the Parents' National Educational Union. There are, besides, many small private guilds of service to women and children which owe their inception or encouragement to her.

She had the healing touch, the quiet reconstructive power that belong to a vigorous, searching mind, subdued to a very tender spirit. Her friendship was catholic: into the net of her warm sympathy many and divers were those who came—little children, mothers, schoolgirls, men and women. Each found in that versatile personality something of peculiar value to himself. Her life, ploughed as it was by trials and sorrow, never settled into rigid furrows. She kept the fluidity of her outlook. There was about her to the end an elusiveness, a charm and graciousness that put her with that company of the blessed who in their life shed light and sweetness, and in their death, it seems, "upgathered are, like sleeping flowers."

C. A. M. C.

### CHILD OFFENDERS IN HOLLAND.

The *Glasgow Herald* gives an interesting account of an experiment in child welfare in Amsterdam. A special police force empowered to take preventive measures has been instituted for the protection of children and treatment of young offenders. The headquarters of the force is a large house furnished with no suggestion of the police station and has become a kind of bureau of advice for parents and children. The officers, who include men and women, must have special experience in social work for children, as well as police training, and wear plain clothes. It is claimed that this system is having a marked effect in the reduction of juvenile delinquency in the city. In a future issue we hope to print an interesting article by a contributor in Holland on the after care of offenders.

(Continued from previous column.)

of votes, this has never occurred indisputably; and if it did moral conventions of English politics would prevent the majority from taking advantage of the accident. Indeed, majorities and minorities are being guided to an ever greater extent by statistics of voting as well as by those of seats won; because we nowadays realize, as it was impossible to realize a couple of generations ago, when P. R. was born, that the major issues of politics are not determined in the House of Commons so much as in the constituencies.

HERMAN FINER, D.Sc. Econ. Lond.

## EQUAL FRANCHISE.

### THE WOMAN'S LEADER SPECIAL NUMBER.

26th February, 1926.

#### MESSAGES FROM DISTINGUISHED SUFFRAGISTS.

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This number will be invaluable for distribution or sale at spring and summer meetings.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.  
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

### DEPUTATIONS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Societies are reminded that in former years they have taken the opportunity of the Annual Council Meeting to ask their Members of Parliament to receive a deputation in order to discuss what help these Members can give with respect to the various points on our programme. It is especially important this year that every Member should be seen by his constituents on the subject of Equal Franchise, and delegates should try and arrange deputations.

### REDUCED RAILWAY FARES.

We are very glad to be able to announce that the requisite number of applications for vouchers for reduced railway fares has been obtained. Vouchers may still be supplied, and it is hoped that the certainty of being able to obtain cheap tickets will encourage more delegates and visitors from the more distant Societies to come up either to the Council Meeting or to the various functions connected with it, such as the Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise, which is to be held on Friday, 26th February.

### MASS MEETING.

So many applications for this meeting are being received that we regret not having taken the Albert Hall! Those intending to come should apply at once for their tickets. The speakers will be Lady Astor, M.P., Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., LL.D., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Mme. Malaterre-Sellier.

### CONFERENCES.

Delegates and visitors to the Council are reminded that a Conference on Restrictive Legislation for Women Workers will be held on Wednesday, 24th February, at 4.45 p.m., and also that an Officers' Conference will be held on Saturday, 27th February, at 11.30 a.m.

### HOSPITALITY.

Offers for hospitality are still urgently needed. Requests are still being received from Societies, and we should be most grateful if any of our members in or near London will invite a delegate to stay with them for the time of the Council Meeting.

### BOLTON W.C.A.

The work of the Bolton Women Citizens' Association in the feminist cause was warmly praised by Lady Balfour of Burleigh during the course of an address to a crowded gathering at the annual meeting on 21st January. Lady Balfour put forward a strong appeal for an Equal Franchise for the sexes, and, moving a resolution calling upon the Government to introduce legislation giving the franchise to men and women on equal terms, said the matter affected 5,000,000 women in this country. A comprehensive report on the progress made in the women's cause during the past year was presented by the secretary, Mrs. Blincoe. The report was received with applause, as was that of Miss Jessie Roberts, secretary of the junior branch, who reported that the branch was doing a very useful work, particularly at the Girl's Club in Tipping Street, and urged other young people to support it.

### CHESTER W.C.A.

On Friday 22nd January, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, addressing a meeting of the Chester Women Citizens' Association at the Town Hall, said she had been asked to talk to them on the question of Equal Franchise, but before doing so she wanted to run through one or two things that the National Union of Women Societies had done, and mentioned in particular the Widows' Pensions Act, and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act. Speaking of Equal Franchise, Lady Balfour said that although they called themselves a democratic country, there were five million women unenfranchised in England. Lady Balfour concluded by moving a resolution on Equal Franchise. Mrs. Paget, J.P., was in the chair, and the meeting closed with the customary votes of thanks.

### DURHAM S.E.C.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone addressed a largely attended meeting at St. Hilda's College on Wednesday evening, Miss Eleanor Christopher presiding. The very interesting subject of the address was "Family Allowances, or How to Pay a Living Wage." After dealing with the achievements of the N.U.S.E.C. during the past year and the part they played in three most important Acts of Parliament which had reached the Statute Book, Miss Rathbone remarked that they were not yet done with the status of the wife and the mother. They had still got to work for a condition of things that would give the mother as guardian of the children a real economic status. An animated discussion followed the address, and Miss Rathbone was cordially thanked on the proposition of Miss H. Cooper Hodgson, seconded by Mrs. Potts.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### WOMEN AND THE LIQUOR TRADE.

MADAM.—The writer of an admirable paragraph in "Notes and News" in your last week's issue, expresses surprise that "the *Morning Advertiser* should fail to see why women, as women, and as the natural guardians of child welfare, should have a peculiar interest in any measure calculated to diminish the disproportionate share of the national income spent annually in drink."

There's none so blind as those who do not want to see. So long as the Liquor Trade is run for private profit, anything and everything which tends to diminish the amount spent in drink is contrary to the interests of the Trade. Hence the passionate opposition of the liquor trade and trade organs such as the *Morning Advertiser* to any and every genuine temperance movement, however moderate.

DOROTHY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.

31 Bedford Gardens, W. 8.

### HEROLDO DE ESPERANTO.

MADAM,—I am also one of your readers who finds the *WOMAN'S LEADER* very useful. Occasionally I write articles on women's activities for the international newspaper *Heroldo de Esperanto*, and I find your articles very useful for reference. I do not often translate anything, but I have recently sent one short article which was almost a literal translation and so I was able to quote the *WOMAN'S LEADER* as my authority. Not many women write for the *Heroldo*, so women's point of view is not often brought forward. The editor has always accepted my contributions and correspondents have written to tell me that they are glad to know how women are progressing in England.

EMMA L. OSMOND,  
Ealing.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## HENDON W.C.A.

FEB. 23. 3 p.m. At 6 Lygon Place, S.W. 6 (by kind permission of Lady Cunliffe-Lister). Mrs. Le Sueur on "Current Legislation."

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

FEB. 16. 5.30 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, S.W. 1. Mrs. Oliver Strachey on "The Work of the London Society for Women's Service."

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEB. 26. 8 p.m. Central Hall, Westminster. Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise. Speakers: Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., Miss Maude Royden, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P.

City of London S.E.C. FEB. 18. 6.30 p.m. Meeting at Langbourne Club, 107/108 Upper Thames Street. Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. (Tea for members and friends, 5.45 to 6.15 p.m.)

Croydon W.C.A. (North). FEB. 19. Miss F. M. Beaumont on the New Insurance Acts.

Edinburgh W.C.A. FEB. 16. 5.15 p.m. Study Circle at 27 Rutland Street. Miss Eleanor Stewart on "Women in Trade Unions."

Hornsey S.E.C. FEB. 18. Miss Picton-Turbervill on "Equal Franchise."

Horsham W.C.A. FEB. 12. 3.15 p.m. Miss Bertha Mason on "Reform of the Poor Law."

Ilkley S.E.C. FEB. 18. 3 p.m. Wesleyan Ladies' Parlour. Members' meeting to instruct delegates to N.U.S.E.C. Council. Mrs. Herbert Rhodes on "The 'Oxford' Liquor (Popular Control) Bill."

Petersfield S.E.C. FEB. 16. 7 p.m. Miss Monica Whately on "Equal Guardianship."

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

FEB. 25. 8 p.m. Meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster: "Call to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance." Speakers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Madame Malaterre-Sellier, and Miss Harley Bacon. Chairman: Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

## SIX POINT GROUP.

FEB. 15. 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Mrs. Muriel Matters-Porter on "Has Woman Creative and Constructive Ability?"

## SOCIETY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL AND RACIAL PROGRESS.

FEB. 17. 8 p.m. Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. Mr. R. B. Kerr on "What Malthus said and what Malthusianism is to-day." Chair: Dr. Marie Stopes.

## THE WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

FEB. 12. 6.30 p.m. 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1. Miss E. M. Kennedy on "Some Problems of the Machinery Market."

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (KENSINGTON BRANCH).

FEB. 17. 3 p.m. Meeting for members and friends at 76 Campden Hill Road, W. 8 (by kind permission of Mrs. Gooch). Report of Council Meetings by Miss Chick. Discussion on "Arbitration Pilgrimage." Chairman: Miss Gertrude Ealon.

## TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

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CHELSEA.—FLAT to let (sittingroom, bedroom, kitchen, use of bathroom), furnished, from March.—Apply, Box 1,213, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

HERTFORD HOUSE, 65 Albert Bridge Road, Battersea Park.—Single and double BED-SITTINGROOMS, with breakfast and bath, for professional women or students; central heating; other meals by arrangement; £2.

COUNTRY COTTAGE wanted from about the middle of March for several months. Three or four bedrooms, garden; attractive country; garage near; convenient distance from London, preferably north or north-west.—Apply, Box 1,222, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

SMALL HOUSE in central part London to let, furnished, for spring and summer. Two sittingrooms, four bedrooms, telephone, wireless; easy to run; good housekeeper if desired.—Apply, Box 1,221, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

UNFURNISHED, large ROOM to let in March, Bloomsbury district; top floor, 3 windows, overlooking public gardens; use of kitchen and bathroom (geyser); £1 weekly; attendance by arrangement.—Apply, Box 1,224, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

W.C. 1.—TWO ROOMS, beautifully furnished, in professional woman's flat. Lift, every convenience; 37s. 6d.—9 Woburn Mansions, Francis Street.

BED-SITTINGROOM, south aspect, every convenience, without board or attendance; very moderate terms; lady's quiet homely house, large garden; good road, near Brixton Station.—Box 1,210, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

BED-SITTING, large front room, well and comfortably furnished, for one gentlewoman; good lavatory basin, convenient combination gas-fire, small oven and grill above (enclosed), own meter, bath, geyser, electric; 3 minutes buses, Tube, District, Olympia, St. Paul's Schools, the Froebel Institute; terms moderate. View after 5, or appointment.—F. B., 8 Glazbury Road, West Kensington, W. 14.

YOUNG lady has furnished FLAT, Earl's Court, would like to meet another to share; bath, telephone; must be unconventional and not under thirty; references.—Box 1,227, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

WEST MALVERN, Worcs.—Small BOARDING HOUSE, near church, post, bus; good plain cooking; inclusive terms from £2 12s. 6d. per week.—Apply, Miss Morrison, The Bungalow.

HASLEMERE.—Charming furnished HOUSE, beautiful country; low winter rental; 1½ hours London; gas-fires, telephone, 4 bedrooms, 3 sittingrooms.—Apply, Box 1,210, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## PROFESSIONAL.

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ZITA'S KITCHEN, LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE, Earl's Court. Mistresses and Maids can learn housekeeping, catering, and cooking here at hours to suit themselves, or by correspondence. Study circles arranged. Economic diets planned. Terms by arrangement.—Address, Ann Pope, c/o THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

BOOK-KEEPING.—Classes and Private Tuition.—Courses to suit individual requirements.—Miss A. E. Cowley, 31 Westminster Palace Gardens, S.W. 1. Telephone Victoria 768.

## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SMALL CARVED REREDOS, special design, £16.—To let, wood and brick COTTAGE, simply furnished; indoor sanitation; garage; Sussex Downs; £2 2s. to £3 3s.—Ward, 34 Marlborough Hill, N.W. 8. Tel., Hampstead, 7549.

PILLOW COTTON BARGAINS.—Remnant bundles of pillow cotton, superior quality, to make six pillow-cases, 20 x 30 ins., 9s. 9d. per bundle, postage 6d. Write for Complete Bargain List To-day.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

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.)

## POSTS VACANT.

WANTED, capable, active, working HOUSEKEEPER, used to children, to share with lady work of modern country cottage and care of delicate child; three in family; char. for roughest work; salary £40.—Box 1,226, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

WANTED, VOLUNTARY WORKER.—Peace Movement endorsed by John Galsworthy, Ramsey MacDonald and H. G. Wells, wishes voluntary worker, able to type preferred, assist raise funds. Opportunity for journalistic and publicity experience under trained journalist. Also speakers. Possibility salaried post later.—Send fullest particulars to Hon. Secretary, "Arbitrate First" Bureau, 107 Ladbroke Road, W. 11.

## POSTS WANTED.

SWISS Lady, experienced SUPERINTENDENT of Hostel for Girls, now closing, seeks similar post. Reference, Miss Sharpe, Gibbaven, Highgate, N. 6.—Box 1,125, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

A USEFUL MAID; plain cooking, knowledge of nursing.—W., 37 Richmond Road, Bayswater.

MAKERS AND MENDERS.—Gentlewomen in reduced circumstances would be glad to undertake the making and mending of household linen, adults' and children's underclothing, at moderate charges.—Address, F. K. M., Neals, Bodiam, Sussex.

## DRESS.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sira, 163 Ebury Street (5 min. Victoria Station). Tel., Ken. 3947. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON 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, 14th February: 3.30, Music, Miss Alison Neilans on "The Reform of our Street Laws." 6.30, Miss Maude Royden on "Money."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and the Free Birth Control Clinic, founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Councillor H. V. Roe. New address: 108 Whitfield Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, requires and supplies educated women for all branches of domestic work. Registration: Employers 2s. 6d., Workers 1s. Suiting, 7s. 6d. and 2s. Telephone, Western 6323.

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