

THE WOMAN'S LEADER AND COMMON CAUSE.

and and a set

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.—British Isles, 175. 4d. per annum, post free; Abroad, 175. 4d. Subscriptions should be sent direct to the Manager, The WOMAN'S LEADER, 62, Oxford Street. Increased rate payable on renewal of Subscription.

CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, who, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter. MSS. not used will be returned if accompanied by a stamped envelope.

CORRESPONDENCE should reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday. The Editor's decision is final.

PROSPECTUS.—The Common Cause Publishing Co. is issuing new £1 shares to the value of £10,000. Prospectus and all information to be obtained from the Manager, Common Cause Publishing Co., 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 2702.

NOTES AND NEWS

Unemployment.

During the last few weeks the problem of the unemployed has grown to formidable dimensions. While everyone talks and writes of it, only a few people, unfortunately, can act, and the Government proposals, partial as they are, are not as yet in full working order. The situation is as miserable as it can be, and is none the better from having been long expected. It is, in fact, worse than the general Press pictures it, for the world at large entirely overlooks the terrible state of unemployment among women, and dwells only upon the ex-Service men. The position of the women who are forced to seek work to-day is thoroughly distressing. Not only can they find no work, but they have to face the general assumption that they ought not to be trying to get it while men are unemployed. They ask for work in a shamefaced and discouraged way-as if it were a disgrace to do so. When shall we learn that women have to live and ought to work?

Ireland.

It is almost impossible to write about events in Ireland. In the first place, we know so little, and what we do hear we deeply suspect, from whomever it comes. Evidence reaches us of duplicity and terrorism so extensive and so horrible that we can neither believe nor disbelieve it, but only rage with indignation that in our own islands and under our own Government such a state of affairs should have come to pass. There are many rumours of a truce, of negotiation, and of improvements. We do not know whether they, too, are camouflage, or whether they are well-founded. All we can do is to hope that the criminal nightmare which is now called order in Ireland may be dispelled.

More Child Labour.

The Board of Education has informed local education authorities that subsections 1 and 2 of section 8 of the Act will not come into force on New Years' day, as was expected. This means that children under fourteen will still be exempt from school attendance, that the half-time system will continue, and that local authorities will not be able to extend the school age to fifteen years. What is the real reason behind these orders? If it is economy, then we can only repeat that it is economy upon entirely wrong lines, and we can but sigh hopelessly and repeat Lady Astor's well-merited description of the Coalition : progressive programme with a lot of reactionaries to put it through.

renile Employment in Glasgow.

Prints. Macquisten asked the Secretary for Scotland whether come before the League at all, but was told that important inter-hat boys and girls have, for a pr buins ile time, and, into risk questions must be settled before the Government can

been employed to deliver milk and newspapers in the mornings, and they have thus been enabled to add to their parents' earnings; but that in October the Glasgow education authority issued a warning to shopkeepers telling them that if they em-ploy boys and girls they must clothe them. Most of these shopkeepers have families of their own to clothe, and are unable to clothe those of others, who are often only a few days in their employment. As a result, many of them are unable to employ boys and girls, who thereby suffer hardship, as do their parents, who are, in the main, very poor people, in many cases soldiers' widows with small pensions; and also the citizens suffer, being unable to get milk for their families at the customary times. Mr. Macquisten suggested that, since the educational authority is mainly composed of people in comfortable circumstances, the Secretary for Scotland might instruct them to modify these or any similar regulations which make the lot of the poor harder. Mr. Monro said that bye-laws under the Employment of Children Act, 1903, provide that children engaged out of doors shall have a suitable and convenient cloak or other outer garment capable of protecting the person and clothing of the child from injury by weather, and that he was not prepared to take exception to a regulation so obviously reasonable and humane. There seems to be a great difference between the spirit behind the law and its effect when administered.

Expeditious Work of the Law Officers.

Mr. G. Barnes asked the Minister of Health whether he was yet in a position to state the intentions of the Government in regard to the Washington Conference re maternity. Dr. Addison said that questions have arisen affecting international law, and that the matter had been referred to the Law Officers. Mr. Barnes, with admirable patience, reminded Dr. Addison that 'that answer, almost in exactly similar terms," had been given to the same question for the last six months. He suggested that the Law Officers should be speeded up-surely a faint hope! Mr. Barnes pointed out that the Government is under an obligation to put this Convention to the House within twelve months of January 26th, 1920, and that only exceptional circumstances would justify its postponement. He added that international law questions can only arise if the Government intend to put the Convention into operation, and inasmuch as Dr. Addison had said that they do not intend to do so, these international law questions should not be raised at all. The Minister of Health replied that the Government could only speak for itself, and this matter will have to come before the League, and therefore questions affecting other nations do inevitably arise. Mr. Barnes said that the matter need never

come before the League at all, but was told that important inter-

[ANUARY 7, 1921.

put the subject before the House. Dr. Addison regretted the delay, but said the Law Officers were being as expeditious in the matter as they could. We may, therefore, have to wait for another year or so before the House can discuss the question. We wonder how long it will be before we get any women Law Officers. Surely they would push on so vital a question as this, if only they existed.

Women Workers' Wages.

None of the questions about the wages of women workers received satisfactory answers before the House rose last week, for Dr. Macnamara is a past master in the art of evading an issue. Captain O'Grady drew the attention of the House to the fact that a reduction of wages had followed the reduction of hours from fifty-four to forty-seven in certain trades, and suggested the raising of hourly rates in statutory rules and orders covering women's wages so as to prevent such reduction, and place women on a similar basis with men in those trades. Sitch said that at a conference recently held by the Joint Industrial Council in the hollow-ware trade in the Birmingham and Black Country districts to consider an application for an advance in wages, made on behalf of the employees represented by the National Federation of Women Workers, the Workers' Union, and the Gas, Municipal and General Workers' Union, the application was refused by the manufacturers concerned. In order to preserve peace and remove the deadlock resulting from this refusal, the representatives of the operatives proposed that the application should proceed to arbitration, which was also refused by the employers. Mr. Sitch suggested that, in view of the prevailing volume of unemployment and consequent distress, which is likely to be greatly augmented if the manufacturers' attitude is maintained, the Minister of Labour should investigate the matter at once, so as to force the employers to consent to arbitration. Dr. Macnamara is, accordingly, "causing inquiries to be made to ascertain whether the assistance of the Ministry would be useful in attempting to secure a settlement.' An utterance pungent with pedantry and officialdom and, we fear, with little else.

Graded Clerical Work.

The Insurance Committee for the West Riding of Yorkshire is in process of cutting down its expenses of administration by reducing its staff, and by substituting for some of its index and registry work a cheaper grade of clerk. This entails the replacement of male by female clerks, who not only command a lower wage, but in the opinion of the Committee may be expected to do the work as well or better. The Committee is evidently of opinion that it has overpaid its registry and index staff in the past, and is therefore fully entitled to reduce its expenses in this direction. What should be made clear is that when it follows the example of other Committees in engaging women for exacting routine work, requiring accuracy and patience, it is not merely putting up with women's work for reasons of economy. It is, under pressure, choosing its staff for their qualifications for the work in hand, and if it will apply this principle also in the case of what it considers as higher grade work, it will do justice as between men and women, and also obtain good value for its money. But when higher grade work is to be done, public bodies are apt to consider that this can be well done only by men. There is a ridiculous assumption that women's excellence in routine work in itself proves them to be of inferior ability to men, whose inaccuracy unfits them for the humble routine of the registry; it is based on nothing at all, and could not survive the systematic allotment of work to the most suitable candidate available. But in this year of grace that obvious device is still unpopular.

The Unequal Marriage Laws.

Before the House adjourned, Major Entwistle asked the Prime Minister if he was aware that several thousands of men and women desirous of marrying are prevented from doing so until legislation is carried making legal the marriage of a woman with her deceased husband's brother, and that such legislation has been passed in New Zealand, the United States of America, and other countries; and whether he would introduce legislation to this effect, thus equalising the position of the sexes in this matter? Mr. Bonar Law retired behind the Prime Minister's answer to the same question earlier in the year, which was to the effect that it was dangerous to interfere with the law in this respect, and that he remembered the struggles over the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. We have never known the Prime Minister so nervous about interfering with the law-but he probably thinks he has nothing to gain by this particular interference.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

Tax on Domestic Servants.

Parisians are to be taxed who employ domestic servants, but if they have the same difficulty in obtaining them as we have in England, the Treasury will not make much out of it. For the next three years Parisians are to pay 40 francs for the first servant, 80 francs for the second, 120 francs for the third, and so on. Exemptions are to be given to people who have only one servant, and who are either more than seventy, or entirely incapacitated, or who have an aged dependant or two young children. Governesses and tutors are to be taxed at 100 francs each, and pianos and other large musical instruments at 30 francs or 60 francs, according to size. This is a negative form of the payment of wives-and we don't like the look of it.

Premiums for the Mothers of France.

M. Mourier, the new Director of L'Assistance Publique, at his first appearance at the General Council of the Seine, stated that the total population of France had diminished by 4,000,000 during the war. He passionately advocated the need for expenditure on children, and pointed out that such expenditure was not only vitally necessary, but productive in the widest sense. The General Council has, therefore, voted premiums to the mothers of all legitimate children who have lived for three years in the Department, and who have at least two living when the third is born. The premium is to be 300 francs for the third child, and 50 francs for each subsequent child. Money payments, which are now given in several countries, would seem to be decidedly more helpful than the Médailles de Famille which we described in a recent issue, good though these certainly are. But we think the thing wants a little more working out. It is a sort of first step towards national family endowment, and also towards that financial recognition of married women for which they have waited so long.

The Scandinavian Housewives' Society.

One more step towards international co-operation has been taken by the formation of the "Nordens Husmoderforbund," the first society of its kind in Scandinavia. The chairmen from the three Scandinavian housewives' societies, Mrs. Michelet (Nor-way), Mrs. Ingelmann (Sweden), and Mrs. Carla Meyer (Den-mark), met in Christiania and decided the rules and programme of the Society. Mrs. Jacobson, from Iceland, was present at the meeting, and promised to work for the co-operation of her country. Finland proposes to act in co-operation with the "Nordens Husmoderforbund," but, for the present, by the medium of correspondence only. The first general meeting of the Scandi-navian Housewives' Society will be held in Copenhagen in the spring of 1921. The aims of the Society will be to help housewives to organise against the rising cost of living, to get better houses, and to improve the condition of housewives generally.

Medical Secrets.

The quite reasonable demand that the collection of health statistics should affect as little as may be the unwritten rule which pledges a medical man to secrecy about his patients' health is obtaining a good deal of its driving power from sufferers from venereal diseases, who are much more concerned with their own reputation than with the public health. These persons pro-fess to be filled with concern lest the Insurance Record Cards should disclose the fact that a young woman has had an illegitimate baby. No degree of medical secrecy will, as a rule, avail to suppress this fact, but the case of the poor girl does well enough to arouse popular sympathy, under cover of which the guardians of even less reputable secrets may protee their position. Some of the complainants seem to suspect that doctors are not altogether pleased when the claims of honour and etiquette oblige them to shield persons who are a danger to their neighbours in more than one respect, and indeed medical men in that case are deserving of sympathy.

Dentists.

The new Dentists' Bill is a very little one. New powers must be obtained if the dental treatment now given to school children and to expectant mothers is to be extended, and the immediate effect of the Bill will be to exclude unregistered dentists from practice except on emergency work without anæsthetics or under the supervision of a registered practitioner. Bona-fide practising dentists of good character will be placed on the register, and dental mechanics of five years' standing will be provisionally registered if prepared to pass the prescribed examination within a given period. Dental chemists will be allowed to continue their dual occupation for five years. Medical men may do dental work without registration. All this is very useful, but its results must be waited for.

[ANUARY 7, 1921.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

1036

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Report of the Committee on Ministers' salaries has gained a larger measure of assent than such decisions usually receive. True, there are some who consider that the Prime Minister should be paid £10,000 a year; while others are distrustful of the plan whereby the salary of a Minister of the second class can at any moment be raised to £5,000 by his nominal inclusion in that indeterminate body, the Cabinet; for Mr. Lloyd George's enthusiasm for economy is suspect. But, on the whole, the Report is approved.

The Report on Members' salaries has had a more mixed welcome; unavoidably so, since the views of different schools are widely divergent. One wants no pay at all; another wants £1,000 a year, with free travelling, free postage, and free everything. No compromise can satisfy theories which are mutually destructive, and a middle course excites the equal hostility of each. But certainly the Committee have been wise in their conclusions. This is not the occasion on which to increase the money payment. On the other hand, the case for free railway passes to and from constituencies is overwhelming. At present one Member may have to pay £150 a year for his season ticket to Westminster, while another can walk there on the fine days'and take a twopenny 'bus on the wet. However you regard the \pounds_{400} a year, whether you look at it as a salary, or as a contribution towards expenses, it is unfair that it should have unequal values for a Member who sits for Caithness and one who sits for Kensington. Such an inequality is hard to defend. Free postage is different. The cost has increased since the war, but so has the cost of everything else; and the case for granting it is no stronger than that for augmenting salaries generally

After all, the discussion on the Regulations admitting women to the Civil Service did not come on. It is understood that the Government offered to give an opportunity, but only in the last week, just before Christmas. Those Members who had the matter in hand, however, foresaw what a crush of business there would be in the last few days of the session, and wisely declined the offer. A discussion at such a time could only be perfunctory and unsatisfactory. It has been arranged that a day shall be given in February. It will be a trial of strength, and the result will be momentous for the future of women.

Now that Parliament has dispersed, it is possible that Members will take a calmer view of the attacks they have suffered from the anti-waste Press. Probably reflection will convince them that some rather foolish things have been said. Leaving on one side Mr. Remer's action against the Daily Mirror, upon which, being sub judice, comment would be improper, there are some general observations which may usefully be made. It is unreasonable to object to Press comments when hostile, whilst eagerly welcoming them when friendly. In the past, Members have been glad that the Press has given full publicity to the fact that they have voted in a certain way. For example, the vote in favour of the original Old Age Pensions Act proved valuable political capital, and all those who voted for it welcomed the advertisement which the Press gave them. It is too late to say that division lists are sacrosanct.

Moreover, it is the fact that Ministers, and private Members also, are unaware of the cry of the country for economy. It is an exceeding bitter cry. To call it a Press stunt is to disregard facts. The feeling is deep and spontaneous. Probably contact with their constituents will open Members' eyes.

Colonel Amery, in whom office has not killed a sense of humour which is all the more attractive for being double-edged, is reported to have said the other day that Cabinet Ministers, like all creatures at a low stage of physiological development, are notoriously tenacious of life. It is permissible to speculate which of his colleagues he had in mind. In any event, the saying is too good to be lost.

Lord Milner's Report on the future of Egypt will be discussed next session. The effect of it has already been made public. It is a bold experiment, but a wise one. Egypt gains practical independence. No lesser man than Lord Milner could have hoped to carry so mighty a reform.

MARY MACARTHUR.

Mary Macarthur's public life began twenty years ago when, on the invitation of an organiser of the Shop Assistants' who had visited the drapery establishment in Ayr, of which her father was the proprietor, she attended a meeting of local shop assistants. She had previously studied in Germany and found herself confined in a small, Scottish town in which the tide of life was slow and uneventful. The Shop Assistants' meeting suggested to her possibilities of action and change which she accepted eagerly. She joined the Union and began to work for it with the energy she gave to all the movements that attracted Her life henceforward had purpose and direction, and, until her death, went forward unfalteringly to the horizons of social justice and fraternity in which she believed.

Her career was in consonance with her creed. Before her. marriage she lived austerely in an L.C.C. tenement. She gave money freely to those who were in need, and in the early days of her work for the Women's Trade Union League, her desperate ardour for the women workers whom she led through strikes and lock-outs, reduced her frequently to the verge of breakdown. To go on picket duty at daybreak, as she did, when strikes were afoot, to raise money somehow for her starving protégées, to hearten the waverers, to take decisions affecting, perhaps, thousands of women, imposed a strain which only those wh have had experience of disputes can appreciate. She learnt in a short time the lessons of these heartbreaking strikes of poor women, and she was among the first to espouse in their interest the principle of the legal minimum wage. Her memorable evidence in favour of this principle before the Select Committee on Home Work did much to hasten its adoption. and the splendid part she played in the agitation of the National Anti-Sweating League towards the same end did even more. Her leadership of the sweated women at Cradley Heath has passed into industrial history.

The principle of the Minimum Wage was adopted in the Trade Boards Act (1909), and the Chainmaking Trade Board. of which Mary Macarthur was a member, proceeded to fix minimum rates of wages which inaugurated a new era for the women chainmakers. It was a poignant meeting at which she declared to the women what their new piece rates were to be, and the emotion of the poor women and their enthusiasm and love for their champion never passed out of her mind.

During the ten years that preceded the war the influence of Mary Macarthur is seen in a steadily developing improvement in the lot of the working woman, due to the success of her organising campaigns and of the Boards which, in succession, were created under the Trade Boards Act. Her influence is seen also in the sections of the National Health Insurance Act which affect women and children, and in the tighter administration of the Factory and Workshop Acts, especially as regards dangerous trades and in occupations in which hours of employment were frequently and unreasonably prolonged.

But it required the war to reveal the scope and variety of Mary Macarthur's powers. At the invitation of the Queen, she became Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee on Women's Employment in August, 1914, and fulfilled her arduous duties with consummate skill. She was a valuable member of the National Relief Committee. She obtained from the Government an undertaking to fix minimum rates of wages for munition workers, and played a prominent part in the work of the Munitions Tribunals, and when the end of the war was in sight she helped, as a member of the Committee presided over Sir John Simon, to provide the Government with a wages policy for the Armistice period. It is no secret that for these and other services she was offered a decoration which she refused.

Peace brought the General Election, in which she fought an election campaign at Stourbridge, which only failed of success because the majority of electors did not come within the influence of her charm, and eloquence. She took her narrow defeat lightheartedly. The unexpected defeat of her husband (W. C. Anderson) troubled her much more deeply, and his subsequent sudden illness and death dimmed permanently her joy in life. A visit to the United States supplied a much-needed distraction, and it was repeated twelve months ago when, as a nominee of the Government, she won distinction at the first International Labour Conference at Washington. The first signs of the malady to which she succumbed appeared shortly after her return to England. In the first hours of the New Year, in the plentitude of her power, the greatest organiser, speaker, and statesman produced by the Women's Trade Union movement, passed to her repose.

J. J. MALLON.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

This week we have received, with the most profound regret, the last number of The Englishwoman review. After twelve years of brilliant life it has been, as Miss Lowndes puts it, ' beaten by the too high and ever-increasing cost of printing, of paper, and of everything else concerned with book production." It goes out of existence, therefore, because enough money cannot be found to continue it, but not in any sense because the need for such a paper is at an end. It is indeed greatly needed, even as it was in the hottest days of the Suffrage campaign, when its work was so wonderfully useful, and its reputation so deservedly high. We lacked a Press then for the political aspirations and the serious interests of women, and we lack that Press to-day. In spite of all the parade that the commercial Press makes of its women's pages and its women's supplements, the real substance of what we need is still deplorably absent. They give us fashions in abundance and superabundance, they record society doings which are of little or no interest, they repeat recipes until we are surfeited, they dish up sentiment and wash together time after time, and fancy that by so doing they produce the mental food that women need. Commercially they seem to be in the right of it, that is to say, they secure their advertisements by writing them up, and these things pay their way, smother the bookstalls, and are perforce read. But they fail to convince us, all the same, that such monotonous and substanceless rubbish is what the female public really wants. It is what it gets, and that is another thing altogether. L'appetit vient en mangeant. For this reason perhaps more than any other we grieve to see any of our real Press disappear, particularly since The Englishwoman review, which we are now to lose, has steadily and constantly given us what no other paper has so much as attempted. The first number of the magazine appeared in February, 1909, at a time of great political interest. Throughout its hundred and forty-four numbers it has upheld the need for the true and full enfranchisement of women, and has reviewed with width of outlook and moderation of statement the position and the possibilities of women citizens in the changing world in which we live. When it first came out it was a nevelty in many ways. It was, and we believe it remained for years, the only serious shilling monthly magazine. It came to the Suffrage movement

at the time when its only other papers were purely propagandist and made no appeal at all to general interests. The Common Cause of 1909, and Votes for Women, which were its chief sister publications, were very different in kind and intention. They were useful to the movement from within: The Englishwoman went without, and carried the doctrine (well wrapped in attractive pages) to the outside world.

Throughout its career the review has stood very high. Its notices in the general press have been uniformly favourable

and appreciative, and it has always ranked as one of the real monthlies. It is a thousand pities that it must come to its end. The editorial board of The Englishwoman consisted of the Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Lowndes, and Lady Strachey, and, in former years, Miss Ciceley Hamilton, later replaced by Miss Palliser. This board deserves much gratitude, and congratulation too, for the high level at which The Englishwoman has always been maintained. It is, perhaps, no secret to our readers that Miss Lowndes has been from the first, and more particularly since 1914, the leading spirit of the magazine. She it is, of late years almost unaided, who has kept the flag flying, she who has marked out its distinctive features and controlled its wise and vigorous policy, and her own great literary gifts have been tirelessly at its service; and she has worked early and late, in season and out, in good and had health alike, to overcome the steadily increasing material difficulties of the enterprise. She it is who has sought for and found the valuable political articles. The Englishwoman has so often published; she who has borne the burden when last-minute changes in the political situation have thrown out all the plans; she who has struggled with

incomplete manuscripts, with the emergencies of faithless contributors or recalcitrant printers; and always, from 'every crisis, she has pulled it through. To all this has been added the intolerable burden of money raising, and we can only congratulate her in amazement upon the great measure of her success. It is a great thing to have done, to have pulled so difficult a task through twelve long years. No one can ever determine what may have been the true value to the triumph of Woman Suffrage of any of the different parts of the movement, but it is certain that among them all The Englishwoman has done its full share.

We mourn its loss not only because it has been of the same political colour as ourselves, but because of its own intrinsic merit. The literary and "general" features of the paper have always made it most excellent reading. The stories and reviews have been, we have always thought, particularly good, and its French reviews have been one of its valuable and unique features. The Englishwoman has had a long list of distinguished friends and contributors. Among them may be mentioned Mr. Galsworthy, Mr. John Masefield, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. John Davidson, Mr. Maurice Hewlett, Mr. Stephen Gwynne, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, Miss Lawrence Alma Tadema, Miss Ciceley Hamilton, and several times its excellent articles have been reproduced and published separately and most usefully in leaflet form. Many of us will miss the red-covered volume very greatly indeed; nothing that now exists can in any way take its place.

There is one cause for satisfaction, however, in the announcement made by The Englishwoman, and that is that the annual exhibition of Art and Handicrafts organised in connection with it is to be continued, under the same management, in future years. This exhibition, which has become one of the recognised features of November in London, has grown to be more than a mere commercial undertaking. It is now a meeting place for those many women who are carrying on the traditions of craftsmanship, and a centre for the interchange of ideas as well as for the acquisition of orders. The stalls at this exhibition are taken by workers in an immense variety of materials. It displays annually the progress of the enterprise of that type of woman worker who has found or made the opportunity to use her hands and her brain and her artistic gifts all at once, under conditions of her own arrangement. These workers, who are far more numerous than is realised, carry on a most valuable warfare against the mechanical goods of mass production, and keep alive the spirit of craftsmanship in a commercially sordid age. It would have been a serious loss had the encouragement and the help that The Englishwoman exhibition has become. been forced to be withdrawn, and we are heartily glad that this is not the case.

It is sad to begin the new year of 1921 with such a loss as this, but it must not discourage any of us, not even those for whom it is the end of a gallant struggle against material difficulties. So much has been won that we can afford now to be hopeful even in the face of misfortune. If we look back at the progress since The Englishwoman was founded, and if we read over the arguments that had to be used in the early numbers of the magazine, we can measure the magnitude of the change. Many of those old articles have an almost antediluvian ring, and would make fascinating, and possibly salutary, reading, for the girls just leaving school. Other articles with their careful analysis of Suffrage policy, of Conciliation Bill tactics, and of opposition subterfuges, have a considerable historical value. Others again, especially the series of short stories and sketches contributed by Miss Lowndes, have a literary quality which makes them good reading for ever. If we are to get no more of these red volumes let us at least keep carefully those that we possess.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

THE POOR LAW. By C. M. LLOYD.

Lady Selborne is a bold champion of a lost cause. In her article in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, a few weeks ago, she argued not only that the Poor Law should not be abolished, or even radically changed, but that its scope should actually be extended. She would have even old age pensions and the supplying of milk to nursing and expectant mothers, which is now undertaken by the Public Health Authorities, put under the supervision of the Relieving Officers. This is truly to be "plus royaliste que le roi"! Mr. John Burns himself, when he stood forth, in the days before the war, as the Goliath of the Guardians, never went to that length. And I venture to say that it is no more practical politics to extend the Poor Law to-day than it would be to restore the Feudal System. The Poor Law was exposed and condemned nearly twelve years ago in the Reports of the Royal Commission. It was condemned again in 1917 by the Committee which was presided over by Sir Donald Maclean, and which reconciled the differences between the Majority and Minority on the original Commission. The Maclean Report advocated the abolition of the Poor Law, and the Government has pledged itself to carry it out. Meantime, the Poor Law has dragged on its existence, sinking steadily into deeper disrepute, not only among the common people who are "relieved " by it, but among administrators, publicists, and politicians of all schools of thought and all parties.

1038

Let me touch briefly on the main reasons why the Poor Law system as we know it, ought to be abolished. But first it will be worth while to clear up one or two misconceptions. Lady Selborne pleads for the Board of Guardians on the ground that it is, " among all our Local Government institutions, the one that is in the most direct contact with the democracy. I confess I do not understand this argument. The Guardians are popularly elected; but so are Town and District and County Councillors. How is a member of the West Ham or Stepney Board of Guardians in closer touch with his constituents than the member of the County Borough Council of West Ham, or the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney? Then it is sometimes urged that there are many able people on the Boards of Guardians, who know their job and give devoted service. But, if that is to be a defence of the institution, it might with equal justice have been used in favour of the Spanish Inquisition, the Star Chamber, or the Turnpike Trusts. Would anyone to-day defend those bodies because they had able and conscientious members?

The real ground on which the Boards of Guardians stand convicted is not that they are too democratic, or that they are corrupt or incompetent, but that they are working on a wrong hasis. The function of the Poor Law is to relieve destitution; the Board of Guardians is a body elected ad hoc to deal with destitution in all its forms, and to deal with it after it has occurred, not by taking measures to prevent its occurrence. Now it has become more and more clear that it is hopeless to try to cope with the disease in this way. The great pauper host that is relieved by the Poor Law falls into different and well defined classes. There are the infants, the children of school age, the sick, the feeble-minded, the aged and infirm, the able-bodied unemployed. The Poor Law is at a double disadvantage in dealing with them. In the first place, it can do little to get at the causes of their misery, because it cannot act until the destitution has actually occurred. Secondly, the Guardians are not properly equipped for giving the specialised treatment that each of these various classes needs. That has long been recognised, and the result has been that other bodies, such as the Local Health, Education, or Lunacy Authorities-which can take preventive measures and are equipped for giving the most suitable treatment, have steadily encroached on the Poor Law. Hence, we are faced with another serious evil-an enormous amount of overlapping, duplication of machinery, and waste of money and effort. You may find different members of the same family, and even the same individuals, being helped

simultaneously by competing authorities-a widow, say, getting outdoor relief from the Guardians, treatment for a baby at a Public Health Clinic, with another child maintained at a Poor Law boarding school, and yet another at the ordinary elementary school receiving medical care or free dinners from the Local Education Authority. How is this problem to be solved? There are really only two ways. One is that favoured by Lady Selborne, when she says, " If we do not abolish the Poor Law, all relief of distress from public funds should be under it. But that, as I have said, is not practical politics. We have slowly emancipated certain sections of the poor from the degradation of "parish relief" and the inferior services of the Guardians, and no Parliament would dare to put them back. Nor can the Poor Law be made delectable by minor reforms. There have been some attempts at reform during the past few years. The Workhouse is now called the "Institution. Paupers may exercise a vote, provided they are not in the Institution " at the time of the election. Most, though not all, of the children have been removed from the contaminating atmosphere of the "mixed workhouse," and slight improvements have been made in some Unions in dealing with the sick. Many Boards of Guardians, too, have combined in County Vagrancy Committees, to co-ordinate the task of handling the casuals. But these are surface changes; the fundamental evils remain. And the poor still hate the Poor Law bitterly.

The other way to solve the problem is to complete the process, which has already gone far, of breaking up the Poor Law. We ought to abolish the Boards of Guardians and the Workhouses, to make the Local Health Authorities responsible for all the sick, the infants, and the infirm aged, the Local Education Authorities for the children of school age, the Local Lunacy Authorities for the feeble-minded. That does not mean universal régime of non-elected bodies. It means that all the principal functions of the Guardians would be transferred to the County, County Borough, and Borough and District Councils (save only where these latter were too small to do the work efficiently).

But, it is said, you will still need a temporary place of refuge where, for example, a tramping man may be lodged, or a deserted child given shelter, perding their passing on to employment or a training-colony or school. True, but surely this does not imply, as Major Hills thinks, that you must have Workhouses and Poor Law Guardians. Why should it? An institution of this sort managed by the Town Council of Leicester would have no more connection with the Poor Law than has the Leicester School Clinic, or the Leicester Employment Exchange. Merely to change a name will not, I admit, make much difference. But if you change the legal basis, and the spirit and the working of an institution, it will make all the difference in the world, and the old name is likely to be a misnomer. The same argument applies, too, to "home assistance" or out-relief. Such assistance, given by the Local Authority in accordance with the real needs of the individual, and not simply as a dole to palliate destitution, will ensure both an economy of public money, and a far more hopeful and scientific treatment.

One word, in conclusion, as to unemployment. I agree here with Major Hills. The problem is national and not local. The Poor Law is seen, even by its stoutest defenders, to be incapable of dealing with this task. There may have to be training colonies and "detention" colonies, with some degree of penal discipline. These would, naturally, form part of a larger organisation, in which the Employment Exchanges, Insurance, and other measures must play their part. But I do not think the police should play the prominent part suggested by Lady Selborne (she has made a slip, by the way, in saying that the Minority Commissioners recommended the transfer of the casuals to the care of the police): It will surely he time for the police to come in when we have discovered the real criminals among the homeless unemployed.

WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT. 1

By an irony of fate the fact that the Christian Socialists were at the head of the poll at the recent general elections in Austria, was due to the overwhelming majority of women who voted for this party, thus turning their backs on the Social Democrats, who granted them the franchise and equal rights with men in all things.

As things are now somewhat changed, it may interest your readers to hear what the women representatives achieved during their first term of office in Parliament, and in the City Council, where they also sat for the first time since Austria was proclaimed a Republic.

To some extent, the enthusiastic work for Woman Suffrage, which had been going on for over thirty years, had been successful. The University was open to women; they could become factory inspectors, panel doctors, departmental librarians, and could hold other important appointments. Nominally, they had no political rights and could not hold public meetings for political propaganda; actually they did hold them, and the Austrian legal officials, more often than not, closed their eyes to the true facts of the case.

The chief leaders were Frau Marianne Hainisch, who is still living and working, though she is now eighty-six years old. Her work has been mainly social, and it has covered a very large sphere. Politically, it was the late Auguste Fickert, a "Bürgerschul " (elementary school) teacher, an extreme Radical, who fought for the enfranchisement of women. She was a woman of broad understanding, and with a well-trained mind. She spoke openly at political meetings, led the chief discussions, and worked for the education of working women and girls. Her courage was undaunted, and, in spite of ill health, she organised classes, lectured to working girls, and trained them in political science. Her mantle fell on Fräulein Kulka, and on Rosa Mayreder, the well-known philosopher and writer. But they carried on the work on economic and social lines instead of political.

The Women's Political Socialistic Movement began in 1889. Adelheid Popp, a young factory hand, took up the cause of her sex. In 1890 she started the "Arbeiterinnenzeitung," and was at the same time its editor and chief contributor. Falling foul of the Censor, who did not approve of the contents of her paper, she was imprisoned more than once. Other leaders were Frau Therese Schlesinger, Frau Emmy Freundlich, Fräulein Boschek, Frau Proft, who were all elected to the first Republican Parliament, to which seven women Social Democrats and one Christian Socialist were returned.

In Parliament each woman had her special department. Adelheid Popp confined herself to questions of citizen rights for women. Her aim was to bring about a reform in the marriage laws, so that Catholic divorcées could marry again, and for this she introduced a Bill for civil marriage, which, however, fell through. She was successful, however, in other important social matters, and in getting a law passed by which a man separated from his wife is bound to allow her sufficient means to live in the same conditions as during marriage. Frau Schlesinger and Frau Proft have taken up the question of the secondary education of girls, which was left to private initiative and for which no public school was available. As there is no money to build schools, girls are now allowed to attend the boys' secondary schools, and this system of co-education is working very well. Owing to their exertions, girls may now study law and theology (all the other faculties at the University have been open to women since 1899); they may also attend the polytechnic and the agricultural, botanical and commercial colleges, hitherto closed to them, where they have the same rights as the men. Fräulein Boschek is the representative of Trades Unions, and

of all female labour. Together with Frau Rauscher, and the

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

1039

By A. S. LEVETUS.

Christian Socialist members, she worked for and carried through the new laws for governesses, teachers, secretaries, and servants. She has also done a great deal for the wives and families of prisoners of war, and has urged the Government to pass laws for the protection of children, and to grant State aid in cases where the parents are unable to provide for their offspring. Frau Emmy Freundlich's special line is economic. She is Director of the State Food Office, leader of the Co-operative Movement, and of various consumers' organisations. She has also worked on Nationalisation Committees, and other important questions which do not only concern women. Fräulein Tusch has obtained improved conditons for women employed in the State tobacco factories, and Frau Rauscher also did important work in the last Parliament, chiefly with regard to domestic matters, prices, housekeeping, schools, and so forth.

In the present Parliament all these members have been reelected, and one more, a Christian Socialist, has been returned. There is much to be done, and until now men and women have worked together in complete harmony, and there is no reason to doubt that they will continue to do so.

The first Municipal elections in Vienna after the downfall of the Monarchy took place in May, 1919, on the basis of proportional representation. All parties put women on their lists, as they did with the Parliamentary elections. Sixteen women Social Democrats and six Christian Socialist women thus obtained seats on the Municipal Council. The small minority parties, German Nationalists, Jewish Nationalists, and Czecho-Slovaks were not successful in returning women members. Among those chosen, Amalie Seidl is the veteran, consequently the honour of becoming the first woman President of the Municipal Council fell to her. In spite of all difficulties she has held her ground and gained the respect of all members, both men and women. Amalie Pölzer is doing good work as an organiser and propagandist. Among the younger members Marie Boch and Gabriele Proft are excellent speakers, always to the point, and eager and earnest workers. Käthe Königstetzer, too, is an indefatigable fighter for the rights of women, and is interested in public feeding and food kitchens. Gisela Lerfe has founded the organisation of women servants. All these are of the proletariat. Among those of the middle classes, Rudolfine Fleischner, Dr. Furtmüller, and Leopoldine Glöckel, wife of the late Minister of Education, and Marie Kramer are all teachers who have been working for their party (Social Democrats) for many years.

Of the Christian Socialists, Dr. Alma Seitz is a very capable woman, a good speaker, and an expert in many things. Sophie Gärtner and Josefine Kurzbauer are social workers, Marie Wielsch, wife of a medical practitioner, stands for the interests of the middle class women; Gabriele Walter and Anna Strobl are teachers, and active members of their party. Three of the women members, Marie Boch, Leopoldine

Glöckel, and Gabriele Walter have been appointed secretaries, and as such form part of the Municipal Presidency. The women members have their places on all commissions and committees in proportion to their numbers; they are especially numerous on all which concern the welfare and care, not only of the young, but of the commonwealth. They are also sent on tours of inspection to the outlying and country districts, so that they may be au fait with all matters and all sides of a question. Women are also very active in all the municipal districts of Vienna, and are of special value in all questions dealing with the poor, destitute, and orphans.

The most satisfactory thing in the return of women to Parliament and the Municipal Councils, is that the women work in harmony for the common good, irrespective of what political party they belong to, and all vexations and tribulations arising from party feeling are thus obviated. They have only one aim in view, namely, to do their best for their unhappy country, and to help it through this dark period of its history.

[ANUARY 7, 1921.

EVERYDAY COMMODITIES AND THE TREND OF PRICES III.

Shopping is one of the ills that woman's flesh is heir to. Would it not be possible to mitigate the ill to some extent by taking a more intelligent interest in the sources and production of the somewhat dull commodities with which, at least every week, and sometimes every day, many of us deal-not without grumbles at the quality and the cost? This and the following articles are intended to help towards such interest. Space will only allow a brief account of the more important essentials of food, textiles, and fuel,

MEAT.

The annual total of home supplies of meat in the United Kingdom for a five years' average immediately before the war was 1,500,000 tons, or less than 58 per cent. of our total consumption, which with meat products, and including bacon and lard, amounted to 2,600,000 tons. The consumption in the United Kingdom was at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per head per week; in Australia and New Zealand 4 to 5 lbs., in the United States 31 lbs., and in Southern Europe 1 lb.

Ireland and Western England were important cattle raising districts, and the latest pre-war estimate* for the United Kingdom gave the ratio of caltle and horses to population as 132 per cent., and of sheep and pigs 107 per cent.; yet the people of Great Britain are the greatest meat-importing nation of the world. The high ratio of animals to men in the United States has caused that country to export large quantities of meat products, but this ratio is declining, and in consequence the price of meat has had an upward trend since 1901. In the years immediately preceding 1914 America had been importing large supplies of beef from the Argentine. The increased demand during the war induced America to export again, and this export from a reduced supply sent prices up to the high figure of 1918. In Argentine, where the climate and conditions are particularly good for cattle, population is much less dense, and the number of animals is surprisingly large. Australia and New Zealand (with South America and South Africa) contain about ten sheep per person. They are the chief mutton exporters. It is said that mutton could be produced at three cents a pound before the war. Queensland and Victoria have superior pastures and keep many more cows in order to make butter; the market for the butter and frozen meat, as well as for the wool produced, is principally Great Britain.

The meat trade of the world has been revolutionised by the development of the refrigerator, and of the shipping of chilled and frozen meat. In 1913 London had storage for 865,000 carcases of beef, and during that year the United Kingdom imported more than 450,000 tons of beef, and over 250,000 tons of mutton. Such imports were checked later by the war, and consumption was much reduced.

Mr. J. B. Guild, in a paper read to the Royal Statistical Society; gave the following estimates for the United Kingdom :

all - Andrew States	1914.		1919.
Total cattle	12,100,000		12,500,000
,, sheep	28,000,000		25,100,000
,, pigs	4,900,000		2,900,000
We did a strate for the		(not	including cottagers' pigs)
	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19 1st half of 1919
and -	tons.	tons	tons tons.
Beef Production	792,000 .	695,000	596,000 304,000
Veal	N	lo statistics	s available
Bacon output	136,000	108,000	70,000 ?

Mutton and lamb supplies show a steady decrease, as the farmers say that the controlled price of mutton does not encourage production.

*" The World's Food Resources." J. Russell-Smith.

In the discussion on Mr. Guild's paper it was pointed out that there is no real scarcity of home-grown meat. The reduced consumption brought about by rationing and by high prices resulted in a practical balance of supply and demand.

In spite of a reduction of imports, however, the country is still in possession of enormous stocks of unwanted meat. When this is consumed the home-grown meat will presumably be sold at lower prices.

As grass-growing lands produce sheep, so grain-growing lands produce pigs. The United States provide the world's chief hog-exporting districts, exporting at least one-third of the whole in the form of pork, and much of the rest as lard.

The "bacon-hog" thrives more in Canada and in Europe, feeding on grass and clover. In pre-war years Europe had more pigs than the United States, but at present, owing to lack of forage supplies (barley, corn, potatoes), she has fewer. Denmark used the "skim" milk left from her vast butter-making to carry on her pork industry, largely for the English market. According to Mr. Russell-Smith there is no reason to suppose that pork will become more plentiful than it was before the war, as pigs eat too much good corn, which will be required for other purposes.

The price of bacon is higher than it should be. The Ministry of Foed has large stocks of inferior American bacon to get rid of, and has increased the price of Danish bacon, which is in greater demand. The Ministry has also given the Canadian curers a preferential price. Restricted purchases on the part of the consumer would seem to be the only remedy !

DAIRY PRODUCTS, OILS, &c.

In the United Kingdom 70 per cent. of the home supply of milk is used as milk, so that most of our requirements of butter and cheese have to be imported. Before the war Great Britain was by far the greatest importer of these products, Germany, the next in order of quantity, importing less than 25 per cent. of the United Kingdom's imports.

In 1913 the international trade in dairy products was represented by the following figures :---

	Exports.		2	Imports.		
Country.	Butter. (million	Cheese. pounds)	Country.	Butter. (million	Cheese. pounds)	
Denmark Russia Holland Australia	 200 172 81 76				249 37 35	
New Zealand Canada,	 41 1	68 148	America	–	55*	

Denmark is the best butter-making country in the world, and we obtained most of our pre-war supplies from this source, their annual value being about $f_{10,000,000}$. We are suffering now from limited supplies of Danish butter, eggs, and bacon, and from the consequent rise in prices, largely owing to our refusal to send Denmark the coal she required. France, Sweden,

*" The World's Food Resources "- J. Russell-Smith.

[ANUARY 7, 1921.

before the war.

Four-fifths of Canada's cheese exports come to Great Britain -that is about half our imports. Our other sources of supply are principally New Zealand and Holland. American cheese is of inferior quality, due in great part to lack of inspection of factories, and before the war was little used in England.

Dried milk is becoming increasingly important for the world's supply. Milk is over 87 per cent. water : it must be produced near its place of consumption if it is to be used in its fresh form. But it is produced most cheaply at such distances that transportation in that form is impossible, while in the form of condensed or evaporated milk it can be sent any number of miles.

OILS AND FATS.

(Excluding petroleum and other mineral oils, i.e., oils used for power, heating, and lighting.)

The importance of vegetable and animal oils and fats has become enormously greater on account of the war. In the future the consumption of vegetable oils must rapidly increase. New uses for oils and oil-products are constantly being discovered, and there is already a long list of purposes for which their use is indispensable.

Oils are an essential part of human diet. Margarine absorbs a large proportion of the nut oils imported into this country, and the consumption of this food is enormous. In frying and cooking generally cotton-seed oil and ground-nut oil are extensively employed, as well as olive oil and lard. The non-edible uses are numerous-for the making of soap, candles, paint, and linoleum, to give a few only. Feeding-cake for animals is a by-product of oil-seed which largely determines the adequate provision of milk and home-grown meat. An increase of animal fats cannot be expected for some

time to come, and consequently the demand for substitutes will increase. Vegetable oils are obtained from nuts, seeds, and beans-for example, coconuts, palm-kernels, linseed, cotton seed, soya beans, castor-oil beans-of which the chief sources of supply are India, Ceylon, the Argentine, the East Indies, the Southern Pacific, and British West Africa. That is to say that a large part of the exportable surplus is grown within the Empire. Until these sources are developed it seems probable that the demand will exceed the supply.

FISH.

The North Sea is the world's great fishing-ground. At a distance of three miles from shore the sea is free to all, and fishermen of all the nationalities of Northern Europe fish in these waters, and often further afield off Iceland and Newfoundland.

Great Britain is only second to the United States as a fishing nation, and Holland is not far behind. Our fleets go out from Aberdeen, Hull, Grimsby, Lowestoft, Yarmouth, and London, which is perhaps the biggest fish-market in the world, though Norway is the most dependent on the industry amongst the Western nations.

Great Britain catches almost as much fish as she consumes Before the war she sent herrings to Germany and Russia, and imported sardines from France, and salmon from America, where the refrigerator has been brought into use as for meat.

Supplies of fish are practically unlimited, but we are conservative about the kinds of fish we eat, and owners in these days will not trouble to send out boats unless high prices are paid. During the past two years the Government has been subsidising the herring industry. It is proposed to discontinue this subsidy in future, though strong protests are being made by the master-fishermen. The herring season has been late this year, but results have more than compensated for this. It is estimated that the total landing of herrings will amount to nearly 3,000,000,000 fish, and some of the boats have made as much as $f_{1,000}$, $f_{2,000}$, and even in one recorded case $f_{3,000}$ in their best weeks.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

and Russia, and latterly the Colonies, sent butter to England GLORIFIED OLD CLOTHES SHOPS.

By MARGUERITE FEDDEN.

One of the chief problems of the woman worker at the present time is that of dress, for sartorial matters play an important part in the obtaining and keeping of positions in the world of industry.

It is a necessity nowadays for the girl who goes out to earn her bread to do more than clothe herself; she must dress, and dress fashionably too, whether her salary has been graduated to allow of this or not.

This is a transition age in which wage differentiation on account of sex and the ever smaller and smaller purchasing power of the pound, bear heavily on the modern girl, and until equal pay is given for equal work irrespective of sex, profiteering bolished, and adequate taxation laid on the shoulders of those best able to bear it, viz., the New Rich, some scheme should be inaugurated for helping the girl worker.

In the Victorian age a gentlewoman left penniless became a governess or companion, and the plainer she was and the more dowdily she dressed no doubt the better pleased was the mistress of the house-a plain stuff dress of dark material with neck frilling was all that was required of her. Contrast this with the frocks necessary to a girl going to look for work in a theatrical company, or the tailor made needed by the office girl. "First Aid" must be given, and that quickly.

While a wisp of tulle and length of charmeuse in the shape of an evening gown costs twelve guineas, and a tailor-made ten, there should be some clearing house where rich women can send for sale their little-worn and fashionable clothing which is being discarded because it is not the *dernier cri*. No dealers need apply

From the clearing house, after cleaning and perhaps remaking, these garments could be sent to depôts scattered over London and the great provincial towns, and sold by sympathetic and kindly gentlewomen. This could be managed in such a way that the legitimate rights of tradespeople need not be interfered with.

Not long ago I had a talk with one of the leading outfitters of a London suburb, and he thoroughly approved of the scheme, and said it would not interfere with them.

The depôts, he said, would have to compete with legitimate traders, and in that way no injustice would ensue.

There would be no need, said my informant, to charge a club subscription, and it would be found, in the main, that only necessitous girls, or girls with limited incomes, would frequent the depôts. The better paid girls would probably not patronise them, although there would be nothing in the nature of charity " about them.

Regarding the second-hand trade, there would also have to be competition which would obviate any injustice, but the girls in frequenting the depôts, would be certain of honest and courteous treatment and a sympathetic reception and clean and hygienic surroundings, which are not always obtainable in the average second-hand shop.

Dealers, with certain exceptions, belong to a hard-hearted class, and buy from private people at ridiculously low rates, and sell in their shops at a huge profit as a rule, seldom benefitting or doing justice to the class they are catering for.

It is a case of Caveat emptor all along the line

A first-class scheme in the style I am advocating would act as an impetus to these individuals and so help to bring them into line.

They would have to compete with "old clothes shops" not carried on on profiteering lines, and it would be good for their customers if not for them !

Another way in which these depôts could be made useful would be the loaning out of maternity bags to young wives. So many young expectant mothers nowadays find the expense of getting together a longclothes outfit for baby, which will last him only three or four months, a great tax on the purse, on which there are already a thousand and one demands. In these days of rush and hurry mothers have not always time to sit down and make the fascinating little garments babies wear, and they would be only too glad to hire a maternity outfit which they could be certain was clean, disinfected, and in good condition for the short time it would be required.

Space prevents my enlarging on other developments which might be initiated, such as the boot section, umbrella department, &c. A work of this kind will always spread and ramify in spite of the unwritten rule that the sales would be restricted to women workers of a certain salary who were able to certify their bona fides, and that it would be considered "bad form for the well-to-do to take advantage of the scheme

A JUVENILE COURT IN SASKATCHEWAN.

By CICELEY LEADLEY BROWN, M.B.E.

In the summer of 1919 I spent two months on the Canadian prairie in a small village about forty miles east of Regina.

When I was planning the trip I informed my friends and relatives that I was going to forget all about sociology until I returned home, but a reference in a Regina paper to the woman Judge of the Juvenile Court stimulated my jaded social conscience, and I wrote and asked her to give me an interview.

I received a most courteous reply, and on a Saturday morning, some weeks later, I presented myself at her office in Regina, d was privileged, not only to hear something of her work, but also to be present whilst she tried a case of unusual difficulty.

* * *

The Judge corresponds in position to one of our Stipendiary Magistrates, but deals with juveniles only, and tries the cases in the towns to which the offenders belong

In Regina, the largest town in the Province, and also the Judges' headquarters, the cases are usually heard at the Children's Home, which serves as a Refuge for Destitute Children as well as for the Juvenile Court.

On account of a previous conviction, however, the boy to be tried on the morning of my visit was detained at an institution corresponding to a reformatory school, so that the Judge had arranged to have him brought to her own office instead of to the Children's Home.

It was owing to this deviation from the normal routine that -I was able to be present at the trial, visitors being as a rule strictly excluded from the Court.

The boy's parents were immigrants from some part of Central Europe; they followed the proceedings with great interest and anxiety, but did not speak unless questioned.

The father understood English quite well, and spoke it fluently, but the mother was less proficient, and several times her husband translated the Judge's questions.

The boy himself spoke English as if he were Canadian born. He had a low type of face, but there was something distinctly pleasing in the way he answered the questions put to him : he neither hesitated nor contradicted himself, but spoke clearly and decidedly.

The boy, a sturdy lad who looked much older than his fifteen years warranted, was brought in by an official from the institution, who remained in the outer office.

There were present in the inner room, besides the Judge and the boy, his parents, the police officer who made the charges, the stenographer, and myself.

There was nothing except the uniform of the policeman to remind one that this was a court of law, and there was a notable absence of any formalities.

The case for the police was that Joe B. having been released from the reformatory school about three months earlier on the recommendation of the Superintendent and with the consent of the Judge, had, in the interval, broken into several offices and warehouses and stolen, amongst other things, a typewriter, some dollars' worth of stamps, two pairs of running shoes, a bicycle, and a cheque book.

The latter led to his being arrested, for having filled up one of the cheques he took it to a shop to be cashed, and was persuaded to leave it with the shopkeeper, who promised to pay him next day, intending in the meanwhile to inform the police.

Later on in the evening, Joe, suspecting that the shopkeeper might play him false, returned and demanded the cheque at the point of a water pistol, but having failed to intimidate the man, he rushed away, and taking the stolen bicycle, which he kept at a friend's house he rode out into the country.

Next day, failing to find work and being without money, he returned home and was promptly arrested.

*

When the police officer had finished detailing the charges, during which Joe gazed out of the window with an absolutely ssionless face, the Judge talked to the boy and reminded him that the last time he had been before her he had owned up to what he had done, and urged him, if the charges were true, to do the same on this occasion.

Thus exhorted, Joe acknowledged his culpability except in the matter of the stamps, and all the police evidence failed to extract a confession from him on this point.

[ANUARY 7, 1921.

Then the circumstances attending the various thefts were carefully considered, and the Judge tried to get at the motive underlying the successive acts of dishonesty.

The effort was not very successful, although the boy answered willingly enough; if he had any motive it was obvious that his conscious self was unaware of it.

A carelessly closed shutter, a half open window, a poor lock on a door, or the persuasion of a friend had apparently been sufficient to entice him to break in and take whatever he could conveniently carry away.

None of his thefts had brought him any satisfaction.

One pair of shoes he had given to a friend and the other he had lost before wearing them; the typewriter had proved to be a white elephant, and he had taken it to a railway siding and left it in an empty truck; the bicycle he had been afraid to use until. the night before his arrest. The Judge next asked him if he were unhappy at home, and if his father ill-treated him, but the boy's suppressed sob-the only emotion he showed during the whole proceeding-and his parents' anxious faces, confirmed his mumbled negative.

Joe was evidently no clearer than we were about his motives. and he ended by answering in monosyllables, still staring vacantly out of the window, twisting his cap in his hands.

Questions to the parents failed to elicit much information. They had no idea he had been thieving since he had been home again. His father had beaten him once for not being in at nights, but otherwise he had been no trouble.

The Judge, nonplussed, sat deliberating for a few minutes, and I wondered very much what her verdict would be. In England I knew it would be six years at a reformatory, but I felt sure that this was not what Joe needed, and hoped that she would find some better way of dealing with him. I was not disappointed.

Addressing the father, she told him, in the first place, that he would have to pay for the stolen goods which had not been returned. As these included the typewriter the sum seemed to me to be entirely beyond his apparent means, but when the police officer had given him the figures he seemed quite relieved, and promised-after a consultation with his wife-to fetch it within an hour. Then the Judge, still addressing the parents, informed them that she was going to postpone sentencing their boy until she had sent him to Winnipeg (300 miles away) to be examined by a doctor, and that her decision would depend upon his report.

Joe received the information with his usual passivity, and was taken back to the reformatory pending the journey; the parents hurried away to obtain the necessary money, and I hastened to put a few questions to the Judge before she left to catch a train

I learned that the doctor in Winnipeg was a brain specialist who had done some interesting work in connection with the juvenile offenders in Manitoba, which also boasts of a woman Judge.

An arrangement had lately been made by which boys or girls. from Saskatchewan, whose delinquencies seemed to result from abnormal brains, should be sent to Winnipeg for examination, and loe was to be the first to benefit by this arrangement.

Naturally, I also wanted to know how it was that when the boy had left the reformatory in the spring there had been no one to befriend him, and to see that he got work, and I was told that although there was theoretically a Probation Officer in each of the larger towns, there had actually been none in Regina for some months owing to the lack of a suitable person to fill the position.

Finally, I ascertained that the Judge dealt with all offenders under sixteen, whatever the crime with which they were charged, but that so far she had not had to deal with a case of murder or homicide.

I came away fully converted to a belief in the desirability of having women to deal with juvenile offenders, and I doubt whether the most decided opposition would survive a visit to the Saskatchewan Juvenile Court. It should, however, be noted that the Canadian women Judges do not correspond to our lay magistrates, but are fully qualified barristers.

THE CASE OF THE ARMY NURSES.

[ANUARY 7, 1921.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

Notwithstanding all that we have heard about the splendour of women's work during the war, it is still, when reduced to terms of pounds, shillings, and pence, valued at a very low level. The nursing services are a startling example of this, and the Army Nursing Service is no exception.

When, rather more than a year ago, a bonus was added to the old rates of pay in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, there was a natural presumption on the part of the looker-on that this would become permanent when the promised new scale was drawn up. But what has happened? Are the nurses any better off than they were under the old rates? I think not. Indeed, taking into account the present cost of living, it may be easily seen that they are worse off. Take the salary of the trained nurse (no nurse with less than three years' training and of a certain social standing is eligible for the Service) entering as a staff nurse. Her pre-war commencing salary (indeed, her salary up to the other day, apart from the bonus) was £40; it is now £60, rising by two increments of \pounds_2 105. to \pounds_65 . And there it may remain, perhaps for as long as thirteen years, unless she gets promotion to the rank of sister, when there is a commencing salary of $\pounds 75$, rising to $\pounds 85$. One may say that by far the largest majority of the members of the Service stop at £85, though their service may extend to a quarter of a century, because the number of matrons is small, and there can be no promotion until a vacancy occurs.

Now take the present value of the £, which has recently been put at 8s., and it becomes plain that in order to keep the staff nurse at her former salary she ought to have had a rise to £100, and that her £60 is worth only £24. The same principle applied to the salaries throughout the Service shows that the nurses have had what has been called "an Irishman's rise." The pay of assistant matrons has been fixed at £85, rising to \pounds 95, and that of matrons (who are certainly better off), at \pounds 115, tising to £185. (In the case of sisters in charge of military hospitals there is also charge pay.) The salaries of the Matronin-Chief and the Principal Matrons, just announced, are £425, rising to £470, and £260, rising to £296, respectively; but there is only one Matron-in-Chief and there are only two Principal Matrons on the establishment, so that these rates do not concern the rank and file. Moreover, the new " rank element " increasing retired pay affects only the higher posts.

And this brings us to the question of pensions. It might have been thought that the Army authorities, in settling the new pension rates, would have taken into consideration the case of those sisters who, throughout the war, were in charge of the nursing staffs of the great military hospitals. But it appears that although they may have held these responsible positions for five, or even six, years, and although they may also, from time to time, have held brevet rank as Principal Matrons, they must retire, unless promotion comes to them in time, on the most meagre pensions. Moreover, it must be remembered that there is a compulsory retiring age (fifty-five).

The maximum pension for a staff nurse is now to be £55, and that of a sister £75; so that, unless a woman has private means, she has to go into retirement at the age of fifty-five on a yearly sum which a wealthy woman would not hesitate to spend on a new gown or a winter coat. Moreover, unless a nurse has served for ten years she gets no pension at all. The curious thing about it is that these pensions are smaller than are allowed by various Superannuation Acts of Parliament, while the pay is less than is now being offered by many public authorities.

It is not only that an injustice is being done to the present members of the Service, but that the new rates are not good enough to maintain the high prestige of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., which has always been looked upon as the " Crack Regiment ' of the nursing profession. It would seem as if the authorities were blind to the fact that many more careers are open to educated women now than were open to them at the close of the

1042

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

South African War, when the Service was reorganised. It is only three hundred strong, and it ought to be able to attract the very best women in the nursing profession, and, moreover, it ought to attract educated women to join the ranks of the profession itself. All these years the Service has held a very high place, but it may well be asked now whether sensible women will join a Service in which, after a quarter of a century's work (under interesting conditions, doubtless, and with opportunities of seeing other bits of the world), they can probably earn no more than £85, and from which they must retire on probably no more than $f_{.75}$ a year.

These women cannot speak for themselves. By King's Regulations they must not write to the Press. All through the war they were never in the limelight; you rarely saw the photograph of a Regular Army Nurse in the Press, or heard her praises, except from those who had worked under her, or been nursed by her. These women, who had been trained in Army discipline and Army methods, and who were accustomed to train and command orderlies, were rightly put at the head of the nursing units; they maintained the prestige of the Service; they brought help and consolation to thousands of sick and wounded and dying men, and there are countless men and women who, as patients and nurses, owe to them a debt of gratitude which they can never repay.

It is astonishing that the Army Medical Department does not take this question up and do something for the women as well as for the men, so that all ranks may receive a proper rate of pay and adequate pensions. The R.A.M.C has recently had considerable rises in retired pay. And the British Medical Association, when it transpired that some of the members of the Army Medical Service were actually losing on the new rates, took the matter up with the War Office, with the result that there was a general rise all round of £75.

Who is going to champion the Army Nurses?

TRAIN UP A CHILD.

I had been reading to my ordinary, everyday infant, not the golden-haired-blue-eyed geniuses we all order at first, and feel glad afterwards that we did not receive, but the usual fouryear-old one sees everywhere. My ordinary infant was not impressed by the perfectly suitable story calculated, I thought, to instil kindness and generosity into the youthful mind. It told of one small boy, Percy, who, seeing a ragged child minus toys, standing shivering in a very wet gutter, plunged wildly into his own nursery, and, taking his best and unbroken toys, thrust them upon the gutter child, who ran home to his mother, calling all and sundry to see his treasures and praise the rich little boy who had been so good and kind. Was ever anything more suitable for an ordinary four-year-old who, possessed of too many toys, had tears and unpleasantness with a little girl who came to tea and wanted one of a family of teddy bears to take home with her? Gently, and with what any mother would have considered excellent tact, I began to talk of my little boy giving away some toys. "No!" said my ordinary infant, "No! no! no!" There arose the spartan mother she who There arose the spartan mother-she who is obeyed-" Baba," I said very firmly, "go upstairs at once, and bring me down from the nursery some unbroken toy to give A mutinous baby crept from the room, and kicking away. every stair, took the longest time on record to reach the nursery and descend again, traversing the last flight backwards, a feat strictly forbidden, and likely to add ten years to a spartan mother's life who is pretending not to see. At last my innocent lamb stood before me, all trace of mutiny gone, and with no visible toy. With a wisdom born of experience, I waited in silence; my small imp then produced from the front of his sailor blouse a small clockwork mouse, and observed, disap-"I wanted you to say I comed down without pointedly, "I wanted you to say I comed down without nothing," "Anything," I corrected sternly. Stretching out my hand for the mouse-endless times I had made the thing run, being eternally dramatically frightened. It was a great standby on nurse's day out-Baby loved it. I am no believer in miracles. A dreadful suspicion crossed my mind, and rushed into wordsmummy dear "-brightening visibly--" we have only lost the key!" Baby," I said, "this clockwork mouse is broken !"

J. D. D.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

[ANUARY 7, 1921.

PURSUIT.

"This lane looks unfamiliar," thought Hypsipyle. "It winds up and down in a curious way. Is it worth going on? There she is, climbing the hill; ah, this nerve-I must pursue her. She has It, I know.

The distant figure, clad in bluish-purple, drew nearer and nearer to the top of the rising lane. Hypsipyle leapt upon her bicycle; the wind blew gustily athwart her course; the lane grew rough and steep; jagged holes, filled with water, broke its stony surface; she forced down the pedals with her heels, and her breath came fast. Suddenly there was a savage jolt; the handle-bars were twisted from her grip and the bicycle slipped away beneath her. She lay for a moment looking at the grev sky. Then her eve fell upon the rusty machine beside her; the front tyre was gasping out its death rattle. She stood up unsteadily; the purple figure disappeared over the crest of the

"Damn!" said Hypsipyle. She jerked the bicycle to its wheels. It banged along beside her on its flat tyre as she began to run; '' I must-get to-the top-I must-get her-in sight, her brain hammered out. '' Now-then-now-then,'' fou four more strides and over ! The lane stretched in a straight line beneath her, growing broader and smoother on its way to the main road. The purple figure stood at the corner; a distant throbbing was heard, and out from the green jaws of the road uge, scarlet motor-omnibus. The purple figure stepped on to it; Hypsipyle watched her climb the spiral staircase-and she was gone.

On the left of the lane was a small, wooden building, with "Wheelwright " painted over the door. Hypsipyle pushed the reluctant bicycle through into the workshop. The wheelwright seized it without a word and overturned it; he stripped off the tyre with his fingers.

'Young women," he growled, "should not cycle on Sundays

Hypsipyle burned to her ear-tips with anger. "Hurry, hurry she said.

He worked on. When he had set back the tyre, he turned upon her his fierce, blue eyes, and said :

Young women should dress respectably. You ought to take off them leggings." He set the bicycle upright with a turn 'Where are your gloves? " he snorted. of the wrist.

A pulse of fury beat in Hypsipyle's brain. She took one of the large, yellow wheels leaning against the wall, and sent it rolling upon him. It struck him in the middle; she laughed to see him fall backwards. She snatched the bicycle from him, hurled a shilling at him, and fled without looking back.

She floated easily to the bottom of the hill. "Where does the scarlet 'bus go?'' she called to a hedge-cutter. "Round to left—bad road," she heard him shout after her. "It is a good road," she thought, as she turned out of the lane. The wide tracks of the motor-omnibus were plain on either side; she rode happily between them. Soon she came to a large patch of stones; she turned into the left-hand track of the omnibus But it grew deeper and deeper, till it changed into a rut. The back wheel slipped this way and that; she dismounted. A little way ahead, two men with a cart were throwing down spadesful of sharp, red stones. " Can't cycle along here for two miles, one said, with a grin. She sat down on the grass bank, and pulled off the leather hat from her damp hair.

"I must have It. I will catch you yet," she said, and set her teeth. She looked up. Before her was a new-built villa, with yellow plastered walls. Through the front window someone was watching her; it was the purple woman. She dashed across the road, and banged the brass knocker on the fresh-painted door. A maid showed her into a crowded drawing-room; the chatter ceased and every eye turned upon her. She grew aware of muddy shoes and wet face. Someone handed to her a cup of tea; she sat down beside a fair-haired lady wearing a tight pink " But jumper. "You look ill," said the lady to her in fat tones. it's a man I can't bear to see in pain; it's so much sadder to see a man in illness than a woman, don't you think so? " " Oh, yes, yes," chorused the room. " Women seem meant by nature to suffer, don't they?" " Of course, of course," they cried. Hypsipyle jumped to her feet. She thumped with her fist on the fragile table. " Piffle ! " she shouted. " Pernicious Piffle ! " The door opened behind her : " I suppose you've come to the party," said the lady who entered, looking timidly up at Hypsipyle. "Don't look so cross," she said, soothingly. "The

gentlemen are in the smoke-room. They will be here in a

minute.

"I'm looking for a woman," said Hypsipyle. "A woman

dressed in blue-purple. Is she there? " "A woman? Oh, never mind her. She's gone. The

gentlemen -Hypsipyle made for the door. " Gone? Where has she I must find her." gone?

'Oh, through the back door, I think.'

Hypsipyle darted through the hall and the kitchen. The garden wall was high, and covered with glass. She put her toes in the holes and fell over into the field on the other side. She could see the river at the bottom of the field, between the high trees, and she caught a glimpse of the purple figure. With a stumbling run over the uneven field she gained the top of the river bank. Down the stream the purple figure was sculling easily over the yellow-lit water; and the boat shot swiftly round the bend.

A hot breath struck on Hypsipyle's neck from behind; her foothold gave way, and down the crumbling bank she rolled into the stream. A cow's head appeared from above, watching her. She struck out for the other side.

The other side was a desert; along the water's edge was a pathless level of greenish, black mud; it was bounded by high sand-hills. She began to run along the strip of brilliant green grass between, jumping heavily from tuft to tuft. At one place the mud ran out from the river-edge into the sand-hills. She could not wait to make the circuit; straight across it she plunged, and at every stride her feet sank deeper. When at last she reached the grass again, her feet were heavy as if with shackles. She could not lift them. She sat down and began to scrape off the mud.

The rowing-boat was nearing the river mouth. It danced over the chilly ripple near the sea. Hypsipyle saw it run aground on the sands of the shore. The purple figure stepped out and began walking lightly over the pebbles inland, towards the sand-hills. Hypsipyle measured the direction with her eye; the light was fading; on the edge of the sand-hills, overlooking the shore, stood a shed, with a yellow gleam already showing through its window. Hypsipyle paused, with one shoe in her hand, as the purple figure moved on towards the dark shed, stood up black for a moment on the sky-line, and was lost.

Hypsipyle set the shoe on her foot and set out across the slippery, yellow sand-hills. She crouched outside the shed; slowly she raised her face to the level of the sill.

The interior of the shed was filled with yellow light. Five men stood in a row, with their backs towards the window; each man's hands were behind his back, and each held in his hand a cruel little instrument. They stood expectant. The purple woman, her back towards them, and her thin, white hands uplifted, began slowly to turn about. "I dare not look at your face," said Hypsipyle: but her eves were fixed on the turning figure.

The face was masked; green eyes glittered from the mask. Slowly they turned upon the window; and still Hypsipyle stood gazing. Suddenly the row of men parted, three to the left and two to the right; the purple figure moved through them toward The green eyes drew nearer and nearer; at last the window. they were behind the window-pane. Their pupils narrowed and dilated like a cat's as they stared into the eyes of Hypsipyle. The white hand was lifted; the glass was shattered to a thousand fragments, and the thin fingers closed about Hypsipyle's windpipe. Hands grasped her from behind. There was a heaviness on her brain-then blackness.

She opened her eyes and looked into the bright face of the She lay bound upon the cold slab of an altar-tomb; ruined walls rose about her. Candles burned behind her. Huge shadows rose and sank among the mighty piers. Figures in black robes moved in and out; a low moaning stirred the air and chilled the blood. Through the black shadows of the massive ruined doorway moved a figure, bathed in yellow light-a purple figure. The royal garments swept to her feet; her face was unmasked-a wonder of smiling, cruel beauty. She moved to the bound figure on the altar-tomb. "You have It?" breathed Hypsipyle. "Yes; you have followed me. You wanted It. Now have your reward."

She stooped and set her lips upon the tortured lips below. Hypsipyle winced under them, and struggled weakly; but the thin, cold fingers were about her throat. The hand on her throat contracted like a cord-a red light blazed before her eyes-she shrieked aloud----

"That's all over," said the dentist, holding up the offending tooth with a critical air. "A good thing I gave you a whiff of gas; he was a nasty brute. Had a good long dream, eh?"

Cermany in Revolution. By L. E. Matthaei. (The Swarthmore International Handbooks. Price 2s. 6d.)

The foreword states that this is one of a series of books, the object of which is not only to record facts, but to present them in a certain light and with a certain object, the light being Internationalism and the object the peace of the world. It purports to define the aims of those who made the German revolution, and to show what stood in the way of their accomplishment, and we are given to understand that the revolution was the work of the Socialists, no distinction being made in this respect between the Majority Socialists, who are constitutional democrats and who did their best, to the very last, to avert a revolution, and the Independents, who opposed the war from the beginning, but who were only a small minority. It was, according to the writer, "the result of long persistent spadework for fifty or sixty years, and then just a gentle push at the end." The truth is that when the German people lost faith in ultimate victory, in which they had firmly believed, they turned on the rulers who had deceived them, and declined to make any further sacrifices. Without clear recognition of this fact, any work dealing with so important an event in German history must be incomplete and misleading. Those in a position to know had warned the authorities that unless the promise of victory and peace in 1918 were fulfilled there would be trouble. The March offensive, on which high hopes had been set, had failed; Ludendorff's insistence on the necessity of an immediate armistice had shown the weakness of the military position, and the masses, whose morale had been thoroughly undermined by years of privation and disappointment, were clamouring for peace-for bread-for the best terms they could get, before the war was carried into their own country. If peace could not be had otherwise, the Kaiser must go; and Wilson, to whom they pinned their faith, had raised the sestion of his abdication. It was under these circumstances that he was urged to abdicate voluntarily, and it is possible, as the writer tells us, that had he acted on the advice given by Prince Max of Baden, the coup d'état might have been averted. What is certain is that his hesitation and subsequent flight to Holland were suicidal, as far as the future of the monarchy was concerned. That it was a bloodless revolution in the first instance, was due as much to the action of the Majority Socialists in placing themselves at the head of a movement which must otherwise have ended in anarchy, as to the clear recognition at General Headquarters that the army would not support the Kaiser in putting it down. We think the writer has not laid sufficient stress on these factors, and we dislike the tone adopted in describing the efforts made by Prince Max of Baden to save both his country and his Sovereign, which are worthy of all respect.

The story of the efforts made by the Socialists to accomplish their aims when they found themselves in power, and of the obstacles with which they were confronted, is told both with sympathy and understanding., These later chapters contain much that is of interest. They describe the rise of the Spartacist or Communist movement, the discovery of the Russian money behind it, the combined attempt by the Independents and Communists to overthrow the Majority Socialists, and, finally, the tragic events of January, 1919, when the counter-revolution was put down, and elections for a National Assembly were held. It should have been made clear, however, that from the beginning the Independents had insisted on a Socialist Republic, and that the power should be entirely in the hands of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils. This the Social Democrats refused, on the ground that a National Assembly must decide Germany's future form of government, and that exclusion of the bourgeoisie would be undemocratic. C. V.

1044

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

REVIEWS.

Twenty Years of the Balkan Tangle. By M. Edith Durham.

(Allen & Unwin, 16s.)

There is no impartial opinion about the Balkan tangle; the observer may speak with knowledge, as does the author of this work, or without, but always as a partisan. Miss Durham, who has done and risked so much for the little mountain State of Albania, must inevitably hate her neighbours, Serbia, Greece, and Montenegro. Hate for one's neighbours is traditional among these Near Eastern races, each of which, taken by itself, is attractive by virtue of many virile and romantic qualities. ' Five centuries of Turkish rule," says Miss Durham, " in no way modified the hate which one Balkan race bore for another. Each, on gaining freedom, had but one idea, to overthrow and rule the other." In these chapters Serbia is exposed as the most greedy, cruel, and ruthless of the Balkan peoples, because the Great Serbia idea menaces the existence of Albania. The Great Bulgaria project, being less threatening, comes in for less censure. Montenegro and Greece, near neighbours of Albania, attain a bad eminence, which Bulgaria and Roumania fail of. Russia, as Serbia's patron, is the evil genius of Europe. Austria and Germany, as Russia's enemies, are seen to have some admirable characteristics. Turkey shines in comparison with Greece and Serbia. Italy and England are dragged by Russia into evil paths. This view may be the just one, or it may merely be the corrective to an equally biassed conception set forth by Dr. Dillon and other writers. Whichever it is, the facts and cbservations by which it is supported must be taken into account. They are the first-hand testimony of an intrepid traveller with a long and deep knowledge of Balkan peoples, and one who has spoken with surprising candour with princes, peasants, and diplomatists, during war and peace in this cauldron of warring races and creeds, who has received the most astonishing confidences and been entrusted with surprising missions, who has been suspected of spying on behalf of Prince Mirko, and has been requested by European Foreign Offices to raise troops in the Near East. When there are so many arm-chair exponents of the Balkan tangle and so many more who are obliged by their ignorance of languages to cope with past-masters in intrigue through interpreters, such a book as this is doubly valuable

Miss Durham first went to Montenegro in 1900 for her health, and thereafter spent at first two months every year travelling, usually alone, in the Balkans, and afterwards residing (if this so suburban word may be used of her) for three and a-half years continuously, occupied in relief work, sketching, learning the languages, discussing politics in cafés and in hotels frequented lomatists. As she describes the picking up of thread after thread in a rather desultory manner, giving the views of eminent personages of various nationalities upon problems which still blaze and smoulder in lands freed from the Turk, the reader finds himself eager for a more ordered exposition of the historical development or resurrection of the Balkan peoples, and finds it provided for him in lucid summaries of the past evolution of Serbia, Montenegro and Albra. Lucid, but not impartial; impartiality is never claimed.

The record is as full of comedy as tragedy. Take the episode of 1908, when it was reported that a British Admiral "War for certain ! Albania is saved ! ' visited Scutari. "Our Vice-Consul had no information at all and cried folk. was agitated.' All day the Admiral and the British fleet were The Crimea would be repeated and Turkey saved. expected. Next day brought forth-a British chargé d'affaires and five ladies who had merely come for fun to see the bazaar and were overpowered to find themselves officially received. All Scutari. perhaps all Turkey, tense and tremulous, waited to see what steps Great Britain would take. And its representative, all unaware of what political fever in the Balkans is, saw the bazaar, had tea at the Austrian Consulate, and went back to Cetinji, escorted by a Turkish gun-boat. Then the storm broke. What *did* Great Britain mean? . . . An Anglo-Austrian alliance-a break with Russia-a slap in the face for the Turks? You could hardly blow your nose in Scutari without being suspected of political intentions . . . in the Near East politics are a nervous disease.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

DRAMA.

The Swedish Ballet at the Palace.

The tremendous success of the Russian ballet last year appears to have re-acted unfavourably on the Swedish ballet. The public seem to think that it is an inferior kind of Russian ballet to which it is not worth while taking the trouble to go. At least, whatever the reason, the public does not appear to go. The Palace was so empty last week that it seems hardly probable that the ballet will remain very long in London. If it does not we shall have lost a very delightful entertainment without a struggle, merely from failure to appreciate it.

It must be admitted that the producers have not been altogether wise. One would have thought that it would have been one of their first principles to avoid anything at all reminiscent of the Russian ballet, unless, of course, they were able to improve upon it, which is hardly likely. Instead of that, in the second of their productions they have frankly copied the Russian ballet, and copied it very badly. Their "Divertissement" is an almost incredible imitation of the "Sylphides." The costumes are practically identical except that the skirts of the Swedish ladies are about three inches longer than those of the Russians. The dress of the man is identical. The music is Chopin, though abbreviated and very badly played by the Palace crchestra. The dancing is as much alike as is possible under the circumstances that M. Jean Borlin has about one hundredth part of the technical skill of Massine. This is an unfortunate divertissement. So is the fourth ballet, "Au Temps Jadis," a series of rather flat and boring dances performed in eighteenth century costumes. In both these ballets the Swedes make the mistake of merely copying what has been done before, instead of trusting to their native genius.

That they have a native genius the rest of the performance shows clearly enough. The Swedish ballet is something new and real, peculiar to them. The first ballet shows this perhaps most clearly, the "Nuit de Saint Jean." It represents the merry-making which goes on in the country on a mid-summer evening. The young men and women dance and play, make love, quarrel, and make it up again, while the elders sit apart and eat and drink and watch the games at which they have long ceased to play. Night falls, a northern summer night, very short, very light, an interval of cool twilight between the brightness of sunset and sunrise. No great technical skill is shown, and none is required. The dances are simple country dances, so easy and natural that it seems almost an accident that we are watching instead of taking part. But unlike so many folk dances the ballet is always interesting to watch. There is a placid light-heartedness about it which seems to be the peculiar gift of the Scandinavian races.

The third ballet, "Les Vierges Folles," is very different. It is conventionalised and simplified where the other is diffuse. It substitutes the limitations of art for the diversities and confusion of real life. The story is that of the New Testament, the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, but its spirit is that of the eighteenth century, and it is inspired by a tapestry of that period. It is impossible to give in words any idea of this most delightful ballet. There was a concentration, a gaiety, a simplicity about it not excelled by the Russians at their best. It had too decided a character of its own really to recall them however. The wise virgins wore bright green dresses with

long close-fitting waists and wonderfully swirling skirts. The foolish virgins wore dresses of the same pattern but of a clear orange. Each carried upright in her hand a little lamp. Between them hovered the bride in a great flutter and with a towering head-dress. While they all "slumbered and slept" the bride had a dream of exquisite virginal simplicity. The curtains at the back of the stage parted, and there stood the bridegroom, a powdered, silk-stockinged eighteenth century beau. As she awoke the curtains closed and concealed him. The rest of the story proceeds exactly according to the account in the Bible with the exception of two particularly beautiful snow white angels who bar the way of the foolish virgins. But there is a gaiety in the spirit of the whole thing which is a surprise. The virgins are so pretty in their folly and despair that it is impossible to take their woes seriously, or to gain anything from them but amused delight.

The last ballet, "El Greco," is the most serious in the programme. It consists of a series of tableaux modelled on the paintings of the Spanish artist. A story runs through them, but it is one of those stories which it would be quite impossible to follow without the information given in the programme. The scene is laid in Toledo at night in the midst of a terrible storm. Terrified figures rush across the lurid darkness. One young man in particular suffers strange agonies from which he is at last saved by the appearance of the Virgin who leads him upwards into the brilliant light.

This ballet was curiously uneven. The beginning, with its storm, its darkness, its strange colours, its rushing figures, was weird and almost terrifying. The end, with its rather aimless contortions of a half-naked young man and its pink and blue Virgin in a shaft of lime-light was tedious and unattractive. The whole thing, however, was an interesting conception, though not so successful as "La Nuit de Saint Jean " or " Les Vierges Folles." Still, the question remains : Why do so few people go to it?

"The Charm School" at the Comedy.

This play is one of those bubbles which appear from time to time on the surface of the drama, and can only be described as "a silly play." It is not witty, amusing, interesting, or clever, though it serves to pass away an evening pleasantly enough if one is completely at a loose end. A handsome young man is left a girl's boarding school as a legacy and insists on running it himself. The result is, as might have been expected, that all the girls fall violently in love with him, and he against his will falls in love with one of them. This one runs away from love, and he runs after her to bring her back. He marries her, of course, and gives up the school to the respectable lady who is his second in command and should by rights have been the headmistress all along. The chief interest in the play is the acting of Owen Nares and Sydney Fairbrother. The latter is really funny in her own peculiar vein.

Through the Crack. By Algernon Blackwood and Violet Pearce; at the Everyman Theatre. Reviewed by Rachel McCarthy and Barbara Strachey.

Children's plays ought to be written for children, and it seems to follow that they ought to be reviewed by children as well. If grown up people do it, how shall we ever get the right view of these plays, or know whether we are admiring at the right places? It is better to entrust the matter to the really expert critics, and then we are safe. It is very easily done too : present any two children with tickets on condition that they write you a review, and see what happens. You will have to rearrange your hair and probably wash your face; but you will get a really truthful review, and they will have a gorgeous afternoon, and everyone will be pleased.

Last week we adopted this course with two children we know, aged eleven and eight; they went alone (that naturally added greatly to their joy), and they returned brimful of ideas. They then wrote their reviews, which, because they naturally overlapped slightly, we have rolled into one.

Through the Crack' is a fairy play. It is for children, about children. It is in parts funny and in parts serious. We think we liked the serious parts the best. The parts which are meant to be funny sometimes turn out to be silly. But, however, perhaps that is going rather too far, as it was very amusing too, and only occasionally silly. We think it was even better than 'Where the Rainbow Ends.' Why? Because there was more shape to it somehow. It really was very good, and we had very fine seats. The story was about a family of children who had a secret about the crack between to-day and to-morrow. That was the place where all lost things and broken toys and lost annimals and children went to. Their father and mother went away and left them in charge of Uncle Paul and the butler and the nasty fat cook. The cook terrified everyone and was ugly, fat and old, and very well acted by Clare Greet, who really acted exacly like a cook. The butler was reserved and refined before the family, but made love to the cook secretely. He acted very well. One day the children caught Uncle Paul in an ungrown up moment when he was playing with them, and they told him the secret, and so they all went through the crack together at midnight. There they had a wish each. The youngest girl wished

Mary had intended her visit to France to last for a few weeks only. It lasted for several years and altered the whole course of her life. In 1793 she met Gilbert Imlay and became within a few weeks and for the next three years, his mistress. Imlay was an American merchant, a handsome, attractive, careless made to break the hearts of women. He was pleased by Mary's beauty, intelligence, and sensibility, and within a few weeks had won them for himself. They did not marry. There is little doubt that at the beginning of their connection Imlay would have been glad enough to do so, but circumstances made marriage unadvisable at the beginning. The connection was begun during the terror. All diplomatic relations between England and France had been broken off. All English subjects in Paris were liable to imprisonment. By living quietly among her friends it was possible for Mary to escape the notice of the authorities. Any form of legal marriage, however unostentatious, would have necessitated an official declaration of her nationality. So Mary and Imlay decided to postpone their marriage till a safer period. Neither of them regarded this, however, as any reason why they should not live together. There is no doubt that at this time both Mary and Imlay regarded themselves as man and wife. Mary looked upon her own future as entirely assured, and when she became pregnant felt no anxiety for the future either of herself or her child.

Now, for the first time in her life, Mary was entirely radiantly happy. As Godwin says, " Her whole character seemed when you will lament that you have thrown away a heart that, even in the moment of passion, you cannot despise.' to change with a change of fortune. Her sorrows, the depres-Twice she tried to commit suicide, each time unsuccessfully. sion of her spirits, were forgotten, and she assumed all the She little guessed that those friendly hands which seemed so simplicity and vivacity of a youthful mind. . . . Mary now cruel were really saving her for a gust of happiness in which reposed herself upon a person of whose honour and principles she had the most exalted idea. She nourished an affection which her life was to end. (To be concluded.) she saw no necessity of subjecting to restraint; and a heart like

1046

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

CHILDREN'S VIEWS ON A CHILDREN'S PLAY.

that all broken toys might come alive, which they did, and they were lovely, especially the fairy doll, but the musicale box was not very good. Then the boy wished that all the lost animals would appear, and in they came, live puppies and a live cat that had been drowned in the stable bucket, and Huz, a big dog that jumped up from the awdience. Nixie wished for the night wind, the water sprite, and the leaf, who blew in and danced round her. The dancing was rather pretty, but Nixie was very unreal and had an actressy voice.

1047

'At the end they all crept back to the kitchen, where they found their mother and father, and they all danced round the table, and so it ends happily, and it was all lovely, and we must say it was a most delightfull and successfull play.

There was an element in the descriptions which we have left out. A dead sister called Misty Love seems to have been the main sentimental motif of the play. She lived through the crack, and came out and disturbed her toys (and, incidentally, her mother's heart) at night. In the end she either came actually to life, or appeared in order to reassure her mother as to her It was somewhat obscure in the reports, and is happiness. obviously that part of the play intended to appeal to grown ups Whether it does so or not, we cannot say -- but we imagine not. The following criticisms of the acting, however, are again verbatim.

"There is one thing, though, which we think rather spoilt the whole play, and that was that Miss Renée Mayer as Nixie was not like a naturale child. Of course, it is amazingly difficult to be like a child when one is not a child, but still Miss Audrey Cameron as Jonah was very good indeed, and Miss Rosalind Patrick as Toby was also; in fact we think she was alemost the best, and this was because she was really a child. Of course, she did have the easiest part and not very much to say, but still we think that children ought to act as children just as grown up people act as grown ups. Mr. George Hayes as the Father was good, only he seemed to know his words a little too well. Miss Dorothy Massingham was really very good, and Mr. Nicholas Hannen as Uncle Paul was exactly how he ought to have been, very jolly and amusing and very like a naughty child himself. He was just like Father. Please, when may we review another play?'

MEMOIRS OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN.

(Continued.)

hers was not formed to nourish affection by halves. Her confidence was entire. Now, for the first time in her life, she gave a loose rein to all the sensibilities of her nature.

Her happiness was not to last. On the plea of making provision for Mary and their unborn child, Imlay began a series of journeys in connection with his business. These journeys grew longer and more frequent, until at last it became clear that Imlay intended to sever the connection entirely. Mary did not lose her lover, the father of her child, without a struggle. All that her brains, her passion, her charm, could do to retain him was done. It availed nothing. In 1796 they parted for ever.

The letters which Mary wrote to Imlay during these three agonising years were returned to her at their final separation, and have been published by Kegan Paul. They are a heartbreaking record of a long-drawn-out agony, all the more painful for their courage and restraint. It was only gradually that it dawned upon Mary that the separation was to be final. At first she regarded it as a mere tiresome necessity of business. late," she writes, " we are always separating, crash, crash, and away you go." Then timidly, almost playfully, she begins to face the possibility of a final separation. " If you do not soon return, the little girl and I will take care of ourselves, we will not accept any of your cold kindness, your distant civilities, no, not Then there come the last bitter letters. " In tearing myself from you it is my own heart I pierce, and the time will come

JANUARY 7, 1921.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

A. the state

RE THE CENSUS.

MADAM,—While there is time may I suggest that before the papers are distributed for this year's census, that an important alteration is made in the questions asked, and instead of (or in addition to) the question "Are you Divorced?" should be another "Are you Separated?" The former question by itself is of little value as showing the need for a reform of our Divorce Laws, but the figures from the latter question, would form a subledge of the is to be such a set of the there

would form a valuable and definite reply to those who contend that there

is no need for Divorce Law Reform. Persons separated cannot be justly stated to be either married, single, or widowed, and it is time that such an anomaly was removed and an extra class added W. PERCY WRIGHT.

THE WOMAN LODGER'S VOTE.

THE WOMAN LODGER'S VOTE. MADAM,—The reply to the canvassers of the Battersea or other regis-tration officer should be that there is no condition as to the taking of meals in the Act enfranchising women (8 Geo. V. Ch. 64), and if the agent still refuses to put her name down for registration the woman must apply to the office (Town Hall, generally) for a form and send in a per-sonal application and fourpence to be present or represented by some-one—Miss Neva Beaumont, for instance, who will defend the position. I am a lodger or tenant in a women's club and furnish my own rooms— we get in compone in the diving room the representative of the club upo we eat in common in the dining-room, the representative of the club pro prietors serving us—there is no question of whether we eat in private of we eat in com

I have also succeeded in getting on to the Parliamentary Register our cook and housekeeper—as occupying by virtue of service—See Section 3 a. 1and Section 4 (1) c. and (3) a.—their employers, the directors of theCompany not living on the premises. This is an important point for

M. A. E. MILTON.

CROYDON WOMEN CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION.

A Study Circle has been held during the Autum months. Text book : "Memorandum on Combines and Trade Organisations," by John Hilton, price is. The leader used Marshall's "Industry and Trade," supplemented by Macgregor's "Evolution of Industry"; Henry Clay's "Economics, an Introduction for the General Reader," the Report of "Economics, an Introduction for the General Reader," the Report of the Committee on Trusts, the Report of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy after the War, Reports of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Standing Committee on Trusts, the City column in the *Times and New Statesman.* Miss C. Webb, the editor of the official text-book of the Co-operative Society, addressed an open meeting of the Study Circle on the subject of co-operation. The Circle decided at its last meeting to organise a Study Circle next autumn, taking as its subject "Modern Taxation."

Obituary.

MRS. PEILE.

DRS. PEILE. By the death of Mrs. Peile on December 28th, Cambridge has lost one more of the brave band of women's leaders. Mrs. Peile and her tate husband, Dr. Peile, Master of Christ's College, were, during their yomen's University education; and it was in recognition of their service that Peile Hall, in Newnham College, received its title. Her hord Kitchener. After her marriage, which took place more than half a century ago, she made her home in Cambridge, where she soon became actively interested in the cryly efforts to give young people-and especially girls—some share, however small, of the intellectual transverse possessed by Cambridge. It was about this time that the Cambridge Local Examinations were leving established; but many uppils living in country places were quite unable to get the teaching teaching was organised to meet their case, and of this undertaking physis in togen in country places were quite analytic of get the teaching they needed in preparation for these tests. A system of correspondence teaching was organised to meet their case, and of this undertaking (which involved a great deal of labour and thought) Mrs. Peile was for many years honorary secretary. She thus acquired personal experience of the hindrances to knowledge which checked the development of women's powers. Both she and Dr. Peile were members of the first committee of Newnham College, and she continued to serve upon the governing body (afterwards called the Council) for many years. The Friendly Societies' movement also appealed to her practical instincts, and she became the founder of the United Sisters Court in Cambridge. That she was a lifelong Suffragist need, perhaps, scarcely be stated. Mrs. Peile was, in her best days, delightful and cheering company, for she flavoured the serious bread of life with natural humour. The curious stiffness and academic provincialism of University society as it existed during the years of her early matried life caused her much amusement. She found Cambridge ladies more literally caged in crino-lines and conventions thap the womefolk of other regions. Academic society was arranged, like figs, in layers; but there might be no inter-

society was arranged, like figs, in layers; but there might be no inter

mingling of strata. The departure of these cramping absurdities was hastened by the liberating geniality of Mrs. Peile. Unhappily, ill-health, the loss of sight, and much physical suffering clouded her later years. But death has stilled a very warm heart; and she will long be held in affectionate and grateful remembrance.

COMING EVENTS.

ANUARY At Glasgow. (And on January 8th, 9th, and 10th). Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE WOMAN'S LEADER when ordering goods.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

REGISTER FOR COTTAGE NURSES.

REGISTER FOR COTTAGE NURSES. MADAM,—In your issue of Dec. 24th, Miss Macdonald, Sec., R.B.N.A., asks me to inform your readers from what quarters the proposal to form a Supplementary Register for Cottage Nurses emanates, if not from the General Nursing Council for Scotland. If this information has been withheld from the public, where could I get it? Nevertheless, I repeat that it is unjust to conclude that the suggestion emanates from the G.N.C. because the source is not stated. Miss Macdonald proceeds to quote from letters read at a meeting of the G.N.C., England, referring to Cottage Nurses, and the existing Nurses' Register, but she omits to say that all kinds of nurses, Cottage and otherwise, who fulfil the requirements laid down by the Draft Rules, will be admitted to the General Register in all three countries during the period of grace. The then proceeds to speculate as to what these Draft Rules will be.

during the period of grace. She then proceeds to speculate as to what these Draft Rules will be, and says "i/ the conditions for admission are not similar to those of the English Council," &c. My advice to nurses and others interested is to wait until the Draft Rules are issued; to obtain a copy as soon as possible, to read them for themselves, and form their own opinion of the conditions for admission. Then, if they think these conditions are in any way detrimental to the profession or to the public, to take immediate steps to let their disapproval be known. Meantime, if the Council informs nurses that any special provision is under discussion it is quite right that they should let the Council have their opinion on the subject—these councils are established for the nurses to use—but we must not take it for granted that the Council has suggested or supports every irregularity it discusses. Why should we anticipate trouble? There is little reason to doubt that qualifications for admission to the Scottish Register will be similar to those in England. In fact, the Scottish Register will be similar to those in & England. In fact, the Scottish Act provides that "The Council shall, with a view to securing a uniform standard of qualification in all parts of the United Kingdom, consult with any Nursing Councils which may be established by Parliament for England, Wales, or Irekand, respectively," this surely shows that Scotland has similarity of conditions in view, while it pro-vides for the adequate consideration and discussion of the interests of all. A provision which I feel sure will be approved by all. To me, this clause is the one redeeming point in these disappointing demonstructal Acts which were rushed through Parliament towards the She then proceeds to speculate as to what these Draft Rules will be.

all. A provision which I feel sure will be approved by all. To me, this clause is the one redeeming point in these disappointing departmental Acts, which were rushed through Parliament towards the end of 1910. Legislation at express speed is almost invariably bad legislation, and means a crop of amending Bills in the future, but I have great hopes that through unity of action and automatic registration the United Kingdom may yet stand as one, and refuse to be severed into a state of disorganisation which can benefit no one but the nurses' employee.

CHRISTIAN H. MCARA, Member Royal British Nurses' Association.

OUEENSLAND'S LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

QUEENSLAND'S LABOUR GOVERNMENT. MADAM,—The letter from Mr. Munro Hull, of Brisbane, which appeared in your issue of December 31st, suggests that the Labour Govern-ment of Queensland has been unsuccessful. As a matter of fact, it has been returned to power at three consecutive General Elections. Mr. Hull does not tell your readers this. So desperate became the Capitalists of Queensland that, failing to persuade the people to vote with them, they sent embassies to England to enlist the Colonial Office and the London capitalists. With the former, of course, they failed. With the latter, of course, they succeeded. The real Government of this country (the vested interests) is now at war with Queensland. What a pity Mr. Hull forgot to mention this to your readers. On the housing matter, your readers will remember that I raised it

to mention this to your readers. On the housing matter, your readers will remember that I raised it to reply to a certain critic who alleged that nationalisation meant the public ownership of all capital, from factories to sewing machines. I referred to Queensland, where the Socialist State encourages the private awnership of houses. Mr. Hull, while differing as to detail, confirms my statement that the Socialist Government aids its citizens in acquiring

It is good to have the acknowledgment of Mr. Hull that the British It is good to have the acknowledgment of Mr. Hull that the British extremes of riches and poverty do not exist in Queensland. That, of course, is because Socialism was largely practised in Australia before Labour came to power. For example, railway nationalisation is an Australasian commonplace. How amusing it is to read Mr. Hull's words :--

"Our State Savings Bank (instituted long before 'Socialism' was heard of out here) holds money equal to £50 for every man, woman and child in the State A State Savings Bank is Socialism, whatever the Government which

established it. NOf the timber matter I can say nothing, for I do not know the facts.

LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

STATE CONTROL.

MADAM,—Having prepared the way, so to speak, to enable me to show the shallowness of this State Control fad which Sir Leo advocates, may I expose the real motive that has actuated the Queensland Socialist Government during its term of five and a-half years?

Government during its term of hve and a-nail years? I particularly commend what I have to say, to Sir Leo as it may probably open up in his mind an avenue of thought which he has, apparently, not hitherto explored. In the first place, the object of establishing State enterprises in Queensland was not to benefit the people as a whole, but merely to build up a voting strength of Government employees which would secure the Government in the possession of the comforts and emoluments of office.

This may appear to be a strong statement to make, and without con-clusive evidence in support it would be valueless. Let me submit the evidence, and also let Sir Leo just cogitate upon what would happen in Great Britain if any one party in politics obtained permanent control, unless that party happened to be composed of men of almost superhuman ideals as regards probibly and honour (which they would not be if elected on a universal franchise—from the age of eighteen years, as threatened in Queensland).

age of eighteen years, as threatened in Queensland). Up to the advent of the Ryan Government in 1915, the only State enterprises here were railways—which were under the supervision of independent "Commissioners" who were just as free from political control as our Supreme Court Judges. Thus, although the State owned the railways, it had nothing to do with the business management, and, as a result, they paid interest and gave good service at low charges (fifty per cent. less than at present!). When the Ryan Government introduced State enterprises, it was noted that staffing showed this peculiarity—*i.e.*, with very few exceptions the employees were Government supporters, and Irish by descent. upporters, and Irish by descent,

In making these appointments the existing Public Service Acts were ignored, and all the bad old forms of "influence" were revived. Mr, Ryan admitted in the "House" that he had appointed over 400 people to the Public Service, in defiance of the "Act." What was one inevitable result? A crop of defalcations, which, however, only became known to the public through "leakage" of information—there were no prose-ution:

Crown Ministers obtained the dismissal or appointment of employees according to their pleasure, in spite of an Act which specifically provides for entrance after examination! Efficiency under such conditions is

The sinister connection between the "Trades Hall Council" and the State Government, is revealed by the fact that our Trade Unions are "officered" almost exclusively by Irishmen—most of them anti-British and extremists of the first water.

To these men the State Government has been hitherto utterly servile, not to the electors.

How long would Britain last under similar conditions? The main object in establishing State enterprise is to provide "jobs," and jobs for

The Manager State Cattle Stations, ,, ,, State Insurance Office,

", ", State Fruit Cannery, ", ", State Meat Business (Imperial Supply), The Permanent Under Secretary for Lands,

and a host of lesser, but no less "conscientious," highly-paid officials ! I would urge upon British women this one all important fact. When a private employer acts dishonestly, the law is available to deal with him. When the Government (as an employer) acts dishonestly, there is no law to protect the taxpayer.

If a private individual steals your produce you have a remedy, but what remedy had we Queensland farmers when the Ryan Government took forcible possession of our butter and paid us *less* than the cost of production therefor, so that Socialist supporters in the cities might have

cheap " butter? Prior to the introduction of the State fish shops we bought fresh fish for At the same time toxic of the state has hops we bought fresh fish for after an expenditure (in day labour) of over £60,000 on one shop alone in Brisbane. The State buys "coarse" fish at rd., per lb. and retails it at 8d. per lb.—and yet we hear of profiteering! At the same time tons of fish are taken out to sea and "dumped" by the State shop, in order to clear the freezing chambers for the reception of next week's consignments!

The loss thus entailed is put on the shoulders of the unfortunate fishermen (who are prohibited from supplying any but the State shop). Thus, if a fisherman consigns, say, forty cases of fish, a proportion is "condemned" (for which he gets nothing), but this proportion really goes into consumption, the "condemnation" is only a book entry, which, in plain English, means that the fishermen are *robbed* of their fish.

And yet there are men—intellectual men—who cannot see the inherent fraily of human nature, and who advocate the destruction of a painfully built up system whose foundation is *honesty*, and the substitution of political graft, jobbery, and authorised *dishonesty*. MUNRO HULL.

-Possibly British women will be interested in details of

P.S.—Possibly British women will be interested in details of Queensland's State Hotel. Queensland Liquor Law prohibits the sale of intoxicants at any "construction camp" where large bodies of workers are congregated. It also prohibits the granting of liquor "licences" in the vicinity of any large factory or sugar mill, &c. The Anti-Socialist Governments recognised the claim of the women upon the wages of their husbands, and in every "camp" or at every big "mill" existing a long distance from a town, such Governments provided a State Savings Bank in place of liquor bars. But the Socialistic Ryan Government broke our State Law by building a sumptuous hotel alongside one of our big sugar mills, and in the centre of a large sugar district where all the harvesting is done by men who travel from the Southern States, and who return home each season. The Auditor-General's last report shows that whilst the profits from "accommodation" were less than £300, the profits from sale of drink were nearly £5.000.

were nearly £5,000. Most of that £5,000 would, under the old *régime*, have gone into the Savings Bank, to be remitted South to the women at home. Now, it helps to provide motor cars and cigars for Socialistic Cabinet Ministers, whilst "rations" are doled out to the families of the workers!

1048

THE WOMAN

'S LEADER.	1049
JANUARY 9.	
At Upper Clapton, Brotherhood. Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Ottley.	
JANUARY 10.	
At Maidenhead, St. Luke's Parish Room. Speaker: L. Older Shaw, Esq., J.P.	8 p.1
JANUARY 11.	
At Richmond, Vineyard Congregational Chu Speaker: Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, Esg., M.P.	urch. 8 p.1
At Chelsea, Town Hall, Small Hall. Speaker : Mrs. Skelton.	8 p.1
JANUARY 12.	
At Albert Hall. Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K. M.P., Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P., Rt. Hon. J	C., M.P., Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, H. A. L. Fisher, M.P.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SAND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRA	SECURE STATE PURCHASE
JANUARY 10.	
At Colwyn Bay, National Council of Wome Subject: Debate, "State Purchase necessar Speakers: Mrs. Renton v. Mrs. Shilston W	y first step to Local Option."
JANUARY 11.	
At Camberley, Women's Co-op. Guild.	
Subject : "State Purchase of the Liquor ' Speaker : Miss F. L. Carre.	Irade." 3 p.
At Farnham, National Council of Women Subject: "State Purchase as Preliminary	a de la seconda de la contra de l
Speaker : Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.	3.15 p.
JANUARY 12.	
At Southall Sisterhood. Subject: "State Purchase the Path to Te Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.	mperance Reform." 3 p.
JANUARY 13.	
At Hebburn-on-Type, Co-operative Guild,	
Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor ' Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre.	Trade." 7.30 p.
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.	
A series of Ten Lectures, on the Progress be held at the Minerva Caté, 144, High Holbo January 17th to March 21st, at 7 p.m. Openin K.C.M.G. Subject: "The Evolution and Sect for the course: Reserved seats, 12s. 6d.; unn bought beforehand. Single lectures, 1s., if an	rn, W.C. 1, on Monday evenings, g lecture by Sir John Cockburn, ological Aspect of Sex." Tickets eserved, 7s. 6d.; which must be

and the second s

LANUARY 19 Public Meeting in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker : Councillor Jessie Stephen. Subject : "Women's Right to Work." Chair : Mrs. McMichael.

3 p.m.



1050

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP

President: MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss Macadam. Miss Rosamond Smith. Acting Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Soddy.

General Secretary: Miss Stack. Offices : Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. I.

Telegraphic Address : Voiceless, Westcent, London.

Telephone: Museum 6910.

KENSINGTON S.E.C.

A drawing-room meeting was held on November 29th by kind invitation of Miss Cuningham-Smith, the subject being Proportional Representation. Lady Davison took the Chair, Major Morrison-Bell, M.P., gave a most interesting address, and Miss Morton conducted a model election.

On December 13th, the coldest day in the year, with thick snow on the ground, a public meeting was held at the Kensington Town Hall, in conjunction with the Kensington Local Government Association, the Kensington W.C.A., the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and the League of the Church Militant, on the subject of the Need for Women in Parliament. The Lady Emmott, J.P., presided, and Colonel Greig, M.P., Miss Macadam, and Miss Helen Fraser made most interesting speeches, which were received with much enthusiasm. Major Hills, M.P., and Mr. Grundy, M.P., who were to have spoken, were unfortunately prevented by illness from attending. A resolution affirming the need for the election of suitable women to Parliament, and urging the political parties to adopt a fair proportion of women candidates, was carried unanimously, and was afterwards sent to the Whips of the various parties. Representatives of the Liberal, Unionist, and Labour Parties had accepted seats on the platform, and messages of sympathy with the objects of the meeting were read from the Bishop of Kensington, the Vicar and Rural Dean of Kensington, and others. A personal letter from Sir George Younger has since been received, saying, "The question of the election of suitable women to Parliament is not lost sight of in this office, but it is one, of course, for decision by the Local Political Executives, which contain, in our case, a full representation of women."

CAMBRIDGE N.U.S.E.C.

STANDING COMMITTEE .- By the kind invitation of Mrs. Bethune-Baker the business meeting of the Cambridge Standing Committee was held at 23, Cranmer Road, on December 4th.

After the business meeting Mrs. Hubback gave a most inspiring address to the members of the committee and other guests. She dwelt on the great activity at Headquarters in all the items of the Society's programme, and convinced the audience of the need for continued support of the measures which were being considered or introduced into Parliament in accordance with our programme. Among other points she enumerated the work done by the N.U.S.E.C. in connection with the (1) Women's Emancipation Bill, introduced by the Labour Party, which was afterwards torpedoed by the Government's Sex Disqualification Bill; (2) Widows' Pensions; (3) Bastardy Bill; (4) Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

Mrs. Hubback also showed clearly how closely in touch the N.U.S.E.C. officials remain with every detail of Parliamentary proceedings, and how necessary it is to observe and defeat sinister movements, and to encourage action of the right sort.

CROYDON W.C.A.

A Study Circle has been held throughout the autumn with John Hilton's "Memorandum on Combines and Trade Organisations " as the text-book. It is proposed to continue the study of economic subjects in the coming year.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

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

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE :--Lady HENRY SOMERSET, Chairman.

Miss Lena Ashwell, O.B.E.	Miss A. M. KINDE
Viscountess Astor, M.P.	Mrs. HUDSON LYA
Miss THELMA CAZALET.	Lady ISABEL MARC
The LADY EMMOTT.	Miss A. M. MERCH
Dame KATHARINE FURSE, G.B.E.	Lady CYNTHIA MO
MIS. EDWIN GRAY.	Miss B. PICTON-T
Lady HOWARD.	Mrs. OLIVER STRA
Mrs. H. B. IRVING.	Mrs. RUSSELL WA
And the second	

The meetings addressed in December were as follows :---December 6th-Torquay Women Citizens' Association. Miss B. Picton-Turbervill.

December 7th-Torquay National Council of Women. Miss B. Picton-Turbervill.

December 8th-Teignmouth National Council of Women. Miss B. Picton-Turbervill.

December 8th-Fulham Labour Party, Women's Section. Miss M. Cotterell.

December 9th-Maidenhead C.E.T.S. Miss M. Cotterell. December 10th-Andover National Council of Women. Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

Looking back over the year's campaign, one feels that much new ground has been broken. The former Temperance Lecture had outworn its interest. Always the reiteration and again the reiteration of the evil, the harmfulness of drinking. For the moderate man or woman the very violence and extremeness of the indictment destroyed its appeal. The converted listened approvingly; all Drink was an evil and must be swept from the land. But though there was approval and often ardour, yet as the hall emptied no one could feel a step nearer the desired end. The whole nation was not of their way of thinking, and many, many more years of agitation lay before them before either the nation or its Parliament would consider such a drastic change as Prohibition. A Bill for Local Option would never survive the powerful forces of Trade opposition. Temperance Reform on these lines is at a standstill, and Temperance Lectures which hold out no other solution are without purpose or effect.

Yet there is a constructive policy; and it is this new gospel which has been preached at the women's meetings addressed from the Women's National Committee to Secure State Purchase and Control of the Liquor Trade. Where there is something practicable, there is hope; and in this past year over a hundred meetings have had put before them a new view of the Temperance question, a view giving a solution that is at last practical politics.

For by buying out the Trade and only by buying out the Trade can the opposition to reform be removed and the country set free. Then and not till then can a Local Option Bill have any chance of becoming law. And on its becoming law the option could take effect at once, and the localities record their votes, without waiting for fourteen or twenty-one years for the Trade to wind up its business.

We need only to look at Scotland to see the futility of fighting such a powerful enemy. And an enemy which is left in possession of nearly all, will leave nothing undone to recover full possession when the time comes to vote again. There must be no Trade, but as we put them in possession in 1904 so we must take the consequences and buy them out honestly in 1921.

Women's organisations should inform themselves on this subject, and speakers will be supplied to give a full, clear account of this, the only efficacious way of dealing with the Drink problem.

Apply to Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E., Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. I.

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. 1s to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

OBJECTS

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an alliliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include :---

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges ; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

VITALITY AND NUMBERS.

At a recent annual meeting of a woman's organisation (it would be invidious to say where or which) in a large city, the Executive Committee was unanimously re-elected to carry on its work with "the same enthusiasm and ability as it had shown in the past." Enquiries proved that the membership was something under forty, though the objects were such as to make a very wide appeal to women of all classes and varying shades of opinion. It is to be feared that membership quite out of proportion to the population of the place is the rule rather than the exception in most of our Societies. A large membership is not in itself necessarily a sign of success, but a small membership is unquestionably an indication of absence of real interest and vitality. This is one of the matters to which we should turn our attention in 1921, and suggestions from practical experience from writers in our Societies as to the best method of attracting and keeping new members on a much larger scale are invited for this column. We hope next December to publish a list of Societies which have doubled their membership this year.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER."

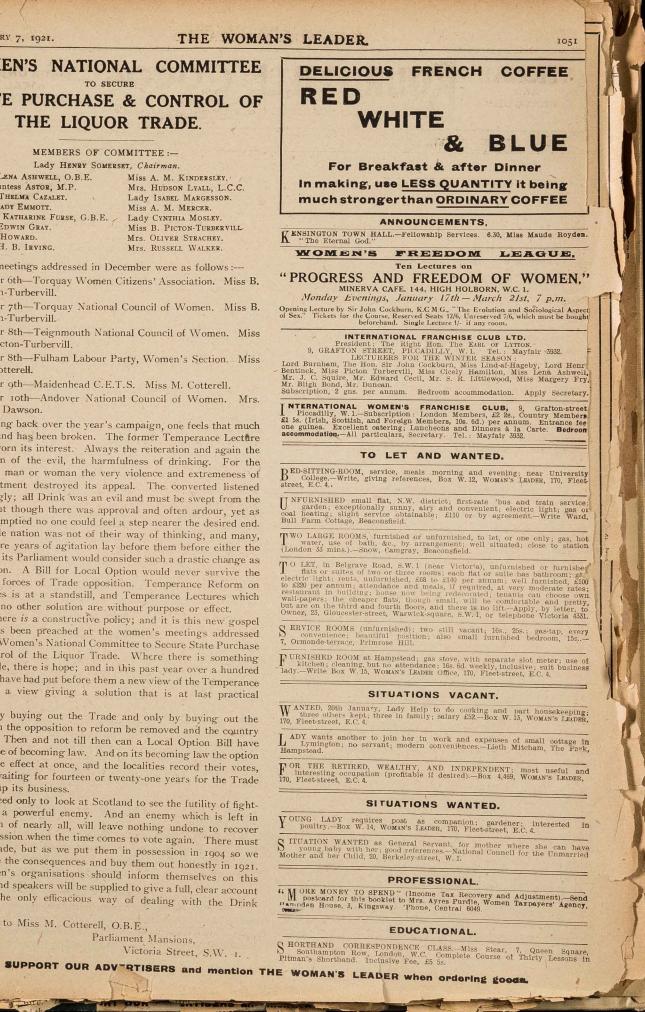
It is very nearly a year since THE WOMAN'S LEADER in its new form was first issued, and it is satisfactory to hear its praises on all sides and to know that its circulation is steadily increasing. Some of our Societies show by their actions that they realise to the full the value of the paper, not only as a weekly exponent of our Equality Programme, but as an almost indispensable medium of information on current political questions, social and economic problems, art and literature, &c.; others, so far as we know, do little or nothing to make the paper known to a wider public. The issue of December 31st gives a preliminary short list of readers who have promised to secure at least one new subscriber. It is to be hoped that subsequent lists will include many members of our Societies, and that a determined effort will be made all over the country to induce the habit of reading THE WOMAN'S LEADER regularly. We can imagine no better way of preparing ourselves and others for the widening and ever-changing responsibilities of an equal citizenship.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

Parliamentary and Information Bureau Secretary:

Mrs. Hubback.

JANUARY 7, 1921.



1052

t

0

* A more

THE WOMAN'S, LEADER.

JANUARY 7, 1921.

"QUALITY AND FLAVOUR" ILLE COCOA

MADE UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS

See the name "CADBURY" on every piece of Chocolate

DRESS.

OGTUMES, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house U furnishings, Wanted. Specially good prices given.—Hélène, 361, New King's-road, Fulham, S.W.6.

ORSETS and Blouses made to order, or lady's patterns copied from £1 1s.-Emilie Wiggins, 63, Elizabeth-street, Eaton-square, S.W. 1.

ACE, all kinds, mended and cleaned. Many testimonials. Embroidery undertaken. Lace purchased.-"Beatrice," WOMAN'S LEADER Office.

I RISH PILLOW LINEN. Sufficient to make six Pillow Cases, size 20 by 30 ins., 228, 6d, per bundle. Also for six smaller-sized Cases of Pillow Linen, 18 by 28in., 20s. 3d, per bundle. Safe delivery of parcels guaranteed.—HUTTON'S, 159, Larne, Iteland.

WHERE TO LIVE.

BROOKLYN PRIVATE HOTEL-Earl's-court-square, S.W.5 (Warwick-road corner), finest centre all parts; 12 minutes' Piccadilly; quiet, separate tables; write or call for tariff; strictly inclusive terms; unequalled for comfort and strention; own private garage. B. and B., 6s. 6d. Tel.: Western 344. i, OOMS and breakfast (Gentlewomen only); temporary or permanent; gas stores.—Miss Kemp, 10, Endsleigh-street, W.C. 1.

ADIES coming up to town for a few days will find suitable accommodation at ROBSON HOUSE, NEWTON ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.2. Near Declanation Station

Paddington Station. Whiteley's.

Whiteley's. Tube and 'Buses. Terms moderate. Apply Lady Superintendent. ⁿLADIES ONLY -- Private Hotel; Room, Breakfast, Bath, 6s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.-Write or wire, Miss Gorddard, 13, St. George's-square, Westminster.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

M. MCLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM-TYPISTS.-4, Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel: 3402 City. The Misses NEAL & TUCKER undertake every description of Typewriting and Secretarial work, reporting meetings, &c. First-class training for ladies as secretaries.—Walter House, 52, Bedford-street, Strand (Gerrard 1472).

¹ TYPEWRITING — Authors' MSS., &c., typed by an educated woman with many years' experience.—Miss H. Stallybrass, 100, Rushby Mead, Letchworth. E XPERT TYPEWRITING.-MSS. promptly and accurately copied; moderate terms; nine years' literary typing experience.-Miss Hilditch, 11, Osborne

d, Palmers Green, N. VI TYPEWRITING -- Plays, Diarles, Testimonials; All kinds of Duplicating; also Translations, -- Miss Clapham, The Bangalow, Beeston-road, Sheringham,

oriolk. TEMPLAR PRINTINC WORKS, BIRMINCHAM. ENQUIRIES SOLICITED. General Manager

THE WOMAN'S

LEADER

C ECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, ounderclothes, ourtains, longe suits, trousers, and children's clothing of svery description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.---Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PRIVATE SALE, January 7-17; FURNITURE, antiques, carpets, bedding; cheap; on view 11-5,-49, Onslow Gardens.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY ? The large London Market enables ROBINSON Bros. of

The large London Market enables **A** UL27, Fenchurch St., E.C. 5 & 7, Hampstead Rd., W., & 127, Fenchurch St., E.C. To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVER PLATE ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity, Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, Museum 2036.

ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post

MEDICAL, Etc.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street, N. MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist. FREDK. G. BOUCHER, Asst. Dental Surgeon. Estd. 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man. Nurse in attendance, Mechanical Work in all its Branches. Send Post Card for Pamphlet. N.B.-No show case at door. CONSULTATION FREE. Telephone: North 3795.

PLECTROLYSIS for removal of superfluous hair, moles, &c. Face Massage and Electrical Hair Treatment Lessons given and Certificates granted. Address, Miss Theakston, 54, Devonshire-street, W. 1.

0 BESITY CURED PERMANENTLY without drugs, fatigue, or expense; one person in every district.-Box 44, WOMAN'S LEADER, 170, Fleet-street, E.C. 4.

LEAVE TO YOUR HELPERS, CASH; TO DENNY, YOUR SKULL.

INSURANCE.

THE CLERICAL AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S INSURANCE SOCIETY is an Approved Society for professional and business women. Also a futual Society for sickness and superannuation. Write to the Secret vy for particulars, 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

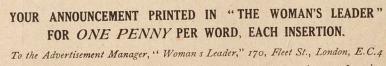
MISCELLANEOUS.

M ME. ANDRE RIEDER'S FRENCH DRAMA READINGS, Wednesday Evenin's, for Advanced Students. German, Spanish, English for Foreigners. — Wrise 41, Gordon Square, W.C.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

MARION MCCARTHY, 16, Hallam Street, Portland Place, W. 1. Gerrard 8736. PUBLIC SPEAKING. Course arranged to insure proficiency. PRACTICE DEBATES.-Write for Appointment.

ent



τ.

ADVERTISEMENT FORM. 12 words cost 1s. ; 1d. should be added for each word beyond 12. The advertisement must be re-

ceived on Tuesday to appear the same week. Box Office No. 6d. extra each insertion,

P.O. for	Signed	<u>n in the second s</u>		
	Address			
	form out and s above.]			Receipts are not for amounts below

Printed by THE NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitefriars House, Carmelite Street, London, E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO., LTD., and Published, by BRITISH PERIODICALS LTD., 170, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.