

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Peace Pact and Cruiser Bill.

The first round of the struggle between Peace Pact and Cruiser Bill in the American Senate has ended in a compromise. Senator Hale, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, has agreed to introduce his Bill and then give way to Senator Borah, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who will have priority for the Peace Pact to be discussed and voted on. As a matter of fact this arrangement appears to be less of a compromise than a "climb down" on the part of Senator Hale. How far is this a triumph for those sections of American organized public opinion, notably the women and the churches, which have been straining every nerve of late to save the pact and stint the cruisers? On the face of it, it looks as though such public opinion were strongly and effectively at work. And not the least of its recent manifestations is a memorial to the Senate, signed by more than 300 eminent political, social, and religious leaders including Jane Addams and Mrs. Chapman Catt, and calling attention not only to the urgency of the Pact but to the incompatibility of the proposed cruiser programme with its spirit and intention. Meanwhile we can but await the decision in the ardent hope that the views of the memorialists may prevail. We know that the prospects of the Pact are prejudiced, to say the least of it, by the British reservation, and that the fortunes of the Cruiser Bill are more rosy than they would otherwise be, in consequence of our Government's ill-starred effort to reach a preliminary naval agreement with France. It remains for the friends of peace in America to make what they can of a damaged situation. The friends of peace in Great Britain are watching their efforts with deep sympathy, and a determination to do all that is possible to help the situation from this side of the Atlantic.

#### A New Political Partnership.

The choice of Mrs. Hugh Dalton as Labour candidate for Bishop Auckland in succession to the late Mr. Ben Spoor, opens very solid prospects of an additional woman M.P. of conspicuous merit. Mrs. Dalton is a trained economist and an experienced administrator, who has served with ability as a member of the London County Council. But the conditions of her candidature give us pause. Like Mrs. Runciman, she is contesting a seat for which her husband, the sitting Member for Peckham, is the

adopted candidate. She would therefore, if elected, vacate the seat in his favour at the General Election. There is a lot to be said for such an arrangement, which passes without Press comment when it concerns political allies other than husband and wife. But we are accustomed, by long experience, to expect inadequate consideration where women are concerned in such matters, and we sincerely hope that when Mrs. Dalton has served a short Parliamentary apprenticeship as substitute for Dr. Dalton, she will be invited to contest an alternative constituency offering good prospect of a resumption of her parliamentary career. We may remind our readers that both Dr. and Mrs. Dalton are sturdy feminists.

#### Women Medical Students.

We understand that the Committee appointed by the Senate of the University of London to investigate the position of women medical students now that so many medical schools in London have closed their doors to women, will be considering its report for presentation on 15th January. We believe that it will express disapproval of the action of those medical schools, and we hope that it may be able to put forward a satisfactory scheme for solving the problem. The situation is a very grave one, and the Committee on Women in the Service of Hospitals, on which are represented 19 nationally organized women's societies, is leaving no stone unturned to press for adequate facilities for the training of women medical students. We print on page 380 of this issue a letter sent by the Committee, which appeared in *The Times* on Tuesday of this week.

#### Women on Hospital Staffs.

A correspondent sends us a letter from the secretary of the London Homœopathic Hospital stating that this hospital was among the first to admit women on the medical staff, having appointed a woman as resident medical officer so early as 1898. Three women have places on the board of management. If all subscribers would follow the example of our correspondent in making inquiries on such points, hospital boards would realize that there is some force behind the so-called feminist demand for equality between the sexes so far as the hospital services are concerned.

#### Make Sure of Your Vote!

The first list of electors to include women on the same terms as men will be published on 24th January in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, and on 16th February in Scotland. We would urge all our readers to scrutinize these lists very carefully so that all who are qualified may be sure of being included in the register which comes into force on 1st May. The procedure for lodging objections and claims is outlined in the pamphlet issued by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, entitled "Qualifications required for Voters," but we should like to emphasize here that for England, Wales and Northern Ireland the 9th February is the last date for lodging objections and the 16th February for claims; in Scotland objections and claims must be made before 2nd March.

#### Women in the Church.

We charitably hope that Dr. Campbell, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has been misrepresented in the Press reports of a recent address to a council for women's work. He expressed his opinion that the time has come when women's Church organizations should no longer be

'Keep fit on  
cocoa'

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under the control of committees of men (!) and he is represented as saying that he believed that the General Assembly of the future would be glad to hear of the work of these organizations "even from the lips of a woman. (Applause.)" The italics are, of course, ours. He goes on to say that he had never yet met a woman who had wanted to see a woman minister. As to the eldership, "if women were brought into the kirk sessions the interest of men would begin to fade." We invite our Scots readers to tell us if Dr. Campbell accurately represents the men and women of his country. If true religion in Scotland and zeal for the work of the Church depends on the exclusion of women we are sorry for Scotland. [The above note, written before Christmas, was held up owing to our special issue. We are interested to see that the remarks referred to have led to a lively Press discussion in the Scottish papers.—ED.]

#### Women and the Liberal Party.

In reply to a demand for reassurance on the Liberal attitude to equal pay and equal opportunity put forward by the Open Door Council, the organizing secretary of the National Liberal Federation has made the following reply: "In reply to your inquiry, I have pleasure in enclosing a rough copy of the Election Manifesto of the Liberal Party at the General Election of 1923, and at the Election of 1924. On page 6 of the former you will find that the question of Equal Pay and Opportunity for the Woman Worker was included. It was not, however, repeated in the subsequent manifesto, but there appeared in *The Times* of 17th October, 1924, the following statement: "Mr. Asquith has informed the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, who called attention to the omission from the Liberal Manifesto of any references to matters specially affecting women, that the Liberal Party stands for political, legal, and economic equality between men and women, including equal franchise. He calls attention to the Liberal Manifesto issued at the last Election, which contains the following: 'Liberals aim at securing political, legal, and economic equality between men and women.' I have no doubt that this is the statement you refer to in the second paragraph of your letter." It would seem from the foregoing that the Liberal Party is pledged to the hilt on the matter of equal pay. But if this is so, why was an "equal pay" amendment opposed by the Federation Executive at the recent Yarmouth Conference? The fact is: "Equal pay for equal work" is a very slippery phrase; easy enough to accept as a general principle, but full of snags and pitfalls in particular application.

#### The National Union of Teachers.

The National Union of Teachers is a vigorous organization and its meetings are always full of interest. Its recent conference at Buxton had an excellent Press and the businesslike and harmonious character of its proceedings called for special notice. In her presidential address, Miss Kenyon, of Oldham, reminded the conference that with a general election approaching now was the moment for attention to women's problems. She referred specially to the question of equal pay for men and women. Fully enfranchised women, she said, were not likely to permit inequality of payment to continue without a struggle. The question of family allowances, so far as we know, was not discussed. We feel that the deliberations of this body on this subject would achieve greater realism and hope of success if they recognized "the dependency of mothers and children upon the father's wage is a grave obstacle to the achievement of equal pay for equal work" and placed family allowances on their programme. A wide range of educational subjects came under discussion for the National Union of Women Teachers takes anything but a narrow view of its responsibilities. There was some strong speaking on the subject of the continued existence of condemned schools. It was stated that only 575 out of a total of nearly 3,000 had been dealt with.

#### The Rhondda Housewife's Budget.

A special correspondent in *The Times* describes the Rhondda housewife's weekly budget. Expert judgment on the budget we are told was favourable. It was impossible to stretch the resources to make it adequate for the physical needs of father, mother and two children, but such as it was it was wisely spent. "In fact, a little triumph of economy!" Given sixteen shillings allowed by the Pontypridd Guardians according to the approved scale, 10s. for the wife, 3s. each for the children (the able-bodied father who is both unemployed and uninsured is not entitled to relief), how would you spend it? The only meat was one pound of bacon, the one luxury; between three and four shillings

went for bread; there were two pounds of butter, three tins of milk, two pounds of flour, a little lard and two-pennyworth of candles, the sole form of lighting. Any kind of green vegetables was out of the question. A little triumph of economy indeed!

#### The Education of Country Women.

Among the many interesting speeches at the meeting of educational bodies during the first week of the year was one dealing with "The Education of Country Women" by Miss Grace Hadow, Vice-Chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes before the Association of University Women Teachers. Miss Hadow urged greater flexibility in the teaching of women and girls living in the country because their needs were more varied. She stated that women's institutes had had last year to refuse many applications for classes in practical subjects because the County Council grant had been reduced. There is a growing appetite among adult women in country districts for instruction, thanks largely to the work of women's institutes. To starve it is a short-sighted policy and the difficulties of expense in getting specialist teachers for small classes at some distance from large teaching centres should somehow be overcome.

#### Congress of the International Women Suffrage Alliance at Berlin, 17th—23rd June, 1929.

German women are preparing with characteristic thoroughness for the reception of delegates and visitors to the above Congress, the programme of which promises to be of exceptional interest. The wife of the Chancellor, the wives of Cabinet Ministers, women Parliamentarians, and leaders of the great women's organizations are all taking their share in placing the Congress on a broad and firm basis. Professional women who attend the Congress will have the opportunity of meeting women of their own professions. A special Youth Committee has been formed to offer the youthful foreign visitors opportunities for intercourse, and the Midsummernight Fire will be the occasion at which young people's aims and hopes will be voiced. A list of hotels and pensions has already been prepared and visitors are urged to arrive a few days before the Congress in order to take part in visits to art centres, training centres and social institutions. A performance at the State Opera House has been promised and the week before the Congress is to be specially rich in musical and dramatic performances. In her New Year's message the President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, urges that each country may send its finest women "to bring the tale of toil and its reward, with pride in achievements won and with humility for all that is left undone."

#### Lady Bailey's Homecoming.

We offer hearty and admiring congratulations to Lady Bailey on the conclusion of her single-handed flight from the Cape. The extraordinary and enviable interest of such a journey, by bush and forest, desert, mountain, and sea coast is apt to obscure in the minds of those who read about it, the personal daring and physical rigour of its prosecution. Lady Bailey is strong and brave, skilful and enterprising—an aviator to be proud of and a woman to add laurels to the cause of women's advancement. She was, she said, "just flying about." Maybe she was. But for the greater part of her journey she was "just flying about" over portions of the earth's surface which would have offered an unpropitious reception for a solitary forced landing.

#### Another Pioneer Woman.

We congratulate Miss Hart (a former student at Lady Margaret's Hall, Oxford) on having obtained a post in the District Valuer's Office at Chesterfield through her qualifications as surveyor. She was taken on the staff of the Government Valuer in connection with work of "De-rating."

#### A New Outlet.

Observers of commercial developments in the motoring world presage the coming of the motor-saleswoman. At last year's Olympia Motor Show, several were in evidence, mainly on stands where motor trailer-caravans were being exhibited. The pioneer effort was, we are informed, made last year by the woman representative of a German firm, who showed an all-round technical knowledge of her job which augured well for the future of the woman motor mechanic. We sincerely hope that a wide avenue for women may open out in this direction, and that it may move along the lines of real technical efficiency, and not be confined to what might be called the "drawing-room" aspect of motoring; undue preoccupation with coachwork, upholstery, and fittings.

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND PEACE.

1929 has its birth under a dark cloud of obstinate unemployment for the working classes of Great Britain. We know that it is wide-spread as the cloud of unemployment is bound to be. For unemployment is the most highly infectious of social diseases. The paralysis of a single industry will spread circles of unemployment among those who are accustomed to serve the economic needs of the unemployed persons, and so, it would seem, *ad infinitum*. But about our own unemployment we know that there are certain centres of infection: the export industries. The industries whose products, coal, steel, ships, textiles, as the case may be, produced in excess of our own home needs, have supplied foreign markets and given us directly or indirectly our purchasing power over those foreign goods which are, as it happens, the bread of our lives and the raw materials of our industries. Thus, whatever may be the pros and cons of protecting those industries which serve home needs and suffer here at home, the pressure of competition from foreign imports, we have to face the fact that of the industries which at present provide the "infection centres" of unemployment, many have nothing to gain from the protection of a tariff, because they have nothing to lose by foreign competition in the home market. Their fortunes are made or lost in regions beyond our political control—in the foreign markets of the wide world. A foreign tariff may hit them, inspired perhaps by a wave of nationalist self-consciousness. A sudden loss of foreign purchasing power may hit them; economic collapse and political upheaval which so often go together. Or such politico-economic movements as the flooding of the Italian market with cheap reparations coal from Germany. Or—most intractable development of all, the growing ability of the foreign producer—Indian cotton spinner, Czechoslovakian potter as the case may be—to do for the world what was formerly done by a supreme and unrivalled British export industry. Great Britain may have been the "workshop of the world" in the Victorian age. But to-day the world has many workshops and we are losing decade by decade, and by a natural process of world-wide civilization, our old exclusive economic leadership. What then can we do as conscious and constructive citizens to mend the dislocated fortunes of our export industries, those present infection centres of unemployment and social unhappiness?

Our protectionist readers would perhaps reply that we might at least begin by diminishing the area of our dependence upon them—buy less from abroad, and aim at drafting a larger proportion of our working people and industrial capital into occupations which supply our own needs, and out of occupations which provide a surplus to pay for the things we buy. Whether or no it is possible to do this by means of a tariff on foreign goods,

without unintended and undesirable reactions, is a matter of serious controversy upon which it is not our intention to pronounce. But one fact is beyond serious controversy: though we might diminish the extent of our dependence upon foreign trade, though we might aim at buying less from the foreigner and selling less in his markets, though we might conceivably be a little more self-sufficient and self-contained in economic matters than we are at present—yet the fact remains that we can never be wholly self-sufficient and self-contained so long as we choose to remain a densely populated, highly civilized and politically significant people. For America with her rich varied natural resources, for Russia with her low economic standards, for France perhaps in a lesser degree with her large agricultural population, foreign supplies and foreign markets are a luxury. For us they are a necessity. Imported food and raw materials we must have. And because of this we must have foreign markets in which our export industries can pay for them.

This then is the significance of our distressful export industries, as a factor in national prosperity. Again we ask, what can we do for them?

There is, or so it seems to us, one way and only one way in which we can help them permanently and fundamentally. As conscious and active citizens with power to mould public opinion and control the direction of public policy, we can fling all our weight on the side of international peace. We can see to it that no organ of international machinery fails to function for want of wholehearted British support; that no avenue of constructive international advance remains unexplored for want of British leadership and initiative; that no impediment is placed upon our sales by international unfriendliness and political distrust which we can in any degree mitigate. Let us remember too that it is not only our own quarrels and dislocations which react upon the intricate mechanism of international exchange and currency relations by which our export industries live. A Chinese revolution, a South American frontier dispute, European wars have been brought within the orbit of our economic destiny. The sufferings of China are reflected in our cotton mills, of Russia in our engineering shops, the policy of the Reparations Committee in our coalfields.

It is not, of course, wholly or perhaps even primarily an economic matter. There are other reasons why it is desirable to seek peace, by all those difficult and adventurous avenues of constructive thought and international policy by which alone it can be achieved. But it is as well to remember that our bodily needs are clamouring for the same goal which our spiritual consciousness indicates as worthy of achievement. The pursuit of international peace asks us to sacrifice nothing more than our ignorance and our thoughtlessness, for a modicum of knowledge and a fraction of thought teaches us that international peace is the essential mundane condition of our daily bread, as well as the spiritual key to the kingdom of heaven upon earth.

## THE LEAGUE'S WORK IN 1928.

By HEBE SPAULL.

It was on 10th January, 1920, that the Treaty of Versailles, and with it the Covenant of the League of Nations, was signed. The League, therefore, celebrates its ninth anniversary on 10th January, 1929, and it may be of some interest to summarize its main achievements in the year that has just closed.

The signing of the Peace Pact last August has made the year a notable one in the history of international relations and the attempt to replace war by law. It has made the triple problem of arbitration, security and disarmament more pressing than ever. Unfortunately little has been accomplished as regards the all-round limitation and reduction of armaments but quite definite progress has been made in regard to arbitration and security. The General Act for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, adopted by the Ninth Assembly in September, deserves to be regarded as only second in importance to the Kellogg Pact itself. It is perhaps a sign of the times that during 1928 the League was not called upon to deal with any threat of hostilities between member States in Europe. The only dispute of this nature in which the League was called upon to intervene was between Bolivia and Paraguay.

Useful work has been accomplished during the year in the

economic sphere. The first meeting of the Economic Consultative Committee was held in May, and during the summer the first example yet known of a collective customs treaty was concluded. This was the Convention relating to hides, skins, and bones, for which category of goods the League succeeded, not merely in abolishing export prohibition, but actually in fixing the maximum *ad valorem* duties to be imposed by each nation. It is anticipated that this Convention will be followed by similar treaties in respect of other commodities.

With regard to the League's financial work the most important achievement has been the flotation of the Bulgarian Stabilization Loan. This, like similar League loans, was very much over-subscribed.

Of the League's humanitarian activities, the most important has been the coming into force of the Opium Convention of 1925, and the consequent setting up of the Central Board of Control. The Health Organization has had a particularly active year, one of its more important gatherings being the second international conference on sleeping sickness, which was held in Paris in the autumn. Good progress has also been made with regard to the settlement of refugees in Bulgaria.

## WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS.

We reprint the following letter of special interest at the present time which appeared in *The Times* on Tuesday, 8th January:—

To the Editor of "The Times".

SIR,—At this season the hospitals are making their usual appeals for increased public support. May we call attention to one change of policy on which the public in responding might reasonably insist? This subject is doubly relevant as, we understand, a committee of the London University is about to report on it.

Women doctors have unquestionably "made good". The demand for their services in public practice, in public appointments such as maternity and child welfare clinics, and in India, steadily increases. Many women—and not least working women—definitely prefer a doctor of their own sex, and where such service is unavailable lives are often lost or maimed because women suffering from internal maladies postpone till too late the ordeal of examination by a man.

Yet respecting the training of women doctors the hospitals of London are obstinately reactionary. Only two general hospitals now accept women as students in their medical schools—the Royal Free and (to the limited extent of 12 entrants a year) University College Hospital. Six others—Charing Cross, the London, King's College Hospital, St. George's, St. Mary's, the Westminster—have recently closed their doors to women.

It is not even alleged that the women students proved unsatisfactory (the examination results prove otherwise), nor that the schools are overcrowded. On the contrary, the figures show that there are not enough students—men and women together—to fill all the schools. The reason usually given for the exclusion of women is the desire to attract more men, who are said to prefer all-male schools, either from "modesty" or because these give a better choice for athletic teams. Other motives which played a part were (we have high authority for this statement), sex prejudice, jealousy of increasingly successful competitors, and the belief of some consultants that men students more often take up West-end practices, and are therefore more likely to send them patients.

We cannot discuss fully here the vexed question of separate *versus* co-education. Some men and some women prefer each system, and there is doubtless room for both. But the argument of "modesty" ill becomes a profession which prides itself that its attitude towards patients is strictly scientific and humanitarian, freed from the consciousness of sex. A committee of the Senate of London University has declared that in its opinion:

No valid objection can be maintained against the system of co-education for men and women students, and that this is the only system in which the general policy of the University can be effectually carried out.

The University of London is, in fact, under a statutory obligation to afford equal educational opportunities to all students without distinction of sex. The exclusion of women from the hospitals will make it difficult for its constituent colleges to fulfil this obligation. We understand that King's College is already experiencing this difficulty, and stands to lose about £2,000 a year by the closing to its women students of the hospitals where they have been wont to receive the practical part of their training. It is surely contrary to educational efficiency and to the public interest generally that the women students should be crowded into one or two hospitals, with grave danger of over-tasking their clinical facilities, while the remaining schools compete fiercely for the men students.

Some people seem under the impression that so long as the subscribers to the hospitals are satisfied no one else has the right to interfere. We desire, therefore, to point out that by far the larger part of hospital resources is now usually drawn not from individual named subscribers, but from capital resources and grants from public authorities, from general funds, such as the King Edward's Hospital Fund, and from contributory associations to which men and women contribute equally according to their means without the opportunity of influencing policy. The hospitals and their schools exist to benefit neither men nor women doctors, but the sick and suffering. It is not, we submit, to the interest of these that the entry to the medical profession

should be controlled in a narrow and selfish spirit of trade unionism.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE, *Chairman.*  
G. HORTON, *Secretary.*

Joint Committee on Women in the Service of Hospitals representing the following:—Association of Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools, Association of Head Mistresses, British Commonwealth League, British Federation of University Women, Catholic Women's League, Conservative Women's Reform Association, London and National Society for Women's Service, National Council of Women, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, National Union of Women Teachers, National Women's Citizens' Association, Open Door Council, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Six Point Group, Union of Jewish Women, Women's Freedom League, Women's International League, Women's National Liberal Federation, Women's Unionist Organization, Central Women's Advisory Committee.

WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS.<sup>1</sup>

Stella Benson has given us a successor<sup>1</sup> to *The Little World*, narrower in its scope and more intensely vivid in its detail: a series of quick glimpses of Chinese, Manchurian, and Korean life, as reflected in this gifted author's individual consciousness. There is a quality about Stella Benson's work which is unlike that of anybody else, though it has at times prompted more or less efficient imitation. And that quality, the gift of fantasy combined with a very sure mastery of words and a wide experience of the ways of the world, inspiring sudden shafts of penetration, infuses this second collection of short descriptive essays—which, incidentally, are excellent material for intermittent reading aloud. This being so, to say that *Worlds Within Worlds* is disappointing is not to deny that it is an excellent book of its kind. It is disappointing because novelists are rarer birds than journalists, and poets than novelists. It is therefore disappointing that an author who is equipped by providence for the two first rôles should, in fact, be cast for the third. The contents of her two volumes of collected essays suggest a reason for this dissipation: the errantry which produces a travel diary may impede more concentrated and continuous work. That is an explanatory reason, but it is not a comforting one, and we wait hungrily for the successor to *Goodbye Stranger*.

But it would be invidious to end on a note of ingratitude with so many creations of these latest essays fresh in mind: Emmy the puppy, Yi the cook, who enlivened the eve of a dinner party by entering among the guests with the announcement "Missy, I am plenty drunk, dinner no can do," the legless visitor, or the Korean traveller who engulfed a lighted cigarette in his capacious sleeve. M. D. S.

JUDGMENT AND REASONING IN THE CHILD. By JEAN PLAGET. Professor at the University of Geneva. Translated by Marjorie Warden. Kegan Paul, 10s. 6d.

THE CHILD IN PRIMITIVE SOCIETY. By NATHAN MILLER, Ph.D. Kegan Paul, 12s. 6d.

In Professor Plaget's companion book to his *Language and Thought of the Child*, one is given an infinitely painstaking and loving account of tests made at Geneva to discover the growth of reason in the child, and to note his capacity for making deductions, and to distinguish between juxtaposition, relationship, etc.

It is shown how ability to deduce and to comprehend the relation of things runs parallel to his growth away from egocentricity.

To supplement the formal tests there were private conversations with the children concerned all carefully recorded and classified.

Knowing so many exceptions to the results arrived at, one wonders if English children mature more quickly than Swiss ones.

But one also knows adults who have never passed the egocentric stage of childhood, and are still unable to reason from an un-admitted hypothesis—so probably in making practical use of the conclusions reached one must remember the stage rather than age of the child. How primitive peoples by spectacular and sometimes fearful rites and ceremonies impress the child when he reaches maturity and must put away childish things is one of the many interesting questions dealt with in Nathan Miller's book.

Full and interesting account is given of the way the child is educated among primitive people, that he may be a fully adult and useful member of the tribe, carrying on their old customs, able to get food for and defend the tribe, and to be relied on to

(Continued on page 381.)

<sup>1</sup> *Worlds Within Worlds*, by Stella Benson. (Macmillan & Co., 8s. 6d.)

## THE WOMAN'S PAGE IN THE DAILY PRESS.

By ANN POPE.

For some time those interested in upholding women's interests generally have viewed with apprehension a retrograde movement in the pages—known as the women's pages—in the daily Press. During the last five years in many a district improvement has been noticeable, economics, employment, education, science, even politics have received a share of attention, together with cookery, fashion, etc., and cookery has been shown to be something more than a mere collection of dull, uninteresting, stodgy or messy recipes, cut from one paper and adapted—skilfully or not—to another. Therefore, although they were not ideal one did feel things were moving in a right direction, consequently it has been a tremendous disappointment to find that the improved type of page has suddenly collapsed and those that now exist, without exception either remain stolidly old-fashioned and dull, or have reverted to the silly sentimental potty and petty standard of the late Victorian era.

Isn't it time, now women have the vote on the same terms as men, that the silly old-fashioned ideas about women, the home, and the things that interest (?) them were definitely buried, and—please heaven!—in time forgotten or simply left to take their place as matters of social history?

Anyone who, by doing political or social work, mixes with every social section knows the general range of women's interests has widened very considerably, and the knowledge they possess has risen also to a considerably higher level. The housewife who knew her job was even in Victorian days and earlier a shrewd thinker; the Stilton cheese industry, Huntley and Palmers biscuits, Everton toffee, Eccles cakes, Sally Lunns, a well-known London firm of bead and embroidery merchants, and very many other modern flourishing businesses and specialities, all originated in the home between the days of Queen Anne and the accession of Queen Victoria, and remain as monuments of women's intelligence, and business instincts.

Yet, two hundred years later, when we have the vote, the women who work in the home are insulted by having "tripe" offered in the daily Press as suitable for their consumption, and labelled accordingly "Women's Interests," etc.

I do not believe there is a single person who likes to read this rubbish. I have often heard housewives say "I know more than that myself," and, in fact, many of them are inspired to send in some of their own ordinary hints and recipes, and thus keep up the degradation of their sex.

Personally I don't see why we need "women's pages." Why not treat food and cookery, health and fashion, as any other subject is treated; under special column headings, if you like, or in special parts of the paper, similar to those devoted to book reviews, the theatre, music, broadcasting, sport, etc., and exercise the same standard of selection?

It cannot be too frequently repeated that men and women are the actual result, body and intellect, of the food they eat, the shelter they possess, the sleep they sleep, etc.; and it is disgusting that the workers whose business it is to prepare this food, upkeep the shelters, and see that the beds, etc., are fit for sleeping purposes, do, in fact, all the fundamental work of life, should be kept in a condition of slavish intellectual degradation, and this important work lowered. Labour-saving gadgets are not a sign of emancipation—merely of idleness—unless the labour saved be put to other and better uses, as it might be. There is nothing wrong with labour-saving or with matters connected with the home: the whole history of civilization has been built up by the food we eat and might well be written from that aspect. Archestrates realized this in Ancient Greece, and his lost epic on the subject is considered by learned men and women one of the greatest losses learning and civilization have suffered. Household equipment in the same way has formed the starting-point of many a modern scientific invention. Watts' steam kettle is a well-known instance; there are very many less known, or still unnoticed. We ought to try to raise the interests of home-workers instead of keeping them in the condition of unlettered, unambitious slavery.

I have said before, and I say it again, the status of domestic work in this country is a disgrace to the emancipation of women. Only a certain section of women has been freed from slavery, and I am often tempted to think those who have thus freed themselves, are unwilling to emancipate the home workers because they want to keep their services in the home for themselves, so that they, the emancipated, may be free to devote themselves to higher interests. This is exactly the attitude of men in 1850.

(Continued in next column.)

## MRS. LEWIS, OF GREENMEADOW, CARDIFF.

Through the death of Mrs. Lewis, of Greenmeadow, Cardiff, the N.U.S.E.C. has lost a most loyal and faithful friend. After one of our most important Council meetings, when we decided to weigh the value of the support given to women's suffrage by candidates for Parliament, not only by their verbal assertions but also by the attitude of the parties to which they severally belonged, Mrs. Lewis felt that this was inconsistent with our non-party attitude, and said it would necessitate her withdrawal from our Society. In replying to her I urged that so long as we applied the principle to all the parties equally, we were true to our non-party principles, but I thought at the time I had failed to convince her. About a year later, meeting her casually in London, I said: "Mrs. Lewis, you never ought to have left us." To which she at once replied, to my great joy, "I never did." It will be remembered that it was a member of her family, Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, who afterwards became Mrs. Benjamin Disraeli, and she may have had her share in making Disraeli the good suffragist he certainly was.

M. G. FAWCETT.

## THE EDUCATION OF A QUEEN.

Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina of Holland is determined, it seems, that Princess Juliana shall in future play the part of a reigning monarch without the reservations and disabilities of a conventional feminine education. The Amsterdam *Telegraaf* reports that her forthcoming studies at Leyden University will comprise, among other learned subjects, international and Roman law and jurisprudence, also such practical studies as the drainage problem of the Zuider Zee. She aims eventually at achieving the standard necessary for the degree of LL.D.

(Continued from p. 380.)

respect property and conform to custom in his sex life. The old men of the tribe use all possible methods to gain the conformity of the child. Folk-tales and legends of the tribe are sung and told to him. Sorcery and magic are invoked to increase the power of the elders and impose obedience on the child.

This book held one spellbound from start to finish, and yet a passage at the end of it made one long to start all over again with the idea of thinking out how far our modern education is still influenced by primitive ideals, and to see where we are still imposing outworn laws and thinking of the child from our own point of view. As Professor Miller says:—

"Education is only a means to an end. In the past it has been used more or less consciously as the vehicle by which the elders and the privileged have perpetuated their hold through conventional fictions."

Perhaps it will be used in the future as an instrument by means of which the child may enrich the culture of his age by the simultaneous development of his own life as well."

C. M. STYER.

(Continued from preceding column.)

The truth is all work, whether in the home or outside, may be degraded or elevated according to the amount of intellect, moral effort, and spiritual or scientific significance, applied to it.

What is the good of supplying good homes if the inhabitants don't know how to use and enjoy them? Or paying high wages to buy good food, merely to have it wasted and health destroyed by ignorance?

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Mrs. C. B. Davy.	Miss Rebecca West.	" <i>The Vote</i> .
Miss Cicely Hamilton.	News Editor, <i>Daily News</i> .	" <i>The Woman's Leader</i>
Miss A. M. Head.	Editor: <i>The Catholic Citizen</i> .	" <i>The Woman Teacher</i> .
"Low" (Mr. David Low)	" <i>Daily Herald</i> .	etc.

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### LADY STRACHEY AND THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

By M. S. KILGOUR.

The readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER will be interested in recalling the part taken by Lady Strachey in the movement from 1888 onwards which had the double purpose of aiding the administration of Local Government and of increasing opportunities for women.

The earliest record of Lady Strachey's participation in the Society's work is her signature to a Memorial to the Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour, then Prime Minister when the London Government Act, 1899, for replacing the London Vestries by Metropolitan Borough Councils, was before the House of Commons; the Memorial urged that the equality of rights of men and women should not be destroyed by Parliament, for since the enabling Act of 1894 women had been elected to serve on ten of the London Vestries, and had done good service on the various committees.

In spite of all the Society's exertions, widely supported even in the provinces, and in spite of the plea of the London County Council itself for the eligibility of women as Mayors, Aldermen and Councillors, the Government divided in opinion weakly gave way to the House of Lords and the Act as passed definitely provided that no woman should be eligible for any of the aforesaid positions. Such was Lady Strachey's introduction to the Society's work, and at the next annual meeting, in 1900, she joined the Executive which was bringing in an amending Bill. She was wholeheartedly with the aim of the Society to win by conviction—the long way but the sure way as it proved.

In 1901, a Board of Education was established, and it is safe to say that all the printed matter issued by the Society respecting the legislative proposals benefited by the criticism of Lady Strachey. In that year, too, she and Miss Cons represented the Society on a deputation to the Home Office to urge the appointment of women inspectors of Industrial Schools: at that date children of three years old were among the inmates!

The Education Bill of 1902 for placing education under local government authorities, and incidentally abolishing School Boards (on which women were serving) was a terrible blow, and Lady Strachey did her utmost on behalf of all the Society's leaflets, manifestos, proposed amendments to the Bill, and draft resolutions. Just before St. James' Hall was pulled down, she presided over a great non-party meeting held there to protest against the Bill as it affected women. (Said Mr. Torr, of the London County Council: "A Member has just said to me that it is exchanging wild cats for tame ones.") In the result, all that Parliament would concede was a subsection that "A woman is not disqualified, either by sex or marriage, for being on any body of managers or education committee under this Act."

There followed the London Education Act, 1903, for London had been excluded from the operation of the general Act. Lady Strachey, already so deeply stirred, threw herself into the struggle; perhaps her exertion at this time surpassed that at any other. The Bill was amended during its passage but necessarily remained disabling, for its fundamental principle was to entrust education to authorities to which women were ineligible: triumphant opponents seemed to ignore the extent to which their folly strengthened the claim of women to be rendered eligible.

By the end of her first three years Lady Strachey was Chairman of Committee; and she still continued to fill that important position when three years later she was elected as President. President she remained until while as ever in sympathy, she found herself obliged to retire from active service in 1919; and she continued a member of the Society until its dissolution.

Impossible here to carry on the long tale of her valuable and valued participation in effort. Readers must imagine her joy at the success of the enabling Bill of 1907 and her congratulations to the Society's Parliamentary leader, Dr. Shipman—so, too, her rejoicing in 1914, when the enactment of the "residential qualification" for candidates gave added value to the earlier win.

Amongst the numerous friends who felt her death and all that it brought to mind were her old friends and colleagues, Annie Leigh Browne, Mary Stewart Kilgour, and T. Mary Lockyer, who carried a chaplet with them to the funeral service at Golder's Green.

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#### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

We wish to remind our members once more of the Annual Council Meeting to be held on 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th March, 1929, at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, London, W.C. 1. We need hardly point out that the 1929 Council will be one of extreme importance in view of the gaining of Equal Franchise and also of the forthcoming General Election.

#### REGISTER OF ELECTORS.

In another column our readers will find reference made to the pamphlet published by the National Union giving the qualifications required by voters. Both this and the pamphlet issued especially for University voters have been in great demand and have been commented on in the Press all over the country. We should be glad to send copies of the first, price 1½d. or 5s. 6d. per 100 (post free), and of the second, price 1½d. (post free).

#### CONFERENCE ON THE EDUCATION OF THE CITIZEN.

8th February, 1929.

May we remind you of the above Conference to be held on Friday, 8th February, 1929, in the Great Hall of University College, London. The sessions will be at 2.30 p.m., 5.30 p.m., and 8 o'clock. The Chairman will be the Duchess of Atholl, D.B.E., M.P., and the Chairmen of sessions will include Dr. Cyril Norwood, M.A., and Mr. Albert Mansbridge, M.A., LL.D. The aim of the Conference is to ascertain the general lines on which the organizations connected with the teaching of citizenship are working. There have of recent years been important developments in the methods adopted and it is felt that, particularly in view of the urgent need for the education of the new voters, an attempt to co-ordinate the ideas and experience of those who have a practical interest in this work will be of real value. Further particulars and tickets, 2s. for each session, or 5s. for the three sessions including tea, may be had on application to headquarters.

#### NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

##### BARNESLEY S.E.C.

A meeting was held in St. Mary's Parish Room on 5th December to commemorate the centenary of Josephine Butler's birth. Dr. Helen Wilson, J.P. (President of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene), gave a most interesting account of the life and work of Mrs. Butler, and of the courage it required to undertake a campaign against a social evil which had always been regarded by a large section of the community as unavoidable. She pointed out that there was still much work to be done for the equal moral standard, and particularly abroad, and appealed to all to support the centenary fund. This society voted the sum of two guineas for the fund. Canon Hone kindly presided, and visitors from other organizations were welcomed.

##### CARDIFF W.C.A.

The annual Sale of Work was held on Saturday, 8th December, at the Unitarian Schoolroom, West Grove. Mrs. J. T. Richards, J.P. (Vice-President), in the unavoidable absence of Miss Collin, was in the chair, and welcomed the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, the latter being the President of the Cardiff W.C.A. Miss Barke, M.A., gave a most interesting account of the work of the Association during the year. After the Lady Mayoress had declared the sale open, the Lord Mayor, in a speech wishing the Association every success, urged the new women voters to make their voting power an effective instrument for good to the community and older women voters to help them to do so. A vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress was proposed by Miss Pethybridge and seconded by Miss Stainer.

##### CAMBRIDGE S.C.E.C.

Cambridge suffragists had very much hoped that Dame Millicent Fawcett, who was a member of the first Cambridge Women's Suffrage Committee forty-four years ago, would have been able to be present at the celebration of the achievement of Equal Franchise organized by the Cambridge Standing Committee for Equal Citizenship on 10th December, but unfortunately she was laid up with a severe cold and could not travel to Cambridge that day. A large number of the survivors of the old suffrage association, and friends of Dame Millicent, attended the At Home, which was held in the big hall of Newnham College. Short speeches, mainly reviewing the interesting history which culminated in the victory of equal franchise, were made by the Chairman, Mrs. Bethune-Baker, Mrs. Heitland, and Mrs. Rackham.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### STREET OFFENCES REPORT.

MADAM,—As the witness chosen by the N.U.S.E.C. to give evidence on its behalf before the Street Offences Committee, it seems to me unfortunate that on two occasions when the N.U.S.E.C. have publicly expressed an opinion on the above Report, its official speaker has welcomed its recommendations without suggesting there is any ground for criticism. In the *Daily News* immediately after the Report was published, Mrs. Hubback is reported as saying, "We are very pleased with it" (I quote from memory but that was the substance). Now in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, on 4th January, she refers to the recommendations again and says, "If embodied in legislation these, though not perfect, would constitute a real advance on the present law." I regret very much that Mrs. Hubback did not add a few words qualifying this approval. The A.M.S.H. regards the main recommendation of the Report as being extremely dangerous, because any person would be liable to be convicted on a charge of importuning for an immoral purpose *without the evidence of the person importuned and without any person having been annoyed.*

ALISON NEILANS,

Secretary, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

14 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

MADAM,—Mrs. Hubback has given us an excellent summary this week of "The Political Year." But her necessary brevity has led her to give far too good an impression of the Report of the Street Offences Committee. It is true, for instance, that the repeal of existing legislation is recommended. But the Committee quite definitely does *not* recommend the repeal of the provision (Section 3 of the Vagrancy Act, 1824), which deals with "every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or public highways or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous or indecent manner . . ." a clause which has constantly been unjustly twisted to apply to mere solicitation.

But the most important recommendation, sounding so fair and equal, is the most dangerous:—

"That there be substituted a simple enactment of general application constituting it an offence for any person of either sex to importune a person of the opposite sex for immoral purposes in any street or public place."

This creates a new offence in England and Wales, that of mere solicitation without annoyance: it affects every man and woman in the country; and the person alleged by the police to have been importuned or pestered is not required to give evidence. The policeman is to be the judge as to the object of the importuning, and as an "observer" of definite conduct which he himself interprets, need be the only witness when his charge is brought before the court.

The evidence of one or more persons aggrieved is essential to conviction *only* on a charge of "frequenting" any public place with an immoral intention.

I agree with Mrs. Hubback that these recommendations are not "perfect"; but I do not agree with her in thinking that the "simple enactment" clause embodied in legislation would be a "real advance on the present law." On the contrary, I am convinced that it would be either a dead letter or a real danger.

EDITH BETHUNE-BAKER.

Cambridge.

[We have asked Mrs. Hubback to reply to the above two letters next week.—Ed.]

#### THE WELL OF LONELINESS.

MADAM,—Many points of view have been aired, in the Press and in conversation, regarding Miss Radclyffe Hall's book, *The Well of Loneliness*. Sometimes it is the subject which is condemned, sometimes the treatment of it; the existence of the problem has been denied, the exaggeration of it attacked; the whole thing has been decried in the interests of another type of women's friendship, in the interests of public morality, decency, and a thousand precious causes to which it bears no particular relation. I appeal to the critical fair-mindedness of your paper to allow me to put forward another point of view.

I am not concerned, nor is Miss Radclyffe Hall, with the woman or man who seeks primarily physical excitement through so-called unnatural vice, prostitution, or by any form of indulgence open to human ingenuity. Nor am I concerned with the specific "invert" with whom Miss Radclyffe Hall deals, for wherever she exists—and it is dangerous to classify—she is only part of a much greater phenomenon which ought to claim the attention of every thinking woman.

There are thousands of women, independent, vigorous, capable, temperamentally rich and mentally alert, who are restless, hampered, frustrated, warped, according to their various degrees, because they are denied a proper emotional life. They have a mental outlet, a growing economic, social and political outlet, but they have no emotional outlet. Marriage, for a variety of reasons, has been denied to them. But they are not physical or physiological or pathological abnormalities. They ask, what any man in their position would probably have obtained for himself, the emotional satisfaction of an intimate affection and the assured spiritual and social companionship of a home. The physical side of it in many women's cases plays a very insignificant part; it would be developed, no doubt, in marriage, it is sublimated out of it—in any case it is relatively unimportant. Their yearning is the multiple and complicated need of a complex human being. They could find it, most of them, with equal success through man or woman—many of them, out of human disappointment turn to dogs, for something of that companionship they could not find elsewhere.

Thousands of women are conscious of this need. Equally, thousands of women have satisfied it in an intimate relationship with another woman, the degree and experience of which must always vary with the temperaments and character of the people concerned. But just as there is

a physical sympathy which has no connection whatever with sexual excitement, so there is innate in human beings a need of intimacy and an instinct of appropriation—shown in the most legitimate relationships—which is wholly psychological.

This kind of thing must be a matter for individual conscience—whether it can ever be a matter for social conscience except in its broad aspects, is a moot point. The wise person of any sex and in any relationship has probably learnt that restraint is the very shape of life, as of art.

But I do hope that no woman will allow the magisterial condemnation of *The Well of Loneliness* to shorten her courage—and she will need much—in pursuing for herself honestly, wisely, and generously that life which will bring her real contentment.

CRIPICUS.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM.

MADAM,—The Local Government Bills impose important new tasks upon County Councils and County Borough Councils. It follows that the method used in electing these bodies increases in importance too. The elections held recently show—(1) that under the present law large bodies of citizens fail to secure any representation; (2) that after the elections the dominant party can select all the aldermen from its own ranks; (3) that the dominant party can decide how much representation shall be accorded to minorities on committees. There is a simple remedy—the application of the proportional principle to the election of councillors of aldermen, and of committees.

Of the practicability of the proportional system there can be no question. The system has now been working for eight years in Ireland and I venture to quote from a letter sent by President Cosgrave of the Irish Free State to a member of the Better City Government Movement in the City of Toledo, Ohio, and published in one of the chief Toledo newspapers on 1st November, 1928:—

"So far proportional representation in Ireland has worked out satisfactorily enough and while it is of course too early to form definite judgment, I do not see in present circumstances, any probability that there will be a reversion to the former system."

There are some who still doubt the practicability of P.R. for parliamentary elections, but even for those who entertain such fears there can be no question as to the practicability of P.R. for local elections. The present system clearly makes possible practices which are essentially anti-social in character—the exclusion of one body of citizens by another body of citizens from the local councils. It is to be hoped that His Majesty's Government will give a favourable hearing to the demand for introducing fair representation for all.

JOHN H. HUMPHREYS,

Secretary, The Proportional Representation Society.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

16th January, 8.30 p.m. 17 Buckingham Street, Strand. Reception to Miss Chave Collisson, who will speak on "Around the World and Back Again."

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

8th February. Great Hall, University College, London. Conference on the "Education of the Citizen." Chair: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. First session, 2.30 p.m.; second session, 5.30 p.m.; third session, 8 p.m. Tickets 2s., or 5s. for the three sessions, from the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

Barnsley S.E.C.—30th January, 5.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Room. Miss Patricia Hall: "Peace, from the point of view of the Under-thirties." Chair: Councillor J. Jones.

Edinburgh W.C.A. 16th January, 8 p.m. Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Lady Leslie Mackenzie, F.E.I.S.: "From the Highlands and Islands to Kentucky." Chair: Lady Findlay.

Preston W.C.A.—21st January, 7.30 p.m. Orient Café, Friargate. Mrs. Hunter, (Woman) Probation Officer for St. Pancras: "Woman Probation Officers."

## UNION OF WOMEN VOTERS.

28th January, 8 p.m. 55 Chancery Lane, W.C. Miss M. Scott, A.R.C.M. (Founder of Society of Women Musicians): "Is there Equality of Opportunity for Women Musicians?"

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

21st January, 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. Mrs. Corblit Ashby, "Our International Responsibilities." Chair: Viscountess Dupptn.

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

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