

**AN EQUAL MORAL STANDARD—SHEEP AND GOATS**

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

AND  
**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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**Contents :**

	PAGE		PAGE
APOLOGIA PRO VITA MEA . . . . .	42	THE LAW AT WORK: THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL . . . . .	43
NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER . . . . .	43	THE CHILD AND THE SCHOOL . . . . .	45
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE N.U.S.E.C. By Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A. . . . .	44	DIVISION LIST OF THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL . . . . .	45
		CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS . . . . .	46

**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Matrimonial Causes Bill.**

The second reading of this Bill, which proposes to give a woman the right of divorce on the ground of her husband's adultery, was carried by the magnificent majority of 231 to 27 on 3rd March. It was a very live discussion, with four or five Members at a time trying on many occasions to catch the Speaker's eye. Major Entwistle (Kingston-upon-Hull, L.) introduced the Bill in a wholly admirable speech, in which he pointed out that this matter of simple justice and equity was only the logical complement of the legislation which had been passed in recent years recognizing the equality of the sexes. He stated that the strongest ground on which he could commend this Bill was that, where there were two standards of morality, the tendency was to accept the lower standard, but that if the standard was equalized in the way proposed, the general tendency would be for the standard as regards men to be raised. He referred to the experience of Scotland, which had had such a provision as part of its law since 1560, whereas the present state of English law gave a husband complete licence to commit adultery with impunity. Major Entwistle regarded this measure as one of equality only, and not to be confused with the general question of Divorce Law Reform. He therefore stated that he would oppose any attempt at widening the Bill during its later stages. Sir John Simon, who was one of the backers of the Bill, argued warmly in its favour, and quoted at some length from the report of the Royal Commission on Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, 1912. He would have preferred a wider measure, but at the same time did not wish to expose this Bill to the risk of not passing. The opposition to the Bill seemed to emanate chiefly from the Universities, as the Members for Cambridge, London and the Scottish Universities, were united in prophesying that the passing of such a reform would lead to collusion and to a consequent and disastrous increase in the facilities for divorce. This bogey was dispersed by Mr. Hemmerde, K.C., when he pointed out that whereas facilities for collusion could hardly be greater than under the present law, the provision in the Bill would act as a deterrent and would help to maintain a higher standard of morality in the home. The Home Secretary pronounced himself in favour of the Bill, but stated specifically that the Government would oppose it if it provided for any wider measure of reform than the one proposed. It is surely a triumph for a Bill on this subject to have succeeded in obtaining the support of both those who, like Major Entwistle and Sir John Simon, want eventually

a wide measure of reform, and also of those who, like Mr. Bridgeman, Sir Robert Newman, and others, wish to confine reform to the single point of equality. There is every reason to hope that, as this Bill has started on its Parliamentary career with such an overwhelming success, and as it has obtained such an early day, it will, unlike so many Private Members' Bills, reach the Statute Book this session.

**Women at Cambridge.**

The Cambridge University Senate passed, on 4th March, the ordinances for granting titular degrees to qualified women. This very barren concession gives little to women students at Cambridge that they did not have before, except the right to attend all University lectures, to wear academic dress, and to pay handsomely for a degree which, while giving the right to put letters after their names, makes no improvement worthy of the name in the status of women at Cambridge. It can safely be predicted that few women, except those who find themselves forced to acquire the necessary letters for professional reasons, will apply for a titular degree. The great majority will undoubtedly wait until women are admitted to full membership of the University. The Universities (Oxford and Cambridge) Bill, which the Government intends to introduce after Easter, which will provide for the setting-up of Statutory Commissions for each University to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities, will, it is hoped, specifically provide for the carrying out of the recommendation that full membership of Cambridge University should be open to women. Failing this, some opportunity will undoubtedly be made to give the House of Commons an opportunity to express its opinion on this matter.

**Coercion of Wives.**

The most interesting point in the debate on this subject in the House of Lords on 28th February, on the occasion of the second reading of the Criminal Justice Bill, was the rôle played by Lord Buckmaster. The Lord Chancellor advocated the abolition of the presumption, which holds good in all penalties, except murder and treason, and in the case of all misdemeanours, that an offence committed by a wife in the presence of her husband, was committed under the coercion of the husband. In his view it had no relation to the realities of the present day. The presumption that every husband beat his wife, and that every wife went in terror of her husband and would commit any



crime rather than thwart him, if ever true, was not true to-day. Speaking generally, wives were free agents, and the question of their guilt or innocence ought to be considered on the facts and not under the compulsion of such a presumption. Lord Buckmaster, on the other hand, pointed out that this presumption had been the rule for 1,100 years, and that it was quite clear that a woman who committed a crime in the presence of her husband must do it with his connivance and consent. He failed to see why it ought not to be assumed that she was acting under his directions. He did not believe that any case had been made out for the proposed change. They might give the vote to women and seats upon the Bench, they might pass other liberating measures, but woman's nature would remain the same. In spite of this curious attitude—inconsistent as it is with most of Lord Buckmaster's views on women's questions—the new proposal was well received by the House.

#### Bills relating to Illegitimate Children.

The Legitimacy Bill, introduced by Mr. H. B. Betterton, successfully passed its second reading on 2nd March. It aims at legitimizing illegitimate children whose parents marry either before or after the passing of the Act. It was supported by Members of each party, the Attorney-General pointing out that it was not a party measure, and its reception proved that the principle involved was universally approved. The Attorney-General, in a sympathetic speech, stated that the Government raised no objections to the Bill, and he added his personal congratulations to Mr. Betterton on the able manner in which it had been drafted. During the debate Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Captain Bowyer, and Mr. Wignall, who have in recent years been responsible for the introduction of more comprehensive measures, whilst cordially supporting the Bill, expressed regret that it did not include provision for the more material side of the child's welfare. Attention was drawn to the high death-rate amongst illegitimate children, and the unfair proportion of the burden of the child's maintenance which is at present placed upon the mother. The Children of Unmarried Parents Bill, which was sponsored by Captain Bowyer in 1921, dealt with three main points, viz. legitimation, increase in the amount payable under an affiliation order, and the universal appointment of collecting officers. It is interesting to note that Captain Bowyer has now introduced a Bastardy Bill to cover these two latter points, whilst leaving legitimation in the hands of Mr. Betterton, whose experience as a barrister in the Court of Chancery has given him a wide knowledge of the technical difficulties to be overcome, and it is hoped that these two Bills may run concurrently through both Houses.

#### The Rome International Suffrage Congress, May 12th to 19th.

That the Italian women have succeeded in interesting their country in the Rome Congress is evident from their latest announcement. Signor Mussolini has agreed to be Honorary President of the Congress, and to address its opening session. Not less interest is being evinced abroad, as many countries which have not been represented at previous Congresses have announced their intention of sending delegates. Among the topical subjects to be dealt with is the consideration of the joint

### APOLOGIA PRO VITA MEA.

It has recently been borne in on us that we are unique. We are, we believe, the only penny weekly which makes any attempt to deal with current politics and subjects of general interest. We do not claim any particular credit for the quality of uniqueness—after all *John Bull* under the Bottomley régime was unique in its own peculiar way. But there is no doubt that in this age of currency depreciation a penny is a paltry little sum, and there is some credit in charging it. There are to-day lamentably few things that a penny will purchase, and since we ourselves were added to the number on 6th October, 1922, a date memorable in the history of the anti-trust movement for reasons which will occur to our regular readers, we venture to think that the *WOMAN'S LEADER* stands pre-eminent in value among those commodities which a penny will purchase.

In making the above boast we speak in all seriousness. There is, we believe, a genuine need for a *WOMAN'S LEADER* among busy women, both professional and domestic, who have neither the time to read nor the spare cash to buy our sixpenny or ninepenny contemporaries: such journalistic giants as the *Spectator*, the *Nation*, or the *New Statesman*, whose scope and variety we do not profess to rival. To such busy women we give eight pages of up-to-date news and comments on matters of

action to be taken by the women's organizations in different countries with a view to bringing recommendations of the International Labour Conferences into line with the policy adopted by the Alliance. In view of the recent passage of the Cable Act in the United States giving to women the right to her own nationality, the proposal to draft an international convention on this subject will be of real practical importance. The discussion on the Enfranchised Women's Day of the relations of the women's movement to the political parties should be of special interest, as it is hoped that Members of Parliament from many countries will be able to take part. Every effort should be made by those who support the equality of status between men and women to attend the Congress. All particulars may be obtained from the Headquarters of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, 11 Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2.

#### The Stopes Libel Action.

On 1st March the Lord Chief Justice gave judgment for the defendants in the libel action brought by Dr. Marie Stopes against Dr. Sutherland, the author, and the publishers of a book against Birth Control. His Lordship's decision was based on the Jury's finding that the words complained of were true in substance and in fact, although a defamatory and unfair comment. Into the legal aspect of this case—how far truth in substance and fact constitutes a sufficient defence in libel—we are not competent to go. The matter has yet to be fought out in a Court of Appeal. Nor is it part of our policy to express any opinion as to the rights and wrongs of birth control. The subject will be dealt with from both sides, so far as our space permits, as a "Burning Question" next week. The writers are Dr. Mary Scharlieb and Mrs. Drysdale, both well known in all debates on this subject. But it is plain that the conditions under which the greatest of all occupations open to women—motherhood and the rearing of children—is carried on is a question of first-class importance, not only to all who care for woman's status, but for the race. From this point of view the state of the law and of public opinion revealed by the Stopes case is gravely unsatisfactory. Whether birth control is right or wrong, it cannot be right that a question affecting the rights of husbands and wives, the eugenic future of the race, the economic future of industrialized Europe should be smothered up by branding discussion of it as "obscene." It must be discussed fully, seriously, in all its bearings on the tremendous issues involved, and those most directly concerned, the mothers and potential mothers, must make up their minds on it. Whether Dr. Stopes has chosen the best method of discussion we leave readers of her books to judge.

#### Persecution and Publicity.

The probable effect of the Stopes case on the propaganda for birth control may be judged from the results of the somewhat similar case fought out in 1877. But there the defendants were the protagonists of birth control, Charles Bradlaugh, M.P., and Mrs. Annie Besant. Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb pointed out that the beginning of the fall of the birth-rate among the factory operatives and skilled artisans of Great Britain coincided with the enormous publicity given to the subject of birth control by the prosecution of these two propagandists.

current political and economic interest, and we give it cheap. But we do something more than this—something which our weekly contemporaries do not attempt to do; and this we think is the main justification of our existence. We meet the needs of women for news of their own progress and of their own peculiar difficulties as women in the world at large. It is true that such news can, to a greater degree than ever before, be extracted from the columns of the daily Press. But it can be extracted only by very wide reading and very untiring diligence; and when extracted the effort is not ended, since it has then to be set in due proportion. For who, judging merely from the relative values assigned by the daily Press, would suppose that a revision of the conditions on which separation orders are granted is a matter of greater feminist import than—let us say—the publication of an autobiography by Mrs. Asquith. Such information, however, it is the main business of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* to extract, supplement, proportion, and criticize. And many people would say (though modesty forbids us to say it of ourselves) that in the performance of this business the *WOMAN'S LEADER* has shown a certain measure of efficiency and tolerable good sense. We are, therefore, confirmed in our belief that we are better worth a penny than any other commodity which can be purchased by that trivial coin.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

Two incidents that have befallen outside the House during the week-end are likely to have far-reaching effects within it. The defeat of Col. Stanley and the astonishing developments at Mitcham are additional proofs to the Prime Minister that if his Government is to stand it must be reconstructed. The pillars of the Temple are altogether too insubstantial to carry the weight thrown upon them, as was proved beyond any mere peradventure by the demolition of the Secretary to the Board of Overseas Trade by Sir H. Kingsley Wood in the debate on the adjournment on Tuesday of last week. The Minister of Agriculture, when he can be goaded into the ring at question time, looks and behaves like a baited buffalo. Even Major Tryon, who is one of the stalwarts of the Treasury Bench, is not really effective at dealing with supplementaries. It has been rumoured in the Press that the Ministry of Health may be offered to Col. Leslie Wilson. The Prime Minister would do far better to make his peace with the Chamberlainites, and bring in Sir R. Horne as Lord Advocate and Sir L. Worthington Evans at the Health Ministry. Both of them are badly needed on the Front Bench.

The second incident which has caused a sensation in the House is Sir John Simon's almost vehement reply (tantamount to a rejection) to Mr. Lloyd George's overtures from Edinburgh. The rank and file of both sections in the House are not at all disposed to see the future of Liberalism prejudiced, and perhaps destroyed, by the vendetta of their leaders. They are asking each other what earthly purpose is served by answering a *beau geste* with a box on the ears. Sir John Simon is Sessional Chairman of the Liberals that follow Mr. Asquith. His utterances, therefore, are entitled to receive the interpretation that he is speaking for the party. Yet the great majority of his followers would have welcomed Mr. Lloyd George's action as a basis for negotiations. There will be trouble this week behind the scenes at Westminster.

The most important debate of last week was the motion for

withdrawal from Mesopotamia, moved on the Supplementary Estimates. Independent Liberals and Labour supported the motion. The subject has by now become an arid manoeuvring-ground for such "ships of the desert" as Mr. George Lambert, but there was at least one oasis in the form of a delightful maiden speech by Lord Apsley; and Mr. Aubrey Herbert enchanted everyone with fifteen minutes of his very best and wittiest. His definition of certain marauding Arabs—the March Arabs—as a mixture of a hyena and a shark, deserves to be placed in the National Gallery of good sayings.

An interesting illustration of the essentially Liberal outlook of the present House of Commons was afforded in the debates on Mr. Entwistle's Matrimonial Causes Bill and Mr. Betterton's Legitimation Bill. In both cases the difficulty was to find anyone to criticize the measures at all. Mr. Entwistle's Bill had a huge majority, and Mr. Betterton's Bill did not even go to a division. This augurs well for social legislation in the future, and augurs ill for the Government if they fail to deal legislatively with the important social problems of the day.

Sir Sydney Russell Wells, the Member for London University, must have a care or he will come to be regarded as a pragmatist; while supporting Mr. Entwistle's Bill, he attacked Divorce Reform upon the unsoundest of all grounds, namely, incompatibility with Christianity, and then hotly opposed the Legitimation Bill upon the ground that it would tend to increase immorality. It sounded like the spectre of some mid-Victorian prelate. The argument was swept aside by the Attorney-General in a characteristically powerful speech, whereupon, the question being put, it was answered by a roar of ayes and a piping cry of protest from Sir Sydney Russell Wells.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

## THE LAW AT WORK: THE "CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL."

The Criminal Justice Bill, recently introduced by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords, contains amongst a mass of highly technical provisions for amending the details of procedure, some clauses of more general interest, to which it is worth while to call the attention of our readers.

Members of the N.U.S.E.C. will probably be prepared to welcome clause 24: "Any presumption of law that an offence committed by a wife in the presence of her husband is committed under the coercion of the husband is hereby abolished." Our claim for equal citizenship ranges us definitely against the rather contemptuous supposition that a wife is not fully responsible for her own actions and liable to their consequences. It is interesting that the memorandum prefaced to the Bill explains that no such rule presuming coercion obtains in the Dominions. The Bill proposes to solve the much-debated problem of Grand Juries by abolishing them at Quarter Sessions whilst retaining them at Assizes. All Grand Juries were suspended during the war, but a majority of the High Court judges, having pronounced in their favour, this ancient institution will not yet vanish from our legal system.

But the provisions of the Bill which, if it becomes law, will most markedly affect the trial of accused persons are those which aim at expediting the course of Criminal Justice. These proposals are the outcome of a Committee appointed in 1921 by Lord Birkenhead and Mr. Shortt, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Horridge, to inquire into the detention in custody of prisoners committed for trial. A case which had shortly before called attention to the need for some alteration of the law was that of a boy committed to prison at Winchester on 8th April, 1921, for trial at the Quarter Sessions held on 19th July, 1921—a fourteen weeks' interval. After awaiting trial for two months, he committed suicide. The evils of such long delays need no further illustration.

The remedies proposed by the Lord Chancellor's Bill are of two kinds, the re-classification of offences and greater latitude as to the place of trial. To begin with, the list of indictable offences by adults which, by consent of the accused, can be dealt with

summarily, is considerably enlarged. Malicious damage to trees or shrubs, whether in gardens or elsewhere, cases of assault with wounding, or bodily harm, and attempted suicide are amongst the offences for which, under this section, the delay of sending to Quarter Sessions for trial could be avoided. Other indictable offences which now must be sent to Assizes could, under the provisions of Section 1, be tried at Quarter Sessions. These include stack-firing, bigamy, and sacrilege. The recommendation of Mr. Justice Horridge's Committee to give this option in the case of concealment of birth has not been followed.

This extension of the power of Quarter Sessions would give Justices the opportunity to commit for these offences to either Assizes or Quarter Sessions, whichever came first.

Moreover, Section 8 proposes that, where the Assizes or Quarter Sessions to which an accused person could, in the ordinary course, be committed are more than two months or six weeks respectively distant in time, the Justices (if they are satisfied that the accused will not thereby suffer undue hardship) may commit him for trial at some other Assizes or Quarter Sessions which fall due sooner. Thus, under the proposed legislation, the unfortunate Winchester boy could have been sent either to the County or other convenient Quarter Sessions, or to the Assizes at Reading or Salisbury.

The periods of two months and six weeks seem somewhat needlessly long. In the year 1920 no less than ninety-seven persons, afterwards acquitted, spent periods of from eight to over twenty weeks in prison awaiting trial, a further 109 innocent persons suffered such confinement for from four to eight weeks; the corresponding number for the year 1919 were 103 and 76. The usefulness of the proposed law would thus be greatly increased if a shorter time-limit were introduced. It must be remembered that, besides the prisoners afterwards acquitted, a much larger number are bound over, fined, and put on probation at their trial, and do not return to prison as convicted persons. On grounds of economy alone it is worth while to expedite the trial of these people. Still, the proposal as it stands would be a welcome innovation. It has often been suggested that, instead



of the large number of Assizes held at various towns at long intervals, more frequent Courts with Judge and Jury should sit at a few convenient centres. There would be great local opposition to this: no place which has once known the glory of being an Assize town would willingly relinquish it. The proposal here outlined has the merit of leaving "pride of place"

unwounded. Section 13 would give to a prisoner who has pleaded guilty before a court of summary jurisdiction leave to appeal against the sentence he receives; an excellent safeguard. We should, however, like to see a clause introduced giving a poor person in such circumstances, and also where he reserves his defence, the full privileges of the Poor Persons' Defence Act.

PATIENCE AND IMPATIENCE.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS given by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, at the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, March, 1923.

I want first to thank you all for the honour you have done me in again choosing me as your President. For reasons which were explained in a letter which I circulated to our Societies about two months ago, I am not at all sure that you were wise in doing so. But I am quite sure it is a choice which illustrates one quality of which I have always been rather proud in our National Union for Equal Citizenship, that it is a courageous and large-minded body, a body which does not seek to bind all its members to a pedantic adherence to every article in a cast-iron creed, but welcomes, or at least tolerates, differences of opinion, so long as it is satisfied that they concern the methods by which our common cause can be achieved and do not indicate any half-heartedness about the cause itself. You all know that upon questions of method there have been sharp differences of opinion in the Union in the past, and there are sharp differences of opinion still, and when those questions have been put to the vote I have almost as often, I think, been in the minority as in the majority. And among the societies which have nominated me there are several whose representatives, I know, take a quite different view from mine on some of these controversial issues.

It is true that some of my colleagues regard these issues as matters of principle rather than method. For example, one of my good friends among them said to me recently: "You are such a good fighter; what a pity you are such a bad feminist!" Now my private opinion—and I told her so—is that I am a much more root and branch feminist than she is. The fact is, that there are two kinds of feminism, or rather two ways of interpreting sex-equality. There are those who interpret it in terms of identity with men, and those who interpret it in terms of difference. The former school do not, I think, imagine the status achieved by man to be so ideal that all that woman needs is to climb up and stand by his side. But they see truly that one of the tricks, devices by which men have sought to lead women to acquiesce in their inferiority of status, is by pretending that it is not really an inferiority, but only a difference corresponding to a real difference of function. Hence these feminists feel that they are taking the safer course in always demanding the identical right that men have enjoyed, just in the spirit of a housewife, who, because her grocer has repeatedly tried to palm off on her an inferior substitute for some article, will insist on having the recognized brand "as patronized by the Royal Household." Other feminists, while conscious of the risks they are running, are like the housewife who insists on selecting the goods that please her palate without reference to what others have preferred. I belong to the latter school. I want women to build up their own status, liberties, and opportunities free from men's restrictions, but not necessarily identical with those of men. It is a fatal thing for a woman's organization to get the reputation of being "anti-man," and I would not for worlds bring that reproach on the N.U.S.E.C. But I knew a wise old lady who was fond of repeating: "The more I see of some people the better I like my dog"; and after every experience of men's politics and administration my feeling is: "The more I see of some men, especially politicians, the less I want women to adopt all their methods and standards of value." Fortunately, on most questions of immediate practical politics, these two schools of thought think alike.

If you study our Annual Report carefully I think you will agree that the amount that has been accomplished by our small staff in our cramped headquarters has been creditably large. It would have been even larger had it not been for the constant and rather nerve-racking pressure of limited means on nearly limitless needs. But as this is a condition of chronic economic toothache suffered by nearly all organizations which depend on voluntary funds, we must not grumble at it.

I wish we could point to more definite results of all our activity. But I do not think that anyone who has been in close touch with the facts will argue from this want of positive success that our work has been fruitless. In the first place we are, as everyone

knows, now living through a period of reaction following on the tremendous wave of progressive feeling which swept away so many barriers in 1918-19. In such a period it is something if those engaged in a forward movement can keep the ground they have won and occasionally gain a fresh foothold here and there. While no great disfranchising movement is to be feared, there are many ways in which privileges already granted can be fluted away and opportunities withdrawn and rights fall into disuse if those concerned are not on the alert and active in pressing their offensive. Secondly, we must not let ourselves forget that the greater a movement is, and the more deep-rooted the evils it seeks to remove, the slower is the progress normally made. In the brilliant little article on "Loyalties," which appeared in last week's WOMAN'S LEADER, the writer reminds us how "age-long and world-wide" are the conditions which the feminist programme seeks to change.

From the dawn of history, in varying degree, women have been oppressed, exploited, sometimes flattered and pampered, but always dominated by men. Everywhere law and social custom, education, religious ritual, moral standards, and the distribution of wealth reflect the oppression of women. From age to age the voice of articulate male humanity has joined in the chorus of "Thou shalt not—thou canst not." And to this stupendous effort of auto-suggestion female voices have contributed their dreary repetition of "We may not—we cannot."

Is it surprising that a fortress so built and buttressed, whose defenders include so many of the dominated race, cannot be carried by an assault, or a long series of assaults, but only slowly undermined, inch by inch, until its walls sag and bulge and split and allow us to creep in and win over the defenders and establish ourselves in a corner here and there.

I have given you some reasons why we should be patient, in the sense of not letting ourselves be discouraged or induced to desist by slow progress. May I now suggest why we should be impatient, in the sense of not complacently accepting slow progress as inevitable, when perhaps it is partly the result of the insufficiency or misdirection of our own efforts. It is quite true that in working for a cause which is part of the great cause of human progress we can afford to take long views, and say: "Leave now for dogs and apes, man has forever." But the individual man or woman has not for ever, at least, not as it concerns that little span of life, rounded by a sleep, for which alone we are responsible. There is nothing perhaps in all the world so entirely personal and relative as Time. While of the Deity it may be true that a thousand years in His sight are but a watch in the night, it is unfortunately equally true that to anyone suffering from unendurable physical pain or intolerable social conditions a watch in the night seems even as a thousand years. Do not let us forget, therefore, that since every one of the reforms for which we are working stands for a mass of remediable human suffering, or of undeveloped and thwarted human capacity, every day's unnecessary delay does matter. Most of those whom we are seeking to liberate are very patient. It is for us who can say of ourselves: "Our lot is fallen unto us in pleasant places. Yea, we have a goodly heritage" to be impatient for them.

Let those who preach the loyalty of class and the loyalty of party, and who disparage the loyalty of women towards women, explain if they can how it is that, though working-men have had their franchise for nearly three-quarters of a century, it is only since women have been enfranchised, and then only through the efforts of the disparaged non-party and largely "middle-class" organizations, that the wrongs of widows and ill-treated wives and unmarried mothers and sweated women-workers have been brought effectively to the front? The truth is that there are facts of life which "every woman knows" and no man looks at from exactly the same angle, and this creates a camaraderie which makes women desire to stretch out their hands to each other across the sundering seas of class and race, despite everything that the apostles of class hatred and racial hatred can do to stop them. And for the sake of the world's peace it is well that it should be so.

THE CHILD AND THE SCHOOL.

That "Cleanliness was next to Godliness" was a slogan even in the Middle Ages. Now that the danger to others of uncleanness on the part of the individual is understood, the necessity for personal cleanliness assumes a moral aspect, and no one would now dispute that cleanliness is part of Godliness. An important branch of the activities of the School Medical Service deals with the personal hygiene of the children, and much of the time of the nurses is taken up by the task. There are many who can remember the dreadful state of things revealed when children were first undressed in schools for medical inspection. The London County Council has established thirty stations where children can be bathed and freed from dirt and verminous conditions. Even nine years ago two in every hundred children were found to be crawling with vermin in school! By the patient and persistent work of the school nurses, teachers and Care Committees this has been altered to such an extent that now only two in a thousand children are found in this state. The increased health arising from this improvement can be imagined, but also think of the additional comfort experienced by teachers and scholars alike!

WANSTEAD HOUSE CAMP SCHOOL, MARGATE.

A correspondent writes: Fortunately it was not a "camp" at all, for it was the end of October and the rain was coming down in sheets, and the wind was blowing as it blows in no other place! No, it was a solid-looking house, of sober aspect—on the outside. Inside everything was shining and cheerful. It was half-term holiday, so the sixty once delicate and ailing, but now rosy and happy-looking, London elementary school-girls, of ages varying between 10 and 14, were all engrossed in their chosen pursuits—threading beads, painting, or playing in groups—in

the big playroom, with one delighted mother and infant in arms, who had scraped together the week-end fare and planted herself and baby on a "friend" for a night's lodging, as an interested spectator. The Head Mistress told of the good response made physically, mentally, and morally to the invigorating air, the nourishing food eaten at regular times, and the healthy, friendly spirit of the place. Her chief worry was that some children arrived so thinly clad for that brisk climate that they were not able to derive the maximum-benefit from their six-week's stay.

The advantages derived by delicate children from education on open-air lines are so great that every one of the 500 school places in London should be given to a child whose parents fully appreciate its value. Nevertheless, there are children who (having at the age of 13 lost a greater part of their education through illness) are fortunate enough to be passed by the School Medical Officer for an open-air school, but whose parents take them away and send them to work the moment they are allowed to do so, i.e. at the age of 14. The open-air schools are certified by the Board of Education as special schools for the physically defective, and therefore, provided the children are certified by the school doctor as suitable for such schools the London County Council has the legal right to enforce their attendance up to the age of 16. We understand it has now been decided that children undertake not to withdraw them on arriving at the age of 14. This is only fair, as the admission of the older children for a few months necessarily results in but small benefit to them, and they are occupying the places of others who, as they will stay longer, may be expected to benefit to a much greater extent.

DIVISION LIST OF THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

AYES.

- Adkins, Sir William Ryland Dent. Alexander, A. V. (Sheffield, Hillsbro). Ammon, Charles George. Asspath, Right Hon. Herbert Henry. Asbury, Lieut.-Com. Frederick W. Attlee, C. R. Barker, G. (Monmouth, Abertillery). Barlow, Right Hon. Sir Montague. Barnes, A. Bates, Joseph. Becker, Harry. Benn, Capt. Wedgwood (Leith). Bennett, Sir T. J. (Sevenoaks). Bentinck, Lord Henry Cavendish. Berkeley, Capt. Reginald. Bonwick, A. Bowler, W. A. Bowerman, Right Hon. Charles W. Bowyer, Capt. G. E. W. Briant, Frank. Bridgeman, Right Hon. William Clive. Broad, F. A. Brotherton, J. Brown, Brig.-Gen. Clifton (Newbury). Bruton, R. Bruton, Sir James. Buckle, J. Buckley, Lieut.-Col. A. Burn, Colonel Sir Charles Rosdew. Burnie, Major J. (Booth). Butler, J. R. M. (Cambridge University). Buxton, Charles (Accrington). Cadogan, Major Edward. Cannon, Lieut.-Col. W. R. Cape, Thomas. Chapple, W. A. Charleton, H. C. Clarke, Sir E. C. Churry, Reginald George. Clayton, G. C. Clvnes, Right Hon. John R. Collox, Major William Phillips. Collins, Pat (Walsall). Collison, Levi. Conway, Sir W. Martin. Cope, Major William. Cowan, D. M. (Scottish Universities). Craig, Capt. C. C. (Antrim, South). Carzon, Capt. Viscount. Darbishire, C. W. Davies, Evan (Ebbw Vale). Davies, Rhys John (Westhoughton). Davison, Sir W. H. (Kensington, S.). Doyle, N. Grattan. Dukeston, Major C. R. Edmonds, G. Edmondson, Major A. J. Edwards, C. (Monmouth, Bedwellty).

NOES.

- Banbury, Right Hon. Sir Frederick G. Barnett, Major Richard W. Bindell, F. N. Brass, Capt. W. Craik, Right Hon. Sir Henry. Davies, Alfred Thothas. Dunnic, H. Edman, Viscount. Forestier Walker, L. Fraser, Major Sir Keith. Fremantle, Lieut.-Col. Francis E. Hannon, Patrick Joseph Henry. Hay, Major T. W. (Norfolk, South). Jodrell, Sir Neville Paul. Lord-Williams, J. O'Grady, Capt. James. Preston, Sir W. R. Rawlinson, Right Hon. John Frederick Peel. Rawson, Lieut.-Com. A. C. Reid, Capt. A. S. C. (Warrington). Robertson, J. D. (Islington, W.). Roundell, Colonel R. F. Royce, William Stapleton. Sheffield, Sir Berkeley. Sanderson, Sir Frank B. Scott, Sir Leslie (Liverpool, Exchange). Scrymgeour, E. Shaw, Hon. Alex. (Kilmarnock). Shaw, Thomas (Preston). Shillwell, Emanuel. Kirkwood, D. Lamb, J. Q. Laushbury, George. Law, Right Hon. A. B. (Glasgow, C.). Lawson, John James. Leach, W. Linfield, F. C. Louden, John William. Lougher, L. Lowth, T. Lunn, William. MacEntee, V. L. Macnaghten, Hon. Sir Malcolm. Macnamara, Right Hon. Dr. T. J. Macpherson, Right Hon. James I. March, S. Marjesson, H. D. R. Marshall, Sir Arthur H. Martin, F. (Aberdeen and Kincudine, E.). Mason, Lieut.-Col. C. K. Maxton, James. Millar, J. D. Mitchell, Sir W. Lane (Streatham). Molloy, Major L. G. S. Molson, Major John Elsdale. Moore, Major-Gen. Sir Newton J. Morel, E. D. Morrison, R. C. (Tottenham, N.). Muir, John W. Murray, R. (Renfrew, Western). Newman, Sir R. H. S. D. L. (Exeter). Newson, Sir Percy Wilson. Newton, Sir D. G. C. (Cambridge). Nicholson, Brig.-Gen. J. (Westminster). Nichol, Robert. Norton-Griffiths, Lieut.-Col. Sir John. Oliver, George Harold. Ormsby-Gore, Hon. William. Pattinson, S. (Horncastle). Phillips, Vivian. Potts, John S. Pringle, W. M. R. Rankin, Capt. James Stuart. Richardson, Sir Alex. (Gravesend). Richardson, Lieut.-Col. Sir P. (Chertsey). Richardson, R. (Houghton-le-Spring). Ritson, J. C. H. (Derby). Roberts, W. (Glamorgan, Neath). Robinson, W. C. (York, Elland). Rose, Frank H. Russell, Alexander West (Tynemouth). Russell, William (Bolton). Saller, Dr. A. Samuel, A. M. (Surrey, Farnham).

TELLERS FOR THE AYES. Major Entwistle and Mr. Foot.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES. Mr. D. Herbert and Mr. Douglas Brown.



## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

### EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION.

This meeting was planned for November, in order to press for the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men, and had to be postponed on account of the General Election.

The following organizations are represented by contingents of members: Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Women's Freedom League, National Union of Teachers, National Union of Women Teachers, Women's Co-operative Guild, Federation of Women Civil Servants, National Organization of Girls' Clubs, Union of Jewish Women, London School of Medicine, King's College, Whitelands College and Newnham Students, National Sisterhood Movement, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, G.P.O. Clerks, National Women's Liberal Federation, and many others.

**Speakers.**—Chairman, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A. (Independent Candidate for East Toxteth, Liverpool, at the General Election), Viscountess Astor, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield (Lab. Candidate for Northampton at the General Election), Miss Helen Fraser (Nat. Lib. Candidate at Govan, Glasgow, at the General Election), Miss Daisy Richardson (representing women under 30, member Women's Section National Union General Workers), Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc.

#### MESSAGE FROM MRS. FAWCETT.

In consequence of the death on 3rd March of her dear sister-in-law, Miss S. M. Fawcett, at Salisbury, Mrs. Fawcett will not be able to attend the public and social functions of the Council meeting this week. The funeral is fixed for noon on Wednesday. Miss S. M. Fawcett was a member of the London Society for Women's Service, and was a constant and loyal supporter of all its activities.

This list is necessarily incomplete, as the WOMAN'S LEADER goes to press early this week. For full report see next week's issue.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

### AMERICAN LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.

DEAR READERS,—Since I last wrote I have had the opportunity of meeting the editor and managing director of the *Woman Citizen*, the paper which corresponds in this country to our own. We found that we had precisely the same problems to meet, the same difficulties, the same ambitions, the same encouragements and discouragements. They, too, have had trouble with the distributing agencies, and rely entirely upon direct subscribers; they, too, get much evidence of the usefulness of the paper and fail to get enough money to pay their way; they, too, stand independent of party politics and find the task hard; and they, too, endeavour to sell space to kindred women's organizations for the publication of their own news. Their paper, however, appears fortnightly, and has more pages than ours, and an artistic coloured cover. I wonder if you think the WOMAN'S LEADER would do well to follow suit?

It is interesting to see the exact parallel between English and American problems which comes out on every subject. It makes me believe more firmly than ever that Anglo-American friendship is of the first importance. If we cannot be friends with people whose lives are so much like our own, what hope is there for a peaceful world? But undoubtedly we can. The way in which the Debt Settlement has been received over here is splendid, and as much as any other single thing that matters has contributed to the increased support for the League of Nations which is evident here. The Irish Treaty, too, has done more for Anglo-American friendship than it is possible to believe without coming here; and there is no doubt that the movement for co-operation in Europe is gaining ground because of the good relations now existing between England and America.

I am not going to touch this week upon the political position of American women, for I have been here too short a time to be sure of my conclusions. But this much I have observed, that in all the many international movements and propaganda associations in this town men and women are working together on equal terms and with equal enthusiasm.

RAY STRACHEY.

### LABOUR WOMEN AND NON-PARTY ORGANIZATIONS.

MADAM,—I note in your issue of Friday, 2nd March, two paragraphs dealing with a speech I made in Abertillery last month entitled "Our Friends and our Opponents." Doubtless the newspaper report, in summarizing what I said in the course of an hour's address, has not fully reported me, and the sentence you quote is much condensed and does not, of course, give the reasons which made part of my speech. It was not in any way new. It followed entirely the general principles laid down in a statement drawn up by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations, endorsed by the Labour Party and circulated to our organizations as long ago as January, 1920. The principle is that Labour women will do better to do their political work in their own organizations, which have the same fundamental views as they have, rather than join general political organizations of a non-party character. I

### BY-ELECTIONS.

MITCHAM.—A representative deputation of local voters of all parties, introduced by Miss Lloyd, a well-known social worker in the constituency, was received by the four candidates in their Committee Rooms on the 1st inst. No local organizations exist in Mitcham, the deputation therefore was confined to individual voters, the majority being old Suffrage members.

Sir Arthur Griffith Boscawen, though he has always voted for Women's Suffrage, was not prepared to urge the Government to introduce legislation to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as to men. He supports Equal Guardianship of Infants, an Equal Moral Standard, Reinstatement of Women Police, an amendment of laws dealing with Separation and Maintenance Orders. He is, however, against Pensions to Civilian Widows with Dependent Children, and does not consider that Germany, Russia, and Turkey should at present be admitted to the League of Nations.

Lieut. Ernest Brown, who stated in his election address that he stands for Political Equality for Women, answered all questions satisfactorily with one reservation. Though in agreement with the principle of Pensions to Civilian Widows with Dependent Children, he feels the finance of the country will not permit it at the present time.

Mr. T. Catterall answered all questions satisfactorily, and stated that he is a sincere believer in Equality.

Mr. Chuter Ede, who is also in agreement with these reforms, answered all questions satisfactorily, and stated that he is now opposing, on the Surrey Education Committee, the compulsory retirement on marriage of women employed by the State and local authorities.

EAST WILLESDEN.—Mr. Harcourt Johnstone (Lib.), who states in his election address that equality of opportunity for women is a Liberal principle, and that women must have political equality, divorce law equality, equal control over the children and equal pay for equal work, supports Equal Franchise, the League of Nations, and amendment of the laws relating to Separation and Maintenance Orders.

Colonel G. Stanley (Con.) agrees with the principle of the extension of the franchise, but considers that legislation cannot be pressed immediately as it would involve another General Election at once. He supports Equal Pay and Opportunities, an Equal Moral Standard, and the League of Nations. He is, however, not in favour of Widows' Pensions.

EDGEHILL, LIVERPOOL.—A statement of Major Hills' great services and the Women's Movement has been sent to the Press, as other help was not required.

pointed out at more length than I expect you to allow me space the dangers of organizations which dealt with women's questions that were not the most important and urgent matters for working women, and dealt even with them from a more or less superficial standpoint, because fundamentally the women who belong to such organizations hold differing views on social and economic arrangements. I pointed out that on most of the women's questions the Labour Party is ready to give support, but it is a different thing to support, as an outside organization, and to occupy yourself in helping to build up a non-party organization. I distinguished, as we distinguished in our circular of January, 1920, between organizations of a general kind, such as the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and Committees for a specific object such as the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child. The reason for the discrimination is that a Committee consisting of representatives of various bodies which is formed for one specific object on which they all agree, and which exists only for that object, is in quite a different position from a permanent organization with a roving commission to deal with anything it chooses. The views which you express in regard to Women's Institutes are not the views which our experience leads us to hold, nor do we think that the only way in which a woman can contribute to the general thought of the community is by joining a large number of societies for different purposes.

Women in the Labour movement are to-day contributing very largely to the thought of the community, but they are contributing through their own organizations, and in strengthening their own organizations they are doing what is still more important, they are making it possible to see their thought translated into action. In our opinion their task needs all their energies, and while they may from time to time join with a group of people for some specific object on a representative Committee, or give support as Labour women have on many occasions to some special object or demonstration arranged by a non-party organization such as the N.U.S.E.C., we believe that that can be better done while maintaining our complete independence and without being members of such organizations as the Women Citizens Associations, the National Council of Women, etc. MARION PHILLIPS, Chief Woman Officer, Labour Party.

### GERMAN WOMEN'S PROTEST AGAINST THE RUHR OCCUPATION.

The following Protest has been issued in the name of the four largest non-political Women's Organizations in Germany: "The Occupation of the Ruhr District by France has filled every German with deep indignation. This step, for which there is no authority in the Treaty of Versailles, is a brutal violation of law, a recognition of the right of might and a mockery of all the rules of international dealings. A nation, bristling with arms, breaking all Treaties, thinks itself entitled to levy extortions on a disarmed and defenceless people! The wishes and hopes of millions in all countries to see the dawn of Justice and Peace after long years of War have been trampled under foot. Never will Germany sanction this breach of law. She will never cease to protest. Our warmest sympathy and

assurance of solidarity go out to the population of the Occupied Territory. As members of one common Fatherland, and in unchanging faithfulness thereto, we feel united to them in common sentiment, as we do at all those suffering under foreign rule."

### WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.—PASSIVE RESISTANCE IN THE RUHR.

Miss Marian Fox, Graf. von Kessler, and a Deputy representing the Ruhr in the Reichstag, speaking on Friday, 23rd February, at the Conference on the situation in the Ruhr called by the Women's International League, pictured a people stripped of all the comforts of life—the whole population hungry—many compelled to leave their homes and go into exile in poverty—yet who had learnt that force is no solution, and had evolved an unconquerable passive courage and endurance.

Miss Fox described a gentle humour shown in dealing with the invaders. She spoke of a personal dignity and quiet courage in the face of invasion before which one stands silent with admiration. She told how the wives and families of the deported men leaving their homes at two or at utmost four days' notice met the world with the ordinary smiling courtesy of every day.

After repeated requests from the audience to know what they could do for his people, the Deputy from the Ruhr said: "It is not for me to say. It is for you to find that out for yourselves."

The meeting broke up on a note of exultation, struck by Miss Ruth Fry in a resolution requesting the speakers to carry the sympathy of the meeting to the people of the Ruhr and its respectful admiration for the spirit in which they were meeting their invaders.

### BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.—CROSBY HALL ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

Under the immediate patronage and in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, a matinee will take place at the Chelsea Palace, King's Road, S.W. 3, on Thursday, 15th March, in aid of the Crosby Hall Endowment Fund.

Lady Astor, M.P., has kindly promised to explain the objects of the Fund in one of the intervals, and amongst the artists who have generously promised their assistance are Miss Sybil Thorndike, Miss Edyth Goodall, Miss Gertrude Kingston, Messrs. Arthur Wontner, Athole Stewart, and Nelson Keys.

This matinee is being arranged by the Chelsea Committee of the Crosby Hall Endowment Committee, which is trying to raise £1,000 for the Fund. The Chairman of the Chelsea Committee is Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., and meetings in support of the Matinee have been held, by kind permission of Lady Lytton, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and of the Hon. Mrs. Levy, at 54 Lowndes Square. Amongst the Patrons of the Matinee are the Duchess of Devonshire, Duchess of Somerset, Countess Buxton, Lady Bertha Dawkins, Lady Courtney of Penwith, Dame Adelaide Anderson, and Dame Margaret Lloyd George.

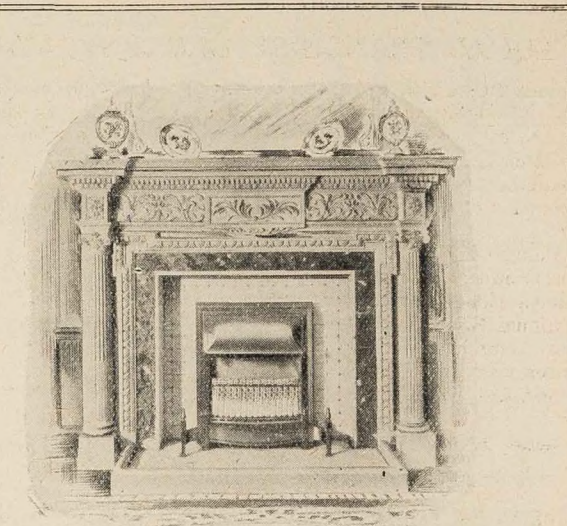
Mrs. Geoffrey Whitworth is the Honorary Organizer of the Matinee, and all inquiries should be addressed to her at 8 St. Leonard's Terrace. Tickets: (Reserved) Stalls, £2 2s., £1 1s.; Dress Circle, £1 1s., 15s., and 10s. 6d.; (Unreserved) 7s. 6d. and 5s.; are to be obtained from Mrs. Whitworth, whose address is given above, from the Box Office, Chelsea Palace, and the usual agencies.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

**MARCH 11.** St. Albans Adult School. 9.30. Speaker: Miss Muriel Currey, O.B.E.  
**MARCH 12.** Brighton Royal Pavilion. 8 p.m. Local Speakers.  
**MARCH 14.** Edinburgh, Dowells Rooms, 20 George Street. 8 p.m. Speaker: George Morton, Esq., K.C.

## COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

**MARCH 15.** Conference at W. H. Smith's Memorial Institute, 4 Portugal Street, Kingsway. 5-7 p.m. "Protective Legislation for Women in the Economic World." Speakers: Mrs. Abbott, Dame Adelaide Anderson, Miss Cecile Matheson, Miss Madeline Symons, Miss Helen Ward. Chair: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

**MARCH 14.** 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1. 8.15 p.m. "National Economy." Speaker: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc. Chair: Mr. Norman Morrison.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

**MARCH 12.** Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1. 6 p.m. "The Relations of this Country with the Central Powers." Speaker: Miss Christina Roberts.

## CROSBY HALL ENDOWMENT FUND.

**MARCH 15.** Matinee, Chelsea Palace. 2.30 p.m. H.M. The Queen has graciously consented to be present. Tickets (prices 5s. to 2 guineas) to be obtained from the Chelsea Palace or usual agencies.

## LEEDS S.E.C.

**MARCH 12.** 18 Park Row. 5.30 p.m. "All Prisoners and Captives." Speaker: Mr. J. R. Cross, D.L., J.P.

## N.U.S.E.C.

**MARCH 13.** Rotherhithe Guild. Evening. "N.U.S.E.C. Programme." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Aberdare W.C.A. 8 o'clock. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

**MARCH 14.** Penarth Drawing Room Meeting. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser. City Hall, Cardiff. 8 o'clock. Reception by Lady Mayoress. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser. Birmingham N.C.W. Miss Beaumont on "Guardianship of Infants Bill."

**MARCH 16.** Ealing W.C.A. 3 p.m. "Women's Part in Education." Speaker: Miss Walters.

## WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

**MARCH 12.** Oldham Women Citizens' Association. 7.30 p.m. Lantern Lecture: "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

At New Eltham Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. "The Future Public House." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

**MARCH 13.** Runcorn and Widnes Co-operative Guild. 7.30 p.m. "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

Roehampton Women Citizens' Association. 3 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

**MARCH 14.** Central Hendon Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

**MARCH 15.** Flectwood Co-operative Guild. 7.30 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

Boleyn Women's Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

**MARCH 16.** Croydon Women's Co-operative Guild. 7.30 p.m. "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

## TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY,** 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

**LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.**—Lecture by Professor Flinders Petrie, March 1st, 5.30 p.m., at 54 Mount Street, by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. Harold Pearson.

**THE PIONEER CLUB** has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place, Town Members £5 ss.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*).

**THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES,** Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 11th March, 12 noon, Little Rally, for children of all ages. 3.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Deamer. 6.30, Dr. Deamer.

**FORM HAPPY FRIENDSHIPS.**—Particulars, write Secretary, U.C.C., 161 Cambridge Street, London, S.W. 1.

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