

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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Friday, November 11, 1927

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NOTES AND NEWS.

11th November, 1927.

This issue will reach its readers on the morning of the most significant anniversary of the year. And not the least significant fact about it is the perceptibly increasing solemnity with which as years go on, we celebrate that anniversary. The clink of champagne glasses at the West End restaurants, the rollicking extravagance of the victory balls are already losing their appeal as an expression of Armistice Day emotions. In a few years, perhaps, there will be nothing left of our celebrations but the Silence. Some future historian of social custom, seeking to explain this strange intensification of corporate solemnity, may be tempted to diagnose a people growing critical of the fruits of military victory, and sceptical of its relation to justice and liberty—a people which slowly but surely acquires the courage to shed its illusions, dispense with its intellectual narcotics, and remember its Dead in spirit and in truth.

"Is it all going to happen again?"

The best dedication of the sadness and the joy of an Armistice Commemoration is to the cause of international goodwill. For we should put the same devotion and brains and doggedness into the cause of peace that the "Glorious Dead" put into the war. It will never be won unless we do. We commend to our readers the appeal signed by many distinguished women for support for the various efforts to be made during the next few weeks. This appeal is specially for the work of the National Council for the Prevention of War, and is signed among others by Lady Astor, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Margery Fry, and Miss Maude Royden. The League of Nations Union has its great meeting on Armistice night at the Central Hall, Westminster, to be addressed by Miss Royden and others, the Bishop of London being in the chair. From 10 to 2 also on Armistice Day, speeches for peace are to be made in the speakers' corner at Hyde Park with many distinguished speakers.

Women's Suffrage in South America.

The first grant of women's suffrage in the vast continent of Southern America has taken place. Thanks to the good offices of President Lamartine, the women of the province of Rio Grande Do Norte now possess the right to vote.

Deputation to the Home Secretary.

The deputation to the Home Secretary, organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, asking him to introduce legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage

for both boys and girls, and to carry out at an early date the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, was received on Tuesday, 8th November. In reply the Home Secretary, while declaring himself anxious to tackle the question of the minimum marriage age, referred to certain difficulties which surround the problem, and suggested that a small committee, representative of women's organizations, should be chosen to confer with Home Office officials on these points. The N.U.S.E.C. undertook to arrange such a committee. With regard to the Report on Sexual Offences he announced his intention to ask leave of the Cabinet to introduce as soon as possible a Bill amending the Children Act by incorporating certain recommendations of this Report, and of the later Report on the Treatment of Young Offenders. The least satisfactory feature of his answer, was his disclaiming any intention of issuing further circulars dealing with those recommendations of the Report which do not require legislation, but of which very few have been dealt with already. A full report of the deputation will be published next week.

London Smoke.

On Thursday, 3rd Nov., Mr. Chamberlain, Minister of Health, addressed a representative conference of public bodies in the London area, called to consider the question of smoke abatement. He owned that the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act of 1926 was not a "spectacular piece of legislation," and referred to the criticism that it was not sufficiently drastic with industry, and failed to deal with domestic chimneys. His answer was that time must be given to industrialists, especially during a period when capital was scarce for the replacement of old-fashioned plant. As to the domestic chimney, he pointed out that 75 per cent of the new houses were nearly smokeless owing to gas and electricity instalments. His principal plea was for the production of a smokeless fuel which could be burnt in an open grate, and for a vigorous operation of the new Act by local authorities. Its most important advance he regarded as the power which it gave to local authorities to control the emission of smoke other than black smoke, and the opportunity which it offered for joint action. On the whole, Mr. Chamberlain's speech might be regarded as an apology for the efficacy of a gentle and persistent exhortation of smoke producers. The outcome of the conference was, however, a constructive step. It was decided to appoint a joint committee representing the Greater London local authorities and certain industrial organizations for the purpose of investigating the possibilities of joint action for the control of smoke.

Women and the November Elections.

Further facts have revealed no appreciable change in the representation of women on local governing bodies. Mrs. Agnew, of Bolton, and Mrs. Maclagan, of Rotherham, both supported by Women Citizens' Associations, are serious losses. In another column we refer to the work they have already achieved and it is a distressing symptom of the power of party politics in local affairs that they have been rejected at the polls. Another loss is Miss Mary Bayley, J.P., of Plymouth, whose honourable record of service is well known to many of our readers. Miss Bayley, though opposed by *all three parties*, lost her seat by 41 votes only. We can at least derive some comfort from the success and splendid majorities of a few women. Mrs. E. T. Simon, of Manchester, standing as a Liberal, can show a majority of 2,329 votes. In Birmingham a Conservative and a Labour woman each gained a majority of over 1,000 votes, and in Liverpool Miss Mabel Fletcher, J.P., and Miss Margaret Beavan, J.P., Lord Mayor elect, have majorities of 1,400. An interesting feature of the election is the fact

that a voteless girl of 22, Miss Lily Thorpe, said to be the youngest councillor in the country, has been elected as Labour representative for the Linacre Ward, Bootle. Miss Thorpe is in domestic service, and intends to go on with her work.

Child Marriage in India.

The High Commissioner of India, Sir Atul Chatterjee, referred at length to the subject-matter of Miss Mayo's book, *Mother India*, in the course of an after-dinner speech at the Forum Club last Friday. "There are," he said, "a certain number of social customs of which we are heartily ashamed—child marriage, the seclusion of women, restrictions on the re-marriage of widows, and polygamy." There were, however, certain hopeful signs. Polygamy was dying out, and in his own wide family circle he could not count one case. With regard to child marriage too, things had improved. One heard of girls being married at an early age, but often a considerable time elapsed before they and their husbands lived together—and though there were cases of early motherhood, the custom did not apply to the whole of India. The custom of early marriage was, he explained, bound up with the caste system, which was itself tending to disappear under modern conditions of mobility. He owned that a certain amount of legislation was necessary to remedy these evils, but suggested that it would be difficult for an external government to interfere with social customs having their roots in religion. It must be done by the people themselves, and it was clear that the people were willing to pass progressive legislation. The best thing that the well-wishers of India could do was, in his opinion, not to press for certain reforms, but to provide for the education of the Indian people. Whether Sir Atul Chatterjee succeeded in impressing his optimistic view upon his audience we do not know.

Mother India.

The report of a very interesting conference organized this week by the British Commonwealth League must be held over to next week.

Widows' Pensions.—A Misconception.

Sir Kingsley Wood, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, has found it necessary to contradict the statement that widows in receipt of pensions under the Widows' Pensions Act are liable to have deductions made from their pensions if they go out to work. From whence this allegation proceeds, and what currency it has obtained, we do not know.

Women Mayors.

We have to add five other names, in addition to Mrs. Foster Welch, to the list of mayors printed last week. Miss Alice

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

This issue of the paper will reach our readers at a time when their thoughts are full of sad memories. The Day of Remembrance gives us each year an opportunity of transmuting our emotions into purpose and high resolve for conditions which will bring the possibility of peace among the nations into the region of practical politics. But the resolves and purposes of the Armistice period did not relate solely to world peace, but included hopes for a new social order freed from the dark blots of pre-war civilization. Some reflections to-day on the results of the recent municipal elections may be therefore not inappropriate.

What are these results? So far as can be judged from the Press they may be summed up as a matter of party politics and party politics alone. It is not our place as a non-party paper to express any views on the Labour gains, but we are not, we think, exceeding our mandate when we deplore the fact that municipal elections each year become more and more the cockpit of political parties. It is impossible to derive any consolation from the universally high proportion of the electorate which took the trouble to go to the polls in Sheffield and elsewhere, when it is all too obvious that the heat of party passions rather than any regard for the well-being of the community explains the unwonted interest. Independent candidates, including several women of outstanding merit, fared badly. The number of women standing successfully as party candidates, with some notable exceptions where women secured large polls, gives us scanty cause for congratulation. It is impossible not to ask ourselves at this juncture if the present methods of election are such as to attract the most experienced and disinterested type of man and woman to come forward for the unpaid public services. The salaried official has in this country at all events, some guarantee of permanence of tenure if he prove to be efficient. The unpaid public servant, however able and devoted, is liable to be thrust back into private life perhaps just after he or she has learnt the new job or equally possibly after years of distinguished devoted

Hudson, J.P., begins her second year as Mayor of Eastbourne. Lady Hulse becomes Mayor of Salisbury; Mrs. Lund of Pudsey; Miss D. Helder of Whitehaven; and Mrs. Margaret Jenkins of Tenby.

Her Worship the Admiral of the Port.

The ex-Mayor of Action, Miss S. M. Smee, J.P., writes as follows: "I see that in the list of mayors to be elected you have not included Southampton, Mrs. Foster Welch, J.P. This is a point of special interest as the Mayor is ex officio *Admiral of the Port*! At the moment she is Sheriff. As Admiral of the Port I understand she has a steam launch as well as the more usual motor-car placed at her disposal. Southampton has *three* maces for some reason. Perhaps one for the town and one for the port. It would be interesting to have this part cleared up, and to know whether the Lord Mayor of Liverpool is also an admiral."

We apologize to the Mayor of Southampton for our inadvertence, but we plead that it was a happy fault, if it has brought home to our readers, through Miss Smee's kind and amusing correction, the full glories of her exalted position. We are informed that the woman Lord Mayor of Liverpool is not an Admiral of the Port.

Mr. Baldwin Congratulates Scotland.

In the course of his Edinburgh speech last Friday, the Prime Minister found occasion to congratulate Scotland upon the success of a scheme launched by the Scottish Council for Women's Trades for the training of women and girls. It appears that during the last three years they have selected about a thousand girls from among those dependent on unemployment benefit or poor relief, and have placed them in the country on farms or trained them for domestic service. This, Mr. Baldwin characterized as "a thoroughly sound piece of work."

Mrs. Laura Knight, A.R.A.

Mrs. Laura Knight, who together with Mr. Francis Dodd was elected to an Associateship of the Royal Academy last week, is the second woman to achieve this eminence. Her predecessor is Mrs. Annie Swynnerton, who was elected in 1922. Those who are familiar with Mrs. Knight's pictures will welcome this mark of respect to a very vivid, versatile, and enterprising artist. She is, of course, without question, one of the outstanding painters of to-day. Meanwhile, an excursion into prophecy suggests the vision of Mrs. Dod Proctor as a coming woman A.R.A.—if in the near future she produces nothing to shock the academic susceptibilities of the Royal Academy.

service. The man or woman of independent judgment, whether wearing a party label or not, is the most likely victim of our present obsolete, party-ridden electoral methods.

At the council meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship last March, the Chester Women Citizens' Association moved the following resolution, which was carried by a large majority, and forwarded to the Royal Commission on Local Government, which has not yet presented its report:—

"That this Council is of opinion that in order to encourage more women to become candidates at Municipal and other Local Elections and to improve their chances of success, it is desirable that such elections shall be in accordance with a system of Proportional Representation; and that, in view of the pending transfer of the powers of Poor Law Guardians to the Municipal and County Councils, the reform of electoral law in the manner indicated is a matter of urgency."

Many who are opposed to Proportional Representation in Parliamentary elections are in favour of its use for local government elections, believing that it will weaken the domination of the party system in municipal affairs, and help to secure the return of men and women who stand for the welfare of the city as a whole rather than for purely sectional interests. At all events it offers possibilities which should be explored by all who are in earnest in this matter.

We believe the seriousness of the present position cannot be over stated, and we urge our readers carefully to read the article in the present issue by our Local Government Correspondent on Party and Local Elections. The personnel of local governing bodies in large centres of population in this country should not be determined wholly by the dictates of party. Proportional representation would in our opinion not only give minorities, at present inarticulate, a chance of expression, but would give the most disinterested and public spirited type of councillor a better chance of success. In the meantime the work of education for good citizenship must be carried on with a spirit and determination far beyond anything that has characterized it in the past.

THE COST OF HOUSING SCHEMES.

We do not admit that the campaign for decency and justice in the housing of the industrial worker in town or the agricultural

Supplement to the WOMAN'S LEADER, December 31st, 1926.

**YOUR GOOD DEED IN 1927
WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?**

**THE RT. HON. T. P. O'CONNOR'S PLEA
FOR A NEW YEAR EVE'S RESOLUTION.**

**London's Oldest BIRTHDAY Hospital Beggars for
One Hundred Thousand Pounds.**

**THE BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES, S.E. 18
(National Training School for District Midwives).**

"May I crave the courtesy of your attention for a few minutes in aid of London's oldest 'Birthday' Hospital—the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, S.E. 18.

"I do not think you will wish me to dwell on the great need there is for a Maternity Hospital in such a crowded and poor quarter as the South East of London. I could tell many pitiful stories of the sad cases that have to be refused daily for lack of room—for the Hospital is only half built and it is in order to complete the building that I ask for your help to raise the £100,000 necessary.

"Besides being London's oldest Maternity Hospital, founded 1749 (a break off from the Middlesex in 1749), it is the first Hospital to train pupils as midwives (1752). This aim is still their greatest ideal—to raise the standard of training of the district midwife, on whose skill and knowledge hangs the lives of our working mothers and their babies, for it is impossible in these congested and populous areas for medical men to personally attend all maternity cases.

"The very sad statistics that are published year after year by the Ministry of Health show what an enormous loss there is in life from lack of knowledge and skill given to our working mothers BEFORE AND AT THE TIME OF BIRTH.

"Those working at the Hospital consider that a great deal of the present unfitness could be avoided if Public attention was paid more to the proper training of the district midwife. The Hospital has already helped to raise the standard of training in midwifery, as the length of training given by their National Training School for the last twenty-one years was this year adopted by the Central Midwives' Board and made compulsory to all other Hospitals and training centres (May, 1926).

"They wish to raise this standard still further and when the Hospital is complete they intend to give, through their scholarships scheme, a full two years' course in midwifery. The Hospital will then offer these scholarships to the Overseas Dominions, so that ladies from Canada, Australasia, South Africa, and India may take advantage of the free two years' course in midwifery should the Overseas Authorities care to take advantage of the free training given.

"This will help to bring Great Britain into line with Italy, France, Belgium and Holland, who have been giving a compulsory two years' course for the last twenty years!

"As on New Year's Eve we all make good resolutions, may I beg all who read my letter to make one resolution—that on their next birthday, whether it falls on the first day of the New Year or on the last, they will send a gift, however small (or however large!) to help London's oldest 'Birthday' Hospital to complete its building."

T. P. O'Connor

Please Tear Off "Your Good Deed"

NAME

ADDRESS

All donations should be sent to the COUNTESS OF STAMFORD, Chairman of the Appeal, 4, Langham Place, London, W.1, England. Tel.: Langham 4226.

Donation: £ s. d.

Send 6/6 to the Office of the Paper, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1
1/8 for Three Months. SUBSCRIBE TO-DAY

**THE PRESENT CONDITIONS OF WOMEN
IN HUNGARY.**

By POLY MARCZALI-GÁL.

hospitality of England created heartfelt national gratitude. After our heroic fight for freedom in 1848, its our great Kossuth, and his followers sought refuge and received and sheltered most heartily by Cobden and his

Chance permitted us to pay some of our debt of gratitude. course of conversation Cobden spoke of the great lack of English education for the country population to one of his men, an educationalist, Hyacinth Rónay by name, as informed by him of our well-organized and efficient originating from Maria Theresa, who declared "Schooling is a duty," and accordingly had made two Hungarian experts at a plan in all its details under her guidance and established it all over Hungary. Stimulated by these plans Cobden l for similar reforms in your country.

none the less did our great women profit from the social educative work progressing in England. Countess Theresa vick—perhaps our greatest woman pioneer and educationalist—started the first Hungarian Kindergarten and opened a network of these (164 in number) all over the country, having visited England. Mrs. Paul Veres, our great educationalist who brought about women's higher and practical education and their admission to the University, was cited—as she owned in her diary—by reading John Stuart

fact that the leading spirits among English and Hungarian had so much in common is the more striking and valuable there was an immense gulf, a decided contrast between Hungarian and English law concerning and conditioning the status of women. Our laws of property, for instance, were more in favour of women—especially widows—than in any other country on earth. In some cases women even had more rights over men, nor did so-called "sexual tutelage" exist in Hungary. Their political rights in old times were quite different. Just one example, women could be lord-lieutenants, just happened to be a woman lord-lieutenant, Anne Bolyai, a Transylvanian, who called together the first Protestant synod in Hungary (1545 at Erdőd); she was an ardent Protestant and was at this synod that the twenty-nine preachers who embodied their convictions in articles of faith. Women could send their own representative to parliament. The first woman who was sent there by a woman. All these are facts proving that women were by no means considered inferior in Hungary during the feudal ages, and this perhaps is partly the reason why we have so many more national heroines than other nations. And are worshipped compared to other nations.

her, it was a woman, Eva Takács (Mme Karacs), who wrote against all the injustice that the serfs, the peasants, and the poor endured, drawing the attention of all women to these wrongs and urging them to work against these evils. Yet Hungary was just when serfdom—the feudal system—ceased, after the fight for freedom, that women were entirely left out of the political situation and that their true fight had to, and did begin. It can be said that the new movement was always supported by a few very best and greatest men, this proving a difficulty in the nineteenth century. It was in the decades before and after that woman's status was undeniably rising. This rise consisted of a general higher education resulting in the opening of good remunerative posts—bearing with them prestige and more than means of existence. All this was by no means accompanied by political rights. Count Tisza, our premier—arrogant and aggressive himself, who helped the woman's cause for the opening of education and the granting of suitable posts—feared that progress should be hindered by the admission of to a great and retrogressively conservative voters which he believed would bring the men of the agrarian population to be. (Agrarian population 50 per cent of the nation then.)

It must have been the case, as, when after the war—which naturally our women held more posts than ever—revolution came and had to deal with the "votes men" problem—it could not say no, but was organizing a women's committee to go round the country and make a list of names so that at the forthcoming elections—their first—government should not be turned out by the women. It

Address given at the meeting of the National Council of Women in London, 23rd June, 1927. The second part of this address will appear later.

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What are these results? So far as can be judged from the Press they may be summed up as a matter of party politics alone. It is not our place as a non-party journal to express any views on the Labour gains, but we do think, exceeding our mandate when we deplore the results of the municipal elections each year become more and more of a political parties. It is impossible to derive any benefit from the universally high proportion of the electorate which took the trouble to go to the polls in Sheffield and when it is all too obvious that the heat of party passion has taken any regard for the well-being of the community. Independent candidates, including women of outstanding merit, fared badly. The number of women standing successfully as party candidates, with some exceptions where women secured large polls, gives cause for congratulation. It is impossible not to see at this juncture if the present methods of election are likely to attract the most experienced and disinterested type of woman to come forward for the unpaid public services. The salaried official has in this country at all events, some guarantee of permanence of tenure if he prove to be efficient. The unpaid public servant, however able and devoted, is liable to be thrust back into private life perhaps just after he or she has learnt the new job or equally possibly after years of distinguished devoted

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THE COST OF HOUSING SCHEMES.

We do not admit that the campaign for decency and justice in the housing of the industrial worker in town or the agricultural worker in the country stands or falls on a question of cost. It rests upon a broader foundation altogether. But a great deal is said about cost and it is desirable that reliable information about it be circulated. A great many good—or reasonably good—citizens are undoubtedly deterred from giving their active support to a scheme in their locality because they hear all sorts of allegations made as to the effect upon the rates. They hear that shillings and shillings will be added to existing taxation. These exaggerated statements are totally untrue and are usually circulated by interested parties for political or personal purposes. There is ample evidence all over the country that large schemes of infinite usefulness can be, and have been, financed on additions to rates of the most trifling kind.

Take the London County Council. The burden which its past and current programme of building represents is less than 2d. in the pound, and are the results secured not good value for the money?

Take several London Boroughs:—
Wandsworth. Mr. Alderman Prince, chairman of the Housing Committee there for seven years, is reported in *The Times* of 30th March, 1927, as saying that "the borough council had spent £250,000 on additional housing and that had only cost the ratepayers 1/4d. in the pound."

Marylebone. *The Times* of 3rd November, 1926, contains an interesting statement of good municipal work on hand there. "The expenditure involved if the proposal is approved by the Ministry of Health will be about £1,150,000, but the ratepayers of the borough will be liable for only part of this sum. . . . It is estimated that £40,000 a year (equal to 4d. in the pound on the rates) is the maximum burden that the ratepayers may be called on to bear for the abolition of what is regarded as a reproach to their borough." Mr. F. W. Dean, the chairman of the Housing Committee, said that "eventually the scheme may involve no burden at all on the ratepayers as the ground floors of some of the buildings may be used for commercial purposes."

Chelsea. The municipal scheme which—after unconscionable delay and under pressure which should have been unnecessary—is announced for dealing with one portion of Chelsea would, according to the Borough Council's Housing Committee, have cost the ratepayers 1 1/2d. or perhaps 2d. in the pound. Thanks to the intervention of the Guinness Trust, "we shall," the committee is reported as saying, "be able to finance the scheme with a rate of 1/4d. in the pound, or perhaps nothing on the rates at all."—(*West London Press*, 22nd July, 1927.)

Westminster. The City Council in a pamphlet issued by them (and referred to by us last week) states that a certain scheme for 210 flats would have cost the ratepayers £6,900 a year. On the ground of this frightful expense it was rejected. But expressed in terms of rates, what does £6,900 a year mean to Westminster ratepayers? It means between one-fifth and one-sixth of a penny in the pound. And if the proposed houses had conformed to the requirements attached to the Government subsidy they would have cost a great deal less.

But to go outside London altogether:—
Take Manchester. In *The Times* of 6th October, 1927, a scheme is detailed costing over £300,000, and it is stated "that scheme does not involve any charge on the city rate."

Take Edinburgh. A scheme has been launched to deal with over 700 houses at a cost of about £400,000. The burden this is to entail upon the ratepayers is well under a 1/4d. in the pound. The borough engineer's certificate of cost is dated 17th June, 1927.

In face of such facts what becomes of the argument from expense? It assumes at once its correct dimensions. The whole opposition to the campaign for better things rests upon ignorance of such facts. Expressed in terms of rates and taxes the whole cost of the whole housing campaign in crowded industrial areas is a matter of a few farthings or a few pence.

G. W. CURRIE.

THE PRESENT CONDITIONS OF WOMEN IN HUNGARY.¹

By POLY MARCZALI-GÁL.

The hospitality of England created heartfelt national gratitude in Hungary. After our heroic fight for freedom in 1848, its leader, our great Kossuth, and his followers sought refuge and were received and sheltered most heartily by Cobden and his family. Chance permitted us to pay some of our debt of gratitude. In the course of conversation Cobden spoke of the great lack of English education for the country population to one of Kossuth's men, an educationalist, Hyacinth Rónay by name, and was informed by him of our well-organized and efficient system originating from Maria Theresa, who declared "Schooling is Politics," and accordingly had made two Hungarian experts work out a plan in all its details under her guidance and established it all over Hungary. Stimulated by these plans Cobden pressed for similar reforms in your country.

But none the less did our great women profit from the social and educative work progressing in England. Countess Theresa Brunswick—perhaps our greatest woman pioneer and educationalist—started the first Hungarian Kindergarten and developed a network of these (164 in number) all over the country, after having visited England. Mrs. Paul Veres, our great educationalist who brought about women's higher and professional education and their admission to the University, was influenced—as she owned in her diary—by reading John Stuart Mill.

The fact that the leading spirits among English and Hungarian women had so much in common is the more striking and valuable because there was an immense gulf, a decided contrast between old Hungarian and English law concerning and conditioning the status of women. Our laws of property, for instance, were far more in favour of women—especially widows—than in any other country on earth. In some cases women even had privileges over men, nor did so-called "sexual tutelage" exist in marriage. Their political rights in old times were quite unique too: just one example, women could be lord-lieutenants, and it just happened to be a woman lord-lieutenant, Anne Báthory, a Transylvanian, who called together the first Protestant synod in Hungary (1545 at Erdőd); she was an ardent Protestant and it was at this synod that the twenty-nine preachers who appeared embodied their convictions in articles of faith. Also women could send their own representative to parliament. Kossuth himself was sent there by a woman. All these are items proving that women were by no means considered inferior in Hungary during the feudal ages, and this perhaps is partly a reason why we have so many more national heroines that were and are worshipped compared to other nations.

Further, it was a woman, Eya Takács (Mme Karacs), who first wrote against all the injustice that the serfs, the peasants, had to endure, drawing the attention of all women to these conditions and urging them to work against these evils. Yet it was just when serfdom—the feudal system—ceased, after our fight for freedom, that women were entirely left out of the constitution and that their true fight had to, and did begin. It must be said that the new movement was always supported by the few very best and greatest men, this proving a difficult task in the nineteenth century. It was in the decades before the war that woman's status was undeniably rising. This progress consisted of a general higher education resulting in the opening of good remunerative posts—bearing with them prestige no less than means of existence. All this was by no means accompanied by political rights. Count Tisza, our premier—a progressive himself, who helped the woman's cause for the extension of education and the granting of suitable posts—feared lest progress should be hindered by the admission of to a great extent retrogressively conservative voters which he believed our women of the agrarian population to be. (Agrarian population 65 per cent of the nation then.)

This must have been the case, as, when after the war—during which naturally our women held more posts than ever—the Károlyi revolution came and had to deal with the "votes for women" problem—it could not say no, but was organizing a woman's committee to go round the country and make propaganda so that at the forthcoming elections—their first—the government should not be turned out by the women. It

¹ Address given at the meeting of the National Council of Women in London, 23rd June, 1927. The second part of this address will appear later.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER
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did not come to this, as this government quickly handed over its power to our bolsheviks before any elections could have taken place. The bolsheviks—as you know—gave the vote to men and women equally, provided they were proletarians or workers, without improving the conditions of either, as we know only too well. The ensuing reaction, the counter-revolution, also showed that Tisza had had a keen eye, as the Friedrich government immediately extended the vote to all women—women who in general had suffered immensely during the war and bolshevism—to assure absolute triumph at these elections.

After that, when the extreme counter-revolutionary elements were somewhat repressed and eliminated, votes in general were getting more restricted again, those of the women becoming more intricate, and on the whole comprising three classes, i.e. (1) women over 30 and with four grades of elementary education; (2) women married with three children; (3) women university graduates.

For an ardent supporter of women's suffrage who sees a panacea in the vote it must be terribly disillusioning—a mortal blow—to see our women in their present condition in spite of their political rights.

THOUGHTS ON "WOMEN AS MOTORISTS."

A weekly contemporary has devoted two columns in a recent issue to a consideration of Woman. She always makes delightful copy, so we are by no means inclined to blame our contemporary in the matter. The woman in this case is the Woman Motorist; picture to yourself therefore the editor's joy when the article came to hand, with the two best selling topics compounded together. The present writer also experienced a certain pleasurable emotion. Motor literature is always entrancing. Sleeve valves, silent knight engines, ash trays which strike a match and slot out a cigarette every time the car jolts, basic balances, anti-dazzle dims, fabric bonnets, sun saloons, all and each of them sound delightful. We want to sell all we possess and buy one of each to take home. However, it is not the thing in polite society to hold slave property so we cannot, if we would, buy the Woman Motorist, interesting as she sounds. The Woman, has, so it appears, already got her car, so has the Man, but, according to the author of the article, this fair and tight little island is not broad or long enough for them both, no, not were there twice the number of new arterial roads there are. That's the rub. And the rub brings grist to the mill of the Editor.

We learn that there has been "a good deal of discussion in the Press during the past summer about the capacities and incapacities of women motorists". That is so. It is only natural. But, somewhat disappointingly, we are further informed that "it has been a rather unsatisfactory sort of discussion—half truthful, half polite". A great many discussions and other things are like this. Our author, however, has a concern, as the Quakers say. It is, that people ought to be perfectly frank, that, in fact, even when speaking of the Woman Motorist, they ought to live on the heroic plane and speak "regardless of the feelings of their women friends". Well, now, it seemed, we were to meet TRUTH face to face, a thing for which the philosophers and seers have sighed throughout the ages.

Here it is. "Upon the general proposition that most women (as compared with most men) are bad drivers, there surely cannot be any serious dispute at all." We confess to a momentary feeling of disappointment as we came to this, because if that is that, what is there left to write an article about? Fortunately, it appears that "there are men who have publicly expressed a different view" and doubtless for their sakes (good men gone wrong) the journalist journalises. He therefore continues, "Every good driver takes extra care when he sees a Woman in charge of a car" . . . "a rule to which there are no exceptions". "A man who does not feel it necessary to be specially alert when passing a car driven by a Woman is ipso facto a bad driver". The profundity of this is overwhelming. "A good driver takes care . . . a man who does not take care is not a good driver." Indeed, it is well to be frank, let truth prevail though the heavens fall.

Yet the author tells us, "as far as his experience goes, there is no such thing as a 'road sow'." It must be supposed, therefore, that the really bad badness of the Woman Driver is not because she is a bad woman, has a black heart, or anything of the kind, such as the road-hog has—it is just temperament. For the author is nothing if not a psychologist. The women

motorists are bad because "women, except quite young women (observe his chivalry creeping out) do not very commonly possess nervous imperturbability". This shows at once how wrong we women have always been. For how often have we not sighed, when harassed by a hog, for a man who lacked "nervous imperturbability". In plain words, for one who had less of the juggernaut, more of the artist, in him. (Let us hastily add that in our view not all men, even excepting that engaging class, the quite young men, are juggernauts.) But, after all, how can we judge? Clutching the wheel like a vice, clapping on the brakes till they scrunch, fixing the eyes on imaginary cyclists till the eyeballs start from their sockets, we have enough to do without looking for notes in the eyes of the he-man, even if we could always be sure it was a man, and not an unsexed . . . but our author wants us to unsex ourselves while we are at the wheel. Oh, how difficult it all is, and the salesman had said it would all be so easy!

For our author feels that there is something darker and deeper and more dire even than the lack of "nervous imperturbability" in a motorette. It is "that a great many women, quite unconsciously, carry on to the road the assumptions of the side walk". Just a wee bit cryptic this, at first glance. But it all mixed up with what a "prominent titled" woman once said. It seems that she observed that men "seem to lose all their manners when they are driving" and added "they positively try to frighten us and force us into the side". Unfortunately for the contentions of our journalist the view that men's manners are not at their best on the road is held by more people than the prominent titled one. You cannot entirely forbid men to drive and leave the road to the women, but in regard to the fact that some men have *too much* nervous imperturbability "there surely cannot be any serious dispute at all". To put it frankly, at the risk of hurting their feelings, they have no road sense. They lack entirely that subtle something, compounded, not of imperturbability, but of courtesy and skill, which makes you forgive a member of the four-in-hand club almost anything he does. Some women lack it too, but that is another story, told often for the modern equivalent of a penny a line. The writer of "Women as Motorists" evidently has as his ideal, the Brighton Road on Sunday. In his view, anyone who does not hug the ditch the moment a hog begins his intolerable series of shrill shrieks, is an outsider, in fact—a woman. Yet even here, the thing is not as simple as we had hoped. For after the vivid picture of the reaction of a male motorist to a motorette, the anonymous one quietly observes "often one is not aware that it is a woman who is driving until one is actually level with it (the car) and even then—in these days of Eton crops—one is uncertain" for "may it not be some young holiday-making hooligan with a 'Sports model' who finds it amusing to push us out of his way?" Well, of course, it may. So there is stuff for a paying column or two, "Young Hooligans as Motorists." Somehow I feel that our author is not quite as young himself as when the red flag was carried in front of his machine, or he might agree with what we think about the timid male trier on the shady side of 55.

We also, like the author, dabble in psychology, and our advice to him is to consult a physician of the modern school, for it is just possible that he has a complex, or a phobia, or a projection, or something, and needs careful treatment. If he was quite well and looked at things as they are, he would perceive that motorists are motorists, some naturally good, some good by grace, some ignorantly bad, some bad by reason of a black heart, but in these days of Eton crops and saloons it is not wise to make two classes of them, the motorists proper and "WOMEN AS MOTORISTS".

George Eliot knew nothing of motors, but she knew about human beings and it was one of her women who remarked, "I'm not denying women are foolish; God Almighty made them to match the men."

A. HELEN WARD.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.—November 8th.

In answer to a question by Mr. Stephen as to "when it was intended to introduce a new Franchise Bill for women on the same terms as men," the Prime Minister answered "Not before Christmas."

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

"THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY."

The following Unionist Members of Parliament have during the last two weeks signified their support of the Prime Minister's proposals with regard to Equal Franchise:—

Brassey, Sir L.	Peterborough.
Crookshank, Colonel C.	Berwick and Haddington.
Dean, A. W.	Holland with Boston.
McDonnell, Colonel Hon. A.	Dartford.
Samuel, A. M. (Government)	Farnham.
Thom, Lieut.-Col. J. G.	Dumbarton.
Sprot, Sir A.	Lanark, N.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER, 1927.

WOMEN COUNCILLORS RETURNED.

Council.	Woman Councillor.
Aberystwyth	*Mrs. Jones (C.).
Aldershot	*Mrs. Kemps (C.).
Bangor	*Miss Williams.
Barnstaple	*Mrs. Rootham, unopposed.
Barrow	*Mrs. R. Mills (Lab.).
Bath	*Mrs. Latter-Parsons, unopposed.
Batley	*Miss Taylor.
Birkenhead	*Mrs. Forsyth (C.).
Birmingham	*Miss A. Bartlett, O.B.E. (C.).
	*Mrs. Howes (Lab.).
Bootle	Miss L. Thorpe (Lab.).
Bristol	*Mrs. Phesey (Lab.).
	*Miss E. H. Smith, J.P. (Citizen).
	*Mrs. Robinson-White (Citizen).
Burnley	*Mrs. Brown (C.).
Bury St. Edmunds	*Mrs. Greene, J.P.
Cambridge	*Mrs. Keynes, J.P.
Carlisle	*Mrs. Hallaway (Ind.).
Dartmouth	*Miss M. Allport (Ind.).
Derby	*Mrs. Jones (Lab.).
Doncaster	*Mrs. Webster (Lab.).
Eastbourne	*Miss Alice Hudson, J.P. (Ind.), unopposed.
	*Miss D. Chamberlain (Ind.).
Exeter	*Mrs. S. G. Browne (C.), unopposed.
	*Miss E. Splatt (Ind.), unopposed.
Gateshead	*Mrs. Gunn (Lab.).
Harwich	*Mrs. Hill, unopposed.
Hastings	*Mrs. Delme Murray (A.S.).
Kingston-on-Thames	*Mrs. Frazer Nash.
Leamington	*Mrs. Hyde Rice, unopposed.
Leeds	*Mrs. Gott (C.).
Leicester	Miss Frisby (C.).
	*Mrs. Warner (C.).
Leyton	*Mrs. Hardy (Lab.).
Liverpool	*Miss Margaret Beavan (C.).
	*Miss Fletcher (C.).
	Miss Mary O'Shea (Cath.).
Manchester	*Miss Kingsmill Jones, J.P. (C.).
	*Mrs. E. D. Simon (Lib.).
	*Mrs. Zimmern (Lib.).
Norwich	*Miss Doris Fitt (Lib.).
	Miss Dorothy Jewson (Lab.), unopposed.
Nottingham	*Mrs. Sheppard (Ind.).
	*Mrs. Webber (C.).
Plymouth	*Mrs. Hornabrook (Lib.).
	*Mrs. O'Shea (Lab.).
Sheffield	*Mrs. Cheetham (Lab.).
Scarborough	*Mrs. Whitfield (Ind.).
South Shields	*Mrs. Thorpe (Lab.).
Stoke-upon-Trent	*Mrs. Morris, J.P. (Lab.).
	*Mrs. Henry Wood (Ind.).
Stourbridge	Miss Thomas (Ind.).
Swindon	*Mrs. May George (Citizen).
Thetford	*Mrs. Bidwell.
Worthing	Miss L. E. Walter (Ind.), unopposed.
York	Miss Violet Argles (Ind.).

* Standing for re-election.

THE JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.¹

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

Preparations are already being made for the forthcoming Centenary Celebrations in April and May next year, and it is gratifying to find how many of the most eminent men and women in Great Britain and on the Continent have readily consented to allow their names to appear on the Council. Readers of this paper probably know that the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene (the direct descendant of the two societies founded by Josephine Butler) and the J. B. Memorial House, Liverpool, are responsible for the arrangements.

The object of the Celebrations is threefold:—

- (1) To give thanks for the life and work of Mrs. Butler.
- (2) To commemorate the first organized challenge to the double standard of morals as embodied in the various systems of State Regulation of Prostitution in force in her lifetime in this country, and on the Continent.
- (3) To rejoice in the wonderful results which have followed that challenge, and to make known the principles on which the challenge was made.

The Commemoration meetings and services will be held in many centres not only here but on the Continent, in America and in the Colonies. They will start in London on 25th April with a special service in Westminster Abbey at 5 p.m. to be followed by a public meeting at 8 p.m. in Westminster Central Hall. Liverpool will have its special service in the Cathedral on 26th April, followed by a large public meeting on the 27th. Next week a list of other towns where arrangements are being made will be published in this paper, and secretaries of women's organizations will receive further information. In the meantime will London friends very kindly give help urgently needed in folding leaflets and addressing envelopes? Please address offers of help to Mrs. A. Bernard Badger, Organizer, Josephine Butler Centenary Committee, 14 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

"WE TWA."

We congratulate Lord and Lady Aberdeen with all our heart on the occasion of their golden wedding. Presentations have been pouring on them for months past, and no wonder, after fifty years of a united life of service to others. A spirit of adventure, a romantic and broad outlook have kept them young. In some things they have been for half a century and are still in advance of their times. Our best tribute is to quote Lady Aberdeen's own words, and to say she and her husband have tried to make a reality of their inward vision. "A nation's progress depends in the last analysis of an educated motherhood. So long as the mothers of Great Britain are attracted by fine literature and all the other ennobling influences of culture, the future of the country is assured," and again: "The sure foundations of the lasting peace of the world will be laid not in Chancellories and council chambers, but by the healths and in the homes of ordinary people, and the chief architects will be the fathers and mothers of the world."

A VERY UNUSUAL ACHIEVEMENT.

If ever there was a striking case of men being beaten on their own ground, that case was to be found at the Wadebridge musical festival last week, when Miss M. I. Hore entered with ten male competitors for the tenor solo cup—and won it!

¹ In this connection see letter from Miss Alison Neilans on page 323.

A DEBATE
"FEMINISM v. ANTI-FEMINISM."
DEBATERS:
Professor HAROLD J. LASKI. Mr. ANTHONY M. LUDOVICI.
CHAIR: MRS. CHARLOTTE HALDANE.
On TUESDAY, 15th NOVEMBER, at 8 p.m.,
IN THE
Assembly Hall, Mary Sumner House, Tufton St., Westminster.
Tickets, 3/6, 2/6 (reserved), 1/- (unreserved), from the Secretary, Six Point Group,
 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Tel.: Victoria 7174.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

PARTY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS.

Polling took place on November 1 in connection with the municipal elections (outside London) throughout England, Wales, and Scotland. As our readers are aware, elections for the Metropolitan boroughs are triennial, and the next election is not due until November, 1928. Outer London was, of course, included in the elections of this year.

In seventy of the larger provincial boroughs in England and Wales, 1,928 persons were nominated, including members of all the political parties, Rate-payers' Associations, Women's Citizens' Associations, Socialists, Independents, Communists, etc. A typical illustration of the difficulties thus created for the unfortunate voter is shown by the situation at Liverpool, where for thirty-nine seats, it is stated, eighty-five candidates were nominated. Of this the Labour party were responsible for 34, the Conservatives for 28, the Liberals for 8, the Catholics for 7, the Co-operators for 2, the total being made up by one Protestant and 5 non-party candidates. No lack of choice certainly, but so much variety is apt to confuse the mind of the average elector.

Of the 1,928 candidates nominated, 332 were returned unopposed.

In almost every case the contests were conducted on party political lines. This, of course, has always been the case in the elections for the London County Council, making it well nigh impossible for any woman other than one fighting under the party flag to secure a seat on that body, but up to the present it has not been so marked a feature of elections for local authorities in the provinces. Further, the introduction of this element in elections for municipal authorities has not been confined exclusively to political parties. In certain places the recent contests were frankly between two fundamentally different schools of thought, Socialism and Anti-Socialism. Hence we find in this election two women, both belonging to the same political party, opposing one another, neither of whom had the official backing of the party to which both belonged.

Again we find, quite contrary to what in the past has been regarded as political etiquette, mayors-designate being called upon to fight for their seats, notably the Lord Mayor elect of Liverpool, Miss Margaret Beavan, who was opposed simply—so far as we know—because her party political complexion happened to be different from that of someone else.

We find also women who have admittedly rendered most valuable service to their boroughs both as citizens and as councillors being opposed and losing their seats, simply because their party colours, or their personal views on subjects which really should not enter into local government work, were different from those of other political parties, etc.

We hope in some future article to deal more fully with this aspect of the election, and how it may affect the work of women.

Our object in drawing attention to these facts at the moment is because the introduction of this element makes it difficult—indeed impossible—for us to give a quick and accurate return of the exact number of women who stood for election and the number actually returned. For instance, there is before us at the time of writing the latest return published by *The Times*, giving the results of the municipal elections in over 100 of the principal towns of the country, under the heading of "The Position of Parties." As in this election, women as well as men fought under the party banner, all we learn from that return of the part women, as such, played, and their position at the poll is, that at Bolton "the candidate of the Women Citizens' Association lost her seat"; "At Wimbledon the only woman candidate was defeated by 12 votes," "and that two boroughs elected women as Councillors for the first time."

This makes it difficult to give a really accurate list concerning the position until our returns from the boroughs themselves are all in.

The striking feature of the elections, so far as women are concerned, was the return at Manchester of Mrs. Simon, who retained her seat by the triumphant majority of 2,329—more than four times her majority in 1924. To Mrs. Simon and her supporters we offer our most hearty congratulations, also to two other women in Manchester, both retiring Councillors, Miss M. L. K. Jones and Mrs. Zimmermann, both of whom were again re-elected by substantial majorities.

(Continued on next page.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: MISS MACADAM.
Acting Parliamentary and General Secretary: MRS. HUBBACK.
Office: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

THE EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION.

Tickets have already begun to be sold for the Queen's Hall meeting on 8th March! Three of our societies have already reserved seventy seats. The best places will naturally go first, and as we want to reserve a block in a good position for our own societies, it is very important that applications should be made as early as possible. We earnestly hope that a special effort will be made to send as many representatives as possible from every society in the union, in order that the meeting may be as national as possible.

CONFERENCE ON "MOTHER INDIA," at the Caxton Hall, on Monday, 21st November, at 4 p.m.

Applications for tickets for the conference of women's organizations and others, called by the N.U.S.E.C. for 21st November, are coming in very fast. Those wishing to apply for tickets are urged to do so as soon as possible in order to facilitate arrangements. The speakers at the conference will consist of Lord Lytton, women doctors, missionaries, etc., who have had many years' experience of work among the women of India. The conference has been called in order that the conditions affecting women and children in India as described in Miss Mayo's book may be carefully considered with a view to seeing whether there is any step, which can usefully be taken by women's organizations to influence public opinion in India. Further particulars and tickets for the conference can be obtained from Headquarters. (Reserved seats, price 2s.; Unreserved seats, price 1s. For members of the N.U.S.E.C. unreserved seats free.)

PERSONAL.

We greatly regret the defeat at the recent elections of three of our members who can be ill spared from the Councils of the towns in which they live—Mrs. Agnew, J.P., who fought three elections unsuccessfully before she was returned, has served on the Bolton Council for six years as an Independent member, and her failure to secure re-election has caused much surprise locally. Mrs. MacLagan has sat as Independent member at Rotherham for three years, and has been Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Miss Mary Bayley, J.P., who has for many years done admirable work on the Plymouth Council, was opposed by all three parties. These facts require the very serious attention of our societies, and we deal elsewhere in this issue with the problems involved.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR PROBATION WORK.

MADAM,—In your issue of 28th October you invite authoritative statements as to the accuracy of your correspondent's views on the question of appointments as Probation Officers. I am in the happy position of being able to state that they are quite inaccurate; the rule of the Authorities is that the best candidate shall be appointed.

It may surprise you to know that no one who enters our training class is questioned as to his belief and that one of our first students was an Indian, another is a clerk to a wine and spirit merchant, and others are Nonconformists.

The suggestion that any Society gains financially will deceive nobody. This Mission spent /54,333 on this work last year and received very little help from the Authorities. Only 7 per cent of the cases dealt with came under the 1907 Act.

I enclose particulars of the course of training for this work.

H. H. AYSBOUGH,

General Secretary, The National Police Court Mission
of the Church of England Temperance Society.

C.E.T.S. House, 40 Marsham Street, S.W. 1.

MADAM,—In your issue of 28th October you invited communications on the subject of a paragraph from a correspondent under the above heading. I venture to reply because the paragraph appears to be somewhat incorrect. It is stated that "unless the workers are communicants of the Church of England they stand no chance of being appointed." This state of things had arisen out of the fact that before the passing of this Act all the Missionaries in the Adult Courts were agents of the Church of England Temperance Society. Police Court Mission. . . . Reference to the Home Office Register of Probation Officers shows on the contrary that in London there are eight Roman Catholic Probation Officers, one Jewish, one "Nonconformist" working in the Adult Courts. Besides this there are three Courts where the denomination of one of the Probation Officers is not named but they do not belong to the Police Court Mission. Your correspondent continues: "The Friends, Presbyterians, and great Nonconformist Churches cannot realize that their members are being

entirely shut out from police court work in London, perhaps in the country also." As a fact they are not "shut out" as the Register quoted above proves. But the real question probably is—why are such an enormous proportion of the Probation Officers all over the country members of the C.E.T.S. Police Court Mission? The answer is clear. For fifty-one years the Church of England through that Mission has taken a special interest in this branch of work. The C.E.T.S. was the pioneer and sent Missionaries to work in the courts before there was any such thing as a Probation Act on the statute book. For many years the C.E.T.S. devoted labour and enormous sums of money annually for the maintenance of the Mission, carrying on a great rescue work on behalf of all offenders of all creeds entirely at her own expense and to-day the Society employs 187 missionaries in 400 courts. But now that the 1925 Act enables local authorities to contribute to these expenses other people begin to ask why should the Church of England have this benefit and not other religious bodies too? The reason is that the Church is in the field. Let other people place trained experienced missionaries of their own in the courts and then obtain their appointment as Probation Officers and they will have the same contributions as the C.E.T.S. receives for her missionaries. But the matter does not quite end there. The Police Court Mission not only supplies trained workers, but for the further assistance of offenders it maintains homes and hostels for men and women, for lads and girls. Is it any wonder that magistrates are quick to recognize the great value of the services which this Mission is able to place at their disposal and that they gladly appoint the C.E.T.S. Missionaries as their Probation Officers?

HARRY PEARSON,

Secretary, London Police Court Mission.

27 Gordon Square, W.C. 1.

"THE AGE OF MARRIAGE."

MADAM,—As an instance of the desirability of the raising of the legal age of marriage may I call your attention to a case which has recently occurred in Suffolk?

A girl of 15 (born in May, 1912) was found to be expecting a child by a lad of 15. Proceedings were taken against him, but on the morning of the day the case came before the Court the pair were married by special licence in order that the boy might escape the legal penalty. This was arranged by his parents, the girl's mother consenting. There is little chance of anything but misery from such a marriage.

C. L. DICKINS,

Organizing Secretary, St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Diocesan Association for Social Purity.

Ipswich.

"THE OPEN MIND IN GLOUCESTER."

MADAM,—In the note headed "The Open Mind in Gloucestershire" in your last number the statement that the Gloucestershire Standing Joint Committee had "agreed to appoint four extra policewomen" may give the impression that some policewomen were already employed in the county force. This is not the case. The word *extra* should be taken to mean that the women are additional to the male force considered necessary for the county. There were at one time policewomen in the county force, but some years ago owing to a demand for economy the women were dismissed. Since then we have had none. Last April the Standing Joint Committee reconsidered the question and agreed to appoint four, and the Chief Constable was asked to prepare a scheme. That scheme was adopted on 18th October, and these four women will form part of the county force and will be paid for out of the county rates.

[There are also at present, and have been continuously since the war, policewomen in Gloucester and Cheltenham—two in each place—but they are appointed by those towns, paid for out of their rates and their services are not available outside. The county arrangements do not affect them in any way.]

The Chief Constable (Major Stanley Clarke) will station the four women in the more thickly populated places in different parts of the county, and they will have motor-cycles so that they can be sent at once to any remote village where there is need of them. The duties of these women will be those laid down by the county force's Standing Order, which was modelled upon and is practically identical with the duties as laid down by various Home Office circulars and by the various women's organizations. Readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER will be grateful to Major Stanley Clarke, I feel sure, for establishing a county scheme embodying what we have been asking for—a mobile force that will cover the largest area in the most economical way, and so bring the services of policewomen to the women and children in the country districts as well as to those in the towns.

ETHEL M. HARTLAND.

13 Alexandra Road, Gloucester.

"NURSING HOMES (REGISTRATION) BILL."

MADAM,—We feel that the public (your readers) are not sufficiently aware of the dangerous provisions that have been inserted in the "Nursing Homes (Registration) Bill." These place the duty of inspecting Nursing and Maternity Homes in the hands of the smaller Local Authorities (in many cases the rural or district councils), and propose the repeal of Part 2 of the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926. This Act, which has been working satisfactorily since passed, placed the inspection of Maternity Homes under the same authority as the Midwives, the County Councils, and the County Borough Councils. If the new Bill, as amended, is passed, the result will be—dual inspection, the home being under one authority and the midwives working in it under another, with conflicting rules and regulations; the possibility, so undesirable in administrative work, of the influence of personal friends and vested interests;

and the certainty that the smaller authorities would not be able to provide well-trained, whole-time inspectors with expert knowledge.

L. RAMSDEN,

President, The Incorporated Midwives' Institute.

12 Buckingham Street, W.C.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY SERVICES.

MADAM,—Probably many of your readers would be glad to know that Miss Maude Royden will preach the preliminary Josephine Butler Centenary sermon at the Guildhouse on Sunday next, 13th November, at the service at 6.30 p.m. It is advisable to be there early.

After the ordinary service there will be an After Meeting when questions will be dealt with. This is the first Josephine Butler sermon to be preached in connection with the Centenary, and Miss Royden has kindly offered to give it now, as she will be in America during the actual Centenary celebrations.

ALISON NEILANS,

Secretary, The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

A PROTEST.

MADAM,—In the name of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, I desire to enter an emphatic protest against the statement in the article "Spade Work, Sowing and Reaping" in your issue of 4th November that "freedom to obtain information on birth control" is one of the reforms demanded by the women's suffrage societies. This is a most unwarranted generalization. St. Joan's Alliance, formerly the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, can claim that it has stood as staunchly and consistently as any other feminist organization for equality between men and women. It has, however, never advocated that information on artificial methods of birth control be rendered available, but has, on the contrary, opposed the attempts made from time to time to provide such information, whether publicly or by private initiative. Nor are we of St. Joan's Alliance alone in this attitude. In your issue of 5th March, 1926, you allow that the then recent resignations from the N.U.S.E.C. were due in part to the fact that the majority of the members of that society held this matter, which you style "the right of married women to determine the conditions of their maternity", to be necessary to equality between men and women. The minority, by their resignation, repudiated, as we do, the identification of feminism with the advocacy of artificial birth control. Of suffrage societies outside the N.U.S.E.C., the Women's Freedom League, the League of the Church Militant, the London and National Society for Women's Service, and the Six Point Group are like us in that they have never included birth control in their programmes.

HELEN DOUGLAS IRVINE,

Chairman, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

55 Berners Street, W. 1.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS—(Continued from previous page.)

Returns up to date of writing, for thirty-one Lancashire towns, show that six out of twenty women candidates were elected or re-elected; Yorkshire, in nineteen towns, three women were elected out of a total of eight women candidates. Cheshire, in nine towns, two women were elected out of a total of five candidates.

These returns are not complete, and are open to revision. Batley, Daventry, and South Shields each elected one woman Councillor for the first time.

To be continued.

[We hope to give in our next article some interesting statistics concerning the excess of women local government voters over men in several boroughs, for which we have not space to-day.]

London and National Society for Women's Service.

LECTURE by RAY STRACHEY

(Mrs. Oliver Strachey)

ON

THE HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

AT

38 Upper Grosvenor Street, W. 1

(by kind invitation of Mrs. Kinnell).

WEDNESDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER, 1927, at 5.30 p.m.

TICKETS 5s., to be obtained from Women's Service House, 35-37 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, and from Mrs. Kinnell, 38 Upper Grosvenor Street, W. 1.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, EDMUND STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 1496.

TELEGRAMS: TEMPLARS, BIRMINGHAM.

Societies Work—our Speciality.

COMING EVENTS.

C.B.C. SOCIETY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL AND RACIAL PROGRESS.

NOVEMBER 16. 8 p.m. Essex Hall, Strand. General Meeting. Dr. Marie Stopes: "The Position of Labour Women and Birth Control." Discussion.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

NOVEMBER 14. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse. Dr. Percy Dearmer: "Some Victorian Painters."

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

NOVEMBER 11. **Armistice Meetings.** 3 p.m. Town Hall, Hackney. Dame Edith Lytton. 8 p.m. Central Hall, Westminster. Miss Maude Royden, Prof. Gilbert Murray, Rt. Hon. Sir John Simon.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

NOVEMBER 17-18-19. Colonial Institute, Amsterdam. Study Conference in support of Peace and the League of Nations. Many prominent speakers.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

NOVEMBER 17. 5 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, S.W. Annual Meeting. Tea, 4-30.
NOVEMBER 23. 5.30 p.m. 28 Grosvenor Street, W. 1 (by kind permission of Mrs. Kinnell). Mrs. Oliver Strachey: "The History of the Women's Movement."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN, BIRMINGHAM BRANCH.

NOVEMBER 22. 4.30 p.m. Queen's College. Account of the Bournemouth Conference.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

NOVEMBER 21. 4 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Conference on "Mother India." Chair: Miss Rathbone, J.P., C.C. Lord Lytton and other speakers.

Hendon W.C.A. NOVEMBER 15. 3 p.m. Snape House, Linnell Drive, N.W. 11 (by kind permission of Mrs. Garrett). Mrs. Hubback: "The Married Woman: Her Status and Right to Employment."

Preston W.C.A. NOVEMBER 14. 7.30. Orient Café, Friargate. Debate between Mrs. Lees and Mrs. Cox on "Should women resign paid employment on marriage?"

St Andrews W.C.A. NOVEMBER 15. 8 p.m. Christian Institute. Mrs. Rackham, J.P.: "The Prisons of Great Britain."

SIX POINT GROUP.

NOVEMBER 15. 8 p.m. Assembly Hall, Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, S.W. 1. Debate on "Feminism versus Anti-Feminism," between Professor Laski and Mr. Anthony Ludovici. Chair: Mrs. C. Haldane. Tickets from the Secretary of the Six Point Group.

NOVEMBER 17. 5.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting. Speakers: The Viscountess Rhondda, Miss Ada Moore, Miss Winifred Holtby, Miss E. Japp.

TOYNBEE HALL.

NOVEMBER 24. 8 p.m. Debate on Equal Franchise. Opener: Miss A. Helen Ward.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Armistice Morning, NOVEMBER 11. 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Hyde Park. "How to prevent another War." Many prominent speakers.

Kensington Branch. NOVEMBER 15. 5.30 p.m. King's College, Campden Hill, W. 8. Mr. Tarini Sinha: "Some Aspects of Social Problems in India To-day." Chair: Mr. G. P. Gooch.

PROTEST MEETING.

NOVEMBER 17. 8 p.m. Caxton Hall. Women House Painters and Decorators in co-operation with Open Door Council. Chair: Viscountess Rhondda.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWAM—TYPESTERS.—
4 Chapel Walk, Manchester. Tel.: 3492 City.

TO LET AND WANTED.

GENTLEWOMAN (Craftworker), living alone in charming unspoilt village, would welcome paying guest either for long or short stay; beautiful country; terms arranged.—Miss Jean Gidley, Wren's Nest, Tefout, Salisbury, Wilts.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—Two professional women have furnished ROOMS (two adjoining if desired); electric light, geyser, gas fires; attendance optional; moderate terms.—Box 1455, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

CUDWORTH, near Barnsley, Yorkshire, 6 King's Road.—APARTMENTS, bed and breakfast, 4s. 6d.

TO LET, unfurnished, Service Chambers, bedroom and sitting room and very large bedsitting room, near Sloane Square; Ladies only.—Women's Pioneer Housing Ltd., 92 Victoria Street.

LADY having comfortably furnished Flat in country, would share same with another lady; London 28 miles.—Miss Randall, The Grange, South Godstone, Surrey.

UNFURNISHED FLAT, second floor, in private house near Holland Park; three rooms, box room, bath; close to Tube.—Lloyd, 48 Clarendon Road, W. 11. Tel.: Park 4942.

BED-SITTING-ROOM; 30/- a week bed and breakfast. Annual subscription 30/-.—Apply Liberal Women's Club, 123 Ebury Street, S.W. 1.

TO LET, unfurnished, in Belgrave Road, two small Top-floor rooms, bathroom same floor. Rents 13s. 6d. and 11s. 6d. weekly. Also Ground-floor. Rent 18s. 6d. weekly; service 4s. weekly. Also First-floor Balcony Flat; large drawing room, bedroom, bathroom; suit married couple; £125 p.a., service 10s. weekly. Also two small communicating rooms in house on Embankment, bathroom same floor, used one lady only. 28s. 6d. weekly; service 5s. 6d. All rents include electric light. Restaurant in each house, very moderate tariff.—Owner, 78 Belgrave Road, S.W. 1. (Tel. Victoria 2750.)

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 9377.

CAR FOR HIRE, 9d. per mile.—Miss Ibbotson, Owner-Driver, Nutley Court, 43 Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead, N.W. Phone 4531 Hamp.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Classes, Lectures, Private Lessons, Speech Club.—Miss Lucy Bell, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

HUTTON'S "NEVER-FADE" IRISH LINENS are ideal for Dresses, Curtains, etc. Guaranteed absolutely fadeless, 2/10 per yard (36 in. wide). 64 artistic colours including 10 newest shades. 64 Patterns FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

REMNANT BUNDLES, IRISH HUCKABACK LINEN TOWELLING.—Very superior quality, for bedroom towels, sufficient for six full size towels. 11s. 6d. bundle, postage 9d. Complete Bargain List FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main St., Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raly Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

DRESS.

THE HAT DOCTOR, 52 James' Street, Oxford Street (near Bond Street Tube), W. 1. Re-blocks, makes hats, stitched hats (Ladies' or Gentlemen's), recovers shoes, satin, thin kid, canvas; material provided 13s. 6d., toe capped, 8s. 6d. Furs altered and remade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Members' Library, Books on Suffrage, Sociology and Economics, Hansard, latest Government Publications, Periodicals, Newscuttings. 10-8 (except Saturdays).

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 13th November. 3.30. Sir Henry Slesser, K.C., M.P., "L.W." 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "The Coming Centenary of Josephine Butler."

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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These two libraries contain some three thousand volumes, including sections on current political, economic and social matters of special interest to women as citizens, as well as a historical section of the Women's Movement, which dates back to the 15th Century. Boxes containing approximately 20 books are available for Societies, Study Circles, etc.

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