

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVI. No. 14. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, May 2, 1924.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and
Abroad, 6/6.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The "Poor Man's Budget."

We regret that we are unable to share in the whole-hearted chorus of praise with which Mr. Snowden's Budget has been greeted by most of our contemporaries. We are only too ready to appreciate both the brilliance of his speech and the excellency of many of his proposals, and we realize that in the main the tax reductions and remissions will bring relief to all classes of the community and that the cost of living will be most reduced for those who most tend to suffer from high prices. Honour where honour is due, and there is nothing but praise for the proposed reduction of the tax on sugar, while a strong case can be made for the reduction of the other breakfast-table taxes and for telephone rates, which last inflict a great handicap on communications generally. With respect to the abolition of the McKenna Duties and the failure to provide for Imperial preferences we are unable to make pronouncements without betraying our non-party character. But if we come to regard the Budget not from the point of view of the party politician with his eye on the next General Election, but rather from the point of view of the statesman whose motto should be "first things first," we stand aghast. Nowhere in Mr. Snowden's speech are the urgent needs of social welfare recognized and provided for, no provision is made for housing, nothing for the further relief of the unemployed, nothing for the removal of the thrift disqualification on the Old Age Pensions, and last, but not least, nothing for Widows' Pensions. The estimated surplus of £4,000,000 and the possible economies in Government Departments indicated by Mr. Snowden are not, and cannot be, sufficient to meet these needs. Only two alternatives remain, therefore; either the Government has preferred to catch more votes by remissions of taxes such as the Entertainments Tax, and by the unnecessarily large reductions of taxes on tea, coffee, etc., and the remission of the Corporation Tax, to the provision of the social services referred to above, or it will have to come to Parliament at a later date with supplementary estimates to deal with them. In our opinion, it would have been far more honest to face the needs and to make adequate provision on the occasion of the country's annual stocktaking. With regard to Housing, Unemployment, and

Old Age Pensions, the Chancellor has indicated that he will be coming to the country later. With regard to widows, there is a complete and ominous silence. Clearly their cause is once more to be betrayed.

Widows and Death Duties.

In an interesting letter to *The Times*, Mr. Hendy, of Oxford, draws attention to the undue hardship to which widows and orphans of all but the wealthy classes are exposed by the working of the death duties. He shows how 2 per cent. is deducted from the miserable few hundreds saved, for instance, by a City clerk who, dying at the age of 40, leaves a wife and several children otherwise unprovided for. Even the widow of a professional man who dies "worth" £10,000 will have her means for educating the children seriously crippled by the State's claim to £600 or £700. Should she die, subsequently another sum of much the same amount will be claimed, even if the children are still dependent and have no other means of support. Mr. Hendy pleads for either the complete exemption to all estates up to £10,000 which pass to the wife with children under 21 or direct to the children, or "if that is too sweeping, the right to claim a graduated exemption upon grounds such as loss of income by the death of the deceased, or the number and youth of the children of educational age. There should be security, too, for such estates against payment of duty twice within a term of, say, five years."

Family Endowment and the Birth-rate.

The fear of increasing the birth-rate among the most undesirable classes is so often urged as an objection to family endowment that it is reassuring to note that Professor Carr Saunders, the author of one of the latest and most thorough and judicial books on the population question, considers that "it will, on the contrary, probably tend to lower the birth-rate among those who have now the largest families, because it is the raising of the standard of living and of the dignity of the status of the mother which more than anything else helps to stem the 'devastating torrent of children.'" It would be interesting to know the views of Sir William Beveridge, another authority on population, on this point. We understand that a review of Miss Rathbone's book, *The Disinherited Family*, written by him, will appear in the *Weekly Westminster* on Saturday, 10th May.

A New Local Option Measure.

A Bill entitled the Liquor (Popular Control) Bill will shortly be re-introduced in the House of Lords by the Bishop of Oxford. The *Manchester Guardian* describing an interview with one of its promoters states that with some emendations it is the same Bill that was brought forward by Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. J. H. Thomas, and Mr. Trevelyan Thomas in the House of Commons. It is described as an effort to remove the drink question entirely outside the realm of party politics. The essence of the Bill is that electors should choose between "No change," "No licence," or "Reorganization." If an area voted for reorganization, the control of the trade would be taken over by a Board of Management with powers limited to the production and distribution of intoxicants, and subject to the supervision

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of the justices and a Central Advisory Committee (on which would be represented temperance bodies and private traders). We hope that women's organizations existing for the education of women citizens will include the discussion of methods of genuine and constructive temperance reform in their programmes for the coming autumn. They have been far too timid in the past with regard to this highly controversial subject; now as we have pointed out repeatedly, they find on the platform of the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches common ground on which advocates of various solutions may join forces.

Women Candidates for Parliament.

We are not surprised to hear that Mrs. Corbett Ashby has received several invitations to stand for other constituencies at the next General Election. We hope she will; we agree with the local Press that she is an ideal candidate and would like to see her after four hopeless fights come forward in what it describes as "some more democratic constituency." We are glad to learn that Mrs. Randolph Clarkson has again been invited to stand for Moseley, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson for Middlesbrough, and that two new women candidates have been brought forward: Mrs. Hugh Middleton has been unanimously chosen as Unionist candidate for Wansbeck, and Lady Callaghan has been invited to stand in the Liberal interest for Chatham and Rochester. It is not a moment too soon for women's organizations to bring before Party organizations the names of suitable women of different parties.

Women Political Agents.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* commented last week on the increasing number of women political agents in the service of the Liberal Party. A few are named: Mrs. Walter Smith, agent for Dulwich, Miss Horne for North Tottenham, Miss Jennings for East Walthamstow, Miss Harris for Acton. Outside London: Miss Marguerita White, aged 21, and said to be the youngest political agent in the country, has just been appointed to the Chelmsford Division of Essex. Apparently there is one important obstacle to the appointment of women as agents in industrial and mining districts owing to the fact that so much political work is done in licensed clubs. We venture to hope that such an obstacle may some day be removed. Meanwhile we welcome this development of women's work, particularly as a new source of political experience, and generally as a widening of the narrow area of women's opportunity. The Labour Party has already made a beginning and we hope that the Conservative Party will soon follow in the wake of the other two.

Marriage Mortality.

The *Shoe Trades Journal* of 18th April contains reference to an interesting experiment undertaken by a firm of rubber-shoe manufacturers to meet the economic wastage arising from the frequent loss of trained women workers owing to marriage. The business of rubber shoe manufacture is a seasonal one, which does not call for a fully staffed factory all the year round, and it is believed by the firm in question that many of their formerly trained women workers could be induced to return to work during the rush months if reasonable provision were made for their children. It is therefore about to open a fully staffed day nursery in connexion with the factory, to meet the needs of this particular class of labour. The experiment suggests some interesting considerations. It is not desirable in the interests of economic stability that things should be made too easy for the firm which finds it advantageous to call upon a reserve of labour. Yet when all is said and done, certain seasonal trades will remain, and we are willing to believe that the manufacture of rubber shoes is one of them. There is something to be said in favour of seasonal or casual labour for the married woman, provided always that her earnings are an addition to and not an essential condition of her family's minimum subsistence. Besides bringing her monies of her own, it brings her variety of interest and change of environment. We are inclined to think that the experiment aforementioned has considerable possibilities and shall be glad to hear more of its progress.

Liberal Women's Conference.

Lady Bonham Carter, President of the Women's National Liberal Federation, will take the Chair at the great Council of Liberal women, which will be held at the Kingsway Hall on 27th, 28th, and 29th May. A record number of delegates will be present, between one and two thousand Liberal women are attending from all parts of the country. Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Lady Simon, Miss Violet Markham, Mrs. F. D. Acland, and the majority of the Liberal women can-

didates will take part in the discussions. The agenda covers all points of Liberal policy and women's questions, including Insurance, Industrial Policy, Housing, Education, Electoral Reform, Women and Children's Labour, and Women Police. The Council will open with a resolution of Foreign Policy and the League of Nations, moved by Lady Bonham Carter and supported by Professor Gilbert Murray. A reception for delegates and for Liberal Members of Parliament and their wives, will be held by the Liberal Social Council at the Hotel Great Central on Monday, 26th May. Lady Grey of Fallodon, President of the Liberal Social Council, will receive the guests.

Unionist Women's Conference.

A very large attendance is expected at the annual conference of the Women's Unionist organization in the Queen's Hall on 8th and 9th May. Special interest will be derived from the fact that Unionist women can now boast three women Members of Parliament, and Lady Astor, the Duchess of Atholl, and Mrs. Philipson will all take a conspicuous part in the proceedings. Women who have not yet found themselves in any political party will scan the proceedings of gatherings of party women with much interest and hope that they will give unmistakable evidence of support of the causes for which this paper stands.

An Unsolicited Testimonial.

A correspondent sends us an extract from the *Oswestry Border Counties Advertiser*, which in commenting on the Committee recently set up to consider the employment of women police, speaks in glowing terms of the work of women members of the police force in Oswestry, and suggests that Mr. Bridgeman and his colleagues should collect the views of those who have seen it at first hand. While women's societies pass resolutions and women's papers issue articles on the need for women police, in Oswestry and other parts of the country women are slowly but surely, by their quiet unobtrusive work, making themselves indispensable in this capacity.

Apathy in Local Government.

At a recent election for the Manchester Board of Guardians the total poll was only a traction over 19 per cent., and Moss Side, a suburban ward, to quote the *Manchester Guardian*, "so to speak did not vote at all"; only a miserable 4 per cent. of those on the lists used ballot papers. In Saltord the percentage rose to 24.18. We would welcome expression of opinion from our readers as to the cause and remedies of this extraordinary apathy about local administration, which is not confined to Manchester.

Visits to Local Government Institutions.

At the request of the International Council of Women, the Women's Local Government Society is organizing a series of visits to Local Government Institutions for Overseas Visitors to take place in May and June. These visits include Poor Law Institutions, Libraries, Special Schools, Treatment Centres, and a Borough Council refuse plant. Further information and tickets may be obtained from the Secretary of the Women's Local Government Society, 19 Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

Better Late than Never.

Sir Samuel Scott, speaking at the annual meeting of the Queen Charlotte Hospital on Monday, made an announcement which may cause surprise to some of our readers. He said that a supplemental charter of incorporation had been granted by which the name of the hospital was changed to Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, and women could now act on the committee of management. It is indeed astonishing that the latter reform should have been delayed until so late a stage, all the more so when one considers the peculiar function of the hospital in question. And it is hardly less astonishing that so many hospitals in London and elsewhere still exclude women from their boards of management. It is a matter which has been troubling our minds for some time, and we hope in the near future to publish an article dealing with the matter, by Mrs. E. B. Simon, of Manchester. Our readers may remember that as Lady Mayoress of Manchester, Mrs. Simon refused to take part in a function at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, as a protest against the exclusion of women from its board.

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

MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES.

It has become a platitude among writers on last week's Wembley celebrations that here is a big opportunity for the organized women of this country to get into touch with women from overseas. "They have never before had such a big opportunity," says the *Manchester Guardian*. We agree with our contemporary.

And clearly they intend to use it to the full. The National Council of Women is permanently installed in a pavilion at one side of the Government building. The International Council of Women, as we announced in our issue of last week, is busy organizing a comprehensive conference on the prevention of war. The Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is in possession of another pavilion which will be the headquarters, turn and turn about, of the auxiliary suffrage societies, among them the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. And that, we are glad to note, is an adequate guarantee that the reforms in which this paper is interested will get their fair share of attention. Meanwhile, the Imperial Health Society can surely be trusted to see to it that infant welfare is fairly dealt with, and no doubt its activities will include some reference to that disconcerting matter, which has recently received attention in our columns: preventable maternal mortality.

But there is another matter—one which above all others is most peculiarly a concern of the women of this Empire. We mean the problem of population in its Imperial aspect. The problem of how to influence the destinies of a commonwealth of English-speaking nations is one in which—and it is one of the smallest—is concentrated the vast bulk of the whole group's population. There it lives, urbanized, economically dependent upon the incalculable ups and downs of the world's markets and raw materials, increasing year by year at a rate which causes its technicians and administrators to engage continuously in a hot and furious race with the ever-thickening problems of health, transport, and housing. While all round it, bordering on the world's five oceans, lie the wide and wealthy spaces of the dominion territories. Here, we repeat, is a problem which is most peculiarly a concern of women. Suppose its solution lies in the development of emigration. We do not for a moment imagine

that it does. Emigration may solve many a personal problem of family maintenance or baffled opportunity, but we gravely doubt whether it will ever be physically possible to affect perceptibly such a concentration of numbers as we have achieved in this country by a century and a half of industrial progress—quite apart from the social possibility of persuading the necessary number of people to change their habitation. But suppose for argument's sake that emigration is in part, at least, an effective solution; it is the women of this country who will bear the main burden of our most important export industry: the export of human beings. Or supposing, as a former Premier of New South Wales remarked, "the best Australian immigrant is the Australian baby." Supposing the matter must in the end depend upon a readjustment of the birth rate—a slackening here, an increase there? Then, again, it is upon the women that the burden of the change must fall, it is in their hands that the real initiative must lie.

All of which seems a far cry from the pavilions of Wembley. Yet there is just this much moral to be drawn. Since this most vital of Imperial problems is most essentially a woman's problem, since men when they discuss it imperially habitually fail to give due weight to the consideration that an individual woman is, in addition to being a producer of economic men, "an end in herself," and since all such problems require for their proper discussion a considerable background of accurate information—since all these things are true, we are editorially convinced that Wembley provides an opportunity of ascertaining from our overseas visitors, in conference assembled, a number of pertinent facts. To what extent is the birthrate in various parts of our Empire being deliberately restricted? To what extent is that restriction the inevitable response of highly civilized individuals to the material environment of a newly developed country? What are the relevant conditions of that environment so far as women are concerned? There is no end to our questions, and there may be no beginning to our effective interpretation of their answers. But here is an opportunity for the women of this country to accumulate valuable knowledge. And if by accumulating it they acquire a kind of proprietary interest in the problem of population, so much the better for the prospects of its effective solution.

EQUAL RIGHTS IN U.S.A.

There is proceeding in the United States a controversy on equality in law for women and on ways of securing it that is causing widespread interest and discussion of the question on the platform and in the Press. This controversy has been caused by the action taken by the National Woman's Party, which will be remembered by suffragists as the "militant" body in the American fight for votes led by Alice Paul, who is still leader.

The National Woman's Party have stood for equality since the vote was won, and have now arrived at very definite ideas on the action that should in their view be taken to secure it. They decided some time ago that it should be done by an amendment to the Constitution, and they have called their amendment, which reads, "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," the Lucretia Mott amendment. This amendment has been introduced into Congress by Representative Anthony, a nephew of Susan B. Anthony, and into the Senate by Senator Curtis, of Kansas. A "hearing" (similar to our House Standing Committees) has been conducted on the amendment, and among those giving evidence have been many of the leading women in the States, most of them in opposition.

Every other body of women interested in political and industrial affairs appear to be opposed to the amendment, and seven bodies, including the National League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, the Young Women's Christian Association, the National Consumers' League, and the National Women's Trade Union League, appealed to Congress to oppose the amendment on the ground that "Existing inequalities of law affecting men and women as such are so complicated in character that only specific legislation can reach them effectively," and also "The amendment the National Woman's Party proposes would endanger existing statutes providing a 48 hours week, 8 or 9 or 10 hour day, and other industrial standards governing the employment of women; mothers' pensions laws, penalties for rape, and various other

laws applicable or necessary to one sex but not to the other."

The N.W.P. reply to all the objections and argue that the amendment "would override all existing laws discriminating against women, no matter how complicated in character, and would prevent discriminatory laws from being enacted by any State in the future," and "that it would not affect existing labour legislation, except to establish the principle that industrial legislation should apply to all workers, both men and women, in any given occupation and not to women alone."

Inez Haynes Irwin, among others, in stating the case for the amendment in the Press, gives example after example of inequalities in the State laws, and shows that in their view these injustices cannot be swept away except by establishing the principle in the constitution.

The opposition, Mrs. Florence Kelley taking a leading part, argue that this method of attaining equality is dangerous in the extreme, as it would sweep away all such laws as Widows' Pensions (the N.W.P. reply by saying that Colorado already gives widowers pensions where there is need), all maternity protection, and all industrial protective laws for women, and that it is too dangerous a way.

The N.W.P., not at first holding the principle, now affirm that they believe all special industrial legislation for women should be swept away, and the controversy really rages most fiercely round this point.

There is unanimity of opinion among all the groups on many of the equal issues, but the group in opposition contend that real equality can be gained best by specific acts and not by blanket legislation, and they are strongly opposed to sweeping away all special industrial legislation for women. The N.W.P. meantime continue their research law work, codifying state laws, and showing their inequalities, and their clever publicity results in a great deal of thought being given to the question of equality for women all over U.S.A.

HELEN FRASER.

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXXIV.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899-1902 (contd.).

What we saw in the camps and especially the eagerness of the people in them to get education, led my daughter to apply to the Government at home for leave to go back and take part in the setting up of permanent educational machinery in the Transvaal, then under the control of Mr. E. B. Sargant, and later of Mr. (now General Sir) Fabian Ware. She returned to Newnham in 1901, but came out again in 1902 to share in the interesting work of establishing public elementary education in the Transvaal. I went to see her there in 1903, and revisited many of the places I had seen on my first visit, my dear friend Katherine Brereton bearing me company. On this second visit, the war being over, I saw something of the gradual recovery of the country from its devastating effects; railway and other bridges were repaired, houses rebuilt; animals, sheep, and oxen looking less like concertinas; the horrid flocks of vultures had vanished and the great veldt was less thickly strewn with dead animals. But I also saw something of the crowd of orphans which every war leaves behind it. The new Transvaal Government had assembled many of these poor children at Irene, where they were under the care and guidance of a most gentle and kindly lady, Miss Thompson, sister of Mrs. George Cadbury. She and I made the forty-eight hours' journey from Johannesburg to Cape Town together, and had the carriage to ourselves; we therefore had many opportunities for conversation, of which we thoroughly availed ourselves. One thing which Miss Thompson said stuck in my memory. It was this: "Do tell my brother-in-law, Mr. George Cadbury, that the concentration camps were not in the least like what he imagines them to be." I replied by asking her if she had told him that herself. She said that she had, and I naturally rejoined: "If he did not believe you, what reason have I to hope that he will believe me?"

On this second visit I was much interested in seeing something of the process of reconstruction going on to repair the ravages of the war: schools, orphanages, training colleges for nurses and teachers, all doing good work. At one place where a training college had been established I was particularly interested to find that the Dutch board of management had applied to a well-known institution in London to supply them with an English teacher of Domestic Economy. I hoped it looked as if the iron of hatred had not entered very deeply into their souls. My cousin Edmund, mentioned in an earlier chapter, had taken a very active part in the events which led up to the war; but he never lost his appreciation of the fine qualities of the Boers. For one of the British and Boer cemeteries, I think at Wagon Hill, he wrote the following epitaph:—

Together, sundered once by blood and speech,
Joined here in equal muster of the brave;
Lie Boer and Briton, foes each worthy each,
May Peace strike root into their common grave;
And blossoming where the fathers fought and died,
Bear fruit for sons that labour side by side.

To return to our first visit, we saw all the concentration camps except the one at Fort Elizabeth, of which even the pro-Boer ladies at Cape Town had no complaint to make; some of the camps, for instance, Mafeking, Vryburg, and Kimberley, we saw twice, with a considerable interval between our two visits. We went back to Mafeking because of the renewal of a severe epidemic. On 15th August, just before our first visit, a number of Boer refugees had been brought in and these had among them the following diseases: measles of a malignant type, enteric, malaria, diphtheria, cerebro-spinal meningitis, whooping cough, and chicken-pox. The newcomers were neither examined nor isolated, and the various diseases which they had brought with them spread and flourished to an appalling degree. Our recommendations had been neglected, and therefore on our second visit we recommended the removal of the Superintendent, and urged that adequate support should be given to the Doctor, who was working loyally and faithfully to supply his place. We also put on record our opinion that the Superintendent and the former medical officer had been grossly to blame for the bad condition and the high death rate in this camp. We felt more and more how great was the need of the people for fresh vegetables. "Bully beef and bread," we said in our report, "are quite unsuitable diet for young children," and we urged that if suitable food could not be provided for a camp of 4,000 at Mafeking the camp should be removed elsewhere. Lord Methuen, who was then in military command of the district, did everything he could to help his poor people in the camp, giving up to them his own special E.P. tents to provide additional hospital accommodation.

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several weeks.

Our experience of our two visits to Kimberley was instructive. On our first visit on 26th and 27th August, 1901, we found two English ladies, Miss A. and Miss B., sent by a committee sitting in London. We called on them; it was quite easy to see which was their tent because of the baths outside put upside-down to dry. We told them of our desire to see everything that we ought to see in the camp and to make recommendations calculated to help the people and reduce the death rate. The deaths in August up to the 26th had been 141, of which 93 had been of children of from 1 to 3 years. We begged the ladies to put the knowledge they must have acquired during their residence, so far as it was possible, at our disposal; but they were very uncommunicative and obviously hostile to us. Miss A., who had resided for five weeks in the camp, hardly told us anything. She said she wished to remove to some other camp "where the need was greater," and gave us no practical suggestions of any kind. We were sorry because we felt that if they had chosen to do so they could have helped us very much. When we revisited the Kimberley camp on 6th and 7th November we found the whole conditions immensely improved. The hospital accommodation was adequate, the medical and nursing staff had been reinforced; four trained nurses, who were helped by nine Boer probationers, were doing their work well. A camp matron who had been furnished by the Victoria League with four 10-gallon Soyer stoves was now looking after the convalescent children and supplying about 200 of them with a pint of good soup daily, and the excellent camp matron was just beginning to induce some of the Boer girls in the camp to act for her as visiting sisters. I believe she eventually got a staff of 12 of these girls. Miss A. and Miss B. were still in residence, but they had entirely changed in their demeanour towards us. From having been extremely cold and distant they had become helpful and friendly; and they told us frankly some of their recent experiences. Like ourselves they had been impressed by the great need in the camp of fresh vegetables, and had urged that practically the only way of getting them was to grow them on the spot. They had encouraged families to make little gardens of their own round their tents, offering prizes varying from £2 for an adult to 10s. for a child for the best garden; but the supply thus promoted was inadequate. By co-operation with the authorities the Misses A. and B. had secured a promise of a grant of land in the immediate neighbourhood suitable for a large garden: one of the ladies, on behalf of her committee in London, had promised £70 for fencing it in; the Government promised water, an all important and expensive item, besides seeds and implements, if the able-bodied men, of whom there were over 200 in the camp, would give the labour; these men called a meeting to consider whether they would do this or not, and they decided to refuse. Their line of argument was that the British had brought them there and were therefore responsible for providing them and the whole camp with everything that was necessary for their health. Both the ladies were very angry and disappointed. One of our colleagues, Dr. Jane Waterston, who had lived in Cape Colony for about half a century, was not at all surprised. It is one of the curses of having manual labour done by what most people consider an inferior race that labour itself is despised, the people who work being considered for that very reason inferior to those who overlook or do nothing. Miss B. said the people in the camp ought to be compelled to work, and told us, moreover, that in her opinion giving relief in the form of clothes did more harm than good; both ladies had their doubts whether the gifts of clothing had not been taken down into the town of Kimberley and sold. Miss A. was also indignant at the alleged maladministration at Cape Town in reference to £600 worth of goods sent out to her by her committee in London. Instead of forwarding them to her, the goods had been consigned to the Dutch clergyman resident in the camp, who had given them away without any reference to her or to the source from which they had been provided. We expressed sympathy, but did not feel we had any authority to take action in the matter.

We were decidedly pleased by the improvement which had taken place in the camp since our first visit. One woman with whom we had a good deal of conversation began rather bitterly that she did not know why she should be interned there, although her husband was on commando. She gradually became more friendly and said that she had nothing to complain of, that the food was good and sufficient, but that she would like the opportunity of earning a little pocket-money. Finally, looking round her tent, which was orderly and clean, she said: "It is beginning to be a little home to me."

ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW.

By M. R. P., Certified Midwife.

In your paper of 4th April I read with interest an article entitled "The Grievances of Midwives." They, in common with many other workers, have grievances. I could add several to those of your contributor, but at this moment another section of the community has a far greater "grievance" (if such a mild word can be used in this connection) than any the midwife can quote. I speak of the mothers of the nation, who suffer from a rate of mortality in childbirth as high as it was twenty years ago. This deplorable state of things is occupying (or ought to) the mind of every doctor and midwife in the kingdom who practises midwifery, for the solution of the problem is not an easy one. The general death rate has been reduced one-third, the infant is halved, but the deaths of the most important members of the community, the mothers of young children, has hardly changed in the last twenty years; though after the passing of the Midwives Act in 1902 there was some considerable improvement in the deaths from puerperal fever, since 1903 the figures have altered little.

The reason for this state of things is extremely obscure; it seems to be irrespective of poverty or wealth, of a high or low standard of living, of overcrowding, occupation, or even of dirty conditions and insanitary surroundings; for Health Reports tell us that the maternal death-rate is lowest in the poorest and most crowded localities, where 60 or 70 per cent of the mothers engage a midwife to attend them and are deprived of many of the so-called advantages of civilization. Improved conditions of life, the advance of medical knowledge, education, and sanitation, which have so decreased the death-rate amongst young children and the population generally, seem to have little effect on those who have to endure the pains and perils of childbirth.

Dr. Janet Campbell, in her interesting Report, assigns the responsibility of this unsatisfactory condition of things primarily to the adequacy or otherwise of the professional attendance during pregnancy or at the time of childbirth; a careful midwife and a qualified doctor rarely lose a patient, given a reasonable chance for the exercise of their competency.

This inadequacy on the part of the professional attendant is being dealt with by the General Medical Council who are improving and extending the instruction of medical students in midwifery. The Central Midwives' Board is instituting a lengthened training and other improvements for the teaching of midwives, but these reforms will take a considerable time before any result can be looked for. Meantime, we must improve in other directions. What are they?

A considerable number of confinements are still attended by untrained women, either on their own responsibility or more often covered by a doctor who is nominally engaged for the case but allows the handy woman to take his place. This is forbidden by law, but the Clause in the Act forbidding it is so loosely worded that it is almost impossible to get a conviction.

We certified midwives (by examination), especially those who have the advantage of good training and expert teaching, and are fortunate enough to be able to show, as we can, a very satisfactory maternal mortality rate amongst the mothers who engage midwives for their confinements, are doing our best to get this Clause in the Midwives Act altered, and we ask your readers, many of whom have much Parliamentary influence, to obtain without delay the necessary alteration in our legislation, which would prevent untrained women attending confinements on their own account, and would also ensure, if they worked under a doctor, that his supervision and direction of the case was real and not nominal.

It seems to be agreed among medical authorities that improvement lies in more competent antenatal supervision by the doctor or midwife, and in lessening in every way possible the use of instruments.

It is only of late years that doctors have realized the importance of antenatal work, and therefore midwives, as they have to obtain their instruction from the medical profession, have not realized it either. But midwives and their teachers are both now fully aware of its importance and midwives are therefore asking for much more thorough and extended instruction, so as to recognize antenatal conditions, which, if left untreated before, would result in instruments at the confinement.

The midwife also requests to be better taught how to deal with normal labour when prolonged, so as not to send unnecessarily for a doctor to put on forceps as the easiest way to terminate

a wearisome waiting for both patient and midwife. As an eminent obstetric authority says: "Patients first, but Patience always."

Midwives consider it desirable that there should be a post mortem examination by an independent practitioner in all cases of death in childbirth. We are told that this would cost the nation too much, and that the medical profession would object; we think both these reasons are inadequate and wonder what your readers would think of them.

Some feel that a partial solution might be found in the larger employment for normal labour of the well-trained midwife, with obstetric consultants for complications. It is an interesting fact to note that in those countries that have no legislation or organization of midwives the maternal mortality is the highest, that it is lowest in the various European countries where midwives attend nearly all the cases, and in England, where 50 to 60 per cent. of all the births are attended by midwives, the mortality is exactly between the two extremes.

We midwives are making other proposals, but they are too technical and detailed to enter into here.

Midwives are a voiceless body, but we feel that our opinions are worthy of attention, because the maternal death-rate in England is just under four per thousand, while the rate where certified midwives have been engaged to attend and only send for a medical practitioner for complications is under two per thousand (see Ministry of Health Report, page 32, where the results of the Q.V.J.I. midwives are given).

The question has to be straightly faced and we confidently ask women with Parliamentary power to help.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY. By EDITH SITWELL. (Duckworth, 5s.)

Miss Sitwell has a large following who will welcome this little volume. Her theme is the clouding of youth in the person of the Princess by the "irreparable outrage" of old age. It is fantastically treated, but there is more in it than fantasy.

THE PIRATES' WHO'S WHO. By PHILIP GOSSE. (Dulau, 10s.)

This is a serious handbook to the lives (and deaths) of genuine members of what the author describes as the "third oldest profession" in the world. Its recruits were drawn from every rank of life, and they "practised" in all parts of the world, but not, as a rule, for long. The ends they came to were mostly sudden and deservedly bad, though we have records of certain gentlemen who were renowned for their "affability and good-nature." Feminists will note that women are not excluded, and may be gratified at the successful career of Mrs. Lo, who held a colonel's commission in the Chinese Republican Army, commanded a fleet of sixty pirate junks, was a notorious slave-raider, and was taken from us—"quite suddenly"—no longer ago than 1922. Advocates of Widows' Pensions may be puzzled by the case of Blackbeard Teach who, after burying two wives, left twelve widows in twelve West Indian ports.

MAN AND MYSTERY IN ASIA. By F. OSSENDOWSKI. (Arnold, 14s.)

Readers of Dr. Ossendowski's first book, *Beasts, Men, and Gods*, will know that "mystery" in his hands is not an idle word, though men in his experience turn all too readily to monsters. He describes a world more chaotic than any in the range of most modern historians, a state of things so desperate that only the desperate and reckless can survive in it. Even the earth itself seems to defy ordinary laws in that strange land, and he sets down its vagaries as the result of everyday observations.

THE SECOND WIFE. By LILIAN ARNOLD. (Thornton Butterworth, 7s. 6d.)

The author has produced a long novel written round four characters. There is a subtle change and growth in the relationships between the four: the shadow of a tragedy: light, natural dialogue: and a story which moves quietly but so inevitably that the attention never flags.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

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THE LAW AT WORK.¹

A PROBATION SYSTEM AT LAST.

Every magistrate must take the keenest interest in the Criminal Justice Bill, which was introduced by the Lord Chancellor, and is now before Parliament. It contains many important provisions concerning such matters as the time that persons spend in prison awaiting trial, and the responsibility of a wife for a crime committed in the presence of her husband. But we shall deal here with one question only—Probation.

Part I of the Bill may be said to establish for the first time a regular system of Probation in this country. Every petty sessional division is to be a Probation area, and for every Probation area one or more Probation Officers shall be appointed. It is, of course, realized that at many courts there would not be enough work for a whole-time officer, and two or more petty sessional divisions are therefore to combine for this purpose and to make joint use of the services of a Probation Officer. The first and most important point is thus secured, that no Bench will any longer be able to say that they cannot use Probation because they have no officer, and we shall put an end to the existing state of things whereby no less than 180 courts throughout the country are without a Probation Officer of any kind.

The Bill goes on to provide that in every Probation area there is to be a Probation Committee consisting entirely of Justices, who are to appoint the officers, to pay them such salaries as the Home Office shall approve, to supervise their work, and receive their reports. Perhaps the most important point here is the financial one. There is no doubt that in the past many Probation Officers have been most inadequately paid. Sometimes their services have been accepted without payment at all. In other cases a small fee has been paid for each case assigned to them. Others, again, have received a scanty salary. In future not only is the salary to be governed by the Secretary of State, but he is also to have power to make what arrangements he wishes as to pensions. In short, if this part of the Bill is carried out we shall have a Probation service comparable in status with the teaching profession. The salary and pension and other expenses are to be paid by the local authority, but there is to be a grant-in-aid from the National Exchequer. The amount is not stated, but it is to be hoped that certainly not less than 50 per cent. will be paid from the taxes towards the total cost of Probation.

The Bill is vague on the subject of women Probation Officers, and merely provides that "Where the circumstances permit the court shall appoint a Probation Officer who is a woman to supervise an offender who is a woman." Nothing is said as to placing a girl offender under a woman officer, though this may be at least equally important.

A last point to consider is the quality of the officers to be appointed. At present the personality and the work of the best officers leaves nothing to be desired, but there is urgent need to bring the standard of the whole as far as possible up to that of the best. The weakness is that at present there is no real standard. No particular training or qualification is required, and persons, whether men or women, who wish to prepare themselves for the work of Probation Officers often have no idea how to set about it. And while the number of officers remains so small and so entirely a matter of local appointment, it is difficult for anyone who wishes to take up the work to know how to get a post. And yet there is no doubt that if there were a larger demand for properly qualified officers, it would very quickly be met. There are people who have a special inclination for work of this kind, and a real desire to take it up, who would be admirable officers if trained. In the Bill it is stated that the Secretary of State may make rules prescribing the qualifications of Probation Officers, and laying it down that no appointment shall be effective unless confirmed by him.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

Those who are responsible for this column will be glad if readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER who are interested in the law at work will report any cases of hardship or injustice in the courts of which they hear or read, so that they may be discussed and made public in this column. They are invited also to send any questions or difficulties on which they would like to have information. Correspondence might be started in this way which would be of help and interest to women magistrates in different parts of the country.

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crafts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

NOTES FROM IRELAND

THE TEACHERS' PARLIAMENT.

The Irish National Teachers' Organization has been meeting during Easter week in Dublin. The meetings have not been of a very cheerful character. Government economies have entailed a 10 per cent. cut in salaries. The lay observer will regret the enforced economy: it fosters a spirit of angry bitterness, so contrary to the true interests of education.

The regime of compulsory Irish in the schools has also created difficulties, as may be realized from the remark of one speaker, "Teaching scientific and mathematical subjects through the medium of Irish, when neither pupils nor teachers were able to form ideas in Irish, was an educational absurdity." Irish teachers have done much for the language movement, but they appreciate the difficulties for the older members of their profession in acquiring at short notice a new and very difficult language, highly inflected, with a script and phonetics of its own. Witness the postmark on the Dublin letters, "Baille-atha-Cliath," pronounced Bla Clea. Those who realize what Mr. Yeats calls "the lure of the great civilization" on the other side of the Irish Sea will smile at the advice of one speaker from County Cork: "Cultivate and foster Irish, but at the same time do not throw up English." It is clear that the intention to substitute Irish for English, as the spoken and written language of the country, is involving a great strain on the teachers, however enthusiastic they may be, and the Government would be well advised to go softly in its economies at their expense.

THE CHILDREN'S BREAD.

The cut in their own salaries is not the only grievance of the teachers. The outgoing President commented on the fact that "in 1914 a considerable number of school buildings were insanitary and unsuitable, very many having been condemned years before. Grants had been voted in some cases. In 1914 the rulers of Europe decided to throw the bread they should give to their children to the dogs of war and to scrape the butter off their own bread and off ours. In Ireland, practically all grants for school buildings were withdrawn. The children and teachers are still trying to carry on in those buildings. The value of food soared, more tillage was ordered, farm produce became valuable, tillage was paying. Boys and girls were taken from the schools to the tillage fields. These boys and girls are now men and women; an illiterate generation has grown up." The same note was struck in all the discussions; even when the Montessori method was under consideration, many speakers dwelt not on the advantages or disadvantages of the method, but on "the miserable hovel called a school, in which a mistress and her assistant had to teach six standards crowded into one wretched room." Professor Culverwell, of Trinity College, rightly pointed out that the Montessori method would obviate the necessity for so many standards, entailing such difficulties in rural schools.

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER.

The real underlying weakness of Irish education is the casual attendance and the early age at which children leave school. One speaker said "the irregular attendance at school and the early age at which children left school were producing a school-going population which was linguistically incapable and too ignorant to learn Irish." The incoming President noted that in the North an Education Act had been passed which was open to criticism, but which was framed with the very best intentions. He deplored the inactivity of the Free State Government, which had allowed two years to pass without introducing educational reform, for instance, in the direction of compulsory attendance. It is said a Bill on these lines is being prepared, and certainly there has been an unaccountable delay.

THE WOMEN TEACHERS.

Feminists will regret the absence in the published reports of the Conference of any reference to the question of equal pay. This should be taken up seriously by all educated women, in view of a recent Government advertisement for an Assistant Librarian, salary for a woman to rise to £300 a year, if a man to £400. Women teachers should realize this means a penalization of the educated woman, which must exercise a bad influence on the whole attitude to education. Again, from the reports, women teachers seem to have been singularly silent during the Congress. The whole leaves an uncomfortable impression on the mind that the period of reaction is not yet over. Conditions are improving, and it can only be hoped that the courage and devotion of the national teachers will stand the strain of Government delays and Government neglect. DORA MELLONE.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

A MONEY-RAISING ADVENTURE.

The Officers of the National Union have never in the memory of the writer appealed in vain for help in these columns. Once again we come to our members and friends and any readers outside ourselves who chance to read this column, but this time there is an element of boldness and adventure in our proposals. We want to raise a guaranteed income of £3,000 a year for three years. The next three years are certain to be of paramount importance in the woman's movement, and we invite all who wish a summary of the position and the possibilities that lie before us to send for a copy of the printed appeal and statement which has just been issued, if they have not already seen it. We further invite all who are interested in any aspect of our work to read our annual report, which will shortly be ready, and to investigate at first hand our record and methods of works. If they are satisfied we ask them to guarantee a fixed amount for three years according to the measure of their interest and ability. Three thousand pounds per annum is a large sum to raise, but one-ninth of it has already been promised. Can we raise the rest? We have too much faith in our objects to have any doubts. Please write at once. He gives twice who gives quickly.

THE COUNCIL AND AFTER.

The Officers and the Executive Committee propose to issue a printed letter in May to all the Societies and local correspondents of the National Union which will outline the work which it is hoped Societies will undertake during the coming year, and which will be based on resolutions passed at the 1914 and other recent Council meetings.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.—I.W.S.A. Pavilion.

The officers of the N.U.S.E.C. are grateful for the offers of help already received in connexion with the Pavilion which is being organized at Wembley by the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The National Union has agreed to send voluntary workers on Wednesdays, and further offers of help for one or any of the three shifts (10 a.m.—2 p.m., 2-6 p.m., 6-10 p.m.) on Wednesdays will be gratefully received by Miss Auld, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

REIGATE AND REDHILL W.C.A.—ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Reigate and Redhill W.C.A. was held at Reigate on 15th April. Miss Earle, President of the Association, took the chair. After making a statement of the financial position of the Association, she called on Miss Beaumont, of the N.U.S.E.C., to give an address on "Current Legislation."

Miss Beaumont confined herself to discussing three Bills specially affecting women—the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill. The address was followed by discussion, and at the close of the meeting Mrs. Auerbach proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Beaumont, which was carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

We have received from the Professional Union of Trained Nurses a brief but informative Annual Report. We note from this especially that the Union is seeking to be of the most practical assistance possible to all its members in every branch of their work and interests, and this has led them to take part in a considerable amount of non-party political work, as well as in business connected with Insurance, Legal Advice, and in the investigation of the spending of funds intended for the benefit of the Nursing Profession. We welcome especially the evidence given in this report that members of a profession consisting almost entirely of women are organized in a businesslike way to protect themselves by political and other means, since it is very much in the interests of the community that consideration should be given to the profession of nursing.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

(British Section: 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.)

The Women's International League, formed at The Hague in 1915, aims at binding together women in all countries who desire to promote the settlement of disputes by some means other than war. The minds of nations still turn to force to settle difficulties, but we must remember that the Permanent Court of International Justice, with its seat at The Hague, offers a means whereby reason can be brought to bear on the settlement of any dispute brought before it. The difficulty is that the consent of nations to subject themselves to its jurisdiction is, to a great extent, lacking.

The first assembly of the League of Nations desired to confer upon the Court a large measure of general compulsory jurisdiction, but the Council of the League did not give its unanimous approval to this. However, practical though partial effect is given to the view of the Assembly in this respect by means of the optional clause of the Protocol, which establishes the Court. Signatories of this clause agree to submit to the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court all disputes of a legal nature which may arise between them, and to abide its decision. This is an important step in substituting Law for War in settlement of disputes between nations, but it is disappointing to find that hitherto among the twenty-one nations supporting this very cautious approach to development of international justice no single great Power is included.

The Women's International League is urging the British Government to sign this optional clause, and at the W.I.L. Congress now meeting at Washington the British Section is bringing forward a resolution urging all national sections to work in their own countries to this end.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A NEW FORM OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

MADAM.—In her presidential address at the International Conference for Women Engineers, Lady Parsons (you say) "deplored the lack of training in exact sciences which marks the education of girls to-day, and showed the connection of this with the slow progress of labour-saving devices in household work."

The truth—often stated in these columns—is that there is great need of education and propaganda on the wide questions of household administration and assistance. But to achieve this, what is wanted first of all is a national association of men and women interested in these questions. And who is not? As a beginning I should be pleased to receive the names and addresses (postcards will do) of those who would be willing to join such an association if it were properly organized. I cannot start it myself, but if sufficient support were assured it would be easy to find a leader, to whom these names and addresses could be handed over with others I have. I am glad to say four prominent social workers are starting a local association in their own district, and hope others will follow. The distress amongst the middle classes, caused by lack of general servants and working housekeepers, and the expense, inefficiency and independence of daily workers, is appalling. I only wish I were young enough to turn out as a general servant again and gather a band of enthusiastic workers for this new and most important form of social service. ANN POPE.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

MADAM.—The apparent intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to shelve Mothers' Pensions, while taking off the Entertainment Tax, should be fought by intelligent citizens to the last moment, and on principle, not for merely sentimental reasons.

Mothers' Pensions we should support because we believe that if properly safeguarded from abuse by bad or inefficient mothers (and on this score we have American experience of voluntary inspection to guide us) they should tend to the elimination of the cruelly wasteful inefficiency produced by worried, overworked, under-nourished mothers and children. This reform, however, is going to be costly in its early stages. The ultimate saving in health and social services cannot take effect for years. Is it not, in our present condition of unemployment, suicidal to take off a tax such as the Entertainment Tax, which is levied on a luxury and one which applies to all classes alike? That it does not deter from, shall we say, moderate enjoyment is proved by the mushroomlike growth of its cheapest form—the Cinema. Every student of economics must take into serious account the burden imposed on the nation, workers, employers, and State by the enormous growth of unemployment insurance alone, in the decade 1913-23, of from 2½ millions to 46 millions. One should not shrink from any burden one believes to be one all should share, but equally, one should scrutinize any relief from that taxation which is the necessary corollary.

Can you, Madam, suggest any means of pressing the commonsense view of women citizens on the attention of the Government? LILIAN GILCHRIST THOMPSON.

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COMING EVENTS.

BERKSHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

MAY 10. 2.30 p.m. Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Mrs. Berry on "Widows' Pensions."

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

MAY 2, 6 and 8. 3 p.m. Conference Hall II, at British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. Public Meeting on "The Prevention of the Causes of the War." Chair: The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

MAY 18. 8 p.m. Informal Discussion.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

CHESTER W.C.A. MAY 6. 8 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Widows' Pensions."

EDINBURGH W.C.A. MAY 14. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. Discussion, "Scottish Hospitals: Should they be Voluntary, or State-Aided and Rate-Aided?" Speakers: Sir George Beatson, M.D., K.C.B., and Mr. John S. Fraser, M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

HORNEY GROUP FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP (in conjunction with Hornsey Women's Conservative and Unionist Association), MAY 7. 3 p.m. at S. Harringay. Meeting on "Women Police."

LEEDS S.E.C. MAY 5. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. Annual Meeting.

READING S.E.C. MAY 5. 8 p.m. Co-operative Café. "Women and the League of Nations." Speaker: J. W. Archibald, Esq.

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

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THE HAT DOCTOR, removed to 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W.1, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.
Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Owing to renumbering of street, address is 35 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, instead of 16. Interviewing hours, 10-1 (except Saturdays), or by appointment. Members' Centre to be opened in May.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 4th May, 3.30, Music; Lecture, Rev. Hudson Shaw, "Life and Works of John Ruskin." 6.30, Maude Royden: "On Being a Failure."

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 8th May: Informal discussion.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.). Entrance Fee, £1 1s. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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The Employment Office connected with the above Centre was closed on December 14th, 1923, but the office has been open for interviews on as many Fridays as possible. Every Friday has been impossible, owing to illness, and the office will be closed altogether for interviews until further notice, except by special appointment made by letter three days at least beforehand.

ANN POPE, HONORARY SECRETARY.
(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

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