

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### The British-American Women's Crusade.

The following resolution sent from the General Council of the British American Women's Crusade to the Chairman of the American Committee for the Cause and Cure of War speaks for itself. The British Council consists of twenty-seven leading women's organization and it hopes to continue the close co-operation with American women which has now been inaugurated. "The General Council of the British American Women's Crusade at its first meeting after the signature of the Kellogg Pact, greets the women of America with deep appreciation of their wholehearted work in the cause of Peace. Realizing that the signing of the Pact should lead at once to steps towards disarmament and to the adoption of methods for peaceful settlement of all disputes it desires to continue to co-operate with the American women in working for much more rapid progress towards both these ends. This Council is convinced that the great mass of women's organizations bound together in this Crusade both in Great Britain and in the U.S.A. to work for Peace can by vigorous and united effort ensure a public opinion in the two countries which shall insist that a frank and determined effort towards disarmament shall be made unreservedly in the full spirit of the Pact."

#### Women Medical Students.

At the annual presentation of medals and prizes in connection with the Charing Cross Medical School, the Dean announced that the Council had decided that no further women students would be accepted. The reason given was the gradual diminution of the number of London co-education medical schools which left the possibility of Charing Cross becoming the only school of the kind in London. It was felt that to maintain this position would result in the school becoming largely a women's medical school. The fact that already applications by male students had shown an increase since the decision was announced, appeared already to have justified their decision. This is the sort of apology for sex discrimination to which we are all accustomed. No doubt, when the idea has steadily been spread abroad that the virile young male should despise co-education, the young male in question being essentially imitative, takes the cue. Nevertheless, it is rash to argue from a single year's experience. In the long run, the training facilities of the London hospitals must be distributed as the public interests, which they exist to serve, may dictate. They are not the private affair of male medicals or lay committees, unless these are between them prepared to finance the hospitals from the pockets of individual subscribers, who know and share their point of view. They cannot put one hand as deeply as possible into public funds

while with the other they wave away the critic saying grandly: "Leave us to mind our own affairs."

#### Labour and the Drink Question.

We must confess to a measure of disappointment with the official policy of the Labour Party as declared at its recent Conference, with regard to the drink question. It now calls for the appointment of a Royal Commission. In moving the reference back of this deliberately evasive suggestion, Miss Monica Whately declared that it ignored previous party decisions and declarations. Her motion was, however, negatived, Mr. Cramp urging on behalf of the Executive that they should "get on with some of the things that matter far more than this." It seems a long time since the Labour Party were calling for State purchase, though with regard to other industries their demands for nationalization or State control show a constructive development. Can it be that their belief in the principle of Nationalization leads them to fear that in this isolated case the inefficiency, waste, and profiteering of private industry is a preferable alternative to the inexpensive bounteousness of socialism? We think not. Such ruthless logic is incompatible with political programme making. We fear that there is another explanation. During the early years of the war Mr. Bonar Law admitted quite frankly to Mr. Askwith, the financial dependence of his party upon the producing and distributing interest of the drink trade, which looked to it for a sure defence against temperance reforms. Can it be that the innumerable trades and labour clubs up and down the country are coming to form a comparable vested interest for the paralysis of Labour policy, or that trade union branches are disposed to identify their interests with the capitalist licensed premises in whose upper rooms so much of their business is transacted?

#### The Tenth Anniversary of the League of Nations Union.

The tenth anniversary of the formation of the League of Nations Union will be a very notable occasion. The Prime Minister is to be the principal speaker at the great Albert Hall meeting on 26th October, which will celebrate that event, and as this will be the first time he has been heard on foreign affairs since the signing of the Kellogg Pact, his speech will be looked forward to with great interest. All three political parties will be represented on the platform, but why, we wonder, no woman speaker! We give below Sir Herbert Samuel's views on the part woman is destined to take in strengthening the tendencies towards peace in modern democracies, and we think that in this year when the full franchise has been conferred on women, it would have been a natural and seemly thing to invite at least one woman to speak on behalf of her sex. But possibly when the complete list of speakers is available, we shall find we have ventured this criticism without due knowledge of the facts.

#### Athene and the Woman's Vote.

In an article in the *Nation and Athenæum* this week, "Does Democracy Make for Peace?" Sir Herbert Samuel discusses the effect of the establishment of woman's suffrage on military tendencies. He believes in the main that in democracies which include women in their citizenship, the will to peace will be the stronger, and quotes as an instance of this the recent outburst of popular opinion in the United States "which checked and apparently killed, the movement for a vast naval expansion"; this outburst he describes as being largely an expression of women's views. Finally he recalls that "in Homer it was a female deity, Athene, the goddess of wisdom, who on the plains of Troy, attacked Ares, the God of War, 'the blood-stained bane of mortals,' and sent him bellowing back to Olympus. The myth may be a symbol of the future course of history."

### Early Treatment for Mental Disorder.

How long must we wait for the amendment of our Lunacy laws to give effect to the recommendations for early treatment contained in the report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder which reported ten years ago. Quite recently a Poor Law Guardian with a record of long service turned down a suggestion of medical treatment for an abnormal case by saying that in her opinion the case was not certifiable. She had apparently not grasped the possibility of any kind of treatment for the mentally unstable until they had reached the point of certification for insanity. In fact, she was not far wrong. The opportunities of early treatment are so rare in this country that in the vast majority of cases medical care is only available when the hope of cure is almost nil. We are not surprised that the Board of Control in their last published report, record their deep regret at the long continued delay in the introduction of the necessary legislation. The hopeful feature of the position is the development of voluntary schemes for early treatment, especially of children. The work of the Child Guidance Council which Mrs. St. Leo Strachey described recently in these columns, and the reports recently published on visits to American facilities for treatment will undoubtedly hasten legislative action in this country.

### The Nationality of an Indian's Wife.

It is satisfactory to learn that the appeal of Mabel Ferris against an extradition order from Baroda State has been upheld by a Bombay Court. The details of this unhappy case were recapitulated in our issue of three weeks ago. It concerned, as our readers may remember, the freedom of a European woman married in Cape Town to a native of Baroda, under the belief that he was not already married. It was this last circumstance which enabled the Bombay Judge, himself a Mahomedan, to declare the marriage invalid as it was contracted in a country where polygamy is illegal, and the bridegroom was subsequently discovered to have existing wives. Mabel Ferris thus retains her nationality and is delivered from the threatened jurisdiction of Baroda. The Indian correspondent of the *Daily Mail* reports that the verdict has given great satisfaction to the Bombay European community. We may add that it gives great satisfaction to us; for had it been otherwise, a very deplorable fate appeared to be in store for the unfortunate Mabel Ferris. Our satisfaction is, however, modified by the thought that the circumstances of this particular marriage were abnormal. The laws by which a woman automatically and involuntarily loses her nationality on marriage are unaffected, and other women remain under the thraldom of their operation. It was strange, for instance, to be reminded a week or so ago that Ellen Terry was not a British subject, having automatically lost nationality by her somewhat impulsive marriage to an American actor in 1907.

### The Muzzling of Irish Opinion.

The most important business which awaits the Dail after its meeting this week, is the Censorship Bill, whose main points we have summarized in an earlier issue. We understand that there is much uneasiness concerning its provisions in literary and journalistic circles, but that there appears to be small chance that the Government, acting under Church pressure, will be deflected from its intention to push the measure through. The real danger of the Bill lies, of course, in the power, which it vests in five censors appointed by the Minister of Justice, to prescribe any publication which in the opinion of the five, tends to "subvert public morality" or "excite sexual passion". It has been pointed out that under the drastic ministrations of an obscurantist Board, the last definition might logically be used to rule out certain of Shelley's poems, while we ourselves are convinced that in so far as it opens its columns to discussions on birth control, THE WOMAN'S LEADER might be regarded as logically eligible for indexing under the first. But quite apart from possible consequences, and we admit that those we have indicated are somewhat remote, the principle of a general and indeterminate censorship on these lines appears to us wholly deplorable. There is no end to its obscurantist possibilities. We find ourselves hungering for some manifestations of that passion for freedom which stirred Victorian Liberalism to battle on behalf of political self-determination and individual free speech. The world has need of it.

### More Victory Celebrations.

A victory-and-after Luncheon organized by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee will be held at the Hotel Cecil

on Wednesday, 24th October, when the Viscountess Rhondda will preside. The four announced speakers are Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Alison Neilans, and Mrs. Doris Stevens, Chairman of the International Commission of Women. In the evening of the same day there will be a reception at Caxton Hall, when there will be short speeches by Lady Rhondda, Miss Nina Boyle, Mr. Victor Duval, Miss Winifred Goltby, Miss D. Woodman, and others. The feature of this gathering will be the production of the play, "How the vote was won," first produced at the Royalty Theatre in 1908. Some of the actresses in that first performance will take part and they will all wear the costumes of 1908. Readers will remember hearing of this play if they did not actually see it. It was written by Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Christopher St. John; it is a happy thought to receive it just now.

### "Alas, my Poor Brother!"

Under the heading "Men's preserves that have been invaded," the *Irish Times* of 20th September records, more in sorrow than in anger, facts gleaned from a report published by the Department of Industry and Commerce founded on the census of two years ago. According to this report, there are numerous instances in which women are to be found in professions or trades most usually followed by men. There is 1 woman veterinary surgeon, 5 barristers, 3 solicitors, 208 doctors, 31 dentists, 2 civil engineers and surveyors, and 9 chartered accountants. There is one woman overseer of a distillery, one manager of a general and jobbing carpentry, one brass finisher, one electrical apparatus maker. There is one woman sweep. There are six women station masters, 116 women shunters and level crossing attendants, 39 drivers of lorries, vans, and carts, and three tram and bus conductors. There are three women engaged in lighthouses. The total number of "occupied persons" in the Irish Free State is 1,307,662, so, bearing this fact in mind, the women do seem to be making good their claim to "take all labour for their province."

### Women Speakers at the Church Congress.

A contributor writes: Women speakers at the Church Congress! They were like smoke in Ireland, for there were none! The Congress speakers' list showed a formidable array of ecclesiastics, and one or two learned lay men, but no women at all this year. This is a bad departure from the satisfactory custom of recent years. Nevertheless, one woman speaker did lift up her voice, though not at an official meeting. Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S., was one of the speakers at a meeting on the "Ordination of Women," and she was supported by Canon Guy Rogers, Rector of Birmingham. This meeting, at which Dr. W. R. Matthews, Dean of King's College, London, took the chair, was arranged by the League of the Church Militant. In view of the League's dissolution at the end of the year, the meeting was followed by a private conference on the best methods to be adopted to keep the question of the ordination of women before the church in the future. Communications from those desiring to be kept in touch will be forwarded to the proper quarter if addressed c/o the L.C.M., Church House, Westminster, S.W. 1.

### Marie Stritt.

We deeply regret the death of Frau Marie Stritt, well known to those of our readers who have attended congresses of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. She was a leader of the woman's movement in her own country, and in international circles she commanded respect and admiration. The Congress next year, in Berlin, will not be the same without her. But as we recall seeing her at Geneva, at the first meeting of the Congress after the war, in a little private gathering of women of other countries, we know how she would have rejoiced in the then almost incredible event of another assembly of the women of all nations in her native land. She will be with us in spirit.

### Josephine Butler "among the Alps."

Mrs. Priestley's discovery at an auction sale of a book annotated by Josephine Butler while "among the Alps" is described by her in an article in our pages this week. As Mrs. Priestley says, it is not impertinent to pry into this deeply interesting book with its marked passages and intimate notes, for the inner life of Josephine Butler with its overmastering sorrow has now been made public.

### A VISIT TO THE RHONDDA VALLEY.

Visitors to the distressed areas are thankful for the beautiful Indian summer which heals the sting of the anxiety and privation that prevails. A recent visit to the Rhondda valley found it bathed in sunshine. The drive along the narrow valley seemed to a Londoner the pathway to an unknown region, full of the mystery that high mountains lend even to a commercialized area. At one moment we seemed to be suddenly transplanted to the Rhine Valley, for the mediaeval castle above the river, hidden in the woods, might easily have been a castle on the Rhine. But the scene changed very quickly, though the curious geometrical looking patterns on the mountains made by irregular rows of box-like houses hardly spoiled the unusual interest of the picture.

But the happy impression faded as we walked through the streets of the little town. Another colliery had just closed down, and practically all the miners were hanging about the Labour Exchange in the vain hope of employment elsewhere. The whole life of the place is at a standstill. The men, women, and children are not, it is true, starving, but they are habitually seriously under-nourished. You have only to look at them to know the truth. We were shown a cobbling centre, where unemployed miners give their services voluntarily to mending the boots and shoes of the school children. The amateur cobblers showed us their work with pride; there was no boot so bad in the hopeless looking piles that lay before us that they could not renew it. They were glad to be able to do something for the children, and work was better than idleness, they told us. It was the dinner hour and they had provided some bread and bananas for their meal. We also saw training centres for unemployed boys between school leaving age and eighteen. Patches of "the mountain" were being transformed into gardens by the boys in the gardening classes, an occupation they particularly enjoy, and other trades are taught. Similar training centres exist for girls, but many more are wanted.

A small settlement in this area, supported by a committee of which the Master of Balliol is chairman, is well named Maes-yr-Haf, meaning "sunny meadow." We hope to deal at greater length later with its work, for it is indeed a centre of hope and encouragement. There is a pathetic interest in the choice of the subjects of lecture courses organized by the settlement in a district where the population is left, through economic forces beyond its control, without a normal means of subsistence—Social Ideals; Democracy; Welsh Life, History and Literature; Ethics and Religion. These lectures, we are told, are well

### THE FIGHT FOR FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

By DOROTHY JEWSON.

"It's a long way to Tipperary," but an even longer road through the jungle of prejudices and superstitions that obstruct the path of a new idea in its attempt to reach a place on the programme of a political party.

Though the conception of Family Allowances is not an entirely new one in this country, the method of application suggested by the Independent Labour Party to the Labour Party Conference at Margate in 1926, was unusual in its simplicity and comprehensiveness. It was a proposal to pay to the mother or guardian out of direct taxation allowances according to the number of her children. This proposal was referred to a special committee representing jointly the General Council of the Trade Union Congress and the Executive Committee of the Labour Party. The fact that after an exhaustive survey of the whole question they have declared by a majority of 8 to 3 in favour of monetary payments is a great victory over those who have advocated allowances *only* in kind by an extension of our social services, school meals, school clothes, etc. Moreover, Mr. Henderson's statement on behalf of the Labour Party Executive Committee at Birmingham was entirely in favour of the principle of direct cash payments from the birth of the child up to and including its normal school life.

There is still a snag in the path, and it prevented a decisive vote being taken at Birmingham. For the trade unions have not yet considered the matter, and though a majority, including the Miners' Federation, have declared themselves in favour, there

attended and greatly appreciated. Meagre living indeed but high thinking!

But such efforts are relatively only on a minute scale and as winter inevitably approaches in spite of the kindly autumn sunshine we ask ourselves what can be done? We are glad to hear that the Prime Minister's appeal has resulted in the transfer of a rate of 400 families a week (though we should like assurances that this transfer has not been made at the expense of unemployed in other areas). Tucked away at the foot of a column in *The Times* we read with pleasure that two Welsh collieries are re-opening, meaning employment for 2,000 men. But such efforts at readjustment are almost imperceptible in view of the magnitude of the problem. In an eloquent and closely reasoned appeal in the *Manchester Guardian* last week, Mr. Galsworthy discusses possible solutions. He pleads for an emigration scheme for the younger men on a big scale, and we read with interest in this morning's paper that the Canadian Government has something of this kind under consideration. Mr. Galsworthy makes a good point when he pleads for the revival of the war time allotment policy for the older men who are less easy to transplant. In areas like the Forest of Dean where miners have gardens, the distress is less acute, but in many of the South Wales villages the long monotonous streets of houses have no gardens. But land at not too great a distance is often available which could surely be utilized. We respect the miner who rather than loaf in idleness takes on unpaid cobbling of children's boots. Why should they not find health-giving employment on their own plots of ground which will yield food for their bare tables.

But admirable though such proposals are, surely something more drastic is necessary. We agree with Mr. Galsworthy when he says that an attempt to organize the present crisis with the resource and determination that the war evolved might go far to restore a more normal state of affairs. As he says such a great evolutionary disturbance in the field of politics is of *National* concern. Where are the great organizers and financiers who came forward during the war years? Is a state of affairs that involves roughly about a million of our fellow countrymen—men, women, and children, and which allows once busy, prosperous districts in our small island to rot and decay not worthy of their powers? We make no apology for dealing with this matter in this paper. We believe this is a question which concerns women as voters and as good citizens. Let us send boots and clothes and contribute to the best of our ability to funds, for every bit of help is necessary. But we must do more than this; we must use some of the same determination and persistency which won for us the vote to bring pressure to bear on those who have the power to save the situation before it is too late.

are still a few undecided or definitely hostile; and until the General Council have come to a decision there will be no inclusion of this principle in the policy of the party.

The chief stumbling block in the way of trade union acceptances is, of course, a genuine fear as to its effect on wages.

They point to the reduction in wages of many of their members of 65 years and upwards as the result of the Widows', Orphans, and Old Age Pension Act.

The cases do not seem at all parallel, for a considerable proportion of those of 65 and over do suffer from some disability, whereas that would not usually be the case with the family man.

Surely we should be guided by continental experience in this matter, and there allowances have not had any serious effect on wages, in spite of the less satisfactory method adopted there of the industrial pool.

The I.L.P. proposal disconnects the allowance from any association with wages. It would be a thing apart and a recognition by the State of the mothers' work in rearing children.

That it would be paid when the man was ill or well, in cases of accidents and disputes should commend it to those who are anxious to raise the standards of working class life, and I have every hope that within a short space of time this proposal, which is fraught with such significance to mother and child, may have a place in the policy of a party that was first to recognize the right of woman to equal enfranchisement.

## "READ AMONG THE ALPS."

"Josephine Butler. Read among the Alps, 1862." This is the intriguing inscription in a book which came into my possession by a lucky chance a few years ago. The manner of my acquiring it was this. I was attending one of the very few auction sales I have ever gone to in my life, that of an old retired Oxford don. All sorts of old-fashioned furniture and plate were sold, and eagerly striven for by rings of bidders. Then books were put up for sale, in great lots, perhaps a hundred at a time, and—no one wanted them. Impelled by mixed feelings, partly pity, partly shame, partly curiosity and partly the hope of a bargain, I made a modest bid, and found myself for a shilling or two the possessor of a huge miscellaneous collection, chiefly of old theological works. I had them all brought home—it cost me more than I had paid for the books—and sorted them at my leisure. I am bound to confess that I had to agree with the verdict of the general public, and discard a good many items from my newly acquired library. Among those I saved was a neat red cloth volume, tooled in gilt, and with old-fashioned turned over edges (I do not know the technical name for them, but the sort of prayer-book I aspired to possess in my youth was bound like that.)

The title of this book is: *The Near and The Heavenly Horizons*, author, Madame de Gasparin, Publisher, Alexander Strahan and Co., Edinburgh, 1862. But all that would not have been enough to induce me to read the book. It was the delicately pencilled inscription quoted above which made me lay it on one side to read in some quiet moment and perhaps get some small glimpse of the way in which the mind of Josephine Butler obtained its rest, refreshment or consolation. I was not disappointed, for the book is annotated and marked in many places, and the inference that these marks were made by Josephine Butler is so tempting that I must draw it. Neither does it now seem impertinent to pry into the book, for the intimate life of Josephine Butler, with its great overmastering sorrow, has now been made public.

The book, then, consists of two parts. The first part, "The Near Horizons," is made up of simple stories of peasant life "among the Alps" written with religion as their chief motive and basis, showing its power and development in simple minds and hearts. Many passages are marked here, and we can imagine the reader's deep agreement with some of these. For example: "Lisette had never trifled with that deep need of holiness, that thirst after truth, which kindles sooner or later in all elect souls." "All the charity in the world never yet made up for work." "His was one of those poor hearts: mighty to suffer, unfitted for daily life; violent, earnest, impossible to divert, humble, broken always, for which the Lord has ineffable tenderness."

The second part of the book, "The Heavenly Horizons," consists of short homilies designed chiefly to give spiritual comfort, consolation or advice to those in need. This part is more heavily marked and annotated. One address condemns the kind of consolation sometimes given to the bereaved. "You had counted on God, on His sympathy, on his help, on some miracle of love He might still hold in reserve. . . . And behold! they bring you a God of petty jealousies, or a God who demands joy of a heart transpierced, or a calculating God, who enjoins you to love none but Him, since he alone dies not." Here Josephine Butler has written "How true", and further on has underlined "Do not transfer our own little passions to God." The next address expatiates on the infinite love of God, and we see Josephine Butler, the raiser of the fallen, in the passages she has marked. "There is no heart beyond the circle of Divine action." "The holiness of God dismays us, but his charity still more." "May I possess that sacred boldness which lies in true humility." (This aspiration surely was fulfilled!)

Another address is on "The Eternity of Love". The writer is seeking consolations for bereavement. These consolations she calls "muffled harmonies, but I can hear their distant echoes." "I cannot yet," writes Josephine Butler.

Other marked passages also show sympathy with the doubting and diffident: "At times a terrible crumbling away process goes on within us. Everything rocks to and fro, as in countries shaken by volcanic fires. We want to lay hold upon God; He escapes from us. We utter a groan of despair; God hears that,—He succours us. But what a shock we have had! How it has aged us as it were! We have indeed won the experience of our Father's faithfulness; but we have lost the simple confidence of childhood." This essay is foretelling New Heavens and a New Earth, and these lines are marked: "Nothing will perish that was noble, generous, full of holy grace and poetry," and "We shall be active."

(Continued at foot of next column.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.<sup>1</sup>

By DAME MILLCENT FAWCETT, G.B.E.

(Continued.)

The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 was the crowning triumph of Elizabeth's life. She had often said there was nothing she valued in this world as much as the love of her people: but the English are a reserved race and often do not display their deepest emotions. This, however, was an occasion for showing all they felt, and Elizabeth was, as it were, immersed in an ocean of affectionate loyalty. She went down to Tilbury to bid farewell to her troops before they started on their great adventure. The Navy was under the command of Lord Howard of Effingham, a Roman Catholic nobleman, whose loyalty was beyond all question. Leicester rode by her side: the Queen herself was bare-headed; the armourer had provided a helmet for her, but it was too heavy and a page carried it on a cushion by her side. She was unattended by any guard. A few words of her speech have been preserved: "I am come," she said, "in the midst of the heat and the battle to live or die among you all. I lay down for my God, and my kingdom, and for my people, my honour and my blood even in the dust. . . ." For the present she told them she had appointed the Earl of Leicester to act in her stead, "than whom never prince had a more noble or worthy subject." With the army were the great seamen and circumnavigators headed by Francis Drake. These men were masters of all the seaman's skill. "Thirty difficult years," as Miss John recites in her book, "had passed since Elizabeth was welcomed by a cowed and impoverished kingdom, fallen to its lowest fighting strength since the Norman conquest. . . . Through all the queen had remained steadfast to her vision. It was a bad Englishman who did not admit on that day that Elizabeth had more than justified herself" (p. 133).

It will be remembered that when all the chivalry of young England was crowding to serve under Drake, that he set up the wholesome rule "that the gentleman must haul and draw with the mariner and the mariner with the gentleman." "Let us show ourselves all to be of a company." The practical democracy and common sense of this will commend itself to every one. There is no need to dwell in these pages on the fate of the Armada nor the noble humility with which it was celebrated in England. Two medals were struck to commemorate the occasion. One bore the legend "Venit, vidit, fugit" and the other "He blew with his winds and they were scattered."

Innumerable stories of Elizabeth's ready wit survive through the centuries. On one of the occasions when both Houses of Parliament were particularly desirous that she should marry and produce an heir in the direct succession, she parried with the situation without exactly explaining what she meant. She could not disclose all that was in her mind, but her aim doubtless was that the union of Scotland with England should be brought about by peaceful, natural inheritance and not by war.

Some of her expressions hit the popular sense of the appropriate so exactly that they became proverbial: "The case is altered" is an example. These words may still be found, as an inn sign, in tiny villages in East Anglia. When a solemn deputation from both Houses of Parliament waited on her to urge her to marry, reminding her of the uncertainty of life, her own included, she ironically asked them if they had not known until they were told that "when my breath did fail me I would be dead and what a peril that would be to the state" (p. 66). Then she added: "There hath been error. . . . but we will not judge that these attempts were done in any hatred to our person but ever for lack of good foresight" . . . and she continued: "Though I am a woman I have as good a courage answerable to my place as ever my father had. I am your anointed queen. I will never be by violence constrained to do anything. I thank God I am endowed with such qualities that if I were turned out of my realm in my petticoat I were able to live in any place in Christendom."

The temperament and attitude of mind of all this is so modern that it seems to bring the great Queen very near to us. I conclude these short notes by saying to my readers "Get Miss John's book and read it."

(Continued from preceding column.)

"As I am, so I see." By the help of these marked passages, it is not extravagant to say it, we could build up a character. We could find a lover of beauty and truth and goodness, a respecter of every individual soul, a believer above all in the fatherhood and charity of God, an exponent of the radical principle that right thought and feeling must be followed by right action; in a word, the character of Josephine Butler.

M. M. PRIESTLEY.

<sup>1</sup> Queen Elizabeth, by Gwen John. (Heffer & Son, Cambridge.)

## SCOTLAND'S FIRST WOMAN MINISTER.

Several Scotswomen have already obtained the degree of B.D., but hitherto they have either turned to University work, like Miss Frances H. Melville, Mistress of Queen Margaret College, Glasgow, or to the foreign mission field. Miss Vera M. M. Findlay, who has just received and accepted a call to Partick Congregational Church, Glasgow, is therefore a pioneer, and her attainment is a fine testimony both to her personal qualities and to the unbiased recognition of such qualities by a public to whom the idea of a woman minister is new.

Miss Findlay, who is still in her very early twenties, had a distinguished career at Hillhead High School, Glasgow, and at Glasgow University, where she graduated in 1926 with Honours in Classics. From there she passed directly to the Scottish Congregational College, Edinburgh, to be its first and only woman student. There she speedily made herself felt, showing exceptional powers as a preacher in addition to taking top place in almost all her classes. And now, close on the completion of her course, she has received this call from one of the largest churches of her denomination in Glasgow. She is to be ordained early in November, upon which she will enter upon her duties.

We look forward confidently to her success. She is a keen and able scholar with no trace of pedantry; she has balance, humour and practical ability in abundance. She is the gayest, most delightful and adaptable of companions, and she gives to her work a whole-hearted devotion which harmonizes all her other qualities and which will gain impetus from this early success. To those of us who know her the news brings the deepest personal delight; to all who, from far and near are in sympathy with her aims, her appointment is an inspiring and significant event.

E. C. E.

## PREHISTORIC MAN IN FULHAM.

We have permission to publish the following amusing correspondence on the recent events connected with the Sheffield Cutlers' Feast:—

To the Mayor of Chesterfield.

DEAR MADAM,—It was reported in the newspapers a few days ago that you felt that your sex had been slighted by not being invited to the Sheffield Cutlers' Feast.

In my opinion this is a very foolish statement, because you are in possession of the fact that no one of your sex has attended the Feast for 300 years.

Surely the reason is that you occupy a *Man's* position, but being a woman you could not be invited, and after all, why should the Cutlers' rule (a very ancient one, by the way) be broken because some misguided men choose to put you in a false position.

I cannot imagine any true woman wishing to preside over a body of men, it must be very undignified for you, or any other woman, and certainly any man worthy of the name would feel very much out of place in such a position as councillor.

It is therefore very pleasant and refreshing to me to find we still have some of my own sex who have the courage to keep women from intruding in nearly every sphere of life, where in some cases they are no good at all.

In these days of sloppy sentimentality on all sides, we want more of this sort of thing, be sure it will not hurt woman, but keep her from running over the traces to her own advantage and self-esteem.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WM. S. BROOKS,

16 years on Fulham Borough Council.

THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR,

CHESTERFIELD.

2nd October, 1928.

DEAR SIR,—I am much indebted to you for your kind letter. Archaeology is one of my favourite hobbies, and I am greatly interested to find that such surprising relics of prehistoric man still persist in Fulham.

Should communications to you not be addressed to the Fulham Museum?

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) VIOLET MARKHAM,

Mayor.

*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 woman'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.

## EDINBURGH AUTUMN SCHOOL.

By DORA MELLONE.

The Autumn School organized by the Edinburgh S.E.C. has been as successful as the previous ones. The names of the speakers are sufficient guarantee that the educational side of the meetings are well provided for. For those who depend on printers' reports for information it was a great privilege to hear so full and lucid a summary of the position as regards the Streets Offences Committee and the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act as was given by Miss Chrystal Macmillan. It has often been felt that the entire position as regards the moral standard is at present most difficult and complicated, and when one cannot be too grateful for the able explanation of the School. Unfortunately the restrictions for the married women in the Professions and Industry are only too well known. Ireland may claim an honourable exception from the British rule that teachers are liable to dismissal after marriage. The higher grade in the Civil Service are closed to women in Ireland as elsewhere, and the new factories bill will probably apply to Northern Ireland.

The discussion on these questions was therefore of the greatest interest to the Irish delegates present. The Sunday night's lecture on Women and World Peace was much appreciated, following the efforts of the Woman's International League to obtain signatures in Ireland for a resolution urging Disarmament and Renunciation of War. One cannot help a rather cynical comment on all these appeals to women to secure World Peace. As a rule the more difficult paths the more urgent is the appeal to women and to Women's Organizations to concentrate upon it and the more impressably are they reminded that this particular piece of work belongs in a special degree to them.

The young woman voter was, of course, the centre of interest during the meetings. It is evident that she at least will not suffer from unemployment. The restrictions of women in industry the position of the married teacher, and the whole group of problems relating to the legal status of women, should certainly now command the attention of whatever government may be in power after the election.

The School was not all instruction. A visit to the Edinburgh War Memorial and a pleasant motor drive on Saturday provided a welcome variety. The War Memorial indeed impressed the lessons of the Sunday evening's lecture, reminding one of the heroism and courage which, but for the war, would have been forces for good in the whole national life.

One event in the week-end School will not be easily forgotten, that is the sermon by Miss Picton-Turbervill at the anniversary service on Sunday morning, very dignified and restrained in matter and in manner it was inspiring and heartening. The afternoon meeting that day on woman and the Ministry of the Church was of great interest, owing to the recent decisions of the Wesleyan Conference and the present position of women in the Scottish Churches. The Irish delegates' report was satisfaction that there is at present a woman student in the Theological College of the Irish Presbyterian Church and one of the delegates had been for seven years a member of the Committee of her own church.

On Saturday evening a pleasant variety was afforded by speeches, music, and some dramatic sketches. If criticism is permissible one might ask that in organizing the week-end schools a little time should be spared in which the delegates could talk with each other! It is the meeting with each other and discussing questions from different points of view that render these schools so valuable. Have we not the Apostolic injunction that we should not "forsake the assembling together to encourage each other in love and good works." We all know that goods works are the subject-matter of feminism, and we all know that we need occasionally heartening and encouragement: both were reported at the Edinburgh School. For the benefit of the all-important young voter I hasten to add there was plenty of amusement as well. Those present from Ireland wish to record their heartiest thanks to all those who worked hard to make the school such a success.

## THE EMERSON CLUB, 1 Little George St., Westminster.

Saturday, at 3 p.m.

MRS. SEATON TIEDEMAN on

"Mr. Snell's Bill for providing 'COURTS OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS'"

Questions and Discussion.

THIS MEETING IS FOR WOMEN ONLY.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

## THE 1ST NOVEMBER IN THE PROVINCES.

In our article of 28th September we drew attention to the triennial elections for the twenty-eight Metropolitan Borough Councils which will take place on 1st November.

We now remind our readers that on the same day one-third of the elected members will also be chosen in approximately eighty-three county boroughs and 255 non-county boroughs throughout England and Wales.

Much that we said in our previous article regarding the London elections and the work of the Metropolitan Borough Councils applies also to the provincial elections and to the work of the provincial councils.

The latter equally with the former are responsible amongst many other things, for the health, the housing, the education, the maternity and child welfare, the transport, the recreation, and the general well-being of the community which they are elected to serve.

The need for councillors of high character, intelligence, and wide outlook is as great in the provinces as in London.

The need for women councillors is as important in the provincial boroughs as in those of the Metropolis. But there is one very important duty devolving on provincial councils which London Borough Councils are not called upon to discharge, i.e. the maintenance of law and order in their respective areas. It is this we wish now to emphasize.

In London, as our readers are aware, the Metropolitan Police Force is controlled by the Home Secretary. In provincial boroughs of not less than 20,000 inhabitants, which have their own police force, the Police Acts are administered by "the Watch Committee" of the Borough Council. The members of this all-important committee must be elected Borough Councillors with the Mayor for the time being, who is an ex-officio member. The "Watch Committee" appoints and dismisses the constables, and makes regulations for the control of the force.

Boroughs which for one reason or another do not maintain their own police force, are for police purposes part of the administrative counties in which they are situate.

The functions and duties of "Watch" Committees are of supreme importance. They not only control the police, but they are responsible also for the inspection and supervision of public-houses, common lodging houses, picture palaces, doubtful literature, and objectionable picture post-cards, etc. They carry into effect the powers of Borough Councils under the Prisons and Inebriate Acts, and are responsible for street order and decency.

All these matters closely concern the well-being, morality, and sobriety of the community. The nature of the work so obviously demands the help of women, that we should expect to find that all Boroughs which are keenly alive to their civic responsibilities, and have their own police force, have also women on their "Watch" Committees and women members of their police force. This is far from the case. Outside the fourteen boroughs which have women Mayors "only nine other women," so we learn from *The Policewomen's Review*, are members of "Watch" Committees, only thirty-three of the 121 provincial boroughs outside London, which are police authorities, employ women in their police forces, and in only twenty-one boroughs have the women constables the power of arrest." This number is quite out of proportion to the number of Boroughs which have their own police force, and to the importance of the work.

We have said before, and this we repeat in view of the approaching elections, that if women are to be members of "Watch" Committees they must first be members of Borough Councils.

Borough Councils which are composed solely of men—and there are to-day approximately 113 Councils which are still in this unfortunate position—cannot—even if they are longing to do so—place women on their "Watch" Committees if there are no women on the Councils to be appointed.

In regard to the appointment of women constables, the Home Secretary has definitely laid down that provincial Boroughs

must "paddle their own canoes" (these are not his exact words, of course, but that is his meaning), and the "paddling" if it is to be effective and successful, must be done by the electors.

The electors have the power in their own hands. If they desire that women shall be members of "Watch" Committees, they must elect women to the Councils. Equally also if they are of opinion that women should form an integral part of their police force, they must "paddle the canoe" now. They must use their "paddles" to secure the selection of candidates who, if elected, will vote for the appointment of women constables with the same powers and pay as men constables, and they must use their "paddles," i.e. their votes, on the polling day on behalf of the men or women who, if returned, will make it their business to work for such appointments.

(To be continued.)

## SOME WOMEN CANDIDATES.

There are many indications that the number of women candidates both in London and in the provinces will be larger than in previous years. Only thirteen of the County Borough Councils are still without any women members and in the majority of these cities women will stand. At present 180 women are members of these councils, and 155 of non-county borough councils, leaving 100 of the latter bodies without women members. In Scotland the position is less satisfactory, but the women's organizations in Edinburgh and Glasgow are taking steps to support some women candidates. In Glasgow three of the existing women members stand for re-election, all of whom have given several years of strenuous service to the local government of the city.

In Hull, Miss Theilmann, J.P., is seeking re-election, and at the opening meeting of her campaign, the Chairman stated that Miss Theilmann "was an exceedingly capable woman—capable of sound judgment and of voting 'off her own bat'". Referring to the work of the Council during the past three and a half years, Miss Theilmann said that she thought it "legitimate for the Corporation to have the provision of meals to necessitous schoolchildren and nursing mothers as no small organization could do that work efficiently." Speaking at Croydon, Mrs. Roberts—one of the retiring candidates—strongly urged the need for nursery schools, and referred to the high standard of the Croydon Mental Hospital. Mrs. Cullis will also be a candidate for the Croydon Council.

We report with pleasure that Mrs. Barton, the President of the local Women Citizens' Association, will be a candidate for the Portsmouth Town Council. Portsmouth and Salford are the only two towns with large populations that are without women members on their municipal councils. The misfortune of the introduction of party politics is clearly shown in Birmingham, where Miss Mary Wilson, who has been a member of the Council since 1919 is being opposed by Mrs. Hyde, the Secretary of the Women's Advisory Council of the local Labour Party. Miss Wilson's work has been cordially approved by all parties on the Council, has been Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and is also a member of the Watch Committee. In Halifax Mrs. Lightowler is standing for re-election. She is the only member of the Council and is also Chairman of the local Board of Guardians. Mrs. Crichton will stand for a fourth term of office in York, where she has been a keen member of the Education Committee and has taken an active share in the recent reorganization of the elementary school system, designed to provide a better start for all intelligent pupils who do not find their way to a secondary school; she has also served as chairman of the Maintenance Grants Sub-Committee. In Tunbridge Wells two of the women existing councillors, Miss Baker and Miss Power, are seeking re-election, and at Ramsgate Miss Sanger Reeve, who has been a member of the Council since 1923, will again be nominated.

## WOMEN AND THE MAYORALTY.

Dame Maud Burnett, D.B.E., the first and only woman member of the Tynemouth Town Council—has accepted the invitations of her colleagues on the Council to accept the office of Mayor for the ensuing year. She will be the first woman Mayor of the Borough. Dame Maud was elected in 1910 and was the second woman in the country to serve on a Watch Committee. There is every probability of a second woman being shortly elected to the Tynemouth Council, Lady Gregg having agreed to fill a casual vacancy.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.  
THE GOVERNING BODY MEETS.

By HEBE SPAULL.

On 9th October the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations assembled at Warsaw at the invitation of the Polish Government.

The chief business before the Governing Body is concerned with the Agenda of the International Labour Conference in May of next year. It has already been decided that three main items shall figure on it. One of these is Accident Prevention, which came up for a first discussion at this year's Conference; the second is Native Labour, and the third is Hours of Work of Salaried Employees.

The fact that the two latter subjects should figure on the same Agenda is an indication of how wide is the field allotted to the International Labour Organization. It would seem to point to the fact that the world in general has laid hold of the idea of the "international adjustment of conditions of industrial life and labour" as laid down in the Peace Treaty and is translating "industrial" in its widest sense.

Apart from the question of the Agenda for next year's International Labour Conference, twelve other items figure on the Agenda of this meeting of the Governing body. One of these relates to decisions taken by this year's Assembly of the League of Nations which affect the work of the International Labour Organization.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

MADAM.—In reading Miss Bertha Mason's article on the Borough Council elections in your last week's issue, it came before me that it is excessively difficult in London to know anything whatever about the candidates for the lesser local government elections. Most electors have never heard anything about those who solicit their suffrages.

It would be a very useful piece of work if Miss Mason or some one equally well qualified would give us in your pages during the weeks that have still to elapse before the election, a truthful and impartial account of the women candidates. I certainly am not prepared to vote for a woman, only because she is a woman, and most women electors would say the same.

MAUD SELBORNE.

[We propose to publish some particulars of the women candidates in London after Nomination Day, which will be 20th October.—ED.]

PERCENTAGE *versus* BLOCK GRANTS.

MADAM.—E. M. Costello in this week's *WOMAN'S LEADER* tries to prove that my criticisms of the proposals of the Government to substitute block for percentage grants for certain health services are "based on certain fallacies and misconceptions". How does she do this?

She ignores my general arguments and takes the case of three boroughs, Merthyr Tydvil, Gateshead, and South Shields, and compares them with Southport and Eastbourne as regards the number of children under five and expenditure on maternity and child welfare. Now these three boroughs are "necessitous areas," that is to say they have been—and still are—suffering from prolonged and abnormal unemployment and their rates in 1926-27 were as follows:—

	s.	d.
Merthyr Tydvil . . . . .	27	2
South Shields . . . . .	18	2
Gateshead . . . . .	23	9

On the other hand Southport and Eastbourne for obvious reasons are amongst the lowest rated boroughs:—

	s.	d.
Southport . . . . .	8	4
Eastbourne . . . . .	9	4

The average rate for England and Wales for that year was 13s. 2½d. For purposes of comparison therefore your contributor has taken extreme cases on either side.

Now necessitous areas, which are not fortunately in a majority, form a special problem and need special treatment. Extra government grants should be provided for these cases, but this relief should not be given at the expense of other areas.

Your contributor assumes (a) that an authority that spends less on Maternity and Child Welfare and therefore receives less from Government grants does so from sheer necessity; and, (b) that all authorities are clamouring to be allowed to satisfy the needs of their areas and no outside stimulus is necessary. But many authorities that are not "necessitous" prefer to keep the rates down instead of spending anything beyond the minimum. Under the block grant they will be able to do this with impunity and use that part of the grant calculated on the number of children under five to reduce the rates. Under the percentage system this parsimony results in a smaller grant being received which is surely only just. There is abundant proof that this inducement to spend wisely has been successful in bringing laggard authorities up to standard both with regard to educational and public health services. How, under the proposed scheme, can there be any guarantee that the "needs of the area" will be attended to?

Your contributor refers to the "wide margin" that is to be provided by the extra Exchequer money. This claim is being made by the government but is being critically examined by local authorities. Much is still vague and uncertain, particularly the result at the end of the first five years, but it is the opinion of the Finance Committee of the Manchester City Council—the first of the large authorities to publish a report on the matter—that in the final result there will be a definite loss to that city.

With many apologies for the length of this letter.

Broomcroft, Ford Lane, Didsbury. SHEENA D. SIMON.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR  
EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBON, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM.  
General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON.  
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

## TO HELP THE KENSINGTON EXPERIMENT.

Our readers already know about the work the Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. is doing to promote the election at the forthcoming Borough Council Election of six non-party candidates in the St. Charles Ward of Kensington. In view of the very great need there is for more women and men on Borough Councils in active sympathy with the aims of the National Union, we hope that many of our friends will help in this campaign. A large number of canvassers are wanted; we should, therefore, be very glad of all offers for day or evening work. In order to help volunteers in this work a

## CLASS FOR CANVASSERS

which Miss Macadam has kindly consented to conduct will be held at 15 Dean's Yard, and will meet for the first time on Friday, 12th October, at 5 o'clock, when tea (price 3d.) will be available if desired.

## THE KING'S SPEECH.

The National Union has written to the Prime Minister asking that the following measures should be mentioned in the King's Speech:

(i) A Bill to raise the Age of Marriage to 16.

(ii) A Children Bill, such as has been outlined by the Home Secretary, to incorporate several of the more important recommendations of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences, and that on the Treatment of Young Offenders.

## TAVISTOCK BY-ELECTION.

The Questionnaire was sent from Headquarters to all three candidates at the above by-election. So far no replies have been received from General Wallace Wright (C.) and Lieut. Commander Fletcher (Lib.). Mr. R. Davies (Lab.) has replied to all questions in the affirmative with the exception of that on Family Allowances, to which he replies: "I am not in favour of granting special family allowances to or on behalf of individuals, but of providing public services where and when required and of raising the wages of labour to such an amount as will provide adequately for the needs of the family." He is in favour of protective legislation being based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker, but adds, "always provided that certain special regulations may be necessary in the case of women." Mr. Davies also writes:—"Socially, industrially, and politically women should be placed on an equality with men, and I would support all efforts to attain this end."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
WOMEN.

The following delegates have been appointed as representatives of the N.U.S.E.C. at the above Annual Meeting to be held at York from 15th to 19th October:—Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Cartwright, Mrs. Horton, Mrs. Hubback, Miss Nussey, and Mrs. Wicksteed. There will also be present in other capacities the following members of the Executive Committee of the National Union:—The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Dame Katharine Furse, Miss Picton-Turbervill, Mrs. Ryland, and Miss Ward.

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH WALES AREA GROUP.

A report of the very successful Conference held at Cardiff on 2nd October under the auspices of the South Wales Group of Societies affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. will appear next week. The officers are grateful to the Cardiff Society for undertaking the whole of the organization on behalf of the group so successfully and to the Cardiff and Newport Society for sharing the expenses.

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## COMING EVENTS.

**EDINBURGH ENFRANCHISEMENT CELEBRATION (organized by Women's and Young People's Societies).**

OCTOBER 31. 8 p.m. Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Mass Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Laurance Houseman, Esq., Dame Katherine Furse. Chair: Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

**GUILDHOUSE W.C.A.**

OCTOBER 22. 3 p.m. Miss Helen Ward. "My visit to Liverpool Cathedral" (lantern slides).

**KENSINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

OCTOBER 24. 8 p.m. Ladbroke Hall, Ladbroke Grove, W. Public Meeting in support of the Borough Welfare Candidates. Chair: Major-General Sir F. Maurice. Addresses by the Candidates.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.**

OCTOBER 10-19. York. Annual Council Meetings.

**NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**

**Coulson W.C.A.** OCTOBER 17. 3 p.m. Mrs. Blanco White. "The Equal Vote: What it Means."

**Croydon W.C.A. (North Ward).** OCTOBER 26. 3 p.m. Mrs. Horton. "Unjust Wills."

**Gillingham W.C.A.** OCTOBER 15. 2.20. Visit to Rochester G.P.O. Meet Star Hill Corner.

**SIX POINT GROUP.**

OCTOBER 16. 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Miss Doris Stevens. "The Equal Rights Treaty." Chair: The Viscountess Rhonda.

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

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