

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
LEVELLING UP OR LEVELLING DOWN ? . . .	67
INSURANCE FOR DENTISTRY. By Lady Emmott . . .	67
TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922. By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D. . . .	68
BACK TO THE LAND	69
BOLTON WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION	69

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Protocol.

A remarkable debate took place in the House of Commons on Tuesday of this week on the much-discussed Protocol and the recent offer from Germany. Whether the Protocol be dead or alive it certainly has sufficient vitality to excite the liveliest interest. We once again urge study on the subject between now and the meeting of the Assembly in September. Whether the Protocol be scrapped altogether or emerge in a new shape at Geneva we hope that a sincere effort will be made to develop the Covenant of the League into an effective Guarantee of peace and security on the lines of the Protocol. It is clear that the possible alternative of a Five Power Pact will have to be exhaustively considered, but we will watch with distrust any proposal of agreements outside the League.

The Guardianship of Infants Bill through Committee.

This Bill slipped through its Committee Stage on 24th March—the only lively part of the whole discussion centering round an amendment moved by Lady Astor to insert a clause to give equal rights and responsibilities to mothers and fathers. Lady Astor, in two or three vigorous little speeches, made the points in favour of this amendment, and showed how the proposed Bill was not an Equal Guardianship Bill at all, in spite of the Prime Minister's pledge during the Election Campaign. Mr. Locker-Lampson, who was in charge of the Bill, however, made a serious appeal to Lady Astor to withdraw her amendment in view of the fact that, if inserted in the Bill, it would, in his opinion, lead to its being wrecked if not in the Lower House most certainly in the House of Lords. Lady Astor thereupon withdrew, but had a subsequent small amendment accepted—a declaration in favour of equality of responsibilities between mothers and fathers being included in the Preamble; although this is of little practical value, it presents an interesting declaration of principle. An amendment was moved by Mr. Locker-Lampson, and accepted, to the effect that a three months' time-limit should be imposed during which an order for custody or maintenance of a child can be enforced. In our view, although some limit is undoubtedly necessary, this is far too short and we hope in the Report Stage to see it altered. During the Report, moreover, a further amendment will need to be introduced to give to Scotland the same rights as are provided for England to bring cases under the Bill before Summary Courts.

Et tu Brute.

We regret to hear that certain members of the Labour Party are becoming shaken in the faith in a non-contributory scheme on Widows' Pensions to such an extent that it has not, at the time of writing, been found possible to frame the resolution on the subject (for which Mr. Kelly has drawn a place next Wednesday) to which the whole Party can subscribe. *The Times* quotes the Labour Party's own estimate of a Widows' Pension Scheme as representing £20,000,000 annual expenditure. We would remind our readers that the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has worked out a scheme with a satisfactory scale, which should not cost more than £17,500,000, without allowing for the £3,000,000 saving that would be effected in Poor Law expenses. If the Labour Party joins the ranks of those who are demanding a non-contributory scheme, it will indeed be a case of a "lost leader." We need not remind our readers of the many disadvantages of such a scheme, such as its leaving outside a large number of those who most require it, etc., and sincerely hope that in our next week's issue we shall be able to record that the Labour Party has stuck to its principles.

Alberta Farmers and Widows Pensions.

A serious state of affairs is reported from Alberta. As a consequence of a Government scheme of pensions for widows, the widows of Alberta are refusing to marry the widowers. We read in the *Daily Colonist* of Victoria, British Columbia, that the widowed mothers of Alberta are so comfortable and value the glorious privilege of independence so highly "that they resolutely refuse further adventures on the tempestuous sea of matrimony." At a recent meeting of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts a resolution against widows' pensions was under consideration. After complaining that widowers are unable to get married, that they are compelled to do the housework and have no time to work on the farm, and therefore are going into debt and losing their property, the resolution goes on to amend the Mothers' Allowance Act, so that the Council of the Municipality be allowed to decrease the allowance to any mother upon proof that her refusal was on the grounds that she is better off with her pension. The article from which we quote does not tell us the result of this remarkable resolution, but the writer is full of sympathy with the farmers. "Alberta is mainly an agricultural province . . . domestic servants are difficult to procure; wives, therefore, are essential to the comfort and convenience of the prairie farmers and to the progress and prosperity of the Prairie Provinces." The article concludes by asking why everyone who is in receipt of benefits from a munificent public is prone to abuse his or her privileges. We are not surprised that the widows of Alberta object to be looked upon as a cheap substitute for domestic servants.

The Factories Bill.

Last week we undertook to return to the question of this Bill, and it is referred to in our leader column. Since that article was written the Home Secretary has further developed his line in regard to it in a letter to *The Times* last Tuesday, and in his reply to a deputation from the Legislative Council of the United Textile Factory Workers' Association he reiterated his intention of bringing in an amending as well as a consolidating Bill, but he gave no promise in regard to including a 48-hour week for all workers, which was one of the questions raised by the deputation. It is true, as the Home Secretary observed, that no such clause was in Mr. Henderson's Bill, but he did not go on to refer to the fact that the last Government brought in another Bill dealing with that very matter. The Home Secretary also

promised to arrange further conferences between employers and employed; this is to the good so long as it is not made an excuse for further delay in regard to long overdue reforms. We feel constrained to suggest to the Home Secretary that he should get his facts correct before seeing any further deputations. Speakers at the recent Council of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship could have given him points in regard to the fact that interference with the hours of adult women is by no means so new a feature of our legislation as he seemed to think on 10th March.

Public Health.

The Public Health Bill which was introduced by a Private Member last Friday is a comprehensive measure dealing with a large variety of matters, from verminous houses to mixed bathing. The Bill aims at consolidating certain powers already acquired by many individual local authorities by private Acts into a general Act. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health welcomed the Bill as a step forward and stated that it would be followed by further legislation which the Government had in preparation in 1926.

Bradford and Women Police.

The Bradford Watch Committee has decided against the employment of women police for patrol duty, but it proposes that in cases of offences against women and children the evidence should be taken by suitably qualified women who shall be classified as policewomen.

The Lunacy Commission.

Evidence was given before the Lunacy Commission on 10th March by representatives of the Mental Hospital Associations. They dealt largely with the advisability of giving early treatment in clinics rather than in asylums. One point made by Sir William Hodgson was the importance of women's work in the asylums. He maintained that female nurses have a much finer influence on their patients than male nurses, and he wished to see female nurses used wherever possible even for male patients. In Cheshire the employment of women had been extended with successful results. The Asylum Workers' Union, he added, did not like the change. They are not unique amongst trade unions, whether professional or industrial!

Madame Tussaud.

It was customary for the intelligencia to adopt an attitude of superiority towards Madame Tussaud's exhibition, but the fire last week did in fact destroy the work of a woman of extraordinary initiative and creative power along her own line. The great building in Marylebone Road was so much a commonplace of London life that passers-by were apt to forget what an achievement it was for a woman early in the nineteenth century to found any organization on so sure a business basis that it could last for a hundred years, to be destroyed ultimately only by fire. It is true that there were many things in the exhibition as we knew it which only fed the baser love of sensationalism, but the figures of Crippen and his like are a modern addition to a Chamber of Horrors which in its origin was a true and essentially artistic reflection of the horrors of the French Revolution, through which Madame Tussaud herself passed. What she herself produced was probably the best of its kind that has ever been done, and much of her work and her collections had a real historical interest. She was a worthy forerunner of the modern business women.

A Women's Market.

In the March number of the journal of the Ministry of Agriculture there is a very interesting account of the Women's Institute Market which is regularly held at Lewes. The first market was held in December, 1919, and during 1920 the sales amounted to £862 6s. The sales in 1924 amounted to £2,685 17s. 7d. The market was originally started to dispose of produce of members of local branches of women's institutes, but smallholders, cottagers, ex-Service men, etc., are encouraged to send goods. Apart from the financial benefit to producers who find an accessible market for their goods, the market has enabled consumers to obtain produce which would otherwise have been outside their reach; it has also encouraged a plentiful and cheap supply of fresh fruit and vegetables so often unattainable in small country towns. This in itself, as the article points out, is an important factor to the health of the community, as it lessens the growing dependence on canned or bottled produce which cannot replace fresh fruit and vegetables in dietetic value.

Guardians of the Poor.

Elections of Board of Guardians are shortly taking place in London and throughout the country. The importance of securing the right men and women, with a due proportion of the latter, need hardly be over-emphasized in these columns. Poor Law reform, long delayed, has been promised by the Government, and during the coming period of transition the need of Guardians of the type who will face facts and are not afraid of change is greater than ever.

Temperance Forces United.

A remarkable conference, convened by the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches, met recently at High Leigh, Hoddesdon. It was attended by 117 delegates, representing 37 organizations. Bishop Pereira welcomed the delegates, and Mr. Philip Snowden became Chairman of the Conference. The Earl of Dunmore, V.C., stated the views of the Conservative Party; Mr. Sidney Webb and Mr. Isaac Foot those of the Labour and Liberal Parties. Mr. Leif Jones, Lord Astor, Rev. Henry Carter, and others took part in a series of discussions which were keen and frank and frequently lit up by flashes of humour. It may safely be affirmed, in view of the attitude described at High Leigh, that when a Government brings in a bona fide Local Option Bill the whole of the Temperance forces will give it favourable consideration and unite as far as possible in its support.

The First Woman Member.

The much-discussed painting by Mr. Charles Sims, R.A., of "The introduction to the House of Commons of the Viscountess Astor, M.P.," is exhibited at the Guildhall Art Gallery, and will undoubtedly attract many visitors to London during the holiday season. Later on, Bedford College for Women has been fortunate enough to secure it. Possibly the exhibition of this picture will do more to bring home the still new and strange fact of women at Westminster to the multitude during the Easter holidays than any number of meetings on the subject.

Canon of St. Paul's believes in Women Priests.

At the annual meeting of the League of the Church Militant on 6th March, the Rev. Canon Simpson accepted office as President of the Society. Canon Simpson spoke of Bishop Hicks of Lincoln, the first President of the "Church League for Women's Suffrage," as the Society was originally called, and said that he was proud to think that he followed in the steps of that devout and progressive man, whose example was an inspiration to all. He paid a warm tribute to Miss Royden for the work she was doing in and for the Church. He agreed to the principle of spiritual equality in fact as well as in theory, and said there was nothing in the teaching of Christ against it; that principle was higher than practice—even that of St. Paul. He thought the Church would only have a real understanding of personality when we had dealt with and settled that tangled problem of sex equality. The time must come when every office now held by men within the Church would be open to suitable women also. Miss Picton-Turbervill presented the Executive Committee's report on women's work in the Home Dioceses, based on replies received from letters sent by the League to the Bishops and the Diocesan Boards of Women's Work. The results were distinctly disappointing, as in some dioceses nothing had been done to carry the Lambeth Conference resolutions into effect, even in the restricted form approved by Convocation.

Women at Wembley.

The Queen has consented to continue as patron of the Women's Section of the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, this year, and Lady Galway and Mrs. C. C. Grove have been reappointed Chairman and Secretary of the Executive Committee. This section will organize functions for overseas visitors. The first notice of a conference under the auspices of women's organizations which has reached us is from the Women's Engineering Society, which is convening a conference at the Exhibition, to take place from 15th-17th July, inclusive. This conference will in some respects follow the lines of the two previous International Conferences of Women Engineers, held respectively at Birmingham University in 1923 and Manchester College of Technology in 1924. It is proposed this year to enlarge the scope and to arrange for a conference of all educated women who are working in industry and Science, including such branches as Engineering, Chemistry and Research, Industrial Welfare and Psychology, etc.

LEVELLING UP OR LEVELLING DOWN?

The writer of Monday's *Times* leader expresses a wide public opinion when he administers a timely reminder to the Home Secretary that the country awaits a Factory Act. If ever a Government was granted by fate the opportunity of carrying through a piece of constructive legislation, wholly in accordance with its own party principles and historical traditions, that Government is Mr. Baldwin's and that time the present. It was surely a moment of mental aberration which prompted Sir William Joynson-Hicks, in reply to a recent deputation, to disclaim the intention of perpetuating a heritage of "Socialist legislation." The "Socialist legislation" to which he refers is the offspring of the last Government but one. With more logic might Mr. Henderson have repudiated the legislative leanings of Mr. Bridgeman, and disclaimed the Tory traditions of Lord Shaftesbury. But, as a matter of fact, the origin of the measure is irrelevant to the discussion. The spirit of Mr. Baldwin's recent speeches renders such questionings wholly out of date. The constructive elements in all parties are solidly behind a Factories Bill on the lines mapped out by Mr. Bridgeman and Mr. Henderson. "The projected reforms may not arouse great demonstrations either in Parliament or in the workshop," we quote from our great contemporary, "but they will make the working life of the people healthier, safer, and happier, and thereby help to establish a sounder and better foundation for the national life."

But that is not to say that the Factories Bill, as it left Mr. Henderson's department last session, represents a perfect scheme. In at least one direction we are anxiously conscious of its shortcomings. The law, and once more we quote from our cautious contemporary *The Times*, has "lagged behind the requirements of public opinion, as when it permits of the employment of women and young persons for periods that would not be tolerated by any well-organized body of men." This discrepancy the old Factories Bill to some extent proposes to remedy, levelling up by the method of Legal Enactment those inequalities of conditions which result from inequalities in capacity to use the method of Collective Bargaining. So far so good. But suppose it were true that the very complicated and elastic provisions of the Factories Bill go further than this, and in addition to the levelling up of such inequalities as *The Times* indicates, creates new inequalities by imposing upon the employment of women legislative restrictions which men have

INSURANCE FOR DENTISTRY.

By LADY EMMOTT.

It has long been recognized by the medical profession that the state of a person's mouth has a profound effect on that person's general health, but it has been left for a women's society—the United Women's Insurance Society—to prove this on a large scale over a number of years, and the history of the scheme of this Society is therefore not without interest.

The Society was originally formed for domestic servants for the purpose of constituting an "Approved Society" under the National Health Insurance Act, and for providing extra benefits under the Friendly Societies Acts. A start was made at a meeting held in July, 1912, at the house of Lady St. Helier, when the Domestic Servants' Insurance Society, as it was then called, was inaugurated. Within three months over 60,000 female domestic servants became members of the Society, and ever since then it has had a career of amazing prosperity. In 1922, consequent upon the absorption of the Clerical and Professional Women's Insurance Society and the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, it was decided to change the title of the Society to the United Women's Insurance Society.

It was expected that, considering the nature of its membership, the Society's health experience would be unusually good and its expenditure on sickness benefit correspondingly light, and this expectation proved true from the very first, with the happy result that the Committee of Management soon found themselves amassing a very considerable surplus. Sooner than allow the whole of this to lie idle it was decided to use a portion of it straight away in providing a benefit which would be of utmost value to the members as a whole, but which was at that time not provided as part of the Insurance Act, viz. dentistry, and accordingly in 1915 a dental scheme for the benefit of the members of the Society was launched.

Such a scheme could not be legally carried on by the Society itself owing to the terms of the Insurance Act, but it was competent to the Society to subscribe to any charitable institution

not obtained and will not in the near future obtain by the method of Collective Bargaining? Indeed, the Bill bears clear traces that this is the case. More especially might it be the case in the event of a Home Secretary choosing to make extensive use of the very elastic power conferred upon him by the terms of last season's Bill to make special orders and impose special restrictions upon the employment of women. We are not so cynical as to suggest that these powers and regulations were embodied in Mr. Henderson's Bill for the express purpose of narrowing the field of women's work in the labour market, and hampering them in their competition for jobs, which are at worst better paid and better conditioned than the deplorable grind of home life on someone else's inadequate and inelastic wage. But we are just sufficiently cynical to suggest that incidentally, or as a result of continual pressure from organized male labour, such a narrowing down of opportunity might result from its operation.

Now we would remind our readers that there are three reasons which may impel organized male wage-earners to urge the imposition of legislative restriction on the industrial employment of women. For purposes of political analysis they are wholly distinct, though they are apt to get a little mixed in the mind of the individual. There is the sentimental dislike (none the worse for being sentimental) of seeing women do dirty, hard, and perhaps physically injurious work. There is the secret anticipation that the imposition of restrictions upon the employment of women may penalize their chances of getting jobs which men happen to want. And there is the belief that by insisting upon certain minimum conditions of leisure and comfort and safety for women, similar conditions will ultimately be extended to men. Reason number two is, in our opinion, morally and economically indefensible. Reasons number one and number three are, however, reasonable reasons. How, then, are we to give them form, without incurring the danger latent in reason number two? Surely by the simple process of levelling up—extending to men the same legislative minimum of working conditions which is demanded on behalf of women. If men are capable of obtaining this by their own unaided collective bargain, there is no harm done. If not, so much the better for them. That is our conception of the principle on which labour conditions should be ordered in a civilized community. And in accordance with it we ask Sir William Joynson-Hicks to give us the Bill, the whole Bill, and a little more than the Bill.

that was prepared to undertake the services for the benefit of the members. No such charitable body being then in existence, an *ad hoc* organization was set on foot under the name of the Domestic Servants' Association (now the United Women's Benevolent Association) and it is this Association which has conducted the dental scheme and other similar projects, which have proved of the greatest value to members of the parent body. Bearing in mind the Society's large membership in London (then somewhere in the neighbourhood of 20,000) it was decided to make special arrangements for London members, and accordingly a Central Clinic was established, beautifully equipped and staffed with two dentists, trained nurse, mechanics, and clerical staff, and it is this Clinic which furnishes dental treatment for the London members. Members in the provinces go to their own dentists and receive a grant towards their bill in due course from the Association. The difference in method is the only difference between London and provincial members, and every member of the Society is entitled to all surgical dentistry, e.g. extractions, fillings, scaling, and gum treatment, entirely free of charge, and to artificial teeth on payment of half the charge, the remaining half being paid by the Association.

Practically ten years have now elapsed since the commencement of this great benefit and it has justified the expectations of the Committee in every way. Not only has it proved a remarkably popular benefit with the members, but it has considerably reduced the sickness claims by improving the general health of the membership. When (as chairman) giving evidence on the subject the other day before the Royal Commission which is now sitting to consider the subject of National Health Insurance, I was able to produce some interesting statistics illustrating how the operation of the dental scheme has reduced sickness claims arising out of illnesses such as anæmia, gastritis, dyspepsia, and rheumatism, which are particularly liable to be caused by septic teeth.

The demands made upon the service in its first year were naturally enough a good deal heavier than in the following few years, but it would seem that it took the members of the Society a very long time to realize that they were entitled to the benefit, because in 1921, when the dental service had been in existence nearly six years, a tremendous increase started to take place in the requests for dentistry, and in the following three years the claims on the dental service rose to an alarming extent. This increase, however, appears now to have ceased, and the demands made upon the service would seem to have settled down at a steady but high level. The cost to the Society is at the present moment a little under £10,000 a year, in addition to which the members contribute several thousands of pounds, to the gross total cost of the full dental service, both surgical and prosthetic, working out at something like 5s. 3d. per insured member per annum for the whole Society.

A considerable amount of discussion is now taking place as to the relative virtues of the "clinic" system and a "panel" system of dentistry. Naturally enough the member herself prefers to choose her own dentist, and may dislike the absence of such free choice entailed in a clinic system, but on the other hand the advantages of the latter system are very great, particularly at the present moment, since the term "dentist" now includes many thousands of practitioners who formerly were unregistered as well as unqualified. With a Clinic system it is possible to select the highest possible standard of professional competence, to see that every patient is properly and adequately treated, and at the same time to carry out the work more economically. An even greater advantage is that there is no temptation to the dentist to undertake the more remunerative but less beneficial work of pulling out teeth wholesale, and replacing them with artificial teeth. It is just a question of how far these very substantial advantages are counterbalanced by the natural preference of a patient to choose her own dentist.

It is always dangerous to prophesy, but it seems more than likely that in the course of the next year or two we shall see dentistry made one of the normal benefits of the Insurance Act, and available for all insured persons instead of for a fortunate few as at present. If this comes about no one will welcome it more than the Committee of the United Women's Insurance Society, whose pioneer work in this direction will have done so much to bring about this desirable improvement in the National Insurance system.

DIVORCE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The motion of the Free State Dail to prevent the introduction of private bills dealing with divorce has met with unexpected legal opposition. The motion was based on the recommendation of a Joint Committee of the Dail and the Senate and, supported by the Government, passed the Dail without opposition. Lord Glenavy, the Chairman of the Senate, however, ruled that it was out of order when it came up for discussion by the Senate. The right to apply by private bill for the removal of a private grievance is protected by the Free State Constitution, and for that reason he regarded the motion as both unconstitutional and *ultra vires*. This decision, of course, would not prevent the introduction of legislation on the lines of the Dail's motion, though it leaves the question in abeyance for the time being, but the feeling against divorce is so strong that it is by no means certain that further steps will not be taken. If private bills are permitted it means divorce will be legally possible, but will be restricted to those persons who are in a position to face the heavy cost of private legislation. That is an intensification of the position in this country. The difficulties in the way of the poor who wish for divorce are discussed in the report of the Poor Persons Rules Committee, issued recently as a White Paper. Though arrangements exist for facilitating divorce proceedings by the poor, it is in practice impossible to find sufficient solicitors to undertake the work. Last year there were 412 divorce applications for which no conducting solicitors were ready to act, though barristers can always be found. The solicitor's preliminary work is arduous and often unpleasant, and there are difficulties and delays before they can get their out-of-pocket expenses refunded from the deposits at the courts. Moreover, the centralization of divorce in London throws an undue burden on London solicitors. The Committee has, therefore, recommended the further decentralization of divorce in the provinces, and suggests a Government grant of £3,000 a year in aid of administration expenses. This, it is hoped, would mitigate the difference in the law in practice as applied to the rich and poor.

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.¹

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

CHAPTER XVIII.—DAMASCUS.

Our next day's journeyings began with a motor drive of about an hour, to a rather important junction, Reyak on the Beirut-Damascus Railway. Here there was a restaurant at which we were to have our luncheon. On arrival we found the staff not in a state of suppressed excitement but of excitement most emphatically expressed. Every moment the arrival was expected of a very great man, "M. le Général," with his family. The attention of every waiter and of the chef was concentrated on giving M. le Général a meal worthy of the nation he represented. Not only were the food and the wine the objects of concentrated attention, but the decoration of his table demanded the greatest care and especial attention; garlands of the plentiful wild flowers were twined in long serpentine coils round every plate and wine-glass. It was really very pretty, and we watched it all with interest: the other people in the restaurant, ourselves of course included, were, however, mere canaille in the eyes of the staff: we had to be fed no doubt, but were otherwise of no consideration whatever. No one could get any attention until M. le Général arrived. When he did arrive he turned out to be the District Governor; and his wife and little daughter had been our shipmates on *The Lotus*. Cordial greetings were of course exchanged, and it was amusing to see what a rise in life we received in the eyes of the restaurant staff when they saw that our existence was recognized even by the great man himself, who asked his wife to present him to us. After this we were the recipients of almost as respectful consideration as if we had been part of his suite.

The railway journey to Damascus was through a wonderful mountain country reminding us in some respects of the gorge between Lud and Jerusalem, but this was far better supplied with water and was therefore much more fertile and prosperous looking. Occasionally we passed quite large herds of cattle and fields of young grain. We also saw lovely rose trees in blossom, and, best of all, for many miles our train ran side by side with a fine rushing river—the Abana of the Bible, now called the Barada. We had never seen any river in Palestine to compare with this and we did not wonder that Naaman had said to Elisha: "Are not Abana and Parpar better than all the waters of Israel?" They are. Abana is not so beautiful as the Rhone at Geneva or the Tay at Perth, but it is a river of which the inhabitants of Damascus may well be proud.

They have many other things to be proud of. Damascus is the oldest city in the world, which still remains as young to-day as it was in the time of Abraham. Disraeli asks in *Tancred*:

"What do the sages say to Damascus? It had municipal rights in the days when God conversed with Abraham. . . . There is not a form of government which Damascus has not experienced, excepting the representative, and not a creed which it has not acknowledged excepting the Protestant. Yet . . . it is still justly described by the Arabian poets as a pearl surrounded by emeralds." (*Tancred*, Book V, Chap. V.)

It is rather interesting to count up the number of beautiful and familiar things which take their name from Damascus: damask roses, damsons, damask linen and silk, damascene metal work were first invented and produced here. But these renewed productions do not satisfy the natives of Damascus when they are singing the praises of their city. From Damascus, they say, Jehovah took the red earth of which Adam was made. Damascus is mentioned in Genesis and Eliezer the steward of Abraham was a citizen of Damascus. Cain killed Abel in Damascus. Seth, the third son of Adam, is buried in its mountains. Yet for all this antiquity, Damascus preserves its eternal youth. It does not look anything like so venerable as Jerusalem. On this aspect of it Disraeli writes:

"The most ancient city of the world has no antiquity. This flourishing abode is older than many ruins yet does not possess one single memorial of the past. In vain it has conquered and been conquered. Not a trophy, a column, or an arch, records its war-like fortunes. . . . Not the trace of a palace or a prison, a public bath, a hall of justice, can be discovered in this wonderful city, where everything has been destroyed, and where nothing has decayed." (*Tancred*, Book V, Chap. V.)

I did not read this till after I had been in Damascus, but once having seen the city I appreciated its accuracy. Not that

¹ This is one of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of several months.

BACK TO THE LAND.

On Friday, 13th March, the House of Commons settled the principle of Summer Time, though the time of its duration will be hotly contested in Committee. A week later the House passed the second reading of the Allotments Bill. The connexion between the two is obvious even to the urban dweller; as one member pointed out, without Summer Time it is difficult to work an allotment, and the possession of an allotment adds greatly to the value of Summer Time. The Bill, which was introduced by the representatives of Oxford and Cambridge, empowers allotment societies to borrow money from the Public Works Loans Commissioners, and gives security of tenure by obliging public authorities to make other provisions for a dispossessed allotment-holder, and perhaps most interesting of all it provides that future town planning schemes must set aside land for allotment purposes. The Minister of Agriculture took the earliest opportunity of pronouncing his blessing on the Bill. He described the allotment movement as one of the great romances of the war, "when waste, almost dustbin bits of land, were suddenly cleaned and furnished soil to till, food to eat, and recreation to enjoy." The late Solicitor-General dealt with the economic aspect of food production and regarded allotments not only as a resource in time of unemployment, but as a real addition to the wealth of the country. The love of the soil is a primitive instinct, which is to be found in man, woman, and child. To grow anything, even a bulb in a bowl, is to gain a glimpse of romance—to possess an allotment is to own a secret kingdom of content and happiness that ordinary worldly possessions cannot provide. For once romance and utility are one.

The work of women on the land was jocularly alluded to by the Member for Cambridge, who would like to see them working on allotments, "singing their crops rather than shingling their locks." France is ahead of us in this respect, but we believe that with greater facilities for the acquisition of allotments women in this country would be every bit as keen agriculturists as French women. In another part of this paper we refer to the success of a regular market initiated by women, which has had the desirable result of increasing the local supply of fruit and vegetables. It is stated that there are signs of revival of the movement for women on the land, and we think the war gave ample proof of their fitness for farmwork. But for the moment we are more concerned with the extension to happy family life which the allotment provides. It is a pleasant sight on a spring evening to see a little family group on their own little plot of ground. It is pleasant to see the more active members of the family bicycling home laden with their spoils. We have heard laments from those who have lost their allotments which were turned into playing-fields, and our sympathies were divided between the allotment-holder and the child. But open space must be found for both. We can't turn our large and dirty towns into garden cities, but we can encircle them with gardens.

BOLTON WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

One truth emerges with crystal clearness from the seven years' experience of the Bolton Women Citizens' Association, that is the absolute need and value, of non-party women's organizations until such time as our laws and practices are brought more completely into line with the position of women and children in the modern world.

At present a great work remains to be done, and it is only on the non-party platform that women of all shades of opinion can be drawn together in this common cause. The Bolton Association has very real assets for this work in the possession of an office and the services of a full-time organizing secretary. The office has become a watch-tower for women's interests, a fact which is very widely recognized in the town. It is also a bureau of information to which not only women who are in need of help and advice but all sorts and conditions of people resort freely in all sorts of difficulties. It may be a woman in the hands of moneylenders, or having trouble with her husband, or a girl in distress. For the help of any or all such cases a local solicitor has generously placed his services at the Society's disposal, and his advice or even advocacy in court is given free of charge. One case was of special interest as leading to the unknown possibilities of the Poor Persons Divorce Act. After somewhat lengthy proceedings this has proved to be really available, and by the time this is in print the case will have been heard in court with the almost certain result of releasing a hard-working charwoman from a degrading union.

its accuracy is absolute, for the great mosque and the Khan are remnants of antiquity whatever standard may be applied. The mosque is very splendid and beautiful, far less so than the matchless Haram-esh-Sherif which stands in the Temple area of Jerusalem, but still very magnificent and interesting. It is believed to stand on the site of the temple of Rimmon, in which Naaman, after he had been cured of his leprosy and converted to the God of Israel, asked leave of Elisha to continue the outward form of worship when he accompanied his master to the Temple and "he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself down in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon thy servant in this thing," and Elisha replied "Go in peace" (2 Kings v, 18, 19). It was thrilling to think as we entered the mosque that we might be standing on the very spot where Naaman, cured of his incurable disease, bowed himself down and had been justified by Elisha for doing so. Years and years after this, probably about A.D. 379, the mosque became a Christian church, and was dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, whose head is stated to have been buried here.

An ancient stone has been found near one of the gates of the mosque inscribed in Greek to the effect: "This church of the blessed John the Baptist was restored by Arcadius the son of Theodosius." This Arcadius had an inscription put up above the south door of the church. It also is in Greek and there it stands to this day: it is a quotation from Psalm 145: "Thy Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." Surprise is sometimes expressed that the Moslems, who have been in possession of this mosque for more than 1,200 years, should have allowed this inscription to remain, and it has been suggested that this was so because they could not read it. But it is difficult to accept this explanation. The mass of Arab peasants are doubtless very ignorant, but the Arab race has always had within it men of learning and culture, and many of these must have had innumerable opportunities of reading this inscription. Is it not fairer, and also more probably true, to suppose that they have read it and that they perceive nothing in it contrary to the tenets of their religion? The Moslems honour nearly all the prophets and saints of Israel as ardently as the Jews themselves. Many of their most holy places, such as the mosque at Hebron, are specially dedicated to the heroes and patriarchs of Jewish history. In this very mosque, so long in Moslem hands, special honour and veneration are shown to the memory of John the Baptist, the forerunner of our Saviour. Even as I write these words I see in a daily paper, 9th August, 1922, the account of a conversation in India between a special correspondent and an Indian Mohammedan, who says to the European Christian: "You are our natural friend. You worship the same God. No man can be a true Mohammedan if he does not revere Jesus, whom you revere." There is therefore every reason to believe that the Moslems of Damascus allow the inscription just quoted to remain on the wall of their mosque because they believe it expresses a great truth. The outer court of the mosque is vast, splendid, and stately, with three exquisite small buildings within it, the fountain for ceremonial ablutions, the tomb of Hussein, and the "dome of the books." The books formerly kept in this place have been removed, probably for greater safety, to a special library in the town. The mosque was very seriously in peril by fire in 1893, and probably after this the books were removed. The entrance to the outer court is in very noble classical architecture. Fergusson says that the whole building "has few equals in the Mohammedan Empire." We repaired daily during our stay in Damascus to this place, especially to the entrance gateway and outer court.

PEOPLE'S DISPENSARY FOR SICK ANIMALS.

We have received an account from the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals of the Poor, of the work they are doing in Tangier. The cruelty and lack of consideration for animals in Tangier, where there is no law for the protection of animals, is appalling. The People's Dispensary (14 Clifford Street, W. 1) has already done much good work there, but they need £1,000 to continue and extend their work.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY.

ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

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

It is quite impossible to give more than a hint of the Bureau's activities here, but one typical case may be mentioned: through the Society's intervention a reduction of hours and conditions was secured for the waitresses in a local café.

Membership of the Women's Sub-Committee at the Employment Exchange and the consequent work on the panels dealing with the extension of unemployment benefit has brought the honorary secretary into close touch with the difficulties and problems of unemployment—a most valuable experience.

But after all the main work of the Association is the making of women citizens, and to this end regular meetings have been held; generally an evening public meeting on a topic of current interest to women and an afternoon "At Home" each month. For the training of our own members a speakers' class was held under a special lecturer for ten consecutive weeks early last year.

Of the public meetings some were of special interest and importance. A recent one was described by the local Press as unique in the annals of Bolton. By invitation of the Society to other organizations, women of all parties and creeds (Labour alone refusing) moved by a common humanity, forgot their differences and gathered on the same platform to urge the pressing need of widows' pensions—a crowded and enthusiastic audience testified to the growing and serious demand for this reform.

The most hopeful part of the training work of the Association is that done in the Junior Branch which has been in existence for three and a half years. In this a splendid band of Bolton's younger women are learning the meaning of citizenship, its responsibilities and privileges, by lecture discussions and personal service. Fortnightly meetings are held except during the summer, and a girls' social club initiated and run by the juniors in a poor part of the town is a practical expression of their sense of citizenship. The same may be said of the great help they gave in a mile of pennies organized by the Association. By this effort roughly £160 was raised for the funds of three local societies working in the cause of women and children. Space forbids detailed description of personal activities of the officers, e.g. weekly contributions to the local Press from the women's standpoint; addresses to various men's and women's meetings; attendance at court in support of the Temperance Union's efforts against extension of drinking hours, etc., etc. The importance of keeping the local Press in touch and in sympathy with the Association's work is never lost sight of. The result has been seen in excellent reports of meetings, frequent references, and occasional good leading articles on the subjects which have been advocated.

Copies of the Parliamentary and Local Government Register (supplied free as to the political parties) are kept at the office, together with claim forms. One or more of the officers attend the Revision Court twice yearly in support of the claims sent in through the office.

The influence of the past work of the Association may be seen in the presence of women in the local Borough Council, County and Borough Magistrates, Bench, Police Force, and Board of Guardians. The first two Bolton women appointed to the County Bench and the first Woman Councillor (who later became one of the first Borough Magistrates) were all members of the Women Citizens' Executive Committee. Work on the Council has provided many opportunities of advocating the ideals for which the Association stands, e.g. in connexion with housing, education, and health, and quite recently in urging the case for equal pay for equal work for men and women municipal employees. The appointment of four women police nearly six years ago (largely owing to the Association) has more than justified itself, as shown by the Chief Constable's reports and the recent granting of power of arrest.

Little need be said of the Parliamentary work as it is probably similar to that done by other Associations. It has consisted mainly of the sending of resolutions, interviewing candidates on the points in the N.U.S.E.C. Questionnaire, and afterwards keeping in close touch with the local Members of Parliament.

It must be admitted that the greater part of this work could not possibly be done by party women's organizations, because time, effort, and money must of necessity be directed into party channels. Yet it is all of the very essence of citizenship of women. At the same time it is work in which party women could well join as it cuts across none of their party loyalties. The oft-quoted saying, "Union is strength," is true in this connexion, and if only party and non-party women would realize and act up to it their united influence would be irresistible.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ECHOES OF THE COUNCIL.

We print below urgency resolutions passed at the Council, which were not in the hands of Council delegates. Copies of all resolutions, with amendments, whether passed or lost, may now be had at Headquarters (price 4d.). As these resolutions supplement or replace those of previous years in many subjects, and give the N.U.S.E.C. its mandate for the work of the coming year, we urge Societies not to be satisfied with delegates' copies, but to procure at least enough for every member of their committees.

RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION.

We wish to supplement the report of the Council, written by 'Onlooker' in last week's issue, by stating that the resolution dealing with restrictive legislation moved by Miss Ward, after a sharp debate in which Miss Leadley-Brown, Miss Evans, Miss Macguire, Mrs. Abbott, and others took part, was carried by a large majority.

URGENCY RESOLUTIONS.

Nationality of Married Women.

"That this Council welcomes the adoption by the House of Commons of Major Harvey's resolution:—'That in the opinion of this House a British woman should not lose, or be deemed to lose, her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien'; and calls upon the Government, after consultation with the Dominions, to introduce legislation to carry out the terms of the Resolution."

The Woman's Movement and the British Empire.

"That this Council approves of the principle of linking more closely together the Woman's Movement throughout the Empire, with a view to closer co-operation on all equality questions, and on such problems as arise from the work of the League of Nations affecting women, or from Imperial legislation, and to secure the presence of women in the Imperial Conference.

"That this Council therefore recommends the Societies in planning their work to invite an overseas speaker to address a meeting, arranged if possible in co-operation with other women's organizations, which will draw attention to the work of the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, on which the N.U.S.E.C. is represented."

Women and the Commission on Slavery.

"That this Council of the N.U.S.E.C. urges the Council of the League of Nations to place a woman member on the Commission on Slavery; to add another woman member to the Commission on Mandates; and to add to the number of Assessors on the new Commission for the protection of Childhood, a representative of the great international organizations of women."

Equal Pay in the Civil Service.

"That this Council welcomes the united effort now being made by all the Civil Service organizations in support of equal pay for equal work within the Service, and calls upon the Chancellor either to give effect to the principle at once, or to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to review the question in accordance with the resolution of the House of Commons of 5th August, 1921."

THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

One pleasing feature of the public luncheon has not been referred to—the larger number of Members of Parliament invited as guests by our Societies in their constituencies. Among some good friends we noticed one who has consistently opposed our cause, and some amusement was caused when Lady Astor shook her fist at him, and told him he should not be there. It remains to be seen whether the charitable policy of our society will be rewarded by a change of heart in the future. We hold the view that those yearly Parliamentary luncheons are an important part of the Council work, and we remind those among us who suggest that the Council should meet outside London that the N.U.S.E.C. is a political, though an all-party body, and as such, there is much to be said for the view that its deliberations should take place, as they now do, in London, while Parliament is in session. The various deputations and informal lobbying which always takes place during the Council week is another strong argument in favour of this view.

NEW LITERATURE.

A new edition of Miss Rathbone's pamphlet on "Widows' Pensions" has just been brought out, which brings last year's edition up to date, and includes the views of the N.U.S.E.C. on a contributory insurance scheme. As such schemes may be coming up for discussion very shortly, our members are urged to obtain copies of this pamphlet from the Secretary at Headquarters (1½d. post free).

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

(BRITISH SECTION: 55 GOWER STREET, W.C. 1.)

EGYPT.

The Egyptian elections, held on 12th March, have resulted in virtually half the House being Zaghllulist, while the other half is a coalition of three four or parties, united only by their antipathy to Zaghllul Pasha. A Government has been hastily formed from the Anti-Zaghllul parties. This division of opinion in Egyptian politics is the result of the concentration of attention on the question of the British Occupation. All are agreed in demanding an end to the Occupation; temporarily, therefore, disunion reigns according to the antipathy or the loyalty of men to the great National leader, Zaghllul Pasha.

British politicians must recognize that in the question of the attainment of "Complete Independence" all Egyptians are agreed. There must, therefore, be no going back on the Declaration of Egyptian Independence made by the British Government in 1922. Certain questions, notably the removal of the Army of Occupation, remain over for settlement from that Declaration. We must proceed to a settlement of these outstanding questions which will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the nation for full independence.

Certain London daily papers are now engaged in a campaign to secure cancellation of the Declaration. Such suggestions are greatly to be deplored. British statesmanship has throughout the critical years since 1919 suffered from a legacy of promises to Egypt unfulfilled or broken by various British Cabinets. Another broken promise, when Egyptian opinion is looking to us for the fulfilment of our solemn vow, would shatter the remnants of confidence in British integrity still left in Egyptian minds, and would create a situation similar to that in Ireland a few years ago.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY.

MADAM,—The question of the Abolition of Capital Punishment is now coming into practical politics. For some time past various bodies have been working for it, either as a single aim or as one amongst other reforms. Some of these societies have recently taken steps towards the setting up of a National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Without in any way dictating the policy of the constituent societies, such a Council, acting through an executive committee, with an organizing secretary, will be enabled to co-ordinate their efforts and organize the campaign on a sufficiently large scale. The following societies, among others, are associated with the project: Committee for Abolition of Death Penalty, Howard League for Penal Reform, Society of Friends' Penal Reform Committee, Theosophical Order of Service. These are in communication with a number of other bodies, which it is hoped will affiliate themselves to the Council when it takes final form. The Provisional Committee is anxious to ensure that at its first formation the new Council shall be as widely representative as possible, and they therefore invite, at this early stage, the co-operation of any societies which propose to work actively for the removal of the Death Penalty from our Statute Book. They will, of course, also be glad to know of individual sympathisers who desire to work for this object. Communications should be addressed to the Acting Secretary, National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, 3 Upper Woburn Place, W.C. 1.

ESTHER ROPER,
Committee for Abolition of Death Penalty.
S. MARGERY FRY,
Howard League for Penal Reform.
E. ROY CALVERT,
Society of Friends' Penal Reform Committee.
ARTHUR BURGESS,
Theosophical Order of Service.

BIRTH CONTROL.

MADAM,—If "Inquirer," who writes asking for information about the scientific theory of Birth Control, will consult Dr. Marie Stopes' comprehensive manual, *Contraception*, she will find most adequate explanation. And as Dr. Stopes' is a Doctor of Science (London) and a Fellow of the Linnean and Geological Societies, in addition to her various other qualifications, she will certainly satisfy "Inquirer's" desire for a "scientist."

May I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of your article, "A Word with the Minister of Health?" The mothers at the Welfare Centre where I work are bitter in their denunciation of the obscurantist authorities, and much of their conversation consists in furtively exchanging hints on abortifacients.

CHARIS U. FRANKENBURG, M.A. (Oxon),
Certified Midwife (by exam.).

MADAM,—May I say your article "A Word to the Minister of Health" seems to entirely overlook the gravest objection to Artificial Birth Control, which is—Artificial Birth Control is abortive use of function. Even granted that, if so considered, it may alleviate existing ills, the point should never be overlooked that it is a radically unsound thing. As for the literature which proclaims Artificial Birth Control (in other words abortive use of function) an enlightened Science, Health, Beauty, and Progress, the sooner people's minds are disabused of these ideas the better—and for these reasons:—

(1) Abortive use of function is not Nature's code and sign-post to progress. (2) There are several abortive uses of function in regard to sex. Admit abortive use is sound, and it becomes logically merely a matter of choice which people may prefer. For example, there are onanism, connexions between members of the same sex, or even between members of one species and another, clearly the path of retrogression and disintegration. (3) This is no imaginary danger, and further, as is well known, abortive use of function produces precisely that deterioration of faculty, which renders those who blindly practise it unable to distinguish between, or at least, gravely obscures their perceptions of what is false.

Nature appears to have sought the differentiation of sex and species. (As to this one can note among the human race that while progeny of members of nearly allied peoples is satisfactory, that of those so divergent as white, black, and yellow is usually a highly unstable individual, endowed with the worst qualities of both parents, becoming in some lands a national menace.) And this, and much else of Nature's code as to such matters has been incorporated in most religions and underlies deeply (so deeply and profoundly it seems forgotten apparently even by scientists) what they enjoin on man as sound for him, or in his parlance moral. Not impossibly our frequent preferences for worldly wisdom and scientific progress rather than religion's principles in dealing with our problems has largely made those problems and their magnitude and their ghastliness: and the slums produced by our science of Economy can be destroyed by the equally scientific aerial bomb.

Certainly if abortive use of function becomes a canon of progress to some, one can view it, in one way, with equanimity the doctrine being not only racially but first individually destructive. If, however, the doctrine is widely and blindly accepted by some of the human races, Nature will possibly replace them by other races better fitted to achieve the higher ends she foreshadows, or these remain unachieved in our planet. As to this, one might instance Australia with its sparse five odd million population, where Artificial Birth Control is as popular as in crowded areas, and so popular Australia seems not unlikely to be populated by other races than the white. I saw a letter many years ago from Professor Huxley to an Australian enthusiast of Artificial Birth Control to the effect that it was a remedy likely to be worse than the disease, and deteriorating to true manhood and womanhood. Emphatically the young should not be misled by unsound dogmas and doctrines handed to them, entitled Health, Beauty, and Science.

As has been said, man can "use his powers of reason to transgress the laws of reason" and this remark, it may be, is worth the consideration of the Intellectuals and Scientists in favour of Artificial Birth Control and Racial Progress. The quotation is from Tolstoy, who was greatly opposed to Artificial Birth Control. Tactics appealed to Tolstoy less than the Truth. The Birth Controller in the past had something to say worth saying, and was blanketed by silence. Now some of them take up a too pretentious claims, and in their turn try to blanket any honest criticism by silence. The only thing that matters is the truth. Food and sex are both vital to humanity. And to fairly arrive at the truth and see to it our ill-regulated desires are not a nuisance to ourselves individually, or a nuisance to others, or a nuisance in the Law Courts is the best perhaps we can hope to achieve.

MAI EDGE,
(Author of *Some Fallacies of Artificial Birth Control*.)

CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS.

MADAM,—The Report of the Council meeting of the N.U.S.E.C., together with the article on Health Clinics in your last number, suggests certain reflections.

(1) Are supporters of the N.U.S.E.C. really to go "all out" for the removal of the embargo on the giving of information on birth-control in clinics? It is a good deal to ask of the uninstructed laity, who have little means of knowing what methods are really free from injury to health, and only do know from their own experience that there seems very little agreement among doctors on this point. Has the time come when the medical profession can agree on methods that will not ultimately prove as harmful to a woman's constitution as a rapid succession of births? It may be that it has, but we of the laity are not informed, and are therefore hardly in a position to discuss the matter at open meetings, or to support proposals to the Health Minister.

(2) It may or may not be desirable to open the priesthood to women; but this seems a matter for each religious communion to decide for itself, taking into account its own tradition, doctrine, and customs. It is hardly a matter to be pressed by a body such as the N.U.S.E.C., containing as it does members of every denomination (some of which have already admitted women to the ministry), as well as free thinkers. Let each communion work the matter out for itself, for the N.U.S.E.C. to attempt to bring pressure to bear seems about as desirable as for the Council of the League to discuss the internal organization of Russia.

In conclusion, those of us who have hitherto whole-heartedly supported the causes for which the N.U.S.E.C. has stood, hope anxiously that we are not to be chilled off by ill-advised espousal of movements of very doubtful value.

(Mrs.) MARGARET D. WESTERN.

COMING EVENTS.

C.O.P.E.C.

APRIL 4. 2.30 p.m. Anniversary and Thanksgiving Service at Kingsway Hall. Addresses will be given by The Lord Bishop of Manchester and the Right Hon. Lord Eustace Percy, M.P. The service will be conducted by the Rev. Canon Raven, D.D. Tickets (free) from the Copeck Office, 92 St. George's Square, S.W. 1.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

APRIL 6. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Miss Margaret McMillan on "Nursery Schools and Outdoor Life for Children."

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

MAR. 28. 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Quiet Afternoon for Members and Friends, Christ Church, Victoria Street, S.W. Tea, 6d. Conductor: Miss Mary Morshhead.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Croydon W.C.A. MAR. 27. 3 p.m. Miss K. D. Courtney on "Family Endowment."

East Ham S.E.C. MAR. 30. 3 p.m. Town Hall, East Ham. Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

Tunbridge Wells S.E.C. MAR. 27. 4 p.m. 20A Molyneux Park. Subject: Report of Council Meeting. Hostess: Lady Matthews.

SIX POINT GROUP.

MAR. 30. 5.15 p.m. Committee at Home, at 62 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Miss Amy Sayle on "Some Factors of the Housing Problem."

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 20th March. 3.30. Music: Professor Will Rosenthin. 6.30, Maude Royden, II.—"What then is the Bible?"

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