WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Next General Election.

The Times Parliamentary Correspondent states in the issue of Monday, 17th September, that there is little doubt that the General Election will take place at the beginning of June. This will mean heavy work if the Government is to accomplish all that it has set out to do. It will also mean a busy winter and spring for women's organizations. Education of prospective Members of Parliament cannot be left to the final stages of the campaign, but must begin at once. A carefully planned effort campaign, but must begin at once. A carefully planned effort to secure the return of women who stand for our programme must be immediately set on foot (others must be left to the ordinary party machinery). New election literature must be prepared, and last, not least, the new voter must be roped in. And all this work must be carried on with no falling off in the customary vigilant watch over affairs in Parliament and in The programme of the new Parliamentary session will include much that demands the careful attention of women voters. It is all very interesting and "exciting" as an underthirty said at the Oxford Summer School. We have won the vote, and we mean business

A Compulsory Vote "Census."

How many people realized that powers for compulsory returns of voters were given in the Representation of the People Act, According to the Evening Standard of Tuesday of this week, the Home Secretary has sent instructions to all registration officers that in the preparation of the new register, occupiers should be required to fill in a form giving the particulars required of all residents eligible for a vote. Failure to give the required of an residents engine for a vocal information correctly will be liable to a penalty of £20. This appears to us to be a wise move. A certain proportion of ignorant voters of both sexes no doubt fail to claim their votes or realize their right to do so too late. Domestic servants are particularly likely to be overlooked, possibly in some cases intentionally on the part of an unscrupulous employer. The compulsory filling in of returns is a safeguard against misrepresentation and against personation, and will ensure that the matter is taken seriously.

Milk.

Everyone will be glad that agreement has been reached in the milk dispute. It is difficult for the ordinary consumer to know what all the trouble was about, but the average townsman

knows little enough about the farmer and his troubles. The question does, however, arise in the minds of the housekeepers as to why the Food Council took no share in the settlement. Its machinery is apparently too slow for a sudden difficulty of this kind. But surely its function is to protect the public interests in matters relating to food prices.

Dame Edith Lyttelton and the Traffic in Women,

Apparently Dame Edith won in the "tournament" between herself and M. Larousse described in The Times of 13th September. M. Larousse expressed doubts as to the conclusions in Part II of the League report on the traffic in women, and regretted that the mental condition of prostitutes had not been inquired into. He believed that if criminality resulting from prostitution were taken into consideration, female criminality would not be much less than male criminality. Dame Edith made a spirited reply, in which she said that she failed to see how the mental condition of the victims of the iniquitous system affected the results. To exploit a mental degenerate was no less a crime on the part of the exploiter. "It took two to make a prostitute," she said, and if the evils of prostitution were to be added to criminal records of women, they must equally be added to those of men.

Lord Cushendun and Women Police.

We note with satisfaction that Lord Cushendun in a speech at the Assembly of the League on the White Slave Traffic, recommended the use of women police. He called attention to the unanimous condemnation of the system of licenced houses by experts, and urged that the matter should not be left as it is at present in some countries. He considered the souteneurs who profited by the vice of others a curse to mankind, and pleaded for much heavier penalties. We are grateful to Lord Cushendun for his pronouncement on the importance of women police in attacking this hideous evil, and we once again congratulate ourselves that sitting among the British delegation is a woman who takes pains to inform herself on the views of the leading women's organizations on such questions.

Regulated Prostitution in Kenya.

We publish among our correspondence a letter from Miss Alison Neilans asking the help of our readers in protesting against the reported proposal of the Kenya Legislative Council to introduce system of regulated prostitution among the natives of the Colony. British women cannot escape responsibility in this matter, and a strong protest now may prevent this evil. One of the main reasons for the existence of this paper is to help women voters to act at precisely the right moment in critical matters as they arise. The right moment in this matter is now. As Miss Neilans suggests, those with friends in Kenya should call their attention to this proposal and letters of protest should immediately be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

An Interesting Experiment.

The Kensington and Paddington Society for Equal Citizenship is taking a very sporting line this autumn in putting forward a team of strong candidates of their own selection to contest one of the North Kensington Wards at the Borough Council Elections in November next. The six candidates, who belong to different political parties, though they stand so far as this election is concerned on a non-party platform, are Dr. Constance Beech, Miss Florence Beaumont, Lady Horsley, Mrs. Houston,

Dr. Arthur Kenward Matthews, and Lady Maurice. Their campaign will be opened on Monday, 8th October, at a meeting at St. Mary's College, Lancaster Gate (see Forthcoming Events), when all who are interested will be welcomed. Whatever we may feel about the necessity for Party Government in Parliamentary affairs, there is much to be said for its abolition in local government. Housing, child welfare, and the innumerable aspects of social welfare for which Borough Councils are responsible are matters which should not be left to the mercy of party animosities or worse still to the unbridled power of a dominant party. We shall follow this experiment in practical citizenship with great interest.

Married Women's Property in Guernsey.

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A correspondent from Guernsey has sent us a leading article from the Guernsey Evening News which comments on the 'Married Women's Property Law, 1928," which has just come into force on that island. Under the old law married women had no legal rights as to personal property. They now have equal rights with men in Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark. The writer of the article remarks on the small amount of attention which this "beneficent" piece of legislation has received. Probably the explanation of this lies in the fact that in decent homes at least the old law was a dead letter. The writer himself states that banks allowed married women to open accounts, risking the powers of husbands to stop the practice. But we are glad to think that "the adjacent islands" have come into line and that the married woman has come into her own.

Dame Millicent Fawcett and Queen Elizabeth.

as the sense for beauty, of the working classes.

New Municipal Baths in Vienna.

Those who read with interest of the unveiling of the repainted statue of Queen Elizabeth by Dame Millicent Fawcett, will be glad to hear that the first of three articles by her on that great Queen will appear in these columns next week, with a reproduction of the statue.

The Vienna City Corporation has established municipal

baths in the slum area known as "Favoriten." It was decided

to erect these baths in 1923, the Council being of opinion that

bathing facilities were more urgently needed in this quarter

of the city than in the more well-to-do districts. A palatial

building has been erected and, at the opening, Burgomaster Seitz stated that it was believed that "the impression of the cleanliness and beauty of the building as well as the baths

therein," would help to promote the health and culture, as well

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.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN THE WORLD OF SPORT.

Among the outstanding incidents of last week's international Motor Cycle Trial, the Press records with a consensus of emphasis, the distinguished riding of Mrs. McLean of the British ladies' team on 13th February. The trials were run on this occasion along 146 miles of Yorkshire moors, over tortuous and dangerous hills, which many of the competitors, male as well as female, failed to survive. The most trying stretch of the day's run, to judge from all accounts, lay over the stony ascent of Dead Man's Hill, with its loose surface and double bend. Alone among the competitors, Mrs. McLean surmounted this particular ordeal with perfect steadiness, and without moving her feet from the foot-rests. The Times credits her with "a brilliant climb." Her achievement, in fact, shines not merely as a woman's achievement, but as a human achievement in a sphere of sport which makes simultaneous calls upon nerve, skill, and muscular force. At the end of the day three teams shared the lead for the International Silver Vase: The English ladies, the English men, and the Swedes.

The incidents here recorded recall to our minds other incidents relating to this and other fields of athletic endeavour. We have at various times called attention to them. There was, for instance, the barrier imposed against women competitors in dirt track motor-cycle races; the disallowal of certain women's events in the International Olympic Games; the protests which have from time to time been lodged by ecclesiastical authorities against the physical prowess of female Fascists. These, and similar symptoms of fiction are indeed the expected accompaniment of the rapid and spectacular incursion of women into the public arena of athleticism which has been witnessed during the past few years. Let us, therefore, recognize its existence, and in due justice examine it carefully to see if by chance it contains any element of justification.

Now it must be admitted that there is an element of danger in the situation: the danger that women qua women may be exploited as "news value"; the danger that a particular feat may be disproportionately acclaimed because it is performed by a woman—such a feat for instance as sitting in the cockpit of an aeroplane while it is being piloted by somebody else across the Atlantic Ocean. In academic and professional life there is a grain of excuse for such acclamation because it is still true that what women achieve they achieve against a tide which in the case of men is flowing in the opposite direction. This may of course be true to some extent in the world of sport and athleticism-but it is not always true, and when a woman is acclaimed we must in some cases be prepared to discount the news value " element.

But still women do succeed-in the water, on the track, and

in the air, and when the "news value" element has been duly discounted, their successes remain. Nor are the obstacles which custom and prejudice place in their way inspired by the very real danger to which we have given due weight. What is at work here, is a perfectly clear manifestation of the "Turk complex. Men do not greatly like to see women exerting themselves to the extent of rendering themselves physically unattractive, in any enterprise which does not minister to male needs. For generations they have tolerated and still tolerate, the physical deterioration which frequent child-bearing and domestic labour impose upon working mothers. But they are exceedingly solicitous regarding the results of physical exertion incurred in the field of competitive industry. Nor can they understand that in the field of athletic endeavour women are acquiring what men have already acquired, a zest for the "thing in itself" irrespective of whether its pursuit may make them more or less attractive in the eyes of the other sex. It is a profoundly obnoxious thought to many men that women should, even for a brief space, cease to care what they look like, or what men think of them. The Press was far more tolerant of Miss Ruth Elder's ubiquitous lip-stick than of the appearance of a young woman who emerged in the intervals of a recent air race, "very dishevelled and covered with oil." Indeed, some male critics—and we would add, some worthy ecclesiastical mentors—are naively unable to grasp the fact that women, like men, really can be inspired by zest for the "thing in itself," and can see in their athletic ambitions only a new and perverse form of feminine display.

We have no wish to defend forms of sport which in olve peculiar violations of aesthetic decency. We have never admired the texture of a prize-fighter's face, and we turn with repulsion from the permanent scarification which many German students regard as a hall-mark of manly distinction. Nor do we defend forms of physical prowess, whether undertaken by men or women, which involve other people in dangerous rescue opera-tions. Nor do we deny that the temptation to exploit their sex as news value may inspire some women to do silly things, and accept exaggerated praise. But we do protest endlessly against the assumption, so often encountered in one form or another, that women cannot and do not, and should not forget their sex, and their personal appearance, and what men may think of them, in the zest of sport. They can and do and should forget these things. We have never seen Mrs. McLean either in the flesh or in print; but we dare swear that she looked thoroughly hideous, goggle-eyed and shapeless as her male competitors, when she climbed Dead Man's Hill on 13th September. What of it? She rode magnificently-and that for the moment, was

"SOME CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS." By KATHLEEN E. INNES, B.A.

The two most controversial subjects of discussion at the Ninth Assembly have been Disarmament and Minorities—the subjects to which M. Briand devoted the whole of his speech in the general discussion.

The speeches on disarmament may be grouped roughly under two heads. There are those who warn against excessive speed in such a difficult matter and evidently still think no material progress in ten years is a sign of wisdom, and there are those who realize more truly, I think, the growing strength of popular feeling in favour of measures of disarmament, and also the logical conclusion of the numerous treaties of conciliation, non-aggression and arbitration, and the Pact of Paris, which are now either concluded, or before the League for consideration. The "Great Powers " tend to be in the former group, and the " Great Moral Powers", as I have heard them described, typified by the Scandinavian group, are the chief champions of the latter position. A large part of the disarmament section of the report to the Assembly is taken up with resolutions concerning the draft Treaties drawn up by the Arbitration and Security Committee, for adoption as general or particular model treaties by the members of the League. The emphasis on the incompatibility of increasing in all directions pledges of peaceful settlement of disputes and yet continuing the race of armaments between the signatories, is becoming more apparent. It is disappointing that in spite of all this it has not been found possible for the Preparatory Disarmament Committee to report sufficient agreement to justify the calling of the long-delayed Disarmament Conference, while no form of agreement has been reached in Committee as regards the supervision of the manufacture of arms, and delays over the ratification of the Trade in Arms Convention continue,

More disappointing still was the speech of M. Briand. Seldom indeed can one call him tactless but his references to disarmament certainly laid themselves open to this, or a worse charge.

Report has it that speaking without, or almost without, notes, he was carried away by emotion over some minor annoyances and said much that he afterwards regretted. It is to be hoped that the repercussions will not be as serious as they well may be.

Lord Cushenden's speech next day was entirely devoted to disarmament. He expressed directly to the German delegation his regret that disarmament has progressed so slowly, though in his view, as he showed, slow progress is inevitable. He was conciliatory in manner and tone, and left the impression that Great Britain realizes that the signature of the Kellogg Pact should be followed by practical measures of disarmamentthough he again warned us not to expect anything immediately. His reference to the significance of the Pact is worth quoting

'I do not hesitate to say that I look upon the Paris Pact as an instrument that proclaims a new era and creates a new outlook—that may not be immediately observable. Human beings have to adjust themselves to a new environment, but the up-growing generation, assimilating the new 'Zeitgeist, will be nurtured in the idea that war, except in bona fide selfdefence, is not a gallant adventure but a national dishonour

The crux of this quotation lies in the words in "bona fide elf-defence." If the Swiss conception of defence against actual attack on frontiers could be established, we should be making progress

M. Briand spoke also of another question which divides the Assembly—that of Minorities. In an early session, M. Beelaerts von Blokland put forward the suggestion that the time had come for the Assembly to consider whether it would be helpful to appoint a Minorities Commission analogous to the Mandates Commission to deal with Minorities problems. This proposal was made at a recent meeting of the Federation of League of Nations Societies at the Hague, and it is interesting that a recommendation from a federation of private societies should have been put forward at the Assembly. It has found support only from those not directly concerned in controlling minorities, like Switzerland, and from those whose minorities are suffering under foreign rule. Magister Seipel, on behalf of Austria, made a moving general plea for justice to minorities, as the only basis of peace. He did not mention South Tyrol, but it was assuredly in the minds of all who heard him, not least those of the Italian delegation. There is a general feeling that real grievances of

Minorities do not get the attention they should. M. Briand, however, supported later by a Polish delegate, uttered a veiled warning against carrying the question further for fear of disturbing the security essential to League progress and it is not likely that matter will now be pursued.

The presence with the New Zealand delegation of General

Sir George Richardson, is interesting testimony to the vindication of his administration in Samoa. He was, it is now universally admitted, the subject of the basest intrigue to destroy his authority on the part of Mr. Nelson, a half-caste trader, and his colleagues. In two hundred and thirty pages of minutes the Mandates Commission which investigated the charges, has piled up the evidence refuting them.

It is established unanswerably that native agriculture, education, commerce, and health were improved by measures promulgated for their benefit; that the charges of extravagance in administration were supported by false statements, and that the main cause of the unscrupulous agitation worked up against the Governor, was a threat to some unjustifiable profits of the traders concerned. Without the League and the Mandates Commission in existence, the agitation would probably have succeeded. The whole incident is striking justification of the usefulness of both bodies.

At the Council, the long-drawn out duel of Poland and Lithuania has once more occupied what may appear a disproportionate share of the Council's attention. The way in which Poland seized Vilna; the facts that it is in possession and cannot, even if that were a solution, be dislodged; and that the Lithuanian Government has so far refused to re-establish normal relations while the Vilna problem is unsettled, apparently make any real solution impossible.

In hearing the case, however, the Council is performing one of the most important of the functions of the League, and for this reason it is worth dwelling on. It is acting as a safetyvalve for the passions of the protagonists, and it is making as certain as possible that the quarrel will not become a danger to the peace of the world.

REVIEWS.

INTRODUCING PARIS.1

The little book Introducing Paris, by E. V. Lucas, is the sor of book that I review with special pleasure, because it is written for the many, not the opulent few. It is a little book which can be easily slipped into the modest handbag of those who travel light. The economical traveller can cheerfully return the copy of The Wanderer in Paris to the library before he starts his journey if by the expenditure of a few shillings he can still enter Paris with Mr. Lucas as his guide. He is introduced to the city itself, old and new, the Latin quarter, the cité and Notre Dame, the churches and picture galleries and the surrounding country, and if time and purse be short he learns how to make the most of both.

L. H. S.

MOTIVE FORCES OF THE MIND.2

Modern social workers as well as teachers must know something of the "new psychology," and Miss Raven's little book, the outcome of a course of lectures to club workers at a woman's settlement, is an admirable introduction to the subject for those who have hitherto had no opportunity for its study. The Charity Organization Society preaches in season and out of season in this country and in the United States a high standard of what it calls "case work," or in other words the importance of individual diagnosis and treatment of the problems of society. The teaching of modern psychology gives a new interpretation to "case work" (personally I dislike the term though I do not under-estimate the value of what it stands for). But "case work" in the wrong hands may be an unwarrantable interference with the sacredness of personality. We hope the time is not far distant when no unqualified person will be allowed to undertake it. Some understanding of the forces of the mind is essential to all who presume to help others whether adults, adolescents, or children. Those who master this little book will want more. But they will at least realize the delicacy of their

¹ Introducing Paris, by E. V. Lucas. (Methuen and Co.)

² Motive Forces of the Mind, by Alice Raven. (W. Heffer and Son,

CAREERS FOR GIRLS.

I read this book with interest, both from the point of view of one who has daughters arrived at that time of life when the question of a future career is beginning to influence their education, and from that of one anxious for fresh light to be shed on professional or commercial opportunities for educated women. I must confess to a feeling of disappointment; though no expert on the question, I found there was little I did not know before. The various essays making up the book are on the whole too slight, their treatment and their methods too uneven to be of very much use. The compiler, Mr. J. A. R. Cairns, the well-known magistrate, has obviously pitched on the names of certain women in various professions, and has accepted uncritically the articles with which they responded to his invitation. In some cases the dip was a lucky one; excellent articles have been contributed on medicine by Dr. Winifred Cullis; on Advertising by Mrs. E. M. Wood; on Infant Welfare by Miss Halford; on Teaching by Miss Punnett; on Veterinary Work by Miss Cust, etc., etc. Others are, however, very weak indeed. That on Social Service, for example, while enumerating at some length different branches of work, gives only one line to the University Schools of Social Training in the country. Creative Art, by the Hon. Mrs. Russell, only deals with dress designing, and Business and Commerce, by Lady Rhondda, only concerns those fortunate young women whose fathers have businesses of their own, and hardly alludes to those who have to climb right up the ladder unaided. From a feminist point of view, although the general tone of most of the essays is above reproach, there are lapses almost worthy of a Ludovici. Thus, in speaking of situations, Mrs. Champion de Crespigny tells us "Man's brain has certain qualifications peculiar to his sex; so has woman's. The former is stronger, capable of greater endurance, and like the rest of his physical body coarser in the texture of the tissues; the latter is quicker in its workings and finer of balance, responsive to influence and outside stimuli out of the reach of the masculine organ"! Ye Gods! Again, in speaking of Pharmacy, we are told that "A chemist's shop has always appealed to the feminine mind'

In view of the excellent manuals with regard to training already on the market, such as those published by the London and National Society for Women's Service, or the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, it is a little difficult to know why this book, useful in some ways as it is, was ever published.

(Continued from next column.)

in the fair land we had reached and pointed us to the mountain top, and urged us to further efforts.

Then, to relax our minds, stimulated to an extraordinary degree, we had an evening's laughter over the allusions in the sparkling revue "The Question Stop," produced by Miss Helen Ward and company.

So we passed on joyful and enriched by our stay in the Palace Beautiful.

WHY is everyone reading Birth Control in Michael Fielding's

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Preface H. G. WELLS Five Diagrams

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THE ST. HILDA'S SUMMER SCHOOL. By "A STUDENT."

Drawn by the threefold lure of Oxford, Life in a Women's College, and well-known names in the woman's movement, I was caught in the net of the N.U.S.E.C. Summer School. I have dined in Hall, I have heard the lectures, and I have paced the green lawns in earnest converse on great subjects, and, O Rare Event! all was more felicitous than in my dreams.

My fellow captives were of all species. The young student seeking knowledge and dreaming dreams; the aged come to renew their strength and to share in the joy of dreams realized and long fought fights won; capable women from the North and practical administrators from the Midlands, added their gleanings to the sheaf of knowledge gathered by the officials and lecturers to the common stock.

Fraternization was perfect. On this common ground all met freely. The tactful president and over-burdened secretary of jealously watched local organizations could relax for one whole week and like the chance met travellers of the inn throw discretion to the winds and relate their story. They could bring to the purifying light of day those embryo ideas which had germinated in loneliness and needed fertilization, pruning, or destruction. Here was no painful halting conversation but a wonderful uprush of speech as one approached unhindered the great authority or fellow worker for criticism and advice. No social obligations were incurred for few were likely to meet again and the most exclusive Labour women could unbend to humble Capitalist at her side, the elderly could approach the haughty youth. No one was lonely, no one was bored, no one was indifferent; no one distracted by household cares as smiling maids appeared by magic with gentle service and delightful We lacked not anything that was good in Fellowship, in Beauty, or in Service.

The mental fare was as satisfying. We reached University level on University subjects. In *Economics* Miss Vera Brittain taught what professional work women could do in the world, and how they should train themselves for their tasks.

Mrs. Blanco White showed us the great stream of women pouring into our factories each day and advised on the flood-gates, dams, and natural barriers that regulate its flow, giving such a mass of facts beyond our knowledge that we begged to have a printed record.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone discussed how the largest and greatest profession of motherhood might be worthily treated and fitted into the new order.

Mrs. St. Leo Strachey proposed means for helping wayward natures into truer relations with life.

In *Inter-National Politics* Professor Catlin dazzled us with a beam of light on dark places and revealed the forces that germinated a new idea. This was fitly followed by Mr. Layton's masterly summary of European history since 1918. They combined to clear our minds of much sentimental lumber and showed us the germ of truth and hope that may yet give us peace on earth and goodwill to men.

In National Politics Mrs. Blanco White made us realize the value of the Vote to a Democracy, and Miss Maxse, Mr. Layton, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence convinced us of the zeal of all three parties for increased social services and improved conditions. and left us to choose between De-rating, the Yellow-book Policy, and Nationalization of essential services as the means of making a new Heaven upon Earth.

Mrs. Crofts made clear the position of women before the Law, and showed the wonderful advance in status gained since the vote was won in 1918. Practical problems of administration of the Law were discussed by Miss Hartland and a group of women magistrates, who brought home to each of us the necessity for constant work and vigilance if women are to obtain in practice what legislation has granted and made us realize the amount of magnificent work being done by our J.P.s and the need for more women to help them on the Bench.

Miss Macadam, Miss Rathbone, and Miss Ward showed us the long and toilsome way we had travelled, rejoiced with us

(Continued in preceding column.)

FEMINIST RHYMES AT THE OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL.

We print, by request, some of the verses that won prizes at the competition at the recent Oxford Summer School of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Each competitor picked a word and a question at random, and was required to introduce the word into a rhyme. The competitors were anonymous and were asked to indicate whether over or under 30 years of age. The over thirties' came out on top, and the two best are printed below. Several very good verses were however, submitted by the under thirties', one of which, by a member of the staff at St. Hilda's, won a prize.

FIRST PRIZE WON BY MRS. EATES.

Question: "Is there a field of work for the Lady Veterinary Surgeon?"

Word: Chirp.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1928.

Mary had a little pet
That ailed a lot; one day
She took it to the Lady Vet.
Who lived just down the way.
She said unto the Lady Vet.
"Your gentle ways I love
You will speak kindly to my pet
And chirp unto my dove.
I will not ask a horrid man
With heavy boot and voice
To tend my Darlings while they can
In your sweet care rejoice."

SECOND PRIZE WON BY MISS CRAIES.

Question: "Is the ideal of nineteenth century women-more poetical than that of to-day?"

Word: Elephant.

As the elephant enslaved, Turning in his narrow pen, Dreams of where the bamboos waved, Free and far from goads and men. So, women of our Mother's day May have dreamed a poet's life, Now we've done with dreams and say "Give us freedom, give us strife."

MORE BARS ON MARRIED WOMEN.

The Bethnal Green Borough Council has now joined the Local Authorities that make their women officials give an undertaking on appointment that they will resign on marriage. Any application to continue in the Council's service after marriage will be considered.

NATIONAL INSURANCE FOR AUSTRALIA.

A comprehensive scheme of National Insurance has been introduced into the Australian House of Representatives. It was announced that no further steps will be taken in the present Parliament in order to give the people of the country an opportunity of considering the proposals in all their bearings. The scheme includes sickness and disablement allowances, widows' pensions, to be payable for three years after the death of the husband or till the youngest child has reached the age of 16; orphans allowances; superannuation allowances to wives of pensioners and to widows of insured persons from the age of 60; refund allowances to insured women on marriage, and superannuation allowances or pensions to men beginning at 65, and to insured women at 60. The scheme is on a contributory basis, both employers and employees contributing. The present scheme of Old Age Pensions will be retained for contributors only. It will be noted that in the proposed scheme contributions and benefits are graded, as in this country, according to sex, not according to rate of remuneration. In many other countries the insured population is divided into wage groups, and no sex distinction is made—in, for instance, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Austria, and Poland. In a questionnaire issued by the International Labour Office, nineteen out of twenty-four governments reported systems of benefits graded according to remuneration. It should be remembered in this connection that the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship at its Council meeting this year, passed a resolution expressing its conviction that the segregation of men and women in different categories for the purposes of insurances is indefensible, and urging that if differential scales of contribution and benefit are judged necessary on actuarial or administrative grounds, they should not be based on age or sex, but upon rates of remuneration. Many countries are experimenting in systems of National Insurance and it will be interesting to watch the reception accorded to the Australian proposals.

RELIEF IN THE MINING AREAS.

We propose to devote a good deal of attention to the subject of relief for the mining areas before the severities of the winter season set in. We make a beginning to-day by an urgent appeal for warm clothing. Many housewives are going through their cupboards at the present time, and may be able to spare warm garments. We have great pleasure in printing a letter which we have received from the hon. secretary of the South Wales Committee, and in a future issue will give particulars as to the best method of helping the northern areas. We cannot surely allow our fellow citizens in the districts concerned to believe as a writer in *The Times* indicated recently that their condition is forgotten by those more happily situated, and we earnestly hope that our readers will support us in a practical effort of showing our sympathy. Parcels should be sent as directed in the letter printed below, and may, if the donors wish, be marked "Woman's Leader Appeal."

MINING AREAS RELIEF FUND.

MADAM,—I communicated the contents of your letter of the 17th instant to the Lord Mayor (Chairman), who is very pleased to learn that you contemplate making a special appeal for gifts of clothing in the columns of The Woman's Leader. There are twenty District Committees functioning in the area of the South Wales Coalfield. Up to the present, over 20,000 pairs of children's boots have been distributed, and approximately 400 expectant mothers have been provided with Maternity Outfits on loan. In addition, a large quantity of cast-off clothing has been given to necessitous cases, as a result of the generous response to the appeal for these garments from all parts of the country.

With the approach of the winter months, my Committee will concern itself mainly with the task of supplying clothing (particularly warm, woollen garments) for women and children. It is anticipated that the need this winter will be very great, and your readers may be assured that if they can see their way to send a parcel of clothing (garments which require mending will be equally acceptable) addressed to "The Mining Areas Relief Fund, City Hall, Cardiff," the gift will be immediately dispatched to one of the District Committees, and in a few days will reach a really deserving woman or child.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary, South Wales Committee.

City Hall, Cardiff. HAROLD ELLIS,

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¹ Careers for Girls, compiled by J. R. Cairns. (Hutchinson, 5s. net.)

¹ [We print above the over-thirty prize account of the Summer School by Mrs. Eates. The under-thirty prize is awarded to Miss Katharine B. Miller Jones, whose admirable article is unfortunately too long to print. Mrs. Eates was also successful in carrying off the prize poem printed in another column.—Ed.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTES. THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

It is too soon to give many facts respecting women candidates for the Town Council Elections on 1st November, but we hear that in Nottingham, Mrs. Harper, J.P., who has served for many years on the Council, is again standing for re-election. Ir Chesterfield the term of office of all three women councillors expires, but it is doubtful whether Miss Violet Markham-the resent Mayor—or Mrs. Ashmore will stand again. Miss Markham has declined the Council's invitation to accept the Mayoralty for a second year. In Birmingham Mrs. N. Hyde, secretary of the Women's Advisory Council of the local Labour party, will be one of the official party candidates.

The triennial elections for the twenty-eight London Boroughs will also take place this year on 1st November, and it is expected that a large number of the candidates will be women. In view of the impending changes in Poor Law administration, the coming Municipal Elections are of great importance, and it is more than ever desirable that the number of women councillors should be increased in London as well as in the provinces.

WOMEN MANAGERS.

The Scarborough Town Council lately appointed a woman manager for their municipal property, and during the past year the control of the seventeen cafes in the public gardens has been in the hands of the woman councillor—Mrs. Whitfield—who is chairman of the Cafés Committee. It is estimated that the undertaking will involve a turnover of £40,000 in the year, and Mrs. Whitfield's ambition is to give "good value, with good The former is already given, and the latter Mrs. Whitfield is struggling to obtain. Housing is her second interest and she was a strong advocate for the appointment of a woman manager. Their need was emphasized by Mrs. Hatfield, the first woman member of the Hull Council, at the annual conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association when referring to some three-storied flats erected by the Council and let at weekly rentals of seven, eight, and nine shillings a week with rates "I saw those houses after three weeks, and I went into a side street and wept. Humanly speaking, we members of the housing committee had done everything, and yet I saw in the sculleries of those homes dirt and squalor which one would have thought it would be impossible to accumulate in so short a

DONCASTER COUNCIL AND THE TOTALISATOR.

The Doncaster Council has, on the recommendation of its Racing Committee, decided to apply to the Racecourse Betting Control Board "for a certificate of approval for the Doncaster course to set up a totalisator." The motion was carried by only one vote and Councillor Hannah Clark, the woman member. spoke strongly against the proposal, saving that it would be derogatory to the dignity of Doncaster that the Corporation should establish a gigantic gambling machine which had nothing to do with horses. One of the aldermen announced that a subcommittee proposed to visit Longchamps to see the latest totalisator at work, and offered to pay Miss Clark's expenses if she would join the party. The offer was not accepted.

A NEW WOMAN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

A third woman member has been elected to the Eston (Yorkshire) Urban District Council at a recent by-election. Mrs Walkington secured 363 votes, and her opponent 359, giving her the small majority of 4 only.

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THE THANKSGIVING FUND.

We published last week a list of donations received for the Thanksgiving Fund since the end of July. As the holiday period draws to a close we hope that the flow of donations will become more rapid. A heavy winter's work is now beginning. A General Election is now approaching and the task of interesting the new voter stimulated by the success of the Summer School lies infront of us. Women candidates for Parliament belonging to all three political parties who stand for our programme must immediately and until the election be supported by practical help. The active campaign against the exclusion of women in medical schools and of married women in industry must be continued with energy. The coming Parliamentary session will see the introduction of important measures which must be closely scrutinized from the woman's angle—the reform of Local Government, especially Poor Law, and a new Factories Bill in which restrictions on women's work are threatened. Legislation for which we are to some degree responsible will be under consideration, dealing with the Age of Marriage and Testamentary provision for wives and children. These are only a few of the matters which will occupy our attention during this winter. Donations to the Fund may be earmarked for any one or more of these reforms. But we ask those who have not already given to do so at once so that we can embark on the winter's programme on a scale which will indicate that enfranchised women mean business. The Treasurer wishes to reach a total of £1,000 at least before the close of the financial year, October 31st.

THE RESIGNATION OF MISS HANCOCK.

The resignation of Miss Hancock after six years service on the staff of the N.U.S.E.C. is a great loss. Miss Hancock has had an opportunity of some months' study abroad, and when she returns to London she proposes to study for the Bar. She felt therefore that she must reluctantly give up, at least for the present, work which made calls on her whole time and interest. During her period of work for the National Union Miss Hancock became almost equally at home on the Parliamentary side and in the general work of the Union, and during the last year since Mrs. Hubback's resignation, a great deal of responsibility fell on her which she proved herself well fitted to bear. Since her advent as a very young clerk, she has shown admirable abilities as an organizer and a power of dealing with people and difficult situations unusual in one of her age. Her desire for education does her credit, and we can only hope that she will return later to some form of political work if not-as we all wish—to the National Union. A presentation to Miss Hancock of a cheque from the Union and a dispatch box and cheque from the Executive Committee was a pleasant feature of the recent Summer School at Oxford.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL AND AFTER.

Reports of the Summer School are given in another column. The interest kept up to the last. Mr. Robson's able though provocative lecture on the Government's proposals for Local Government reform was an admirable introduction to a subject which will occupy much attention during the coming months. Mrs. Croft's brilliant survey of the legal position of the position of the married woman hit exactly the right note for the closing morning. Members of the National Union could not fail to feel gratified by the conspicuous part taken by the Union in the legislation of the last ten years. Fortunately the substance of her lectures can be found in the new edition of her book recently reviewed in these pages by Mrs. Hubback. Every woman voter should buy a copy.

Officers and members of the executive who were present at

the School were presented with charming mementos with St. Hilda's coat of arms at the close of the School—a graceful and wholly unexpected attention, and a petition to the Executive Committee to organize a Summer School next year was circulated. The School gives certainly a fresh impetus to our efforts to secure the help of the under-thirties in our work before the coming General Election.

EDWARD WRIGHT AND CAVENDISH BENTINCK LIBRARIES.

It is possible that some of our Societies, in view of the autumn meetings, would be glad to make use of the facilities offered by these two Libraries, and we would like, therefore, to remind our readers that book boxes are available for the use of Societies, study circles, etc., as well as single volumes for individual subscribers. The scale of charges is as follows: For individuals, 10s. 6d. per annum for 2 volumes per week, or 3d. per volume per week. Book boxes, 5s. per one month For Societies of the N.U.S.E.C., 15s. per annum, or 5s. per book box per three months. For Societies, other than those of the N.U.S.E.C., 25s. per annum, or 7s. 6d. per book box per three months. (Carriage both ways to be paid by subscribers.) Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary at Headquarters.

The following new books have recently been added: The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism. By Bernard Shaw.

The Diaries of Mary, Countess of Meath.

Women's Work in Modern England. By Vera Brittain. Women Under English Law. (Second Edition, 1928.) By Maud L. Crofts

Britain's Industrial Future, being the Report of the Liberal Industrial Inquiry.

CORRESPONDENCE.

REGULATION OF VICE IN KENYA.

Madam,—We have had information that the Kenya Legislative Council is proposing to introduce a system of State regulated prostitution among the natives of the Colony. It appears that the *Times of East Africa* is

opposing the proposal.

May I ask all those of your readers who have friends or relatives in Kenya to write to them urging them to oppose this proposal? A letter of protest should also be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, so that any such proposition will be immediately turned down by the Colonial Office.

ALISON NEILANS, Secretary, The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

HEADS IN THE SAND.

Madam,—Your remarks under the above heading on the apathy of Trade Unionists towards the question of Family Ailowances seem to me based on merely one point of view. May I put another?

Owing to their characteristic independence, British people look askance at any proposed differentiation in wages based on the private affairs of the paid, especially when the proposal comes from members of those classes of society in which similar differentiation of remuneration does

classes of society in which similar differentiation of remuneration does not exist. There seems an element of unfairness in the method.

After all, getting married or not is a question for the individuals concerned; so is having children, and the latter is looked upon as a fairly good investment too, though there is no immediate return.

Surely the earners who think their wages should be according to their needs rather than their work are nearly related to the individual whose occupation is standing in the street labelled "I have a wife and children to support"

As a feminist I am constantly surprised at the prominence given in your pages to this form of philanthropy when you hold that employers, as such, should take no cognizance of the private concerns of their

But perhaps I do not understand what Family Allowances are?

A WORKING WOMAN.

[Our correspondent's last surmise is correct. As we understand "Family [Our correspondent's last surmise is correct. As we understand "Family Allowances," she wholly misunderstands them. They are not "proposed differentiation in wages, based on the private affairs of the paid," nor a form of "wages according to needs." They are based on the principle that the recruitment of humanity is not merely the affair of the individual parents, certainly not (repulsive idea!) a form of investment to ensure the comfort of the parents' old age, but rather an essential service which entitles those who take part in it to some share in distributed wealth. To explain further in a foot-note is impossible. We refer our correspondent to the books, pamphlets, and leaflets of the Family Endowment Society, all obtainable from the N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. I.—ED.]

JOSEPHINE BUTLER JOINT APPEAL FOR £40,000 AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

MADAM,—It is with confidence that I ask to be allowed to appeal to your readers, all of whom must be ardent lovers of Justice and Freedom.

It was justice and freedom that was the basis of the great fight for Women's Suffrage. It was justice and freedom that was the basis of Josephine Butler's great crusade in the last century.

This year there is a special opportunity open to us to pay our homage to this very noble figure that was the glory of the Victorian Age.

Josephine Butler, that lovely, cultured and talented English woman, abandoned the leisure and ease of a happy and prosperous married life to give herself to the most heart-breaking crusade that ever enlisted gallant warrior.

There was no advantage to be reaped. There was no glory to be won She fought for the hopeless, the helpless, the homeless, the outcasts, the despised. She broke ground hitherto shunned and banned, and won the meed of the Reformer—obloquy. She' was bespattered with abuse. She says of herself that her soul "went down into hell and dwelt there." But her brave heart never quailed and she triumphed.

Josephine Butler's inspiration was righteousness. She fought and

suffered that justice might be done even to the least and the worst. She fought and suffered that "Human society shall have within it no human dregs." She fought and suffered that it should be recognized the "essence of right and wrong is in no way dependent on sex." And she triumphed. dregs. She fought and suffered that it should be recognized the "essence of right and wrong is in no way dependent on sex." And she triumphed. She swept from the law of our land the blots that defamed it, and lit a great light which is now beginning to shine through all lands. Fifty-six Governments associated in the League of Nations have, this year, put their seals to a document which is a lasting monument to the faith and the courage and the love of humanity which inspired her gallant career.

Though this is the year of her Centenary, her outlook is even now ahead

Though this is the year of her Centenary, her outlook is even now ahead of our time. Public opinion has still to be educated to the point that there can be but one moral standard for men and women, and that this standard must be voluntarily kept for the moral as well as the physical

standard must be voluntarily kept for the moral as well as the physical well-being of the community. Our hospitals, our asylums, our institutions for the blind and maimed show the tragic effects of the wrong-doing which is so damaging to our national life.

May we beg the women of Great Britain who have gained their political equality to unite in educating public opinion on the necessity for an equal moral standard, in honour of that great pioneer, Josephine Butler. We propose to commemorate her centenary, in gratitude that her great record is ours, by raising £40,000 as a National Memorial to endow the two Societies that are carrying on her great work.

Will readers of The Woman's Leader offer to help by collecting gifts of £10 more? Donations to be sent to: The Chairman Joint Appeal

of £1 or more? Donations to be sent to: The Chairman, Joint Appeal Committee, 6a Blomfield Road, W. 9.

THE RIGHT TO BIRTH CONTROL AND ABORTION.

MADAM,—Members of the N.U.S.E.C. may perhaps be interested in the recent Women's Conference at Brussels, in association with the Labour and Socialist International. One hundred and fifteen delegates were present, representing seventeen countries. The outstanding feature of the Conference was the struggle over a resolution on free motherhood, put forward by the very eloquent Austrian delegate, Frau Proft, and supported by Frau Bohmseuch, member of the German Reichstag. These ladies pointed out that it was quite useless to protest against the waste of women's lives in unfit and neglected maternity unless they were given knowledge of birth control and the right to terminate unfit and inconcurrence. knowledge of birth control, and the right to terminate unfit and inopportune pregnancies by medical means. Only one Englishwoman alas! spoke for the right of poor women to birth control knowledge and fundamentally for the right of poor women to birth control knowledge and fundamentally to freedom of choice in motherhood: this was, of course, Miss Dorothy Jewson, ex-M.P. for Norwich, whose courageous stand in the cause of birth control is well known to readers of The Woman's Leader. She was supported by Miss Myerson, a representative of the Palestinian Federation of Women Workers, who pointed out the frightful infantile death-rate in Palestine under British administration: 188 per 1,000. But the official British Labour women delegates, Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., succeeded in suppressing all mention of birth control and kindred matters in the official resolution, which was just the usual lamentation about the ill-treatment and neglect of maternity. usual lamentation about the ill-treatment and neglect of maternity. Miss Susan Lawrence distinguished herself by the following statement: "If our men had known birth control was to be discussed, they would not have let us come." Has the leading British feminist organization no comment

Finally, a separate declaration was signed by the official delegates representing Austria, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland, Latvia, Jugo-Slavia, Hungary, the Russian Socialist exiles in Paris, and the German Socialists in Czecho-Slovakia, and by three individual delegates German Socialists in Czecho-Slovakia, and by three individual delegates from Holland and Scandinavia, to the effect that they considered contraception an indispensable part of maternal care, and abortion—performed by doctors, not quacks—justifiable and necessary where the mother's health or life were imperilled, the unborn child tainted with disease or unlikely to live, and the mother's livelihood, and professional activity, and the welfare of children already living at stake.

Up to now the official British feminist movement has ignored the passionate feeling among women in favour of real control over their maternity, as apart from the right to use and know about contraception. The movement started by Alexandra Kollontavi's great initiative in Soviet

The movement started by Alexandra Kollontay's great initiative in Soviet Russia is incorporated in the Austrian Socialist programme, and will not be suppressed by British Labour opposition. More will be heard of it

[We will deal with points in this letter in our next issue.—ED.]

THE

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COMING EVENTS.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

17 Buckingham St., Strand. Luncheon. Speaker: Dr. Boelke,

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

24th OCTOBER. 1,15 p.m. Hotel Cecil. Victory Day Luncheon. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Alison Neilans, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Doris Stevens. Chair: The Viscountess Rhondda.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP

Edinburgh S.E.C. and Glasgow S.E.C. & W.C.A. 28th SEPT. 1st OCTOBER.
Weekend Summer School. Buchanan Hostel, E. Suffolk Road, Edinburgh. Subject: "The
Equalities will be be used."

Sutton and District W.C.A. 7th OCTOBER. 3 p.m. Miss Rathbone, J.P., and Mrs. Abbott. Debate "Restrictive Legislation."

Public Meeting (organized by Women's Societies) on "Public Responsibility for the Borough Council." OCTOBER 11th, 3 p.m. St. Mary's College, Lancaster Gate, W.2. Speakers: T. H. Nunn, Esq., and Miss O'Kell, Sanitary Inspector. Chair: Alderman H. Kenyon, J.P.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

1st OCTOBER. 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. Miss Fedden, "Nationality of Married Women." Chair: Mrs. Mathews, M.B.E.

THE GUILDHOUSE, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W.

28th SEPTEMBER. 8 p.m. Mr. Pett Ridge, "I like to remember."

WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

21st SEPTEMBER. Bristol University. Conference of Women Engineers.

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E DUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 100 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 25. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 105. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

THE GUILDHOUSE, Eccleston Square, S.W.t. Sept., 28th. Lecture by Mr. Pett Ridge, "I Like to Remember." This lecture is the first of a series of monthly events. Speakers include Mr. ALEXANDER WATSON, PROFESSOR JULIAN HUXLEY, Mr. BEN GREET, Mr. BASILDEAN GRAGESTER STATES AND STATES OF THE STATES O

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, 23rd September, 6.30, Dr. Leonard Browne, "Christ's Way of Friendship."

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