

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. By K. E. Innes . . . . .	267
THE LIQUOR (POPULAR CONTROL) BILL. By Lady Frances Balfour . . . . .	267
THE MEANS OF FULFILMENT. By Professor Alexander Mair . . . . .	268
SMOKE ABATEMENT. By Marion FitzGerald . . . . .	269
THE LONDON BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER, 1925. By Bertha Mason . . . . .	270

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Equality in Trades Unions.

At the Trades Union Congress at Scarborough last week Miss Margaret Bondfield moved a resolution bearing on the position which was carried unanimously. The resolution urged that women should be admitted into industry on the same terms as men and accorded equal privileges and responsibilities, and that the Unions at all times should seek to secure the operation of equal pay for equal work. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, in the course of a debate on equal pay in the Government services, reminded the Congress that Trades Unions must set their own house in order first, as inequalities between men and women were to be found in Trades Union offices. In commenting on this, the *New Leader* says that it was to the honour of the Congress that the parrot cry of men with dependents versus women with none was not raised and expresses the belief that the unanimous acceptance of the resolution means that an ugly chapter in earlier Trades Union history is finally and irrevocably closed. As to the need of a wide extension of organization among women in industry, Miss Bondfield pointed out that out of four million women working under a system of contract for wages which made them eligible for membership only 300,000 belonged to Trades Unions. She urged that in view of the increasing exploitation of woman workers immediate steps should be taken for an intensive national campaign for the enrolment of more members on a large scale.

#### S.O.S.

At the end of last week Sir George Hunter, a prominent shipbuilder and engineering employer of the Tyneside area, addressed an astonishing letter to the Prime Minister. It constitutes nothing less than a desperate and almost hysterical S.O.S. on behalf of our decaying home industries. Does the Government realize, he asks, that conditions are "not improving but actually growing worse?" The number of our unemployed is increasing; young people are growing up without the habit of work. Enforced idleness is undermining skill. The trade balance is now definitely against us, capital is dwindling, and dividends are being paid out of reserves. "These conditions, if they continue, can only mean bankruptcy and ruin. That stage is still perhaps far off, but we are on the road to it. There

is no improvement in sight." Therefore, Sir George Hunter asks that the searchlight of national attention which is at present being directed upon the coal mining industry may be diffused over the industrial field as a whole, and that a Royal Commission may be appointed to investigate the deep and wide causes of the present long-continued industrial depression. He asks, presumably, for just such an investigation as was undertaken under somewhat similar though less desperate circumstances in 1886. Well—perhaps we shall get it. If we do, then we echo the hope expressed on Monday by a *Manchester Guardian* leader-writer, that some pains may be taken to examine the meaning and implications of a "living wage." And "one proposal that would clearly fall within the scope of any such inquiry is," he suggests, "the proposal generally known as *Family Endowment*." In view of the intimate connexion between the standard of efficiency and the standard of life, as well as between the problem of distribution and the problem of production, we feel that there can be no contrary opinion to that expressed by the *Manchester Guardian*. The only thing which astonishes us is that Press and public should have hitherto been so riddled in the narrowness of their perception concerning this matter!

#### Women in Council.

By the time this issue is in the hands of its readers many women will be already en route for the Annual Congress of the National Council of Women to be held this year in Birmingham. The title selected to summarize its multifarious themes of discussion is "Practical Idealism"—there can thus be no question of limited "terms of reference." Temperance, sex-equality, the reporting of judicial proceedings, penal reform, and international education will be among the subjects dealt with. But perhaps the most acutely interesting subject of discussion is Family Endowment, which will be debated, at a public meeting on Monday afternoon, 21st September, by Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Helen Fraser. The speeches will, we understand, be broadcast to an even wider public by the enterprise of the Birmingham B.B.C. station.

#### Public Servants First.

By tradition apparently in Glasgow it falls to the two junior magistrates of the city to be in attendance at executions, and one of the two upon which this painful duty will fall on the occasion of the execution of John Keen, for the murder of an Indian, is a woman Bailie, Mrs. Bell, and if she should be unable to attend, another woman Bailie, Mrs. Barbour, would take her place. Considerable feeling has arisen on the subject, and there is a strong opinion that these two women should be relieved from so trying an obligation, especially as Mrs. Barbour has recently recovered from a severe illness and Mrs. Bell is opposed to capital punishment. Both Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Barbour have, however, declared their willingness to be present at the execution if the reprieve petition is not successful. Although the idea of being present at an execution is very repugnant to them they consider that they are public servants first, and they regard it as a duty to their office and to the women's cause to carry out any magisterial responsibilities which fall to their share equally with their male colleagues. We congratulate them on their decision while we sympathise with them in their horrible duty. The whole question of capital punishment, so ably discussed at the recent N.U.S.E.C. Summer School at Oxford, is a matter which women citizens must face up to. We hope to find space for articles on both sides in subsequent issues.

**Public Health: The 1925 Act.**

This new act came into force on 8th September, and for a full description of its operations we refer our readers to an article in our issue of 17th July by Mr. W. J. Wormersley, M.P., who introduced it into the House of Commons as a Private Members' Bill. A valuable summary of the new Act has just been prepared by the Ministry of Health. It extends to England and Wales only, but except for the part dealing with baths and wash-houses it does not apply to London. It is difficult to grasp fully the implications of this new piece of legislation without a thorough understanding of existing Public Health Acts, but the summary gives a useful outline of the new provisions. The different parts deal with streets and buildings; sanitary provisions; verminous premises; watercourses, streams, etc.; recreation grounds, infectious disease, and hospitals; baths and wash-houses; and the usual "miscellaneous." Under this last heading is grouped a mixed assortment of powers of local authorities, including prevention of blindness; dissemination of information on questions relating to health or disease by lectures, pictures, notices; provision of parking places for vehicles; provision of grounds for cricket, football, etc.; use of public rooms for entertainments, etc.; precautions against contamination of food intended for sale; traffic and dangerous driving. But those interested in local government should re-read Mr. Wormersley's admirable article and invest in a copy of the most useful Ministry of Health Summary which may be had from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller for 6d.

**Leaflet on Widows', Orphans', etc., Act.**

A leaflet can now be obtained at any post office explaining in simple terms the qualifications for receiving Widows' and Orphans' pensions from January next. All those concerned with or interested in the Act are urged to possess themselves of one of these leaflets in order to become familiar with the terms of the Act. We have only one criticism to offer with respect to a paragraph which appears to us confusing and inconsistent with what comes later: it is stated that among persons entitled to pensions are "widows with at least one legitimate child or step-child under the age of 14 on the 1st January, and orphan children of the same age." Later "a child" is defined in the words of the Act as "including a step-child, and in relation to a man an illegitimate child whether his or his wife's, who was living with him at the time of his death, and in relation to a woman her illegitimate child who was living with her at the time of her death." Thus one class of illegitimate children will enable their mother to qualify for a pension when left a widow or will themselves be able to receive an orphan's pension. But a widow with such a child will not realize this from the wording of the leaflet.

**"A Very Wide Door."**

An interesting claim concerning a Parliamentary vote was heard last week by the Deputy Registration Officer in the Guiseley Revision Court. The claimant, a single woman, demanded to be included in the register on the ground that she occupied a room, let to her by her parents, in which she owned the bed, the wardrobe, and the chest of drawers, but in which several pictures and the clock were the property of her father. The claim was opposed by a political agent (we will not divulge the colour of his party) who argued that it would "form a precedent and open a very wide door." He added that, were this claim allowed, he would make a hundred others on similar grounds. Well—we sincerely hope he will. Meanwhile another woman claimant, somewhat similarly situated, explained that the bed and the carpet of her room were not her own property, although the wardrobe and dressing-table were. In allowing the first claim and rejecting the second the registration officer explained that so long as the "essential furniture" belonged to the applicant the ownership of minor articles was irrelevant. Clearly in this case the vital object was the bed. We advise those of our readers who live in lodgings to make special note of this fact, and to guard very jealously their property rights in this essential commodity.

**"The Tablet" and Votes for French Women.**

A few weeks ago our Roman Catholic contemporary printed a note dealing with the question of votes for the women of France, in which it argued that the extension of the franchise to French women would not only be an act of justice to women

but a reform which would enrich and purify the political life of the country. In the issue of the paper for 5th September we read that this article elicited, along with many appreciative letters, a volley of indignation from certain quarters from those who regarded such an expression of opinion in a British periodical as impertinent meddling with the domestic affairs of another nation. In a leading article entitled "Votes for Frenchwomen" an admirable defence is put up which we wish we could quote in full. The essence of it is that comments on a question which is of interest to modern civilization generally are entirely justifiable, and that Great Britain, which though a non-Catholic country has opened welcoming doors to fugitive Catholics expelled by anti-clerical persecution, has a right to some special concern in the subject. The article refers to Madame Sion's recent exploit in swimming the Channel to within a mile of the cliffs of Dover and to the success of French women in commercial, industrial, and professional occupations as well as in peasant agriculture. "To silence more than half the people when the voice of France ought to be heard in the choice of a Government is to sterilize more than half of the nation's moral and intellectual vitality at the moment when it is most wanted." This is by no means the first time that *The Tablet* has befriended our cause, and we venture to hope that it will continue to lend its valuable help in the coming campaign for the extension of the franchise to women in this country on the same terms as to men.

**Women Teachers in Conference.**

We are glad to call the attention of our readers to an announcement among our "Coming Events" of an open conference on subjects of educational interest, to be held by the National Union of Women Teachers on Saturday, 26th September, at the Central Hall, Westminster. The conference intends to work hard. Its session extends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and covers such comprehensive subjects as the teaching of history, the teaching of poetry, corporate life in schools, and athletics for girls, and the luncheon interval will be occupied with visits to places of interest in the immediate neighbourhood. We offer greetings and good wishes to the promoters of the Conference. The National Union of Women Teachers has a peculiarly difficult function to perform. It is on the one side a professional organization concerned like other professional organizations with the promotion of scientific research and experiment in the field wherein each of its members is a responsible individual unit. On the other side it is a fighting sectional body, engaged like the miners or the engineers in a peculiarly fierce defensive campaign on behalf of the economic status of its members. It will be a deplorable thing if the sex discrimination which faces women in the teaching profession makes inevitable an over-emphasis of the "trade union" aspect of their organization. But at any rate the projected conference suggests that the N.U.W.T. is preserving its balance even under great provocation.

**Women in Local Government.**

We print this week a column of Local Government news by Miss Bertha Mason, the first of a fortnightly series which will, we hope, help to fill the gap occasioned by the suspension of the organ of the late Women's Local Government Society. Our readers will agree with us that we could not have found a more competent author for such a contribution, nor one more fitted to preserve the continuity of interest which we hope to establish between our fortnightly Local Government column and the work of a very distinguished and expert organization.

**Experiments in Education.**

We hope to publish during the winter a series of articles dealing with modern experiments in education. As a general introduction to these, we have much pleasure in announcing that next week's issue will contain a preliminary article on "Experimental Schools," by Miss Alice Woods, author of "Educational Experiments in England" (Methuen, 7s. 6d.), whose name is familiar to all who have been following with open minds recent pioneering excursions in the world of education.

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

**THE SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.**

By K. E. INNES.

There is no doubt that the direct progress of the League of Nations as an organ of international co-operation has received a set-back since the close of the Fifth Assembly. The consciousness of this is preventing any great show of enthusiasm this year. It may be that the rather subdued mood which is evident is a sign of a lesson well-learned, that progress is strictly conditioned by the support of public opinion in its constituent countries. M. Briand last year prophesied that the peoples would rise up and demand everywhere the ratification of the Protocol when they realized they were offered in it an escape from war. This has not occurred, and its rejection by a great Power seemed to some to have killed it.

No one at the Assembly, however, can believe that that is true. M. Painlevé has reasserted emphatically France's wholehearted adherence to its underlying principles. He left it open to the Assembly to raise it again in discussion, and delegate after delegate has found it impossible to avoid the subject which is uppermost in the minds of all. The Assembly, in fact, has accepted from the Council no absolute veto of the Protocol. It will not, of course, be revived in anything like its old form; but as a document it has become history. It is there for reference; it is there for guidance; and, apart from the speech of Mr. Austen Chamberlain, hardly a delegate has spoken without revealing that he and his Government are quite definitely feeling round for other lines of approach to the exact ends aimed at in its clauses.

The Pact, though its discussions are regrettably outside the League, has been dealt with as a means by extension of gradual approach to the wider aim. To others, the more general acceptance of the Optional Clause until all States are bound by promises of submission to compulsory arbitration seems the most hopeful method. Switzerland has taken the lead in a resolution to ratify this clause again for a further period of ten years, and has given an invitation to others to follow.

Mr. Chamberlain affirmed his Government's approval of the general end which was aimed at of securing peace, but gave no constructive proposals as to the means. He had indeed a difficult task, for it is quite obvious that without the rejection by the British Government the Protocol would have been accepted; and the attitude of the Assembly was not that of sympathy. It was rather that of a tolerant endeavour to understand the Anglo-Saxon outlook, as he elaborated it, and the British love of "muddling through"—with an underlying sense of the danger of such an attitude in this post-war world, where—as it has been put—problems in Egypt and China will not wait while the Rhine is settled. In effect, without any judgment as to its wisdom or unwisdom, our summary rejection of the Protocol has given the lead in the Assembly this year to France.

It is not likely any definite amendments to last year's document will be proposed this year. It is possible, as has been suggested, that any reconstruction is being intentionally deferred till

Germany is in the League—next year. But it is clear that no rejection by one Power has shelved for long attempts by the other nations to get the Security so close to their interest by some common agreement *through the League of Nations*.

An interesting sidelight on the attitude was thrown by the reception given to a speech given by His Excellency Mr. Tang Tsai-Fou, the first delegate for China. He referred to the expressed desire of the great Powers for the ending of war; pointed out that the most frequent cause of war was a sense of injustice at inequalities; and challenged the Powers, if they meant what they said, to surrender extra-territorial rights and to remove inequalities between the nations. The applause which greeted him was the heartiest so far in this Assembly.

The decision of Great Britain not to adhere to the Optional Clause has only been referred to indirectly in the emphasis on the fact that France has ratified it.

The seriousness, in spite of set-backs, with which the Governments are now taking the League is illustrated in the quality of the delegations. France has sent as strong and able a set of men as last year and spared her Premier at a very busy time to come and open proceedings. Our own Prime Minister, one feels, has been a notable absentee—able to give Ministerial tea-parties to delegates just over the border.

The Premier of Austria is her chief delegate, and there are twelve Premiers or ex-Premiers here and nineteen Foreign Ministers or ex-Foreign Ministers.

Women substitute delegates come as usual from the British Empire, and the Scandinavian countries only, with the exception of Roumania, which remains faithful to its poetess, Mlle. Vacaresco. The Duchess of Atholl represents the British Empire, with Lord Cecil, on the Fifth (Humanitarian) Committee, where Mrs. Mackinnon, also prominent in Australia for her interest in education and social questions, is serving for Australia. Mme. Bugge Wicksell is still the only woman on the First (Legal) Committee, and on the Sixth (Political) Committee, where most important discussions are taking place on the Slavery question, based on a protocol drawn up by Lord Cecil. For Norway, the well-known suffragist and prominent worker in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Madame Marthe Larsen Jahn, has this year replaced Dr. Bonnevie.

A brilliant former member of the Assembly is missing in the person of M. Politis from Greece; and a sad gap in the ranks of League champions has been caused by the death of the great Swedish socialist, M. Branting, to whose work and character Lord Cecil and others have paid moving tribute. One realizes that such personal relations as he formed with his League colleagues have an international significance, made possible through League machinery but extending their influence far beyond it.

**THE LIQUOR (POPULAR CONTROL) BILL.**

By LADY FRANCES BALFOUR.

"What is Truth?" should be the question for ever on the lips of those who deal with Temperance. In intemperate headlong zeal, without policy or reason, the total abstainers rush on their way; fanatical zeal their guiding passion, possessed with the reforming spirit, and confident as are most reformers that in them can be no wrong.

On the other hand, you have the party for liberty to the individual, confident that all is well in the State, that though the national consumption of alcohol is always increasing, and the dividends of the various companies are in a satisfactory condition, "all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds"; men and women do not drink to excess, that "the Trade" gives no encouragement to intemperance, and that if we close one eye we shall see even as the great distillers and brewers see. Allied to the cause of alcohol, it used to be currently said, was one political party, whose cry was "Beer and the Bible." Certain it is that of all political powers, it is the one that has used its money and its goods with the most powerful effect at the times of general election, and that it has never divested itself of its political connexion. The temperance party have much to say on this head. Probably there is great exaggeration in what they do say. But temperance has ever been poor in worldly means, if not poor in spiritual pride, and the wealth of the alcohol cause is sure to excite those feelings which are well

known to all men, where great wealth is lavishly displayed, while the other party are poor, and have nothing but their virtue to display.

In the meantime there is a middle party who look on. The party composed of those who earn their daily bread, and who cannot help knowing that their whole class is depressed in material comfort by the nation's drink bill: in other words, the money which is spent in totally unproductive luxury. It is undoubtedly less than it used to be, but it is still in excess of what the country can afford. Let us suppose that the nation as individuals imposed on itself a self-denying ordinance for a given number of years, does anybody pretend that the commonwealth would not be vastly the better, and the richer? It could afford to spend more as individuals on housing and food and on clothing. It would even have more money for its betting luxuries. As a nation we should lose in revenue, but we should gain in the maintenance of prison accommodation, our poorhouses would be closed in something like the proportion of the redundant public house, and the nation would be less undermined by those diseases which are the allies of excessive drinking.

I do not wish in this article to draw any deductions from America. "Emancipation" there is still an experiment. It seems unlikely, however, that alcohol will be freed from restrictive laws. America is too fond of production and of the gold which

accrues from production to be likely to give way to the extremists who cry for unrestricted liquor. We are not likely here to adopt American laws, and prohibition is not within the range of practical politics.

But, a hundred years ago, such laws as we have regulating licences, the number of public houses, and all the things which go under the name of Temperance Legislation, was not in sight.

Excessive drinking was common in the community, and no man ever cared to look at cause and effect. Neither was the population such as it is to-day. Neither were we called upon to take stock of all our resources, to examine into the conditions under which individuals live; above all there was little sense of our duty to the State and the individual homes that make up the State.

All this needs no elaboration. No man can call his house "his castle" to-day. Armies of inspectors invade his castle and his trade. We compel the education of youth, we coerce him or her into what the State concludes to be the right and the true path. On the whole the nation agrees; it has with some groaning and complaining acquiesced in what used to be called "grandmotherly legislation." We see all this, and yet let any man or woman arise and say that Local Option should be at the disposal of the community, and we get "all the king's horses and all the king's men" arrayed against the Liquor (Popular Control) Bill, as it was in the House of Lords in 1924.

Rarely has the Upper House been so full, seldom has there been such fine debating. Peers came up who had never sat before since the Parliament was elected, and took the oath by scores, with the intention of voting against the Bill, which none of them had even read. The Bishops' Bench was full, and the most eloquent and earnest speech against the Bill was made by a Bishop. The Bill was introduced under the name of the late Bishop of Oxford. Brewing Peers swarmed like bees, and the Peers upholding Popular Control were among the weak and despised things. The promoters of the Bill said that the Bill could be improved: all they asked was that the principle of Popular Control should be acknowledged in that House. The Bill was of course rejected, but the principle, while democratic government remains, can never be defeated. Too surely are those that uphold it increasing and those that are against it decreasing. No cause worth fighting for is ever won at once. The people's habits are changing, and they will in the course of a generation ask that the State shall have a larger measure of control over one of the most insidious foes of man- and woman-kind. We are daily putting drugs under restrictions, how long will the people wish to leave this one outside popular control? That there is as much money used in furtherance of the Trade, as is asserted by the Temperance Party, requires a good deal of proof, very difficult to produce. That brewers and distillers are rich is perfectly obvious: the published shares of their companies tell that story. Their personal expenditure is often lavish, so also are their benefactions and gifts to the nation. It would be as reasonable to accuse them of self-interest as it would be to say the State does not wish to part with the revenues brought in by the consumption of alcohol.

It is not a question of the State primarily; it is a question of those who form the State—if they are satisfied with the condition of things let them show it by the constitutional way, their votes. Pressure is always put on members by both the parties concerned.

Temperance people are no doubt very intemperate. They make up for their abstinence by a great deal which is violent. First of all the mischievous temperance propaganda, is the view that prevents the reformation of much which goes with the consumption of alcohol. But it is not the part of the State to yield to the violence of either party. The State can only hold the balance. It can only give the people the opportunity of expressing its will. Therefore, such a Bill as what is popularly known as "the Bishop of Oxford's Bill" should be kept ever before the people. Emancipation means freedom, and therefore it is a cause worth working for. It is a cause worth waiting for,—the latter rain, which will undoubtedly fall in due season.

**THE WOMAN'S LEADER**  
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## THE MEANS OF FULFILMENT.<sup>1</sup>

By PROFESSOR ALEXANDER MAIR.

The spectacle of the awaking of self-consciousness brings to most of us a certain regret. We tend to think of what is vanishing rather than of what is about to appear, and we sigh for the loss of something gracious and winning which belongs to the naïve, unreflective life. We omit to remark that this would in the course of the years harden into a narrow and mechanical routine, whereas both in the appearance of reflection and its necessary companion criticism there is the promise of emancipation, a greater freedom, a fuller harmony.

This has to be kept in mind in reading Miss Macadam's book, which is one token—among various—that the social worker has become aware of himself. At first, as we make our way through its pages, so full of detail of scheme and method of training, we get an impression of cold-blooded deliberation, of the angular movements of rods and pistons as contrasted with the spontaneous grace of a living thing manifesting an activity, controlled only by the thought of its object, all unmindful of itself, supple and sympathetic as is required in such dealings between man and man. The writer is sufficiently sensitive to this. Frequently she draws our attention to the fact that the social worker has to work in a very special medium, consisting of persons, and not with things called "cases." And she also leads us to see quite plainly that work in this redoubtable medium calls for thinking and hard thinking, for preparation and strenuous preparation. We are not in a Garden of Eden, in a state of sweet simplicity where the will to be helpful would be enough. We are markedly very far from it. There are endless things to find out about the "what" and the "how." Society is the most complex and the most delicate structure known to us. Of that structure and the internal reactions of its parts we do not yet know a great deal. But what can be known ought to be known by anyone who proposes to deliberately intervene in its processes. The word "ought" is used because this sphere is through and through a moral sphere. It is a solemn and responsible thing to affect or try to affect of set purpose human lives and destinies.

All this Miss Macadam well understands and makes her readers understand. And since she is not a person who wastes words we must suppose that experience has taught her the need for stating it, surprising though the existence of the need may seem.

And then emerges her main problem and theme. What, so far as we yet know, is the kind of knowledge and discipline most necessary for the aspiring practitioner, and how can it best be provided? Here her long experience in the field of training for social work, her extensive knowledge of what is happening in this sphere all over the civilized world, and her sound judgment enables her to be very helpful. As a work of reference on schemes of training, both past and present, both here and abroad, her book is valuable. For that alone it could be welcomed. But it is more than that, for Miss Macadam is clear about the primary importance of discussing principles, and what she has to contribute to that discussion will be carefully read by everyone who is intelligently interested in the aims and methods of training for social work. It will give rise no doubt to a certain amount of controversy for she is no sinner-on-the-fence. She says plainly and decisively what she thinks. She has to face the question of how the training has to be given, whether in *ad hoc*, technical (or as they are often called) "vocational" schools where the instruction is very specific and "practical," or, on the other hand, in the Universities where in accordance with the tradition of these institutions there will be a broader basis of general theory. She is decisively on the side of University training, and what she has to say on this point in Chapter IV is well worthy of attention both by those who have not yet made up their minds and by professed vocationalists. She makes out an impressive and, one is bound to say, a convincing case.

But she has her reservations. Kant's well-known saying might be adapted to express her attitude. "Practice without theory is blind; theory without practice is empty." And she is a little anxious, we can see, lest the Universities, in their zeal for pure science and the universal, may tend to put too little emphasis on the practical, on the preparation for dealing with particular concrete situations. It is a delicate problem, as all who are in touch with the Universities know well; but there are ways out, as the method of dealing with the cognate difficulty of the training of school teachers in the Universities shows.

<sup>1</sup> *The Equipment of the Social Worker.* By Elizabeth Macadam, M.A. (London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net.)

Miss Macadam is very tactful in this part of her book. She is tenderly and not acridly anxious. She may be assured that such friendly and wise words of exhortation will not fall to the ground in the Universities.

There are numerous further points of interest in the book to which attention might be profitably drawn if the limits of this notice allowed. Two of them cannot be passed over in silence without injustice. One is the important and instructive account of training for special branches of social work, to which Chapter VII is devoted. As a guide to those looking forward to a career of social service and as giving insight into the already remarkable ramifications of what is broadly called social work, this chapter is most valuable. The other point emerges most plainly in the final chapter, where the writer, after having in previous chapters demonstrated beyond peradventure the almost endless ways in which the trained and enlightened social worker may help the State, deploring the niggardliness of public support of training institutions, and points out the falsity of the economy which pours out money on large and elaborate schemes of social betterment and dribbles it out on the fashioning of capable instruments for the administering of these—failing whom there is waste incalculable, certainly of far more than would be required for the purposes of training. She urges a speedy change of heart. "In ten years," she says, "it may be too late."

Miss Macadam does not pretend to fine writing, but she writes with a passion for her theme which shines through her plain straightforward sentences. To students actual and prospective, to those engaged in the work of training, to all concerned directly with public administration and social service, and to the ordinary citizen with any interest at all in the common weal, this work, packed with information, full of sound sense, inspired by an unquenchable enthusiasm and instinct with humanity, is of great worth and moment.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

ABSTRACT OF A LECTURE GIVEN BY MISS MARION FITZGERALD AT THE N.U.S.E.C. SUMMER SCHOOL FOR CITIZENS AND MAGISTRATES.

The smoke problem is exceedingly difficult and complicated, but the prospects of a solution are increasingly hopeful though progress will probably be slow because there is nothing sensational about smoke abatement. Public interest in the subject is really aroused at last, as the fact that smoke and the resulting fogs are good copy for the Press proves. Technical experts are concerning themselves with the question of industrial smoke. Women are demanding labour-saving houses, and that means fewer coal fires. Fuel research and inquiry into the possibilities of solid smokeless fuel are being actively carried on under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and quite recently the Government has promised a subsidy to firms making experiments in the production of smokeless fuel. Finally, smoke reformers of to-day are reasonable beings who cannot be dismissed as faddists.

I assume that an audience such as this is already convinced that a smoke polluted atmosphere, in addition to being very unpleasant, is dangerous to health and costly as well. Soot poured out into the atmosphere means not only that valuable fuel is wasted, but that money must be spent in cleaning and in repairing the damage done to clothing, furniture, merchandise and buildings. The damage done to health cannot be repaired.

There are two sides to the smoke problem—domestic and industrial—and it is essential that both should be attacked simultaneously. The first involves a change in long-established habits; the second requires legislation; but research and technical achievement will probably play the largest part in its elimination.

So far as domestic smoke is concerned, it is not practical politics to demand the total abolition of all coal fires until such a time as solid smokeless fuel is freely available at the price of ordinary house coal, and nobody knows yet when that time will come. The over-zealous reformer merely makes people cross and defeats his own ends when he expects the mildly interested public to accept new methods which only the enthusiast will adopt with cheerfulness. For the present, the best line is to reduce coal fires to the minimum required for cheerfulness, and for

other purposes to make use of gas or electricity and coke or anthracite in the combination best suited to individual preferences, type of house and means. Let us do our best with what is available to-day while waiting for completely smokeless methods in the future. Then, having as far as possible put our own domestic chimneys in order, we shall be justified in making demands that industrial smoke shall be reduced.

In former days there was a type of smoke reformer who adopted the attitude that all manufacturers were villains who wilfully polluted the air, and his one remedy was drastic punitive methods. Naturally this caused antagonism and organised industry took up a strongly defensive attitude. It is true that in many cases smoke is made through indifference and carelessness, but on the other hand there is evidence to show that leading manufacturers are genuinely concerned about the smoke problem. Mrs. Cloudeley Brereton, in a paper recently read at the Annual Conference of the Royal Institute of Public Health, quoted the answers sent to her by some forty leading firms which showed that serious attention was being given to the reduction of smoke. An interesting reply was that of Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, who are trying to obtain an automatic device for smoke recording which would make it possible to introduce a system of rewarding stokers for absence of smoke. Calling industry into consultation and the provision of expert technical advice would probably do more in the long run to reduce the smoke nuisance than any number of penalties. At the same time, there must be law for those who offend through indifference or carelessness.

The question then arises, what form should this law take? The general law against smoke dates from 1875, and needs revision. One of its weaknesses is that only black smoke can be dealt with, and, as everybody knows, factory chimneys can and do pour out volumes of yellow or grey smoke, which is just as bad. Another weakness is that as it stands, the law amounts to a total prohibition of black smoke and is too drastic to be enforced without qualification. Those local authorities who actively enforce the law make certain concessions and prosecute only when the emission of smoke exceeds a given time in an observation of an hour or half an hour. Slack local authorities make this over-drastring clause an excuse for doing nothing, and it is a fact that of 1,800 local authorities, small and large, who should administer the smoke laws only a very small minority do anything at all in the matter.

The revised law must be reasonable and capable of being fully enforced. It is, of course, essential that no handicap should be imposed upon industry, but most technical experts are agreed that smoke need not be made in the case of steam raising boilers, and these account for a very large proportion of industrial chimneys. Processes such as steel making, smelting, and so on, instead of being exempt from the law, as at present, should gradually be brought under regulations specially adapted according to circumstances. Locomotives on road and rail and steamships in harbour need to be brought into line, and finally it should be possible for the Ministry of Health to compel a defaulting authority to act. It is to be hoped that Mr. Neville Chamberlain will introduce a satisfactory Bill before long. Meanwhile, without waiting for alterations in the law, there are several lines of action open to citizens who are keenly interested in the question:—

1. They can do their best individually to reduce their own domestic smoke.
2. They can raise the question of the administration of the smoke laws in local government elections, and by questioning candidates they may educate prospective councillors.
3. They can bring pressure to bear on local authorities to set a good example by keeping the chimneys of municipal buildings in order.

## A WOMAN MAYOR FOR LINCOLN.

Lincoln City Council has one woman member; and in November that one woman, Miss M. E. Nevile, will succeed Mr. R. A. Taylor, M.P., as first woman mayor of the City. It is interesting to note that Miss Nevile sits as an Independent. Knowing the difficulties which in public life beset those persons who are not in a position to float to any goal upon the strong tide of party feeling, we offer to Miss Nevile our redoubled congratulations and best wishes for a prosperous and not too onerous term of office.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.****THE LONDON BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS,  
NOVEMBER, 1925.****THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELECTORS.**

November will see the last of the series of triennial elections which have taken place during this year for local government authorities, viz., the elections for Town and London Borough Councils.

Attention has been repeatedly drawn to the astounding apathy which exists not only in London but throughout the country in regard to local elections, and to the way in which thousands of electors who would never fail to cast their votes at the time of a Parliamentary election either deliberately or carelessly disfranchise themselves by not voting for local government bodies.

This indifference was strikingly illustrated at the time of the last Municipal elections in London in 1922. A careful analysis made at the time revealed the fact that the number of local government electors whose names were on the register for that year was 1,825,869. Of this total, 908,345 (49.7 per cent) were men and 917,524 (50.3 per cent), i.e. 9,179 more women than men.

No Metropolitan borough, as a whole, was uncontested, and in seventeen of the boroughs there were contests in every ward. With the exception of 1919, the percentage of electors voting was the lowest ever recorded in a Metropolitan Borough Council Election, being only 36.4 of the number entitled to vote.

These figures give pause for thought, the more so when we call to mind the varied and serious problems which must be considered by local government authorities.

In the limited space at our disposal it is not possible to deal fully with all the duties and functions of Metropolitan Borough Councils. Suffice it to say briefly that Borough Councils are the Health and Housing Authorities for their respective areas, and, as such, are responsible for health conditions in home, workshop, and laundry; for the improvement of defective houses, the reduction of overcrowding, and the clearance of small insanitary areas; for the paving, lighting and cleansing of streets and roads, and for the removal of refuse. They are charged with the inspection and supervision of dairies, milk shops, bakeries, kitchens of hotels and restaurants, and with the suppression of disorderly houses. They have ample powers in regard to foodstuffs, and their inspectors can take samples for analysis and destroy anything which is bad or unfit for human consumption. They administer the Notification of Births and the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts, and under the latter have power to provide help and advice for expecting mothers and for infants. They are responsible for the home visiting and aftercare of cases of tuberculosis and other diseases. They may provide baths, washhouses, and public libraries for children as well as adults. The provision of public libraries is a recognized part of Municipal activity in London and in many large towns and cities in the provinces, but the work admits of further extension, especially in regard to the children's department.

These are but a few of the many important duties which face Borough Councillors when they take office. When we realize the far-reaching issues involved, when we remember that the health, happiness, and moral well-being of thousands of children as well as men and women depend in no small degree on the efficient administration of these bodies, it surely follows that active steps should be taken to counteract the indifference which was so painful a feature of the 1922 election, and strenuous efforts should be made by all who care for the good government of their city to induce the electorate to realize their civic responsibilities, and use the powers they possess in support of candidates, men and women, who will consider the important problems with which local authorities are faced in an independent, intelligent, and sympathetic manner. Let us make no mistake: We cannot have good local government administration unless the electors in their respective areas take an intelligent interest in Municipal matters, and select as their representatives, men or women of high character, wide outlook, and sympathetic understanding, who, if elected, will be willing to devote a large share of their time and energy to the service of their fellow-citizens.

The work of rousing those who sleep is not easy, in London especially. To reach all the electors, or even a substantial number of them, and to convince them of their civic responsibilities and the importance of recording their votes, is no light task. Meetings, even if audiences can be secured,

are not enough. It means house-to-house visitation, street-corner talks, leaflets, posters, and sermons in places of worship, emphasising that it is as much a duty to go to the polling booth when occasion demands as to a place of worship on Sunday. Why is not more of such teaching given? Only by the means suggested will success be attained. Who will volunteer for this service?

[Our second article will deal with "The Need of Women on Borough Councils."]  
BERTHA MASON.

**LADY NOTT-BOWER.**

The death of Lady Nott-Bower, which took place on 6th September, at Richmond, removes a well-known and esteemed figure from service on behalf of social and moral reforms. Lady Nott-Bower was a Poor Law Guardian for Richmond (Surrey) for seventeen years and a co-opted member of the Surrey County Council Committee for the Feeble-minded since 1913. She was a member of the National Council of Women Executive Committee, and was one of the national delegates to the International Council of Women at Washington last May. Lady Nott-Bower was also President of the National Women Citizens' Association, Joint Hon. Secretary of the National Baby Week Council, and a Vice-President of the Alliance of Honour, Women's Section. She was an active supporter of the movement for Women Police, and keenly interested in the amendment of criminal law and kindred subjects.

Our sympathy is extended to her husband and children in their sorrow.  
B. M.

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.**

The eighth annual meeting of the International Federation, which was held at the end of July in Brussels, should find a place among the events of the summer of special interest to women. Graduates from eighteen different nations were represented, and new branches formed in Bulgaria, Roumania, and Luxembourg were admitted to membership. Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, of Barnard College, Columbia University, President of the Federation, presided. Various schemes for promoting closer relations between teachers and scholars of different countries were discussed and a scheme for the endowment of about thirty annual fellowships was adopted. Club houses for travelling members have now been established in several cities of the United States and in Paris. London will soon have Crosby Hall and plans are in progress for another in Rome. The next biennial conference will be held in August, 1926, by the invitation of the Dutch Federation of University Women, in Amsterdam.

**INFORMATION BUREAU AS TO THE WIDOWS' PENSIONS ACT.**

We constantly receive requests for information in connexion with recent legislation, and are pleased to inform our readers that we intend in future to answer those relating to the new Pensions Act so far as possible in these columns by arrangement with the Information Department of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. We hope to make a further announcement shortly with regard to queries relating to other matters in which readers of this paper are interested.

**EDINBURGH SCHOOL of SOCIAL STUDY and TRAINING**

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NORA MILNES, Director.

**NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES  
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Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

**THE SUMMER SCHOOL PRESS.**

On every hand we have been congratulated on the excellent Press which the Summer School attracted. An interesting feature of this has been the unexpected papers which have found space for reports of special sections. We find ourselves—perhaps for the first time—in such papers as the *Licensing World*, the *Hardwareman and Ironmongers' Chronicle*, the *Land Agents' Record*, and others which we did not even know before. The big dailies remained extraordinarily faithful. Even *The Times*, save for one or two days, gave fairly adequate reports during the whole fortnight, as did also the *Manchester Guardian* and many others, while the *Yorkshire Post* published a special article in addition to daily reports. The topical nature of all the subjects and the freshness of the treatment with regard to many probably accounts for this. We wish also to express our thanks to the three reporters who attended our meetings throughout for their excellent reports which succeeded in securing for our subjects a far larger audience throughout the whole country than the limits of St. Hilda's provided. At one of the closing meetings of the School a warm vote of thanks to the Press was carried unanimously, and Mr. Fox, on behalf of the Press Association, and Miss Hughes, on behalf of the *Oxford Chronicle*, responded. They assured us that they had been deeply interested in the subjects discussed, and that our discussions in the lecture room had been carried on long after the lectures were over.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on 30th September, at 11.30 a.m., at The London Society for Women's Service, 35 Marsham Street. The postponement from the usual date is due to the annual Council meeting of the National Council of Women being held at Birmingham from 19th to 25th Septem. er.

**MONTHLY LETTER.**

The next monthly letter will be sent out either on Saturday, 3rd October, or Monday, 5th October.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.—ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.**

The National Council of Women are holding their annual Council meeting this year at Birmingham from 19th to 25th September. The delegates representing the N.U.E.S.C. are:—Mrs. Bernays, Miss Bower, Miss Bragge, Miss Helen Fraser, Mrs. Julian Osler, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and Mrs. W. L. Reid, J.

**CORRESPONDENCE.****THE LAW AT WORK.**

MADAM,—I desire to reply briefly to Mrs. Rackham's letter in your last issue. Without venturing to differ from the conclusions of the late Chief Inspector as to the effect that long periods of detention have on the intelligence of children, it must surely be conceded that a good institution is better than a bad or unsuitable home, and I still maintain that the principle of fixing the term of detention in advance is a mistaken one.

There seems to me no reason whatsoever when dealing with children for departing from the principle laid down in the Borstal Act, 1908, for it applies equally to them.

The Act recognizes that the responsibility for licence rests primarily on the Institution Board, as it is only by the closest personal observation of each case that a true and just opinion may be formed as to the date on which a licence may be properly and wisely granted. (See p. 256, Sir E. Ruggles-Brise's *The English Prison System*.)

I maintain that no magistrate, however wise and farseeing, can determine beforehand what a child's reaction will be to a change of environment, nor calculate in advance the length of time it will take to modify character. Neither can it be known, in the case of a bad home, whether any change will take place in consequence of the child's removal, or if so, the time required for the change to take effect.

Mr. Cyril Burt in his recent address to the British Association Meeting, dealt with the subject of the unstable child. He pleaded for the recognition of this type as a potential delinquent and as a possible neurotic, the chief characteristic being "general emotionality." It is accounted, he said, for a disturbing future in most of the troublesome children in this character, no sooner one form of misconduct being suppressed than another sprang up in its place.

It is this type of child that most needs the care than an institution can give, and I venture to hold the view that it is not by fixing the period of detention in advance or by making the schools penal instead of educational institutions that such children can best be helped, but only by the wise and patient continuous collaboration of those in positions of power and responsibility.

I trust the day is not far distant when magistrates, psychological experts, and those responsible for the management of Home Office Schools, will hold periodical conferences to consider the best methods of dealing with the many problems affecting the delinquent child.

MILDRED PYKE,

Corresponding Manager to Montefiore House School.

**OXFORD WOMEN'S COLLEGES APPEAL FUND.**

MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to a notice which appeared in the issue of your paper dated 28th August, respecting a dance to be held in aid of the above fund. You state that the date of the dance will be Monday, 7th December. The date has now definitely been fixed for Wednesday, 9th December, and I am directed by the Committee to ask you if you would be kind enough to give notice of the change of date in the next issue of your paper.

ENID ROSSER,

Hon. Sec.

**BIRTH CONTROL.**

MADAM,—Is it to be concluded from paragraphs three and four, taken together, of the Editorial comments in your last issue that the verdict of the WOMAN'S LEADER on the highly controversial issue of Birth Control has already been given?

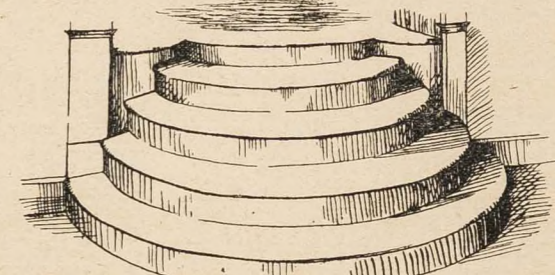
In these paragraphs a recent terrible tragedy is described, and it is suggested that the evils which lead to such tragedies can only be avoided in one way, namely by Birth Control.

I venture to suggest that this is an extreme instance of an argument *ad populum*.

Under the influence of the horror aroused by the intolerable conditions which brought about the dreadful events of the story, we are to accept the one particular remedy proposed as though there were no alternative to the adoption of the remedy except the occurrence of such tragedies. Is this quite a fair method of advocacy of Birth Control, and is the paper to be regarded henceforth as committed to its support?

HILDA D. OAKELEY.

[The moral which we draw from the tragic story of Mrs. Vaughan is, as a matter of fact, a triple one. We see her as the victim of three external circumstances; the inelasticity of the male worker's wage in relation to his varying family needs; the complete autonomy of the husband over the expenditure of the wage—such as it is—to whose earning the wife contributes indirectly by her domestic services; and the inability of the mother to exercise any reasonable control over the number and spacing of her family. Clearly quite apart from the inadequacy of Mr. Vaughan's meagre household allowance, the rearing of a family in which three children are simultaneously dependent, the rearing of a family in which three children are simultaneously dependent, is a burden which should only be assumed by deliberate choice. That it was not Mrs. Vaughan's deliberate choice we have reason to suppose. It is therefore part of our policy to advocate, among other feminist reforms, the provision of expert information on birth control through the medium of such institutions, i.e. infant welfare centres, as bring the normal married mother into touch with expert and disinterested medical advice.—Ed.]

**THE "FIVE STEPS" SCHEME****Outline of the "Five Steps" Scheme.**

Fifty people from different areas have given ONE SHILLING, and each has undertaken to find 8 other persons each to give them 1s. who in their turn have to find 7 " " " 1s. " " 6 " " " 1s. " " 5 " " " 1s. " " 4 " " " 1s. These last workers obtain no further promises, but forward with their forms a postal order for 3s.

**PRIZES.**

**1st Prize £300** will be awarded to the worker whose estimate is nearest to the actual gross amount received under the "Five Steps" scheme at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital by noon, 22nd October, 1925.  
2nd prize £200, 3rd prize £100, 4th prize £50, 5th prize £25. Five prizes of £20 each. Twelve prizes of £10 each to those whose estimates are the next nearest.

**The Competition closes at noon on the 15th October.**

Application for forms, stating the number of workers you can enlist, should be forwarded to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road, N.W. 1, marked "Five Steps" Scheme.

It will be seen that the top step workers have started, but workers for steps 1, 2, 3 and 4 are urgently needed.

## COMING EVENTS.

## ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

SEPTEMBER 25-26. Conference at Oxford.

## GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

SEPTEMBER 21. 2.50 p.m. Visit to Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, W. 1.

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 MARSHAM STREET, S.W. 1.

SEPTEMBER 23. Jumble Sale. All kinds of contributions wanted at above address before September 19.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

SEPTEMBER 19-25. Annual Meeting at Birmingham.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Croydon W.C.A. (North Ward). SEPTEMBER 25. 3 p.m. Miss Evelyn Deakin, "Widows' Pensions."

Northwich W.C.A. SEPTEMBER 24. 7.30 p.m. Congregational Hall. Inaugural Meeting. Speaker: Miss E. Rathbone.

Repton W.C.A. SEPTEMBER 29. 8 p.m. At the Schools. Discussion on N.U.S.E.C. Annual Report. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

York W.C.A. OCTOBER 5. 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."

Waterloo W.C.A. OCTOBER 6. 4 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Widows' Pensions."

Edinburgh S.E.C. OCTOBER 6. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."

Alloa and Clackmannanshire S.E.C. OCTOBER 6. 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."

Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A. OCTOBER 7. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."

## NATIONAL UNION WOMEN TEACHERS.

SEPTEMBER 26. Public Conference at Central Hall, Westminster. Morning 10-12, Afternoon 3-5. Chair: Miss E. E. Crosby. Speakers: Mr. F. S. Marvin, Miss Sophie Elliott-Lynn, Sir Michael Sadler and Miss Marjorie Gullan.

SEPTEMBER 27. 11 a.m. Miss Maude Royden will hold a special service in the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Music by Mr. Martin Shaw and his Quartette.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open 10 to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 20th September, 6.30 p.m.: Maude Royden, "Why Christians fail to follow Christ."

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