

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS

IN THE HOME

IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART

IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND  
COMMON CAUSE.

**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.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

### Women in the Building Trade.

Last Tuesday, Sir William Davison asked the Minister of Labour if he could state whether the two hundred skilled women who were offered employment by Messrs. William Thomas & Sons in connection with the erection of urgently needed wooden houses, but were prevented from accepting the same by the General Union of Operative Carpenters and Joiners, are still prevented from earning a living by reason of the action of this trades union; and what steps the Government were taking in the matter, in view of their pledges that men and women should be given equal opportunities. Sir Montague Barlow replied that the firm in question could not supply the huts in sufficient numbers owing to the shortage of joiners. To meet this difficulty a proposal had been made to the Union that fifty to sixty ex-service men should be intensively trained for part of the work, and that thereafter two hundred unskilled men or women could be employed in the erection of the huts. The Union, however, has stated that as they are supporting the Government scheme, which provides a period of general training extending over three years, they cannot accept the proposal for a partial intensive course. Negotiations, however, are still proceeding. Sir William Davison then pointed out that some two hundred women have been engaged in this work for over three years, and are highly skilled in it, and asked "what justification there was for their being prevented from continuing work in which they have acquired skill, especially as houses are urgently needed?" Sir Montague Barlow was not able to answer this question, but promised to give an adequate reply at some future date. We hope that the matter will not be allowed to drop, for the Government should take steps to see that justice is done, and that women are not, once more, the victims of inequality of opportunity.

### Criminal Law Amendment.

The Joint Committee of both Houses which is considering the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill, Bill No. 2, brought in by the Home Office, and Lord Beauchamp's Sexual Offences Bill, was expected to have its Report ready by August 12th, but is still taking evidence and may not report this year. The prospects of an agreed Bill are therefore becoming remote. A new measure, the Criminal Immorality Bill, introduced by the Labour Party, proposes to raise the age of consent to eighteen, but retains the proviso (disliked by all organised bodies of women which have expressed an opinion) allowing a man to plead that the girl's apparent age was stated by her to be above the age of consent, and that he had "reasonable cause" to believe this. This clause is well-known to defeat the ends of justice, and will never be agreed to by enfranchised women.

### The Care of the Blind.

Dr. Addison's Bill for the care of the blind was discussed in Committee last week, and has now gone to the House for the third reading. Most of the Labour recommendations were rejected, but several amendments have brought the Bill more into line with the wishes of the Labour Members. It will be the duty of the local authorities to make provision for the maintenance, care, and training of all blind persons within their area, and they are empowered to co-operate with existing voluntary bodies and to contribute to their schemes. Fifty per cent. of all capital expenditure of local authorities is to be covered by Exchequer grants, and institutions providing technical training are to receive a maintenance grant. At the age of fifty all blind persons are to be eligible for the old age pension, but only subject to the conditions of income which apply to the normal old age pensioner. The Labour Members feel that these conditions subject the blind to unnecessary hardships, and that the allowance is in no way adequate for maintenance; the effect of these conditions will be that the Bill will only provide for a comparatively small number of the persons for whom it was originally intended to apply. We have at last woken up to the fact that the care of the blind is a social duty, and must not be left to voluntary effort, but we have not yet gone far enough.

### Early Closing.

The Early Closing Bill was not through its Report Stage at the rising of the House on the last private members' day of the Session. It cannot, therefore, be further proceeded with before the existing Early Closing Order lapses at the end of August, unless the Government is willing to give facilities for its further consideration. The Press and the public seem to have realised insufficiently the great divergence of interests which exists between the shopkeeper and the shop assistant, and incline to look upon the Early Closing Association as though it were specially concerned with the protection of the assistant, which is not the case. Parliament, however, has fixed the working week of the shop assistant at forty-eight hours, a very different matter from limiting the hours of open shops to forty-eight and allowing assistants to work when the shop is closed. The National Union of Shop Assistants is anxious that some provision should be made for the continuance of the option of local authorities to close shops earlier than the statutory hour if local circumstances warrant such varying of the time. At present, some hundreds of towns and districts have a closing time of half an hour to an hour earlier than the statutory time, which is seven o'clock on five days a week and eight o'clock on Saturday. At present shop assistants have no voice in respect of any framing of an order by the local authority, though every shopkeeper, however small his business, has a vote on the matter. This is clearly inequitable, though if shop assistants were to vote on the same terms as shopkeepers, the latter would always

be outvoted on questions on which the two parties have opposing interests. This is not a class question, though it may sometimes wear that aspect, any more than the divergence between shopkeepers and customers is a class question. The assistants and the well-to-do customers desire a short day or are indifferent; the shopkeeper and his poorer customers find the long day profitable or convenient, and their different interests are hard to reconcile.

### Wasting Food.

The Newcastle Corporation Sanitary Committee has received from its meat inspector a report dealing with the quantity of food condemned during June and July as unfit for human food. It includes eight hundred carcasses of mutton sent to Newcastle by agents of the Government, twelve thousand cases of imported Australian rabbits, which were the property of the Ministry of Food, and were found decomposed in cold storage, and thirty tons of sweetbreads, oxtails, and beef skirts bought by the Government from Continental ports. Altogether more than fourteen thousand tons of foodstuffs have been condemned weekly in Newcastle from January to June of this year. If this wastage had taken place during weeks of tropical heat or during a temporary stoppage of transport by sea or land, it might have been excused, but it is not surprising that the citizens of Newcastle have made a strong protest to the Minister of Health and called for the dismissal of the officials concerned. No doubt we shall be told that these public servants are excellently qualified to shine in some other walk of life, and that it is not their fault that they are ignorant of the provision trade. Precisely; the fault lies with the Ministry of Food, and if the Ministry of Food is permitted to survive its usefulness the fault will be ours. After all, women are accustomed to buy and store food, and women have votes. The Ministry of Food is an incubus which can be got rid of, though the process demands time and some trouble.

### The National Federation of Women Workers.

The National Federation of Women Workers met last week for the last time under its present constitution. The conference opened last Friday in Sheffield, and by an almost unanimous resolution decided that the Federation should amalgamate with the National Union of General Workers. Miss Mary Macarthur, in proposing amalgamation, said that women would now have an opportunity of showing to the world that, in a great industrial organisation of men and women, women would not be submerged but would accept and shoulder an equal burden of responsibility. The women's department of the National Union is to retain its autonomy, but the Union will be a source of mutual strength. A resolution, moved by Miss Margaret Bondfield, was unanimously carried that the Government should be urged to put the resolution of the Washington Conference into effect concerning the employment of women before and after childbirth. It was suggested that six weeks before and six weeks after childbirth should be the period during which the State should support the woman worker, and it was brought to the notice of the Conference that the fact that the British representative at the Washington Conference had not voted for the resolution was being used as a reason for not bringing it before the House. A resolution in favour of mothers' pensions was passed, the Conference recognising that, in view of the wastage of life caused by the war, it was urgently necessary that the welfare of children should be considered, that the value of home life should not be forgotten, and that the Government should therefore provide pensions for mothers to enable them to remain at home. The question of housing aroused strong feeling among the delegates, who were convinced that the regulations as to types of houses would result in the buildings being undesirable and insanitary. The high rents, in many cases beyond the reach of the ordinary working family, would lead to overcrowding, and the impossibility of getting any sort of accommodation was resulting in the break up of families. Complaints were made that the Ministry of Health was cutting down local schemes, until the houses, if they ever were erected, would be so small that even the ordinary furniture of a working class family could not be got into them. Several other resolutions were passed, among them the demand that the Franchise Bill should be extended to include all women over twenty-one, and that old-age pensions should be raised to £1 a week, and should be made payable at the age of sixty.

### The French War Medal.

The new medal in commemoration of the war is to be given to women as well as to men, and women drivers, telephonists, and clerical workers attached to the Army organisations under the chief command, as well as nurses, are to be eligible for it provided they served for a period exceeding six months. The medal is also to be awarded to volunteers who, in bombarded towns or behind the lines, carried on organisation work.

### Married Women's Right.

M. Louis Martin is placing a Bill before the Senate in France urging that the words "The husband owes protection; the wife owes obedience to the husband," should be deleted from the French Civil Code. The question of a wife's obedience is much exercising the minds of the French legislature, and a good deal of opposition to the Bill is expected from those who declare it will lead to "domestic Bolshevism"—that haunting dread which is thus even invading the home!

### The Swedish Marriage Bill.

In Sweden reforms in matters dealing with women's position are following one another rapidly. The vote was granted by the Riksdag last year. This year a marriage law was passed which gave husband and wife an equal status. On June 5th another milestone was reached. A majority in both Chambers accepted in principle the King's proposal to open offices of State to women. This proposal will necessitate some alterations in the wording of the Constitution. In the clause dealing with the composition of the Council of State the word "citizen" is to be substituted for "man," and a proviso added debarring certain relations, e.g., husband and wife, from being members at the same time of the Council. To other offices women are to be admitted subject to the approval of the King and the Riksdag, and, in the case of positions in the Church, to that of the Church Council. The Royal proposal is approved by the Select Committee and accepted by the Riksdag, but, as an alteration of fundamental laws is involved, it must come before the Riksdag a second time, after a fresh election, and will probably be ratified simultaneously with the right to vote. This step forms the recognition of a principle. Its special application is to be dependent on "grounds to be approved by the King and the Riksdag." In order, therefore, that a woman may be admitted to any office in the administrative or judicial departments of State, her suitability for the post in question must be recognised by the passing of special legislation, or in some other way. A suggestion made by Dr. Lindhagen that the principle should at once be put into practice, and all offices be thrown open on equal terms without distinction of sex was rejected, but the size of the minority showed that the Riksdag is more inclined this year than in former years to let practical application follow on the recognition of principle. Much discussion must still take place as to whether any offices are to be regarded as of necessity closed, as well as on questions of salary, the age for pensions, and the position of married women. The proposals of the Select Committee on these points are awaited with the greatest interest. Meanwhile, it is recognised that henceforth no one will be debarred on the ground of sex from placing her services at the disposal of the community.

### Child Welfare in India.

India has recently started a child welfare campaign, and Bombay and Delhi were the first cities to hold exhibitions with a view to stimulating the interest of the general public and to educating the poorer mothers of the community. The response was, in each case, surprising, and the public conscience seems to be awakening to the gravity of the situation. Bombay is well known to have a high rate of infant mortality, and the preventive nature of the work appeals to people as few other social enterprises do. Few who do not know India can realise under what tragically difficult circumstances the poorer sections of the native community try and rear the citizens of the future. The credit of launching the campaign in Bombay belongs to the Women's Council, and the work amongst mothers and children is spreading rapidly, although still only in the early experimental stages. The question is a vital one in India, but more especially is this the case in Bombay and other places where modern industrial conditions are imposing themselves on the old environment, tainted by a hundred diseases unknown to even the worst English slums, and where squalor and degradation lower the



## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

standard of living to an unimaginable level. If we are to expect anything of the future of India, if the gift of self-government, which we are slowly and grudgingly giving to India's citizens, is to be used to the best possible advantage, we must see to it that the people are mentally and physically capable of shouldering the heavy responsibility of the future. If we wish India's provincial legislatures to grant the franchise to women, we must make sure that we have not only fulfilled one part of our duty to them. Education is as much a part of our obligation as is the granting of a share in the control of government, and both education of the women and the building up of the future generation can be achieved in the direction in which the Women's Council are courageously striving.

## The End of "Sati."

"Sati," the suicide of a widow on her husband's funeral pyre, is to be abolished in the independent State of Nepal, the home of the Gurkhas, who have for generations distinguished themselves by valour and loyalty in their service with the Indian Army. Nepal, though it guards its independence with such jealousy as to forbid the settlement and greatly to restrict the entry of Europeans within its borders, has for the last half century and more been greatly influenced by English law and custom. Sati has long been limited by its restriction to widows without minor children who should have received the sanction of the Prime Minister, but though the great Maharaja Jung Bahadur desired its abolition in the middle of last century, it has survived till the present day, when Maharaja Sir Chandra Shum Shere Yung, who has also forbidden the use of opium and carried on a systematic campaign against intoxicating drink, has succeeded in breaking down a barbarous custom which was believed to be based on the Shastras. Eastern women are slowly freeing themselves from immemorial fetters, and every step forward taken by one Asiatic people makes progress easier for its neighbours.

## Pies and Peas.

Though educated women are this year no longer recruited for seasonal landwork, their experience in four war years is bearing fruit. Employers' ideas as to the accommodation necessary for the seasonal worker have undergone salutary changes, and in return they exact a reasonable standard of cleanliness and order from the inhabitants of hutments, tents, or barns. Women who have joined in seasonal work and suffered from its frequently unseasonable weather conditions, are interesting themselves in improving the occasion. Ex-Newnham students are helping in a crèche for the children of East-End women fruit-picking in the Wisbech area, and are meeting with a friendliness and gratitude which, doubtless, owe something to the fact that they have personal knowledge of the hardships of the imported labourer. The crèche workers are in their turn assisted by the efforts of six male undergraduates, apparently working as one, to cook vast infrequent meals. Some expedient for feeding the woman landworker is long overdue. As it is, either she must work a short day or short week, or she and her family must live on tinned food and wash up in cold water. One of the reformed public houses in the Carlisle area makes a speciality of selling cooked food to the villagers of the Border. It describes this provender as Pies and Peas, and finds its sale a source of profit. Any village inn or small house with a good oven could do the same.

## The Influenza Epidemic.

The Registrar-General's Report on the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 contains an intimidating array of tables and graphs, but in this sober guise it sets forth the record of one of the most appalling plagues that ever visited our islands. At the time it did not much strike the imagination, dulled by the frightful mortality of the war, and persuaded by the rumour of more devastating pestilence in Asia that our own danger was comparatively small. Yet the deaths in the nineteen weeks from September 15th to January 25th numbered 103,759, and the mortality from this cause within the year was 154,000 in England and Wales, without counting thousands of deaths not solely due to the epidemic but hastened by it. In the summer of 1918 the disease, which had previously attacked the young and the aged, leaving the young manhood and womanhood of the nation relatively unaffected, suddenly changed its character and claimed its victims among persons from twenty to thirty years of age. Science has patiently chronicled the progress of this scourge, but at present can do little to stay it. Common care, healthy living, household remedies are our best shield against the invader. And this shield is held by women.

The week has been crowded with events. On Wednesday, Mr. Lloyd George made his promised statement on the Spa Conference. The two preceding days were occupied with small Bills, the only important event being a discussion on Monday on the position in Syria, on which something will be said later, and, therefore, the stage was fitly set for the Prime Minister. If not the most eloquent, it is possibly the most effective speech he has ever made. He had the courage to be dull, dull at least for three-quarters of the time, though the finish rose to a fine sweep of eloquence. He took the House through the European position. Nothing that the Prime Minister does is free from criticism, and his action at Spa does not escape; but there is probably a more general measure of agreement than there has been since the Peace Conference. His decision as to Poland, difficult and menacing though the situation be, is held to be the best possible. Altogether, it is felt that he has grasped realities and, what is more, that he is forcing the French to grasp them, too, with the result that the Treaty of Versailles is for the first time being made workable.

Truly, the international situation is full of complexities. In the debate on Syria mentioned above, Lord Winterton, who has greatly strengthened his position in the House, said some wise and true things on our obligations to the Arabs. He pointed out that they were our Allies equally with the French, and said quite plainly that the French were going too far. This is one of our difficulties, vastly aggravated by the intemperate attitude of the French Press; but in the European chaos it is insignificant compared to Poland. If the Bolsheviks conquer Poland, where will they stop? We have made Germany defenceless, and East Prussia is near, and one would imagine the peasants would join anybody who would promise them the land; and neither Austria, nor, indeed, Italy, are exactly unfavourable soils for the spread of that destructive creed. However, the news came during the week that the Poles have asked for an armistice and at the time of writing it looks as though peace might be made. While the mad Polish offensive is universally condemned, it is felt that the annihilation of Poland would be too heavy a price to pay for that blunder.

Thursday brought us back to Ireland. Mr. Devlin showed that his long absence had not impaired his power of attack, and he made one of his characteristic speeches. Sir Hamar Greenwood's reply was awaited with interest. The impression he gave was a mixed one, and the best way to sum it up is to say that the House suspended judgment. Meantime, the distractions increase and hope seems to be quitting the country. On Saturday, Mr. Thomas delivered the Labour Party's ultimatum to the Prime Minister. It was, no doubt, the terrible perplexity of the situation that made Mr. Lloyd George meet Mr. Thomas at all, for, in effect, his demand amounted to a supersession of Representative Government; but, having met him, Mr. Lloyd George was admirably plain. The Labour Party, whatever they say, have no influence whatever over Sinn Fein, and the Prime Minister refused to discuss Ireland except with those who can deliver the goods. In the meantime, however, it has been generally known that the Prime Minister is in negotiation with certain parties across St. George's Channel. It is stated, but probably incorrectly, that he and Mr. Thomas are acting together; but, however this be, the Prime Minister has the situation in hand, and truly he is the only person who can effect a settlement.

There were many other happenings which there is no space to record, but one word must be said about the endorsement by the House of Lords of General Dyer's action. It is unnecessary to repeat what has been previously said in this column; but it is hard to see how the action of the House of Lords can do anything but harm. Apart from the merits of the case, which have been fully dealt with and will not be discussed again, it is difficult to imagine anything more disastrous in its effect on India than a quarrel between the two Houses of the British Parliament.

## THE WORK OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

The institution of the Commission of the Peace, with its courts of Petty Session and its delegated powers of summary jurisdiction, is one of the oldest of the continuous customs of this country. Manuals on the subject of the rights, powers and duties of magistrates are indeed so much weighted with historical matter that the essential is often difficult to disentangle from the purely hereditary, and only those who are acquainted with the practical working of this method of preserving order can find their way undisturbed through the antiquities, legalities and technicalities of their pages.\*

The appointment of women J.P.s, however, very naturally draws the attention of sensible women citizens to the field of public work that a magistrate can undertake, and it may therefore be useful to set out in plain language what a magistrate can do. In the words of the Commission, a magistrate is bound "to inquire the truth more fully by the oath of good and lawful men of the country of all and all manner of felonies, poisonings, enchantments, sorceries, arts, magic, trespasses, forestallings, regratings, engrossings, and extortions whatever." To this enthralling list Parliament has from time to time added the administration of justice and the preservation of the peace under sections of the Army, Game, Highway, Licensing, Merchant Shipping, Public Health, Bastardy, Revenue, and Vagrancy Acts; that is, power to deal at first instance with deserters, poachers, lunatics, public houses, smugglers, tramps, and the causes of nuisances, of malicious damage, and assault, with all the offences of children, with separation orders, affiliation orders, and with the thousand and one petty regulations constantly created by by-law or statute.

The new woman Justice then, when she has taken the oath of allegiance and the judicial oath binding her to "do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this Realm, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will," will take her seat on the Bench and proceed to learn her job. Procedure among magistrates being according to seniority of appointment, no woman will be called upon as yet to act as chairman of a Petty Sessional Court (unless she is Mayor, when she will be entitled by custom to take the chairmanship of her Borough Bench). She will, therefore, have the opportunity in which to learn her job, and a fascinating opportunity it will be.

A newly appointed county magistrate has the right to sit in any riding or division of his county, but it is usual to enquire of a Justice at which court he wishes to sit, and often to ask him to sit on a given day, in order that a proper number of justices may always be present to transact business. It is not always easy to get the minimum number of Justices to make a Court which has to transact a variety of business, since no justice may try a case in which he has a personal interest, and no one would wish to do so in any case in which his impartiality might be questioned. In these cases, therefore, a justice from a neighbouring Bench is often invited to attend, and in this way women will in time get experience of several different courts. For some kinds of business, as, for example, licensing, lunacy, prison visiting, special justices are appointed by their colleagues to act as a Committee. In this direction, in particular the last of these, women justices will have an opportunity for very important work.

Any Justice has the right of visiting any prison in his county or county borough, and seeing any prisoner or prisoners with the exception of any person who is under sentence of death. But a visiting committee is appointed by every Court of Quarter Sessions, and these visitors must elect a chairman and meet at the prison every week, while one or more of them must visit the prison every week. There is not likely to be any unwillingness to appoint women on the visiting committee, but even if the appointment is refused, every woman Justice can and should visit the prison in which persons convicted by her Bench are confined, and learn for herself what the sentences she gives or assents to really mean. Quite as important as prison visiting is asylum visiting. Three or more Justices are annually appointed by their fellows to visit places where persons are detained under the lunacy laws. It is difficult, if not impossible, for men, even medical men, to carry out the inspection of the female wards of lunatic asylums in an efficient manner. One or more women Justices should be appointed to this duty in every district, and one at least of the Justices appointed to sign reception orders under the Lunacy Acts should be a woman. These Justices are

\* Manuals useful to a J.P.:—Stone's Justices Manual, The Justices' Note Book, Mead's Office of Magistrate, Atkinson's Magistrates' Annual Practice, Paterson's Licensing Law.

appointed by Quarter Sessions, and their names, addresses, and occupations must be published in the local press, and their appointments notified to the Commissioners in Lunacy and the Masters in Lunacy. These officials will no doubt be instructed to enquire the reason if women's names do not appear in the lists of notifications.

It is unnecessary to point out the influence of women magistrates in cases of juvenile offenders; our only fear on this score is that they may be too exclusively occupied with this class of work, and may be expected to neglect for it the other responsibilities of their position.

Leaving these special duties we return to the ordinary routine of a Justice at his or her court. It is common knowledge that these Courts vary very much in efficiency. The woman Justice will be well advised to take advantage of her junior position to ascertain the character of her own Bench before she takes any very active part in its proceedings. Though County Justices are not avowedly chosen for their expert knowledge, they generally consist to a considerable extent of men who have been called to the Bar, and have consequently some foundation of legal knowledge to guide them. Their clerk, if they chance to be ignorant of the law they sit to administer, has the duty of advising them. But he should not, and seldom does, interfere on questions of fact or questions such as credibility of witnesses. A good Bench with a good clerk will have enough local knowledge to judge whether the police evidence is unbiased and the other evidence against the prisoner impartial. The chairman will usually ask the opinion of any Justice with special local or other knowledge of the case under consideration, and a woman Justice, if she convinces her colleagues that she is "knowledgeable" and reasonably impartial on cases where women are concerned, can hardly fail to make the weight of her opinion felt. County Justices are often prejudiced, but they are generally anxious to be fair, and always anxious to be thought fair.

Some persons fear that attempts will be made to induce women Justices to absent themselves from the Bench when cases of sexual crime are being heard. At any rate, they will probably be asked whether they wish to sit on these occasions, and at first some of their colleagues will be reluctant to sit with them. A male Justice may distrust his own power of investigating a painful subject without using on the one hand unnecessarily coarse, and on the other hand dangerously vague, language. He will know that the police and the prisoner as well as the witnesses will use expressions which he himself considers indecent, and that colourless scientific language will be quite unintelligible to them. An angry prisoner may be intentionally obscene; an artful prisoner will be vague, in the hope that no one will, in the presence of a lady, insist upon clearness. But as time goes on these difficulties will be less felt. It is the first step which is the most painful, and a woman Justice who is businesslike, and who only gradually opposes the attempts of her colleagues to spare her feelings, will be a very valuable aid to justice.

Hearing cases is only part, and often a small part, of the work of the rural magistrate. The woman who is once sworn in and has shown herself willing to take her duties seriously will find herself constantly in demand for all kinds of small services to her neighbours. She will be asked to sign the innumerable orders for the removal of cattle or pigs which are necessary when epidemic disease exists among animals; she will be asked to administer oaths and take statutory declarations, and she will be expected to act as "poor man's lawyer" in all the multifarious circumstances in which the uneducated villager comes into contact with the law of the land. The new Justice, as she gets to know the law, will find herself installed as a village Solomon.

Enquirers are already asking whether women magistrates will have any special powers with regard to affiliation orders and probation work. It seems probable that any woman Justice who asked for the appointment as "officer of the Court" to collect allowances under affiliation orders and who held it without remuneration might remain undisturbed in office. Few arrangements could be better from the point of view of the mother and child, who should benefit by the order. And the probation officer, if there is one, would welcome a woman's help. If (as often) there is none, a woman Justice could hardly spend her leisure better than in following up the cases which come before her Court. Considering all these things, and all the other detail of a magistrate's work, it is clear that a wide new field of public usefulness is opening to women. The pioneers of this new road have a great responsibility, and we congratulate them upon it.



## BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

### PAYMENT BY RESULTS. FROM THE WORKERS' POINT OF VIEW.

The cause of the opposition to payment by results is the workers' fear of exploitation; and in some trades the frequent changes of method and local variations make for individual rather than for collective bargaining, so that the Trade Unions naturally resist any measure which will detract from their solidarity. The average employer's sole desire, in introducing the principle of payment by results, is to stimulate greater output, and every system, with the exception of the straight piece rate, involves a greater gain to the employer than to the worker, which, in fact, means that the former benefits at the expense of the latter.

The simple straight piece method, where the man gains evenly as his output increases, is generally acceptable to the workers, but it is the least advantageous from the employers' point of view, for his wages bill is always high, although the greater output reduces his overhead costs.

There is, therefore, an incentive to the capitalist to find an inducement to the workers to speed up without having to give full wages for the increased production, and various forms of differential piece rates and premium bonus systems have, in most cases, superseded the straight piece rate.

The complaint most often heard is that payment by results tends to depress wages. Initial errors in fixing the standard too high have often been remedied by cutting the rates, and this naturally causes discontent and suspicion. Employers now generally give a guarantee that the rate once fixed shall not be altered except with a change in the methods of production. This guarantee is wholly illusory, however, for any slight alteration in the process is used as a pretext for a reduction in the rates. With the exclusive possession of the expert knowledge necessary for scientific costing, the employer can ensure that not even by collective bargaining shall the workers be on an equal footing with him, though a scientifically fixed standard does fairly effectively reduce the danger of price cutting. On the other hand, one of the chief advantages of the iniquitous Rowan Premium Bonus System is the fact that it pays for increased production at a decreased rate, and automatically limits earnings to less than double time, and therefore the original standard time does not require such careful scientific fixing.

Another fear is that payment by results will lead to an excessive speeding up, which will, by continual pressure, result in premature old age. The argument that it is bad policy for an employer to wear out his hands does not hold water, when one remembers the over large reserves of labour on which every capitalist can draw when he has thrown his worn-out employee on the scrap heap of the unemployables, or into the arms of the Poor Law, without himself paying for the damage he has done.

The capitalist system, separating as it does employers and employed, has degraded the human element in industry, so that expensive plant is often of more importance than the living men. This is being altered, but not by the employers. The growing consciousness of the dignity of labour is shown in the men's resentment at Scientific Management. They feel that the standard is set by a soulless method and an inhuman science, and that the experts measure them as they would instruments, and put machinery in the place of human labour. What avails it that we fight for shorter hours and plan adult education if the workers are incapable of profiting by either, and slouch home wearily at night, worn out by the speeding up system and dulled by the scientific exactness of mechanical processes?

A guaranteed time rate does to a certain extent safeguard the worker who is content with a comparatively low standard of life, and this is in most cases insisted on by the Trade Unions, though the advantage to the employer of some forms of differential piece rate is that they admit of no guaranteed time rate basis and so safeguard him from heavy loss on bad or slow workers. The double variation in the actual rate paid for each unit, and in the earnings per hour between the slow and the quick worker, effectively and harshly discourages the less efficient man.

Besides the discontent caused by the alteration of rates, the employer has to face the possibilities of conflict if the tools or machinery are not in perfect condition, if the supply of raw

material is not regular, or if the organisation of the factory is not running smoothly so that delays occur and the men are kept hanging about because no work is coming through.

While the advantage of the time wage is that it lifts the workers out of the atmosphere of competition among themselves and unites them in the single interest of maintaining the standard of life, the system of payment by results has the opposite effect. The great aim of the Trade Union movement is to foster class solidarity, and individual unions fight against its introduction in proportion as they recognise the importance of this aim. Where it is impossible to resist the principle, they try and safeguard themselves by a system of shop piece work with guarantees that no payments shall be made direct to individuals. This generally has good results, for the men resent a slack worker who brings down the general level of output, while individual overstrain through excessive speeding up is not so likely.

Under a time wage alone do you get the possibility of the best work; it allows scope for the craftsman, and for individual treatment of work. Under modern systems of wage payment there is a tendency towards dictated labour which takes away all initiative and turns the man into a machine, so that independent craftsmanship disappears. Men under these conditions lose interest in their work and think most of money payments.

From the individualist's point of view, the argument that the principle of time-rate payment offends against individual justice is a strong one. The flat rate does blur the rent of individual ability, but the argument applies in a lesser degree to all differential piece rates—the man is never given the whole rent of his efficiency.

Human nature has not yet attained those heights where all will work for the love of work, inspired by the incentive of service for the community. Some believe, with Bernard Shaw, that remuneration for work is ethically as well as socially wrong, and that income should be based on the conception of human beings as citizens; and, because they despair of justice, they try and destroy the wage system. Even to-day, however, though we base our payment of wages on the value of work done, actually the big shares of the national income are determined by accident, position, and power, rather than by ability. Absence of power is heavily penalised under the capitalist system; merit and effort do not get the big rewards. The old saying: "To him that hath shall be given" was never truer than it is to-day. And yet the world can only progress through meritorious work, and we must not despair of rewarding desert justly.

It is a fine ideal that we should work for love of humanity, and who knows whether we are not on the way? Catchwords, like cranks, revolutionise the world, and the rank and file to-day never cease to declare that if they felt that their full effort benefited the community they would give of their best.

The real lover of work is sometimes born, and one has seen, especially during the war, that generous giving of one's utmost in all classes of our people. Even many of the much-criticised Government officials, from the lowest to the highest, worked through long weary hours, without the incentive of overtime pay, because there was work to be done. How often have we not met pale, tired girls and youths dragging their weary bodies back to cheerless hostels and private hotels late in the evening, because they had stayed till the grumbling charlady turned them out, and not because they feared to lose their 35s. a week?

Public spirit was aroused during the war and may be again when the nation learns to treat its workers as co-partners in the government of industry rather than as necessary and troublesome instruments of production.

In how many of the higher grades of work do men and women give the equivalent of the money payment made them, and why, with the spread of real education among the people, should the monopoly of a conception of duty be possessed by the upper and middle classes?

"Noblesse oblige" can, and should be, the inspiration of every class, and the consciousness of the dignity of all work done for the community must replace the old Aristotelian division of work into honourable and "mean." I. E. W.

## SOME THINGS THAT MATTER.

By HAROLD COX.

[Sir Leo Chiozza Money and Mr. Harold Cox will write alternately upon things that matter. The Editor accepts no responsibility for any of the views expressed by these two eminent economists.]

The thing that most matters is the question whether the trade and industry of the country are to be run as heretofore, by private enterprise, or whether they are to pass under the control of the State. That is the issue between Socialists and non-Socialists, and it is the biggest issue before the country. It is, to some extent, complicated by the fact that the extreme sect of Socialists, who call themselves Guild Socialists, are in favour not of State control but of Guild control. They hate the State as much as the mere individualist does; they hate it as much as they hate the private capitalist. Nevertheless, so far as their schemes have yet been formulated, the Guild Socialists apparently assume that the State is to provide the money with which to finance the Guilds. Consequently, it is simpler to begin with the ordinary State Socialists of whom Mr. Sidney Webb and Sir Leo Chiozza Money are perhaps the most outstanding types.

They advocate the complete suppression of private enterprise and the establishment of the State as the universal owner, director, and manager of all industries. They say that under their system better results will be achieved than under the system of free competition, which is the basis of private enterprise. That they are able here and there to point to a successful example of State enterprise, such as the case of the Swedish telephones mentioned by Sir Leo Chiozza Money is undeniable; but when the world is considering a fundamental change of social and economic policy it cannot afford to be guided by one or two carefully selected facts; it must look at broad tendencies. Nor, if we wish to be fair, must we be content simply with past experience. If we were, the case for State Socialism would be condemned out of hand. In our country there is no single illustration at the present time of a successful enterprise conducted by the State. The position is the same as regards all the main examples of State enterprise throughout the world. Nowhere is the State able to conduct any enterprise successfully in competition with private enterprise. That is the reason why the State, whenever it undertakes a new enterprise, begins by imposing a monopoly, so that it may be free to charge what it likes for good service or for bad.

In answer to this argument from past and present experience the State Socialists may reply that they look forward to a different condition of things in the future. They declare that when the State is the one universal employer, everybody will do his or her best work from a sense of public duty. That expectation could only be realised if human nature were to undergo such a complete change that the sense of duty to a vague abstraction called the State took the place of the hope of personal gain or the fear of personal loss. Human beings, happily, have altruistic as well as egoistic impulses, but of necessity the latter are the stronger, because the selfish instincts represent the struggle for survival. That Socialists themselves do not believe in the disappearance of the selfish or self-preservative instincts is proved by the fact that their whole political appeal is to the spirit of envy and to the crudest forms of selfishness. In particular working men are urged to support nationalisation on the assurance that it will give them better wages for less work.

But if the selfish instincts must remain dominant in the average man, it is clearly of the utmost importance so to organise our industrial system that individual selfishness can be utilised for the public good. That is exactly what the capitalistic system of private enterprise in the main effects. It is true that swindlers sometimes make large fortunes; but they are the exceptions. In the main, employer and workman alike can only carry on business successfully by giving good value in return for the profit or the pay they receive. If a capitalist fails to give satisfaction to his customers he loses his business; if a workman persistently fails to give a fair return for his wages he is discharged. Under State enterprise there is no necessity for the persons employed, whether politicians or bureaucrats, to give any value at all in return for the salaries they receive from the State. A politician may make blunders costing the nation millions of pounds and, perhaps, thousands of lives, but he will come up smiling a few months later in another job. As for the bureaucrats, in practice they are never dismissed, however much they may idle, or however much they may blunder. Thus the selfish motives to which the Socialists themselves make their main appeal do contribute to the success of private enterprise, and contribute nothing to the success of State enterprise.

## ENFRANCHISED WOMANHOOD AND INFANT WELFARE.

### I.—THE GIRL BEFORE MARRIAGE.

By MARY C. D. WALTERS, A.R.S.A.M.

The seriously high death-rate among infants began to claim the attention of the health authorities somewhere about 1860, and women Health Visitors were appointed in 1892. Their duties were for some time concerned with sanitation rather than with the health of the individual, but there was evidence of a realisation of the growing importance of infant welfare work and the necessity for it to be educative, if it were to be of appreciable good and achieve its end. More and more stress began to be laid on the importance of care given to the expectant mother and her unborn child as the best, indeed the only way of ensuring the health as well as the life of the newly-born.

But it is noticeable that in all this work it is the physical welfare of the child that is for the most part being dealt with, and that attention has been paid to the woman in her capacity as wife and mother only, and that whatever her claims to consideration as a woman, as a human being, have been independent of, possibly even antagonistic to, her position as wife and mother, it is the wife that is regarded as of first importance, because of the services she renders her husband; the mother who ranks next; while the woman herself is counted as being of little appreciable value at all.

In work for infant welfare we have to work backwards, and, in the light of lessons learnt in the hard school of war, begin our work for the child's welfare with the better care of the adolescent child to-day, but the potential parent of to-morrow. To our criminal folly in neglecting the duty owed to them do we find the reason for the unexampled proof of want of mental balance and self-control evinced by them, so that the scourge of disease which is the aftermath of every great war has its origin less now with the woman "on the streets" than with the ignorant, undisciplined, and inconsequent girl and boy whose outlook on life was limited to getting for themselves what they called "a good time." The true inwardness of infant welfare work has yet to be grasped, we are only half awake to the fact that more than the physical welfare of the child must be dealt with, and it is only in a rarely wide-visioned centre that there is any other object in view than to pass a little healthy body out of the hands of the clinic doctor into those of the school medical officer. The most effective agent in infant welfare is a "natural inheritance" of the best racial qualities promoted by parenthood of the fittest; unhappily it is the worst stock that is the most prolific. Because of the increased burdens of the middle or professional classes, this class will be marrying later and having fewer children than hitherto; in the classes below, on the contrary, the birth-rate will tend to increase. In the face of this double menace it might be interesting to consider how the denial of their freedom has wrought wrong, not only to womanhood itself, but to the race, and how their enfranchisement may be made sufficiently far-reaching in its effects to undo past errors and rebuild a nation that shall be fit by a standard not set by the army tape-measure.

The artificial restrictions placed upon women, both as wage-earners and also in the marriage relation, are errors at the very outset, and the convention that in marriage the woman may not choose, but must be chosen, has come about simply because it is flattering to men's vanity and egoism, and not because it is of benefit either to the woman or to her possible children. This restriction is the more serious because choice in trade or profession has also been artificially narrowed down for women, and they have always been grudging money which would have given them the training necessary to enable them to take their place alongside their brothers in professional or industrial work, and have had to fight a persistent battle against under-payment. Many a marriage takes place, and many a man is accepted, as an escape from toil that is not only monotonous but that holds out little hope to the woman worker of provision for her old age. Marriage has often been her only defence against destitution in the future. Under such conditions, is it not possible that a child born in wedlock indeed, but of a marriage more or less enforced upon the mother by economic pressure, might have a less good "natural inheritance" than that to which in some cases the so-called "unwanted" babe was heir?

With an incredible lack of logic, though marriage was regarded as the only profession for which a woman could, or should, seek to fit herself, at the same time, and although the numerical inequality of the sexes made competition furiously keen, convention still had it that she must disguise her purpose and let the man imagine himself the wooer, the farce continuing even after he was won. The spinster was stigmatised as one



who had failed in the chase, the palm of victory was to her who could show the most scalps. Can one wonder, therefore, that women's outlook has been petty, their ideas slavish, that they competed instead of co-operated with each other? The woman's position in the home, whether her father's or her husband's, has been a further handicap to the child, for never could children of the best type, physically, mentally, and spiritually, be born of mothers denied human freedom, debarred all share in citizenship, enslaved economically and, therefore, sexually. The children of such a mother, under her care during their most

impressionable years, must suffer severely, the unnoticed witnesses often of instances of petty untruthfulness, or of underhand manœuvre on the part of a woman, who, unable to claim, secured what she wanted by strategy, and shielded herself from blame by deceit. The home is ill-fitted for a child's right training in which one parent lives in subjection to the other, and in the case of the boys it has the deadly consequence of instilling into their minds the idea of women's inferiority which is at the root of the traffic in women's bodies to satisfy men's passions, which operates so disastrously on infant life and health.

## WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME.

The Housing Problem is one of the most serious of the domestic difficulties which face us to-day. We all know that it is difficult; we none of us know exactly what the difficulties are, or how they can be met. Money is said to be one, scarcity of labour another, scarcity of materials a third, contractors' rings a fourth, Government delays a fifth, and so on. It is high time that women looked into these difficulties to see if they are all real, and if so, to try and remedy them. "The Woman's Leader" proposes, therefore, to publish articles on various aspects of housing during the summer months, in order to suggest to its readers subjects for their own investigations. We shall have articles on policy and on plans, on facts and on failures, and we invite correspondence on any aspect of the question.

### HOUSING SCHEMES IN LIVERPOOL.

By COUNCILLOR ELEANOR RATHBONE.

The Housing Committee of the Liverpool City Council has always prided itself on being in the van of the movement for municipal house building, and the boast seems justified by the fact that in a report issued by the Northern Property Owners' Association it is estimated that of all the houses built by the forty largest provincial towns of Great Britain from 1900 to 1916 nearly one-third were built by one municipality, which can easily be identified as Liverpool. The statement sounds less magnificent when we realise that during the period quoted municipal effort throughout the country was only responsible for two per cent. of all the houses erected; private effort providing the remainder. In fact, the pre-war houses built by the Liverpool Corporation numbered a little less than 3,000.

The really interesting fact about the Liverpool effort was, however, that the great majority of these houses were reserved for "the dispossessed," i.e., only families who had been actually turned out of the destroyed slums were allowed to occupy them; the rents being fixed according to the assumed "ability to pay" of these very poor class of tenants, without regard to cost of production. This made it possible to study the actual effect of a changed environment upon a given group of slum dwellers, and the economic, social, and eugenic bearings of the—I believe—unique experiment are well worth the attention of all social students.

My business in this article is, however, with the post-war work of the Committee. Here again we are assured by impartial observers that we are in the van—a compliment which only provokes the depressing reflection how very far back the rear must be! It is estimated that to meet the present shortage of houses we need to build 8,000 new houses and to replace, in addition, 6,000 old houses which according to improved modern standards are structurally insanitary.

During the past twelve months, the Housing Committee, with the assistance of a very energetic Director of Housing, has been doing its best to overcome the serious obstacles caused by the shortage of labour and of materials, and to push its various schemes through the several preliminary stages which are necessary before building can be actually commenced. The progress actually made is briefly as follows:—A military camp at Knotty Ash, an eastern suburb, was purchased from the American authorities a year ago, and this has been converted into some 470 hut dwellings, each containing a good-sized living room, back kitchen, three bedrooms, and a bathroom. These were reserved entirely for the families of demobilised soldiers, and the majority of them are already occupied. About 1,300 acres of vacant land have been secured for new building schemes, and contracts for 5,700 houses have been placed with contractors, in addition to 500 houses which are being built by labour directly employed by the Housing Committee. Of these, about 2,500 will be built of concrete, of three different types of construction. The remainder will be of brick, either plain or rough cast. About 700 of these houses are in course of construction, and fifty already completed. So much for figures. They have been given because so many articles on housing seem to allude to "houses in the air," that the minds of most readers, I believe, long for tangible facts, however dull, and for a record of actual progress, however slow.

As to the quality of the houses, they are being built, of course, in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of

Health, which require not more than twelve houses to the acre in all new schemes. Ample provision is being made for open spaces, allotments, bowling greens, recreation halls, and other institutional buildings.

The lay out of the plans is skilfully devised so as to make the most of every undulation and to preserve any group of trees, pond, or other natural feature. Each house has a tiny strip of garden in front of it, and a good strip behind. There are no yards, all the offices judged necessary being included in the house itself. The smallest type of house built consists of three bedrooms, and a bathroom with lavatory basin upstairs; downstairs, a living room (16 ft. 9 in. by 11 ft. 9 in.), a back kitchen, a w.c., a coal hole (to hold a ton at a pinch), and a larder (facing north where possible). Another type has a rather smaller living room and a parlour in addition, and a few have four bedrooms. I have heard the size of the rooms, especially of the living rooms, criticised as too small, but the critics I think did not realise either the financial aspect of the case or the fact that the abundant provision of cupboards and shelves which are built into every available space will make unnecessary the cumbersome dresser, &c., which takes up so much of the floor room in an ordinary artisan's house. The largest of the bedrooms has a good hanging wardrobe with shelf, and there is a well ventilated linen cupboard. In this, as in other points, the interior equipment shows the influence of the reports of the Women's Housing Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, the first Government Committee we believe ever wholly composed of women. The former chairman of the Liverpool Housing Committee, Mr. Richard Rutherford, in fact gave the general direction to those responsible for the plans—"Follow the line of the Women's Report." Unfortunately some of the improvements suggested in the report were scored out by the Ministry on the ground of expense. The cooking arrangements are of the combined range and open fireplace type, and when not in use present the appearance of an ordinary parlour fire. The back kitchen is large enough for most of the dirty work to be done in it, and contains a well placed sink, with draining board neither too low nor too high, boiler, and gas cooker, and wooden rail, worked by pulleys, for drying the clothes. The windows in all the rooms are low and unusually wide, of the casement type. The usual objection to casement windows is that, though picturesque, they are difficult to clean and make ventilation on cold days difficult. The former difficulty is met by a double hinge enabling the cleaner's arms to pass between window and frame; the latter, by a push-out fanlight at the top and a little nick in the usual metal stay which enables the casement to be opened "just a crack."

The rents fixed for the houses by the Ministry are 10s. and 12s., according to size, the tenants to pay rates and taxes. This may seem high compared to the pre-war rents of houses of the same size, but it is hardly necessary to say that it goes but a small way towards the present cost of production. There is a long waiting list of tenants, and the details of discomfort and overcrowding under which many of these are now living, makes the decision of the Allocation Sub-Committee a hard one, since so many whose needs are great have perforce to be kept waiting. So far as possible, preference is given to men who gave up their homes or delayed making them because of military service, though civilians are not altogether excluded.

## WOMEN IN JOURNALISM.

By Mrs. C. S. PEEL, O.B.E.

(Being the substance of an address delivered at the London Society for Women's Service.)

Journalism is a subject about which I enjoy writing, and if out of an experience of some thirty years of journalistic work I can give any information which may help it will be a pleasure to me to do so.

But before I proceed to describe methods by which women may become not only journalists but successful journalists, I would utter a few words of warning. At the present time the fact of her sex is a drawback to a woman who adopts journalism as a profession. It does not debar her from succeeding, but it does make it more difficult for her to succeed.

I hope I may live to see the day when we cease to talk of journalists and women journalists, and when editors are willing to employ the person who happens to know most of any special subject, and is able to write well, be it man or woman. But that is not altogether the case to-day. There is a feeling that women should confine their attention in journalism to what editors call subjects of feminine interest, but which I prefer to describe as subjects of domestic interest.

Another drawback to the woman who is entirely dependent upon her earnings is that journalism, or at all events free lance journalism, is an uncertain means of earning a living. She may earn a substantial sum one week and very little during the next week or two; she never knows when she is going to be rich or poor. Another disadvantage is that one cannot, as in some other businesses, amass capital in the form of goodwill which, in case of ill-health, will be saleable. Journalism is entirely personal, and if ill-health comes the journalist's day is done. The work of a journalist is hard and nerve-racking, often he must write against time, and always he must be looking for something new. Journalism is work which requires business-like habits combined with artistic temperament; it demands irregular hours, exposure to all kinds of weather, and in many cases meals taken where and how one can. It is not work which anyone of unsound health can hope to enjoy for long.

Some of the most necessary qualifications of the journalist consist of sound health, a good education, the art of getting quickly on good terms with people. The journalist must also possess the seeing eye and the feeling heart. He must know how to make his readers laugh with him, weep with him, and see what he has seen. His is a more difficult task than that of the actor, the artist or the sculptor, for he must do by means of cold print what the actor and artist do by personality, pictorial presentment, movements, speech, and beauty of colour and of line.

Now no one can endow a woman with the temperament which she must possess in order to become a successful journalist. That is the gift of the gods. But it does not follow that because the gods have gifted her she will succeed, because lack of perseverance and half a dozen other qualities may handicap her, and above all lack of technique may make it impossible for her to use her gifts to advantage. Here, however, the value of training comes in, for any person of average intelligence can learn the technique of journalism.

The difficulties and mortifications which I have suffered as the result of a lack of training make me the right person to impress upon all women how necessary training is. The first and indispensable part of her training consists of a good general education, and not until she has received this is it any use for her to specialise. If she is fortunate in having been educated at a good school, if she has taken a college course, so much the better, but if she is not sufficiently well educated, then she must educate herself better by reading. Read and read and read, and always read the best books of their kind in order to gain knowledge and to form a literary taste.

The University of London has now arranged a special Diploma Course for Journalism, which, and here I quote from the prospectus, "comprises a comprehensive and co-ordinated curriculum of modern and current knowledge, together with instruction in writing for the Press." Courses of study are pursued at the following colleges of the University: University College, King's College, East London College, Bedford College,

and the London School of Economics. The period of study is two years, and the fee for the course for the Diploma is twenty-one guineas for each of the two sessions, and in addition there is a five guinea examination fee. All information with regard to this training can be procured from Mr. F. E. Powell, Organising Secretary of the Journalism Committee, University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7.

There are various other places where a specialised training in journalism can be obtained; as, for example, the London School of Journalism, 110, Great Russell Street, W.C.1, the Literary, Journalistic and Secretarial Bureau, 50, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., while advice and information on training and training itself may be obtained from the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, Prince's Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, and under certain conditions loans of money to pay for training may be secured. Advice and in some cases a training fee loan may also be obtained from Women's Service, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. It will also be helpful for a woman to join a Journalistic Society, of which one or two exist. Perhaps the best would be to try and become a member of the Society of Women Journalists.

The University of London Diploma Courses do not include the teaching of shorthand and typewriting, but students are expected to make themselves proficient in these subjects as early as possible at institutions approved by the University.

Now a knowledge of typing is, I consider, absolutely essential to a journalist, and a knowledge of shorthand, though not essential except to reporters, is extremely useful. I advise any aspiring journalist to make herself proficient in these two studies.

There are more ways than one, however, of obtaining journalistic training, and possibly one of the best for a woman is to obtain a position on a provincial paper as a sort of journalistic maid-of-all-work. But here again it is more difficult for a woman to obtain such a post than for a man, because editors do not like women reporters, and it is as reporters that most men begin their newspaper life. Sometimes, however, particularly if a girl is in a position to give her services for six months, and especially if she is a shorthand typist, she may obtain a position in which she will do some reporting, some proof correcting, and possibly, eventually, a little sub-editing. If, however, she cannot afford to give her services and cannot obtain a paid post, then her best chance is to procure in some manner sufficient money to train as a secretary, perfecting herself in shorthand and typewriting, and then to find a situation as editor's secretary either on a provincial or a London paper. A knowledge of languages and of proof correcting should prove additional attractions to any editor. In such a position she is able to learn her trade, and if later she prefers to become a journalist rather than to remain a journalistic secretary she will have every opportunity of doing so. Next best to this is a situation as secretary to a successful journalist.

Editors object to women in general journalism because they say, and with considerable truth, that they are less correct than men, and that their writing is too often slipshod and ungrammatical. These, however, are faults which can be cured by training, and doubtless in time to come women will make good in all kinds of newspaper work. For some unknown reason, or lack of reason, editors seem to have conspired to allow writers on subjects of feminine interest to write with little regard for grammar or for the rules of composition, hence, finding that mediocre work is accepted, many women never trouble to learn to do such work well.

A fairly steady income may be made by writers who specialise in domestic journalism, but in regard to this kind of work American writers have much to teach us. In this country it has always been supposed that any women without training can cook, keep house, and bring up children, and editors appear to think that almost any untrained woman is fitted to write on these subjects. American editors think otherwise, and the American journals specially devoted to women's interests demand that domestic articles shall be supplied by experts, who not only



know their subjects, but who can write of them in a manner which is acceptable to a critical public.

I am of the opinion that the person, be it man or woman, who will take the trouble to become a cook, laundress, caterer, and housekeeper, if he be also a good journalist, may earn a considerable income by writing on these all-important matters. The same may be said about writing on furnishing and house decoration, gardening, baby welfare and the upbringing of children, health and the care of the complexion. Newspapers are not philanthropic institutions; they are run by persons who wish to make money, and they depend not only upon circulation but upon the number of their advertisements to make a profit, therefore the journalist who can write on subjects which are useful to the advertiser will be far more likely to obtain regular work than the ordinary journalist. Experience teaches that when economies have to be made on a newspaper they are generally effected by eliminating such features as do not produce revenue. Domestic journalism, if well done, is productive of revenue; but the day of the person whose method of conducting the cookery department of a newspaper was to copy receipts out of a cookery book altering a word here and there, or who posing as an expert on nursery matters wrote flowery little paragraphs about baby in his bath or his bed, is fast drawing to a close. Sound, practical knowledge, and the skill to set it forth attractively, will be required of the domestic journalist of the future.

The same applies to fashion writing. I advise any young woman desirous of adopting such work to take a course of lessons in cutting out, and to learn to draw sufficiently well to sketch a dress or hat so that she may refresh her own memory, and also because a rough sketch is more valuable as a guide to the artist who will illustrate the article than a written description. Study the history of dress, and study well dressed people, who are not, by the by, invariably the most expensively dressed people. Study the subject from A to Z and be able to write of it in such a way that it will interest and be of use to readers of every class.

It is, however, a good plan to specialise in more than one subject. Possibly a woman is an admirable writer on furniture, but the paper which employs her fails, and she is out of work. It might prove difficult at once to find another editor who needs someone who will write on furniture, therefore, it would be wise for her to have a second string to her bow. Why should she not, in addition to her knowledge of furniture and house decoration, make a study of criminal mysteries, or of the care of cats and dogs. Or she might give special thought to educational questions, or gain a reputation as a good writer of interviews. Possibly, if a woman is a good linguist, it will pay her to make a special study of the doings of women in other countries as reported in foreign papers. But she would be wise to keep a separate signature for special kinds of work. Some editors have an objection to what they term "wise acres," who write on all sorts of subjects. Each kind of work should be signed with the same signature in order to make it known, and a signature chosen which attracts attention, for the aim is to make a name, and to do this journalists cannot afford to disregard the art of advertisement.

Work for which there is a ceaseless demand in newspaper land is fiction. A good short story writer may make an excellent income, a clever serial story writer is scarcely ever unemployed. If a woman has ambitions in this direction, she should study carefully the short stories and serials which appear each day in the newspapers and magazines, and not say to herself, "What nonsense! I could write something much better than that," until she is really sure that she can. Successful stories are not made by good grammar and good construction alone, though many are spoiled by the lack of them. They must have in them something which seizes upon the imagination, which touches the heart, which lifts the reader even for a few moments into forgetfulness of himself and his surroundings.

The reason why fiction is of such importance in newspapers and magazines is that the lives of the greater number of civilised persons are monotonous. They are obliged to work for their living, to inhabit small and not particularly attractive houses, to dress plainly, and to live narrowly. Their reading supplies them with the romance, the incident, the colour which their lives lack. Realisation of the general craving for relief from a routine life has led to the introduction of a human and lively press, and for the appearance of articles such as are found in the *Daily Mail*, in the *Express*, and in various other papers. He who can learn to write what in journalistic language are called "bright" articles of three or four hundred words, should find little difficulty in placing them, but it is only when he begins to write them that he realises how difficult it is in so few words to achieve the desired effect.

It is of extreme importance that something should be learnt of the art of placing work. In nine cases out of ten a journalist of any efficiency has his work returned because he has failed to send it to the proper quarter, and if this is so, he deserves to fail, because the study of any newspaper will show him what kind of work that newspaper is likely to require.

Time and postage are wasted in submitting lengthy articles to a paper which contains no article of more than three or four hundred words. When the only subjects dealt with are domestic subjects, it is useless to submit an article, even though it be of the right length, which deals with any other matter. If, in a certain evening paper, there is each day a lightly written article which fills a special space, and an article is submitted either three hundred words too long or three hundred words too short, it is useless for that particular place. It would be excellent practice for anyone contemplating journalism to study the newspapers carefully until he is familiar with the length of article and the kind of article which appear in the different pages of different publications. And then, in spite of all the trouble taken, in spite of the fact that the article may be good, it may be returned. This may be because the editor is at the moment over-stocked with articles, or that he has a large regular staff who are writing what he requires, or that the article did not appeal to that particular editor. The young journalist should not be discouraged, for in the end, if the they are good the articles will be taken.

There are certain conventions to be observed when submitting articles which are of great importance; in the first place, it is useless to submit written manuscript. Every article submitted must be typed, the writer's name and address must be set forth clearly on every copy, and, it is, I think, worth the cost to have paper printed with name and address and telephone number in bold type, and to use one of these sheets for the first page of every article. This plain setting forth of name, address, and telephone number will help to impress the fact of his contributor's existence on the editor. The sheets of each copy should be numbered, and should not be attached to each other with a safety pin, by black cotton, or even white cotton, but by paper clips. If an article takes several journeys and begins to look dilapidated, the trouble of copying it afresh should not be grudged. Editors are prejudiced against articles which they plainly perceive have been rejected elsewhere.

Further, a necessary business expense is a subscription to a good library. It will be a mine of copy to every journalist. It is true that typewriters, headed paper, and library subscriptions cost money, but in all businesses certain expenses are inevitable, and the business of journalism is no exception to the rule.

Other business assets are personality, pleasant manners, nice appearance, punctuality, reliability, and a wide knowledge of men and affairs. A woman journalist should go everywhere, see everything, and, above all, know everyone because, although editors will not accept bad work from her because she comes to them with a good introduction, they naturally—indecisively, can only employ people whom they know to exist!

A journalist should not be afraid of writing to editors asking for work, but the letter must be brief and business-like, and specimens of work should be attached. The letter must convey the impression that it is written by a competent reliable person. Editors should not be worried for personal interviews unless there is something to be said which will be useful to them; editors and editors' secretaries dislike being trifled with. If there is a topical article or news paragraph to be disposed of, it is best to ring up the news editor of a paper and to ask if he cares to see it, and if he does not to try elsewhere. If a journalist should happen upon some exclusive information of wide public interest, then is the time to ask for a personal interview. Such material is worth a big price to the paper which first publishes it. A note book should always be kept at hand, and material jotted down as it occurs. It is advisable also to keep a list of articles and the names of papers to which they have been dispatched, and when work has been accepted by good papers to add below the name and address, "contributor to so and so and so."

In conclusion, if a woman is one of those fortunate people who is not utterly dependent on her earnings, she ought not to take advantage of that fact to undersell those who are. No one has any right to object to a woman working for money, however rich she may be, provided that she always insists upon being paid at full market rate. And further, when she does become a journalist, her work should always be done in the right spirit. The Press is a great power: each woman must see to it that her individual actions shall help to make it a power for good rather than evil.

## THE OPENED GATES.

By E. M. GATE.

Cornwall, where the very mayweed smells like a garden of spices, is a better doctor than Brighton, so Alexander's family discovering that he showed signs of wear and tear, they packed him off thither for his first proper holiday since he took the care of his brothers and sisters upon his shoulders, and that later and equally wearing period when his brothers and sisters firmly took charge of him.

None could accuse the Robinsons of lack of appreciation; that clever family was well aware that Alexander was a remarkable man, and as each attained to years of discretion and the sound common sense that distinguished them all, they shared the responsibility of keeping him safe from the world. To say the strict truth, he was kept a little close.

The nobler the animal, the more prone it is to pine and mope in captivity; probably that is why he now found himself, after a period of extreme distaste for life, at the gate of Many Waters, with a Gladstone bag and a selection of books approved by his sister Mary, and warranted not to tire the brain. Had his family known what was to come of them, they would have put books and master under lock and key. Providentially, not even Mary felt a pricking of the thumbs, and the emancipated Alexander proceeded to moon about the Cornish cliffs with a nice appreciation of the marvellous savours that assailed his nose and still so near being a sick man as to find sufficient pleasure in sweet air, warmth, and an old familiar book, and with all his senses occupied with these simple, satisfactory things, he meandered along paths more suitable for coastguards than scholars, and in due time the inevitable happened. He pitched head first over a boulder in his path and was effectively made aware of the bumpiness of at least a portion of the landscape. For a moment he lay quite dazed, then his teeth began to chatter and he realised that his heart had not flown out of his mouth; at the same moment he had a humorous vision of his position and set about improving it. He sought to raise himself with his left hand and fainted dead away.

The chirp of a grasshopper and an agreeable sensation of cold water on his forehead made him open his eyes in a sort of mild wonder; then the throb of a sprained wrist jerked him back sharply to the actual.

"Bless my soul!" he said to vacancy. "I'm sure I'm extremely obliged —"

He stopped abruptly, seeing nobody to receive gratitude, but none the less convinced that cold water does not get on the forehead without human agency. Also it dawned upon him that he was lying on his back, whereas he had pitched on his face; and at that precise moment vacancy found a voice and issued a command.

"Please keep quite still," said Vacancy. "I will come to you in a moment."

He obediently complied, smiling at a whimsical notion of Vacancy possessed of vision and a voice, but without bodily parts. A moment later, however, a neat hat appeared at the level of the path, coming up the face of the cliff from below, and was swiftly followed by the flushed but otherwise perfectly controlled features of a little woman of about thirty, and in a trice the bodiless nymph of his fancy stood before him holding his Horace in one hand, while with the other she dusted her skirt.

"I thought you would be sorry to lose this," she said. "I saw you were coming round, and I thought I would get it before it was blown into the sea."

"I'm sure I'm extremely obliged to you," he began again. "May I be allowed to sit up now?"

She smiled at his quaint air of submissiveness and for answer slipped her hand under his elbow and helped him to a sitting position without further hurt to his injured hand. But having got as far as this there is no doubt that awkwardness descended upon her as a mantle, and she became curiously hesitant, almost passive, like a machine requiring some lever to be moved before it will perform its office.

Alexander proceeded to put her in motion.

"I am afraid," he said, with his rather old-fashioned air, "that I must trouble you to bind up my wrist for me."

She at once became busy. From a little case she produced a strip of linen, part of some work she was engaged upon, and a small pannikin which she filled at one of the little streams which make the Cornish cliffs so gay. The wrist was quickly bandaged and made comfortable, and then she glanced at him again with a quick, shy interrogation.

"You have been ill, have you not?" she said.

"Scarcely ill," he answered, "but not well. However, it was not due to any weakness of that kind that I have been so much trouble to you, but to sheer inattention to where I was going. By-the-by, I must thank you again for recovering my Horace."

She looked at him kindly, his old-fashioned manner evidently pleasing her. "I was going to suggest," she said, "that you rest awhile before going further. You will not be in my way, and you are more shaken than you think."

He in his turn was grateful; he thought her kind and pleasant, and the unadorned simplicity of her stilted speech was a relief after the pregnant conversation of his family, resolutely being worthy of their distinguished brother. So he settled himself thankfully with his back to a rock, and while she stitched away silently at her piece of linen, gave himself up to the problem of her hands. They astonished him beyond measure; it was not their shape (which was beautiful) but their texture; they were so incredibly roughened and worn that his first clear view of them bandaging his wrist had made him thankful that no immediate speech was required of him. Now he rearranged his impressions and found himself with a little mystery on his hands. He decided that poverty was not the solution; old-fashioned as he was, he had not brought up all his sisters for nothing, and he knew something about women's clothes. Nor was it a case of sudden riches; he had a keen scent for the *nouveau riche*. But those hands remained. The Cornish air, his recent shaking, and the accumulated effects of long years of the Robinson family were suddenly too much for him; he gave it up and went unaffectedly to sleep.

The owner of the baffling hands stitched placidly until the extreme stillness of her companion forced itself upon her, then she in turn gave herself up to speculation. The face of the sleeper looked so unexpectedly young, in spite of grey hair at the temples and the marks of care, that she would not have been human had she remained unmoved. She scrutinised him intently, putting two and two together, and arriving at a fairly correct estimate of the sort of life the sleeper had led for some years.

"God help all spirits in prison," she said to herself.

When he again opened his eyes he found her with a little spirit kettle before her, making tea. "You will manage the walk back better if you drink this first," she said.

For a sickening moment he had the sensation of being taken care of again, and rebellion boiled in his throat; but almost before sleep had cleared from his senses the sight of the friendly, sedate little creature had reassured him, and he sipped his tea with the much pleasanter feeling of a boy out on a holiday. She dismissed him very soon, however, with a set little speech about the desirability of taking care on his way home, and he returned to Many Waters, that abode of kind hearts and matchless cream, with a regret bordering on ingratitude.

At Many Waters, however, he learnt that his little lady of the cliffs was a Miss Esther Thomson, "living in the cottage you passed on your way to the sea, sir." The little house-mistress added, in her gentle Cornish voice, "they say she has seen a deal of trouble." This closed the matter, leaving him admirably convinced that she knew more than she was willing to impart and he nursed his sprained wrist with the feeling that it was by no means an unmixed evil.

In the days that followed he went even further, coupling it with Horace (now permanently relegated to a safe place in his pocket) in a positive blessing; for nothing, he was convinced, short of that fortunate tumble would ever have procured an



opening for acquaintanceship with Miss Esther. Usually to be found entrenched on one particular rock overlooking the bay, near enough to oversee all the high jinks going on below, but far enough away to prevent even an appearance of impertinent curiosity, she had an air of privacy and seclusion which he knew he would never have penetrated outright had he paced the cliffs a life-time. But he had tumbled headlong into her entrenchments, and the result left him unaffectedly glad that on his way through life he had not missed her.

He discovered that under her placid exterior she hid an absorbing interest in her fellow creatures. While she stitched with her busy, marred hands she was literally drinking in the movements of the few people in the bay whose number was just sufficient to emphasise the solitude around them. Of small talk she had none, and soon fell into long silences, which suited him entirely; a few hours of Miss Esther's company gave him the adventurous feeling of being marooned on a desert island while magical pictures of the world floated by for their sole entertainment. She, however, seemed to feel her shortcomings, for one morning she said, "I am afraid this is very dull for you."

"Do you want me to go away?" he asked.

"No, but I am afraid I have got out of the way of talking. You see," she said, speaking with some difficulty, "for a long time I have had few opportunities either for seeing or speaking to people, and both seem strange to me—now that I have come back to the world. The fact is," she went on hurriedly, "I have been in prison."

Neither of them moved for some moments, and when Alexander looked round all the colour has left Miss Esther's face but she wore her usual air of disciplined composure.

"In prison," he said slowly. "Well, so have I; to tell the truth, I'm just out."

"Was it a long time?" he asked.

"Some years," she said, with her eyes on her worn hands.

"Well, there's a pair of us," he said at length. "But thank goodness, it's over, for in my opinion it is better fun outside."

She gave him no further of her confidence, but he had the feeling of having entered a tremendous breach and made good his position. The conviction moved him to write to Mary Robinson that he was already greatly benefited by the Cornish air; to judge by the chuckle that escaped him, the Cornish air had gone to his head.

To tell the truth, his head was full of Miss Esther and ways and means of making it better fun for her "outside." He wondered what her prison-house had been; to whose bedside she had been chained; what relationship had claimed her and cut her off from the world as effectually as bars of iron. He never, for an instant, associated her with actual imprisonment, knowing, instinctively, that she was law-abiding, but he wondered for whose sake she had sacrificed the bright years of her youth and what slavery she had endured so that the marks of an iron discipline hung about her even on the Cornish cliffs. And he realised that that was what made her so different from every other woman he knew; she was disciplined to the extent which means a long submission to a rule of life not one's own. He felt unreasonably furious with some person unknown, and jealous to a point which suited his actual years and considerably improved his appearance. But Miss Esther's confession, whether it had conveyed all she had intended or not, had fully awakened him to the glorious fact that they were both "outside," nor was he disposed to let her forget it. He induced her to give up her limpet-like attachment to the rock overlooking the bay and together they explored the coast like a couple of children. Miss Esther's case, slung over his back, went up and down the face of the cliff with them, over boulders and in and out of caves like a companionable demon, until she had been goaded into admonishing him to curb the recklessness which took them up and down all manner of precipitous paths, and behave himself more like a man with a recently sprained wrist and no immediate anxiety to get another.

"Do not think," said he, "that you can depress me with talk about a sprained wrist. That was the best day's work I ever did in my life. Here's to it, Miss Esther!"

And that was the first time he called her by her name, and they began to see the road they had come.

To his disgust, the very next day found her back upon her rock, to all appearance firmly entrenched and disconcertingly aloof. She had a piece of Bristol board and some Indian ink, and was sketching, with a look that was positively grim. "I used to be rather good at this sort of thing," she said.

(To be continued.)

## REVIEWS.

**The Child Welfare Movement.** By Janet E. Lane-Clayton, M.D., D.Sc. (G. Bell & Sons, Ltd. 7s. net.)

Dr. Lane-Clayton, having served four years as Medical Inspector of Child Welfare for the Local Government Board, is exceptionally well qualified to write upon the Child Welfare movement. She has produced a text-book packed with information and interesting throughout. It is also admirably documented. Among many excellent chapters those on the duties of health visitors (including the management of Centres), on their training, and on their relation to social and charitable organisations, are particularly valuable. Very useful also are the chapters on the notification of births in relation to child welfare, on pre-natal work and the problems connected with midwifery, on infant mortality, on notifiable diseases, and on local government areas, authorities and machinery. Dr. Lane-Clayton is less happy in her estimate of the position of voluntary agencies in Child Welfare work. She does not distinguish clearly between management by a voluntary committee and the work of voluntary visitors, rejecting the former except for pioneer work, though her criticisms apply mainly to the latter. This is unfortunate, since it is important in these days of increasing municipal control to bear the virtues of voluntary management in mind as a corrective against the inelasticity of Borough Councils. The appendices include reprints of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act of 1918; of the Ministry of Health's Circulars on the Training of Health Visitors, Day Nurseries, Measles and German Measles; and of the Board of Education's Regulations for Nursery Schools. Two local midwifery schemes are also given, and a very interesting report by the Medical Officer of Health of Birmingham on housing and sanitary conditions in that city in relation to infant mortality. The book is primarily intended as a text-book for students qualifying as health visitors. It would also form an extremely useful hand-book for members of Health Committees, and might be studied with advantage by all women who, as voters, have the power to promote the health of the nation.

M. M.

**The New Children.** Talks with Dr. Maria Montessori. By Sheila Radice. (Hodder & Stoughton. 4s. net.)

Mrs. Radice's book consists of a number of reprints from the *Times Educational Supplement* strung together "somewhat hastily," as the author herself confesses, on the theme of Dr. Montessori and her recent visit to England.

To the initiated student of Dr. Montessori's work the book may, for all its disjointedness, be of some value as adding a little to the revelation of that great educationalist's mind. In the course of its pages such persons will be able to collect numerous first-hand records of personal conversations and public speeches bearing on various aspects of the speaker's work. To the uninitiated, however, and we count ourselves among their number, Mrs. Radice's book is of less value. It does not pretend to instruct us concerning the elements of the Montessori method—our more primitive needs are served by the excellent bibliography with which the book concludes. Perhaps the most concrete fact about that method which we learn from Mrs. Radice's pages is the extraordinarily rigid insistence which Dr. Montessori lays upon the use of her own proper apparatus.

Nevertheless in spite of its marks of haste, in spite of its apparent superficiality and its faults of construction, Mrs. Radice does succeed in doing this much for initiated and uninitiated alike: she does manage to convey to us some sense of the immense greatness of the mind which she is attempting to interpret, some consciousness of the astounding mass of hard work in the wide fields of medicine and psychology which forms the groundwork of Dr. Montessori's simple and delicate scheme of life. Maria Montessori has not, of course, burst upon the educational world like a bolt from the blue. If she had never lived twentieth century educationists would no doubt have found themselves stemming the Germanic tide, and groping clumsily after something resembling the system which facetious critics describe as "letting children be as naughty as they like." But she has done for the educational world what Adam Smith did a hundred and fifty years ago for the economic world—she has captured a wild and blundering *Zeitgeist* and domesticated it for the service of mankind.

MARY STOCKS.

## BOOKS AT RANDOM.

### A HOLIDAY LETTER.

We can sympathise with the German editor of "As You Like It" who adopted as a more probable reading of Duke Senior's speech:—

"Sermons in books, stones in the running brooks,  
And good in everything. . . ."

After all (a place for everything and everything in its place) it is very pleasant occasionally to shut up the book of sermons and to go out over the hills searching the brooks for such smooth stones as David loved, and idly skimming them across the upper pools—which I have been doing lately myself. Since Bradshaw and the "Strand Magazine," my journey companions from Paddington, I have not opened a book for weeks, or at any rate a printed book, though I certainly have turned over the leaves of more than one visitors' book on rainy days in various Welsh inns, in the hope of tracing amateur talent in occasional verse.

Hwch Goch, where I am staying, is conveniently sited in the middle of what they call the North Welsh Riviera: it isn't really as bad as it sounds, and if you leave the golfers to their own merry sports on the sandhill links, and climb up beyond the hills which overlook the bay, you can see life properly. Coleridge says in his "Biographia Literaria" that "among the peasantry of North Wales the ancient mountains, with all their terrors and all their glories, are pictures to the blind and music to the deaf," but that is rather harsh. The Welsh, though they have little visual sense, certainly are not lacking in the power of translating their mountains into music. And if the burghers of these small coast towns are a rapacious and immoral lot on the whole, they have not been improved by the yearly invasion of tourists from England; while the folk in the hills are both intelligent and hospitable. Hwch Goch is a place of considerable historic interest, with a fine golf links and two good hotels, so that in the season its normal population of eight hundred is swollen to something like two and a half thousand. Hard by is Abercochion, the popular seaside resort of Birmingham and Manchester; normally about four thousand, it must reach twenty thousand inhabitants in August. "Go to breezy Abercochion and be as happy as a sandboy." It is interesting to note that the infant mortality of Abercochion district is one of the three highest in Great Britain, if not actually the highest. The town council recently decided (I have it on the authority of the local newspaper) that the figures were so bad that they would frighten off visitors, and that they must therefore be suppressed. The visitors, you see, consume all the milk and butter in the district as soon as they begin to feel as happy (and hungry) as sandboys; and the poor Welsh-speaking children of Abercochion have to subsist throughout the spring and summer on tea and margarine. Which seems all wrong, somehow.

A house used during the war as a soldiers' hospital was offered to the Council recently at an absurdly low price, on condition it should be kept on as a hospital, and a large stock of surgical appliances was offered free. The suggestion was that the money collected for the local war memorial would here be spent most appropriately. Did the Council of Abercochion gratefully accept the offer? Guess again! In spite of the nearest hospital of any sort being ten miles away, back in the hills, they decided that the money was to be invested in a Casino for the visitors. Coleridge would not, I fancy, have been surprised at this decision; in the same passage in the "Biographia" he remarks that if we examine the way in which poor laws are managed in country districts, it will "engender scepticism concerning the desirable influences" of beautiful scenery on human charity. In the town of Hwch Goch much the same sort of thing happens: the twelve chapels and one church that the neighbourhood boasts are no indication, I am afraid, of a charitable disposition. Religion means black clothes and a hymn-book for me, and certain damnation for you unless you belong to my chapel. (Odds are twelve to one against, of course.) It also means subscription lists for installing electric light—which is a novel and valuable religious asset. True, it costs a shilling a unit and is very uncertain, but the United Primitives must not be allowed to boast themselves over the

Calvinistic-Antediluvians. "No surely, drop dead!" as the local saying goes. We have a silver band at Hwch Goch which cost (pre-war) over three hundred pounds in instruments. Even Abercochion, home of sandboys, has only one of brass. The town is very proud of its silver band, and can't understand people who still would prefer the old Male Voice Choir which the instrumental music superseded. (This part of the story reads rather like Mr. Hardy's lament for the old Wessex Church choirs.) Hwch Goch is also raising a war memorial: I am wondering whether the Owens, Joneses, Robertses, and Williamses who were killed in the war will be commemorated by the town magnates in a new wing to the golf pavilion, or in an American bar at the Royal Taffy Hotel. Either is possible, but I am sure of one thing, that neither this memorial fund nor the proceeds of our last week's Festival of Song, which attracted some five thousand or more music-lovers in spite of the rain, will go towards solving the District Nurse problem. The Council are all prosperous tradesmen, and cannot be expected to show much interest in the medical arrangements of their less prosperous village-neighbours or the poor crofters in the hills. Of course, Hwch Goch has got a District Nurse, but her beat extends to the North and South of the town some ten miles, and inland six or eight miles over hills fifteen hundred feet high, making a total area of some sixty or seventy square miles. "However," says the Council, "we are improving. Until last year she had to attend to the whole Llan-Moel district too. And we have generously provided a substitute during her annual holiday." The doctor of Hwch Goch, Doctor Absalom Parry, was a fine surgeon in his day, they say, but as he is now seventy-three and feeble, he refuses to attend confinements in the night or in bad weather: and what of the unfortunate women in the pangs of childbirth in those distant crofts on the hills? This week there was a case at a farm at the very top of the hills; a girl had twins, one of which died. She was the only woman in the house, and as it was a love child she had been ashamed and told nobody; the district nurse, called up in the evening, refused to attend because she had been given no notice, and was expecting another case at the other end of the district the same night. The doctor refused to attend for the usual reasons and with his usual old-fashioned discourtesy. And old "Gamp," who in years past had always been glad to help in times of crisis, also refused to go because "there was a new law to put me in prison if I was go, and I was afraid she might die on me." Please do not try to imagine the plight of the poor girl at Cym Mawr. Times must be pretty bad when even a Sarah Gamp cannot be found to do her rude best in a case of such agony and danger. The district nurse arrived in the morning and managed to save one child and the mother, and later, when all was over, came Doctor Absalom Parry in his dog-cart and pocketed the fees.

As I write, the Hwch Goch Silver Band is practising a military march; there is a monthly golf tournament in progress on the links; three motor char-a-bancs have just gone down the road towards Abercochion, shouting and cheering, chock-full of Lancashire. There are to be free flips in an aeroplane next week, I hear, on the beach. I can't remember any more news of interest to visitors, except that rickets and summer diarrhoea will look up splendidly if we have fine weather soon, and that there is a baby expected this week at Llyn Something-or-other farm; the father was a German prisoner, and wanted to marry the girl and remain at the farm, where he was working, but he was bundled back to Germany with the rest and has been lost sight of. Here is enough news for one week; I leave the suitable sermon on this text to be printed in the appropriate book.

For minor conversation, let me point out to a recent correspondent, that I am aware of Mr. Symonds' extracts from "John Clare"; there are other similar volumes by Messrs. Chery and Norman Gale, but none of these editors has given any real attention to the matter, or had access to the large bulk of Clare's best work. Mr. Symonds is sympathetic but inaccurate, especially when he suggests that Clare drank himself to ruin, which is certainly a gross mis-statement; his volume is more a week-end diversion than a serious edition.

FUZE.



## DRAMA.

### "My Old Dutch" at the Lyceum.

I knew that son would come back. Ever since that morning when he left the greengrocer's shop in Bethnal Green and set off for the Colonies in morning coat, silk hat, and white kid gloves I had been expecting him to turn up with a fortune. Had he not said he would "make good"? Like the "Old Dutch" herself, I never lost faith in the "Little Nipper." When the greengrocery business went to pieces and the old man took to odd jobs I did not lose hope. Though they had only had one letter from the "Nipper" for fifteen years I still believed in him. When the old lady fretted herself ill and had to go into the infirmary my faith did not fail. When at last the poor old couple had to go to the workhouse, and Joe Brown was sent to the men's quarters on the left and Sally to the women's quarters on the right, even then I did not give way; did not even feel for my handkerchief, for I knew that in a few moments the "Little Nipper" would arrive. My faith was rewarded. At last he came. He came as I knew he would come, in a Rolls-Royce, in a coat with a beautiful astrachan collar, his pockets stuffed with banknotes. A little older, stouter, more manly, but still unmistakably the "Little Nipper." The workhouse gates closed for ever on Joe Brown and his "Old Dutch."

It all turned out well in the end; but in spite of all their virtues the old people had not been very sensible. In their old days, when Joe Brown hawked greengrocery and his "Old Dutch" did the washing, they had obviously spoilt the "Little Nipper." He had been encouraged to drink beer and put his tongue out at visitors when "he only stands about so high, that's all." When the news came that an unknown uncle in the Colonies had left Sally Brown a huge fortune they at once made it all over to the "Little Nipper," not keeping a penny for themselves. This was hardly wise, for the fortune ran into many thousands. They might just as well have kept some for themselves against a rainy day. But such was their fanatical and misguided philoprogenitiveness that they would not hear of it. Worst of all, they made over the "Little Nipper" with all his money to the lawyer who brought them the news about the will. In order that the "Nipper" might the more easily and completely be made into a perfect "gentleman" they refused ever to come near him, or even to let him know of their existence. Now anyone with the least glimmer of common sense would have seen that that lawyer was a crook. By the time the "Nipper" was twenty-four everything had turned out as might have been expected. The "Nipper" had been brought up to no trade or profession beyond that of a society loafer. More serious still, the crook lawyer, instead of investing the money, had spent it on his own crooked ends. So that the "Nipper" was penniless as well as without a profession at the age of twenty-four. However, he went off to the Colonies and made a fortune, as has already been told. He sent money home like a good son, but the old people had moved and it never reached them. Here again Joe Brown made another of his silly mistakes. He heard by one of those coincidences which do happen in plays that a number of letters bearing a foreign post-mark had been returned from his old home to the Dead Letter Office. Instead of, like a sensible man, finding out the address of the Dead Letter Office and recovering his letters, Joe and his pal, 'Erb 'Uggins, wrote a letter addressed from Klondike, Australia, which they palmed off on the "Old Dutch" as having come from the "Nipper" himself. When the "Nipper" turned up he nobly stood by them, and kept to it that he had come from Klondike, Australia.

It did not trouble the audience that this is not the kind of thing which happens in real life. What mattered to them was the moving situations, and still more the sentiments. The situations were eminently touching—there was Joe and Sally Brown on their wedding night in their new home, Joe showing with pride a concertina and a saucepan (full of holes) which he had bought. There was the scene in the infirmary, where Sally weeps with joy over the fictitious letter from "Klondike, Australia." There was the magnificent scene in the workhouse

yard, where the "Nipper" returns triumphant and carries them off in the Rolls-Royce. There were comic scenes, too, chiefly centred round 'Erb 'Uggins, the ferocious bachelor. He is finally entrapped by an Irish landlady by means of a particularly tasty Irish stew.

But on the whole the most popular part of the play were the sentiments expressed. At times the enthusiasm of the audience broke loose in the middle of a scene, and such sentiments as the following were received with loud applause: "Don't gentlemen work for their parents when they are old and want it?" "A man doesn't shake hands with his mother, he kisses her."—The filial piety of the "Little Nipper," the conjugal affection and fidelity of Joe and Sally Brown, the blind, maternal love of Sally, these are the things which, whatever the situation which brings them out, whatever the words in which they are expressed, are the real attractions of the play. And, of course, Mr. Albert Chevalier—but he is inseparable from the play—he is the play. His humour, his pathos, his complete identification with Joe Brown need no description for those who have ever seen him. Miss Alice Bowes was also very good as the "Old Dutch."

D. H.

### Two New Russian Ballets.

#### Le Chant du Rossignol and Le Astuzie Femminili.

The chief musical event in the Russian Ballet lately is the revised edition of Stravinsky's "Nightingale." The conversion of opera to ballet has been very drastically done, and Stravinsky's treatment of the score is no less drastic. What lyrical quality the music had has mostly been suppressed, and one is left with the impression that he is more concerned with his well-known musical gymnastics than with anything else. It can hardly be called inspired music; certainly it has few of those qualities which give Petruska and "The Firebird" their peculiar originality and charm.

The contrast between the quaint simplicity of Andersen's story and the elaborate grotesqueness of its present setting is obvious enough. Indeed at the hands of MM. Stravinsky and Massine one would hardly expect it to be otherwise. Each of these artists has in his own medium a very strongly marked manner, and the manner of the composer has many points in common (too many I think) with that of the choreographer. Their minds seem to travel along strangely parallel paths—again I refer to Massine the choreographer not the dancer. Both have the same tendency towards the grotesque, both are astonishingly ingenious, both like to bring off their half serious jokes, and they do it very successfully. It is hardly to be wondered at, however, if some members of the musical public (and I have heard the same of few amongst Massine's admirers) have begun to suspect that Massine is making fun of them.

We do not object to their jokes, and are far from failing to recognise the distinction and great beauty of the works by which we have come to know them, but it is when the two get together that the trouble begins. To see a number of scarcely human figures doubled up from the waist like a row of inverted L's go flapping across the stage at the moment when the story is supposed to be serious may be very amusing. But when the music itself is also standing on its head, as though the composer were attempting a kind of super-acrobatic diversion, it is almost more than an ordinary audience can be expected to swallow.

The truth is that this couple, great artists though they are, are too much alike to be happy together, and we prefer them apart. We even entertain a certain fear for their future progeny, lest grotesqueness be carried to the point of deformity.

A very different and more harmonious union is to be found in M. Massine's setting of the ballet in "Le Astuzie Femminili" to the unpretentious and entirely charming music of "Domenico Canarosa." Like "La Boutique Fantasque" it is another instance of how music, even though old-fashioned, is not too old-fashioned to provide an adequate musical background for a modern ballet however "modern." And frankly we prefer it.



## THE PLUMAGE BILL.

MADAM.—As this will be positively the last time that I shall trouble the readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER over this question, as Mrs. Virginia Woolf has broadened the issue by introducing the problem of responsibility of women for maintaining the trade, and as the admirable and original plan of the editor of this journal is to encourage the discussion of opposing views, I will, with the editor's permission, take up Mrs. Woolf's challenge. Moreover, I do not think I can be fairly accused of bias or partiality in the matter. My interest has been the birds, not the relative share of men or women in their extirpation, and I think that my attacks upon the trade do judiciously acquit me of any base motive of using the plumage trade as a means of indulging a prejudice. Indeed, the assistance I have received so generously from THE WOMAN'S LEADER, the attitude of numerous women's societies in sending up resolutions on behalf of the Bill, the devoted labours of the Newport Women Citizens' Association in support of the cause (particularly its Secretary, Mrs. A. B. Badger, who deserves a public memorial for what she has done) and the assistance of many individual women would naturally incline me the other way. Lastly, there is Lady Astor, who is an enthusiast for the Bill and has worked like a heroine for it in the Commons.

Nevertheless, I am convinced not only that Mrs. Woolf is wrong, but that her article does more harm to the cause than a round score of Miss Florence Yates. Her accusation of the Commons men of indifference to the Bill is, in the first place, the very weapon the trade desires to use and of which Mrs. Woolf makes it a free present. Fortunately, there is a counter-weapon. The fact is that the Plumage Bill (a private Bill) secured four quorums, while the two Bills which followed it (both of them Government Bills and considered by the same Committee) have also gone to the bottom of the list, without securing a single quorum. These Bills, besides, had not the same difficulties to contend with as the Plumage Bill in the way of pressure of business. What was wrong was not the attitude of the Commons men, but the grotesquely mismanaged attempt to govern by means of Committees. So much for that.

Personally, I cannot judge from Mrs. Woolf's ambiguous article, whether she is for or against the plumage trade. As a writer of great distinction, she should have made herself clearer, for she undoubtedly leaves the impression that she was converted by the passage in the Nation she refers to from a mild dislike of the trade to a warm support of it. She has in fact fallen a victim to a mental confusion—confounding a statement of fact with its moral implications. The facts are precisely as the Nation stated. Birds are killed in the time of their parenthood, so that the symbols of that parenthood may serve as millinery decorations for women, for the bearers of children, and it is also true that the women who wear the wings, bodies and plumes of wild birds cannot be brought to sacrifice a wing for a flower, for the sake of saving the most beautiful life in nature from extinction. That is positively true, for all Mrs. Woolf's ingenuities, since a campaign of some thirty years' duration has not made the smallest difference in the approximate number of women who wear birds. During the last year, the campaign has been extremely widespread, more so indeed than the whole of the preceding twenty-nine put together. We are now at the end of it. What has been the result? Birds are worn more than ever, this has been a special feather year and fashion announces a great autumn feather season—particularly wings. I repeat that I am not drawing deductions, but stating facts—and to them I will add two others, namely, that the army stopped the wearing of egret plumes in busbies twenty-five years ago, and that it is my personal experience, corroborated from many different quarters, that the general run of men is by no means indifferent to the magnitude and savagery of the traffic (the letters I receive are about in the proportion of 75 per cent. men to 25 per cent. women) and possibly (I admit) because they are not involved in it to the same extent that women are. I would again remind Mrs. Woolf that I am not assessing moral values or attempting an ethical Roland for her Oliver. I would not have written a reply to her at all did I not feel that articles of the kind she has written in the columns of THE WOMAN'S LEADER do a great deal more harm than the trade can do by its propaganda in its own defence, because they obscure the issue and encourage women (without whose help as voters the Bill can never be passed) and men alike to become party adherents and to turn their eyes away from their real and profoundly important common duty of preserving the heritage and continuity of evolution and raising the moral currency of civilised nations. For Mrs. Woolf avows (whether she means it or not) that only money and time prevent her from buying an "osprey," and simply because of a few lines she read in the Nation. With equal intelligibility might I, on reading Professor Dill's remarks about the butchery of albatrosses—"these heathens, sanguinary pirates cut the wings from the living birds"—apply for a job in a plumassier's office, on the ground of registering a protest against a monstrous attack on my sex. Mrs. Woolf's article, in short, is not the way of truth, which it is the business of men and women equally to seek, the more so if the party, sect, community or sex to which one or other of them belong is involved in the issue. And women are unquestionably involved in the plumage trade (as men, of course, in other iniquities), since if, as a body, they would refuse to indulge in a form of adornment as vile in taste as in the method of procuring it, no Plumage Bill would be necessary.

H. J. MASSINGHAM.

## RE PLUMAGE BILL.

MADAM.—Does it matter in the least to the birds so foully slain whether the blame rests most with men or women?

Let us cease to wrangle over this point, refuse to accept defeat, and give our respective Members no peace until a Plumage Bill is passed in some future session.

Would it not also be possible to send women wearing these unhallowed ornaments to the Coventry they so richly deserve?

META BRADLEY.

## REPORTS.

## LADY ASTOR, M.P., AT HULL.

Hull can flatter itself that it worked Lady Astor pretty hard during her visit. Within twenty-five hours of her arrival she had addressed three meetings. The first was held at the Royal Institution on July 17th, and Lady Astor spoke of the duties of a woman member and on the need for more of them to uphold and help her in Parliament. She alluded to the need for maintaining during the aftermath of war the spirit of self-sacrifice and determination. It would be impossible, she said, to scrap capitalism and build another civilisation, because greed and materialism would still possess the human heart.

What should women put into the new social order? Great fields lie open to her in local administration, education, housing, temperance, care of the blind, the milk supply, social and moral questions. Legislation for the blind, the milk supply, and a number of women, who are not doing everything, but it can help, and a number of women, who are morally more courageous than men could, in Parliament, foster the spirit that had won the war. The Government is accused of being spendthrift; it reflects doubtless the extravagance, lethargy, and self-indulgence from which the whole nation is suffering. She could assure them that public life meant sacrifice all the time and a good deal of abuse as reward. No woman's party was needed in the legislature; men and women alike each need the other's good qualities to supply sufficient driving power.

On Sunday afternoon, July 18th, Lady Astor spoke at the immense Women's Demonstration in Queen's Hall, ably presided over by Mrs. Hugh Price Hughes. The President declared her confidence in the girls of the country who were now entering on that great inheritance for which the older generation of women had battled vigorously.

Lady Astor followed with an interesting speech, full of humour and wit.

A most able and moving address was given by Miss Lena Wallis, in which she showed how the old life has been torn up by the roots and the vision of the new and better world has not yet appeared; every existing authority is challenged; four great empires are humbled in the dust; credit is tottering, if it, too, crashes down, millions will die as a result, since the fabric of civilisation rests on the solidarity of the nations. No man can live unto himself, nor can any nation live to itself, and no nation ever benefits by another's downfall. The foundations of the new civilisation must be moral and spiritual and it was for women to ask themselves what they could contribute to the new order. None of us care enough to make the League of Nations a living force; we need higher ideals, a new vision of brotherhood.

C. S. B.

## THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

The thirty-first Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute was held in Birmingham from July 19th to 24th, and was attended by over a thousand members, associates and delegates. In his inaugural address the President, the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT ASTOR, referred to the new and changing status of women, and throughout the entire proceedings woman's influence on the social, domestic and economic problems of the day was continually emphasised.

Dr. MILLARD (M.O.H. Leicester) read an interesting paper advocating a policy of birth control on the ground of both eugenic and economic problems. During the discussion which followed Mrs. PALMER (Southampton) declared the morals of a people to be dependent on their economic life and pleaded for the endowment of motherhood, so that expectant mothers need not work in factories until the eleventh hour, in order to support their babes.

In a paper devoted to *The Hygiene of the Child*, Dr. KATHARINE CHISHOLM pleaded for greater co-operation between parents, school, hospital authorities, and the Public Health departments, as only under these conditions could a successful scheme be evolved. She further suggested the formation of a social service similar to those in connection with American hospitals. Indeed, throughout many discussions we were continually reminded that America has forged ahead of us.

The need for well-ventilated pantries in which working mothers can store their food was vouchered for by Miss HUGHES (Lady-Superintendent, Q.V.J.N.), and we were told definitely that many of the most pressing problems of the day can never be solved until we have overcome our present housing difficulties.

Reference was made to the pitiable condition of our incapacitated and aged poor and attention was drawn to the homes provided for them in France, free from all stigma of Poor Law, where husband and wife are allowed to be together.

The imperative need for the teaching of sex hygiene was strongly advocated by Miss NORAH MARCH as the only corrective for the increase in the birth-rate of illegitimate children and the spread of venereal disease. She pleaded for equality, not similarity, of sex, and the need for women to raise, not lower, the national standard of morals.

Miss COOPER (Birmingham) asked the Congress to appeal to the Board of Education to train teachers to impart information to their pupils with the object of endowing them with high ideas and a sense of moral responsibility.

## HONOUR FOR MISS MAIR.

On the occasion of the degree of LL.D. having been conferred by the University of Edinburgh on Miss S. E. S. Mair, the Executive Committee of the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship entertained Miss Mair to dinner at MacVitties, Guests, Princes Street.

Miss Lee occupied the chair and there was a large attendance of members. After dinner the usual toasts were proposed, including the City of Edinburgh, to which Councillor Mrs. Miller replied.

Miss Mair, in replying to the toast of "Our Guest," said that she regarded the honour which had been conferred on her valuable chiefly as recognising women's work in general. She referred to her long connection with the women's suffrage movement in Scotland and the gratifying results which were concurrent with the enfranchisement of women—the opportunities of University education and their entrance into the professions. There were still many disabilities to be removed, and it would be the aim of such societies as theirs to work for a fuller citizenship.



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### NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

#### OBJECT.

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

#### HEADQUARTERS' MEMBERS.

In response to the desire expressed by those who subscribe direct to Headquarters, but who are not able to join any of our Societies, for some more definite link with the National Union, it has just been decided that all subscribers of one guinea and upwards should receive the Annual Report, the monthly letter, and all other suitable circulars, and should have the same privileges with regard to the use of the library and information bureau as members of affiliated societies. Further, that they should be notified of the Annual Council Meeting, and whenever possible given the opportunity of attending as proxies. A letter to this effect will shortly be issued to all our present subscribers of one guinea and upwards, and the Secretaries will be glad to receive the name of any others who may wish to become Headquarters members on these terms.

#### THE OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL.

As we have unexpectedly secured abundance of suitable accommodation conveniently situated for Ruskin College, we are still able to enroll students, though Ruskin College is itself full. We hope our Societies will help us by making the School known as widely as possible. A letter will shortly be issued to all students giving full particulars; meanwhile, the local arrangements are making satisfactory progress. A reception will be held on the opening evening, and a Garden Party has been arranged for the second week. Barnett House, with its quiet reading rooms and library, has been placed at our disposal. Evening lectures, open to the Oxford public, are to be arranged at convenient halls, and though many people are away for September, we hope much local interest will be aroused.

Conferences for officers of Societies on points connected with organisation will occupy an important place on the programme. One of these will deal with the development of educational facilities, when it is hoped to have representatives of the Workers' Educational Association and the University Extension Movement present.

#### BURSARIES.

One or two applications for Bursaries have been received from specially suitable candidates too late for the competition. One of these is from a foreign delegate, and another from a woman with interesting Trade Union experience. It is felt that the presence of both of these would be helpful to the School, and that they would contribute usefully to our discussions. Donations towards the Bursary Fund have already been received from Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, Miss Merrifield on behalf of the Brighton and Hove Society, a collection taken at a meeting on the Geneva Congress, and Mrs. Corbett. Further donations will be gratefully received; there can be no better way of helping and stimulating our Societies than by making it possible for members who could not otherwise do so to attend the School.

#### LITERATURE.

The literature department is under revision at the present time, and in the early autumn several new publications will be added to our list. These will include the leaflet with Object, Programme, Conditions of Membership, &c., brought up to date, two important leaflets on "Equal Wages and Equal Work," and the "National Endowment of the Family," issued by the Economic Independence of Women Sub-Committee, and a useful bibliography which will, we hope, serve as a catalogue of the most important books of current interest in the library.

#### PRESS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

A new Committee has been formed at Headquarters to carry on an active Press and Publicity Campaign in the autumn and winter. Miss Cicely Hamilton, who undertook much of this work for the Geneva Congress, has been co-opted a member of this Committee, and plans are already being framed for the early autumn. It is hoped that this may not only lead to the wider education of the public in the reforms on our programme, but will bring in much needed funds. Societies are urgently asked to help in this scheme. Help may be given in the following ways:—

1. Undertaking to supply information of interest connected with our object and programme to the local Press.
2. Sending Headquarters local news likely to be of wider interest on such matters.
3. Informing Headquarters of papers willing to receive articles.

#### PERSONAL.

We offer our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Mrs. Bethune Baker, Miss S. Margery Fry, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Coombe Tennant (all members or ex-members of the Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C.), as well as many others too numerous to mention well-known in our Societies, on their recent appointment as Justices of the Peace.

We also congratulate Miss Mair, President for many years of the Edinburgh National Society for Equal Citizenship, on the degree LL.D., since conferred on her by Edinburgh University.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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#### SITUATIONS VACANT AND WANTED.

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