

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Geneva.

The Disarmament Commission, which held its last sitting on 3rd December, made use of it to decide yet once again that security—whatever that may mean—must precede disarmament. This was done at the vehement request of France. The immediate practical consequence is unobjectionable—it is only that the Disarmament Committee is not to meet again until after the Security Committee has met on 20th February. But the question of principle is more important. France has at this moment the largest army and the largest air force in Europe. Her territories are protected by special treaties, and her interests by widely-felt and deeply-rooted sentiments. Of her next door neighbours, Belgium is not likely to attack her, Germany is disarmed, Switzerland neutral, Spain unlikely to abandon in a future war the neutral state she found so profitable in the last one, and in any case completely unprepared for attack along her Pyrenees boundary. Only Italy can by any stretch of the imagination be conceived of as dangerous, and the Italian frontier, already guarded by the Alps. France had been strengthening ever since the Armistice with forts, troops, strategic roads and railways to such an extent that if it is not now secure we may doubt whether military means will ever give a sense of security. If France then does not feel safe and comfortable who is to feel either comfortable or safe? Are all the other nations to say that before they disarm they must bring themselves up to the level of France in order that they may not fear her? The position is not reasonable, and the sooner common sense is brought to bear on it the better.

#### The Russian Proposals.

Common sense, nevertheless, does not seem to dictate that we should immediately accept M. Litvinoff's proposals that all nations should without further ado abolish all their armaments. It is hard to determine exactly why this is so. Why do we all instinctively brand this root-and-branch policy as impossible? It is neither logically nor physically impossible. Within three years all means of making war could be destroyed except along the frontiers of civilization, where we should still—though whether the Russians would agree with this we do not know—have need of an armed police. It is not beyond the wit of man to do it, but it seems certainly beyond the confidence and capacity of democracies. If twenty-four despots could agree to disarm without reservation—say after an extremely successful hunting-party and feast—and if they all stuck to it and damned the

consequences, it could be done. But in a democracy somebody is always feeling timid and suspicious, somebody is always ready to rouse party or interested opposition to such a scheme. And democracies, when not goaded into passion, are lazy. We could do this thing if we had the mind to it, as we could do a number of other things which would be to our own incalculable advantage, but the effort of making up such a mind is too much for us. We prefer to say that we don't like the quarter from which these proposals come: that the Russians are not being single-minded; that they are posing for effect, trying to show us up, trying to dazzle the nations of the East by simple stage-craft. All this may be true, but if the same policy were suggested by, say, France and Germany together, does anybody suppose for a moment that we should adopt it? We should choose to consider ourselves incapable and we should be incapable, and equally well provided with excuses.

#### Unemployment Insurance Bill and Juvenile Training Centres.

A long and interesting debate arose on Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland's clause to provide funds for the establishment of juvenile training centres, attendance at which would be made the condition of receiving relief, for both boys and girls between 16 and 18. We are glad to find that we had misunderstood the position last week, and that the new centres are to be open equally to girls as to boys. While realizing all the difficulties of dealing with boys and girls who might be out of employment only for two or three weeks at a time, we share Miss Bondfield's burning indignation at the Government's failing to deal with the problem of training unemployed juveniles more comprehensively. Her plea that the child from 14 to 16 should be brought in is a valid one, and although we recognize that such children do not, as we think they should, form part of the insurance scheme, we hope that means may be found, though not out of unemployment funds, to meet the need of training in their case. We heartily support Miss Bondfield's plea that training should also be provided for those between 18 and 21, whom this very Bill is placing in a separate class for the purpose of reduction of benefit, and who are at an age when it is essential that their industrial morale should be kept up, and who suffer from unemployment to a greater extent than those from 16 to 18. The Blanesburgh Report is emphatic that they also should be included. We regret, moreover, the statement from the Minister that meals are not necessarily to be provided. In view of the improvement not only in physique but also in manner where meals have been given at existing centres, and in view of the deplorably small benefit which the young adult is to receive, we hope that a determined effort will be made to obtain a revision of the Government decision. We wish also to draw attention to both Miss Bondfield's and Lady Astor's plea that larger grants for the training of unemployed women as domestic servants should be given. Where at one time 8,700 were trained, the funds now only provide for the training of 2,500, and the Government does not intend to provide more this year.

#### Report on Traffic in Women and Children—Part 2.

The second part of this now famous Report was published in Geneva on 5th December, and will shortly be available in this country. It is immensely long and sets out in great detail the facts about the traffic in nearly thirty countries; as our readers will remember it was withheld from publication until the Governments concerned had had an opportunity of examining the statements and made any comments they wished. These comments have now been published together with the Report. Judging from the summaries which have appeared in the Press,

no new considerations have emerged, as Part 2 is really "supplementary, complementary, and illustrative." Its publication, however, was urged on the grounds that the publicity of the methods of those engaged in this nefarious traffic, and the location of its blackest spots, is one of the best means of combating the evil. Two things emerge which give particular satisfaction to this country. One is the evidence brought in favour of the suppression of licensed brothels, which shows that traffic in girls is carried on chiefly to supply these establishments. The other is the testimony to the absence of any traffic in Englishwomen from this country and the restriction in the export trade in foreign women from English ports. With regard to London, the Report states "Prostitutes are certainly less in evidence than formerly, and their operation in streets and in other places accessible to the public are definitely less flagrant and objectionable than formerly." We shall give a fuller account of the Report when its text is before us.

#### Equal Franchise and the Press.

We can imagine no more enspiriting reading for a pre-war suffragist than Press cuttings on the prospects for Equal Franchise. Journals which at one time in their history were vehemently antagonistic are now on our side and take upon themselves the task of rebuking the small but vociferous section of opinion which opposes the Government's promise. At gatherings of young Conservatives and Constitutional Clubs debates on "the proposed extension of the franchise" invariably end in an enthusiastic majority in favour of the proposed extension. It will be interesting to see the fate of a resolution to be brought forward at the Council of the Yorkshire Conservative and Unionist Association this week to the effect "that female franchise at 21 is not desirable." In all probability it will be received with the impatience that characterized a similar effort at Cardiff. The *Daily Mail* continues to publish letters on the subject, which are to be strongly recommended to any speaker in favour of Equal Franchise as instances of the mentality of the opposition.

#### A Conspiracy of Silence.

There is a positive conspiracy of silence about two disagreeable facts which most of those who write or talk about housing in influential circles have not the courage to face. First, there is the fact that the worst features of slum houses—those features which made even so cautious a personage as our esteemed contemporary *The Spectator* "burn with shame"—are not the result (as anyone who reads articles in *The Times* or debates in the House of Lords might imagine) of any "act of God" such as an earthquake or tempest, but simply of a long-continued and stubborn refusal on the part of certain landlords, year after year, to carry out the clear legal obligation which rests on them to keep their houses at least water-tight and decently fit for habitation; also of the steady neglect by many local authorities of their duty to keep the landlords up to the mark in these respects. Secondly, there is the fact that no Government subsidy of moderate amount will suffice to get over the difficulty that both the newly built and the reconditioned houses tend steadily to pass into the hands of those whose need for them is the least urgent, viz. childless couples and families composed wholly of adults, because the parents of young families need all their wages for food and clothing and so have to put up with the worst of the available housing accommodation.

#### Slum Clearance.

The recent debate on this subject in the House of Lords drew from the Government the statement that they were considering "a scheme . . . whereby houses in an unsatisfactory area which might be saved by the expenditure of a little money would be reconditioned, and only the houses which were passed redemption would be demolished." We receive this assurance with mingled feelings, bred of a doubt whether the talk of Government aid for reconditioning schemes may not have the effect of encouraging landlords to neglect still further their already neglected duty of keeping their houses "reasonably fit for human habitation," in the sure and certain belief that the more disgraceful the condition of their houses the more probable it is that the Government will come to their rescue and do for them at the expense of the rates and taxes what they ought long ago to have done themselves out of profits reaped from

rent books, which, since the post-war scarcity of housing accommodation, have shown practically no "empties" and very few arrears compared with those of pre-war days.

#### Fifty—Fifty.

We hear very little about a new effort towards the "restoration of man's lost prestige," but in the *Daily Mirror* last week we read that the aim of this anti-feminist organization is to combat the "domination" of the weaker sex, and to secure that in the future control of the country, men shall play at least a prominent part as women. The proposed extension of the franchise is, we are told, the last straw. With sufficient members of the new League it is hoped to limit their powers to a fifty-fifty basis. "Women will lead the country, intentionally or unintentionally to war, just as in America women were responsible for Prohibition." Such exaggerated wails from those possessed of the "Turk Complex" bring some welcome light relief to our work for a fifty-fifty citizenship, but now and again we get a nasty knock when we come up against anti-feminism in a more hurtful form. Speaking of the astonishing and unexpected defeat of a woman candidate at the recent municipal elections, a correspondent writes: "From what I have learnt since November, a real old anti-woman prejudice had a great deal to do with the defeat! We have a long way still to go."

#### A Swedish Portent.

It was reported from Stockholm last week that Miss Marguerite Trangott, who has for some time practised as a barrister in the High Courts, has now been appointed as a judge. She is, we believe, the first woman to achieve this distinction in Sweden, and we offer her our hearty congratulations.

#### German Women Advance.

Dr. Anna Selig, of Berlin, who visited Belfast recently at the invitation of the Student Christian Movement, complains that in the British Isles we have an inadequate idea of the great advance made by the German women since the war. The position of the pre-war "Hansfrau" has been among the institutions most profoundly influenced by the Revolution. The salient features of this advance are the presence of no less than 40 women members of the Reichstag, while in two Government Departments women act as "Councillor to the Minister." Behind this an Equal Franchise for men and women voting at 21, vigorously used by the women, ensures a solid feminist influence in political life. Meanwhile, in the professions women are making certain fields their own. Women lawyers are concentrating on women's legal problems, women doctors on the diseases of women, while "social service is exclusively in the hands of women."

#### A Woman President.

A correspondent writes: Frau Olga Rudel-Zeynek, a former Member of Parliament, became President of the Federal Council of Austria on the 1st of December. This Council is the second chamber of the Austrian Parliament, and though it is not of such importance as the National Council its proceedings influence politics and State administration. It is for the first time in the history of the women's movement that a woman is presiding over a Parliamentary body. Frau Olga Rudel-Zeynek was not elected, but as her name heads the list of the Styrian Federal Councillors, the dignity of the Presidency was automatically bestowed on her. She will hold this position for six months. In her former Parliamentary activity she advocated many Bills in the interest of women and children and she was successful in getting Bills providing for the prohibition of the sale of alcohol to juveniles and also for the securing of legally fixed payments of allowances for illegitimate children, forsaken wives, and old parents on to the Statute book. Olga Rudel-Zeynek is known in the international women's movement, as she attended the Paris Congress of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, giving an account of the activity of women in the Austrian Parliament.

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

### FEDERATED MALAY STATES AND STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

In 1924 the Colonial Office appointed an Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene to advise the Secretary of State on questions connected with venereal disease and public morality. In 1925 Mr. Amery referred to this body a draft Ordinance, or Bill, from Singapore which had been adopted by the Governor and Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements and which came to the Colonial Office for sanction. This draft Bill provided that all brothels and prostitutes should be licensed by the Government, the women subjected to weekly medical examination (a woman was to be declared a "prostitute" who had once had intercourse for gain), diseased women were to be driven out of the brothels, have their licence withdrawn and cease practising prostitution. Their licence would be given back to them when cured.

The Advisory Committee reported most strongly against this scheme and made many excellent recommendations, thoroughly Abolitionist in character. It condemned specially the periodic compulsory examination of prostitutes and gave the most clear-cut exposition of the medical futility of such examinations. In particular, it urged that all the "recognized" or tolerated brothels, allowed by the Government to exist openly in certain areas, should be "abolished at the earliest practicable date."

That was in 1925. What has happened since? The Colonial Office Advisory Committee's Report appears to have been ignored except in two points. An extended scheme of free Venereal Disease treatment has been instituted and the illumination of the brothel streets has been somewhat decreased. The first is good; the second does not matter much either way. But something else has been done; something which deliberately flouts the whole letter and spirit of the Advisory Committee's Report. The measure it specifically condemned has been made law in the Federated Malay States, and the Straits Settlements, except that at present the examination is not "periodic." The following clause has been passed by the Local Government of these two Colonies (they are under the same Governor) and has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Amendment to the *Protection of Women and Girls Act*.

"Where the Protector has reason to suspect that any individual prostitute is suffering from contagious disease he may require her to be examined by a Government Medical Officer at such time and at such place as the Protector thinks fit, and any prostitute so required who refuses or neglects to attend at the time and place specified or to submit herself for examination, shall, on conviction before a Magistrate, be guilty of an offence, and be liable to a fine not exceeding 500 dollars, or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding three months."

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has been directly concerned for over forty years with these Crown Colonies, and in 1887 it got the Contagious Diseases Acts abolished there. Unfortunately it was not equally successful in getting rid of the recognized brothels but it has kept up a constant agitation for their abolition and the Report of the Advisory Committee seemed to indicate a coming victory in that direction. It was obvious that this Report would not be at all pleasing to

### THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WAR.

The recent declarations of a famous professional soldier and of certain influential representatives of the Press in favour of peace and disarmament have made one wonder who are the persons or classes of persons who still desire war and so prevent that reduction of armaments which public opinion clearly demands at the present day. We are told that even the manufacturers of armaments, the class of persons most obviously interested in the continuance of war, do not wish for war, but only for the threat of it. As to rulers and statesmen, it cannot be that those on whom the strain and anxiety of war and post-war conditions fall most heavily can wish their nations to be plunged into warfare, which most probably will spell economic and financial disaster.

Since there seems to be no important section of our own nation (or probably of any other nation) which consciously desires war at the present day, we must surmise that war, when it occurs, is the result of an unconscious desire in the mind of certain persons or of the nation as a whole. The unconscious psyche of a nation, just as much as the unconscious psyche of an individual, may desire conditions quite the opposite of those desired by the conscious mind. The only explanation of war can be that it is brought about by an unconscious motive operating in the minds of many individuals and so producing an unconscious national motive tending towards war.

We must ask, then, why a condition of warfare should be unconsciously desired by any individuals or should be the object

of the Government of the Straits Settlements which has been trying for years to get back the powers, taken from it by the repeal of the C. D. Acts, for the compulsory medical examination of the women in the recognized brothels. These efforts have not been successful because every time a proposal came up the A.M.S.H. bombarded it with irrefutable facts, asked questions in Parliament, made the details public and generally kept the matter in the limelight until the proposal was defeated. On one occasion the Anti-Slavery Society gave the first warning of danger, on another it was the then Bishop of Singapore, but always hitherto the information, if coming from others, has been passed over to the A.M.S.H. and that society has dealt faithfully and successfully with it.

But this time the A.M.S.H. is meeting with some opposition of a rather curious kind in its efforts to bring the facts to public knowledge. Attempts are being made to delete from resolutions expressions of censure on the new Ordinance. It is hinted that the A.M.S.H. does not know the facts, does not appreciate the difficulties, and would be well advised to leave this matter in the hands of those who know better. Judging by a pamphlet just issued by the British Social Hygiene Council, the matter should be quietly left to the Colonial Office, the Government of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, and the British Social Hygiene Council. The pamphlet says:—

"This Council is convinced that there is no truth in the allegation that this 'new legislation is a further attempt to secure healthy women for the tolerated houses.'"

"While not expressing opinion as to whether the powers embodied in the Amendment to the Protection of Women and Girls' Act is the method best adopted to meet the difficulties, the Imperial Committee of the British School Hygiene Council are convinced that they are, as is indicated in the Governor's dispatch covering the Amending Bill to the Colonial Office, designed to overcome an existing difficulty during an interim period."

"We regard it as unfortunate that the action of those in the Colonies and Dependencies who are wholeheartedly working towards the end desired by all concerned, i.e. the abolition of the commercialized interest in vice and the reduction of venereal disease, should be hampered by criticism impugning their motives."

It would be helpful to your readers in forming a right judgment if the B.S.H.C. would give some information on points arising out of the above extracts from its pamphlet:—

(1) If this new legislation is *not* an attempt to secure healthy women for the tolerated houses, what *is* it intended to do?

(2) Where, in the Governor's Dispatch, is it indicated that the compulsory powers given in the new Enactment are "designed to overcome an existing difficulty during an interim period"? (italics mine).

(3) What exactly *are* the "motives", which must not be impugned, which have led the Government of the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements to enact a law placing a penalty of £100 on the prostitute who refuses a compulsory medical examination?

ALISON NEILANS.

of an unconscious national desire. The answer is that there are certain advantages which accrue to the individual from a state of war: advantages which, although not strikingly apparent at first sight, have a considerable psychological importance in the history of individuals and of nations.

First, the individual finds, at a time of national emergency, that he is possessed of certain energies of which he was not conscious previously, but which he finds available for use as the result of the extra stimulus supplied by the national danger and the desire for a national victory. His fighting instinct is called into play, which before existed only as a reserve force, with unknown potentiality. His love of risk and adventure is also given a chance of satisfaction, which hitherto lay latent. These extra energies give him a sense of strength and well-being, which make him capable of heroic conduct to meet the unusual circumstances. This is true not only of the actual combatants in a war, but also of the men and women who "keep the home fires burning" and of those who perform dangerous services in non-combatant units. In those persons who possess a temperamental love of adventure and danger, there exists, no doubt, a strong unconscious desire for such external conditions as shall provide an outlet for and shall stimulate these feelings.

Secondly, the life of a soldier supplies a discipline in the way of hardship and danger which some minds welcome as a road to the strengthening of character. If we look at war as a factor in

the evolution of the race in the past, we see that war, besides being an economic necessity, was a discipline which helped to build up the human character, to make man capable of overcoming difficulties, of despising danger and of winning self-confidence by the conquest of a foe. Moreover, as a fighter or a soldier, there was little danger of a man giving way to his personal feelings of fear, since the external discipline forced him into line with the courageous attitude of the fighting unit. His own pride was one with the pride of the army to which he belonged. Such an external discipline, whether of circumstances or authority, is still unconsciously desired by many persons who shirk the arduous task of self-discipline and who prefer the simplification of life which obtains under military conditions to the infinitely difficult adjustments demanded by the ordinary social environment.

Thirdly, we must remember that deep in the unconscious mind of every human being there is a desire for death, for peace, and for freedom from effort: a desire the greater, the more difficult the circumstances of life and the greater the power urge driving the individual on to achievement. No work of any value or importance can be accomplished by any human being without infinite labour and without endless expenditure of energy for the overcoming of resistances both from within and from without. In each individual there is a part of the personality which rebels against the task of living, as far as life means effort and initiative, and which longs for a state of sleep, a dreamland where desires are satisfied without effort, and for that peace beyond dreams which is the nearest approach we know to death. This desire for peace, perfectly satisfied only by death, is of course unknown to the conscious mind of the average man or woman, who would reject such a motive if it came to them in conscious form. But it exists in a deep layer of the unconscious mind and can find its satisfaction in a time when death offers itself in the form of an heroic deed or sacrifice, condoning the escape afforded from the hard reality of life, as it does in time of war.

Such being the unconscious motives which make for war in the minds of individuals and operate to produce a war mentality in a nation, we must consider how a change of mental attitude can be effected. This can only be done by bringing the unconscious motives out into the light and making them part of the conscious attitude. In this way we raise the level of the unconscious motives, for as long as these were unrecognized, they worked on a primitive level, which did not correspond with the conscious ideal of the individual. We must remember, however, that every motive possesses driving force and that the energy of these unconscious motives is needed for the aims that we are pursuing in our conscious life. There is abundant scope for every motive force in life if our aims are sufficiently large and constructive. If, for example, we have such an aim before us as the "building up of a new civilization", there will be every opportunity for satisfying our love of adventure or our desire for excitement and risks. Any pioneer work, whether in the realms of thought or action, demands such qualities as these, for it is absolutely necessary that the pioneer should not be afraid of consequences. He must be ready to burn his boats and to advance without support into unknown territory. Any constructive work, moreover, national or social, active or intellectual, is in itself a discipline, demanding from the individual all those qualities of endurance, courage, and patience which are needed for overcoming a foe or for obtaining that mastery of technique and material and that power of adjustment to surroundings which are required for the accomplishment of any socially creative work. Then, again, if the individual has a sufficiently inspiring aim, he or she will have the energy for living "heroically" instead of dying "heroically" and will be capable of making their dreams an actual reality. No longer living in a divorced state from the "dream self" and consequently liable to be submerged by it, they will remain in conscious contact with the inner self and be able to translate its wealth into objects of external value.

Only in this way, by the conscious recognition and the sublimation of the unconscious motives making for war, will a peace mentality be realized either in the individual or in the nation.

ALICE RAVEN.

**A CHRISTMAS GIFT you must give yourself and your friends.**

"The Life and Work of Josephine Butler," specially written for her centenary by Dame Millicent Fawcett. Ready 17th December. Price, in paper cover, 1s. 8d., in cloth cover, 2s. 9d. post free.

Order now from The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, 14 Great Smith Street.

**EQUAL FRANCHISE.  
"THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY."**

The following Unionist Members of Parliament have during the last two weeks signified their support of the Prime Minister's proposals with regard to Equal Franchise:—

Falls, Sir C. . . . .	Fermanagh and Tyrone.
Lamb, J. Q. . . . .	Stone.
Merriman, F. B. . . . .	Rusholme.
Milne, J. S. W. . . . .	Kidderminster.
Pringle, J. A. . . . .	Fermanagh and Tyrone.
Simms, Right Rev. Dr. J. M.	Down.
Smith, R. W. . . . .	Aberdeen Central.

**STREET OFFENCES INQUIRY COMMITTEE.**

This Committee met again in public on 1st and 2nd December. Mr. Millar Craig and Mr. Duke explained the Scottish solicitation laws and went into Scottish procedure in considerable detail. It was interesting to mark the change in the Chairman's handling of these witnesses compared with his close examination of the English authorities when giving evidence. With the latter, while most courteous at all times, he, by well-directed questions, made the existing law and procedure look ridiculous—as it is. But he appeared to handle the Scottish witnesses very differently. Mr. Macmillan gave the impression of treating these rather as though his clients were in the witness box. All the admirable devices of the Scottish procedure to winnow out charges not well-founded were brought out clearly, and it seemed as if in Scotland no person could ever be wrongly convicted. Yet one's mind would wander sceptically to the case of Oscar Slater and the recent case of Miss McArthur, of Glasgow, who in February last won £300 damages from the Glasgow police, for wrongful arrest as a "common prostitute". Mr. Millar Craig evidently had never heard of Miss McArthur and could not recollect any complaint or proved injustice since the case of Miss Jessie Brown in 1907.

Later we had Mr. Cairns and Mr. Mead, London stipendiaries; the latter a garrulous old gentleman of 81 who does not like women police. Everyone likes Mr. Cairns, but he rarely deals with solicitation charges and could not tell us much of direct import, except that many East End couples, happily married, begin their courtship by "acosting" each other in the streets; the East End does not bother about formal introductions.

Mr. Mead is rather likeable, too, in his own way, partly because he is such a well-preserved specimen of the current ideas of 60 years ago, and partly because he has a childlike delight and pleasure in enunciating obsolete theories. But on one item Mr. Mead was unfortunately not altogether obsolete. He was correctly voicing the opinion of some thousands of people, probably of the majority, when he said: "You must have prostitution in a civilized State, but you must keep it down. It would be a very calamitous thing if there was an attempt to put an end to prostitution. It would drive it into other channels. It would drive it into private homes. You cannot ignore the strongest instinct in human nature. It would lead to the most horrible offences." Replying to Miss Fry, Mr. Mead added later that it would be disastrous if "these women" were not in the streets but that they must not be allowed to be a nuisance or, by their presence, embarrass "modest women". Afterwards, Mr. Mead told us of the efforts of the court missionary to reform "these women" and how he helped to give effect to her suggestions. But if prostitution is necessary and "these women" are needed in the streets, why all these efforts to reform them? If such men accept the doctrine of the double standard and the inevitable creation of a class of "prostitutes" so as to keep other women "modest", why do they not also accept the logical consequences of that doctrine, namely, that if "these women" were to reform in any considerable number it would be necessary to compel others to enter the ranks. The court missionary from Mr. Mead's court was next heard at a session to which the public were not admitted. Perhaps she referred to some of these points!

**REVOLUTION AT THE JUNIOR CARLTON.**

It has been announced in the Press that the committee of the Junior Carlton Club will be faced this month with a proposal emanating from certain of its members that their wives and immediate female relatives be allowed to join as "associate members." The associate members would, it was pointed out to a Press representative, "be accommodated in a separate building." Thus the members of the Junior Carlton would not be required to mix with them. Even thus, the question is a delicate one, and the issue, we understand, is uncertain.

**THE LETTERS OF GERTRUDE BELL.**

Everybody knows by now who Miss Gertrude Bell was and what she did. There is little need to repeat that she was mountaineer, scholar, archaeologist, explorer, botanist, administrator, and expert in all these ways; that her life had become legendary before she died and that her memory is an inspiration. We are all aware of her and we are all grateful to her and we have good reason for it. Her work was romantic, stirring, her own instinctive choice, and for the most part set against scenes so arid that the human spirit is stirred even by the thought of venturing amongst them. In the second place, hers were no sterile adventures. She was not only marvellously equipped with intelligence, endurance, and enthusiasm, but possessed of a devotion which made her talents, wherever employed, flower into achievement and public service.

This book, consisting almost entirely of her letters to her own family, every feminist should read. It is extraordinarily readable, well written, but not too well written, vivid, exciting, loyal. By doing this, by taking all that she has to offer, learning all that she teaches, and according in return our freest admiration, we can best meet the fact that Miss Bell was a leading anti-suffragist who both worked and spoke against the cause of women. The ardour sprang from her temperament; the opinions must have seemed to her the merest common sense. Feminism is, at root, democratic. It argues a belief in hidden virtues, in the moral and spiritual value of the humble, the thwarted, and the oppressed. It is a cry for opportunity. Gertrude Bell had never been thwarted, and no opportunities were lacking to her. Happily for the world her great gifts were not only recognized and fostered, but she was born to a position which enabled her to know whom she pleased, go where she pleased, and spend whatever, of time or money or energy, was needful. Neither her ascents in the Alps, when more than once the whole party would have lost their lives but for her fortitude and presence of mind, nor her journeys in the desert, alone but for her servants, nor her friendships with Arabs chiefs, with scholars of all nations, with leading public servants—neither her Roman milestones nor Persian poetry, would have influenced this brilliant assured and outward-turning mind in favour of a passionate, assertive, and inward-springing creed like feminism. Belief in the undistinguished average woman seems often to come hardly to women who have been freed for some reason from the shackles which confine their sex. Miss Bell at least had for her reluctance a reason which some of her colleagues lacked, her admitted many-sided, dazzling, mental, and physical superiority. Moreover, to judge her merely from these letters, there was little distinctively feminine about her. They show a deep affection for her family, but that is hardly a woman's monopoly. She liked to be suitably and becomingly dressed, but so do men—in fact, the passages in which she describes the clothes she wants sent out to her are some of the most masculine in the book. The only trait to which one can point, claiming it as possibly a woman's peculiar gift, is the range of her appreciation and enjoyment. She was able to specialize and sustain her mental powers in a way more often found among men, but she did not, as they so often do, specialize her life as well. She remained interested in everything, plastic and accessible to every new impression, and she delighted in it all and set it all down. That is what makes these volumes everybody's book.

A. B. W.

**IN THE WILDERNESS.**

In an elegant little book published at 3s. 6d. by the Hogarth Press under the title *Early Socialist Days*, Mr. Stephen Saunders tells the story of the British Socialist movement at a time when the propagandist activities of the Social Democratic Federation and the early discussions of the Fabian Society were determining the lines of its future progress. For those who, like most readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, have propagandist memories of their own, he provides a pleasant two hours or so of personal reminiscence. We too know something of the life of the dishevelled and impecunious branch office, of the street corner, and the inverted orange-box, of the inspiring flight of a harassed leader across our small horizon. Socialist propaganda in Battersea during the early '90's appears to have been in its daily and weekly experiences, not wholly unlike suffrage propaganda everywhere during the decade which preceded the war. They were visionaries. We were visionaries. They have since seen a Labour Government in office. We have got the vote. It is thus altogether pleasant to recapitulate old times.

M. D. S.

Ernest Benn, Ltd. 2s.

**A DISCUSSION OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.**

It is sometimes said that women, as compared with men, spend a disproportionate amount of time discussing personal relationships. And so, indeed, they do. There is only one other sex generalization that can be made with equal confidence, which is that if a barometer is placed in the hall the men of the household will tap it when they come down to breakfast and the women will not. Discussion of personal relationships may take various forms. In some circles it conforms to the simple "she said to him" . . . type. In other circles it involves an almost scientific analysis of complex and sublimation. And this, on the whole, is greatly to the credit of women. For personal relationships and the incidents of birth, marriage, friendship, and death which govern them, are certainly matters of infinitely greater import than that endless preoccupation with games at first or second-hand which colours male conversation.

But there is a necessity for moderation in all things. The discussion of personal relationships may pall at times—and of this fact we became conscious as we pursued from cover to cover the fortunes and misfortunes of Beatrice Seymour's *Three Wives* (Chapman & Hall, 7s. 6d.). We felt that these people talked too much about one another. The men were as much involved as the women. When they were not actually talking about one another they were circuitously analysing their own relations to one another. Our author may reply that some of them had work to do, were indeed interested in their work, and that anyway they were no more preoccupied with personal relationships than the inmates of an Ibsen household. Our answer is that this may be so—yet nevertheless the book remains in our minds as 364 pages of close and clotted discussion of personal relationships. And the trouble is that when we ourselves indulge in such entertainment at first hand, when the subjects of it are our own flesh and blood relatives or acquaintances, it has greater fascination as a pastime than when our author does it for us at the expense of persons who, while they strangely, almost photographically, resemble the denizens of our live world, are not actually of it.

Some reviewers make the best of their victims. Others make the worst of them. In saying what we have said about *Three Wives*, we have pursued the latter policy. That being so, our readers may surmise that it is really not at all a bad book. Indeed, any woman who is for the moment at a loss for somebody to talk to about somebody, will be well advised to acquire this book as a very adequate stop gap. It is, at any rate, impossible (at least we found it so) to embark upon Miss Seymour's account of the Halsey family and its matrimonial and emotional adventures without desiring to follow their fortunes as far as she will allow us.

M. D. S.

**EDITH PALLISER: IN MEMORIAM.**

I wish I could help our younger supporters to realize what Edith Palliser was to us in the early years of our struggle for votes for women. Young, beautiful, full of the joy of life, seeing the amusing side of things as well as their serious side, and with a much wider experience than most of us of the sportsman's life, riding, hunting, shooting, in a word forming part of the jolly outdoor life of the Ireland of forty years ago, portrayed in the Irish R.M. and the dear immortal stories of Violet Martin and Ebone Somerville. When she first joined us and became our secretary, we occupied as our office a very pretty little Queen Anne house in Great College Street. She came to us like a mountain breeze, purifying the air and making us feel that everything that had life and breath should use them to promote our cause.

We had another dear Irish secretary about the same time, Helen Blackburn. She was the greatest possible contrast to Edith Palliser; but they became warm friends and co-operated loyally in work for our great cause. When I hear the bassoon part of the last movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, I always think of Helen Blackburn: and the heavenly outburst of joy and hope at the end of the same movement reminds me of Edith Palliser. The end came at last very suddenly; the doctor had thought her better, and said he would not come again for a day or two. She was cheery and happy, chatting to her nurse, whom she loved, when quite suddenly she passed away with no pain and no sign that she knew that her end had come. She did splendid work in connection with the Dr. Elsie Inglis Hospitals in Serbia during the war, and kept her interest in these to the end of her life. She will be sorely missed.

MILlicent G. FAWCETT.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

## A Unique Event.

An unusual incident in connection with the election of Aldermen, which led to the unopposed return of the first woman member of the Mossley (Yorkshire) Town Council, occurred last month. The facts as reported in the local press are as follows.

On 9th November, the retiring Mayor, whose fourth successive year as Mayor coincided with the end of his aldermanic term, was defeated by the Council in the election of aldermen, and for the time being, his eighteen years' successive service in connection with the Town Council came to a sudden and unexpected end.

The event, which apparently was due to party political or personal feeling, came as a great surprise to the citizens of Mossley. Mr. Bottomley even did not know, so it is stated, until five minutes before the investiture of the new mayor that steps were being taken to oppose his election as alderman.

The elevation of two Councillors to the aldermanic bench caused two vacancies in the Council, and necessitated two by-elections. For the vacant seats the ex-Mayor, Mr. Bottomley, and his wife were nominated. An attempt was made by the party which has brought about the ex-Mayor's defeat to find a candidate to oppose the ex-Mayoress, but without success. Only one man could be found willing to come forward, and he withdrew his nomination before polling day, the result being that the ex-Mayor and Mayoress were returned unopposed to the Town Council. The event which we imagine is almost, if not quite, unique in the history of local government elections, roused much local interest, which was increased by the fact that the ex-Mayoress, as well as her husband, was a candidate for one of the vacancies and was likely to be opposed. Though it was well known on the Monday before the date of the poll, that the opponent of Mrs. Bottomley had withdrawn from the contest, a number of people came forward on the evening of that day to offer their services to Mrs. Bottomley, and an enthusiastic meeting was held. After the chairman had pointed out the altered circumstances which had arisen since the meeting in support of Mrs. Bottomley's candidature had been advertised, Mrs. Bottomley was warmly congratulated by speakers and workers on her unopposed election. In returning thanks, Mrs. Bottomley stated that now she had accepted civic service, she intended to work, and to do what seemed best in the interests of the community. There was much associated with the work of the Council which required the help of women, and she hoped that "it would not be long before she would have a woman colleague on the Council." Mrs. Bottomley also expressed the earnest hope that the town's affairs might be carried on harmoniously. "Members are sent to the Council," she added, "to work for the town," and she trusted that "personal and party feeling would not be allowed to prevent people working together for the best interests of the community."

## A Veteran Woman Councillor.

On 16th November, there passed away an aged and well-known character in West Hartlepool and Seaton Carew, Councillor Miss Elizabeth Vitty. In 1921, when she was well over 70 years of age, Miss Vitty stood for and secured a seat on the West Hartlepool Town Council. Three years later she lost her seat. Undaunted by defeat, she came forward again in 1925, and was returned to the Council. Miss Vitty, who was exceptionally active, both in mind and body, took an active part in the work of the Council to the end of her life. Her last public appearance was on 9th November, when the Mayor of West Hartlepool was re-elected.

## Election Experiment in Leeds.

"A common platform, and an orderly hearing for the candidates" was, we learn from the local Press, the outstanding feature of a public meeting held on 19th November in Leeds, in connection with a municipal by-election. The candidates in what was a three-cornered fight, consented to appear on a common platform and to place their views before the audience. The experiment was made in consequence of a suggestion which appeared in the *Yorkshire Post*. All three candidates and their agents co-operated to make the meeting a success. In order that each party might have a fair share of accommodation, admission was by ticket. Great interest was shown by the public in the experiment, the hall in which the meeting was held being crowded and the hope was freely expressed that it might give a lead to other parts of the country.

## QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

24th November, 1927.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—*Mr. T. Williams* asked the Minister of Health what was the cost of administering the National Health Insurance Funds for the insurance year ended July, 1927, and the percentage this constituted of the total expenditure.

*Sir K. Wood*: The audited accounts of approved societies and insurance committees are made up only in respect of calendar years, and the cost of administration for the insurance (contribution) year ended July, 1927, cannot be stated. For the calendar year 1926 the total cost (including cost of central administration) was £5,060,000, constituting 13½ per cent of the expenditure.

*Mr. Williams*: Will the hon. Gentleman refer the particulars to the Home Secretary so that he may consider the cost of administration with regard to workmen's compensation?

30th November, 1927.

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (REPORT).—*Colonel Day* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when the second section of the League of Nations Report on the traffic in women and children will be published.

*Sir A. Chamberlain*: Unless for any reason the Council of the League decides otherwise, Part II of the Report will be published immediately after the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations, which takes place next month.

*Colonel Day*: Can the right hon. Gentleman say why this second Section has been suppressed so long?

*Sir A. Chamberlain*: I take exception to the word "suppressed." The second Section dealt with the facts concerning the inquiries held in particular countries, and it was thought a matter of ordinary courtesy to the Governments of these countries to give them an opportunity of making any observations they want before that part of the Report was published. I myself as rapporteur, proposed an earlier publication than will now take place, but it was pointed out by another member of the Council, who represents a State not immediately concerned, that some of the Powers who were concerned would not have time to reply if that earlier date was fixed, and accordingly the present arrangement was made by the Council.

*Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy*: Is it not a fact that we have a perfectly clean record in the matter?

*Sir A. Chamberlain*: There is nothing in Part I of the Report, which has been published, or in Part II which reflects on the conduct of the administration of this country.

1st December, 1927.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—*Major Kindersley* asked the Home Secretary whether he can state, assuming the existing Parliamentary franchise to be extended to women upon the same terms as men, how many of the electors would be males and how many females.

*Sir W. Joynson-Hicks*: On the basis of the most recent available figures it has been estimated that the total electorate for Great Britain will approximately comprise 12,250,000 men and 14,500,000 women.

*Sir F. Hall*: Assuming that the proposals with regard to women of 21 are carried, we shall have about 2,000,000 more women voting.

*Sir W. Joynson-Hicks*: If my hon. and gallant Friend had listened carefully to my answer, he would have found that there would be 2,500,000 more.

*Viscountess Astor*: May I ask the Home Secretary whether he thinks justice has anything to do with sex. Will it make any difference?

*Mr. Speaker*: I do not think that arithmetic has any sex.

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Telephone: Victoria 6186.

QUEEN'S HALL DEMONSTRATION ON EQUAL FRANCHISE  
8th March, 1928, at 8 p.m.

We hope all those who can, will come to a preliminary practice of the songs to be sung at the great Franchise Demonstration. The practice will be held at 4 Barton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, on Thursday, 15th December. Miss Leaf has kindly placed her room at our disposal for the occasion. Readers of this paper will be glad to know that many groups have already been formed to practise the songs and we hope that others will do the same.

In order to indicate the positions of organizations in the hall, "name-boards" will be provided for any society who wishes to have one. Miss Helen Ward has kindly designed these "name-boards" which are very decorative and will greatly add to the spectacular side of the Demonstration. Will those Societies who require one kindly send 1s. to cover the cost at once to Miss Auld, from whom all particulars can be obtained. Tickets, a few at 5s. and 2s. 6d., all the rest 1s. (12 for 10s.).

## CONFERENCE ON VOIDABILITY OF MARRIAGES UNDER THE LEGAL MINIMUM MARRIAGE AGE.

At the small meeting of representatives of Organizations referred to in these columns last week, the majority of those present agreed, in the event of the legal minimum marriage age being raised to 16, to recommend that marriages up to the age of 14 should be automatically void, and those between the ages of 14 and 16 voidable. It was also agreed to urge that it should be a statutory obligation on Registrars to inspect and be satisfied as to the authenticity of birth certificates of young persons coming to be married. In the meantime the National Council of Women has expressed the desire to call a conference of its own Affiliated Societies to discuss the points. We have therefore asked the Home Office to postpone the proposed consultation with the small committee, which was to have taken place on Tuesday, 6th December. Immediately after the conference called by the National Council of Women, the N.U.S.E.C. will call a conference of all Organizations represented at the Deputation to the Home Secretary, to ask their views. In the meantime an article on the subject will be published in THE WOMAN'S LEADER and reproduced as a leaflet.

## RESPONSE TO APPEAL SINCE 28th OCTOBER, 1927.

GUARANTEE FUND.	Amount promised per annum.		
	£.	s.	d.
Already published up to 28th October	908	13	0
Denman, Lady	10	0	0
*Hall, Mrs. Lawrence	10	0	0
*Herdman, Miss	5	0	0
Hubback, Mrs.	5	0	0
*Neilson, Miss (paid for 4 years)	5	0	0
	£929	8	0
Received and promised for one year.			
Already published up to 28th October	210	1	0
Berry, Miss Marian	10	0	0
Grindleford S. E. C.	1	4	6
*Hamilton, Mrs.	1	0	0
Holt, W.C.A.	1	1	0
*Jones, Dr. Harriet	5	0	0
Tuke, Miss M. J.	3	3	0
	£1,146	12	6

\* Responses to Liverpool W.C.A.'s Special Appeal.

## EQUAL FRANCHISE APPEAL.

Already published up to 28th October	336	9	7
Allan, Miss J.	1	0	0
Cambridge S.C.E.C.	1	0	0
National Council of Women (Holt and District Branch)	10	0	0
Nussey, Miss	5	0	0
Rathbone, Miss Eleanor F., C.C., J.P.	100	0	0
Simon, Mrs. E. D., C.C.	5	0	0
Sims, John M., M.P.	10	0	0
	£449	9	7

## NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

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Gresham, Mrs.	1	1	0
Grieve, Miss B. H.	5	0	0
Lockhart, Lady	10	0	0
Murray, Miss Jessie	1	0	0
Newman, Sir Robert, M.P.	10	0	0
Samuel, Miss Ida, J.P.	10	0	6
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## NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

## CARDIFF W.C.A.

On Tuesday, 22nd November, Mrs. Richards, senior woman magistrate for Cardiff, gave a very interesting account of the work of women magistrates, and outlined the spheres in which their services were of most value. She paid a warm tribute to the work of probation officers, and to the doctors and matron of the Cardiff Prison, and told some of her experience as a visiting magistrate there.

## CHESTER W.C.A.

A large meeting of this Association had the opportunity of hearing Mrs. Abbott (Chairman of the Open Door Council) give an able and inspiring address on Restrictive Legislation. Mrs. Abbott spoke of the progress which had been made towards equality in such instances as Divorce Laws, Married Women's Property, etc., and urged that an equal status between men and women could bring nothing but good both to women and to the community. Mrs. Abbott's address was much appreciated by an enthusiastic gathering.

## CROYDON W.C.A.

At a meeting of the North Ward of the Croydon W.C.A., Miss Hancock gave a very interesting address on "Bills before Parliament effecting Women and Children." Mrs. Wellman, chairman of the North Ward, presided over the meeting, which was well attended.

## EDINBURGH S.E.C.

Mrs. Rackham gave a very interesting and hopeful address on "Prisons of Great Britain" to a meeting of the Edinburgh S.E.C. The meeting was followed by an excellent discussion during which several members of the audience who had done social work connected with prisons described their experiences. The meeting was presided over by Dr. S. E. C. Mair, and Miss Chapman moved a warm vote of thanks.

## MARRIAGE AGE IN INDIA.

The *Morning Post* published recently a statement from their correspondent in India that His Highness the Thakore Sahib of Rajkot has passed a law in his State forbidding the marriage of boys under 20 and girls under 17 years of age. Rajkot is a flourishing State in the Bombay Presidency, and the Thakore Sahib rules with the assistance of a legislative Assembly elected on a universal franchise to all over 21 years of age. There are six women at present on this Assembly.

## THE JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY COMMITTEE.

Strong local Committees have been set up in Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Cambridge, and Bristol. In most instances the plan has been followed of calling a preliminary meeting with delegates from all organized Societies in the town and district from which has been formed a special Committee to carry out the celebrations. Many small meetings are being arranged which will lead up to a big central meeting, and in some towns a Cathedral service will also be held. We hope all secretaries of N.U.S.E.C. and W.C.A.'s will note this and kindly do likewise! All information and help may be obtained from the Organizer, Josephine Butler Centenary Committee, Orchard House, 14 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

DECEMBER 12. 3 p.m. Annual Business Meeting, to be followed by Mrs. Hubback, M.A. (Principal of Morley College), "Women and Adult Education."

## THE GUILDHOUSE.

DECEMBER 12. 5.45. Miss Sybil Thordike will give a reading of "Pompilia," from "The Ring and the Book." Chair, Miss Maude Royden.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

DECEMBER 13, 14, 15. Guildhall. Conference.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Wolverhampton W.C.A. DECEMBER 14. 7.45. Co-operative Hall, Stafford Street. Mrs. Blanco White, "Equal Franchise."

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Xmas Bargain List FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street,  
Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash;  
costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge  
suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description;  
parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—  
Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped  
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EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall  
Bridge Road, S.W. 1 (new address), requires and supplies  
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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston  
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