

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Town and Country Planning Act.

This Act obtained a triumphant second reading on the 15th April, all the parties recognizing that the time is long overdue when amendments to the present law should be made. Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Kingsley Wood, Mr. E. D. Simon, and Sir Hilton Young, and others whose names are distinguished in connection with the work for the improvement of our cities and the preservation of the countryside, all united in a paean of praise, spiced with very minor criticisms, most of which are Committee points. Mr. Simon gave a most interesting account of the state of affairs in Germany and America, showing how far in advance of this country they both were. He attributed the beauty and spacious planning of German cities partly to the better natural taste of the people, and partly to the system by which the Mayor is an expert official appointed for many years. In America, on the other hand, the town planning which has taken place has mainly been due to the influence of the realtors, who regard proper town planning as a business proposition.

Cinemas on Sunday.

Doubtless our readers are as divided as Members of Parliament on this subject, and will read with interest Cross Bench's description of the debate in the House of Commons on Monday of this week. Perhaps Sunday's weather influenced the decision a little, so far as M.P.s who happened to spend the day in London were concerned—April at its worst, with almost ceaseless rain and penetrating north wind. The Bill may emerge from Committee in a very changed form, but the principle will remain that, rightly or wrongly, the decision as to Sunday opening is one that must rest with local authorities.

The New Widows' Pensions Act.

The new Bill introduced by the Government to amend the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act deals with two points. A decision of the High Court had modified the meaning of the term "normal occupation" so that it no longer applies in cases in which a long period of inactivity caused by unemployment or any other reason has supervened. The effect of this decision has been to deny pensions to a great number of widows who were intended to benefit, and it is now proposed to give effect to the original intention. The second point deals with widows whose husbands, having been over 70 when the National Insurance Act first came into force in 1912, could not have been insured. It is now proposed to provide pensions for these widows, about 750 in number, subject to

their husbands having followed a normal occupation. The total additional charge on account of these widows up to 1936 will probably not exceed £70,000.

Women Police and the Cardiff Watch Committee.

At a recent very successful meeting of the Cardiff Women Citizens' Association, addressed by Lady Astor, a resolution urging the appointment of women police was carried, and in due course reached the Cardiff Watch Committee. In spite of the joint opposition of such influential persons as the Lord Mayor and the Chief Constable, better counsels prevailed, and it was agreed that the latter should make further inquiries on the subject and report to the Committee. It is difficult to understand the mentality of a Chief Constable who thinks that women police officers serve the same purpose as women probation officers, and that the existence of two excellent probation officers make women police unnecessary. In many respects Cardiff strikes an outsider as a model of municipal excellence, but the absence of women police in such a large and important seaport, beset with all the social problems inseparable from a seaport and the county town of a thickly populated area suggests that the Watch Committee lags behind the other committees of the City Council in progressive standards.

What Worcestershire Thinks To-day

At a recent discussion in the Education Committee of the Worcestershire County Council, some exception was taken to the fact that there were forty-four married women teachers on the list of appointments. The Director of Education pointed out, however, that the Committee had never passed a rule against the employment of married women. Their policy was to appoint the best qualified person, and they did not ask whether she was married or not. How refreshing, and how rare, to hear such views from an important official!

Principals of Mixed Schools.

A public meeting was held this week at Tottenham, the result of which we have not yet heard, by the National Union of Teachers, to protest against the action of the Tottenham Education Committee in replacing a woman who had been acting as principal at a mixed school during the illness of the head master, by a man. Readers will remember that at the recent Easter conference, the National Association of School Masters not only urged that boys should be under men teachers, but that mixed schools of girls and boys should be under men principals, and it is understood that the action of the Tottenham Education Committee is the result of a protest from this Association, their argument being that it is *infra dig* for men teachers to serve under a woman head. We commend to their notice the observation quoted above of the Director of Education for Worcestershire, that the principle of selection should be to appoint the best qualified person.

The Women's Freedom League.

The proceedings at the annual meeting of the Women's Freedom League under the presidency of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence gave no impression of folded hands. The presidential address was a rousing call to action in view of the determined attack which is being made on the position of women in the professional, business, and industrial world. A message was sent to the Prime Minister suggesting that the next Honours List would be a suitable occasion for the creation of the first woman Peer. Mr. Macdonald was reminded that, before he became Prime Minister, he had said that he would like to be the first Premier to create a woman Peer. Now is his opportunity. The appointment of the Select Committee of both Houses reminds us once more that no women are available from the Upper House to share in the discussion of a subject which so closely affects their welfare.

The Disarmament Campaign.

We print this week a welcome article on Women and Peace, from Miss Maude Royden, and in another column we announce a public meeting in connection with the campaign, at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, on Friday, 24th April, over which she will preside, when Viscount Cecil and Mr. Wickham Steed will be the chief speakers. We are glad to hear that signatures to the International Disarmament Declaration are pouring in. In Carnarvonshire and Anglesey, one in three of the adult population have signed. The Declaration is now in circulation in eighteen languages, including Chinese. Is every reader of this paper collecting signatures?

A Woman Director of Prisons.

The week-end papers reported the appointment of a woman Director-General of Prisons by the new Spanish Republican Government—Señorita Victoria Kent, who is said to have been the first woman lawyer in Spain, and has practised at the Bar for the last two years. It is too soon to know how the dramatic changes of the last ten days will affect the position of women, but Press correspondents from Madrid give the impression that they expect to gain much in influence and freedom.

Women and Electricity.

The Vice-Chairman of the Electricity Commissioners has done some very complimentary things to say about the Electrical Association for Women, at a recent luncheon held in connection with its annual meeting. In proposing the toast of the Association, he stated that it was one of the most important and efficient bodies with which the Commissioners were brought into contact. Lady Moir, who was elected the new President, moved a resolution which urged the electrical industry to consider the employment of trained women in connection with home service departments. She pointed out that the ignorance of the ordinary housekeeper of the possibilities of electricity could only be broken down by an adequate supply of trained demonstrators. Mrs. Wintringham replied to the toast "Electricity for the country woman," proposed by Sir Douglas Newton, M.P. We heartily congratulate this Association on the strong position it has achieved in its short period of existence.

Dame Adelaide Anderson and China.

We understand that Dame Adelaide Anderson has been requested by the International Labour Organization to pay another visit to China to assist in the introduction of a system of factory inspection. Dame Adelaide will find many friends when she goes East again. She knows China and she knows everything that is to be known about factory inspection.

The National Council of Women.

The annual meeting and conference of the National Council of Women takes place this year in June instead of October in Aberdeen. The preliminary programme promises a very full and interesting week. Three public meetings will be held, at which Mental Deficiency, the Nursing Profession, Rural Amenities, the Drama, Broadcasting, and the Cinema are the selected subjects. The list of resolutions is, as usual, a fairly accurate guide in the direction of women's interests. Disarmament, in view of the Conference in 1932, is covered by a resolution proposed by the Oldham branch. The grey city of Aberdeen is at its best in June sunshine, and the visits to Deeside, to Tarland, the home of Lady Aberdeen, and the excursions to the famous places in and near the town will be a great attraction, especially to those who are not familiar with its beauty.

Feminism in Brazil.

It is a far cry from Aberdeen to Brazil, where the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women holds its second "feminist congress" from 19th to 30th June of this year. This congress will cover a wide range of subjects, education, welfare of mothers and children, the economic emancipation of women in business and industry, social service covering women police, visiting nurses and treatment of offenders, and more definitely feminist subjects, such as equal franchise and equality in legislation. As at all similar gatherings of women, peace occupies an important place on the programme. But home life is not overlooked. There is to be a section dealing with modern appliances for simplifying and beautifying the home, accompanied by an exhibit of regional and national industries. We sincerely hope that a British representative may be found to go to Rio de Janeiro.

A Notable Success in West Sussex.

The Hon. Lady Johnston, O.B.E., has been elected to the West Sussex County Council, by a majority of 215, to fill a vacancy consequent on the election of the sitting member as an alderman. About 50 per cent. of the electorate voted, and in one parish the percentage reached 75. Lady Johnston, who has been a Rural District Councillor for many years, is the eighth woman member of the Council. One hundred and ninety-three women are now serving on County Councils in England and Wales. We regret, however, in this connection, to learn that Miss F. T. Campbell has not been elected for the Meads Ward of the Eastbourne Town Council.

Wills and Intestacies Bill in Committee.

The Joint Select Committee on the Wills and Intestacy (Family Maintenance) Bill, starts its meetings on next Wednesday morning. It will probably meet every Wednesday in the House of Lords. On the first day evidence will probably be given by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and by Sir John Withers. The Chairman is Lord Thankerton, ex-Lord Advocate of Scotland.

A Safe and Money-making Hobby.

In the current number of *l'Égyptienne* Dr. A. Z. Abushaby urges women to take up bee-keeping in increasing numbers. A revolution in apiculture has come about through the possibility of obtaining bees *without stings* and free from disease, from Carniola in Jugo-Slavia. A picture showing two small children holding sections illustrates the extreme docility of these bees, which are said to be prolific honey producers, one colony under favourable conditions yielding not less than thirty pounds of honey annually. Another important point is to start with the right sort of hive. This, according to the doctor, is the standard international make *Langstrothe*, which is very economical, easier to use, and gives a better yield than any other kind of hive. The first international conference organized by the "League of the Bee Kingdom" is to take place in Cairo this month, and has the active support of Madame Hoda Charawi Pacha, President of the Feminist Union of Egypt. Dr. Abushady knows England well, and in 1919 founded the Apis Club and the periodical the *Bee World*, now edited by Miss Annie D. Bitts, B.Sc.

Lincolnshire's Woman Solicitor.

Miss Edith Elfrida Mary Bell has passed the final examination for the Incorporated Law Society and now has the honour of being the only woman solicitor in the county. Miss Bell is a descendant of a legal family. Her great grandfather, Mr. W. D. Bell, started a legal practice in the town in 1825.

The Domestic Workers' Charter.

In preparation for the National Conference of Labour Women at Blackpool next June, a questionnaire on domestic service was issued some time ago. The replies to the question dealing with its unpopularity include long hours, lack of freedom, loneliness, and the sense of inferior status.

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.

THE SIX POINT GROUP
(by arrangement with The London Theatre Company and MAURICE BROWNE and JOSE LEVY)
PRESENT at the
LITTLE THEATRE, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2
"HAPPY and GLORIOUS"
By
WILFRID WALTER
(First produced at the Gate Theatre Studio) with
WILFRID WALTER and MIRIAM ADAMS
on
WEDNESDAY, 6th MAY, at 2.30 p.m.
Tickets can be obtained from the Secretary, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.
Prices: £1/1/0, 12/-, 8/6, 5/9, 3/6 and 2/4.

THE CENSUS, 1921-1931.

On Sunday, 26th April, the fourteenth British census will take place. Thanks to the efforts of the B.B.C. and the Press, average householders know much more of the history and objects of this great sociological event than in past years, and every effort has been made to procure their intelligent participation in this national stocktaking. There are many reasons which make the census of 1931 of greater importance than any of its predecessors. We are passing through a time of exceptional strain and anxiety, and accurate knowledge of the condition of the people is essential. A few weeks hence the first interim report will be issued with the population figures of the whole country, and gradually the more complicated figures relating to marriage, housing, and classification of the population will be available.

It may perhaps be useful to consider some of the results of the last census, ten years ago, in order to be in a position for us to appreciate the facts which 1931 will reveal. For this purpose we select those relating to subjects likely to interest our own readers, beginning, of course, with figures for the population.

The total population of Great Britain in 1921 was, to be precise, 42,769,000, of which roughly 22,000,000 were women and 20,000,000 men. This represented an increase of 5 per cent. over the total for 1911. What will it be to-day? In 1921, Professor Carr Saunders tells us in his book, *Social Structure of England and Wales*, from which the facts of this article are derived, that children are scarcer than they were thirty years before. "As a community we are, so far as years count, less youthful than we were." Are we right in fearing that as a community we are still older, and children still scarcer in 1931?

Perhaps housing is the subject to which most people look forward in the forthcoming census returns. The census is, of course, our chief source of information, and will provide the exact facts that are so urgently wanted at the present time—facts as to the adequacy or the reverse of the last ten years' output of houses under different Housing Acts, facts as to overcrowding, but not, of course, information as to structural or sanitary conditions and the relation between income and rent.

Such valuable and important social data must be procured from private surveys, but the figures released by the census will give the necessary skeleton of irrefutable facts which can be brought to life by more detailed investigation. We suggest that women's organizations, or other bodies of interested citizens, should use the interval before the new figures are available in ascertaining the position of their locality at the last census.

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

The first week of Parliament after the Easter recess has been one of stir and excitement. It began with two days mainly devoted to the subject of housing, though several other subjects of great interest were touched on in the discussion of the Ministry of Health's estimates, such as the arrangements in casual wards, the ineptness of some of the training schemes for unemployed persons, the snags in public assistance, etc. Mr. Greenwood was roughly handled by Sir Kingsley Wood and Mr. E. D. Simon, who were able to show how paltry was the actual, and even the promised output of houses under the new Act in comparison with the rosy picture painted by the Minister. Miss Lawrence's reply was vigorous and skilful, but she gives the impression that her bump of loyalty (if phrenologists know such a thing) is even more remarkably developed than her mathematical faculty, and that it makes her blind to deficiencies in her Chief and her Department which she would be the first to recognize if she sat on the opposite bench. The pair of them were able to sail into smooth waters again on Wednesday, when they brought forward their Town Planning Bill—a measure blessed by speakers of all parties, which secured its second reading without a division. The strongest criticism on it, that it did not make adequate provision for satellite towns, evidently went home and did the Government a service in providing it with something new to promise when it had to meet the Vote of Censure next day.

That much anticipated day of the censure debate began in an atmosphere of black and lowering clouds, rumbles of thunder, and sharp showers. But the real storm never broke. It melted away after a few waves of the wand by the Welsh Wizard, who had summoned the storm and who, his purpose served (whatever

A subject relevant to our programme of feminist reforms upon which the census throws light is the distribution of occupations according to sex. It will probably surprise many people to learn that no other occupation even approaches private domestic service in its numbers of employees. The next highest is cotton weaving, but the relative figures, speaking in terms of thousands, are 1,005 as against 245, or, if cotton carding and spinning be included, 362. The numbers of women in traditionally men's occupations are relatively small indeed. It is perhaps interesting to note that one of the highest is farming (*not* including fruit or poultry), which, speaking again in thousands, showed 66 women as compared to 899 men. Up to date figures of women in industry and facts as to their distribution will be tremendously interesting to-day. A fact pointed out as most significant is that nine out of ten of the female employing industries are connected with the manufacture, cleaning, and sale of clothing, or some form of personal service. The 1921 census was too soon after the War for normal returns, and in all probability the numbers of women in any but domestic or "personal service" occupations will be even smaller.

If we turn to the figures relating to married women's work, it is illuminating to find in an article on women's work in the current number of the *Economic Journal* that Professor Sargent Florence estimates that at the last census the proportion of married women engaged in "gainful occupation" was only 9.1 per cent. of the total number, including presumably the casual char. This figure falls as low as 3 to 4 per cent. in some places, such as the heavy industry areas. We invite our readers to predict the percentage to-day.

Statistics relating to professions will in all probability show some change. An interesting subdivision of the more and less highly trained professions shows that men predominate in the former and women in the latter category. Two out of every three highly skilled professional workers are men, and one is a woman. Among less highly skilled professionals, out of every five four are women and one is a man. In other words, women had to be content with the lower ranks of professional life. Will 1931 show a different tendency?

Is it too much to hope that in one respect we have changed since 1921? The intervening ten years have levelled the Franchise qualifications to equality between men and women. May we believe that women citizens are more widely and more intelligently interested in the condition of society at home and abroad? If so, the results of the approaching census will be awaited with eager anticipation.

that purpose may have been) dispersed it again. But what was that purpose—that was what we were all left wondering. Barely a month, mostly spent in holiday, had passed since the last "crisis" in the Liberal Party, after which an anxious House and electorate were informed that the Liberal Party had decided to do precisely what it has been doing during the past two years, namely, to make no formal compact with Labour but to support its measures or oppose them on their individual merits. As to those merits, so far as they concern unemployment schemes, nothing particularly new was disclosed by Mr. Tom Johnston's speech on behalf of the Government. The one really new factor was the personality of Mr. Johnston himself. He is known to be a "live wire." He is known to have been one of those originally associated with Sir Oswald Mosley in a private memorandum of vehement dissatisfaction with the Government's unemployment policy, when Mr. Thomas held the office of Lord Privy Seal. Mr. Johnston's promotion to the same office when it was emptied by the death of Mr. Vernon Hartshorn, was therefore generally taken to mean that the Government really wanted to "get a move on" in the matter of unemployment schemes. Mr. Lloyd George blandly assured the House that it would be hardly fair to turn the Government out, after enduring it so long, without giving the new broom a chance to show its sweeping capacities. (The metaphor is mine; Mr. Lloyd George is too great a master of metaphor for anything so commonplace.) Quite so, but then, why a crisis? Why were the newspapers suffered to tell us that the Liberal Party was in half a mind to use the opportunity of the Conservative Vote of Censure to defeat the Government? There were plenty of ways of making it clear beforehand that the Liberal Party

intended to do nothing of the sort, for just the reasons announced in the debate—that Mr. Johnston ought to be allowed his chance; that certain of the new steps and measures promised did give hopes of real improvement; above all, that no sensible Roundhead would kill Charles to make James king. Behind all these acknowledged reasons is the unacknowledged one, that the Liberals have not yet given up the hope of securing the Alternative Vote, and that until they have done that they are not likely to precipitate an appeal to the country. All this is so patent to everybody that the very strength of the Liberal case against turning out the Government now made us all think, paradoxically, that they might be really going to do it, for some tactical reason that we had failed to spot; otherwise they never would have allowed the rumour to spread. We were left in a mood of somewhat exasperated relief—relieved, because no one really enjoys the idea of a General Election, whether he thinks it politically desirable or not; exasperated, because an unnecessary fright and a disappointed hope are alike exasperating. However, we all got some compensation in a good debate with some capital speaking.

On Friday, there was a fairly good House for the discussion of a Private Member's Bill. This, incidentally, afforded an illustration of how far any class can be trusted to do justice to the interests of any other class. The Bill was one to regularize the profession of architecture by requiring architects to be registered, and by giving certain powers of unification and control over training schools to the Royal Institute of British Architects. It had supporters in all parties, but it was significant that the bulk of the opposition came from certain members of the Labour Party, who were afraid that the standards imposed would make it too difficult for poor men to use certain backdoors into the profession which had hitherto been open to them. If the Bill had concerned plasterers or bricklayers instead of architects, it would be difficult to imagine the same arguments being used by trade unionists to secure free right of entry for, say, women, or men who had failed to pass through the recognized methods of apprenticeship. However, there were other trade unionists who took a more enlightened view, and the Bill secured a second reading by a good majority.

On Monday there was again a crowded House, and the kind of discussion which showed the House at its best—this time on purely non-party lines. The subject was the Sunday opening of cinemas, and incidentally of Sunday rights for concerts and debates. Seldom has greater pressure been brought to bear on Members, chiefly against the Bill, and by the organized evangelical bodies. One Member had received 2,000 postcards of protest, another 1,200; all this against a Bill which merely regularizes the right of local authorities already practically exercised by circumventing the law, to sanction these entertainments on Sunday. There was some admirable speaking on both sides, Sir Thomas Inskip and Mr. Foot against the Bill, and Sir John Simon, Lord Eustace Percy, and Mr. Lansbury for it being perhaps the most impressive. It was noticeable that the opinion of men who are known to be fervently religious seemed nearly equally divided. There was also some very bad speaking, the worst and most damaging to their cause being that of some of the supporters of the Bill who showed too plainly that they despised the motives of its opponents. The size for the majority of about fifty obtained for the second reading gave general surprise. Quite plainly it was made up of many who had sincerely open minds on the subject, were tempted to go into the No lobby in order to please their constituents, but were convinced by the discussion that it really would not do to leave the law in its present chaotic condition, which sets a premium on law-breaking, and that the best solution was to let the Bill get into Committee and there endeavour to hammer it into a shape which would meet the most formidable arguments on both sides. The issue showed the unreality of political party divisions when non-political issues are touched. Party seemed to have little to do with the decision of Members; electoral pressure perhaps a good deal; but—to the credit of the House—genuine conviction seemed the predominating motive.

CROSS BENCH.

The ENGLISH FOLK COOKERY ASSOCIATION

will be glad to receive information respecting Scottish, English, Irish and Welsh food and cookery customs, ceremonial dishes, and cakes (local and traditional). 2s. 6d. weekly will be given for the best received written on a post card addressed Miss White, E.F.C.A., care of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith St., Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

WOMEN AND PEACE.¹

By A. MAUDE ROYDEN, C.H.

The question of securing international peace is of special importance to women; for, in fact, if sheer brute force is in the last resort the final arbitrer for all disputes, there is no real equality between men and women. It is true that some feminists argue that the discovery of modern scientific weapons of war renders sheer muscle of relatively less importance, and puts women on an equality with men. This is an evasion. If such a nightmare could be possible, and one could imagine, for the sake of argument, an army entirely composed of men confronted with an army entirely composed of women, there is no doubt that the superiority would be on the side of the men. I believe that this would be not only because men are our superiors in physical strength—and likely, I believe, to remain so—but because there is in women a more deep-seated reverence for life, and a greater scepticism of the real value of brute force. Women have too often been subject to brute force not to know that, after all, it does not settle anything. For these reasons, therefore, I am persuaded that the cause of equality of women is intimately bound up with the cause of international peace. In time of peace women can become, in a very real sense, the protectors of men by securing them, for all time, against the necessity of killing others and of dying themselves on the battlefield. Now that we have won the privilege of citizenship, we can use it for no greater cause.

The form which our work for peace should take at the present time is quite clear. An International Conference is to meet next February to try to obtain, by International agreement, a large measure of disarmament in all countries. For now that resort to arms has been made illegal by the Kellogg Pact, the maintenance of huge private armies is, surely, as dangerously provocative as it is unnecessary. But the Conference cannot succeed unless the representatives at Geneva are supported in their work by vigorous public opinion in the nations they represent.

In forty of these nations disarmament campaigns are now in progress whose object is to show the government of each country that the people support disarmament and wish a really great step in that direction to be taken at the conference. Our Government, too, has told us how much it needs the backing of public opinion in this matter. "There are indeed difficulties in our path," said the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, in his recent address on disarmament at the Queen's Hall, "but it is my profoundest conviction that they will be overcome if the men and women of the nations will but make their voices heard."

Surely this is true. With the best will in the world the Government cannot go much beyond what public opinion desires. We must show it that a large group already exists who favour disarmament, and we must help to create sentiment in favour of it among people who have not, so far, thought much about the question.

When the Duchess of Atholl returned from the Assembly of the League of Nations a few years ago, she told us that the English delegates were more conscious than any others of how closely they were watched at home. Other delegates, she said, might sometimes perhaps do things unnoticed by the people in their countries, but the British delegates could not. They could never, consequently, go beyond what public opinion at home desired. This dependence of our representatives upon us has, of course, its good side, but it places a tremendous responsibility upon us. If we are to have certainty of peace we must, in the coming months, create and mobilise such a strong sentiment for disarmament that the government will be able to take the lead in that direction at the Conference.

This sentiment can be created partly by public meetings, processions, and street speaking. But an even more important factor will be the work that is done by private individuals who are willing to talk about disarmament at their places of work, at teas, in omnibuses, or wherever they are.

Men's way of protecting the nation up to the present century has been to protect it by fighting. But they failed, for their instrument was unworthy. A new instrument, one which can be used on equal terms by women and by men, is available now. It is the will to peace. Let us, in the coming months, work hard for disarmament, for by doing so we shall show that the will to peace, and not the will to power, must hereafter be the deciding factor in international relations.

¹ The Guildhouse, of which Miss Maude Royden is the minister, has recently announced that Lord Cecil, and Mr. Wickham Steed are to speak at a public disarmament meeting at the Guildhouse on Friday, 24th April, at 7 p.m., and that Miss Royden herself will preside. The meeting is to inaugurate the entrance of the Guildhouse into the disarmament campaign of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

SAFETY WEEK.

The Toll of the Road.—"Two persons are killed every day, whilst walking on the pavements," was the statement made by Dr. Alfred Salter, M.P., at the second annual meeting, held in London on the 28th of March, of the Pedestrians' Association.

The Member for Bermondsey West went on to say that in this borough "six hundred trees which grew on the pavement in Bermondsey were knocked down in the course of 1929, and the average was maintained in 1930." "In fact," continued Dr. Salter, "it has become a byword in my district that the trees are no longer planted to beautify Bermondsey, but to act as buffers and barriers to protect the public from motorists." "As to the danger of crossing the streets, while it is bad enough in London," said Lord Lamington, the chairman of the meeting, "it is even worse in the country. Provision ought to be made to enable people to cross the roads in safety."

Not only the danger of crossing the streets, but the peril of walking on the pavement has become a problem of grave concern to pedestrians who, having managed by the exercise of agility and skill to cross a road and attain the pavement in safety, may a few moments later find themselves pinned against the wall of a building, or knocked down and disabled maybe for life—if they are not actually killed—by a motor car or vehicle which has also mounted the pavement.

Local Authorities and Safety Week.—In view of the heavy toll of life now being taken daily on the roads and in the streets throughout the kingdom—7,000 persons, it is estimated, were killed on the roads last year, of whom no less than 1,500 were children—we make no apology for drawing the attention of our readers—many of whom are themselves members of local government bodies—to the advisability of local authorities co-operating in "Safety Week," 11th to 16th May.

Following on the recent conference of Lord Mayors and Mayors at the Guildhall, at which the Duke of York made an earnest appeal for co-operation, the National "Safety First" Association has approached all local authorities by letter pointing out ways and means in which they can assist.

Suggestions.—Local authorities can help to popularize "Safety Week":—

By arranging that in all schools in their area special instruction should be given on each day of the week to the pupils by teachers, police, or members of the committee.

[We are aware that such arrangement may dislocate a little the ordinary time-table, but what of that if life is saved and injury by life is prevented.]

By arranging a display of posters on their public notice-boards, municipal vehicles, and other sites at their disposal.

By arranging for a display of "Safety Week" bills in shop windows.

By obtaining publicity in local cinemas.

By the distribution of gummed slips, badges, and safety leaflets.

By arranging lectures locally upon accidents, disease, fire-prevention, and first aid, and by the use, on suitable correspondence, of "Safety Week" stamps.

Example of Leeds.—We would commend, also, to our readers the example of Leeds, which city is arranging to hold during "Safety Week" a National Safety Congress, at which the subjects which are to be discussed include the safety provisions of the Road Traffic Act; equipment and use of mobile police patrols; causes of street accidents; safe road surfaces; automatic traffic control signals; safety zones for pedestrians; safety instructional methods for children.

These suggestions, we doubt not, have received and are receiving the earnest attention of local authorities throughout the country.

Women Citizens.—But it is not sufficient to appeal only to local authorities for sympathy and co-operation in this work of life-saving.

Behind the local authorities stand a vast body of women local government electors, whose business and duty it is to do all in their power to encourage and assist the local authorities in the task to which they are called, and not only to encourage but to insist that the response to the call shall be vigorous and effective.

During the last twelve years the number of women local government electors has been increased from one million to over

eight millions. What might not have been accomplished by now in the way of reducing the terrible toll of deaths caused by road accidents if one-half only (it is a moderate estimate) of these eight million women had exercised their powers as citizens by bringing to bear on this great problem that active civic spirit which is the bed-rock of all true citizenship.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.*Wednesday, 15th April.*

UNEMPLOYMENT (MARRIED WOMEN).

Mr. O. Lewis asked the Minister of Labour how many cases have been brought to her notice of women who have left their employment for the purpose of getting married, claiming and obtaining unemployment benefit although there is no evidence that they have endeavoured to obtain employment since their marriage.

The Minister of Labour: A summary of the information immediately available on this subject was contained in a Memorandum submitted to the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, and published in the Minutes of Evidence for 31st December (Paper No. 5).

Friday, 17th April.

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE.

Mr. Maclean asked the President of the Board of Education in view of the computation that one adult finds employment for every two young persons taken out of industry, how many adults would be absorbed in industry by raising the school leaving age to 15.

Mr. Lees Smith: It is estimated that on the raising of the school leaving age to 15, approximately 400,000 additional children would be retained in the schools in England and Wales. I am afraid that it is not possible to give any specific figures as to the probable effect of this on adult employment.

THE KEY OF PROGRESS

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By SEVERAL CONTRIBUTORS

With a Foreword by H.E. THE LADY IRWIN

Edited by A. R. CATON

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A few Appreciations

Sir Philip Hartog. (Review in "Nature," 23rd January, 1931.) "Miss Caton and her collaborators have produced a book which is indispensable to the student of Indian problems—social, religious, educational, sanitary, industrial, and political."

"Punch." (Review, 10th December, 1930.) "Miss A. R. Caton has edited, under the title 'The Key of Progress,' a small volume presenting the main facts concerning women in India and the various reformative activities at work. This book forms, in fact, a kind of Women's Supplement to Part I of the Simon Report."

Mr. K. T. Paul, Member, India Round Table Conference. (Review in "The British Weekly," 15th January, 1931.) "An Indian edition should be immediately issued and sold at one rupee each. Translations in all the chief Indian languages should be immediately arranged for and sold at four annas a copy. Millions ought to read it without delay."

Mrs. Underhill. ("Start.") "It is full of valuable information, for it states facts rather than opinions, and the apt title proves the importance of those facts."

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WILLS AND TESTACIES (FAMILY MAINTENANCE) BILL.

The Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament which has been set up to examine in detail the Bill Miss Rathbone introduced in the House of Commons, and which Lord Astor introduced in the Upper Chamber, will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, 29th April. Mrs. Hubback will present evidence in the morning on behalf of the National Union, which, as our members all know, has promoted this Bill from the first.

WOMEN AND DISARMAMENT.

In view of the World Disarmament Conference to be held in February, 1932, attention all over the world is being directed to this all-important question. In order that there may be a thorough discussion of many of the problems associated with this difficult question, the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship has arranged a Conference to be held at Belgrade, from 17th to 19th May.

The following is the preliminary programme:— Sunday, 17th May.

- Morning Session. Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan. 9.30. Welcome by civic authorities and women's organizations. 10.15. "The Aims of the Conference," Miss Morgan. 10.45. The Economic Situation and European Co-operation. Luncheon with brief speeches in interval. Afternoon Session. Chairman: Mrs. Bakker van Bosse. 3.30. Economic Problems. (Three 20 minute speeches.)

Monday, 18th May. Morning Session. Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan. 9.30. Disarmament: (a) The Pledge to disarm; (b) Draft Disarmament Convention drawn up by the Preparatory Commission for Disarmament Conference.

Discussion. Afternoon Session. Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan. 3.30. Disarmament (continued): (c) Security Sanctions and Disarmament; (d) Disarmament and Unemployment; (e) What women can do to influence public opinion (1) in time of peace, (2) in time of war.

Evening. Dinner with speakers. Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan.

Tuesday, 19th May. Morning Session. Chairman: Miss R. Manus. 9.30. Summary of proceedings of Conference. 10.0. Reports and Suggestions from delegates. 11.30. Chairman's closing speech.

Evening. 7.0. Public meeting. Chairman: Mlle. Atanatskovich. Speakers: Board Members and others.

PERSONAL.

The death of Dr. J. M. Wilson has removed from the Vice-Presidents of the N.U.S.E.C. one who has shown interest in the Women's Movements from the early days. Our sympathy is extended to all members of his family.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

BEBINGTON W.C.A. The following is the questionnaire submitted by the Bebington W.C.A. to the candidates at the recent Urban District Council elections in the wards where there were contests. Some Societies will be interested to see this sample of a Local Government questionnaire framed to meet some of the special problems of the district:—

Copy of Questionnaire sent to Candidates for Elections in Bebington and Bromborough Urban District, March 1931.

- (1) Will you endeavour to secure provision for a complete Maternity Service to comprise the programme as recommended by the Ministry of Health, including information in regard to Birth Control methods, where such information is essential for the patient's health? (2) Will you oppose the compulsory retirement of women employees of the Council solely on account of marriage? (3) Will you support the present system of House Property Management? (4) Will you do all in your power to preserve the countryside and rural footpaths? (5) Will you press for the routine inspection of all milch cattle within the area under the County Council?

GLASGOW S.E.C. AND W.C.A. (AMALGAMATED).

A series of seven mid-day lectures on the "Problems of the City Girl" has been arranged by this Society. They began on 11th March and continued until 22nd April. Only women were admitted, and the meetings were held in Renfield Street Church. The lectures seemed to fill a much felt want as the Church in which they were held was crowded every Wednesday with business girls who seemed to welcome advice from women speakers. The Chairman and the speaker both spoke from the pulpit. It is suggested that this will lead to a more widespread demand for the early admission of women to the full ministry of the Church.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"LIMELIGHT ON DOMESTIC SERVICE."

MADAM,—It is with astonishment that I note, in your article in last week's issue on Domestic Service, the absence of a single note of warning concerning the very grave increase in women's unemployment which would be involved in any attempt to force upon employers of servants such conditions as are suggested by the Standing Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations. It is futile, indeed, to talk of "enforcement" of conditions if no mistress will offer employment to a domestic servant at all unless her circumstances absolutely compel her to do so. The destruction of what has hitherto been considered the most accessible of women's occupations ought not to be lightly regarded. GERTRUDE MARY JOHNSON.

276 Cherryhinton Road, Cambridge.

THE "BOTTOM DRAWER" UP TO DATE.

MADAM,—While our City Councils and others are arguing over the morality and feasibility of giving information about methods of birth control, a commercial firm has just solved the problem very expeditiously by sending my family, and presumably every other family in the town, a booklet on the subject, giving methods and instructions. I am asked, if I do not want this booklet myself, to send it to some relative or friend, and "presentation cases" are suggested as "very suitable for presenting to sons, daughters, and relatives about to be married." M. M. P.

CRUELTY TO WILD ANIMALS.

MADAM,—I was much interested to note your remarks on trapping in a recent issue of your journal, and your question as to whether the women's institutes have taken up the subject of rabbit trapping. I know that the N.F.W.I. is keenly interested in this subject, and giving it careful consideration. The matter came up, I believe, at their last annual meeting, and I hope it will come up again this year.

Of course, it is difficult to find a satisfactory humane trap to compete in price, weight, and efficiency with a trap that has been in use for generations, and naturally can be manufactured by mass production at a very cheap rate.

Dr. A. H. B. Kirkman, who has been thoroughly testing various humane devices for catching rabbits, has stated that the absolutely humane methods are: Netting, the Lewis snare, and the "Rabbit-jerk." The first takes the animals alive, and the other two kill instantaneously, but most farmers prefer to catch the rabbits alive. There are several methods of netting; those recommended by Dr. Kirkman are: (1) the long net; (2) Collington's net (which has the advantages of simplicity and that it can be set in the daytime), and (3) the gate net. Poachers use the netting method, and are very successful with it, even though they have to work surreptitiously; therefore, farmers ought to be even more successful when they can choose their own time and work openly. Dr. Kirkman has received letters from Chief Constables in various parts of the country pointing to the success of the netting method and expressing the opinion that if the steel-toothed trap was prohibited by law it would cause very little, if any, hardship to farmers and others. This being so, I would ask those of your readers who have this matter at heart to write to their M.P.'s urging them to support a Bill to make this trap illegal. In the meantime, I hope they will

refuse to buy rabbits (or hares) which have not been humanely caught, and which show evidence of the steel trap and of the equally cruel wire snare. Rabbits with maimed and broken limbs, or badly swollen heads and bulging eyes, have been caught by these cruel methods. A. M. HUM.

Anti-Steel-Toothed Trap Committee, 36 Gordon Square, London, W.C. 1.

MADAM,—Your correspondent of last week whose letter is published under the heading "Cruelty to Wild Animals," says she "must conclude" that Major Van der Byl is more concerned to preserve blood sports than to put down other cruelties. Why, oh why, "must" reformers continually turn their guns on each other? Major Van der Byl is doing an inestimable service in not only calling attention to the hideous cruelties that may, almost certainly do, exist in connection with the fur trade, but also in making concrete suggestions in regard to fur not cruelly obtained. Protests are necessary evils, but it is a thousand times better to be able to make constructive proposals.

My constructive proposals have to do partly with wild and partly with so-called domesticated animals. In regard to the latter, will everybody at once write, as urged by the R.S.P.C.A., to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Arthur Greenwood, and Dr. Addison, and their own Member, demanding that the Humane Slaughter of Animals Bill be at once made law in England. We are informed that Mr. Macdonald is friendly to the Bill, and that if the public show they want it, it has a real chance of receiving governmental facilities and becoming law this session. Please, readers, all write and, most important and very easy, persuade your friends to write. Finally, if you want to understand the case against hunting and shooting, take your relaxation at Tantivy Towers, which all animal lovers must see. HELEN WARD.

34 Marlborough Hill, N.W. 8.

MADAM,—I am so glad to see the allusion, in your issue of 3rd April, to the cruelty of rabbit trapping, as well as to the horrors of fur trapping.

May I urge your readers, when buying rabbits, to make sure that they are either netted or shot? (Netting, is of course, the most humane.) I might add that it is quite safe to eat shot rabbits as to eat grouse or pheasants that are shot. Fortunately, people are beginning, at last, to realize that the flesh of creatures that have suffered prolonged torture is rendered impure and unfit for human consumption, and are, therefore, demanding humanely caught rabbits. You can hear in the markets nowadays the cry: "Rabbits, all humanely caught!" It would be as well, however, to examine them before purchase. (MISS) MARGARET CROOK.

22, Meynell Crescent, E. 9.

WOMEN HOUSE PROPERTY MANAGERS.

MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in your issue of the 10th April, on the subject of Women House Property Managers. It seemed to me that possibly this might convey to readers who do not know the full facts, the impression that the prejudice against women managers is greater than it really is, and that full justice might not be done to the spread of the system during the last few years. It is, of course, well known that Octavia Hill began her work as long ago as 1866, and that her success from the financial standpoint as well as from that of social welfare caused a wider adoption of her methods among private landlords. It is only since the War that women managers have been employed in municipal housing departments, but the list of those doing so is already longer than that given in the paragraph to which I refer. Chesterfield, Stockton, Walsall, West Bromwich, Rotherham, Chester, Bebington and Bromborough, Leeds, Cheltenham, Norwich, and Hendon all employ trained women, as does the City of Westminster, whilst the Boroughs of Chelsea, St. Pancras, and Kensington have part-time workers. The work to be done by the women who are to be appointed in Liverpool is to be at first more that of inspection than of management.

In addition to municipal work, the system is used almost invariably by the voluntary housing societies all over England, and there have also been one or two additions quite lately to appointments made by private landlords. The system appears to be gaining ground steadily, and an interesting feature of its progress is the fact that quite frequently those who have opposed the appointment of a woman manager by a municipality have, after experience of her work, become supporters of the system.

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ERRATUM.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The name of one of the successful candidates for Kettering in the list which we published last week is incorrectly spelt. It should be Mrs. Lewin.

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COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C.

Monday, 4th May. 7 p.m. "New Books." Miss V. Sackville-West.
Wednesdays, 10.45. "The Week in Westminster." 29th April:
Major Lloyd George, M.P.
Thursdays, 7.25. The World and Ourselves. 30th April: "Sweden."
Fridays, 7.25. India. 24th April: "Races and Religion."
Saturdays, 9.20. The Ideal Holiday. 2nd May: Mr. Compton Mackenzie
v. Mr. Stephen Gwynn: "Mountain or Moorland."

GUILDHOUSE DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN.

24th April. 7 p.m. The Guildhouse. Speakers: Viscount Cecil, K.C.,
and Mr. Wickham Steed, "Disarmament." Chair: Miss Royden, C.H.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
Cousdon and District W.C.A.

25th March. 3 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Downs Court Road,
Purley. Mrs. Dewar Robertson, J.P.: "Prison Reform."
Petersfield S.E.C.

24th March. 2.30. Bedales. Miss Corns: "L.C.C. Meetings."

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

9th May. 10-12, 3.15-5.15. Central Hall, Westminster. Public
Conference. Open to the public.
8th May. 6.45. Dinner at House of Commons.
9th May. 12.45. "Equal Pay" Luncheon, Pinoli's Restaurant,
Wardour Street.
10th May. 3-6. The President and Council "At Home" to members
and friends, 25 Gordon Square, W.C.

OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

24th April. 10.30-1, 2.30-5.30. Caxton Hall, S.W. 1. Annual meeting.
8 p.m. Public dinner, Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, W. 1.
Guests include Lord Buckmaster, Dame Ethel Smyth, Mrs. Cicely Hamilton,
and others. Chair: Mrs. Abbott.

SIX POINT GROUP.

6th May. 2.30. Little Theatre, John Street. "Happy and Glorious,"
with Wilfred Walter and Miriam Adams (by arrangement with the London
Theatre Company).

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

30th April. 4.30. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Miss Salter,
L.C.C. (ex-Mayor of Bermondsey): "Recent Tendencies in Government."

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