THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XIX. No. 27. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, August 12, 1927

Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and Abroad, 6/6.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1

NOTES AND NEWS.

Disarmament.

The Conference at Geneva is over and it has failed. We are left to make the most of what consolations we can discover. These are, that the actual participants in the conference are anxious that conversations between their governments should still be carried on, and work on the problem continued; that the nationals of the three countries concerned are still determined to regard war between themselves as unthinkable; that Japan has shown herself genuinely anxious to promote international concord, and that the need for an all-in arbitration treaty or pact is now recognized in quarters where recently it would have been considered an idealist's dream. Against this we must set the check to the whole world's hopes, the shock to its sense of security, the re-emergence into international politics of the pre-war mentalities and methods of argument which it should have been our endeavour to keep in banishment. There has been violent anti-British propaganda in the American Press; the European Press states almost unanimously that too much political weight has been allowed to the opinions of naval experts, and it draws the moral that the countries of Europe must consider their own requirements afresh, and a wave of anti-American feeling is passing over this country. *The Times* which has consistently worked for agreement and goodwill, voices a general belief that the breakdown must be interpreted as a victory for the United States Steel Trust, who have chosen this method of getting their share of the enormous surplus of money which is piling up in America, and it is certain that this view is widely held in the United States. If it be correct, the situation is not thereby made more serious. On the whole, it is better that warships should be built as a bribe to business interests, as long as this reason for their building is acknowledged, than that they should be built in almost any other way. In the meantime, the failure at Geneva lays a duty upon each one of us, the duty of seeing that the general will-to-peace is not weakened, and that the postponement of active measures of disarmament is used to ensure their final and not too distant

Maternal Mortality.

At the Royal Sanitary Congress, speakers emphasized the fact that, in spite of improved maternity service, the puerperal sepsis rate has increased each year since 1923. The rate for 1926—1.66 maternal deaths per thousand births—was the highest since 1906, with the exception of 1919 and 1920. Dr. J. Bright Banister, of Charing Cross Hospital, said that he considered in many cases of maternal mortality the infective agents were

present before the baby's arrival, and quoted a case to show that occasionally sanitary authorities were to blame. After attending a difficult case of labour, he had noticed an unpleasant smell arising from a dust bin which was only emptied after six days and a personal visit from the Medical Officer of Health. No statistics of maternal mortality in so-called maternity homes were given, but it is the view of a woman medical officer of health that they would probably be far higher than the figures for women confined at home.

Women Settlers.

An interesting contribution to the recent discussion in *The Times* on women settlers describes a farm school inaugurated by the Lancashire County Council near Preston for training well educated girls and young women for life overseas. The course follows the lines suggested by Miss Margaret Bondfield in her letter to *The Times* and includes dairy and poultry work as well as domestic fraining. In a sympathetic leading article *The Times* discusses the obvious difference in prospects for girl emigrants as compared with those which lie before their brothers. But these differences with adequate guidance and training are becoming less and there is much to attract the right type of woman. We agree with *The Times* that "there is everything to be said for making the intercourse between the old life and the new as free and habitual as improved communications allow and inclinations dictate". Cheaper facilities for comfortable travel are making life in the Dominions no longer permanent exile and modern inventions are modifying the hardships of life in remote districts. We hope the Lancashire experiment will be multiplied and that girls will go duly equipped for the new life in front of them.

The End of a Long Controversy.

Social workers will be pleased to see the end of a controversy which has extended over nearly as many years as employment exchanges have been established—whether they should be under the Ministry of Labour or the Board of Education. After many compromises the exchanges are to be transferred to the Ministry of Labour and a National Advisory Council representative of industrial and educational interests to advise the Ministry in regard to juvenile employment will be established. This Council will also consider the provision of unemployment centres. As Ruth Draper said in her clever sketch of a fashionable lady at the telephone "Its all a question of co-operation", and the existence of the new Council should ensure close and harmonious working relations.

Women Police more than justify their Existence.

The Chief Constable of Birmingham has a good word to say for women police. He says: "They have more than justified their existence, and I look forward soon to an increase in their numbers, which at present are quite inadequate." Birmingham has a reputation which many cities may envy for the treatment of offenders against the law and the attitude of the Chief Constable will serve to increase this reputation.

The First Woman Police Doctor.

The Manchester Watch Committee has the distinction of being the first to appoint a woman as police doctor. It has recently appointed Mrs. Wells, who qualified at Manchester University as the result of a decision that in future the examination of women suspects or prisoners should be undertaken by a woman. We join Dr. Wells in hoping that this excellent example will be followed throughout the country. This is a step forward and we congratulate the Manchester Watch Committee on its good sense.

A Touch of Mussolini in China.

It is reported in the French Press that in Peking the police authorities have taken steps to prevent Chinese women from indulging in the habit of short hair, short skirts, and décolleté dresses, which have contributed so materially to the health and personal freedom of their Occidental sisters. The actual words of this astonishing edict are quoted: "On several occasions, ultra modern women have disobeyed the law and the customs of the country. Young students and ladies of high society are the chief offenders. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue how can the morality of the country be preserved? If, therefore, the police see any women in extravagant costumes they will arrest them at once, and they will be severely punished. Let the feminine world tremble and obey." We hope—and trust —that the feminine world will laugh, and disobey.

- And in Prussia.

Meanwhile the East Prussian town of Wartenburg is incurring similar responsibility for the dictation of female fashion by the indirect method of taxation. Its municipal authorities have decided to impose a tax upon all women over the age of 15 years who choose to indulge in the comfort of short hair. In the case of married women the tax is to be doubled. This last provision shows that the tax is inspired by sumptuary rather than by fiscal motives. It is an attempt to impose a standard of feminine "fitness." But if the ladies of Wartenburg chose to act in be easily secured. There is a story current in Oxford concerning concert and with spirit the early repeal of such a measure might a certain women's college, which existed at one time in two portions located on opposite sides of a respectable residential thoroughfare. The students of this college were wont to cross from one section of their building to the other, hatless, to the scandal of a certain inhabitant of the said thoroughfare, who protested that such shamelessness was destroying the amenities of an otherwise eligible neighbourhood. A rule requiring the use of a hat by all students crossing the road was therefore imposed. A hat—but what kind of a hat? That was left to the students themselves, who solved the problem by keeping handy on both sides of the road a collection of old hats which any young woman desirous of crossing in a hurry might toss onto her head. We understand that the hat regulation was not, after all, conducive to the amenities of the thoroughfare in question. We recall this story because it suggests in connection with the Wartenburg incident, that there are ways of treating long hair which might prove more offensive to the municipal authorities of Wartenburg than bobbing, shingling, or even cropping.

Last Month at Geneva.

In addition to the Naval Conference a number of other international gatherings have been held at Geneva during the month of July. First, we find an international conference attended by representatives of forty-two nations met to consider the formation, under the League, of an International Union for the Relief of Peoples Overtaken by Calamity. The proposal gave rise to a good deal of controversy as it was felt by many that the scheme would not be likely to prove practicable. Eventually, however, agreement was reached and a convention, bringing the International Relief Union into existence, was adopted. Later in the month four sub-committees of the League of Nations International Committee for Intellectual Co-operation met at Geneva. These were followed, on 20th July, by the plenary meeting of the Committee. The four sub-committees dealt respectively with University Relations, Bibliography, Intellectual Rights, and Arts and Letters. The subcommittee on Bibliography has been considering, amongst other things, the question of the quality of the inks and papers used in official records. It is pointed out that the quality of modern paper cannot be compared with that of older paper, and even the best quality can scarcely be expected to last a hundred years. The sub-committee for Arts and Letters has under consideration the holding of an international congress on the popular arts, accompanied if possible by an exhibition. One of the matters occupying the attention of the sub-committee on University Relations is the possibility of instituting an international school for higher political studies for the training of statesmen, diplomats, professors of political science, journalists, etc.

Sir Harry Johnston.

Sir Harry Johnston, whose death occurred last week, is known over a wide expanse of the earth's surface as an explorer and an

administrator. In his later and less active years, he achieved a lesser fame as a novelist of peculiar enterprise and originality. But among readers of this paper he will be remembered with affection and admiration as a suffragist who contributed active help and the weight of a great reputation to the cause of feminism in the days when that cause was unpopular. As a liberal Liberal, he refused, in those days, to co-operate with a Liberal party which betrayed the principle of representative government. His sympathies were, on the whole, with the militant wing, of whose activities he wrote with peculiar insight and sympathy in one of his later novels. He was, in fact, one of that small band of men whose co-operation during pre-war years helped to justify our faith (at times a difficult and doubting faith) that the suffrage movement represented the partial fulfilment of a common cause rather than the first round of a sex war.

Mrs. Philipson's Holiday.

According to Press reports, Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., has arranged to return to the stage during the Parliamentary recess. She herself is emphatic that this reversion is merely a temporary affair, that Parliamentary work interests her more than the stage, and that she has no intention whatever of giving it up voluntarily. Meanwhile she will play the part of Blanquette in Mr. Locke's "Beloved Vagabond", whose first night takes place on 1st September. In the course of a peculiarly brilliant address given recently at the Liberal Summer School, Mr. Lloyd George said: "Every man has a little House of Lords in his head -a hereditary system dating back not to the Conquest, but to the Garden of Eden-Peers of prejudices, predilictions, and misconception of facts. To get a man to accept proposals, you must have your first reading, second reading, and third reading. This is a profound truth, and one which is illustrated by the case in point. For we found that in our own actual personal experience, the suggestion that a woman M.P. should temporarily revert to the stage met with violent opposition from that mental upper house to which Mr. Lloyd George so aptly refers. The project seemed wholly unsuitable. Why? We did not know. In the end opposition was borne down by an appeal of reason to the Christian ethic as embodied in the Parable of the Talents. We remembered the excellence of Miss Mabel Russell's (Mrs. Philipson's) rendering of Aggie Lynch in "Within the Law" Here, we decided, is a talent which it would be a thousand pities not to exploit. Only—and here the opposition is on stronger ground—is it not a thousand pities that Mrs. Philipson, having dug up her talent, should deliberately bury it again with the reopening of Parliment? That, fortunately, is a question on which our advice has not been asked, never will be asked, and cannot without impertinence be offered.

Two More Bills on the Statute Book.

Two Bills in which women are specially interested—the Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Bill and the Moneylenders Bill—both received Royal Assent on 29th July.

Women in the Professions.

Miss Elizabeth Scott, a London architect, has found a place among the first six out of seventy-four competitors for the competition of designs for the new Shakespeare Memorial Theatre. Miss Phyllis Sully is the first woman to take the new pharmacy degree at London University.

Men and Women Teachers-a Comparison.

In his address to the teachers attending the City of London Vacation Course in Education last week, Sir John Adams submitted an interesting comparison relating to the relative proportions of men and women teachers in England and America. In England, he said, the proportion is about three and a half women to one man. In America there are seven or eight women to one man.

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

WHAT IS THE CONSUMER TO THINK ABOUT IT?

In the two years which followed the war, provoked by certain sensational "white papers" of government origin, the ordinary buyer of ordinary things became aware of a certain dull daily terror. He—or rather she, because the consumer is more aptly typified by a female dispenser of wages or salaries—had been taught to believe that competition was a good thing, a sure protection against unreasonable prices and restricted supplies, a healthy stimulus to the enterprise of business men and to the affability of shop-keepers. It was a truth, easily apprehendable in theory and continually demonstrable in practice. It was incidentally the best argument against socialism known to the ordinary man and woman. Abolish private enterprise, and the wholesome stimulus, the beneficent price-paring friction of competition goes with it. And across this belief, like the shadow of the moon across the risen sun, came the white papers-or rather the Press versions of them—and the consumer swung round to the conviction that competition wasn't really working at all; that prices were being determined by trade conspiracies that supplies were being restricted and markets demarcated by firms which had either rolled themselves into gigantic trusts or laid their heads together in "gentlemen's agreements." It was a disturbing situation, and neither subsequent developments nor continued acceptance of the new state of affairs has alleviated the consumer's sense of economic helplessness. The very retailers have fitted themselves into the drab picture. From John Barker to Ponting, from Harrods to Swan and Edgar, there is now no right of appeal; for Ponting is Barker, and Swan and Edgar is Harrods. It is, one may surmise, only a matter of time before all are one under the spreading mantle of Selfridge.

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Meanwhile—down another avenue of the consumer's baffled consciousness, a new stream of experience was carving out its channel. The Ford car and the Gold Flake cigarette, excellent products both of them, cheap, efficient, of standard quality and universal appeal, proclaimed the economies of mass production. But mass production requires a wide market and a continuous sale. And a continuous sale is best achieved under conditions of co-ordinated management and virtual monopoly. Thus the continued amalgamation of businesses appears as the next step in economic progress—the essential condition of low costs and efficient management. With one side of her brain the consumer execrates the trust movement as a devourer of competition, a monstrous engine of exploitation and restriction. With the other side of

her brain she hails the economies and efficiencies of large-scale enterprise, and is at times ready to admit that Barker-cum-Ponting-cum, Derry and Toms is a more attractive and brilliant shopping centre than Barker-v.-Ponting-v.-Derry and Toms were in the good old days of competitive toe-treading. Nor, to outward appearances, is the mind of the Government itself more coherently ordered. With one hand it has produced "white papers" detailing the horrors of the trust movement, with the other it has deliberately trustified the railway companies for economy's sake, organized the rubber producers of the British Empire for the restriction of output, and laid vast plans for the syndicated distribution of electric power. Its own Royal Commission even went so far as to urge the compulsory amalgamation of colliery companies, while from the charmed circle of the academic world our leading economist, Mr. J. M. Keynes, is calling loudly for the trustification of the Lancashire cotton spinners.

But last month the great dilemma culminated in a legal action. It was reflected, as it were, from the muddled brain of the consumer and the tentative realism of the Government, to the sharply defined arena of the law. Certain subsidiary firms in the rope industry desired, it appears, to tighten their existing combine by the formation of a joint selling agency. Accordingly they applied to the courts for an amendment of their articles. The Courts, through the mouth of Mr. Justice Eve, dismissed their petition with the dictum that "such combinations are against public policy." "You will never," he said, "convince me that any combination of manufacturers puts down competition for the benefit of the public." That, of course, is what Adam Smith said more than a hundred years ago in the more vivid language of political economy: "Members of the same trade seldom meet together even for merriment or diversion, but the meeting ends with a conspiracy against the public concerning the advancement of prices." That is what the consumer feels about the matter in one of his moods. And experience confirms her prejudice.

But that was not the end of the matter. On application to the Court of Appeal, the aforementioned rope companies secured a complete reversal of Mr. Justice Eve's judgment. The Master of the Rolls accorded to them not only legal confirmation of such trustification as they desired, but the benediction of his view that public policy required their closer combination in the interests of economy, efficiency, and ultimate cheapness. That is what the consumer feels about the matter in another of his moods. And experience confirms her prejudice.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

By G. W. CURRIE.

VI

The Lancet—the great medical paper—has for long realized the importance to public health of improvement in housing conditions, and has warned its readers repeatedly of the dangers of delay. In a recent issue, it points out how "a note of complacency has recently crept into official statements regarding the housing programme in contrast with the situation revealed in the reports of medical officers of health which we summarize from week to week." The Lancet not unnaturally attaches special weight to the position of slums in Glasgow. Dr. MacGregor, the Medical Officer of Health there, must have unrivalled knowledge of all the aspects of slum life. In spite of its being quite a new city (as great cities go), Glasgow houses two-thirds of its population in either one or two-roomed houses: it shows what industrial civilization can do when the quest for cheap labour is given a free hand.

"Experience in Glasgow has convinced Dr. MacGregor that re-housing does eliminate the greater part of their slum qualities. . . . Moreover, it is untrue to say, as many people do, that nothing can be done to improve conditions until money is found for the reconstruction and removal of dwellings. . . ."

The difficulty of raising the public money required is, in places like Westminster and Glasgow, not the real obstacle. Every farthing of the cost of re-conditioning houses unfit for human habitation falls upon the landlords—not upon the rates. Mr. Chamberlain is not in our view altogether free from responsibility here. His replies on 5th July to Mr. Buxton in the House of Commons dealt only with Westminster, but they reflect the tendency to be content with things as they are until, at

some date necessarily far distant, the paper programme of the London County Council shall have been completed. They show nothing of the spirit of the Spectator's articles which fasten in the first place upon the palpable duty of a local authority to deal with every defaulting landlord here and now. We make no apology for referring to "paper programmes." There is a vast gulf between the expectations aroused by the London County Council and its achievements; just as there is a vast gulf between the powers given by Statute to the Borough Councils of Chelsea and Westminster and the use they make of them. No one, except perhaps the Bishop of London, has spoken more plainly than Mr. Chamberlain. This is why we are disappointed when the Minister appears to temporize with evil. We do not agree that allowances must be made for the political difficulties of the situation because we do not agree that party politics should dominate municipal government.

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at the London School of Economics some time ago, said, "I do not see how you are to get permanent improvement unless you replace the ownership by small individual landlords by ownership by the community. That is the conclusion to which I am forced by my observation of the conditions," and Mr. Chamberlain went on to say that he did not care whether this was considered to be "socialism" or not. We agree that it does not matter.

The practical result and the distinguishing characteristic of Mr. Chamberlain's Act of 1925 is to concentrate in the hands of local authorities at once the duty, the power, and the responsi-

¹ Being separated from our library during the holiday season, we are quoting this passage from memory, and possibly inaccurately.

bility of doing the right thing. If they fail, everything fails. There are clauses in that Act, too, which give to the moral responsibilities attaching to ground landlords an enlarged legal position. There can be little doubt that these clauses, properly worked, are capable of much usefulness. We commend them to the notice of the Duke of Westminster and Lord Cadogan. So few speeches have been made about them that they are apt to be overlooked; or possibly they require strengthening, and the inititative which they leave in private hands could be advantageously transferred to the inspectors of the Ministry of Health. During the war, if the War Office required to take possession of property in, say, London in order to prosecute the war, it was given power just to take it. The payment of full and just compensation was not lost sight of: it was remitted to a competent tribunal. In our view, the war against slum property and against those who make money out of it would amply justify the giving of power to the Ministry of Health to do much the same thing. The Ministry, as the supervisor of local authorities, has some such power at present, but it is a cumbrous and slow process. The machine needs speeding up all round. In our next issue, we propose to say something about the Bishop of London's share in this campaign.

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND WOMEN VOTERS.

By CAPTAIN J. de V. LODER, M.P.

It is probable that at the next General Election over five million women will have the right to vote for the first time. Each will have been given a direct share of responsibility in the choice of someone to represent the constituency in which they live in Parliament. Their choice will help to determine whether the next Government will be Conservative, Liberal or Labour. Collectively, their decisions may appreciably influence the result, for they will number something like a fifth of the total electorate.

I feel sure the new women voters will want to give an informed and considered judgment on the issues presented to them, and as a General Election must take place by the autumn of 1929 at latest, it is not too soon for them to begin sizing up the merits

of the parties which will be competing for their support.

I have been asked to give a short outline of the point of view of the Conservative party, which is at present in office, and which, as a Conservative member of the House of Commons, I hope to see the bulk of the new women electors help to return again. It is no easy task to define Conservatism, or indeed the creed of any party, and I must not be expected to do so completely or even perhaps very satisfactorily, in the space here allotted to me. Those who may feel inclined to go into the matter more deeply will find in Lord Hugh Cecil's volume in the Home University Library an extremely able exposition of the more orthodox line of Conservative thought. The attitude of the younger and more advanced wing of the party is admirably presented by Mr. Skelton in Constructive Conservatism (Blackwood, 1924, price 6d.), and in the Quarterly Review of January and July, 1925, October, 1926, and April, 1927.

The essence of Conservatism to my mind lies in its peculiar harmony with the fundamentals of English character. This is very noticeable in the Conservative dislike of theory, which is at the root of our opposition to the neat paper schemes of Socialism and the dogmatic economics of Liberalism. We have been called the "stupid party", though I think "commonsense" party would be nearer the mark, for the Conservative ranks have never lacked able adherents, but we instinctively distrust that intellectual cleverness which is often fascinating but is seldom in touch with the facts of life. We are not disturbed by the apparent illogicality of our institutions because we feel that they are part of our national life, that they represent order and continuity of growth, that they have developed as they have because the British people is what it is. They have stood the test of time and for the most part they work astonishingly well. We are not blind to their defects (many of them serious), but we hesitate to destroy; we prefer to improve. We believe there is value in tradition which represents the experience of a past which has formed the present and out of which the future springs. We take an organic, not a mechanical view of political relations and for this reason attach great importance to patriotism as expressing the self-consciousness of the nation, personified in the King and symbolized by the flag. We are further convinced

that the incentive to all action comes from the individual, that nothing the State finds for a man to do can be a substitute for what he finds it in himself to do. Corporate effort is, of course, essential, and there was never a time when we needed to pull together more than now, but what we strive for is voluntary co-operation from below, not regimentation from above.

I have attempted to convey an impression of the attitude of mind with which Conservatives approach the problems of the day, and I hope at least that it will be understood that Conservatives are not necessarily jingoes and reactionaries. The record of Conservative Governments has only to be glanced at to show that they have played their full part in the development of democracy and in the field of social reform. The progressive element in the Conservative party is well to the fore to-day. It represents, I believe, a very large section of opinion in the country, that which is acutely conscious of how little so many people are able to get out of our much-boasted civilization and desires a wide extension of both its material and spiritual opportunities, that which cannot be satisfied with doing nothing, but yet does not believe in the necessity or advisability of too sudden or sweeping changes. Everyone realizes that we are passing through a troubled period in our history, a period of economic stress and social readjustment, which has been called a second industrial revolution. He is a rash man who in these uncertain days makes himself responsible for advocating a short cut to the millennium. Suggestions of many kinds have been put forward from all sides for overcoming our difficulties. We should not be averse from carrying out experiments, but we must use all the care of the scientist in his laboratory to guard against explosions. The Conservative view has faith in the genius of our people to preserve and increase the cultural, national, and imperial heritage which their forefathers have built up. A Conservative Government is placing the coping stone on the edifice of political democracy. We trust the women, to whom the vote will now be given, to use their power wisely and well.

HOW CAN CHILDREN LEARN OF PEACE BETWEEN NATIONS?¹

With the coming of the summer holidays, downland, wood, and seashore are swarming with children. For a while we may choose to forget altogether such things as the difficulties of international peace. But when we remember, we must wonder how these children will face the problem when their turn comes, and whether we are giving them a better equipment for the purpose than we had ourselves.

In England, during the last two years, a certain measure of teaching on co-operation between nations may have reached children at school—but chiefly only in a special "League of Nations Union" lecture given once a year, say on Armistice Day. This is not enough. The whole of school curriculum, especially history, geography, and literature lessons, should reveal the interdependence, cultural and economic, of all nations, and the contributions which each has made and is making towards enriching the material and spiritual life of mankind.

"What is the use, though," people rightly say, " of telling a child in lesson-time to love the little Thibetan or the little Spaniard, when he goes out into the playground and starts quarrelling and punching his fellows." So it is not enough to learn about "International Co-operation" in theory during school hours. In the playground and in the home there must be some influence of parent, teacher or friend, to help such principles to be put into practice amongst fellow school-mates.

Again, what can a little boy understand of co-operation and mutual respect if he sees continual quarrelling between his father and mother, or the one always over-riding the wishes of the other? What can a little girl guess of justice and freedom for self-realization, if she sees one child made the favourite and another the scapegoat of the family, or if the individuality is crushed out of all the children by a domineering parent?

In other words, two factors are needed to plant the ideal of international co-operation as a seedling in a child's mind: (1) Concrete evidence in everyday life of people who though differing from each other, yet work together for a common end and (2) a running commentary (i.e. explicit teaching) as to why this is necessary in families and in schools, in villages and towns, within nations and between nations.

BOOKS ON PSYCHOLOGY.

AUGUST 12, 1927.

An often-quoted epigram is that William James's psychological textbooks are like novels, and Henry James's novels are like psychological textbooks. Below is given a list of books on psychology, which, though they are not exactly like novels, may yet not be too formidable to tackle on the beach or in the garden.

An Introduction to Psychology, by Susan Brierley. (Published Methuen. pp. 147.) A short and easy account of the scope and methods of psychology and of some of its more theoretical problems.

Social Psychology, by William McDougall. (Published Methuen. pp. 452.) This book, by now a classic, is an excellent introduction to social psychology, and a description of the various instincts and emotions of man.

Psychology and Morals, by J. A. Hadfield. (Published Methuenpp. 183.) An account of how a knowledge of psychology (and especially of psychopathology) influences the drawing up of an ethical code.

Applied Psychology, by Ewer. (Published by Macmillan and Co. pp. 474.) A clear and well-balanced description of recent developments in the application of psychology to education, medicine, and industry.

Educational Psychology, by Charles Fox. (Published Kegan Paul. pp. 372.) A consideration of the contributions made by experimental psychology to the study of educational problems.

Mental Tests, by P. B. Ballard. (pp. 235.) Group Tests of Intelligence, by P. B. Ballard. (Published Hodder and Stoughton. pp. 249.) Deservedly popular descriptions of various types of mental tests and their uses, with many examples.

The Young Delinquent, by Cyril Burt. (Published University of London Press. pp. 627.) A long but exceptionally interesting analysis of the various causes—hereditary, environmental, intellectual, and temperamental—of delinquency in children.

Medical Psychology, by T. W. Mitchell. (Published Methuen. pp. 179.) An excellent introductory survey written for the layman of various types of mental disorders and methods of treatment

The Psychology of Insanity, by Bernard Hart. (Published Cambridge University Press. pp. 172.) An elementary but sound account of development in abnormal psychology, emphasizing how the same mechanisms of conflict are found in normal life.

Industrial Psychology in Great Britain, by C. S. Myers. (Published Cape. pp. 158.) An interesting description of how psychology is being applied to industry in this country—in the guidance and selection of workers, prevention of fatigue, movement study, etc.—with many practical examples.

The Home Maker and Her Job, by Lilian Gilbreth. (Published Appleton and Co. pp. 155.) A generalized account of how the principles of eliminating waste that are used in the management of industry can also be applied to the management of the home.

Winifred Spielman.

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN."

Some appeals for funds for holidays for working women and girls lie before us as we write, some of them with pathetic letters from those who enjoyed a rare holiday last year. "A little bit of Heaven," one writer says. If any reader is enjoying her own holiday and has not the address of any suitable Holiday Fund by her, The Woman's Leader will be pleased to send on any contributions to one or other of the best known funds.

AN IMPORTANT SCHOOL APPOINTMENT.

We offer congratulations to Miss W. M. Crossthwaite, head-mistress of the County High School for Girls in Colchester, on her appointment as headmistress of Wycombe Abbey School for Girls, in succession to Miss Arbuthnot-Lane, who has been forced to retire owing to ill-health, after a regretably short term of office. Miss Crossthwaite thus becomes the lineal successor of Miss Dove, the founder of Wycombe Abbey School, a great headmistress, and a redoubtable feminist.

LONDON SQUARES.

We are glad to know that the long-promised Commission of Inquiry into the desirability of the preservation of London squares as open spaces has been set up with the Marquess of Londonderry as Chairman, and Dame Caroline Bridgeman and Mr. Frank Briant, M.P. among the members.

THE NEED FOR MORE WOMEN SANITARY INSPECTORS.1

By M. E. DAVIES.

HISTORY

Women were first appointed as Public Health Officers in England in May, 1892. The Council of the City of Nottingham was the first Authority to realize the necessity for appointing a woman to supervise premises where women were employed. The work of this officer was of such value that in July, 1893, the Medical Officer of Health for Kensington recommended to his Council the appointment of two women to act as inspectors of workshops in that borough. In 1895, Islington initiated the broader policy of appointing their first woman officer as a sanitary inspector, thus conferring on her legal powers and duties which had hitherto been solely carried out by men. Other authorities followed this innovation, and the movement steadily progressed both in the provinces and in London.

In recent years, however, more women have been appointed as Health Visitors, and at the same time some Authorities have allowed the appointment of women sanitary inspectors to lapse.

There are to-day, twenty-seven women working as sanitary inspectors in London. Seven Metropolitan Boroughs combine the appointment with that of health visitor (there are twenty-one women working in this dual capacity); while there are six Boroughs, many of them in the poorest parts of London, in which thousands of out-workers reside, where no woman inspector has been appointed, either as a part-time or whole-time officer. The experience of women who have been appointed in the dual capacity of sanitary inspector and health visitor is, if the area is a large one, that practically all their time is given to health visiting: consequently the work of inspection suffers.

DUTIES

Women sanitary inspectors are usually appointed with definitely stated duties, working under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. These vary in different localities, and may include such work as house to house inspection during times of an epidemic of infectious disease, action in cases of overcrowding, certain special work for which women as sanitary officers are eminently fitted. This includes the inspection of workshops, laundries, and outworkers' premises. As the law now stands, under the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901, and under an Order made by the Secretary of State in 1903, the District Council is the authority responsible for the sanitary conditions of workshops (including laundry workshops) and workplaces in its district.

The inspection of sanitary accommodation for women in railway stations, shops, theatres, and other places of amusement and restaurants is work which only a woman sanitary inspector can have the authority to carry out. Systematic inspection of public sanitary conveniences, and of those provided in public parks for women and children, has resulted in improved conditions both for the general public and for the attendants who work in these places. The inspection of restaurant kitchens is, in only some Boroughs, the duty of the woman inspector. There can hardly be two opinions as to the advisability of women doing this work.

Home inspections account for a large proportion of a woman sanitary inspector's work. Much time is spent in homeworkers' or outworkers' premises. The nature of the work done varies in different districts, for example, the principal homework in one Borough may be cheap ready-made clothing, while a neighbouring Borough specializes in box making, another in boot and shoe making, while in London one seldom, if ever, meets with net menders, who form such a large proportion of the homeworkers of the Midlands. One meets among all classes of homeworkers, many self-respecting old people who struggle on mainly from habit, and partly in order to retain their independence.

In connection with this work many notices are served to remedy sanitary defects, and where homework is found to be carried on under unwholesome conditions, a notice is served on the employer prohibiting work in these premises while insanitary conditions continue, or a case of infectious disease occurs.

In most Boroughs where a woman sanitary inspector is employed, it is one of her duties to visit cases of non-notifiable infectious disease in order to ascertain if the sufferer is receiving medical attention, and if there are contacts suffering. This

¹ Contributed by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

¹ Paper read at the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute at Hastings, 11th to 15th July.

work applies to children over 5 who are outside the provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act.

Sanitary authorities have duties to carry out under the Notifica-tion of Infectious Diseases Act. It is the practice generally for the men sanitary inspectors to visit in this connection (and in some Boroughs to investigate cases of puerperal fever) to advise the mother, under medical supervision, on what precautions to take if the patient is to be nursed at home, and also for contacts if the patient is either to be nursed at home or in hospital, and in order to make arrangements for the removal of the sufferer and for the disinfection and cleansing of the home by the occupier. Some Authorities, mainly outside London, have appointed a woman to do this work, which they have done extremely well.

The morning's correspondence in a public health department includes a large number of complaints, some of a frivolous nature, many dealing with personal quarrels either with inmates of the same house or neighbours. These are all dealt with more by tact than Act of Parliament, and many instances of insanitary conditions are thus brought to light. Frequently the complaints are anonymous, but all are investigated.

The systematic inspection of common lodging houses for men and women, for the prevention of insanitary conditions and for the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, is work which comes under the Local Authority, and needs both men and women inspectors. These houses are separate and distinct from houses let in lodgings. The latter are usually the poorest class of property, and are subject to special legislation. By-laws have recently been revised by the London County Council, imposing definite standards of cleanliness, many of a personal and domestic character, for all in the Metropolitan area. The administration of these by-laws will increase the duties of sanitary inspectors very considerably; the details would appear to apply to all possible conditions necessary for the good condition of a house, both from the point of view of the owner's and occupier's responsibility.

Periodical visiting of Council houses where no woman house property manager has been appointed comes within the province of the woman sanitary inspector. In this connection it is interesting to note the great difference between houses visited from time to time, and those that had been occupied for three years or more, but had never been under the friendly supervision of the sanitary inspector. The houses are structurally identical, each having similar amenities in the way of light, a hot water supply to sink and bath; their gardens are of a similar size; but in the one case lack of care had resulted in almost deplorable conditions. In the other case, one of the conditions of the tenancy is that an officer of the Council shall be admitted at all reasonable times. If new tenants are visited shortly after moving in, they realize that this proviso is not a very serious infringement of their liberty.

It is clear from the above that, in the absence of one or more women sanitary inspectors, many of these duties may not be performed frequently or regularly, if at all. The importance of regular inspection of workshops and of homeworkers' premises cannot be over emphasized; the ill-effects of non-inspection may in time seriously affect the health of the workers. Similarly, the regular inspection of the premises mentioned above, would result in improved health and comfort for all. In order that these duties may be adequately performed, at least one woman canitary inspector is needed in every Metropolitan Borough and in every big industrial town in the country.

(Continued from next column.)

situation for the time being and decided, like the Association of Rural District Councils, to await further developments.

Our readers will remember that a deputation organized by the National Council of Women in which the N.U.S.E.C. and the State Children Association co-operated, waited on the Minister of Health in April last and drew his attention to the grave probability that the community would be deprived of the assistance of the majority of the directly elected women now serving on Boards of Guardians, unsatisfactory if the Provisional Proposals became law. Under the revised proposals the position of directly elected women on boards of guardians is in no way amended. The organized bodies of women which are watching the situation will have, like the Rural District Councils, more detailed criticism to offer on this matter, if and when the Bill

Meanwhile, such is the position of the Provisional Proposals, original and revised. Neither seem exactly popular.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS. By BERTHA MASON.

Poor Law Reform.

Our readers may remember that in the early spring the Unionist Agricultural Committee of Members of Parliament met the Minister of Health by agreement in the House of Commons, and made clear to him that the Provisional Proposals for the reform of the Poor Law were not acceptable to the rural districts, nor could they agree to the abolition of rural Boards of Guardians, whose administration, they maintain, is very efficient in their areas. They submitted a scheme with a request that it might be circulated to local authorites as a basis of discussion between them and the Minister, the request being conditional on the financial details being eventually satisfactory to the

On 8th June a memorandum embodying the revised Provisional Proposals was sent to local authorites accompanied by a covering letter stating amongst other matters, that the revised proposals "were intended to set forth in general terms what would be the main features of a new Bill"; (2) "They have no reference to London, the future administration of the Poor Law there being still under discussion with the London County Council and the representatives of the Metropolitan Borough Councils"; (3) "The scheme of financial reform embodied in the Provisional Proposals and the changes consequent upon it in the relations between the Ministry and the authorities are reserved for further consideration by

The part of the Provisional Proposals which dealt with ssible alterations in the relations between County Councils and Councils of County Districts regarding public health services is omitted from the new memorandum, "as it is being dealt with by the Commission on Local Government.

Broadly speaking, the revised proposals are as follows: (1) Councils of county boroughs to become the guardians for those boroughs and subject to certain conditions, the councils of noncounty boroughs and other county districts to become the guardians for such boroughs and county districts. (2) Boards of Guardians to be retained in rural areas, and to be composed of rural district councillors for each district in the area, with a proportion of councillors of the non-county boroughs and urban districts comprised in the area. (3) The area of each county borough to be a single Union and to be inside a single county. (4) The possible reduction of the number of unions in a county. (5) County Councils to prepare a scheme to devise new boundaries. (6) The transfer of all institutions to County councils. (7) Counties and county boroughs to have power to co-opt on boards of guardians or committees where desirable en members and persons of experience in poor law work. (8) County Councils to prepare schemes for the use of all institutions after conferring with boards of guardians. (9) New guardians not to own any institutions or buildings, except their own offices. (10) Duty of providing for vagrants to be placed on county councils. (11) A committee of management for each institution to be appointed as to not less than one-third by the new Poor Law Guardians in the area in which it is

The revised Proposals were submitted to the annual conference of the Rural District Councils' Association, which met in London on 12th July, the authorities represented being 280, and the delegates numbering 550. After careful and prolonged discussion, in which the view was expressed that the new scheme would be disastrous for the poor, more costly, and less easy to administer, the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this Conference of Rural District Associations is unable to approve the Proposals of the Minister of Health as now put forward, and instructs its Executive Committee to offer more detailed criticism if and when the Bill is circulated.'

As already stated, these proposals had no reference to London, the matter being still under discussion with the L.C.C. and the representatives of the Metropolitan Borough Councils on 8th June, when the memorandum was circulated. Since then the proposals have passed beyond discussion, as at the meeting of the London County Council on 19th July, it was stated that the negotiations between the L.C.C., the City of London Corporations, and representatives of the Metropolitan Borough Councils, had resulted in a deadlock. The L.C.C. accepted the

(Continued in previous column.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EOUAL CITIZENSHIP.

AUGUST 12, 1927.

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A GOOD WAY OF APPEALING FOR FUNDS.

In replying to our request for contributions to the special Equal Franchise Fund, the secretary of our Lewisham Society has sent us a copy of the letter which she has sent to all her members. We feel that many of our Societies might find it helpful to adopt a similar plan, and therefore append the letter:-

As Honorary Secretary of the above Association, I receive many letters asking for financial help. This week, I have received one from Miss Macadam, Hon. Treasurer of the N.U.S.E.C to which we are affiliated, asking for a donation to the Equal Franchise Special Fund. I appeal to you to send me a donation however small, for this fund, and then when the proud day arrives, and the final measure for the enfranchisement of women reaches the Statute Book, every member will feel that she has

DELEGATES FOR N.C.W. ANNUAL MEETING, 10th-14th October.

The N.U.S.E.C. is entitled to send ten delegates to the annual meeting of the N.C.W., which is to be held at Bournemouth this year. We have as yet received very few nominations for delegates and hope that our Societies will send in names as soon as possible. The following resolution, which was sent in by the N.U.S.E.C., has been placed first on the agenda and will be moved from the Chair without discussion:

"That the National Council of Women of Great Britain in Annual Council Assembled thanks the Prime Minister for his statement that he intends to introduce legislation next session, giving the franchise to women on the same terms as men and from the age of 21. In view of the danger which he admitted might arise from an unexpectedly early General Election, this Council asks that the necessary legislation should be introduced at the very beginning of the session, and passed into law without delay. It calls upon all women's organizations in the various constituencies to do all in their power to show to the Prime Minister, the Press, and both Houses of Parliament, the warm support

CORRESPONDENCE.

MARRIED WOMEN IN FACTORIES.

MARAM,—I am obliged to Mrs. Gertrude Cross for her valuable letter of 17th June. It is certainly most difficult to arrive at exact conclusions on these matters; and the facts that she brings forward are most important. In my own letter I had no desire to be dogmatic, but I have certainly found the mass of evidence to point very much the other way.

Havelock Ellis is an international authority on these questions, and he takes up the position that both infant mortality and the general health of children are most adversely affected by women's work. Women's Work and Wages, by E. Cadbury, and others, is one of the most careful researches ever undertaken on these subjects. On p. 221 we read "The above tables (i.e. statistics of children's health) clearly show that where a married woman has to augment the family income it is greatly to the above tables (i.e. statistics of children's health) clearly show that where a married woman has to augment the family income it is greatly to the physical and moral disadvantage of the children " and on p. 219 " All recent statistics show that infant mortality is high in districts where the majority of mothers go out to work ". The tables given (from Birmingham) tell very heavily against the children of working mothers. In Miss Tennant's Women in Industry, many opinions and facts are given showing that children have been most adversely affected throughout England by married women's work. Indeed, it stands to reason that a woman who is away from home at least eight hours a day cannot give the same care to her children as a woman living at home. I should imagine that the proportion of babies who are fully suckled by their mothers is small amongst working mothers. It would be at any rate surprising indeed if this were not the case, and the immense importance of breast feeding is now fortunately again generally recognized.

this were not the case, and the immense importance of breast feeding is now fortunately again generally recognized.

A series of French investigators have written against the employment of married women, with masses of statistics (many quoted by Ellis). Mme Sarranti-Lourié showed that amongst women workers the proportion of premature births was much larger. All the above statements are since 1900, so that I certainly cannot agree with Mrs. Cross that none of the reports of this century show that women's work is injurious to infant welfare! There is also a great deal of recent German evidence on the subject. The matter is indeed very complex. I should suggest that the lower infant mortality figures quoted by Mrs. Cross arise from the fact that where women work much the birth-rate is usually low and since a low birth-rate very often goes with a lower infant mortality, it is really the lowness of the birth-rate that gives a better figure for some of the towns where women work. Better housing, etc., may also make much difference, of course. In France, extensive studies were made under exactly similar conditions of environment, with results greatly in favour of the children of conditions of environment, with results greatly in favour of the children of

I hope increased attention will be paid to this and allied problems. Few realize how serious is the state of our national health. It is much worse than that of almost any other country. According to army statistics less than one-third of our manhood is in normal health. The medical reports from the county medical inspectors are alarming. Even in healthy Devonshire, we read of progressive physical deterioration and growing decadence. Every year 15 million weeks' work is lost owing to illness alone. The insurance societies complain that the health of women is getting worse and worse. Cancer, diabetes and many other serious complaints are steadily increasing. In 1924, 48 per cent of London school children were suffering from defects, mental or physical. In the whole of England there are some 4,500,000 children classed as not in normal health (defective teeth, eyes, lungs, throats, etc.); and some 700,000 mentally backward children, an appalling figure.

There are no doubt many reasons for these distressing facts: urbanization, decline of breast-feeding, bad feeding, bad housing, nervous strain, and last but not least the low fertility of the healthy stocks. The whole matter demands energetic measures, of which there is but little hope unless I hope increased attention will be paid to this and allied problems. Few

matter demands energetic measures, of which there is but little hope unless public opinion can be stirred up much more than is now the case.

MEYRICK BOOTH.

ERRATUM.

We regret that in our note on Mrs. Besant's jubilee dinner last week, Mr. J. M. Keyne's speech was, by a printer's error, ascribed to Mrs. J. M. Keynes. Mrs. J. M. Keynes, better known to the world as Mlle Lydia Lopokova, was, however, present on the occasion referred to, contributing to its aesthetics a very beautiful presence, and to some of her fellow dineran irrelevant longing that its whole proceedings might be abruptly terminated, speeches cancelled, and tables cleared away, in order that she might be offered an opportunity to dance.

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