

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Next Session and Private Members' Bills.

Members of both Houses of Parliament have already been approached by many organizations with regard to the forthcoming ballot for Private Members' Bills next session. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is hoping that its Women Jurors' Bill, which provides inter alia that neither sex shall be excluded from any jury, and that if any juror is challenged he or she shall be replaced by one of the same sex, will find a place in the ballot. It has the support of Sir Leslie Scott, late Solicitor General. Lady Astor has promised to ballot for the Public Places (Order) Bill, and Lord Balfour of Burleigh to reintroduce it into the House of Lords. Lord Buckmaster promised last session to introduce the N.U.S.E.C.'s Coverture Disabilities (Abolition) Bill, but his illness made this impossible, and it is hoped that he will be able to do so this year. Lord Balfour of Burleigh will also move a resolution on the employment of married women and mothers by the Civil Service and Municipal Authorities on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child is seeking to have introduced its Bastardy Bill. Scottish branches of the N.U.S.E.C. have drawn up an Adoption Bill on the lines of the English Act of last year, and an Illegitimacy (Scotland) Bill, which provides for the appointment of collecting officers, the power to raise an action for aliment before the birth of the child, and removes from the father the right to meet a claim for aliment by offering to assume the custody. Mr. Harney has offered the N.U.S.E.C. to introduce, under the Ten Minutes Rule, a Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Amendment Bill to provide for the unconditional inclusion of women.

#### Widows' Pensions.

Last week held the first anniversary of the Government's Widows' Pensions Scheme, and the figures published for the period up to the end of September show that very many fewer claims have been made than was expected when the scheme was introduced. Though 161,309 widows had received their weekly 10s., nearly 131,000 of these had lost their husbands before the Act came into force, and therefore represent not a continuing liability, but a diminishing dead-weight. 39,000 women have received pensions because they were widows of insured persons who died after the commencement of the Act. These widows are stated by the Ministry of Health to have, roughly, 24,000 children

who come under the scheme—an unexpectedly small proportion. In addition over 11,000 orphans have received pensions. But these are not the figures which we require before we can form an opinion on the efficacy of this measure. What we should be told is firstly, whether mothers of small families find their allowance adequate, or are still forced to leave their children in order to maintain them in decency, and secondly, to what extent the scheme is in fact being financed by contributions from single women?

#### The Women Teachers.

It is astonishing how the receipt of a salary tends to diminish public influence. The expert as a consultant, especially when like the doctors he moves mysteriously, still commands respect, but as soon as a body of experts are paid by the year, their views are unanimously disregarded. The organizations of teachers, which have been holding their annual conference, have perhaps the most respectable constituents in the world. Their members are necessarily well educated, highly trained, of stainless character, and engaged on work of the greatest public importance. They also happen to be men and women whose enthusiasm and devotion have become commonplaces. And yet their opinions upon subjects to which they have given their closest attention carries less weight either with the Government, the Local Authorities, or the Press, than that of the meanest employer or the most selfish parent. Again this year the National Union of Women Teachers has passed its crop of resolutions. They ask that the school age shall be raised to 15, for the sake not only of the child at school, but of his unemployed elder brother. They ask for professional equality between men and women teachers, for a suitable number of women police in every area (this is a subject on which the teacher has a peculiar right to be heard), they demand a full university training for qualified teachers before they enter training colleges, and they protest against any extension of the present list of unqualified supplementary or occasional teachers. These two resolutions go oddly together, especially when we are told that there are already nearly 10,000 supplementary teachers in the schools and that their only qualifications are that they are over 18 and vaccinated. Miss Neal, the President, also reminded us that there are more than 20,000 classes in the country where over fifty children are in the control of a single teacher, and that 665 schools are not recognized by the Board because they fall short, in sanitation or otherwise, of its minimum requirements. Here is the fruit of experience, freely offered. It is deserving of the most serious consideration. And yet who will consider one word of it? Certainly not the Board of Education.

#### The Duty of Women Jurors.

At the City Sessions, Liverpool, last week, the Recorder, Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, K.C., addressing a jury which included two women, expressed his view that women should do their full duty as citizens and take the same part as men jurors in trying all cases. In view of the fact that a case to be brought before the court was of an unpleasant character, Mr. Hemmerde offered to replace the two women by men, but expressed the hope that they would remain as he would like to have their assistance. Both women remained. The case in question was a charge of offences against boys and the curious defence was offered that the defendant had been a *scoutmaster* for many years. The Recorder considered that such a man was a public danger, and he was sent to prison for twelve months. Is it possible that there are still those who think that in such circumstances women should have retired? Mr. Hemmerde's expression of opinion will help to clear the mists of confused thinking on this subject.

**A New Headmistress.**

Miss Ethel Strudwick has been appointed High Mistress of St. Paul's Girls' School in succession to Miss Gray, who will resign next Easter after seeing the school through its first twenty years of existence. Miss Strudwick has already served for thirteen years as Headmistress of the City of London School for Girls, from which she now departs to take up one of the foremost posts in the scholastic world.

**American Women and Birth Control.**

It is reported that the New York League of Women Voters has lent its weight to legislation which contemplates an amendment of the Federal penal code such as will allow doctors to give information on birth control.

**Feminism by Order.**

The Turkish Ministry of Instruction is apparently perturbed by the results of the historic subjection of women under its rule. Only two per cent of Turkish women are estimated to possess elementary education. It is now proposed to institute everywhere compulsory educational courses for women to found "women's progress clubs" and to give official backing to the campaign for dress reform.

**A Woman Communist Leader.**

It is interesting to note that a woman has been elected by the Communist International to the *Presidium* of twenty-five persons which constitutes its inner circle. The woman in question is the veteran Clara Zetkin, who has been since 1920 an active member of the German Reichstag.

**An Enterprising Second Engineer.**

Miss Victoria Drummond is the first woman to sit for the Board of Trade Examination and obtain a Second Engineer's Certificate. She has already made six trips to the Far East as junior engineer in the Holt liner *Anchises*.

**FROM HIM THAT HATH NOT . . .**

The British Press gave some prominence last week to the newest development of Italian educational policy which aims at the exclusion of women from certain defined spheres of learning. Apparently women are to be precluded from teaching literature, philosophy, and history in the higher schools (lyceums) attended by boys. They may, however, continue to teach languages, mathematics, science, and economics, while in the lower grade schools they may continue to teach even the proscribed subjects. The exclusion is designed to come into force at the end of 1927, and its effect will presumably be to exclude women from all competitive examinations for the higher school posts covering the subjects mentioned.

The reasons which have inspired this curious development of Fascist educational policy are clearly stated. It is expressly disclaimed that the move implies any suggestion of a lower intellectual capacity among women—but rather of a deficient measure of virility, vigour, and determination: qualities which are held to be peculiarly necessary in the instruction of young Fascists in the subjects of history, literature, and philosophy. But why history, literature, and philosophy? Why not in an equal degree economics? In the case of philosophy, of course, there is a reason which we can understand. The problems of philosophy have a common frontier with the problems of religion, and women are on the whole the religious sex. It is well known that much of the anti-suffragism of the continent of Europe is in fact anti-clericalism. Signor Mussolini, the apostle of physical force and the pursuance of temporal power, has everything to fear from the exaltation of spiritual values. In an equal degree Signor Mussolini the nationalist has everything to fear from the glorification of a super-national Catholic Church. One can readily understand his desire to remove philosophy, that vast indeterminate domain of thought with its distant dangerous unstrategic frontiers, from the hands of persons who are popularly supposed to have preponderant interests over the border. One can understand—but to understand is not necessarily to sympathize.

In the case of history, understanding is less easy. If all male historians were Treitschkes and all female historians Barbara Hammonds or Eileen Powers, the case would be clear enough. But some male historians are E. D. Morels and R. H. Tawneys. Meanwhile it was Professor Lilian Knowles who wrote the

**The Increasing Harvest.****Abroad.**

In the *Argentine* the law granting civil rights to women has been promulgated.

In *Spain* the new Labour Code grants a limited right to a married woman to dispose of her own earnings.

In *China* the Kuonintang Congress has adopted resolutions in favour of equal rights, political, economic, and educational, between men and women.

As a result of watching the police women established at Cologne by Mr. Corbett Ashby and Commandant Allen, *Berlin* has decided to institute a force of fifty women police. (Somerset, on the other hand, has decided not to adopt them.)

The National Institute of Arts and Letters of the *United States* has for the first time admitted women to membership. The four chosen are Edith Wharton, Margaret Deland, Agnes Repplier, and Mary E. Wilkins.

Last week the Communal Council of *Ghent* elected as its first woman Alderman (échevin) Mlle. Boonants, a distinguished journalist and a member of the Christian Democratic group.

An Indian woman candidate for the *Madras* Legislative Council polled 4,461 against 4,900 votes.

The Spanish Academy has decided to admit women.

**At Home.**

There are now 160 women members of the London Chamber of Commerce, although two years ago there were only five.

Two women, Miss Edith Beesley and Mrs. Foster Bovill, have been chosen for important positions in great insurance companies. The first is to manage the West End branch of the Southern Life Association; the other will be agency manager in Great Britain for the African Life Assurance Society.

We are to have women customs' officers to examine, if they are so desired, the luggage of women passengers.

Miss H. B. Carstairs has created a new world record for motor-boat speed over a measured mile.

*History of the British Empire* in letters of indelible red, white, and blue. There seems to be no guarantee that the teaching of history, any more than the interpretation of literature, will gain in virile feeling or nationalist fervour by sex discriminations such as those projected by Signor Mussolini.

And if history, why not economics? Economics more than any other subject is susceptible to vigorous nationalist treatment. The economics of national power versus the economics of cosmopolitan plenty: surely here is an intellectual field ready for Fascist cultivation? One can only suppose that Signor Mussolini's failure to include economics among the subjects upon which effeminate hands must not be laid, implies a failure to appreciate its importance.

But, logical or illogical, comprehensible or incomprehensible, there it is. If the Fascist régime survives the coming year, its ban on female instruction will operate. And though its details may baffle us, its trend is consistent enough. A régime in which armed force takes the place of government by consent is inevitably a régime in which the cruder fighting qualities are glorified. It is inevitably a régime in which men, because they excel in those cruder qualities, will despise the contribution which women can make, and are making in North Western Europe, to the common weal.

Dr. Mary Scharlieb, in a letter to the *Morning Post* of 7th January, makes a valiant attempt to vindicate the dignity of women even under such a régime. She says "since the days of Deborah, the great prophetess of Israel, who inspired the brain and nerved the arm of Barak . . . it has been women who have buckled on the armour and have bidden the knights to ride forth whether to physical or to moral, or to spiritual combats." But that is after all a very poor plea. It is the knight who rides forth, and not the woman or the servant who buckles on his armour, that makes history. We do not honour Deborah because she nerved Barak for his battle—Delilah could have done as much. We honour Deborah because under her wise rule "the land had rest forty years."

Therefore we would call upon our Italian feminist colleagues to beware: not of this or that sectional attack upon their liberties, but of a whole conception of government, a whole standard of social values, which must inevitably degrade their status and paralyse their capacities.

**DRAINS, DOCTORS, AND THE INCREASE OF HUMANITY.**

It is a familiar truth to students of social history that the Industrial Revolution period at the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth initiated a much longer period of rapidly increasing population in Great Britain. But like many another familiar historical truth, its causes have long remained unexplored. We all knew that up to about the middle of the eighteenth century population increased very slowly; that it then sprang up like a released spring in apparent vindication of the Malthusian law that human increase always tends to follow and press upon increased productivity of subsistence; and that in our own time the rate of increase has perceptibly slackened in response to prudential checks reinforced by the growing practice of contraceptive birth control. But hitherto we have known a great deal more about the causes of the recent slackening than we have known about the causes of the earlier increase. Why did the population increase so rapidly, during these difficult, restless, expansive, distressful years of rapid industrialization and urbanization? They are the years which economic historians have compelled us to associate with the oppression of the town labourer and the pauperization of the village labourer, the degradation of new jerry-built slums, the disintegration of family discipline, the herding of humanity, and the repudiation in the sacred name of Political Economy of corporate public effort for the intelligent direction of a new social and economic order. Some people have enunciated the rash *a priori* argument that such death-dealing conditions acted as a powerful stimulus to early marriages and an indiscriminate birth-rate. But has the birth-rate ever been, until our time, other than indiscriminate? There appears to be no evidence that it has.

Now at last a blessed ray of light is thrown on the matter by the publication of Miss M. C. Buer's thoughtful treatise on *Health, Wealth, and Population in the Early Days of the Industrial Revolution* (Routledge, 10s. 6d. net), and we know that what we always suspected is true. It was not an increase in the birth-rate which did the trick, but a very marvellous decrease in the death-rate, especially among children. And it was in the towns that this decrease was most markedly operative. In London, between 1730-49, 74.5 per cent of the children born died before reaching the age of 5. Between 1770-89 the percentage was 51.5. Between 1810-29 it was 31.8. It was, in fact, during this period, and in spite of the horrors which we associate—and rightly—with the adolescence of industrial capitalism, that the large towns ceased to become exhaustive cultivators of humanity, subsisting upon immigration and killing greater numbers than they gave birth to. It was during this period that the towns began to play their part as contributory factors in the general growth of population. For it was during this period, and not later as is sometimes taken for granted, that sanitation and preventive medicine began to exercise a very marked effect upon the nation's death-rate. Mr. and Mrs. Webb, in their monumental work on the history of *ad hoc* statutory authorities, have already taught us to look further back than

the Local Government reforms of the 1830's and 1840's for the effective genesis of the public health movement. And now Miss Buer carries us further back still and commands us to focus respectful and admiring attention upon the work of earlier pioneers—eighteenth century pioneers for the most part—in the realms of sanitation, midwifery, hospitals, inoculation, isolation, personal hygiene, and organized charity.

Her story is of enthralling interest—as well for the general inexpert reader as for the serious student of economic history—and in her meticulous telling of it we recognize the careful expert handiwork of a competent historian. And to some extent it is a comforting record, comforting to the self-respect of our industrial civilization. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, in their recently published analysis of the Industrial Revolution, remind us that its makers, in their unseemly scramble for individual profits, left no enduring objects of beauty and dignity comparable to the Gothic cathedrals of an earlier era of industrial expansion to mark the emergence of new productive powers and dedicate their potency to God. But Miss Buer reminds us that "in the mediaeval town the beauty of the great cathedral hid under its wing the noisome alleys and putrefying rubbish heaps." In the later period men "built drains instead of cathedrals," and their tribute to God was paid in terms of teeming human life.

But to descend into noisome details: Miss Buer writes of water-mains, cesspools, sewers, and water-closets, and of the disastrous temporary results of developing the latter conveniences before due care was taken to prevent their outlets from becoming entangled with the inlets of the water-mains. She writes of doctors, dispensaries, and hospital wards; of rickets and scurvy, small-pox, typhus, leprosy, cholera, malaria, and plague. And most interesting of all, she writes of midwifery, and of the astonishing incompetence of the women who carried on that highly skilled occupation under eighteenth century conditions. Indeed, so far was it regarded in those days as a purely female occupation that the great Dr. Smellie, who founded scientific midwifery in England, had to fight his way into the occupation against much the same type of opposition as a modern professional woman meets in her attempts to invade masculine occupational preserves. He had, Miss Buer tells us, "to face the jealous anger of the midwives, his most redoubtable antagonist Mrs. Nihell, in particular libelled and abused him, made coarse jests about his 'phantom' and called him 'a great horse god-mother of a he-midwife.'" But in connection with the lying-in hospitals, women seem to have played a more creditable part; for Miss Buer indicates the relative superiority of this type of hospital and suggests that it may have been connected with the fact that "this was the one class of hospital in which, at this time, women took an important part in the management."

But space forbids us to retail at greater length the subject-matter of this fascinating book. We must be content to advise our readers to acquire it by purchase, loan, or theft, and read it for themselves.

M. D. S.

**ENGLISH GIRLS IN PARIS.**

By MARIE K. O'BYRNE.

Paris has always had an attraction to the English girl seeking to earn a living abroad, and the lure has never been greater than it is at the present moment.

In Paris the cost of living at hostels and pensions run under English management for the benefit of British students, typists, governesses, and nurses, is decidedly lower than in London. Pleasures, too, are in comparison cheaper and more attractive than at home. Continental life, added to the ceaseless movement and excitement of the gay capital, has a fascination all its own.

Employment is more easily obtainable in Paris than in England. The shorthand-typist is at least certain of a job, however badly paid. Nurses for babies are always in demand, and perhaps their position is the most enviable as well as the most lucrative. The French are invariably considerate to a well-trained English nurse. Then there is the "gouvernante," who is a something between a nurse, a governess, and a maid. There is no position which is less understood and which is false than that of the "Mees" who cheerfully undertakes such an amazing variety of duties, from the washing of clothes to the teaching of the English language and the formation of the character of her charges. Usually the girl who enters upon this unprofitable career is untrained, and alas, often uneducated, speaking English with an utter disregard of grammar, and with

an accent that would disgrace a housemaid in decent service. "Madame," her employer, knowing little or no English, lives in blissful ignorance of the Irish brogue or infinitely more painful cockney accent of the "young lady" she has engaged as the constant companion of her children.

Meanwhile our well-meaning friend who has entered upon her new life without any knowledge of the language, or of the customs of a French household is bitterly disillusioned. At the back of her mind there is not infrequently the idea that she holds a superior position, secondly she fondly imagines that she is going to acquire French. These notions are soon dispelled. She is very often required to do the housework she has considered beneath her. She has to wash, iron, and mend, be ready to expend herself in slavish devotion on her charges day and night. Bearing with their humours and tantrums—and it must be confessed that the French child is terribly spoiled—is not the least of her duties. Liberty she has none, nor even the time or opportunity of learning the language of the country in which she finds herself. Many girls remain at this kind of drudgery all their lives until they are too old to adapt themselves to any other form of employment. Others with more energy and grit find means, sooner or later, of learning shorthand and typing, and slip into an office where the life offers greater freedom and more scope for

individuality. Not a few of the young English girls of my acquaintance in Paris have started as "gouvernantes" and later have found more congenial occupation in an office.

Let us now take the life of the average "steno-dactylo." Hers is essentially *une vie a la garçonnère*. She has all the freedom she craves for. As soon as her work is over she has time for the amusements that are never wanting in Paris. Employment is generally steady, without the constant unsettling changes with attendant periods of enforced idleness that is the lot of the nursery governess. If she is a good worker and has a fair knowledge of French, she can remain in her job four or five years, perhaps longer, with the chance of promotion and higher salary. The reverse of the medal presents a period of undoubted struggle in the beginning, poor wages, often not more than 500 or 600 francs a month, out of which a girl has to pay for her board and lodging, extras, clothing, and amusements. The latter have often to be cut down to the undesirable type of cheap cinemas, "bals de nuit," and second-rate variety halls. Clothing is not a negligible item. To keep her place she must be trim, if not smartly dressed. An effort to imitate the "chic" Parisienne often induces her to resort to powder, lip stick, and flashy jewellery, all of which have to be bought out of her meagre earnings.

For the most part the shorthand-typist lives in a British hostel, where she gets her food at cheap rates. Wonders are done by these hostels, but with the limited accommodation at their disposal, a bed in an ill-ventilated room occupied by two or three other girls is the most she can hope for. She is often cramped for space, deprived of sufficient light and air and restricted in her food, and a girl must be of robust constitution to exist for long under such conditions without injury to her health.

There is, of course, the highly-trained clerk or secretary employed by big firms, who earns a good deal more than I have quoted and who is able to have a comfortable room in a reasonable hotel and her meals at one of the numerous restaurants, where the food is served appetizingly and is well cooked. But the shorthand-typist must exercise strict economy, making her own clothes and doing her own washing if she wishes to make both ends meet. I have known many a plucky girl coming home late from her office set to work at night before going to bed to do a week's washing. Sunday has sometimes to be spent in washing and ironing and putting one's wardrobe in order, if the week has been full and strenuous. Yet the "steno-dactylo" is usually a cheerful little soul, with few cares as long as she has work.

There is still another type of worker frequently to be met with in Paris. She is of many years standing. Properly speaking, she is not a girl, but a middle-aged woman, without ties, and for whom Paris is home and family. She may be English or Irish, but no longer having any link with her Mother Country, she has ceased to have any desire to return to it. She probably came over when she was quite young, and started life as a nursery governess. But increasing years, a desire for emancipation, an aching for independence, induced her to strike out on her own. She gives English lessons by the hour, often attending several families daily. And of all the saddest lives I think hers is one. Her home is a bed in a crowded hostel, or a cheap, dingy hotel. Her life is one long struggle for mere existence. Save she never can. Status or profession she has none. She is without any teaching qualifications, but by strange luck she manages to secure sufficient pupils to ensure her daily bread. Her greatest anxiety is to keep young. The appearance of youth is her chief asset. To achieve this she has to dye her hair and employ every art she can afford, for Paris has no use for ageing womanhood. To the elderly, untrained woman, Paris is a refuge, nothing more. It holds no future, no security for her declining years.

Girls from all parts of England and Ireland flock to Paris yearly in their hundreds. At certain seasons their numbers are so great that the hostels are quite unable to cope with the invasion. They are seeking work, novelty, and independence. Work of some kind, no matter how incompetent they are, they are nearly always sure to find. There exist openings which while they often end in a blind alley, still have the advantage of being easy of access, and of offering the certainty of a living wage. Yet, if it were possible, one would stem the tide of these untrained girls from across the channel, because experience has taught that only the really efficient, well-trained girl can make headway, rise out of the common rut, and earn good wages.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that English-speaking

(Continued at foot of next page.)

## DAME LOUISA ALDRICH-BLAKE.<sup>1</sup>

PART II.

By LOUISA MARTINDALE.

In summing up Dame Louisa's constructive work as Dean of the School and a member of the Royal Free Hospital, Lord Riddell says:—

"1. She was mainly responsible for doubling the size of the School.

"2. She took a leading part in increasing the number of beds at the Royal Free Hospital from 165 to 248, thus improving the status and usefulness of the institution.

"3. She took a leading part in founding the Midwifery Unit, and with Lady Barrett and Professor McLroy was largely responsible for its success.

"These solid achievements justify the claim that the Dean contributed far more than her quota to the 'stream of effort' that Bergson tells us constitutes humanity.

"The impression the Dean made on the outside world is well described by Sir Humphry Rolleston, a former President of the Royal College of Physicians. He remarked, when she died:

"Since the war I was constantly meeting her at Committees as representing her School, and occasionally in her capacity of surgeon. As Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women, and so an ambassador of women doctors, she wisely bided her time, but when she did speak, was admirable in her quiet, conciliatory, and therefore convincing way of expressing an opinion which was presented with modesty, reserve and dignity. Her attractive personality—the outward index of her inward and spiritual grace—added in no small degree to her efficiency both as a guiding and controlling influence inside her School and as its representative in the wider sphere of medical London. Her professional help was valuable not only for its accuracy and technique, but for its sound common sense and human outlook. Much as she achieved as a surgeon, it is rather her devoted service to the cause of the medical education and status of women doctors that must be uppermost in the minds of her colleagues and pupils, who will long bear her memory in grateful recollection. She did a great work."

"Sir Humphry was right. She had a judicial mind. Accurate thinking was her strong point. She would have made an excellent judge. She took a real pleasure in balancing arguments. Jealousy, self-interest and prejudice never affected her. According to Aristotle, wisdom does not depend upon knowledge alone, but also upon intuition. Some are born wise and others are not. Dame Louisa was an outstanding example of the former type. I think she was the most disinterested person I have met. Dr. Phear well described her when he said, 'Dame Louisa was one of those rare and noble characters for whom self-interest counts as nothing.'"

Again, Lord Riddell touches upon Dame Louisa's fondness for aphorisms, and her habit of recording those that appealed to her on stray scraps of paper. The last one she wrote was this:

"Why do we hate one another? Why all this temper and scorn, spite and cruelty? Man wants to do right—almost every man and woman alive. And the rules are so simple—fidelity, unselfishness, loving-kindness, humility—but we can't manage them except in little spurts. It seems to me so simple now—love of man, love of God, love of work—humility, because the time is so short, and we are all weak."

And Lord Riddell concludes with her favourite saying from Marcus Aurelius, "Evil hurts none but the doer."

"Courage was one of Dame Louisa's outstanding qualities. At the end she had need of it. Two years before her death she was stricken with what she knew was a mortal and lingering disease—an illness that might bring with it pain of a ghastly sort which, however, she was spared. The symptoms she recognized only too well. She had treated hundreds of patients who had suffered in the same way. She knew that fate had signed her death warrant. With characteristic reserve she never discussed the subject with her friends and with characteristic fortitude she dismissed it from her mind and went on with her work, until a few days before her death. The last and perhaps the greatest of her achievements was the self-conquest that enabled her to bow to the inevitable without bitterness. Although she became thin and drawn, few of those who met her realized how ill she was. The end came swiftly, and on

<sup>1</sup> *Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake*, by Lord Riddell. (Published by Hodder & Stoughton, 7s. 6d.) Part I of this Review appeared in our issue of January 7.

28th December, 1925, at 17 Nottingham Place, the gallant and great lady met death with the same serenity and reserve with which she had encountered life.

"Her death called forth many tributes from high and low. Her Majesty wrote, through Colonel Clive Wigram, to Mrs. Scharlieb, President of the School:

"The Queen was shocked to learn that the close had come to the active and distinguished life of Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake, for whom the Queen had a very sincere regard.

"I am commanded to convey to you and to your colleagues an expression of the true sympathy of Her Majesty in the irreparable loss which your School and the medical world have sustained by the death of this eminent woman surgeon.

"The Queen knows that Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake will be missed by a large circle of friends and patients to whom she had endeared herself by her attractive personality, wise influence and generous thought for others."

"The Dean was an optimist to the end. When speaking to the students in October, 1924, she told them that, looking back a great many years, she could say from the bottom of her heart that the practice of medicine was a splendid life, affording more completely than any other calling scope for the use and development of almost every faculty with which human beings are endowed. 'We must make the most of our opportunities; we must be willing to take reasonable professional risks; without being vain or conceited we must believe in ourselves if we are to expect others to believe in us. At the outset something depends on opportunity. Later all depends on character, industry and ability.' She added, 'It may not be given to many of you to make great discoveries, but observation is the basis of all medical work. If you do not develop your powers of observation to the utmost, your work will lose not only much of its usefulness, but much of its charm.'"

"As things go, Dame Louisa's was not a long life, but it was a happy and useful one. Can more be expected? With her work was a recreation. She might well have written one of Sacha Guitry's letters, in which he says:—

"In work is repose, is joy, is liberty. What is fatiguing is to be disturbed in one's work. Work is discredited by those who imagine that one should work to live. On the contrary, one should live to work. . . ."

## ENGLISH GIRLS IN PARIS.

(Continued from previous page.)

girls, whether they come to learn the language, to seek work, or merely for a holiday, need never feel stranded in Paris. A welcome is always to be found at such institutions as the "Ada Leigh" Homes or the G.F.S., which exist for the protection of British women and girls, and where advice and information are readily given. The former organization has a hostel close to the Gare St. Lazare (18, rue de Melun), which is a boon to young girls arriving in Paris late at night or in the early hours of the morning.

## National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

15 DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

## A MASS MEETING ON EQUAL FRANCHISE

In the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

On THURSDAY, 3rd MARCH, 1927, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH  
MISS MARGARET BONDFIELD, M.P.

Further particulars as to other Speakers, including a prominent Liberal, will be announced later.

Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. Blocks of seats for organizations sending 6 or more members can be obtained from the SECRETARY, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1, at the following reduced rates:—2s. 6d. for 1s., 1s. for 6d., and 6d. for 3d. Admission free. Seats will be allotted in order of application.

## THE MAKING OF BOOKS.<sup>1</sup>

Many readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER are book lovers, but how few know anything about book production. It is difficult to believe that Mr. Stanley Unwin's recently published book, *The Truth about Publishing*, is the first attempt to initiate the public into the mysteries of the technique of publishing. Mr. Unwin quotes a nursery-rhyme suitably brought up to date:—

Where are you going to my pretty-maid?  
"I'm going to publish, sir," she said.  
Perhaps you've a fortune, my pretty maid?  
"My verse is my fortune, sir," she said.  
Then you'd better not try it, my pretty maid:  
There's an item for printing, and, when it is paid,  
There's "commission on sales" oh innocent maid!  
In your rural retreat have you heard of THE TRADE?  
Oh, where are you going to, my pretty maid?

Then he begins to expose from start to finish all the secrets of "the trade." Those who have ever dropped a cherished manuscript fearfully into a letter-box, will read with breathless attention the fascinating chapter entitled "The arrival of manuscripts," and even those devoid of literary ambitions will follow with interest the course of a new book from its first timid appearance on the publisher's desk until it emerges from the mysterious processes of publication clean and smart to run its chances in the overcrowded world of books.

Mr. Unwin shows us that publishing as a profession is "not such a simple task as is usually thought." It requires technical knowledge and commercial ability. It is not only necessary to have personal knowledge of all aspects of the business but practical experience of book selling, both in a retail bookshop and as a publisher's traveller, is of great value. The relation between the production and the distribution of books is necessarily a very close one, and Mr. Unwin has some very suggestive things to say about book selling. Women with a little capital, in search of new and original fields of enterprise, might with advantage study the original suggestions put forward in the chapter on selling. The idea of peripatetic caravan bookshops starting off with "The Home Doctor" and "How to Make and Mend" but rising to higher flights of literature is well worth the experiment. We warmly recommend this book not only to the small handful of people who love books as books, not merely certain books just as some people love children, not only individual children, but to the much wider circle of intelligent persons who like to know "how things are done."

E. M.

## CHAMPIONS OF PEACE.<sup>2</sup>

The author of this book has taken eight personalities of the League of Nations as her heroes, and written a chapter on each describing shortly his life and his work for peace. It is written in a simple and easy style, making it a suitable book for children of school age. This, I imagine, is the author's primary intention. She knows the child's fundamental instinct for hero-worship and wishes to give to it heroes whose victories are victories of peace and not of war. But she realizes also that, made as we are, we find it very much easier to worship the man of action than the thinker, so she lays especial emphasis on incidents in the lives of these heroes in which action predominates. She shows that a champion of peace need not be an anæmic round-shouldered theoretician, he can be a gallant soldier like Smuts or an intrepid explorer like Nansen. (I use the inevitable adjectives advisedly.) We have our interest in their work for the League intensified by the discovery that Nansen when a youth rescued two young ladies from molestation, and Ramsay MacDonald played truant from school. The author is probably right in thinking that we like our peacemakers to be pugnacious at heart. Nevertheless, I think it is a pity that she barely alludes to Ramsay MacDonald's pacifist opinions and activities during the Great War. Even children could be made to realize that a conscientious objection to war is not necessarily a hindrance to a champion of peace. I do not wish to suggest that this is a book only suitable for children. Adults will find in it much of interest, and much, no doubt, that is new to them.

It is not only children who should be made to realize the heroic aspect of the peace question.

M. B. B.

<sup>1</sup> *The Truth About Publishing*, by Stanley Unwin. Allen and Unwin, 7s. 6d.

<sup>2</sup> *Champions of Peace*, Hebe Spaul. (Allen and Unwin, 3s. 6d.)

**"LET'S GO TO THE PICTURES."**<sup>1</sup>

Miss Barry has added a very considerable percentage to the literature of the cinema. This, to judge from her bibliography, consists of some eleven volumes—to which she has now added a twelfth. And indeed it is high time that more such additions were made. It is a public scandal and a public danger that so mighty a monster as the cinema should be allowed to go blundering on its victorious way through the life of mankind, without either the thoughtful criticism or the sympathetic co-operation of those who have helped to steer the course of painting, music, architecture, or the drama. Such complaint is indeed the *leit-motif* of Miss Barry's book, and well it may be! Gladly do we join in her cry. Wake up, *intelligentsia* of the Western world! Use your imaginations to visualize the power and potentiality of the cinema. Stop ignoring the fact that nearly everybody goes to the cinema sometimes, and most people at least once a week. Beware of what the cinema may become—is indeed becoming—in the hands of its commercial begetters. Think and think again, was ever such a medium given to the creative artist; a three dimensional medium with *movement* to lend it still more abundant life? And withal a new medium whose great masters have yet to be born!

And yet, great as is Miss Barry's contribution to its meagre literature, and vital as is her message to the public, we cannot help feeling that she might have given us a little more. She has an encyclopædic knowledge of films, and of the personal and artistic vagaries of those who act, direct, and produce them. But for pages on end her knowledge is paired out in the form of inconsequent well-informed chat, likes and dislikes, such as one might enjoy from a cinema-mad friend over an evening smoke—but all a little undigested. Sometimes a tremendous problem of theory or technique is opened up, only to whet our appetites, not to satisfy them. And at times a literary style which is on the verge of a vigorous terseness degenerates into mere slanginess. Miss Barry should have put more work into this book. She should have weeded, amplified, consolidated her notes. And she *could* have done this if she had tried.

For instance, there is a chapter on the "Conventions and Morals of the Cinema"—a glorious subject for critical analysis, and much excellent and true analysis does Miss Barry give us. But is there, apart from certain strange behaviouristic features, and the stereotyping of human character which she indicates, a coherent social philosophy? Our own limited experience of cinema-going suggests that there is. It is a kind of Chesteronian philosophy involving a definite attitude to state institutions and public charity. Workhouses, orphan asylums, police court missions, uplift organizations, and sumptuary legislation, have a definite consistent place in the cinema world, and it is not a pleasing or a dignified place. But how can we account for it? Is it a reflexion of some vast but superficial popular mood, or merely (as our Marxian philosophers would perhaps suggest) of the interests of capitalist producers in a régime of unfettered individualism? Or is it connected with the reaction of American opinion against prohibition? We do not know—and it is a problem which Miss Barry most disappointingly ignores.

However, all said and done, here is a book which is calculated greatly to increase its reader's interest in and understanding of the cinema. And it is in praise rather than in dispraise of its author that we suggest that she might have made a better thing of it. M. D. S.

**UNIVERSITY WOMEN AT AMSTERDAM.**

University women who were not fortunate enough to be delegates to the fourth conference of the International Federation of University Women at Amsterdam last summer, should read the interesting report of the proceedings which has recently been issued, if they want to realize fully the development of the movement towards a "real league of friendship between university women of all nations." A section of the report dealing with Dutch women in the different professions, which has been separately printed, is full of interest for us in this country. We are impelled to ask again a question which from time to time occurs to us. Why do we not know our neighbours in Holland better? We have so much in common with them; there is so much that we may learn from them. Last year's international gathering has forged a new link, and readers of this report will certainly feel an urge to visit or revisit, as the case may be, this wonderful little country, with which we have so many ties of friendship.

<sup>1</sup> *Let's go to the Pictures*, by Iris Barry. (Chatto and Windus, 7s. 6d.)

**NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Hon. Secretary: The Lady BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBARD. Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

**PERSONAL.**  
BIRTH.

We offer hearty congratulations to Lord and Lady Balfour of Burleigh on the birth of their first son. Given his parentage and his three elder sisters, the Hon. Robert Bruce should become a mighty feminist.

**ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 1927.—Wednesday, 2nd March (afternoon), to Saturday, 5th March morning.**

**Council Events.**

A reception is being arranged for Wednesday evening, of which we shall announce particulars shortly. On Thursday evening the mass meeting in favour of Equal Franchise will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, at 8 o'clock. Tickets (price 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.) and blocks of seats for organizations requiring six or more at the following rates, 2s. 6d. for 1s., 1s. for 6d., and 6d. for 3d., can be obtained on application to Headquarters. Any number of leaflets giving particulars can also be obtained (gratis) from Headquarters. On Friday, the luncheon will be held at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, at 1 o'clock. Tickets price 5s. for members of the N.U.S.E.C., or any of its affiliated Societies, and 7s. 6d. for non-members, can be obtained from Headquarters. Next week we shall be giving particulars of conferences on points on the N.U.S.E.C. programme which will be held during the Council Meetings.

**Hospitality.**

Requests for hospitality during the Council Meeting are being received and we appeal to our members and friends in London who have any room to spare to let us know as soon as possible if they are able to take any guests.

**RESPONSES TO THE GUARANTEE FUND 1927-9.**

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**DEATH OF MR. MAURICE RACKHAM.**

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Maurice Rackham, our Local Correspondent for Roehampton, on the death of her husband in the avalanche disaster at Züers.

**NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.**

**BIRMINGHAM N.C.W. CITIZENSHIP SUB SECTION.**

*Deputation to Members of Parliament on Equal Franchise.*  
A representative deputation from the Birmingham Branch of the National Council of Women waited upon the Birmingham Members of Parliament, on 11th December, at Empire House. Only four out of the twelve members of Parliament were able to be present, but those who were absent had sent apologies and asked to receive a report of the Deputation. Mrs. Cadbury, President of the Birmingham Branch, introduced the deputation and read the Memorial. Lady Brooks, vice-President, and Mrs. Ryland, Chairman of the Citizenship Sub-Section, elaborated the subject. The members of Parliament present expressed themselves in agreement with the Memorial and promised their support.

We hope other Societies will be fired by the action of Birmingham, and Chester and Glasgow (published last week), to approach their Members of Parliament at the same time.

**SUMMER SCHOOL AT GLAND.<sup>1</sup>**

As usual this year a large number of Summer Schools will be held by various organizations. The Women's International League Summer School this year is being organized by the French Section, the subject chosen being "Inter-Racial Problems." The general aim of the School will be, on the one hand, to study the problems raised by modern civilization and, on the other, to show the native races that their claims are sympathetically and fairly considered by at any rate one section of the peoples that rule over them, and that they have friends who are prepared to bring pressure to bear upon their Governments to effect reforms. M. Felicien Challaye, well known in France for his interest in inter-racial problems, has kindly agreed to act as Director of Studies. Among those who have already promised their help and support are: M. Romain Rolland, M. William Rappard, and M. de Madariaga.

By kind invitation of Miss Emma Thomas, the School will again be held in the Fellowship School at Gland. Accommodation of all kinds will be available, including tents, huts, and chalets in the grounds of the School, rooms for one, two, three, or four people, all at very low prices, while it is also possible to stay in hotels either at Gland or Geneva.

As the School will be held during the last fortnight of August, just before the meeting of the League Assembly, it is expected that many people interested in League problems will be glad to take the opportunity of attending.

Inquiries should be addressed to Mlle Yvonne Garreau, 2 rue Gaston de St. Paul, Paris 16.

which criticism is a little flat, and, invariably, cause for laughter! What better sauce than this can one ask?

L. M. MOTT.

**LODGING HOUSES FOR WOMEN.**

MADAM.—E. H. B. in her letter on Lodging Houses for Women, says: "Y.W.C.A. hostels are subsidized by public subscription, yet the young people who live in these homes are charged quite as much as they would pay in a small boarding house." This is a statement I find very hard to believe correct. I have recently been round some of our London hostels, and am impressed anew with the extraordinarily low charges in many of them in spite of the high prices of to-day and the excellent fare that is provided. Of course it is impossible to know which "small boarding houses" E. H. B. is referring to, but if she would communicate with me, I would be interested to compare with her what is provided in the "small boarding houses" with what the Y.W.C.A. provides at the same price.

E. PICTON-TURBERVILL,  
National Vice-President Y.W.C.A.

14 Gayfere Street, S.W. 1.

**OUR UNJUST LAWS.**

MADAM.—May I draw attention to a gross piece of injustice caused by the present income tax laws?

A certain married woman has a private income of some £600 a year, strictly tied up and controlled by trustees. Her husband has no private income, but earns £700 a year, every penny of which he spends on himself and is generally in debt. The wife runs the house and supports the children. She was recently entitled to claim a rebate of income tax for three years, but as the law stands, the claim could only be made by the husband, neither the wife, the trustees, nor the bank being allowed any say in the matter. The rebate was made, and a considerable sum obtained, which was legally the property of the husband to fling about, and which the wife, needing the money sorely, could not touch. I may add that the amount so reclaimed has mostly been spent in drink.

A WORKING WOMAN.

**WOMEN IN THE DARK AGES.**

MADAM.—May I revert to a phrase in the issue of the WOMAN'S LEADER of 17th December, and make some comments which I should have offered to you at once, but for lack of time at that date? The phrase in question only occurs in a review, and might be passed over, did it not seem to illustrate a standpoint which is not altogether unfamiliar to the readers of the paper, and which appears to me questionable. The sentence to which I refer (in the review of Mrs. Monteith Erskine's *Nature's Law of Birth Control*) is as follows: "It is a curious fact that in the dark ages of women's history, that is to say, between the fifth century B.C. and the eighteenth century A.D., it was assumed that women had nothing to do with the essential life of their children." (Italics mine.)

The apparent implications are that (1) The progress of women is a separate stream, quite unrelated to the main current of human progress. (2) Nothing is to count to the gain of women except the steps towards identification of their status, rights, opportunities with those of men.

With regard to such assumptions as these, I would venture to suggest the following queries. The choice of the fifth century B.C. for the commencement of the period is doubtless not to be taken too seriously. It is probably based on the evidence we have that women were not accorded their rightful place in Athens, during the most brilliant epoch of Greece. It is only too probable, however, that their position was much worse in many races in earlier years. Allowing for this it may be asked whether any periods in which human genius reaches a high level, such as the fifth century B.C. in Greece and the Age of Elizabeth in England, can pass by without leaving valuable traces upon the life of women.

If this cannot be discovered in records of the time, does it count for nothing that later generations of women as well as men were to be inspired by the creations of those days to lead the human spirit to greater heights? Did it make no difference to women that even in the Age of Pericles (who was, by the by, himself said by the Greeks to be ruled by Aspasia), alike in the drama, and in sculpture, some of the most striking conceptions of womanhood were being presented, whilst Plato at the close of this period was insisting on the ideal of complete equality of educational and political opportunity for women and men? Or that England's great age bears for all time the name of a woman who certainly did much to affect her country's destinies, whilst amongst Shakespeare's women are personalities rarely excelled in the so-called "manly" qualities?

Were even those ages wholly "Dark" for women, during which a large proportion of men and women looked for their inspiration in religion and art to an ideal type of motherhood—in which also some great Abbesses had a practical influence seldom rivalled in modern times, whilst the Catholic mystical genius was expressed in women saints who have been leaders of mystical thought ever since?

The point that in so far as there is progress in any phase of the history of mankind, women are, and must be involved in it, and contribute a very important part in the forces that determine it, might be illustrated in many other ways. This general truth requires no elaboration. I only refer to it because it seems at moments to be ignored by writers in the WOMAN'S LEADER.

With apologies for the attempt to trespass to this extent on your space.

HILDA D. OAKELEY.

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**CORRESPONDENCE.**

**OUR NEW YEAR'S ISSUE.**

MADAM.—The rather heavy-handed reproof for your innocent boasting over your mighty contemporary *The Times*, which you publish this week, makes me wonder, not for the first time, whether your readers do not sometimes take you too seriously. I also wonder whether your admirers are as ready with their letters as your critics and so venture this one.

The WOMAN'S LEADER leads in a great cause, a cause intensely serious and fraught with tragic issues. All the more are we grateful for the light humour and satiric playfulness which is shot with the deeper tones of its articles. I, for one, open its slender pages eagerly, week by week, knowing that I shall find sound fact, stimulating comment with which I may or may not agree, the touch of vinegar (not quite sulphuric acid) without

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

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## COMING EVENTS.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

**Edinburgh W.C.A.** JAN. 19. 8 p.m. Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Public Discussion, "Should there be Family Allowances?" Affirmative: Councillor Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. Negative: Mr. L. L. Blacknell. Chair: Mr. F. W. Ogilvie.

**Rotherham W.C.A.** JAN. 18. 6.30 p.m. Co-operative Cafe. Debate: "That this Meeting disapproves of Restrictive Legislation for Women in Industry." Proposer: Mrs. Abbott. Opposer: Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc. Chair: Ald. R. Dewar, J.P.

**West Bromwich S.E.C.** JAN. 19. 7.30 p.m. Lecture Hall, Free Library, High Street. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. Chair: The Right Hon. F. O. Roberts, M.P.

## WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

JAN. 14. 6.15 p.m. 41 Cadogan Square, S.W.1. Lantern Lecture by Professor E. G. Coker on "Measuring Stress by aid of Polarized Light."

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

JAN. 20. 7.30 p.m. Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn, W.C. Public Meeting to Demand the Vote for Women at 21 and on the same terms as Men.

## TYPEWRITING.

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**SECOND-HAND CLOTHING** wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE**, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Expert advice on what to do with your girls. Addresses to schools and societies in London and Provinces by arrangement.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES**, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 16th January; 3.30 Music. Mr. G. A. de Zozya on "The Soul of Buddhism." 6.30, Maude Royden.

**EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU**, Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, requires and supplies educated women for all branches of domestic work. Registration: Employers 2s. 6d., Workers 1s. Suitsing, 7s. 6d. and 2s. Telephone, Western 6323.

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