# The Common Cause

Toom. Not to

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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## Notes and News.

#### Tried Friends of Suffrage Defeated.

Suffragists heard with deep regret of the defeat, not only of the women suffragist candidates, but of many men who have been the tried friends of their Cause in the past. Sir W. H. Dickinson, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Sir John Simon, Mr. H. C. Chancellor, Mr. Leif Jones, Mr. Runciman, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald have all shown themselves true and consistent friends to the women's movement, and, from our point of view, the House of Commons will be very much poorer without them. We also regret the defeat of Mr. Lansbury and Mr. Brailsford, and other strong feminists whom we should have liked to see in the House of Commons. It is not only gratitude for the past which makes us lament. Our cause is not wholly won yet, and till women have votes on the same terms as men, we cannot regard with equanimity the defeat of any of those "tried friends " whom we can count on to be friends to the end.

#### Cotton Operatives and Out-of-Work Pay.

We are glad to hear that the agitation of the women cotton operatives in Lancashire against the unequal rate of out-of-work pay for men and women has met with a considerable measure of success. Although the system of piece-work makes it possible for the women who are in work to earn as much as the men, the out-of-work allowance was fixed at thirty shillings for the men and eighteen shillings for the women. This allowance was to be paid jointly by the Government and the employer. Hence forth, the Government will pay the whole of the allowances, and the rate for women has been increased to twenty-five shillings, which will be issued through the Labour Exchanges instead of through the Trade Unions. The women have thus obtained a rise of seven shillings, though not yet full equality with the men.

#### The London County Council and Demobilisation.

We have received information as to the plan which the L.C.C. intends to adopt in dismissing its temporary women clerks now that the demobilisation of the army is in sight. Generally speaking, and apart from special circumstances, the services of those clerks will be dispensed with first who have joined the service of the Council most recently, and those who have been at work longest will be the last to leave. Exception will naturally be made in the case of the widows of Council officers; it is the wish of the Council to retain them as long as possible, whatever may have been the date on which they

took up work. Account will also be taken of the experience and suitability of a temporary officer for carrying out any particular piece of work, and in suitable cases special consideration may be given to financial and other special circumstances. Although, therefore, length of service will, as a rule, be the main deter-mining factor, it must not be assumed that it will, of itself, secure priority in every specific case.

#### Unemployment.

In an article called "The Christmas of Unemployment," The New Statesman says that there are "probably a larger number of persons without current wages in Great Britain" at this time than at any previous Christmas season. "For the moment, indeed, there is in these households a sudden penury and cruel uncertainty as to the future rather than actual distress. The savings to be drawn oncare more substantial these care The savings to be drawn on are more substantial than at any previous time. The new Unemployment Benefit provided by the Exchequer from the 10th of December onward, for six months, with separate allowances for all the children-a momentous precedent-is apparently being claimed and (after some delays) paid out, in sums ranging from twenty-five shillings up to more than three pounds per family, at the rate, it is rumoured, of something like a million pounds per week. The discharges are still going on, and the demobilisation of the Army has scarcely begun. Meanwhile, the absorption of the unemployed men and women is proceeding with perturbing slowness. Manufacturers and traders are eager to resume their civil business, but they can get neither materials nor machinery. Orders are delayed owing to the uncertainty as to prices, transport, and markets. Even the indispensable means of communication are wanting . . . Since the cessation of hostilities we have accomplished the General Election, but we have not, in six weeks, accomplished even a beginning of the 300,000 new cottages that the Government promised for the first twelve months; and not an order has seemingly yet been given for the hundred millions or so of new work on the roads, railways, and public buildings that is im-peratively required. The Government has, so far, totally failed to co-ordinate the discharges with the creation of new employment. The result is that already several hundred thousand men and women-the statistics are in the possession of the Ministry of Labour, but they have not been allowed to be published—are "out of work" this week. The Christmas of the Great Peace will be remembered for years as the Christmas of the offeat Feater There is every prospect that the unemployment will be rapidly increased in the next few weeks."

#### Need for Co-ordination.

The New Statesman goes on to point out that the situation is made very much worse by the ignorance of each of the Government Departments as to what the others are doing, both in the way of plans for future work and of discharging its present employees. "Presently we shall have a swelling tide of discon-tent (because large as are the allowances they are not large enough for present prices), as the numbers of unemployed rise, and as week after week passes without the Employment Exchanges being able to find them new situations. And all the time there is work of the most varied character urgently required by the nation, for which the different public authorities have only to give the orders, and by the aid of which the greater part at least of the involuntary unemployment could be prevented. Now that the financial responsibility for maintaining the unemployed has been directly assumed by the Government, we cannot believe that it will be possible for any administration to leave such things to blind chance. But unless Mr. Lloyd George seriously intends to leave the matter to blind chance, some machinery for the coordination of the discharges with the starting of new enterprises is urgently required."

#### **JANUARY 3, 1910.**

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## THE COMMON CAUSE.

## THE DEFEAT OF THE WOMEN CANDIDATES.

HE defeat of the Women Candidates for Parliament is, of

course, a great disappointment, though it is not in any sense a surprise. The only one who has succeeded is Countess Markievicz, who was returned as Sinn Fein Candidate for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin by a majority of four thousand and eighty-three. Of the unsuccessful ones, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, who was the official candidate at Smethwick, polled eight thousand six hundred and fourteen votes, and Miss Mary Macarthur polled seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-five at Stourbridge.

A correspondent pointed out in The Common Cause of December 20th, some disadvantages under which the women candidates laboured. The fact of their sex was not included among these. The testimony of the women candidates, as far as it has reached us, seems, indeed, to point to the fact that the candidature of women was very much taken for granted. This was, however, among those who actually came to the meetings and saw the candidates ; people who cherished sex prejudice probably stayed at home. It is possible, therefore, that this feeling did have something to do with some of the adverse votes. There is, moreover, a portion of the British Electorate to whom any new class of candidates is always suspect; our voters do not, like the Athenians, run after new things, and even with an electorate in which working men greatly preponderated, it took a long time to get any working-men members into the House of Commons.

On the whole, however, we are inclined to think that the rejection of fifteen women by the electorate was due to precisely the same causes as the rejection of about four hundred and forty men. Miss Macarthur, Mrs. Despard, and Mrs. Pethick Lawmen. Miss matchink, defeated for precisely the same reason as Mr. Anderson, Mr. Snowden, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. Mrs. Corbett Ashby shared the fate common to those who oppose the Chamberlains in Birmingham. Mrs. Strachey paid the price of

the adjective she had prefixed to the substantive "Coalition." The women candidates were defeated, in fact, because they were not the chosen mouthpieces of the party which has won such an overwhelming majority at the polls. Miss Pankhurst, it is true, had received the Coalition ticket and strong official support ; her defeat (by a comparatively small majority) was, therefore, due to other causes, into which we will not enter here; but the other English and Scottish women candidates were all Labour, Liberal, or Independent, and how many Liberal, Labour, or Independent men have got in? The number of those who have failed is, at any rate, very much larger than the number of women who have failed. The women had, moreover, to put up with the constituencies in which there was least chance of success. The Women M.P.'s Bill was not passed until most constituencies had chosen their candidates, and the women had to put up with what was left. Some stood in constituencies in which their party was in hopeless minority, some in constituencies in which there was already a candidate with much the same views as their own; almost all had to come in at the last moment to the scene of action, and face opponents who had been " nursing " the constituency for months, or had sat for it for years.

Considering all these things, we cannot be surprised that the English and Scottish women candidates did not get in this time. We believe that many of the qualities which have contributed to their failure in the special circumstances of the present election will contribute to their success in the future, and will make them a valuable element in the House of Commons when they get there. It is our hope that women M.P.'s will do something to promote the independence and the purity of Parliament. They could not do that if they went there tied and bound by official pledges. Several of our women candidates have, we know, high parliamentary qualities; we are confident that they will have the opportunity of exercising them ere long; meanwhile we wait, as we have waited in the past, with what patience we can.

#### Some Notes on Local Government.

#### EDUCATION

This country has been slow to realise the importance of universal education. For more than two centuries and a half every parish in Scotland has had its elementary school, and the advice of John Knox, that in every notable town colleges should be established for teaching "languages, logic, and rhetoric," was adopted in 1616 by an Act of Privy Council, and firmly established by further legislation in 1633. Germany also followed Luther's injunctions to provide

" Christian Schools " and school libraries for the nation's children, and compulsory education was passed into law in Prussia in 1794. But in England it was not till 1839 that the State began to concern itself with elementary education by making a money grant for the erection of school-houses under the administration of a small special committee of the Privy Council. In 1853 a Committee of Council for Education, consisting of members of the Cabinet, and with President, Secretaries, &c., was set up; and in 1870 the Elementary Education Act was passed, which has been described as "the charter of national education."

Thereafter the control of public education became more local and more democratic; and, at the same time, it became an accepted principle that it was the duty of the State to see that every child received the elements of instruction. Thus education became compulsory, but it was not yet free.

Local authorities, called School Boards, were set up by the Education Department in Boroughs, Rural Parishes, and London, whose duty it was to see that adequate school accommodation was provided for the children in their districts. These Boards had to raise a local rate to meet all cost of education in their areas over and above the amount realised by the Parliamentary grant and the fees paid by the children; they had also extensive powers of borrowing for the building of schools. They were democratic bodies, publicly elected by the ratepayers, and women were eligible to serve on them and were actually elected, prominent among them being such names as Miss Lydia Becker, Dr. Garrett (Mrs. Garrett Anderson), Miss Davenport Hill, and Miss Emily Davies. The first School Boards had to formulate a curriculum, appoint teachers, and see that the necessary books and apparatus were supplied, in addition to erecting schoolbuildings. In connection with the selection of teachers, it is interesting to note that in a book on the Factory Acts, published in 1854, it is mentioned in a section dealing with the education of the children employed in silk and cotton mills that the certificate of a schoolmaster or mistress might be annulled "for being grossly ignorant," and "for incapacity to teach reading and writing

By the Education Act of 1902 the whole of the work of the School Boards, which by this time embraced industrial and special schools, evening schools, and the training of pupil teachers, was transferred to the Councils of Counties, County Boroughs, Boroughs, and Urban Districts (with a population of over 20,000). These Councils became the Education Authorities for their areas, and were obliged to establish Education Committees, which Committees can appoint sub-Committees subject to the approval of the Council. The Education Committees of Councils must include women members as well as men, which provision is usually met by co-opting suitable women. Naturally co-opted members have not the power of elected members, therefore, if only that they may serve on Education Committees, it is urgent that women councillors should be elected on every Council. Suffrage Societies would be doing useful work if they would begin at once to prepare the ground for the support of women candidates for County and Borough Councils. can be specially useful, even as co-opted members of Education Committees and sub-committees. In the provision of instruction other than elementary " (i.e., technical training, &c.), the available facilities are very apt to be put at the disposal of boys first, when it is discovered that, unfortunately, nothing is left for girls. Moreover, the structural arrangements and internal management of schools often call loudly for more attention from the women members of Committee, and much expense might be saved under their housewifely direction. To mention only three small things : washhand basins are often too high for the smaller children to reach, with the result that when washing their grubby little fists the water always runs down their sleeves. It also frequently happens that long narrow schoolrooms are heated by large fires at one end, while at the other end—often the end by the door-the children are shivering. Again, playgrounds may be seen facing the North-East, so that the children always play in the shadow and exposed to an East wind.

If the new ideals of "progressive and comprehensive educa-tion" that have inspired Mr. Fisher's Bill are to be effectually carried out much wider opportunities for travel, culture, and a more complete self-development generally will have to be afforded to teachers.

The payment of fees in public elementary schools was practically done away with in 1891, and after the Education Act of 1902 the Local Education Authorities could, if they thought fit, abolish school fees in "non-provided" schools. The new Education Act declares that "adequate provision shall be made to secure that children and young persons (i.e., children between fifteen and eighteen) shall not be debarred from receiving the benefits of any form of education by which they are capable of profiting, through inability to pay fees." (Italics not in Bill.) Schools which in 1902 were taken over by the Local Education

Authorities from the old School Boards, or which were newly erected by them, are termed " Provided Schools," while " Non-Provided Schools " are elementary schools which previously belonged to private people or societies but afterwards became maintained and directed by the Local Education Authorities. Both kinds of schools must have a body of managers, the difference being that in Provided Schools the County Council ppoints four of the managers and the lesser authority-Borough Parish Council, &c .- appoints two; or, if more are appointed, ey must be in the same proportion; whereas in the Non-Provided Schools four of the managers must represent the interests of those who established the school before it passed into e hands of the Board of Education, and one must be appointed the Council of the County and the other by the lesser Council.

One of the criticisms of the new Bill is that it tends to increase subjection of small Boroughs and Urban Districts to County Authorities, to lessen the status and administrative functions of he Education Committees, and generally to centralise the con-rol of popular education and withdraw it from local democratic nfluence. But the advances made in the directions of raised chool age, continued instruction to older pupils, social and vsical opportunities, restrictions of employment of young ildren, and other matters under the new Act are so great that is invidious to point out flaws.

The present prospects of the woman sanitary inspector as such One of the most valuable developments of our modern educacannot be said to be rosy. Owing to this, there has been a con-stant stream of the better educated brighter members of the proonal system is that in connection with After-Care work and unior Advisory Committees in co-operation with the Ministry ession into other government services. It would be difficult Labour. On the whole, we look forward to the day when in to find a profession in which more glaring inequalities exist at ngland there need be no fear that any Milton will go to his the present time. Taking boroughs of London, some women scure grave mute and inglorious for lack of the opportunities inspectors earn as much as £252 per annum (including bonus) others of equal or better qualifications and as long a period of education and the cultivation of his talents. Women everyhere should use their influence to enlighten parents on the service earn £ 160 or  $\pounds$  170. No one knows when taking a post bject of education, and strive to awaken their interest and in one of the twenty-nine metropolitan boroughs whether their list their co-operation in the new educative efforts of the Council is going to act meanly or generously by them in the vernment. It is earnestly to be hoped that the wages of future. Of one thing only can they be certain and that is that orking-class parents in this country will be such that their their rate of payment bears no relation whatever to the quality ildren can take advantage of the new opportunities without its of their work. Then, as regards holidays : some Health volving suffering and privation in the home. Visitors get an annual six weeks with frequent Saturdays off; CAROL RING. others are held down rigidly to three weeks or less and have no privileges as regards coming late on Mondays after a week-end. or getting a little extra at bank holidays.

## Women in the Public Health Service : A Survey.

It is only twenty-two years ago since the first Women Saniy Inspectors were appointed in London. To Kensington the nour of adopting this new idea is due, for in 1896 two Women spectors were appointed to inspect laundries, and the work soon extended to include workshops employing women. Gradually, other towns and London Boroughs followed suit, and 1906 more than forty women were thus employed in London one in inspecting workshops, outworkers' premises, tenement ouses and cases of infectious diseases, serving their own otice to remedy defects where found, and performing duties previously only undertaken by men.

In the meantime, a desire to make use of women's services a more personal manner among the poorer classes had arisen, nd certain towns were appointing another class of official for his purpose entitled Health Visitors. These had no statutory powers to enter houses or serve notices to abate nuisances but ad to rely upon their persuasive powers to effect changes in e personal habits of the dirty and verminous. As Health sitors were invariably at this time paid less than Women Sani-As Health tary Inspectors, it is difficult to believe that this new class of

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official was evolved for any other purpose than that of economy; especially as Women Sanitary Inspectors, who were still being appointed in greater numbers than Health Visitors, were already taking over the same duties in addition to those appertaining to the office of Sanitary Inspector.

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The Pioneer Women Inspectors were usually well educated women who took up the profession because they liked social work of such a varied and independent kind. Although the only qualification required was the Sanitary Inspector's Board examination or the Sanitary Institute qualification for outside London, a very simple matter to an educated person, yet most of the candidates for posts in this early period had other examination qualifications and had frequently had previous experience in social work. From 1904 onwards, as the problem of infant mortality began to be taken up by Public Health Authorities, a further qualification began to be asked for-i.e., the certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Nearly all women inspectors obtained leave of absence and qualified themselves as midwives at their own expense. About this time or very soon afterwards the duties of Women Inspectors and Health Visitors were increased by the inclusion of births and deaths of infants visits, and simultaneously voluntary societies began to take up Infant Welfare work.

There can be no doubt that the boom given to infant visiting by voluntary societies resulted in the increased employment of Health Visitors rather than Sanitary Inspectors, partly from the mistaken idea that the visits of Inspectors were offensive to the poor people; and although the tendency of the last year or two has been to pay Health Visitors not less than Women Inspectors; for many years they were employed at lower salaries, thus undercutting them and leading in some cases to the substitution of the Health Visitor for the Women Sanitary Inspector on the occurrence of a vacancy, with the result that work previously done by women such as workshop inspections and tenement-house work reverted to the men inspectors, or to an insufficient number of women inspectors.

Latterly in addition to the midwifery qualification, nursing training is asked for in nearly all advertisements for Health Visitors, so that, by far the greater number of the 2,000 Health Visitors now employed in England and Wales have had partial or full nursing training.

The only hope for the future of the profession is in the recognition by the Ministry of Health of the need for remedying these inequalities and improving the conditions of Women Health Visitors and Inspectors so that the profession may attract the right kind of woman and keep her by making it worth her while to remain in it.

The first thing to be done is to secure uniformity of pay and adequate pay, holidays and pensions for all Women Public Health officials.

The next thing to do is to permit fluidity of employment. It should be possible for officials to change their districts comparatively easily. A change of personnel in an office may make all the difference to the happiness of the members and therefore to the quality of the work.

Further, as is done in certain schools, all Women Inspectors and Health Visitors should be allowed a few weeks extra off every three years or so, in order to keep their knowledge of Hygiene, &c., up-to-date.

Finally, the public should remember that nursing training, although always an asset is not the only preparative for public health work; and that a statutory qualification other than that now existing for Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors should be created and held compulsory for future appointments.

E. ORANGE.

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### Notes from Ireland.

#### By DORA MELLONE.

I. "COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE, MY PEOPLE."

The notes rang out clear and sweet, rising to the arched roof of the Cathedral, borne up, as it were, on the wings of a faith too strong for discouragement or dismay. They told of warfare accomplished, of iniquity pardoned, of the time when the desire of all nations should come and bring peace to all the world. There in the lit Cathedral, under the spell of that glorious music, it was easy to realise this, to remember that it was many days since the "Cease fire" had sounded along that terrible front, and that now, indeed, the shadow of war was passing from the world. Outside the Cathedral, watching the crowd in the streets, it had been otherwise. Peace and comfort, smoothing out of rough places, and straightening of crooked things-these seemed vain thoughts on that December Sunday in the rain and wind. The streets were thronged too, for there was a funeral that day, and the dead man was one of those whom the people delight to honour. One of the Irish Republican leaders, interned in England, had died during the previous week, and his friends had brought the body home to be buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, near the graves of O'Connell, Parnell, and many another Irish patriot. Here, also, is the more recent grave of Thomas Ashe, another Irish Republican, who died in 1917 in prison under forcible feeding, and whose funeral procession was one of the greatest Dublin has ever witnessed. This last funeral, on December 15th, the day after the General Election, was also in the nature of a political demonstration. The familiar tricolours -not that flag of France which the soldiers of the Empire know and love, but the yellow, white and green of the Trish Republicwas everywhere, with a black cross in the centre to show that Ireland was honouring her dead-her martyred dead, as the people thought, for it was said at election meetings that English prison officials had experimented on the interned Irishmen to see how little food would keep them alive, and this man had died under the treatment. The story is believed as implicitly as the other tale, told to the writer by an Irish lady with an incredible passion of bitterness in her voice, that "the Leinster was torpedoed by a British submarine in order to stimulate recruiting in Ireland." It is stories like these that have filled the hearts of the Irish people with a hatred of England impossible for English people to realise, and that inspire such poems as the "Hymn of Hate," distributed in Dublin during the week of the Election. Here are three of the less violent lines :-

God of Justice, hearken to our fervent prayers Strafe accursed England, bathe her deep in tears. Wither all her children, blight her fancied Fame.'

Indeed, the reaping of that harvest of dragon's teeth, sown in the days of the violated Treaty of Limerick, of the Penal Laws, of the massacre of Drogheda, seems to have come in our own day, and there is "occupied territory" nearer home than Germany. The women, who should naturally be a reconciling force, are amongst the most bitter. Nothing, apparently, that England can do will allay the passion fed by brooding on the history which Sir Horace Plunkett said was " for Englishmen to remember and for Irishmen to forget.'

Yet the message of the music holds true, even though the people do indeed imagine a vain thing. The day before, Irishwomen, some wearing the yellow, white and green, and others wearing the red, white and blue, had met together to do honour to a leader whose work had nothing to do with party feuds or national animosities. That was in bright sunshine, under a blue sky; on the following day the heavy clouds hung low over the crowded streets. But the sun is the enduring reality, while the clouds are only shadows which will surely pass with the breaking of another day.

Irishwomen have worked together, even during the last years of strife and unrest; in this lies the hope of the growth of that goodwill among men without which the Christmas message of Peace on earth can never be realised. The nations of the earth have been shaken to their foundations, and from that shaking there will arise, in every country, a new national life, ruled by the spirit of Love, not Hate.

#### II. THE FIRST WOMAN VOTER IN IRELAND.

The Irish Times of December 16th mentioned the fact that among the very earliest voters on the election day was a lady who arrived at the polling booth at 7.30 a.m. This lady was no other than Mrs. Haslam, the pioneer of Suffrage work in Ireland, and founder of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, the oldest Irish Suffrage Society. It is good that some of those who bore the burden in the early days are still with us in the hour of success; and we, in Ireland, are proud that we have, as a leader, one who began her work before even the first of the manySuffrage measures was introduced into the House of Commons.

It was felt by many that there should be some public expression of this, and the happy thought occurred to the Church League for Woman Suffrage that a little demonstration should be arranged outside one of the polling booths in Dublin. The Committee of the Irish Women Patrols, of which Mrs. Haslam is President, and which was founded by her Association, cooperated with the Church League and with the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, and invited other Suffrage Societies to take part. Advantage was taken of the fact that women going to record their votes were to be photographed for a cinematograph film, and an impromptu procession, headed by Mrs. Haslam in a motor car, was included in the film, which was shown the following week in the picture houses. The procession included representatives of all Irish Suffrage Societies, but interest centred in the car with the banner " Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, 1876,' which was carried by Mr. and Mrs. Haslam themselves in the great procession of 1911. It was impossible to look at the flag without emotion as one thought of the two who had worked side by side all their lives long for the cause of woman's freedom, even as they carried the flag that sunny June day all the way from the Embankment to the Albert Hall. One was still left to keep the flag flying, and as she stood there with her eye undimmed and her natural force unabated, she seemed to embody the very spirit of the Suffrage movement, strong to overcome present difficulties, and full of faith for the future. Victory has not yet been fully achieved, but Mrs. Haslam has lived to vote in a Parliamentary Election, and to that extent, her life work has been crowned with success. For this reason Irishwomen of all political parties gathered to do her honour. They were reaping that day where she and others had sown : women Poor Law Guardians, women Councillors, women Doctors, a woman Senator of the National University, and many women graduates were there to show their gratitude to the pioneer who had done so much to open to women the doors of the Council Chamber and the University. It should be added that Mrs. Haslam has not been content with opening the door, but has worked hard to persuade suitable women to enter therein. One member of her committee was for many years Chairman of an Urban Council, another did splendid work as a member of the Dublin Corporation-not the easiest position to fill; many have striven as Poor Law Guardians to render the Irish Poor Law more just and more humane

Mrs. Haslam has reason to be proud of her city. The College of Surgeons in Dublin gave women licenses to practise as doctors, and Trinity College gave them the medical degree before any University in Great Britain would do so. Largely through her efforts, Dublin Corporation carried unanimousl the famous resolution supporting the Conciliation Bill; and Dublin was the first city in Ireland to have women police. For all these things she has worked; and those who followed her in the procession of December 14th will follow her in unceasing effort until the time comes when men and women can work together on equal terms for the common good.

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### The Traffic in Babies.

Attention has been drawn of late to the increasing number of advertisements which appear in quite respectable papers dealing with the " adoption "—for a pecuniary consideration of young children. So serious a national menace has this traffic in infant lives become that steps are being taken in the interests of the country and the children who to-day are its greatest. asset to obtain from Parliament a Bill to forbid all such questionable transactions, and render illegal these advertisements which, stripped of their specious wording, amount in plain English to sale and barter of unwanted babies. Until some such measure is passed, a more stringent application of the law already existing for the protection of such children is greatly to be desired. The provisions of the Infant Life Protection section of the Children's Act of 1908, which touches the evil closely, are but vaguely known to the generality of people, and bo often evaded by those interested in this disgraceful traffic. Unfortunately, too, while its requirements in respect of the actual foster-mother are, in theory at least sufficiently drastic, they permit the prime offender, to whom the larger profits accrue, carry on a flourishing trade unhindered. For the modern by-farmer has changed both her milieu and her methods. She no longer the wretched harpy battening upon hapless mites ntrusted to her tender mercies, whose grosser malpractices were more or less easily brought to book; but frequently unites the usiness of baby-farming with that of a maternity home. She the obliging intermediary who, for a more or less substantial mium extorted from the young mother or her friends, underakes the disposal of the inconvenient infant. This is effected at he cost of the usual advertisement and the payment of a small proportion of the sum received to the foster-mother who assumes ith the "adoption" of the child all further responsibility for s upbringing. Plenty of women have accepted such a charge ith a  $\pm 5$  note without any thought of what is to become of the child when the meagre sum that tempted them is gone. And t is with the foster-mother alone that the law in its present form can deal, whose neglect or misdeeds are punishable; of the astute nd more elusive intermediary it takes no cognisance. The first Infant Life Protection Act of 1872, though it only enforced the egistration of nurse-children under one year of age and where ore than one was received, did something to check the more obvious abuses of baby-farming as they then existed; and the law since then has been considerably strengthened, both as regards its powers of inspection and the age of registration.

By the present Act every child under seven undertaken for ward, whether weekly payment or lump sum down, must be gistered with the local authorities within forty-eight hours of reception, the only recognised exceptions being in the case of aritable institutions and foster-mothers employed by Poor Law Guardians under more stringent Boarding-Out Orders. Neglect register is punishable by the forfeiture of all or part of any m received with the child, and for further offences against the ct a term of imprisonment may be imposed. It is a punishable ffence for foster-parents to insure the lives of nurse-children, or for Insurance Companies to accept such policies; and the appointment of Infant Life Protection Visitors has been made pulsory upon local authorities—who are, in rural districts. Poor Law Guardians; the London County Council in the letropolitan areas; and in the City, the Common Council. oster-mother is licensed only so long as she is approved by the isitor whose duty it is to inspect the homes of nurse-children; and no person once convicted of unfitness, by reason of vice, cruelty, neglect, overcrowding, or other circumstance which renders the home undesirable for young children, can again be ccorded a license.

The weak point in this otherwise admirable legislature lies in its inadequacy to discover those who, through gnorance or wilful evasion, fail to notify. In country districts nd crowded towns alike, the difficulty of tracing these defaulters equally great. Inspectors need to be multiplied; and without nore effective means of giving publicity to the Act the genuine gnorance that frequently exists as to its requirements will coninue to hamper its efficient working. More women Visitors, paid or voluntary, are urgently wanted in place of the already overburdened relieving officer to whom the work of children's nspector is still too often allotted. These duties are, in many places, voluntarily undertaken by Women Guardians and embers of Boarding-Out Committees, but their number is far from sufficient for the work to be done. Ignorance and poverty, o say nothing of congenital disease, take a disproportionate toll of these unwanted babies' lives, though it is the general experience of Infant Protection Visitors that the cottage foster-

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mother who, for a weekly payment, receives one or two nurse-children usually does so with the intention of doing her duty by them honestly according to her lights. It is with the so-called adoptions "---now, unfortunately, so much on the increase-that abuses most often occur, the lump sum constituting a bait to the unscrupulous, who may have no qualification whatever for the office they undertake, and, sooner or later, weary of their unprofitable charges. A Protection Bill, that goes to the root of the evil by prohibiting these facile "adoptions," will be welcomed, not only by all social workers faced with the difficult problem of safeguarding the less fortunate children of our land, but by every woman to whom the fate of unloved, unwanted babyhood makes pitiful appeal.

M. PAIGE WOOD

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#### Women and Aviation.

#### THAT TRAP-WORD "PERSON" AGAIN.

The recently published report of the Civil Aerial Transport Committee\* is a fascinating document and one which leads the mind on along many and great vistas of immediate future The share that women will take in that developdevelopment. ment may probably, relatively speaking, not be a very large one, but it is essential to ensure that, just at the stage when aviation for non-military purposes is beginning to crystallise out into a practical proposition, no artificial hindrance shall be placed in their way. And here, as was to be expected, we at once come upon our old enemy, that unsatisfactorily ambiguous word, path women desire to tread, and, as here, lurking in the most unexpected places, concealed among a mass of technicalities.

It is to be noticed that the Special Committee No. 4, in their report upon the problems of labour and on the technical education of artisans and mechanics, refer specifically to male and female labour throughout. In passing, it may be interesting to note that the Committee estimate the body of labour employed in the industry in 1916 at about 100,000 persons, of whom about 25,000 were women and boys under military age. Estimates for a later period of the persons so employed place the proportion of women higher than the 25 % given by the Committee. Special Committee No. 5, however, in their report upon research and the special scientific education of expert designers, engineers, and pilots, refer throughout to men only. This contrast may or may not be significant; but it is certainly such as to cause us to examine closely the exact wording of the draft Bill for the Regulation of Aerial Navigation, and the draft International Convention in regard to Aerial Navigation which form the basis of the Report of the Special Committee No. 1, which was requested to advise as to policy and legislation.

Section 5 of the draft Bill, dealing with the certification of officers, contains the following provisions :---

(1) Every aircraft when being navigated, shall be provided with a navigator, duly certified in accordance with this section, and also, in such cases as may be prescribed by regulations of the B/T, with such other officers so certificated as may be prescribed.
(2) The B/T may make regulations as to the issue of certificates,

(4) If any person

- (a) Navigates, or allows to be navigated, any craft not provided with a duly certificated navigator (abv.<sup>+</sup>) or
   (b) Having been engaged as a navigator or other officer required to be certificated navigates an aircraft without being duly
- certificated, or
   (c) Employs a person as navigator or as an officer in contravention of this section without ascertaining that the person so
- serving is duly certificated, That person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

The articles of the draft Convention with which we are here concerned are as follows :-

#### ARTICLE 14.

The pilot, chief mechanic, and their substitutes, must be provided with licences issued or authenticated, by the State whose nationality has been conferred upon the aircraft of which they are in charge. In urgent cases the pilot can choose to replace him, or to carry out the duties of the chief mechanic, persons provided with licenses issued or made valid by another contracting State.

#### ARTICLE 15 (abv.)

Different licenses will be issued for different types of aircraft. These licenses will only be issued after the capacity of the pilots or mechanics has been proved by theoretical or practical tests carried out before a public authority of contracting state or duly empowered Aeronautical Association.

\* Ed. 9,218. Price 9d. net. + abv. = abbreviated.

#### THE COMMON CAUSE

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#### ARTICLE 16

Licenses will only be granted to persons at least eighteen years old and of good character. These licenses shall contain the name and description of the holder as well as his photograph and signature. It will be noticed that the words used in the draft Bill are

"navigator," "officer," and "person," and in the draft Con-vention, "pilot" "mechanic" and "person" and that when pronouns are used they are throughout of the masculine gender. Now these terms are all of a neutral character, and under the Interpretation Act, 1889, would not of themselves serve to prevent women being certificated and licensed as pilots and other officers. The objection raised and upheld in the Courts (in Bebb v. The Law Society, 1913) against the admission as solicitors, namely, that women never had acted as solicitors, and therefore there was a Common Law disqualification, which a mere interpretation clause would not suffice to override, would not be applicable here; firstly, because flying is too recent to admit of a disqualification based on ancient custom, but still more because there have been successful women aviators, both here and in France and in the United States. It is just possible though, that, should the Bill and Convention as drafted go through, it might be held that they refer to men only, and cannot apply to women owing to some so-called "natural" disqualifications. The risk is probably not a very great one, but it should be borne in mind by women when the whole subject, as it soon must be, is before the newly-elected Parliament. Not only should women's right to be certificated and licensed in this country, should they comply with the regulation tests, be made clear beyond all doubt, but it should be equally clearly impressed upon H.M. Government that in any negotiations for an International Convention the right of British women to an equality of opportunity and status must he insisted on.

There is one cognate matter to which I would like to draw attention. The fifth Special Committee, in their report, contemplate the training of pilots being undertaken by private flying schools, who will prepare their pupils to take the certificate of the Royal Aero Club. Such schools will, presumably, be quite willing to take women pupils, and, I understand, the examinations held by the Royal Aero Club are open to women

For the training of engineers and designers, the Committee contemplate post-graduate courses at two special institutions, for whose establishment considerable grants would be required. The Committee also recommend the establishment of an adequate system of scholarships. It will be up to women in the near future to ensure that any such educational facilities are not confined to men, but that exceptional women with gifts in that direction shall have the chance to use them to the full. We don't want to have to combat the same difficulties with the new professions as with the old for lack of a little foresight

L. F. NETTLEFOLD, Law Tripos Camb., LL.B. London.

#### Reviews.

The League of Nations: its Economic Aspect. By Hartley Withers. (Oxford University Press. 1918. Threepence net.)

Mr. Hartley Withers has won a wide and lasting reputation as the writer of a series of lucid works upon various aspects of banking, finance, and social economics which are generally dealt with in a manner so forbidding as to repel any but the most enthusiastic searcher after truth. It is, therefore, all the more to be welcomed that it is he who has been called upon to explain for the benefit of the general reader the relationship between the League of Nations and the economic processes which provide the world with such material well-being as it actually enjoys.

The author has, of course, not the least difficulty in disposing of that peculiarly exasperating optimism which thinks that because the war has been won the world can be allowed to fall back into its old manner of life. That manner of life is impossible; for the simple reason that this war has proved conclusively that " preparedness " involves taking for purposes of destruction all but a small fraction of the labour and equipment of the world. Moreover, since " self-sufficiency " involves a cessation of international investment and exchange, the fraction of capital and labour power which is all the world will be able to spare for the creation of comforts and necessaries for the civil population will be less fruitful than a similar quota would have been in the old days. As the author points out :--

"It is these practical lessons of the war that have shown us that we stand at the parting of the ways, and that one of the roads open to us lead us to despair and ruin; while the other can take us new and much higher level of material prosperity, with opportunities for a great step forward towards things much more important than material prosperity.

It is, perhaps, ungrateful to criticise the shortcomings of a sixteen-page pamphlet, but it would have been well, to our mind, for Mr. Withers to have added a practical comment or two. This voluntary co-operation of peoples all over the world, which we call International Trade, suffers from the fact that, though extremely important for the world's well-being, it is unconscious and misunderstood, and can always be attacked on the grounds that it hides the sinister designs of the "peaceful penetrator." A League of Nations will be quite powerless to check anti-alien stunts " so long as our economic education is as incomplete as it now is. Secondly, Mr. Withers might have illustrated his argument by referring to the increasing volume of international regulation of economic conditions undertaken by the Governments of the world, even before the war : from the elaboration of common codes of law to the penalisation of unfair methods of developing the export industries of a country (e.g., Brussels Sugar Convention). The work of the League will have to be not merely negative-i.e., safeguarding the rights of trade by common codes of law, but also positive-i.e., elaborating methods by which States can fruitfully increase world's flow of well-being. In both these directions a good deal of valuable experience has been accumulated, and the ease with which a League can be brought into being will be very much affected by the degree to which the nonexpert members of the State can be brought to realise that we are not working in these matters without experience to guide us to better things.

T. E. GREGORY.

# The Victory Cookery Book. By Mrs. C. S. Peel and Iwan Kriens. (The Bodley Head. 53.)

The Victory Cookery Book is really worthy of its name. Mrs Beetonthe unfailing guide of our mothers-only serves to ruffle the nerves of a generation such as ours to which the fresh, unlimited supplies of cream, eggs, meat, sugar, flour, and peel required for her dishes by that worthy dame are as prehistoric, as would be a juicy bit of iguanodon. Mrs. C. S. Peel (until recently Director of Women's Service, Ministry of Food) does take into account the difficulties under which we now labour. She shows us how to make really attractive dishes with the minimum amount of trouble and expense. In his introduction, the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., says : " To shun waste, to get out of our foodstuffs the full measure of nourishment, these are essential principles in war-time cookery." Mrs. Peel starts her book with a chapter entitled, "The Art of Making Do," which will appeal to many of us harassed housewives. This is the key-note of the book. The information given is of a uniform excellence, and the directions are well and clearly written. The only criticism to be made is on the score of expense, as it will have to compete with so many cheaper rivals. Nevertheless, we can confidently assure anyone who purchases it that the outlay will be repaid over and over again by the helpful labour and money-saving suggestions it contains.



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THE COMMON CAUSE.

#### Correspondence.

#### WOMEN SUFFRAGE IN HOLLAND.

MADAM,-The great wave of democracy now sweeping all over the orld has not failed to touch little Holland.

JANUARY 3, 1919.

world has not failed to touch little Holland. The partial revision of the Constitution of December 12th, 1917, gave women eligibility and the possibility of enfranchisement by law. The elections of July, 1970, brought Miss Suze Groeneweg into the Second Chanmber. Mr. Marchant's Suffrage Bill, introduced in September, pro-posed political equality for both sexes, but was not supported by the Government. Then came the triumph of demacracy which will ever make November 11th of this year a memorable day in the history of humanity; the Premier declared his wish to see adult suffrage for women as well as men made the law of the land, and now our Suffrage Bill is in progress.

The political parties of religious Conservatism, as well as Labour, may reasonably expect to gain in influence by this doubling of the elec-orate. This explains the haste which is now made to get womanhood uffrage into the Statute Book.

Suffrage into the Statute Book. Under these circumstances the discussions in the annual meeting of the Dutch Woman Suffrage Association have rather a provisional character, but suffragists are in high hopes, and in the best of spirits for the celebra-tion of the Association's jubilee on February 15th, 1919. MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

#### WOMEN POLICE.

WOMEN POLICE. MADAM,—Miss Damer Dawson's letter of December 20th raises a point of real urgency. I most heartily admire the splendid work done by many Munitions Policewomen; but experience proves that police work in a factory by no means necessarily fits a woman for police work in the street. The question is now not one of war emergency but of the appoint-ment of women for permanent and constructive work; is it not a pity to be guided in their selection by considerations other than those of securing to the ranks of the Police the very best of our womanhood? Many of these are now available for the first time, whilst they bring with them ability and experience developed by many forms of war service. A glance at our last Annual Report will show Miss Damer Dawson to have spoken "without book," when referring to posts already filled; as regards those to come, precedent is more reliable than prophecy. May I suggest, too, that the action of the Carnegie Trust, in making a sub-stantial grant to the Federated Schools of Bristol, Liverpool, and Scot-land, enabling them to offer maintenance during training to all promising women, may be construed as a solid endorsement of the policy I have outlined above? Already some Munitions Policewomen are availing themselves of this opportunity. D. O. G. PERO.

D. O. G. PETO. Director, Bristol Training School for Policewomen and Patrols

#### WOMEN AND DOMESTIC SERVICE.

WOMEN AND DOMESTIC SERVICE. MADAM,—I did not recommend the "household orderly" system with-ut some personal experience of its advantages. For the past eight years by own little maid (who has been with me twelve years altogether, riginally as a whole-time servant in a larger house) has lived at her wn home, and come to me for three or four hours daily, except on Sundays and public holidays, and for a fortnight in the summer, when I should onsider it very inconsistent with my own social principles if I did not llow her her liberty. If I require her for any extra duty, she willingly ives me the extra 'time; and although it is quite true that I have to et breakfast, and even some of the other meals, I do not find that an verwhelming task, especially in these days of rations, with the help it a gas ting and gas fire. I am also enabled to live comfortably in eace and quiet; I can go into my kitchen whenever I wish to do so-now many women might envy me that privilege !—and I am free from all he anxiety and responsibility attendant on the living-in system. I may dd that the "man in the house"—that theoretical obstacle in the way it so many domestic theories !—also appears contented. so many domestic theories !- also appears contented.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

MADAM,—In an article on Local Government which appeared in a event number of the COMMON CAUSE, the writer mentioned that it had been the custom to have only one High Sheriff for Hants., Cambs., and the Isle of Ely, and asked if this was still the case. The custom still ontinues, the three Districts nominating in turn, so that each has the ligh Sheriff once in three years.

(Mrs.) F. A. KEYNES. Town Councillor

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REJECTED	WOMEN CANDIDATES			
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Miss M. Carney (SF.)	Belfast	395		8.
Miss Violet Markham (Lib.)	Mansfield	4,000		4
Mrs. Despard (Lab.)		5,634		5
Mrs. Dacre Fox (Ind.)	Richmond (Surrey)	3,615		4
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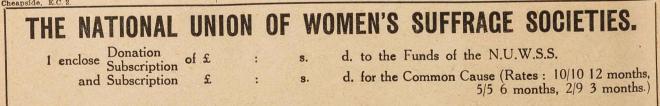
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