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 AND
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

On and after Tuesday, 10th July, the address of the Common Cause Publishing Company, Ltd., will be 15 DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1, where all communications should be sent.

NOTES AND NEWS**A League Victory.**

As we go to press we hear from Geneva of a fresh victory of the League of Nations principle. We understand that the British proposal for an inquiry into the administration of the Saar has been accepted and that the Council of the League will conduct this inquiry during the present session. This decision does credit to Lord Robert Cecil's skilful handling of the situation and not less to the goodwill of the French representatives.

Lawyers and the Law.

By the time this is in our readers' hands the Committee stage of the Matrimonial Causes Bill will have been taken in the House of Lords and we shall be in a better position to know whether our high hopes for its ultimate success are justified.

Considerable capital has been made by the critics of the Bill, notably by Mr. Dennis Herbert in the House of Commons, by Lord Birkenhead in the House of Lords, and by Sir Edward Marshall Hall, K.C., in the Press, of the fact that the Bill did not make for complete equality in that a woman with a fortune of her own could not be made to pay alimony to an innocent husband as he has to to her in a similar case. A second letter to the *Times* by Sir Edward Marshall Hall, K.C., disposes of this contention by showing that Section 45 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, of 1857, imposes complete equality between men and women in this respect! In any case, no claim has been made by the promoters of the Bill that it, at one fell swoop, does away with all inequalities in the Divorce Law between men and women, and an "Equal Divorce Bill" was not a name coined by them. The Bill provides for one change in the law, and for one only, and although such a change removes the greatest of all inequalities, searchers after others will no doubt be able to discover them.

Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants Bill, 1923.

The Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament continues to hold regular sittings and evidence has been taken

this week from the Scottish Office, the Ministry of Health, Sir Claud Schuster, as representing the Lord Chancellor's Department. It is unfortunate that the official mind appears to regard this Bill as an opportunity for raising from the vasty deeps administrative bogies which, at first sight, appear hair-raising, but which a little common sense and still more a realization of how the law actually works in countries in which equal guardianship obtains soon become reduced to proper proportions. We fear, therefore, that this opposition portends something more than the fear of over-burdening the courts, etc., and represents a real aversion to depart from the domination of the male in the household.

Pay of Lytton Entrants in the Civil Service.

We are glad to note that the Committee appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider the remuneration of ex-Service, men and women in Civil Service known as the "Lytton Entrants," has passed an interim report recommending increases in basic rates to alleviate the cases of candidates appointed to posts at the lower ranges of the scale. An increase of approximately 12s. 6d. per week for certain classes of entrants—whether men or women—and of 8s. per week for the junior classes has been awarded. This recognition that the same arguments which make for an increase of pay for men in the Civil Service apply equally to their women fellow-workers is valuable, and we may hope, represents a first step towards equality of pay throughout the Civil Service.

Babies and Politics.

Many readers of this paper, however political or highbrow they may be, find time to be interested in their own or other people's babies and are at present immersed in the hope-inspiring activities of Baby Week. It is good to hear in the Presidential Address of the Minister of Health (Mr. Neville Chamberlain) that *it was unthinkable that even for considerations of economy that we*

should in any way retrace our steps in the direction of the preservation of infant life. The Baby even found his way into the House of Commons last week, as it was because it was the alleged failure of the Scottish Board of Health to give effect to this principle which caused the eruption in the House. The psychology of this concentration on the baby is excellent and will have its effect on public opinion, but readers of this paper will not forget that man shall not live by bread alone, and that indirectly, if not directly, some of the reforms for which this paper stands will give the baby both now and in the future a better chance.

Nationality of Married Women.

The Select Committee of Lords and Commons, under the Chairmanship of Lord Chelmsford, which for some weeks has been taking evidence on the subject of the Nationality of Married Women, will begin to draw up its report on Thursday, 28th June. The Committee includes such strong supporters of the reform of the Nationality Laws on the lines demanded by Women's Organizations as Sir John Butcher, who introduced the 1922 Bill, and Mrs. Wintringham, while the other two members of the House of Commons, Mr. Adamson and Colonel M. Alexander, are also sympathetic. Very strong evidence in favour of giving married women the right themselves to decide whether they should retain or change their nationality was given by Sir Willoughby Dickinson and Sir Ernest J. Schuster, K.C., the distinguished international jurist. Chrystal Macmillan, speaking on behalf of the National Council of Women, which has for many years been organizing the campaign among women's societies, reminded the Committee that the International Council of Women had been working for this reform since 1905, and showed how universal was the support not only in this country but also in the Dominions and internationally for the reform of the laws on these lines. She also put in, on behalf of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the draft international convention provisionally adopted at their recent Congress in Rome. Among the opponents of the change was Sir R. Younger, Justice of the Supreme Court; his view was that the unity of the family was of great importance, but he was unable to give any instance of disharmony having arisen in cases where the woman had a nationality different from her husband.

The recent adoption by the United States of the Act which

makes it possible for American women to retain their nationality on marriage with a foreigner and *vice versa*, and by Belgium of an Act giving to a Belgian woman her right to remain Belgian on marriage with a foreigner, have been strong points in favour of the change. The passage through the French Senate of a Bill to enable women to retain their French nationality on marriage is a further indication of the trend of modern legislation. With so many strong supporters on the Committee it is to be hoped that its report will include the recommendation for the passage of new legislation on the lines advocated by the forty nationally organized women's societies in the United Kingdom and the twenty-nine in the Dominions which have been supporting the action of the National Council of Women.

Crosby Hall Fair.

Crosby Hall, on the Chelsea Embankment, will be the scene on Friday and Saturday, 6th and 7th of this month, of an International Fair, which is being organized by the British Federation of University Women in the hope of raising a large sum for the Crosby Hall Endowment Fund. This scheme for making Crosby Hall the centre of a hostel for foreign women graduates taking post graduate courses in London, is being supported not only by our own University women but by those of other countries—Sweden, Serbia, Italy, France, and America are all generously helping with work and gifts. A visit to the famous old building on either of the two days is warmly recommended.

Next Week's Issue.

There will be some features of unusual interest in our issue of next week. We have been fortunate enough to secure from Mr. Michael Sadleir a summary of his lecture "Frances Trollope: A Victorian Literary Heroine." An article entitled "Plain Speaking," against Birth Control, by the great Dominican preacher, the Rev. Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., will also appear.

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

NO MORE WAR.

Last week we were reminded in a speech by the Lord Chief Justice that the way to secure peace is "to grapple with and eliminate the causes of war." The effect of such advice on ordinary persons, is merely to fill them with a paralysing sense of their own impotence. How can you or I grapple with and eliminate the causes of war? Absorbed in the work of our daily lives, without money, influence, or conspicuous talents, what can we do to further the cause of peace, except at rare intervals attend a meeting, vote for a resolution, subscribe a shilling?

But, after all, in a democratically governed country, and even in an undemocratically governed country, there is such a thing as the "general will," made up of multitudes of individual wills. Responsibility is an individual thing, and everyone must answer for his own share, be it small or great. The woman who thinks that she can do nothing to remove the causes of war because she is so insignificant, is like the man who hid his one talent in a napkin and buried it in the ground. We used to talk about the great war as "the war that would end war." To-day, five years afterwards, the spirit of violence is still at work; no one can tell when it may burst into armed conflict between the nations.

Politicians are extraordinarily sensitive to the working of this "general will." They, or possibly the Pressmen who instruct them, develop a sort of sixth sense which enables them to know just what the people on whom their power depends are feeling and wanting. If the whole heart of the people is for the time being filled with patriotic enthusiasm or idealistic fervour, or, in a subsequent reaction, with a sick distaste for enthusiasm and a passionate desire for safety and material comfort, politicians will quickly change their tune from King and Country to the New Jerusalem, and from that again to Anti-Waste, Security, and Tranquillity.

Similarly, if you and I and all the countless people of equal insignificance had inwardly set our whole hearts on "no more war"; were thinking about it by day and dreaming about it by night; were filled with a real belief in the brotherhood of man, the whole atmosphere of opinion would quickly become impregnated with our desire, and platform and Press would resound with the appropriate cries: by-elections would be won by them, and those in power would either shape their policy accordingly or would make way for others. The contribution of each individual to the general result would, it is true, be comparatively small. But in amount it would probably depend less than is generally supposed on the apparent importance of the individual in question. A small mind, believing wholeheartedly and feeling intensely, may often make more difference to current public opinion than a large mind feeling half-heartedly and only half believing.

In any case, small or great, each individual must bear his own burden of responsibility, and the great "No More War" demonstration which is to be held simultaneously in all parts of the world on the anniversary of the outbreak of war on 28th and 29th July gives the ordinary citizen an opportunity of helping to influence the "general will" of the community against war and preparations for war. The League of Nations Union, instead of organizing its own demonstration, has decided to take part, and the National Committee responsible has agreed to recommend that a resolution dealing with the League of Nations shall be put from all platforms. We hope and believe that women citizens will take a prominent part; it will be a great opportunity of impressing the popular imagination. It is good to think that on that day all over the world will arise a passionate cry for "No More War."

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

The second half of last week in the Commons was enlivened by personal incidents which achieved a larger share of public attention than the affairs of public policy which occasioned them. On Wednesday the discussion of Scottish Estimates in Committee of Supply provoked a violent attack by the Hon. Member for the Bridgetown Division of Glasgow, Mr. Maxton, upon certain pennywise economies of the Scottish Board of Health. These involved—as he pointed out in most unmeasured language—a preventable increase in the infant death-rate. In the course of his remarks he became embroiled in a passage of arms with that good friend of all immediate social economies, Sir Frederick Banbury. This eventually led to an unusually protracted "scene," involving the intervention of the Speaker and the suspension of Mr. Maxton, together with three of his Labour colleagues. There is little doubt that such developments are by no means unwelcome to certain occupants of the Government benches, who are becoming past-masters in the art of provoking the less well-balanced of their opponents to acts of rage, while they themselves, having shot their bolt and apologized for shooting it, assume an attitude of outraged Parliamentary decorum. All the more welcome is their success when it precipitates, as it did last Wednesday, a conflict of will between Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and his turbulent colleagues. From the point of view of the Labour Party, the direct challenge to Mr. Macdonald's leadership which this incident brought about is very regrettable; and the anti-Labour Press has continued to wallow joyously from that day to this in its memories of the row and in its exaggerated impressions of disruption within the

Labour ranks. Incidentally, the affair serves to illustrate the eternal application of that many-sided truth: "To him that hath shall be given." It is not surprising that one of the most tiresome and useless of contemporary politicians should frequently find himself the victim of tiresome and useless onslaught.

Two days later Sir Frederick Banbury was again the storm centre—this time, however, it was a member of his own Party whose exasperation burst the bounds of Parliamentary decorum. The deliberate talking out of the "Under Eighteen" Drink Bill during the five minutes or so of time left over from the debate on Agricultural Credits was an obvious and easy piece of obstruction—to Lady Astor it was the last straw, added to the great pile of offences which that intolerable Baronet has committed against the many good causes which she has at heart.

Things are moving with regard to our new naval base at Singapore. According to Mr. Amery's latest statement it is to cost, in all, ten and a half million. On Thursday night he and the First Sea Lord elaborated its necessities to a select company of about sixty M.P.s, all of whom, according to report, went away satisfied as to the desirability of making proper use of this "strategical pivot" of the Pacific. Taking the policy of the Government as a whole, we can begin to contemplate the next war with equanimity.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—E.D.]

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE TREVETHIN REPORT.

By NORAH MARCH, B.Sc.

There is every reason to accept the findings of the Committee of Inquiry on Venereal Disease as the well-considered opinion of those men and women who served on the Committee—a body of medical experts like Dr. C. J. Bond, of Leicester, well known for his impartiality in controversy, Professor G. Dreyer, M.D., F.R.S., Lieut.-Colonel Freemantle, M.B., F.R.C.S., M.P., Sir Frederick Mott, F.R.S., M.D., Miss Dorothy Hare, M.D., Miss Morna Rawlins, M.B., Sir Bernard Spilsbury, Mr. Kenneth Walker, F.R.C.S., and others, constituting in all a body of experts in whom one can feel confidence that they have gone into their subject with a capacity for making a clear analysis of a subtle problem. The campaign against Venereal Diseases is the most subtle of all public health activities, for the reason that Venereal Disease has such a conspicuous relation to questions of personal morality. Perhaps more than any other problem in public health, one's views on it are likely to be biased by one's sentiments, desires, and idealisms. So much is this the case, that those who do achieve an impartial, judicial examination into any aspect of the problem, and venture to make a pronouncement upon it, are apt to find themselves in many quarters misjudged, and their considerations misrepresented. This is what happened in the WOMAN'S LEADER recently, when Mrs. Bethune Baker, writing upon the Trevethin Report, stated: "The Report rejects both self-disinfection and skilled disinfection as being unsuitable methods for fighting venereal disease in a civil community." Out of its seven pages (excluding preamble and signatures) of matter, the Report devotes over 2½ pages to this question of disinfection, culminating in the advice that the law should be altered so as to permit properly qualified chemists to sell *ad hoc* disinfectants, provided such disinfectants are sold in a form approved and with instructions for use approved by some competent authority, and suggests the Medical Research Council—a Government organization—as the competent authority, and further, adds that male persons attending V.D. Clinics should be instructed by the Medical Officers of the Clinics in the preventive use of disinfectants. How does Mrs. Bethune Baker construe this into rejection of self-disinfection and skilled disinfection? Such misrepresentation of the Committee's findings is not only grossly unfair to the men and women—who in public spirit—gave their time and energy to the question, but it is precisely an example of that want of impartiality which so frequently has brought discredit upon women's opinions. Of Mrs. Bethune Baker's sincerity in her desire for a higher and an equal standard of morals there can be no question; those of us who know her public work, fully recognize the sincerity of her purpose and of her ideals; but one cannot help feeling a profound regret that she has allowed her ardour in this instance to prejudice her assessment.

It is to be hoped that readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER will have secured the Report for their own perusal.¹ There they will find that in the course of the 2½ pages devoted to the question of disinfection, the Committee recognize (page 10) that promptly and properly applied disinfection in the case of an individual man would almost certainly prove effectual, and (page 6) they do not think that there is any justification for putting obstacles in the way of individuals who desire to procure the necessary disinfectants: to this end they recommend the alteration of the law regarding the sale of disinfectants which I have mentioned above. They do not recommend the establishment of a system of skilled disinfection, on the grounds of its costliness, and the limits of its availability, and also of its inappropriateness to small towns and rural areas. The whole trend of their observations on disinfection is to throw the responsibility upon the individual who has exposed himself to risk of infection.

There are many other aspects of the Venereal Disease question dealt with in the Report, all of which merit very careful study, and one of which—notification—has been particularly a subject of controversy.

I have, however, selected this one aspect of disinfection for special consideration, because it has so long been a bone of contention—even to the extent of threatening to become an obstruction to the progress of the campaign against Venereal Diseases. Controversy on the subject should now die down, and a united front be presented for the Society for Prevention of Venereal Diseases has passed a resolution which reads as follows:—

"That the Executive Committee accepts the Trevethin Report as a document supporting the essentials of the policy of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, as defined in their policy pamphlet, and especially welcomes the recommendation that the law should be altered so as to permit properly qualified chemists to sell *ad hoc* disinfectants, provided such disinfectants are sold in a form approved, and with instructions for use approved by some competent authority," as set forth in Clause 14 of the Report."

And the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases a resolution which reads:—

"The Council accept the report as a document that can bring together all persons of good will in efforts to reduce Venereal Diseases, and recommend that an invitation should be extended to Lord Trevethin to accept the Presidency of the Council."

So the way seems clear for co-operation.

¹To be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, or any bookseller, price 3d. net (4d. post free).

See Mrs. Bethune Baker's letter, page 183. As Mrs. Bethune Baker's views are those supported by this paper, we will give her an opportunity of replying to Miss March's article.

THE LEAGUE TO-DAY.

By **HEBE SPAULL**,
Author of "The Fight for Peace."

The League of Nations is engaged at the present time on several pieces of work of considerable importance.

The work of the Opium Committee is a case in point. As to whether the League can deal successfully or not with this evil is largely dependent upon whether every country is willing to co-operate. The fact that neither America nor Germany are members of the League is a disadvantage of which critics of the League are continually reminding us. As a matter of fact Germany is a member of the Opium Committee, and the last meeting of the Committee was reinforced by the presence of a strong delegation from the United States. The States have shown their intention of pressing for the same drastic treatment of the drug menace as they have themselves adopted in regard to drink. The immediate problem before the League, therefore, is the restriction of opium production to the requirements of medicine and science.

The Health Committee is also engaged on useful work, and here again the co-operation of non-member States, notably in this case that of America and Russia, is an encouraging feature. The decision arrived at the last meeting of the Committee to conduct an inquiry into the cause of cancer is fraught with great possibilities. The interchange of medical officers of health arranged by the Committee, with the financial assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, is proving very successful. It is particularly gratifying to know that the next interchange is to take place in America.

The International Labour Organization is steadily progressing despite cheap criticism of its finance from certain quarters of the Press. How totally misplaced such criticisms are was exposed by Mr. Grimshaw, one of the officers of the "I. L. O.," who declared recently that "the cost of the International Labour Office to the British Government was less than that of cementing the pond in St. James's Park." An important conference was arranged by the League of Nations Union towards the end of June on the International Labour Organization and Industrial Health. The Conference was attended by well-known doctors and others, and it was quite evident from all the speeches that some such organization as the "I. L. O." was urgently needed if the health of the workers was to be safeguarded adequately. The recent appointment of Violet Markham—who, by the way, attended this conference—by the Government of Canada to the Governing Body is especially gratifying to women.

It is to be hoped that the British Government will again appoint a woman to the Assembly next September. Mrs. Coombe Tennant did useful work at Geneva last year, and it is certainly to be hoped that the precedent will be maintained. The appointment of Lord Robert Cecil as Lord Privy Seal with a seat in the Cabinet is of considerable importance, as it means, of course, that he will represent Great Britain both on the Council and at the Assembly.

Considerable progress has been made in the past three months by the League's Temporary Mixed Commission on the Limitation of Armaments. France's favourable attitude towards the proposals is indeed a hopeful sign. If the Assembly accepts the draft legislative proposals brought forward by the Temporary Commission, and if the various States ratify these proposals, we shall be within a reasonable distance of satisfying France's claim for security and bringing about at the same time that general reduction of armaments that was contemplated in the Covenant of the League. The League of Nations Union has had an important and honourable part in framing and bringing forward these proposals.

The Federation of League of Nations Societies held its Plenary Assembly at Vienna during the last week in June. Most European countries were represented. It is perhaps not generally realized that there are League of Nations Societies in about forty States, including China and Japan. The British representatives were: The Viscountess Gladstone, Sir Willoughby Dickinson, Mr. David Davies, M.P., Captain Reginald Berkeley, M.P., the Rev. G. Dunnico, M.P., Sir Walter Napier, Rear-Admiral Drury Lowe, Mr. W. T. Layton, Mrs. Dugdale, and Dr. Maxwell Garnett.

Speaking of the League of Nations Union reminds one of the International Pête which the Union is planning for July, and which will be opened by Mrs. Stanley Baldwin at St. Dunstan's on 20th July. Summer Schools also are being arranged by the Union at both Oxford and Geneva. All of which is part of the Union's very extensive programme for educating public opinion in this country in regard to the League.

REVIEWS.

Political Christianity, and Prayer as a Force. By A. MAUDE ROYDEN. Putnam. Each 3s. 6d. net.

These two volumes contain selections from Miss Royden's sermons, preached either at the Kensington Town Hall or at her present habitation, the Eccleston Guildhouse. Each volume has a thread of continuity running through it. The first mentioned is mainly concerned with the application of Christian ethics and Christian inspiration to certain concrete problems of modern life. Unemployment, the coercion of Ireland, Russia, party politics, are all tackled definitely and fearlessly as few preachers in orthodox places of worship would dare to tackle them. The second is mainly concerned with the conditions and possibilities of individual prayer—and it is by far the more interesting. The reason why it is more interesting is that any really intelligent person could have done quite adequately what Miss Royden has done in her first volume. It can be done, given a certain effort of the intellect by anybody, however atheistical or agnostical, who is prepared to recognize the quite arguable general proposition that the philosophy of the four Gospels is good economics, sound politics, and in the end conducive to the utilitarian ideal of the greatest happiness of the greatest number. The application of this philosophy to the problems of contemporary life is not without its complications, certainly; but it constitutes a fairly straightforward problem of thought on which any intelligent person may embark with prospects of achievement. It is therefore not surprising that Miss Royden, who is not merely an intelligent person, but a real artist in the choice of her words and similes, carries it through with very signal success.

When we come to the second volume, however, we are on ground which the mere intellectualist is not competent to tread. The possibility of obtaining an answer to prayer (which Miss Royden describes in one passage as "a sense of absolute communion with God") is not a problem of thought. Nor can any reasoned case be put up on behalf of the proposition that this answer, when it comes, represents anything more than a subjective achievement of the human will—a piece of carefully induced auto-suggestion involving no real communion with an objective external force. The preacher who tackles the problem must be proved capable of an intellectual feat, certainly; otherwise his or her hearers will suspect that the abandonment of the method of reason is due to inability to handle so laborious an instrument, as indeed, it very often is. We are reminded in this connection of our own new-found interest in the futurist works of Picasso, occasioned by the perusal of some of his more conventional sketches which showed beyond a doubt that the man really could draw accurately when he chose. But Miss Royden's contention that prayer, prayed under the right conditions, achieves its answer, rests not upon reason but upon personal experience; her own and other people's. And the conviction which such a contention will carry to the inexperienced rests entirely upon the personal credit of the person who makes it, and upon nothing else. It rests upon our knowledge of his or her power to use the method of reason when and where its use is relevant; to see straight in all other matters; to differentiate shrewdly between mountains and cloud-banks. Indeed, a terrible personal responsibility rests upon anyone who deals in such a subject.

All the more so because it is a subject of universal interest. It is impossible to say what proportion of the men and women who go about the world have ever experienced that answer to prayer of whose possibilities Miss Royden speaks, for as Darling Dora in "Fanny's First Play" so justly remarks: "The last thing you find out about a person is their religion, isn't it?" But if it is true that every human being has at some time or other attempted to write poetry—it is still truer that every human being has at some time or other attempted to pray. And if any of our readers protest that they never have, frankly we shall not believe them! Meanwhile, Miss Royden's book will have a wide circulation, as it deserves. M. D. S.

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HOMES AND "HOMES."

People of the servant-keeping classes are so accustomed to the ministrations of one or more inmates of their home who live an almost entirely separate existence that they fail to realize the unnatural nature of the arrangement. In a big house there is a servants' hall and there is plenty of space for two social circles to revolve comfortably. But big houses are relatively rare, and when we talk about the domestic service problem we usually mean the small establishment with a domestic staff of one, two or three members at the most. Here you have the family unit with all its pursuits and pleasures and under the same roof, too often in days of housing shortage in cramped surroundings, an alien unit which changes with unpleasant frequency and which lives a life apart.

It is perfectly true that domestic workers possess many advantages compared to other workers, and the wise among them know this. In spite of all that extremists may say, they have, on the whole, comfortable and hygienic quarters, good food, and regular holidays; they have a sense of security against unemployment; they can move elsewhere with ease if their surroundings become monotonous or uncongenial. The woman who wants adventure can go abroad; the woman who wants to marry has probably better opportunities of meeting men of her class than her otherwise more fortunately placed sisters. Domestic service is no blind alley occupation, and its followers are not too old at forty. Permanent and real friendships with employers often bring much happiness and interest. What, then, is wrong? What is the remedy? What can be done to make the lives of domestic servants more normal and less isolated from the rest of the community?

Young girls are often advised by their well-wishers to go into service because they will find a "home." But let us face facts honestly. What sort of home life does the solitary general have in her lonely kitchen, or still worse, perhaps, in the kitchen shared with an unknown and possibly uncongenial companion? Domestic workers do, it is true, enter a home, but are they of it? Have they the freedom, the varied interests, the responsibilities which are part and parcel of a happy and normal home life? The writer remembers one general servant who told her she would never forget her first arrival at her new place. There were flowers in her room, there were books on the shelf and a picture-paper on the table, and, crowning touch—her new mistress was there to give her a warm welcome and to tell her that "she must really feel that this is her home." The same maid is always at liberty to invite a friend of either sex in to tea; she can read the books, use the telephone, even on occasions the piano, and she does not take advantage of these privileges. The absence of rules, the sense of freedom, reliance on personal responsibility which are to be found in a happy home would go a long way to remove the galling sense of servitude that still characterizes domestic service.

No less important than freedom is the opportunity for the development of personal interests both inside and outside. The writer was much impressed by this some years ago when the Domestic Workers' Insurance Society was started in Liverpool. Groups of maids who elected their own Committees were formed in different parts of the city, and through the Central Society affiliated to the local Council of Women Citizens and for the first time domestic servants were brought into contact with other women in a perfectly natural and businesslike way. Whether domestic workers should organize, whether even such association as is described above, which tends to perpetuate the segregation of their lives, is desirable lies outside the scope of this article, but whatever form it takes, outside interests should be encouraged—the Girls' Club, Evening Classes, membership of Women Citizens' Associations or Village Institutes, or any other outlet, intellectual or otherwise, which will make life happier and richer.

Lastly, we are sometimes told that the domestic servant is selfish and exacting. During the war it was said there was butter in the kitchen and margarine in the dining room. If this is true is it not another outcome of an artificial life—a life that has too little serious responsibility. Recently a maid told the writer that she was leaving a good place because "she had no responsibility." The cook who is taken into her mistress's confidence will try to keep the bills down. The helpless incompetent mistress who wins the affection of her staff is often far more loyally served than the capable housewife whose servants are like machines in her well ordered home. How to secure the conditions of a normal and full life in domestic service can obviously not be exhausted in this short space, but we hope for much light in the report of the present Committee of Inquiry.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

THE LAW AT WORK.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—PAST AND PRESENT.

It is true to say that the public mind is not deeply stirred to-day by the merits or otherwise of capital punishment. When an execution takes place there is some temporary excitement and a recrudescence of debates and lectures on the subject, but the interest quickly dies down, except in the minds of a few who hold a resolute and even passionate conviction that the punishment of death should be abolished. It is interesting in this connection to recall the controversy which raged about a hundred years ago when capital punishment was inflicted for many more offences than it is to-day, and to note which arguments are still effective and which are not.

It was constantly urged in 1834 that if capital punishment were retained innocent persons would from time to time be executed, and deplorable examples are given of persons who were hanged protesting their innocence to the last, and were afterwards found to be entirely guiltless of the crime. It appears that circumstantial evidence was accepted a good deal more easily in those days than is now the case as a proof of guilt; to-day, in the final decision by the Home Secretary as to the punishment, any doubt as to the prisoner's guilt would probably result in a commutation of sentence.

A strong argument against capital punishment used to be that the executions took place in public and were made the occasion of brutal scenes of license and merry-making. When one reads the description of a public execution it is impossible to believe that any sane mind could ever have thought that such a scene could have a good effect on those who witnessed it. To-day we have gone to the other extreme, and every representative of the public is rigorously excluded from the place of execution.

Many pages were filled with elaborate arguments to prove that the death penalty was not justified by Holy Scripture, the Old Testament especially being searched for evidence on both sides. Another religious consideration often put forward was the iniquity of hanging a guilty man without giving him time to "regain the favour of an offended deity" and so save his soul from perdition. A potent reason for confining criminals in prison instead of hanging them was that imprisonment afforded such an admirable opportunity for repentance; one opponent of capital punishment even foresaw a sort of broadcasting system by which one chaplain preaching from a pulpit would be able to reach the ears of all the prisoners while they were still confined in their separate cells.

But some of the most interesting arguments are as significant to-day as when they were first brought forward. Chief among these is the constantly reiterated cry that severe punishments do not deter from crime, and facts and figures are brought forward both from this and other countries to show that when capital punishment was abolished for such crimes as burglary, coining, and forgery, the number of committals rapidly fell. In the days when 160 crimes were punishable by death Charles Dickens wrote of the hangman as "ever busy and ever worse than useless," while a Bristol gaol chaplain stated that out of 167 persons he had prepared for death no less than 161 had themselves witnessed an execution. So much for the much-vaunted deterrence. Is there any reason to suppose that capital punishment deters men to-day from murder any more than in old days it deterred them from other crimes? If a murder is committed in the heat of passion no considerations of consequences have any weight; if it is planned and premeditated it is done in the expectation of escaping detection.

But perhaps the most interesting feature in the whole story was the ever-growing reluctance of juries to convict prisoners of any crime for which the penalty of death might be inflicted. Again and again our gratitude goes out to the humanity of the common people. Lords and judges, bishops and clergy, magistrates and the Press might thunder forth their diatribes on the sacred rights of property and the divine duty of punishment, while all the time the juries throughout the land were quietly making the whole system of no avail by letting off the guilty and innocent alike because they would not be parties to the savage penalty which would follow a conviction. And the same consideration must be kept in mind to-day. The small number of persons actually found guilty of murder compared with the number charged shows us that as long as the death penalty remains on the statute book the instinct of the average man to preserve human life will tend to prevail, and as a result there is a possibility that the guilty may go free.

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JULY 7. Sanderstead, Hawarden, and Egerton.
JULY 8. Brockwell Park and South Norwood.
JULY 9. Weymouth, Colne, Alnmouth, and Twyford.
JULY 10. Newport, Newcastle, and Throckley.
JULY 11. Leatherhead, Dumfries, Donisthorpe, Wallsend, Blaydon, Hexham, Teddington, and New Malden.
JULY 12. Bermondsey and Sunderland.
JULY 13. Waterloo, Edenhall, and St. Albans.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

JULY 6. Central Hall, Westminster. 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party. Speeches. Music. Refreshments, etc., etc. Admission 1s.

BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

JULY 6 and 7. 12 to 6 p.m. Crosby Hall, Chelsea Embankment (near Battersea Bridge). International Fair. Saturday 1s. After 5 p.m. 6d. Admission 2s. 6d. Children half-price.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS SOCIETY.

JULY 9. Berwick Street, Gillingham Street, Victoria. "The Life and Poetry of Robert Browning and of Elizabeth Barrett Browning," Miss Helen Ward, L.L.A. 3 p.m. (Registration of plants for the Flower Show, 2.30 to 6.30).

N.U.S.E.C.

JULY 9. Lecture, "Some Victorian Novelists and Frances Trollope," by Mr. Michael Sadleir. (See page 182 for particulars.)

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

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"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908.

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WHITE ART LINEN.—Remnant bundles of white art linen, suitable for embroidery and drawn-thread work, for making afternoon tea-cloths, tray-cloths, sideboard-covers, etc., 10s. 6d. per bundle, postage 6d. Write for Summer Sale List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Change of Address: After 21st June, address Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. Enquiries: Room 6, 3rd floor.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 ss.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro. tem.).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 8th July, 3.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmear, 6.30, Maude Royden: "Progress in the New Testament."

ALLEVIATE LONELINESS by forming Congenial Friendships, home or abroad.—For particulars write, Secretary, U.C.C., 16 L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Dainty Luncheons and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday, 12th July, 8.15 p.m., Miss Evelyn Sharp: "Report of Mission to France, Belgium and Germany."

MISS FRIDA HARTLEY is still in South Africa, but can attend to correspondence, which will be forwarded to her.

LADY HELP would give services in London for 2 furnished rooms; disengaged 3rd September.—Box 996, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

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