

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXIII.

No. 16.

Twopence.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, May 22, 1931.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and
Abroad, 10/10.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 4 Great Smith Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

NOTES AND NEWS.

At Geneva.

As was hoped and expected, Mr. Henderson has cut the Gordian knot with regard to the Austro-German economic Anschluss by successfully moving in the Council that the whole matter be referred to the International Court of the League of Nations for an opinion as to whether Austria was in her right in making any such agreement, after the pledges given by her to the League in 1922, as a condition of receiving an international loan. Should the Court declare that both countries are within their legal rights, the subject cannot come back to the Council later to be judged on its political issue. It was interesting to note that M. Briand's contention that an economic union always leads to a political union was countered by Herr Schober by a quotation from Guizot and by examples of statements to the contrary.

Plain Speaking from Geneva.

It is regrettable to find that in the report which M. Albert Thomas will present to the International Labour Conference at Geneva next month Great Britain cuts a very poor figure. It is true that everywhere economic depression bears evil fruit in a setback to social legislation, both on the positive side of providing services, and on the negative side of checking abuses. It may not be inevitable, but it is understandable that at such times there should be less readiness either to spend money or interfere with those who are making it. But in the general indictment, Great Britain is unfortunately singled out for peculiar reprobation. Into M. Thomas' detailed quarrel with the National Confederation of Employers' Organizations we cannot go, though there appears to be some force in his reproach against those who have met with continuous opposition the efforts of an international organization to safeguard conditions in the more socially advanced countries against the unfair competition of backward countries. More serious is his indictment of the Labour Government for its apathy in respect of the Washington Eight-hour Convention, especially in view of its solemn declaration of an intention to ratify. "After a close study by the Administrative Services," says M. Thomas, "a thorough examination by its legal experts and consultation of employers and workers, it laid before the House of Commons a Bill which is in harmony with the Convention, and which should accordingly allow of ratification. Thus in Great Britain, as in Germany, the whole procedure

was in order some eighteen months ago. . . . Why this delay?" We would wager that the explanation lies probably in Great Britain, as in Germany, in competing and distracting political preoccupations. Nevertheless, our own Minister of Labour is a redoubtable fighter and, as the I.L.O. has good reason to know, a keen industrial internationalist. It cannot be that this reproach will fail to strike home.

Child Marriage in India.

Mr. Amery, a former Home Secretary, speaking in the Mutsia debate discussed by us to-day in our leading article, though in no way minimizing the scandal of child slavery in Hong Kong and the necessity for drastic action, stated that the difficulties which delayed its complete abolition were similar to those which prevented the Government from dealing with what he considered a far graver evil, child marriage in India. Yet Miss Rathbone was only allowed five minutes to speak on this subject in the course of a seven hours' debate on Indian affairs. She asked the Secretary of State what had been done about certain administrative steps recommended two years ago by the Joshi Committee (a Select Committee to inquire into the age of consent under the chairmanship of Sir Moropant Joshi), as essential to its enforcement of the Sarda Act.¹ These steps included a wide publicity campaign to make the law known, an accurate marriage register, compulsory notification of births with name and sex, free birth and marriage certificates, and the employment of women police, women jurors, and assessors, and medical women in the investigation of sexual offences. In replying, Mr. Wedgwood Benn courteously regretted that the time allotted for this aspect of the Indian problem had been so brief, and that these recommendations "will certainly have been brought to the notice of the local governments, and will have received sympathetic consideration." But two years have already elapsed since the Joshi Committee reported, and sympathetic consideration is not enough. The prevalence and the evil of child marriage described with such terrible candour by the Joshi Committee is not disputed. Its members were all, with one exception, Indians of great experience, and they found it hard to find words strong enough to express their condemnation. We hope this matter will be raised again, and that the Government will have something more definite to reply.

The Wills and Intestacies Bill in Committee.

Evidence was given for the Wills and Intestacies Bill before the Joint Select Committee on Wednesday, 13th May, by the Public Trustee, by a New Zealand solicitor, and by Mrs. Hubback. The Public Trustee declared the Bill to be unnecessary on the grounds that in his experience testators *always* provided wisely, if not actually generously, for their heirs! He suggested that even in the case of an unhappy marriage which might involve failure to maintain during the life-time of the testator, he was not likely to carry his revengeful feelings to the point of disinheriting spouse and children. We do not think it surprising that the Public Trustee himself should not have come across cases of disinheritance, though he admitted to have come across cases of inadequate provision. After all, a testator who wishes to make an unfair or revengeful will is not likely to call in the assistance of the Public Trustee at all. The New Zealand solicitor, Mr. Wray, spoke warmly in favour of the New Zealand Family Maintenance Act, under which a disinherited spouse or child can apply to the Court for a share in the estate. This could be given either in the form of a lump sum or as a yearly allowance. The Court has complete discretion to consider questions such as relative means or the conduct of the parties. He showed that this legislation had been introduced about

¹ "The Sarda Act" is the Child Marriage Restraint Act which came into force on 1st April, 1930, and which prohibits marriages of males under 18 and females under 14.

thirty years ago by a Private Member, and was accepted as necessary and useful by public opinion. He emphasized the fact that the Act had prevented the making of unjust wills, and that in fact very few cases had had to be brought under it. Mrs. Hubback was further pressed both with regard to the need for the Bill, and the meaning of the phrase "equivalent provision by a testator" and the effect of a second marriage on the inheritance rights of the children of a deceased spouse. It becomes increasingly clear that the Committee will not report in favour of the Bill, but as far as it is in order will probably give some expression to the view that legislation on the New Zealand line would be beneficial.

Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act.

Readers will remember that an Act was recently passed bringing the Scottish law with regard to the adoption of children into line with that of England and safeguarding the interests both of the child, the natural parents and the adopting parents. Since the passage of this Act, it has been found that children adopted before it came into force would not come within the scope of the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Acts. An amending Bill is, therefore, being introduced by Mr. Mathers, which is backed by Members of all parties and which it is hoped will secure a rapid passage through the House.

Sentence of Death on Expectant Mothers.

The Bill which was introduced by Miss Picton-Turbervill immediately after the "Wise case" has now passed its Committee stage, and is awaiting time to be reported to the House of Commons. It is very much hoped that the Government will see its way to allow time for the completion of the final stages without undue delay. If the Bill passes, a woman convicted of an offence punishable with death will be sentenced instead to penal servitude, in the event of her being an expectant mother. A change in the existing law with regard to proof of the woman's condition is also made by the Bill, for the jury of matrons is abolished. This particular type of jury will not be specially empanelled as in the past, the decision being allocated to the jury trying the offence after hearing such evidence as may be laid before them on the part of the woman or on the part of the Crown.

Women of the Political Parties.

We print to-day an interesting account by a delegate of the annual conference of the Conservative Women's Associations, held last week at the Albert Hall. A report of the meeting of the Women's National Liberal Federation will appear next week. It is satisfactory to note that Conservative women, like their Liberal and Labour sisters, were prepared to discuss the provision of information of methods of birth control. It is true that by a small majority a resolution to proceed to the next business without a vote was passed, but in the meantime an excellent discussion had taken place. No doubt another year Conservative women will declare themselves in favour of the principle which now has the support of a very large number of women's organizations.

Women's Place in the Church.

If we interpret Press reports correctly, during the meetings of the Congregational Union last week a separate conference of women was held as an experiment at the same hour as a conference on unemployment. We do not know whether women could choose which they would attend, but it seems odd that in a Church which has already admitted women to its Ministry the sexes should meet in separate sessions. Unemployment is a subject which concerns women as well as men. Not only are there unemployed women in all ranks of life, but there are wives and families suffering behind unemployed men. It is high time that women's place in the church no longer appeared in headlines and required special meetings. Surely if ever there was a place in which it must be taken for granted it is in the Church.

Women in Insurance Offices.

The position of women clerks in insurance offices was raised at the annual conference of the Guild of Insurance Officers, which met in London last week. The woman organizer of the Guild alleged—if she is correctly reported—that a kind of conspiracy exists to keep women back. They are relegated to mechanical and routine jobs, and have no chance of getting administrative posts. Though her charges were repudiated with a good deal of heat, they appeared to have had a salutary effect, as a resolution was passed with only two dissentients urging employers to give equal rates of pay and equal opportunities to all candidates for responsible posts.

Another "Food" Committee.

A committee has been appointed by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland to inquire into the working of the law as to the composition and description of different kinds of food, excluding milk, and to report on any alterations required in the present law. The Chairman is Sir Frederick Willis, and there are four women members. Mrs. J. L. Adamson, wife of the M.P. for Cannock, Mrs. Beck, J.P., of Dunfermline, of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Mrs. Cottrell, of Birmingham, who is the first and only woman director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and Mrs. Jean Roberts, a Glasgow City Councillor.

Advisory Committee for the Blind.

The Minister of Health has reconstituted the Advisory Committee appointed to assist him in the care and supervision of the blind under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and the Local Government Act, 1929. Lord Blanesborough is chairman of the Committee, and there are four women members, Mrs. Montagu Brown, Alderman Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Cowley, and Miss E. King. The personnel of this Committee is representative of local authorities, voluntary associations for the blind, and organized blind workers.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday, 12th May.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND).

Major Wood asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many local authorities in Scotland have failed to furnish to the Department of Health a general statement of their housing proposals as required by Section 22 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930.

Mr. Westwood: General statements have not been received, so far, from eleven county councils and thirty-nine town councils. The Department of Health for Scotland are in communication with each of these local authorities with a view to the submission of the statements.

FOOD COUNCIL.

Miss Wilkinson asked the President of the Board of Trade when the last meeting of the Food Council took place, and whether any report can be expected from them in the near future.

Mr. W. Graham: The last meeting of the Food Council was held on 18th December, 1930, but it will be appreciated that full meetings of the Council are not necessary for the day-to-day conduct of the inquiries which it authorises. I understand that another meeting of the Council will take place shortly, but I am unable to say if it will then be in a position to report on any of the questions it has before it. The total expenditure in connection with the work of the Food Council during the year 1930-31 was £1,093. Three meetings of the Council were held during that period.

Wednesday, 13th May.

MUI-TSAI SYSTEM (HONG KONG).

Mr. Graham White asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the administration of Hong Kong proposes to appoint an inspector or inspectors to watch over the treatment of the Mui-t sai of Hong Kong?

Dr. Drummond Shiels: The Governor has informed my Noble Friend that he is submitting proposals for such an appointment.

Mr. White asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the evasion of the registration ordinance in the colony of Hong Kong, under which owners of Mui-t sai, by various devices, are avoiding registration; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

Dr. Shiels: The Governor has reported that there is no evidence that registration is being evaded. If the Hon. Member has any evidence of evasion, I shall be glad to receive it.

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

CHILD SLAVERY IN A BRITISH CROWN COLONY.

It is not the first time that Sir John Simon has won the gratitude of women for his efforts on their behalf as our older readers know well. Their present gratitude will not be less lively because last week he lent his powerful influence not for British women, but for the protection of helpless girl slaves in one of our own Crown Colonies—Hong Kong. It is well known that many people, not excluding Members of Parliament, estimate the seriousness of a subject by the status of its advocates. For this reason, and still more for the effectiveness of his appeal, the intervention of a man of Sir John Simon's standing has lifted the Mui-t sai controversy from a species of obsession on the part of individual reformers to an issue of first class national, even international, importance.

His speech on 11th May, on the vote for the Colonial Office, was a statesmanlike exposition of the essential facts, set forth with strict moderation and full realization of the difficulties in the way of administrative action. No one could suspect Sir John Simon of inaccuracy or exaggeration, and with characteristic thoroughness he had taken pains to verify his assertions not only from official information, but by personal study of original documents and records in the Hong Kong Press. In the first place he made it perfectly clear that the Mui-t sai were not, as has often been claimed in excuse, adopted children. He had documentary evidence that they were subject to bills of sale, just as negro slaves in the eighteenth century in the West Indies and the Southern States of America. He read extracts from one of these drawn up in 1929 for the parents of a little girl of 9 years of age by a woman intermediary. Under British law the transaction was, of course, invalid, but as a Hong Kong paper pointed out, law and custom do not coincide, and such transactions continue to take place.

Sir John also called attention to the grave discrepancy between the figures given in official statements of the numbers of Mui-t sai and the figures procured by the establishment of registration, and stated that while many children were treated with kindness, the Hong Kong papers were full of cases of brutal cruelty, often to children who were unregistered. He urged the Colonial Office to strengthen the system by an effective inspectorate. In concluding, he pressed home the wider aspects of the question. "It is bad enough," he said, "that in a British Protectorate there should be thousands of little children who are the subject of bills of sale, such as those which I have read,

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

It is a fortnight since I have contributed these notes, and although two weeks is not a heavy tax even on a bad memory, I confess it requires some effort to recall what we were talking about during the earlier part of the period. The truth is that financial debates are dull affairs in the absence of Mr. Snowden and with Mr. Chamberlain playing the part which Mr. Churchill played last year. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence and Mr. William Graham are competent and sincere speakers, but they have not the pungent quality of the Chancellor. The debates on the Land Tax at least should have been capable of rousing a thrill, but somehow they didn't—not at least in the auditors. The speakers, or some of them, doubtless enjoyed themselves, and it would need a hard heart to grudge the Hon. Member for Burslem (Mr. McLaren) the chance of at last riding his hobby-horse in a full-dress tournament instead of merely taking it for an airing amid indifferent passers-by.

"Many men in the House," he truly said, "have wandered through various phases of political ideas and theories, but I am still the same. Land values taxation was then, and still is, my chief interest."

Unfortunately, the garments of the mind, as of the body, acquire an ancient and musty smell if worn too long. They need such refurbishing and retrimming as, for example, Mr. Lloyd George always knows how to bestow on the most time-worn theme. The failure of the land tax of 1909 might be thought to be a sore subject to him, but not a bit of it! When taunted with having had to grub up his own fruit-trees, he cheerfully supplied the reason. It was because his fruit-trees had been so severely pruned through the efforts of his opponents that the fruit buds had been cut off. He warned the present Chancellor against a similar danger. Accusations of inconsistency do not worry him.

"You are liable to be attacked here and attacked there, and if you begin to defend yourself against every attack on what you did in nineteen hundred and this and eighteen hundred and that, you will leave yourself no time for the controversies of the hour."

but we are not now living in an age in which this subject is a matter of merely national interest." Great Britain, he pointed out, is taking a leading place in the modern international movement for the abolition of slavery, just as it did in the time of Wilberforce. Statesmen to-day of all political parties have been prime movers in questions of slavery at Geneva, with the result that an Anti-Slavery Convention has been drawn up and signed by over thirty States. How can we hope to give a bold lead if we ourselves offend—if in a British Crown Colony a system of child slavery is tolerated?

The reply of the Under-Secretary, Dr. Shiels, in which he acknowledged the friendly character of Sir John Simon's criticism, leaves us with mixed feelings. In an article in the *Sunday Times* by Sir John Simon himself, he says the best sentence in a two hours' debate was the final sentence, when Dr. Shiels condemned the system and promised that the Government would do everything possible to end it. We also welcome the announcement that in addition to the inspectors of voluntary societies, a Government inspector will shortly be appointed, and that further facilities for inspection will not be withheld if necessary. Nevertheless, the attitude of the Colonial Office fills us with the disquieting fear that children's lives are being sacrificed to bureaucratic delays of masculine rule. There is a good deal to be said for both the suggestions made last week by our contemporary, *The Vote*, that a committee of inquiry including some experienced women should be sent to investigate the position, or failing that, to invite Dame Adelaide Anderson who is shortly going to China, to report to the Government. If she cannot fit this in, why not Dame Rachel Crowdy?

We recognize that unfortunately the Mui-t sai system is not the sole example of domestic slavery in British territory, but each problem must be attacked on its own merits, and in Hong Kong we have at least the advantage of definite facts and seventy years' experience. We have also the support of an increasing volume of public opinion, both European and native, in favour of reform, and last, but not least, we have another powerful incentive for immediate action in the growing opposition to the practice in China itself, and opinion on the mainland must necessarily influence the island. This opposition has recently taken shape in the form of an order of prohibition issued by the Central Government of China, discussed in a recent note in this paper. This may be only a political flourish, but it is indicative. Surely in British territory we can show the way.

Also, he had been too much bombarded in the past by "pip-squeaks." Now that he was getting the heavy artillery against him, it was worth his while to answer and to counter attack. "Pip-squeaks" so exactly describes the kind of barking and carping criticism that rattles round the heads of every prominent statesman that the House roared, while those of us who love metaphor enviously wondered how that little old Welshman replenishes his inexhaustible reserve of that kind of munition. Does his mind-factory work at night, or are these things by-products thrown off in the course of his speaking? But too much of the criticism of the Land Tax in the House was merely common form; in the spirit of the quotation from Burke appositely made by Mr. Ramsbotham:—

"To tax and to please no more than to love and be wise is given to men."

The most effective critics of the Land Tax have been those outside the House, such as Mr. Maynard Keynes and Mr. Brailsford, who have pointed out the dangers to the beauty of the countryside if the inducement to landlords to sell for purposes of commercial development are made too irresistible. Another tax requirement which failed to please is that which would compel income-tax payers to pay up three-fourths of their dues in January. It was pointed out that this is an impost which would tell heavily only on the poorer and more conscientious. The others placidly disregard the demands made on them till long after the appointed day, well knowing just how much rope they can allow themselves.

On Friday we had the usual count-out soon after one o'clock, the victim this time being Mr. Mander's Industrial Council Bill. But a Bill more welcome to the T.U.C. was confidently promised by Mr. Mander. One useful little Private Member's Bill did get its second reading, championed by Mr. E. F. Wise—that to limit Sunday trading. It was opposed, characteristically, by Mr. Rhys Davis, while a supporter—Mr. Broad—justified the limitations

of the Bill on the ground that in the poor districts the small shop is the housewife's pantry. Even when a bread-shop was open most of Sunday morning, during the whole day children kept knocking at the door to ask for a pennyworth of bread.

"Those people are always hungry, and if they get in a day's supply of food it would be eaten at the one meal."

On Wednesday, 13th May, we had a whole day's debate on India—or rather on the effect of the economic boycott on the Lancashire cotton trade. The subject is doubtless one of great importance and no doubt in the opinion of the House the allocation to it of five hours discussion and of five minutes at the end of the day to the question of child marriage in India—to which Miss Rathbone sought to draw attention—represented adequately the relative importance of the two subjects. Perhaps posterity, looking back on the history of Great Britain's trusteeship for the people of India, may take a somewhat different view.

The Representation of the People Bill has finished its Committee stage, but the Report and third reading is still to come this week, when we shall no doubt fight over again all the much trampled ground concerning the alternative vote, the use of motor-cars, University representation, and all the rest of it. Meanwhile the mode of alternative voting as laid down in the schedules to the Bill provided the House with the kind of opportunity which its more statistically minded Members thoroughly enjoy. We had an amendment by Sir Hilton Young to substitute a complicated method of counting known as the Nanson scheme, the exposition of which involves so prolific a use of A, B, and C's that the speeches about it read like problems in algebra and involved nearly as severe a strain on the House's capacity for mental calculations. It was left for Sir Martin Conway to defend the proposal on the unusual ground that:—

"The correct thing to do is to have that kind of voting paper which stupid people will spoil, because in that way you will disfranchise the stupid part of the population."

But the defence was not really relevant to the Nanson system, which puts the strain not on the voter, but on the clerks and the returning officer engaged on the count.

Meanwhile, the Housing and Town Planning Bill has been pursuing a placid but leisurely course through its Standing Committee upstairs. By general consent it is so excellent a Bill and the urgent need for it so intensified by the prospect of a Land Tax, that it seems a pity its pace is so slowed down by purely time-wasting amendments, moved in order to be withdrawn. But the principle that "the business of an Opposition is to oppose" is so firmly entrenched in the Conservative mind (and if report speaks truly, in the mind of any party which happens for the time being to form the official Opposition) that it induces a fixed habit of delaying progress, even on relatively uncontroversial Bills. It will be a tragedy if these tactics should prevent the Bill reaching the Statute Book this Session.

CROSS BENCH.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

(Jus Suffragii)

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

In our article of the 8th May, we drew attention to an important matter, viz. "The developments under the Local Government Act, 1929," with special reference to the transfer of Poor-Law functions—dealt with by the Minister of Health when the estimates of his department were before the House of Commons on 14th April.

This article is concerned with another equally important problem, with which the Minister dealt, viz. the problem of *Maternal Mortality*.

"In the existing state of knowledge," he said, "nothing can justify the deaths of 3,000 mothers per year in child-birth. It makes it by far the most dangerous occupation in the country. The Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality, which was appointed by Mr. Chamberlain three years ago, has made an examination of each of a number of these cases of maternal death, and had arrived at results which are serious. We can say, on the basis of the findings of this Committee, that not less than one-half, it may be more, of the maternal deaths are preventable. This is a national scandal which I submit the public cannot continue to tolerate."

The Minister went on to state that after consideration of the Report, he approached the local authorities of the country in a circular sent out five months ago, pointing out ways in which they might co-operate in dealing with the problem, making other suggestions as to the developments which might take place, and pressing upon them the importance of education and ante-natal treatment.

At the end of March, replies had been received from seventy local authorities. Of that number thirty-six had adopted proposals for improving their maternity services, whilst a number of others had the matter still under consideration. Fifteen authorities were establishing or extending their ante-natal clinics, ten were providing private medical practitioners for ante-natal examinations, twelve were improving their arrangements for the supply of midwives, twenty-one were arranging consultant services, nine were providing an extension of hospitals accommodation, whilst a number of others were arranging various auxiliary services. There was evidence, said the Minister, of an earnest intention on the part of local authorities to co-operate with the Ministry of Health in an attack on this problem.

In reply to a question by Mr. Chamberlain as to the figures of maternal mortality for the year under review compared with the previous year, the Minister said that he had not the figures with him, but his impression was they were about the same, they certainly were not less.

Unfulfilled Expectations.—In our last article we pointed out that not only should the Minister's statement be read and considered, but also the debate on the statement which brought out many points of value and interest.

The space at our disposal permits reference to one point only. It was stated in the course of the debate that when the Unemployment Insurance Acts were passed, one of the main reasons given in support of the measures was that they would absorb hundreds of thousands of people who had to seek poor relief, and as a consequence the rates would be lower.

This expectation has not been realized. Though, as was stated, the figures have fluctuated a little, there has been no great absorption of the people from the poor-law roll, owing to the sums which are being poured out on Unemployment Insurance.

It is beyond our province to enter into the reasons for this. All we can do is to state the fact, which is beyond dispute, that in spite of the enormous extension of the social services which has taken place during this century, the Public Assistance service is dealing to day with approximately double the number of pre-war cases. Whatever the reason, the fact is disturbing.

OUR BILL OF FARE.

An account of the annual meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes will appear in our next issue.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST ASSOCIATIONS' WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.

From a Correspondent.

The meeting of two thousand delegates which packed the Queen's Hall on 14th May was preceded the evening before by a reception given by the Countess of Iveagh, C.B.E., M.P. Lady Iveagh also presided over the morning session, and in the afternoon the chair was taken by the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Assheton, J.P., who had the harder task as, though the morning was dullish, the afternoon was—in parts—extremely lively.

The usual party resolutions were passed unanimously, a noticeable feature being the enthusiasm every time that Mr. Baldwin's name was mentioned, and every time a speaker referred to the Safeguarding policy or Empire preference. These are undoubtedly of vital interest to the women of the party, and so is the question of National economy. Lady Astor, with her usual incisiveness, emphasized that it was the woman's ideas of economy that must be carried out, not the man's, and pointed out that the Conservative Party had no intention of cutting down the social services. This was loudly applauded, as was also her praise of nursery schools.

But the resolution of the day was undoubtedly the one sent by St. Helens (whose Town Council has just voted for the giving of instruction) welcoming "the withdrawal of the former Socialist Minister of Health's denial of the right of medical officers at rate-aided welfare centres to give birth control information to married women who require it for medical reasons." There was a feeling abroad that a resolution on a controversial subject requiring no parliamentary action was bad tactics, and there are still a few who believe that "such things should never be mentioned in public." These two groups were cleverly exploited by the highly organized and articulate minority, to whom the subject is anathema, and after half-a-dozen speeches it was proposed and seconded from the body of the hall "that the conference do proceed to the next business," and as the voting on this was 845 to 749, the conference proceeded. The proposer, Mrs. S. Frankenburg, had been most ably seconded by the Lady Maureen Stanley, and an admirable speech in support had been made by Lady Limerick, speaking as an experienced worker. Lady Worsley Taylor had opposed, and an amendment had been moved that information should be available for all married women who asked for it. Many more had sent up their names, but all in vain.

The feeling of the meeting, however, on the forbidden subject was shown later by the enthusiastic reception given to the proposer when she rose to speak on another resolution.

A resolution which aroused much interest was one urging "that local authorities should at once put into force all the powers they possess for making available for all mothers skilled attention and nursing care before, during, and after childbirth." It was emphasized that one of the most practical forms of help was to insist in each constituency that the midwives had their proper professional status and adequate pay. This was at present very far from being the case, although—in the "Five County Statistics"—the midwives' maternal mortality figures were 1.9 and "doctors and other cases" 5.4.

A resolution was also passed after some discussion asserting "that lotteries, sweepstakes, and efforts of a similar nature held in the cause of charity should be legalised."

On 15th May, Lady Iveagh again took the Chair at the mass meeting in the Albert Hall, where Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin were received with enthusiasm. The leader of the Party spoke mainly about his Safeguarding policy, and said that one of the differences between himself and the Government was that he believed what the Russian leaders said, and the Government did not. The Soviet rulers announced that the Five Year Plan was economic war, and he believed them. In speaking of disarmament, "which we all desire," he said that we must not forget that Russia—whom no nation could conceivably invade—was arming herself to the teeth.

Two excellent speakers proposed and seconded the resolution, thanking Mr. Baldwin and promising loyal support—Miss Florence Horsburgh, M.B.E., and Miss Irene Ward, C.B.E., prospective Conservative candidates for Dundee and Walsend respectively. They were both extremely lucid, witty, and to the point—an excellent thing in woman and in man, and the audience expressed its appreciation by wishing them luck in their campaigns.

DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN.

INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT DECLARATION.

Total signatures collected to date in Great Britain, over 450,000.

Signatures are now being collected in thirty-five countries.

Croydon W.I.L. has obtained nearly 1,000 signatures outside local cinema showing anti-war film.

Birmingham Disarmament Campaign reports 1,300 signatures collected in Aston Park at May Day meeting; nearly 5,000 signatures in a week at their "Peace Shop," including those of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress; same number at each of two stalls outside St. Martin's Church and the Cathedral.

At the annual meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Albert Hall on 19th and 20th May, the Declaration was referred to and explained from the chair by Lady Denman and forms were available for signatures.

In seconding the disarmament resolution at the National Liberal Federation meetings held at Buxton, Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P., urged support of the declaration. Forms were available there for signature and for taking away.

THE ALBERT HALL MASS MEETING.

In connection with the disarmament campaign, the League of Nations Union is organizing a mass meeting in the Albert Hall on Saturday, 11th July, at 3.30, at which the speakers will be the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, and Mr. Lloyd George. It is hoped that similar demonstrations will be arranged in different parts of the country. It is not too soon for women's organizations to begin making arrangements for the Albert Hall meeting. Blocks of seats will be allocated to members of women's societies coming together, and applications must reach 15 Grosvenor Crescent before 13th June.

NOTABLE PEOPLE AT CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC MEETING IN BOLTON.

From a Correspondent.

Over three hundred people were present at the afternoon conference, and upwards of five hundred at the evening meeting held under the joint auspices of the Women's Peace Crusade and the Bolton Women's Council for Peace and Progress, which were held in the Congregational School, St. George's Road, Bolton, on Tuesday, 12th May.

Miss Meade, M.A., Principal of the Bolton School (girls' department), presided over the afternoon assembly, and welcomed delegates from thirty-eight organizations, in addition to a large number of visitors. Professor T. S. Gregory, D.Sc., who is Research Professor on Social Economics at Manchester University, spoke on "Economic Effects of War". After a discussion opened by Mr. A. J. Renston, M.A., Lord Noel Buxton addressed the conference on "Why Disarmament is Practicable". He took for illustration of his title the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Locarno Treaty, the Kellogg Pact, and the General Act, and concluded his address by moving a resolution "that this meeting realizing the urgency of an immediate substantial reduction of world armaments pledges itself to do all in its power to make the International Disarmament Conference next year a success; and further urges the Government to press for a reduction in budgetary estimates of not less than 25 per cent." This was seconded by the Rev. S. M. Falconer, and carried with acclamation. Lord Buxton also stressed the need of bringing pressure to bear upon members of the Government and of Parliament, and it was resolved to send copies of the resolution to all those concerned. The evening meeting, which was crowded to its fullest capacity by an audience representative of many interests, and of townspeople, was presided over by Councillor A. Pilling, J.P., one of Bolton's leading citizens. In a clear and cogent address on "Some Outstanding Economic Problems of the War," Professor Gregory continued and developed in detail the theme of his address given at the afternoon conference. A discussion opened by Mr. W. Hanscomb, A.C.A., was followed by questions, which afforded an opportunity in answering of a second address by Professor Gregory, who delighted everyone present.

An address by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence on "Disarmament the Question of the Hour" brought to a conclusion the second of two memorable gatherings. After showing the alarming

growth of armaments and the cost of war, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence made an eloquent and powerful appeal to everyone present to do all that is possible to promote knowledge of the facts connected with disarmament. She further urged everyone to help to collect signatures to the Disarmament Declaration, now being signed in over thirty different countries. A lively discussion followed, which was opened by Mr. A. Tootill, B.A., hon. secretary of the Bolton L.N.U. Council. Fifteen thousand signatures to the Declaration have already been collected in Bolton, 6,000 of which have been brought in by one member.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD CONGRESS.

From a Correspondent.

The annual congress of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild was held in the Town Hall, Alloa, on 15th and 16th May, Mrs. Hardstaff (Greenock Central) presiding. A civic welcome was accorded to the delegates, who numbered about 800, and the town was decorated in their honour. They represented 28,500 Guild members. The agenda, comprising fifty-two resolutions, was especially interesting in that in addition to those on matters relating to the Guilds and to co-operative business there were a larger number of resolutions than usual in support of Parliamentary Bills. Of these, five concerned reforms first promoted by the N.U.S.E.C. From Perth and Knightswood came two resolutions advocating Family Allowances "so that the income going into every home may bear some relation to the number of dependent children in the home" and "declaring the time now opportune . . . whereby the purchasing power of the masses may be stimulated and the unemployment problem thus reduced." Mrs. Inglis (Central Council) spoke convincingly of the causes of juvenile delinquency, and urged the Government to take steps to set up juvenile courts in which women J.P.s should act as magistrates. Mrs. Hendry (Central Council), in an impressive speech, explained the terms of the Public Places Order (Scotland) Bill, and urged that the Government should introduce and carry through all its stages a Bill on these lines. Miss Bury (Inverleith) moved a resolution urging the Scottish Office to recommend to all Sheriff Courts that with a view to reducing the cost of obtaining an Adoption Order under the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act, a representative of a suitable voluntary organization interested in child welfare should act as *cuvator ad litem*. The Congress also passed a resolution calling on the Government to grant facilities for the passage into law this session of Mr. Mather's amending Bill, which would bring within the scope of the Adoption Act for the purpose of Children's Allowances in connection with Widows' Pensions children adopted before October, 1930. Resolutions also called on local authorities to use their powers to establish nursery schools and to provide adequate facilities for artificial sun-ray treatment. Other reforms advocated were the raising of the school age, a six-hour working day, pensions for all needy widows and spinsters, the withdrawal of the grant to the O.T.C., and that Britain should set the example in world disarmament.

YOUNG OFFENDERS.

An all-day conference on Prevention and Rescue Work was held in Edinburgh recently, presided over by the Very Rev. Dr. J. Harry Miller, called by the Juvenile Organizations Council and Vigilance Societies. The principal speakers were Mrs. le Mesurier and Dr. Norris of the Home Office. Mrs. le Mesurier spoke of the various stages necessary in dealing with boy offenders—the diagnosis, the treatment, and after-care. Dr. Norris spoke of the difficult problem of the girl offender, and the need for a constructive effort to win confidence. He deplored the use of such terms as "fallen" or "ruined" girls, and "Magdalene institutions." In the afternoon there was a good discussion mainly on the merits of Borstal and reformatory institutions. Lord Polwarth, speaking of the Juvenile Offenders (Scotland) Bill, urged that there was nothing derogatory in probation officers being paid, voluntary officers were often engaged in other paid work. He pointed out that it would be possible to send more boys to Borstal, who at present are sent to prison, if the words "of criminal tendencies and habits" were removed from the conditions laid down by the Borstal Act, which at present limited the action of magistrates. Two resolutions were carried, the first asking that the Government institute a reformatory for girls in Scotland (at present they are sent to England), and the second setting up a joint organization of those societies in Scotland engaged in prevention and rescue work.

MIXED BAG.

When three books appear to have been reviewed in irrelevant combination, the explanation is that they have arrived by the same post and lie together upon the reviewer's table inviting comment. So it is with the incongruous trio upon which we are about to pass judgment.

The first is *Anna Wiseman*, by J. N. Ruffin, B.A. (*Kent Guardian* Printing and Publishing Co., 7s. 6d.). Vilely printed, and still more vilely illustrated, it appears at first sight to be no more than the ravings of a lunatic. On second thoughts we are tempted to believe that it may be an elaborate joke. If so, its elaboration is sufficient to elude the uninitiated reader. Enough said.

The second is *The Firm of Cadbury, 1831-1931*, by Iolo A. Williams (Constable, 10s. 6d.). It brings us back to sanity with a jolt. Indeed, its sanity is so unadulterated, its information so ungarished with imagination or criticism, that it runs the risk of being thought a trifle dull. Like the firm in whose praise it is written, however, it does "deliver the goods," though with less sweetness and variety than we associate with the products of Bournville. For here are a multitude of useful facts concerning the inception, organization, technique, personnel, and development of a great and peculiarly English industrial institution. Those passages which concern the technique of the business will, perhaps, being least familiar, prove to be of greatest interest to the general reader. It is interesting to learn of the difference between pure cocoa essence and the adulterated cocoa preparations which the obstinate bad taste of the public forced the Cadburys to manufacture against their own austere inclinations. It is interesting to learn something of the nature of milk chocolate and of the considerations which led to the chocolate being brought to the milk rather than the milk to the chocolate. In the matter of industrial welfare, through which four generations of Cadburys have expressed an abiding sense of social responsibility, deeply rooted in religious conviction, the book gives a detailed analysis of multifarious schemes comprising recreation, education, housing, pensions, and mutual consultation between employers and employed. In the clear and pleasant atmosphere of Bournville, among men and girls employed in the manufacture of clean and pleasant products, the paternalism of the Cadburys never approaches the overshadowing and somewhat thunderous autocracy of the Kruppss of Essen, or the mechanistic flamboyance of the Levers of Port Sunlight. And this is perhaps because it is pervaded by a kind of Quaker tolerance which provokes no enmity and emphasises no social contrast. Only at one point do we become conscious of a slight stiffening in our own response to these influences, and that is when we learn that no married women may be employed under the Cadbury régime, a rule which "arose from George Cadbury's work among the poor of Birmingham, and from his conviction that a married woman could not look after her home properly if she worked in a factory, and that very often the husband of such a worker was content to be idle and live on his wife's wages." Here, it seems to us, is one direction in which the sociological views of the employer are being arbitrarily imposed on the worker. And curiously enough the writer, too, seems to have his qualms, for here and here only do we find a hint of apology in his exposition.

Taking the book as a whole—or rather the complex of bare facts which comprise it—one main conclusion seems to emerge: in spite of its long history, in spite of its wide expansion and mechanization, in spite of its evolution from one-man-firm to private company, from private company to public company, interlocked by the nexus of high finance with other public companies, the firm of Cadbury appears to have preserved its soul. In the recently published *Personal Papers of Lord Rendel*, we read of his strong and well-argued objection to "the conversion of successful concerns into limited companies." Such "divorce of management from capital" he regarded as "big with consequences more momentous than even the most dreaded combinations of mere labour can bring forth." Looking round at the world of industry one can see Lord Rendel's dark forebodings worked out in a multitude of hardening economic cleavages. Yet it would seem that at Bournville they are somehow held successfully at bay. It will be for a fifth generation of Cadburys to hold the pass against still heavier odds.

Third and last, there remains Mrs. Sydney Frankenburg's irreverent lesson book, *Latin with Laughter* (William Heinemann, Ltd., 2s. 6d.), irreverently illustrated by Miss Dorothy Rowe. Irreverent it may be—hilariously and irrepressibly irreverent—

Continued on page 127.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.

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General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON.

Office: 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.

In addition to Whit-Monday, the office will be closed on Saturday, 23rd May, and Tuesday, 26th May, reopening at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 27th May.

"LONDON WALL" TEA PARTY.

THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE, 3.30 P.M.

There must be many who, having relatives or friends in "secretarial posts," are closely affected by the problems raised in this play on life in City offices; and to every one it is a subject of great interest. It is, therefore, particularly fortunate that Mr. John van Druten, author of *London Wall*, is to speak on his play at the next tea party in the very popular series of theatrical tea parties organized by the N.U.S.E.C. This party is to be held on Thursday, 4th June, when Lady Denman is very generously being our hostess at her beautiful house, 43 Upper Grosvenor Street. Proceedings will begin at 3.30 p.m., Mr. van Druten being followed by Mrs. Blanco White, who needs no introduction to readers of this paper. At the close of the discussion, in which it is hoped that many members of the audience will take part, tea will be served. Tickets (price 7s. 6d. and 5s.) may be obtained on application to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1, and, as accommodation is of necessity limited, application should be made as soon as possible.

WILLS AND INTESTACIES (FAMILY MAINTENANCE) BILL.

Evidence was again given by Mrs. Hubback on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. on Wednesday, 13th May, before the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament which, under the chairmanship of Lord Thankerton, is examining Miss Rathbone's Bill. For notices of further public sittings of this Committee, readers are referred to the daily papers. The Committee's usual day of meeting is Wednesday.

DAME RACHEL CROWDY.

Readers are reminded of the dinner to be held in honour of Dame Rachel Crowdy, an announcement of which was made last week. At this dinner, which will be at the Café Royal, on Thursday, 25th June, the principal speakers will be, in addition to Dame Rachel herself, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Dame Edith Lyttelton, Miss Maude Royden, and our own President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., will be in the Chair. Tickets, price 7s. 6d., may be obtained on application to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

PERSONAL.

We are delighted to see that Mrs. Beck, President of the former Society for Equal Citizenship at Dunfermline, has been appointed to the Departmental Committee to deal with the composition of food, and to which reference is made elsewhere. We offer her our heartiest congratulations.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

CARDIFF W.C.A.

The annual meeting of the Cardiff Women Citizens' Association was held on 12th May. Miss Barke, chairman of committee, presided, in the absence of the president, the Lady Mayoress. The annual Report, presented by the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. M. Sanders, showed that much work had been done during the year. The largest of the public meetings was one addressed by Lady Astor on the subject of Women Police. This roused much interest, and by the controversy which it caused in the Press and elsewhere, brought the subject prominently before the public. Another public meeting was addressed by Alderman Melhuish on the work of the new Public Assistance Committees now that the Boards of Guardians have been abolished. The late Miss Margaret Macmillan had promised to speak on the subject of Nursery Schools, but she was prevented by illness and was obliged to send a substitute. Lady Bennett, wife of Sir E. N. Bennett, M.P. for Cardiff Central, spoke on the domestic servant problem at one of the fortnightly afternoon meetings. Subjects taken by other speakers were:—The Assembly of the League of Nations, Changes in the Educational System, Adult Education, the Safety of Pedestrians, Aviation and Travel.

Visits have been paid as usual to the prison and the mental hospital, letters have been written to M.P.s on subjects of interest to women and deputations have been sent to the City Council. The financial report, presented by Lady Davies, the Hon. Treasurer, showed a balance in hand of over £11. All the officers were re-elected and two changes only were made in the committee. Mrs. Alfred Thomas remains as our Organising Secretary, and the office is still at 17 Quay Street. At the conclusion of the business, dramatic sketches were given by Miss Ruth Parry and Miss Hilda Lock. These were greatly appreciated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CRIMEAN VETERAN.

MADAM.—There is a Crimean "veteran" still alive. In the light of your note on Florence Nightingale (page 114, 15th May) it is most interesting to know that an aged lady, Miss Lennox, who was one of those who went out to the Crimea with Florence Nightingale, is living in the Nurses' Residence, Chamberlain Road, Edinburgh.

Miss Lennox was one of the first "sisters" in the nursing profession. She also nursed in the family of David Livingstone, and was with them in Africa.

When the Shrine at Edinburgh Castle was unveiled by the Prince of Wales, Miss Lennox was brought there by arrangement and was received by His Royal Highness. Miss Lennox is the last and only "veteran" of the Crimea still alive.

S. B. MILLER McDougall.

31 La Crosse Terrace,
Glasgow, W.2.

THE CENSUS.

MADAM.—It is perhaps a little late in the day to discuss the Census, but I was surprised that you discussed whether the husband should be described as head of the household and ignored the still unsatisfactory way of describing the wife's occupation.

At one time she was described as having no occupation, now she is directed to put "home duties" under the heading of "unpaid occupation". Now a wife is not unpaid: if she were she would perish of starvation. She may receive very little pay for a lot of work, or do very little work for high pay, but she is as a matter of fact in a paid occupation. It would be most logical to put "married woman" under "employment". A married woman is in the same position as a partner in a firm: she may get much or little of the profits, but she has a definite claim on them.

M. C.

MIXED BAG—Continued from page 126.

yet high professorial authority, in the preface by Sir John Adams, assures the uninitiated reader that behind this irreverence lurks solid and thoughtful educational method. And even the uninitiated reader inspired with the faintest fleeting memory of what Balbus did, must needs feel, as the author leads her airily from lesson to lesson, that there is a certain pretty logic about this building of simple, if unclassical, Latin sentences which would have made her own first attempts less painful and more fruitful. The process is not unlike the cheerful manipulation of a box of bricks. Looking back upon our own abortive attempts on this dry language, we feel that if only someone had helped us to personify the unspeakable Balbus and visualize the building of his endless wall, things might have been different. But Mrs. Frankenburg's spirited illustrator *does* help us to personify her Regina—who oddly resembles a certain charwoman—not to mention her Nauta—who has such sensitive toes!

M. D. S.

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COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C.

Monday, 1st May: 7 p.m. "New Books." Miss V. Sackville-West.
Wednesdays, 10.45. 27th May: Mrs. Oliver Strachey, "A Woman's
Commentary."

Tuesdays, 7.25. 26th May: Sir William Beveridge, "Unemployment" (2).

COUNCIL FOR REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

25th June, 8 p.m. Café Royal Dinner, in honour of Dame Rachel Crowdy. Speakers include: The Foreign Secretary, Dame Rachel Crowdy, Miss Maude Royden, and others. Chair: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon.

ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

3rd-5th June. Glasgow. International Conference.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELFARE.

May 27-28-29. Central Hall, Westminster. Conference on Mental Health. Inaugural Meeting, Thursday, 27th May, 8.25. Chair: Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

15th-20th June. Aberdeen. Annual Conference.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

4th June, 4.30. Theatrical Tea Party at 43 Upper Grosvenor Street (by permission of Lady Denman). Mr. van Druten will speak on his play, *London Wall*. Tickets (7s. 6d., 5s.) from 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

Acton W.C.A.

29th May, 8 p.m. Y.W.C.A., East Acton Lane, W. 3. Mrs. Rees: "Political Life in France and England."

ROYAL ACADEMY.

9 a.m.-7 p.m. Summer Exhibition. Admission 1s. 6d.

ST. JOAN QUINCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

30th May. Rouen.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

4th June, 4.30. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Miss Grace Ellison: "The Women of Jugo-Slavia and Turkey."

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