

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The United States Ratifies the Pact.

As we go to press we hear that the United States Senate has ratified the Kellogg Peace Pact with no reservations and only one dissentient vote, nine absentees having signified their approval. A cable message received from an American reader runs: "Very happy; Pact ratified to-day; no reservations."

The Reassembling of Parliament.

The New Year brings with it the prospect of a drab parliamentary programme. Immediately on the opening of Parliament on Tuesday next the committee stage of the Local Government Bill will be proceeded with. Thirteen more days still remain; with a Bill of such portentous dimensions even this will not allow of thorough discussion, and, as during the first four days, the guillotine will fall while a large number of clauses still remain undiscussed or inadequately discussed. During the recess efforts have been made both in and out of Parliament to improve the Bill as regards its probable effect on the Public Health Services in general and on Maternity and Child Welfare in particular. The worker in any of these services who favours the substitution of the block for the percentage grant is still to seek. The attempts to improve the Bill include pressure to retain the percentage grant for the Maternity Service as it is retained in the bill for certain classes of roads, to efforts directed towards strengthening clause 86, which provides for the reduction of the grant in the case of a Local Authority with an inefficient health service. Which of these attempts will succeed? Other aspects of the Bill are discussed by our Local Government Correspondent in another column. We cannot feel hopeful of any considerable concession on any point. The rest of the session will be almost entirely occupied with consideration of Estimates.

The Turk Complex at the Police Inquiry.

The Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure resumed its sittings on Monday of this week, when evidence was given on behalf of the National Vigilance Association and the Police Federation of England and Wales. The latter body consists of members of all the police force below the rank of superintendent. Its representative denied that there was any feeling against the infiltration of women into the force, but stated that his Federation was of opinion that women police were unnecessary and that women were physically and temperamentally unsuited for the primary duties of the police service! Evidence in their support was, on the other hand, given by the Secretary of the National Vigilance Association, who stated that women police officers, both uniformed and in plain clothes, had been found of great assistance to the work of the Association. We welcome the testimony of those who have actual experience of the work of women. So far as the Police

Federation is concerned, once again the "turk complex" makes its unseen presence felt. Can this complex be sublimated, and if so how? Or is it an incurable fact of human nature which can only be recognized and fought?

If Prosperity came to Wales To-day.

It gives joy even to wish such words as these. They are taken from a letter to *The Times* from Mr. Thomas Naylor, General Superintendent of Methodist Work in South Wales, whose occupation takes him over some 20,000 miles of Welsh land in a year. He holds that "the Welsh coal industry will come again slowly but surely" but that if prosperity came the existing Welsh roads, many of them "atrocious," would be "congested unspeakably." His long letter is in effect a plea for a big scheme of Welsh road reconstruction, and he states that "the next phase of the coal industry lies less with raw coal and more with the successful production of a cheap and satisfactory fuel and a ready market and good transport for all the by-products available," and he adds, "be it noted that the principal by-products have to do with road-making and road-transport, and the prospect lies largely in this direction." These are technical questions and it is no part of our purpose to pronounce upon them. But Mr. Naylor's letter is a challenge which cannot be too often repeated. The imagination, the bold initiative, the readiness to invest money and lives on a colossal scale which was shown in the war must be shown again if Wales and the other distressed districts are to be called back to life. And man does not live only by bread, if his character is not to wilt it needs the food of good useful work to feed upon. The young men must not grow up, indeed, they cannot grow up, without such food. Let the Government take courage from the magnificent response public opinion has made to its somewhat tardy efforts to relieve the immediate distress.

Women Medical Students and Hospital Incomes.

A letter from the Secretary of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London in Saturday's *Times* bears out the point made by Miss Rathbone on behalf of the Joint Committee for Women in the Hospital Service in the letter reprinted from *The Times* in our last week's issue, namely, that the greater part of hospital funds is not drawn from the subscribers, who through their votes at annual meetings nominally control policy. This letter shows that only 29 per cent of the income of the London hospitals is derived from subscriptions and donations. Judging from a letter from Dr. May Thorne, the Royal Free Hospital draws a larger percentage than this from individual benefactors. It certainly deserves the most that these can give it since it is now shouldering nearly the whole burden of training women medical students in London.

Women Citizens at Work.

Two useful publications lie before us which show what can be done by active bodies of women voters. The first is the current copy of the *Manchester and Salford Woman Citizen*, the monthly organ of the Manchester and Salford Women Citizens' Association. This useful and attractive-looking little paper is full of local news of just the kind that the intelligent woman in the home wants, but the needs of the Parliamentary voter are not overlooked, for a special series of articles by representatives of the three political parties on such problems as Housing, Fiscal Policy, Unemployment, Local Government Reform, and Foreign Policy have been announced. Which other towns will follow Manchester's lead? Why not get local Members to state their views and print and circulate them among the "new voters" before the General Election? Another admirable piece of local work is the Handbook of the Ealing Women Citizens' Association (in which we are pleased and surprised to discover a full page

advertisement of ourselves). This handbook, which has a foreword from the Mayoress, is an excellent example of compiling ability, and should do much to arouse local patriotism, and this quality possibly needs more stimulating in boroughs adjacent to London than those at a greater distance. In addition to facts relating to representatives in Parliament and on the Borough Council, all public and voluntary social services, churches, and societies of all kinds, the qualifications for the new Register of Parliamentary Electors are clearly set out. Some (not all) large towns have useful handbooks which to some extent make such publications unnecessary, but where they do not exist what better work could an association of women citizens do?

The Education of the New Voter.

Our readers will be interested to hear of the Conference on the Education of the Citizen which the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is arranging for 8th February at University College. This conference is especially necessary in the interests of the new voter and we are anxious to find out what is being done by the various organizations who in any way set forth to teach citizenship. There will be an opportunity of hearing many different points of view and gaining cognizance of the methods employed by many educational bodies all over the country from the speakers who include Mr. Badley from Bedales School, Miss Pennethorne of the Parents' National Educational Union, Miss Dymond on "Regional Survey Work in Schools," Miss Tottenham of the Federation of Working Girls' Clubs, Mrs. Winttingham for the Women's Institutes, and Miss Matheson of the British Broadcasting Corporation. A full notice of the Conference appears elsewhere in our issue. In view of the ever-enlarging field of constructive citizenship which is open to women the need for increased, co-ordinated, and enlightened training to help all young and old citizens, and especially, we think, the newly enfranchised woman voter, cannot help but be felt and this Conference will fill a real need in outlining the methods of teaching citizenship at present in use and in providing a guiding line for future endeavour.

Women and Watch Committees.

For the first time in their history the Leicester and Wigan Councils have appointed a woman councillor to the Watch Committee. Miss Fortey, who is now a member of the Leicester Watch Committee, has been a member of the Council for some years and is anxious that women police should be included in the Leicester Police Force. Nurse Martha Hogg who has been appointed at Wigan, was the first woman to be elected to the Wigan Council. Women are now serving on Watch Committees at Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bradford, Cambridge, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Reading, and Tynemouth. It is not too much to say that every Watch Committee should have at least one woman member.

King Amanullah.

The abdication of King Amanullah is a sad ending to the story of his efforts to introduce reforms including reform in the position of women in the Afghan Kingdom. Readers will remember his visit to this country only last year, and the deep interest which he and his beautiful Queen Souriya showed in everything they saw. In all probability other factors than his desire for modern reforms have led to the present crisis and who knows if it is the end, either for Amanullah or his reforms? The ex-King may have been ill-advised, but his ideas on education and organization and not less on the improved status of women cannot be so easily disposed of as their author; their fruition is only a matter of time.

Miss Maude Royden's Return.

We are very glad to welcome Miss Royden back again from her travels around the world, which have extended over a year. Reading between the lines of the brief reports which have come to our notice we realize the great international value of her visits to the United States, our own Overseas Dominions and to other lands. Miss Royden can always command large audiences and her words, owing in some instances to the splendid publicity gained by an ill-judged hostility as in the Hearst Press campaign against "the smoking evangelist," reached a still wider public. She has removed popular misconceptions of British policy and she has scattered seeds of peace and goodwill wherever she went, which will bear fruit in better international understanding. But we are glad that she is back with us again.

A Woman's Interpretation of Greek Plays.

A correspondent writes:—Women who have not been fortunate enough to have a classical education as well as those who are always ready to encourage original talent, will welcome the announcement that Dorothea Spinney will give interpretations of four Greek plays from Euripides beginning with *The Bacchae* in correct costume and setting during the next few weeks. Miss Spinney is an English artist who is better known overseas than in London, but those who have heard her will take advantage of this opportunity to hear her again. Her rendering of a Greek drama is a rare pleasure to all lovers of beauty of form, movement, or rhythm. It is difficult to realize as she passes from one character to another with her flexible and musical voice and her extraordinary gift for assuming the personality she represents, that she is alone on the stage with only the barest accessories.

The City of London Guardians and the Local Government Bill.

An important statement has been prepared by the City of London Guardians in regard to the proposals of the Local Government Bill as they affect London. Poor Law administration in London is at present carried out by 25 Boards and the Metropolitan Asylums Board. These authorities possess and administer 29 institutions, 29 infirmaries, 16 children's homes, 10 schools, 17 relief offices, 25 administrative buildings, 9 receiving homes, 1 farm colony, making a total of 136. About 70 additional hospitals and infirmaries are under the control of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The work is now being carried out by 749 elected members and it is estimated that on an average 220 weekly meetings are held. It is thought that complete centralization would be a failure as Central Committees established by co-option or nomination could not deal with the work or have the personal knowledge of the people or of local conditions. An alternative scheme is therefore proposed for the Metropolitan, namely the establishment of a separate body for Poor Law and Welfare work to be called "The County of London Welfare Incorporation." Under the scheme London would be divided into ten districts and welfare authorities consisting of not less than 20 persons elected in each one. A Standing Joint Committee would be formed from these authorities, whose duties would include all welfare services that are of a central character. This would cover the raising of funds for both central and local needs, the financing and administration, if wanted, of institutions, the administration of district schools for poor and orphan children and the boarding-out of children.

Should Women Knit!

The question as to whether women should knit during the Committee meetings was raised lately at a meeting of the Eton Urban District Council, one of the women councillors thinking that as the men councillors smoked, she might be permitted to knit during the discussions. Readers may remember that a protest was recently made on the same point at the L.C.C. The Council took this view, but decided that the privilege should only extend to Committee meetings and not to those of the Council. Smoking and knitting can hardly be regarded as alternatives, however. We suppose there is nothing to prevent a woman smoking if she wishes to do so. In view of the lengthy discussions that often take place we do not see why women councillors, if they so desire, should not occupy their time thus when the business before the Committee is not of importance.

"The Very Forefront."

When we consider the cautious terms in which our British statesmen were wont to express their support of our cause in the old days, we find refreshment in the vigour of General Smuts' word in regard to his suffrage policy. "Women's enfranchisement is the very forefront of its policy"; "Not when the native question is first solved"; and again, "a cardinal plank in our platform." Once more we heartily congratulate the women of South Africa, and in particular we congratulate The Women's Municipal Association of Capetown on having organized the great women's congress at Capetown, the first of its kind.

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.

SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR WOMEN WORKERS.

At the instance of the London and National Society for Women's Service, Mrs. J. Blainey has compiled an admirable survey of the position of women in industry with special reference to the problem of differential legislative protection¹—a survey so generally balanced in its moderation, and so well charged with sympathy for the various opposed points of view, as to make it a valuable text for those in search of guidance on this particular aspect of the woman's movement.

Mrs. Blainey has quite rightly not attempted to isolate the problem of legislative protection from the whole tangle of problems which condition the present status of the industrial woman worker. Thus, no intelligent reader of her survey can emerge from its perusal with the view that the restrictive operations of the legislature, inspired by the deliberate selfishness or misguided paternalism of a male electorate, are the primary cause of the narrow and depressed field in which women pursue their industrial avocations. She sees the legislative sex restrictions which she is studying in close and continuous relation to the vicious circle of low pay, trade union weakness, and male jealousy, and to the even more obstinate problem of youth and permanence caused by the expectation of marriage which so fatally blunts the economic ambition and prejudices the training of the woman worker. Thus seen, legal restrictions appear as a specific sex remedy designed to meet and neutralize the occurrence of a specific sex weakness. But are they a satisfactory remedy, or an unscientific remedy calculated to stabilize the conditions of the disease and even stimulate reactions likely to increase its virulence? Mrs. Blainey shares our preference for the latter verdict. "It seems probable," she argues at the outset of her survey, "that in the first place certain legal restrictions were necessary in the face of the undoubted exploitation of the helplessness and lack of organization of the woman worker. At the same time it is doubtful whether it has not tended in recent years to keep back the status of the adult woman and to handicap her in the competition for work. . . . There is also no doubt that much of the legislation excluding women from 'dangerous' trades has been, and still is, based on utterly unscientific evidence as to the real harmfulness of the work concerned, and has moreover had the very great additional disadvantage of keeping back serious attempts to make the industry healthy for all workers." This last aspect of the problem is further stressed by Mrs. Blainey in her final conclusions: "The existence of these partial regulations has long satisfied the public conscience, and has obscured the more important problems of making all working conditions as good, and all dangerous trades as safe, as possible. There is very little doubt that if the red herring of protection for women workers had not been trailed across attempts to improve conditions in lead paint and potteries,

OURSELVES.

We print below the list of guarantors who, by their prompt response to our statement of the financial position of the paper, have renewed our lease of life for another period of three years at least. The total sum promised up to the present time amounts to just under £550. Readers are, however, reminded that only the barest minimum required to maintain life was asked for, and any surplus over that amount will be used to improve and develop the paper.

We thank our guarantors not only for their practical help but for the steady flow of kindly and appreciative letters which gladdened our Christmastide. We were hardly prepared for such unanimity in desiring our continued existence, and the warm expressions of approval and indeed genuine affection for the little paper have clearly indicated that it still has its own peculiar place to fill. We venture to quote below a few of the most characteristic extracts from the pile of letters which lies before us. Criticisms are very rare—only four in all, out of a total of about two hundred letters, probably because our severe critics have left us alone—but such as they are most kindly, and in about every case accompanied by promises of financial help ("in order that I may have the privilege of criticizing," writes one friend!) It may be interesting to our readers to know what they are: one is concerned with a proposal for a monthly instead of a weekly issue; another dislikes our policy

¹The Woman Worker and Restrictive Legislation, by J. Blainey. (J. W. Arrowsmith, Ltd., 1s. net.)

the whole of these industries would be very much more safe and healthy than they are to-day."

The case against sex differential industrial legislation therefore may be said to rest upon two separate contentions. First, by restricting the area of women's work it is calculated to intensify competition and depress wages and status in the spheres which remain open. In so doing, of course, it is likely to weaken still further the will and the capacity for effective organization. Secondly, by throwing a sop to the public conscience, it side-tracks a real attempt to make industry safe for the worker.

To admit the validity of these two contentions is not necessarily to endorse a dogmatic assertion that at no point in the history of modern industry could it be expedient to accept legislative assistance for a peculiarly depressed class of women workers as the first step to economic salvation, or that it is inconceivable that the physiological differences of men and women can ever justify any legislative or customary demarcation of industrial function. It is rather to indicate the lines upon which the broad industrial policy of the woman's movement should move, for the greatest good of the greatest number. And Mrs. Blainey reminds us that these in fact were the lines laid down by the greatest leader of industrial women that this country has so far produced. In 1908 Mary MacArthur opposed in the Trade Union Congress, a resolution to the effect that "women should not be permitted to work at metal polishing, turning, or screwing." The problem of female labour, she said, was not going to be solved by a resolution of this kind, but by the organization of the women. In the following year, when a similar resolution was before the T.U.C., she stressed the positive side of her opposition case by advocating the exclusion of young persons of both sexes from trades scheduled as dangerous or unhealthy, the necessity for further safeguards to the health of men and women employed in such trades, and the prohibition wherever possible of the use of poisonous ingredients. Mrs. Blainey might perhaps have added grist to her mill, if she had referred in addition to the far-sighted policy of Mary MacArthur, to the work of two other devoted champions of industrial women: Eva Gore Booth and Esther Roper, who adopted the same line of approach to their problem and whose personal efforts were largely instrumental in saving the pit-brow girls and the barmaids from legislative extinction. Their work, like that of Mary MacArthur, constitutes an ample refutation of the belief that opposition to the principle of sex differentiation in industrial legislation is the fruit of a doctrinaire feminism, uninspired by an understanding solicitude for the welfare of the industrial woman, and reinforced by an individualist prejudice against industrial legislation as such. It may be added that the tone of Mrs. Blainey's book is itself an healthy corrective of any such view.

on family allowances; a third asks for better proof correcting; a fourth sees in us "an inclination to become an organ of the Labour Party!"

A very gratifying feature of the letters is the use of the word "our" instead of "your" in reference to the paper. That is as it ought to be. THE WOMAN'S LEADER is the women's paper. Its policy is dictated by decision of a large body of women of all political parties; its contributors are drawn from its own readers, and, finally, the financial subsidy which enables it to pay its way does not come from one purse or cheque book, but from a large company of faithful supporters.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

"I think such a paper is certainly needed and never more so than between now and the General Election."
 "It would be a thousand pities if the paper had NOT TO BE."
 "It is unthinkable that THE WOMAN'S LEADER's public should face the problems of the future without its help."
 "It would be a terrible loss if the paper were to expire."
 "It would be most regrettable if the paper could not be continued."
 "I find THE WOMAN'S LEADER very useful and interesting, particularly the Parliamentary news and local government notes."
 "I feel that we readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER owe the Editors and contributors a great debt of gratitude."
 "I enclose a promise for the next three years. I wish it could be more; I should miss THE WOMAN'S LEADER very much."
 "It would undoubtedly be a great loss if the paper had to be stopped. One of its chief merits to me personally is the succinct way in which its news is presented. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of all the work which goes to the publication of the paper."

"The paper seems to me valuable for anyone interested in woman's societies, as it supplies information not found anywhere and is well worth 2d. . . I have recommended various Chairmen of Women's Committees to take it as an essential means of reference and none of them knew of it before!"

"I have had the paper for a few years and should miss it very much."

"I feel that your paper really does fill a place that nothing else can. It is a good paper and it would be a great loss if it had to come to an end."

"I took THE WOMAN'S LEADER first by a friend's advice but now should be very sorry to lose it."

"I . . . hope you will get the number of guarantors that you need to carry on our interesting and helpful "Leader."

"It would be really deplorable if this paper ceased to exist."

"I can only say that I should be really disconsolate to hear that our paper was coming to an end."

"I send enclosed slip to show my continued interest. . . I have taken it weekly ever since it was started."

LIST OF PROMISED GUARANTEES.

£100.—Miss S. Clegg, Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone.

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* Not in alphabetical order.

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THE REAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

In national legend Miss Nightingale will remain for all time the Lady with a Lamp, gentle, sympathetic, womanly, smoothing the pillows of the wounded soldiers and bringing them the comfort of her gracious presence. And perhaps rightly so, for all this is the symbol, the sacrament of what in fact she did. But during the last few years we have been privileged to learn more about her than Victorian reserve permitted. The gentle lady with the lamp is not the whole truth; Mr. Lytton Strachey's severe and ironic sketch is not the whole truth; *Cassandra*, Florence's own bitter cry, published for the first time in Mrs. Oliver Strachey's volume, *The Cause*, is not the whole truth; Captain Reginald Berkeley's play is not the whole truth. No one but one to whom the secrets of all hearts are open can speak the whole truth about this great woman. But Captain Berkeley has made such use of the material at his disposal that he has written a very great play. We understand that the few performances presented by the Arts Theatre Club are to be followed by a run at the Garrick. If the play succeeds at the Garrick no one can say that London is not worthy of the best. Miss Edith Evans is reported to have said that she was never so happy as in this play at the Arts Theatre, and she is a great actor, perhaps the only actor of to-day who could have filled this part. Miss Thorndike, yes, to a point, but there is a side to Edith Evans' character as an actor which even Miss Thorndike lacks. Miss Evans makes us understand that Florence Nightingale did not go out to the horrors of the Crimea because she knew only duty—indeed it might be said "how little he knows duty, who only duty knows." Miss Nightingale, according to our author, who brings home to us the truth about his heroine by means of a poet's licence, knew what passion meant, knew what the love of little children meant, and because she knew, was the better fitted for the call, which, again by poetic licence, is shown as coming to her in an actual vision with the voices which came to her spiritual sister, St. Joan. The play as given at the Arts Theatre could bear just a little pruning here and there, but it is to be hoped that in all essentials it will be presented as it is to the wider public. We have spoken of certain printed matter as providing Captain Berkeley with his material, but indeed the whole woman's movement has given him rich material. In this play, as to a lesser degree in the film "Dawn" he shows a dramatic insight into the significance of the woman's movement which is far beyond that of any other dramatist. His Lady Herbert, admirably done by Miss Francon Davies, is what might be called the normal woman of her day, full of affection for her husband and of admiration for her "clever" friend, but wholly uncomprehending, and, finally with the pettiness of uncomprehension. Miss Nightingale is shown in the play to have faults—the word saint in its usual significance does not describe her, but her faults are but the reverse side of her great virtue. The last scene gives us Florence in the forgetfulness and the gentle childlikeness of an old age brought upon her somewhat prematurely perhaps by her strenuous life. It shows her in the moment of receiving decorations and "freedoms" from a generation who knew her not, who, as Matthew Arnold has it, applaud the ghost of what they failed to recognize when a living man. The poignancy of this scene, of the whole play, is almost unbearable. We seem to see in Edith Evans' Florence Nightingale no puppet, but the living, active, suffering woman in the flesh, and the end recalls the old words of the Bible: Here we have no continuing city.

A. H. W.

REPORT OF COUNTY LIBRARIES, 1927-28.

A well-known librarian has described the Report of the Carnegie Trustees on County Libraries as one of the finest text-books on library economy ever produced. This, and the fact that County Librarianship has a very small bibliography, should make it of interest to those who contemplate entering this branch of the profession.

The essential difference between town and county libraries is that in the latter the headquarters serves merely as a book-store, from which books are circulated among various centres in the county, and thus the more ornate premises of the urban

library can be dispensed with. Some headquarters have been very unsatisfactory, and that County Councils are beginning to appreciate the importance of their library schemes is apparent from the fact that larger and more suitable premises are steadily being acquired.

The county library, coming under the control of the County Education Authority, naturally has three-quarters of its local centres in village schools; the remaining quarter is to be found in village halls, social and technical institutes, and even in private houses. Local voluntary help is essential to the working of the County Library, the task of securing such assistance being one of the first organizing tasks of the librarian.

A great problem of County Librarianship concerns the transport of books from headquarters to the local centres, and from centre to centre, the period for which books remain at different villages varying with the county. The volumes, in specially constructed boxes, are conveyed sometimes by rail, often by motor van, occasionally by horse-drawn wagon, and even, where lighthouses are supplied, by boat. The motor van, inscribed with the name of the library, is a valuable advertising medium. In that connection it is interesting to note that in Lincolnshire a motor van is equipped with small table and typewriter, so that the librarian may deal with his correspondence en route! In more populous towns where differential rating obtains, a larger collection of books, administered by a salaried official, is installed in a building or room used solely as a public library, and which is opened two or three evenings a week.

Chapter 3 of the Report urges that the remuneration must be sufficient to attract the right kind of entrant, at the same time pointing out that Matriculation is an essential qualification and that progress must depend on gaining the certificate of the Library Association.

When we consider that County Librarianship is in its infancy we must admit that it is making great headway, and bids fair to pass its urban counterpart in the race for efficiency whilst its greater scope is not to be denied.

CLIFFORD SAINT.

EVENTS THAT MUST NOT BE MISSED.

We propose from time to time to give under this heading information of dramatic, artistic, and literary events of special interest to our readers. Under "Forthcoming Events" we shall continue to chronicle notices of meetings mainly of women's organizations, which are sent us. We invite the co-operation of our readers in this, and shall be glad to have suitable events brought to our notice.

Interpretation of Classical Plays. By Dorothea Spinney. *The Bacchae of Euripides*. 28th January. 8.30. Arts Theatre Club, Great Newport Street, W.C. (Leicester Square Tube). This will be followed by *Hippolytus*, *Trojan Women* and *Alcestis* at the Rudolf Steiner Hall. Tickets 10s. to 2s. 6d. and particulars from Miss Alice Michaelis, 10 Canfield Gardens, N.W. 6.

The Lady with the Lamp. By Reginald Berkeley. From 24th January, Garrick Theatre (transferred from Arts Theatre Club; see "The Real Florence Nightingale," page 388).

OBITUARY.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

There passed to her rest on 5th January one whose loss will be deeply felt by the citizens of Carlisle. Mrs. Nigel Buchanan was the first woman member of the City Council, being elected to represent Aglionby Ward in 1919. She was one of the earliest women Guardians and became Chairman of the House Committee. She was at one time President of Carlisle Women Citizens' Association, and for twenty years Hon. Secretary of the Musical Festival. She served on the Committees of many societies for the good of the city—Guides, G.F.S., N.C.W., Girls' Clubs, etc.

Her life was spent in unselfish service. Her deep wisdom, both progressive and sound, was inspired, not only by a fine brain, but by a glowing love for others. The doors of her home were always open. Her friends are numbered not only in Cumberland or England, but in many other countries. Her interests were boundless and she spent herself to the uttermost. She achieved great things, and with a charm of expression and a kindness and sense of humour which endeared her to all.

RENT AND WAGES.

By G. W. CURRIE.

Bishop Gore, in a recent speech in London, drew attention to the active house-building policy of the City of Vienna since the war. In comparing Vienna with London, it is well to remember that the finances of Austria owe much to the League of Nations, but for whose timely help the condition of that once famous monarchy might have been infinitely less favourable and stable than it now is.

The pre-war condition of the working-class districts of Vienna appears to have been unbelievably bad. The city is fully twice the size of Brussels and about one-fourth as large as London.

London has since the war actually built about 160,000 houses—very few of them being available for the really poor. Vienna has secured 60,000, but this figure seems to include a considerable number of unfinished houses: so that, so far as mere numbers are concerned, the comparison would appear to be fairly equal. As regards quality, no reliable information is available: but the quality of the work in Vienna has been severely criticized. This criticism, I am told, bears upon the actual material employed, and does not extend to the architecture and amenities. The point of difference between Vienna and London really lies in the extent to which the process of public subsidy has reduced the burden of rent upon the poor man's weekly budget. On this point, public policy in Vienna has taken a strong line, and it is scarcely possible to doubt that the policy has been aimed conjointly at social stability and at physical welfare. The statement is made that in peace time rent demanded one quarter of the worker's wages and that now—owing to stringent rent control—the burden is reduced to about two per cent. Rent restriction and its maintenance is the policy of what in Austria is called the Socialist party, which is not to be confounded with Marxian or other communism, but rather represents the voting power of those on whom repeal of rent-restriction and the re-entry of sheer rent competition would entail distress. Clearly we have in Vienna a much fuller and more practical acceptance of the doctrine that the taxpayer and the ratepayer must shoulder the "economic gap." How far he acceptance is willing and how far it is forced it is impossible to say. That it exists is undoubted, and that it must press hardly on the rentier class may be taken for granted. In a modified measure, I gather from literature available on the subject, the policy is extended to shop and office property in industrial neighbourhoods. Probably the rentier class finds a good deal of compensation in the maintenance of civil stability. The insurance of this is obviously worth much money to all established interests. If the calculation that the Viennese industrialist's rent burden has been reduced to two per cent of his weekly wage—or ten per cent for that matter—represents with any degree of accuracy what the new regime has brought about, it has to be admitted that it goes beyond ideas which have gained currency in this country. On the other hand—and this was the point made by Bishop Gore—it provides a useful contrast to the excessively high rents exacted for much subsidized municipal property in London.

SIX POINT GROUP EQUAL FRANCHISE CELEBRATION.

"WHITE" PRESS LUNCHEON

will be held
On THURSDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1929, at
the CRITERION RESTAURANT, 1.15 p.m.

Chair: The Viscountess Rhondda (Editor, *Time and Tide*).

PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS:

Miss EDITH SHACKLETON. Mr. H. D. HENDERSON.
Mrs. H. M. SWANWICK. Professor H. J. LASKI.

GUESTS OF HONOUR will include:

Mrs. Blanco White. Mrs. Peacocke. Asst. Editor: *Observer*.
Miss Nina Boyle. Mrs. Scott James. Editor: *The Catholic Citizen*.
Miss Mary Crosbie. Mr. Herbert Sidebotham. " *Opportunity*.
Mrs. C. B. Davy. Miss Rebecca West. " *The Vote*.
Miss Cicely Hamilton. Parl. Correspondent: *Daily Chronicle*. " *The Woman's Leader*.
Miss A. M. Head. News Editor: *Daily News*. " *The Woman Teacher*.
" *Low* (Mr. David Low). Editor: *Daily Herald*. " Etc.

TICKETS 6/- each from The Secretary, Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

By BERTHA MASON.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

Parliament will reassemble on 22nd January and discussion will then be resumed on the Local Government Bill. It may therefore be of interest to our readers to know how the Bill stands up to date.

Briefly, when the House adjourned for the Christmas recess on 20th December, the first four parts of the Bill, including 53 of the 115 clauses, had been disposed of in four days by the help of the Government time-table and the operation of the guillotine.

The first 17 clauses of the Bill which embody the Poor Law proposals were rapidly disposed of in about twelve hours, several of the clauses being passed without any debate. Interest centred, after the abolition of Boards of Guardians had been carried out, on the formation of "The Public Assistance" Committees and "Guardians" Committees which are to be set up, concerning which many amendments had been tabled, all of which were rejected or withdrawn.

At the end of the allotted time further debate was closed and Part I stands part of the Bill practically unaltered with the exception of two or three minor amendments put forward by the Minister.

The immediate effect of the Bill as it stands to-day will be to debar the majority of the 20,000 men and women now serving the poor and the country as elected Poor Law administrators from continuing that work as elected members of the committees in whose hands it will be vested, or even as co-opted members.

We are, I know, assured that "such fears are groundless", but what we have to face are facts. This is not a case of "fears". Anyone who studies intelligently the provisions of the Bill for Poor Law administration must realize that the mere composition of "The Public Assistance" Committees and "The Guardians" Committees makes it impossible for those now engaged in Poor Law work, especially and particularly for the women now so engaged, to carry on the work even in the very unsatisfactory position of co-opted members except to a very limited extent. Further, so far as "The Public Assistance" Committees are concerned, co-option even is optional and need not be enforced.

In regard to the composition of "The Guardians" Committees it is true that co-option of persons outside the Council is compulsory and that some of the co-opted persons must be women. But when we realize that those bodies will consist of not more than 24 nor less than 12, of whom two-thirds must be members of the District Councils within the area, and County Council members representing the area, it is obvious at once to those who are not wilfully blind that the opportunity for Poor Law service is reduced to a minimum even in the case of co-opted persons.

It is not necessary further to labour this point, though many further instances could be given in support of the statement that under the Bill the country stands to lose the services and the experience of the majority of those men and women who to the extent of 20,000 are now rendering valuable service as Poor Law administrators.

It is stated that "there is nothing in the Bill to prevent women being elected to County Councils". That is true. On the other hand there is nothing in the Bill to make it easier for women to serve on these authorities. Here again we must face facts, one of which is, that so long as the present system of single-membered electoral divisions in regard to County Councils prevails, so long will women be prevented from taking a fair share in the work of local government.

This is one barrier—not the only one—to women obtaining seats on County Councils.

The number of women serving on County Councils is slowly increasing. In the ordinary course of events by 1933, which is the date fixed in the new clause in the Bill (one of the concessions made by the Government) for the re-survey of the electoral divisions, which we welcome, there may be women on all County Councils, one at least. But we are dealing with facts in 1929, one of which is that at present the number of women serving on 49 of the 62 County Councils in England and Wales is approximately only 150. Even allowing for a considerable increase during the next five years, there is much ground to cover before the number of women County Councillors will approach 2,300, which is the number at present serving in Poor Law administration alone.

(Continued on next page.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELIZABETH RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM. General and Parliamentary Secretary: Miss HORTON.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

BY-ELECTIONS.

Replies to the questionnaire have now been received, through the Scottish Federation, from two of the candidates in the North Midlothian By-election. Mr. Andrew Clarke (Labour) has replied in the affirmative to all questions with the exception of that relating to information on methods of birth control, to which he replies: "As the Party have not up till the present decided on this question I shall await and be guided by whatever decision is come to, though personally I could answer in the affirmative." Mr. Lewis Spence (National Party candidate) has also replied in the affirmative to all questions, adding: "I have been a life-long Feminist and would pledge myself to forward all legislation to promote better conditions for women by every means in my power." No replies have as yet been received from the Liberal and Conservative candidates.

Arrangements are also being made for the questionnaire to be laid before all the candidates in the Battersea, Bishop Auckland, Londonderry and Wansbeck By-elections.

THE SCOTTISH FEDERATION AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

A meeting of the Scottish Federation of Societies affiliated to the National Union was held at Alloa on Saturday, 12th January, having been convened for the purpose of discussing the Local Government (Scotland) Bill. Resolutions were passed approving the inclusion of women on Committees for Education and pressing for the extension of this principle to all statutory Committees; urging that the grants for Public Health Services and especially Maternity and Child Welfare Work should be placed on a percentage basis; and asking that unemployed insured women as well as unemployed insured men should be taken into account in determining the weighted population.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

A public meeting was held on Saturday, 5th January, in the Society of Arts Hall, when Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., gave an address on the Local Government (Scotland) Bill. Mr. James Scott, S.S.C., presided. Mr. Brown discussed the provisions of the Bill very fully; questions and discussion followed, and a resolution, proposed by Miss F. H. Simson and seconded by Dr. Aimée Gibbs, was carried unanimously, urging that the principle of compulsory co-option of women (though no substitute for elective representation) be applied to all statutory committees; and that the grants for Maternity and Child Welfare Services be continued on a percentage basis.

BIRMINGHAM N.C.W.

The Birmingham Branch of the N.C.W. organized a conference on the Local Government Bill on 7th January. At the first session the main clauses of the Bill were clearly explained by members interested in particular sections. At the evening session Lieut-Col. Fremantle spoke on present anomalies and the remedies to be introduced by the Bill. Miss Halford (Hon. Secretary of the Maternity and Child Welfare Associations) proposed a resolution to exempt the Maternity and Child Welfare Service from the Block Grant System and was supported by Mrs. Ryland. Unfortunately time was too short for an adequate discussion. This resolution was lost, but a resolution asking the Minister to strengthen his powers under Clause 86 of the Bill, in view of the concern expressed with regard, in particular, to the satisfactory development of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service, is to be sent to the Minister of Health and the other Birmingham M.P.s.

PRESTON W.C.A.

At a well-attended meeting of the Preston W.C.A., held on 4th December, and presided over by Dr. Cretchley, Maternity Officer for Preston, a most interesting and instructive lecture on Maternal Mortality was given by Dr. Jessie Valentine, Maternity Officer for Rochdale, and Secretary of the N.W. Federation for Child Welfare. Dr. Valentine dealt with conditions in rural, urban, and industrial areas, and urged, among other things, the practical and thorough building up of a maternity service in which there should be close and effective co-operation between the midwife and the doctor. She stressed the very great value of the ante-natal clinics. A lively discussion followed.

MISS PARNELL'S VISIT TO IRELAND.

By a Correspondent.

The Women's Organizations in Ireland have been fortunate in securing a visit from Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell. The meetings in Belfast, under the auspices of the Women Citizens' Union, were held in connection with the Equal Franchise Act, which came into force on 1st January. The coming General Election in Northern Ireland will therefore be held on this basis. The public meeting in Belfast was most successful, many being obliged to stand. There was a youth platform and the speakers and stewards were all under the magic age of 30. A meeting was also

held in connection with the Women Graduates' Association of Queen's University. In Dublin a public meeting was held in the Mansion House, and Miss Parnell's address on the younger generation in public life was greatly appreciated. New members were obtained for the Women Citizens' Association, and newspapers gave good reports of the meeting. Miss Parnell's visit has been most helpful both in Belfast and Dublin in rousing interest among "the younger generation," who have grown up in a world when the women's vote is taken as a matter of course. Her simple and direct appeal reminded all of the reasons that underlie the demand for Equality, and will surely bear fruit in an increase of strength for the women's organizations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

STREET OFFENCES REPORT.

MADAM,—In your last week's issue both Miss Neilans and Mrs. Bethune-Baker criticized the opinion of the N.U.S.E.C. with regard to the recommendations of the Street Offences Report as expressed by myself both in the *Daily News* and in the article on "The Political Year" in your New Year's number. As the Report has appeared so shortly before the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union in March, and as no legislation based on it can be expected this session, its Executive Committee is awaiting the decision of the council before defining its attitude with regard to the individual recommendations. The general impression made on the Committee, however, is undoubtedly that inasmuch as it proposes to sweep away most of the existing legislation directed against the common prostitute, that it places men and women on an equal footing before the law, that it defines "importuning" and distinguishes this from mere soliciting, that it demands evidence from the person annoyed in the case of loitering for purposes of soliciting—it is a real advance on the existing law.

The report has obvious blemishes. Mrs. Bethune-Baker points out one. That this is so I had intended to convey by my phrase "though not perfect." Space forbade further particularization. With regard to the phrase used in the *Daily News*, like Miss Neilans, I have no record of it. I was rung up and had to express the Committee's point of view in two or three sentences, and my impression, like Miss Neilans', is that what appeared next morning was without the necessary qualification. It is the common lot of most of us who are asked to give our views in that rather unsatisfactory manner, that they do not always appear in the columns of the daily Press as they left our mouths.

E. M. HUBBACK.

15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

MADAM,—In the last issue of your journal a paragraph headed "National Union of Teachers" contains what purports to be an account of that organization's Conference at Buxton. May I point out that the Conference to which reference is made was one organized by the National Union of Women Teachers; and it is disconcerting to find that even a feminist paper such as THE WOMAN'S LEADER cannot sufficiently discriminate between these two bodies. Possibly your attention will also be drawn to this by the National Union of Teachers, which will doubtless be alarmed at being saddled with a vigorous claim for equal pay!

As the majority of your readers will know, the National Union of Women Teachers is pre-eminently a feminist body, and, since its inception, has worked unceasingly for equal franchise, equal pay, and other equalitarian principles. It believes in the old suffrage custom of putting first things first and is, therefore, working whole-heartedly for equal pay and equal opportunities as a natural corollary to equal franchise. When the fundamental principle has been conceded, it will be time to consider its application to sections of the community, but there appears to be no evidence, either direct or indirect, that the establishment of family allowances will assist the cause of equal pay. In fact, after considerable investigation, we have found no case in which equal pay has followed the establishment of family allowances, although in some instances, it has preceded such a system.

ETHEL E. FROUD,

General Secretary, National Union of Women Teachers.

39 Gordon Square, W.C. 1.

[The omission of the word "Women" was, of course, a slip; as Miss Froud knows we are well aware of the separate existence and very vigorous personality of her Union.—Ed.]

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

MADAM,—With reference to Mrs. Hubback's report of the above in your first issue of the year, may I point out that the opposition to the Bill by the Edinburgh S.E.C. was "on the grounds of public health and justice." Being a feminist Society we should never have opposed it on the grounds of public health alone.

Would it not have been more accurate to have said that the opposition was "led" by the Edinburgh S.E.C.?

M. MILNE ROBERTSON,

Secretary, Edinburgh S.E.C.

40 Shandwick Place,
Edinburgh.

WOMAN'S EMOTIONAL LIFE.

MADAM,—As this is an intimate personal question you will, I hope, forgive a personal reference. When I was a girl of 18 my stepmother said to me "You need never expect to marry for no man will ever care for a girl with one eye." I was a warm-hearted girl and didn't like the idea of "no one caring," but determined never to be a "sour, cranky, disappointed old maid." With this end in view I cultivated the art of looking at happiness through other people's eyes, and now I am an old woman realize that few people have had richer or fuller lives than my own. It is what we give that makes life rich and worth while; it may not bring money, worldly honour, and a great position, but it does bring

a peace and happiness that no one can take from me. I have always cared for women more than for men; but women have disappointed me over and over again, no man ever has! Probably because I never expected so much of him.

If I could have afforded it I should have adopted one or two children; not being able to do this I have "mothered" as many others as possible. Social work is an occupation most satisfying to the emotions, if properly inspired and judiciously carried on. To any intellectual woman ("invert" or otherwise) who feels lonely I should recommend a study of Francis Peabody's *Jesus Christ—the Social Question*. Macmillan used to publish a sixpenny edition.

ANN POPE.

WOMEN MINISTERS.

MADAM,—Referring to your reference to women at Manchester College, Oxford, you may be interested to know that at the Unitarian College, Manchester, women students are admitted, and one entered last October for the full course of training.

A. L. B.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.—Continued from preceding page.

The number of women members on the Lancashire County Council to-day is four. The number of women serving on one Poor Law Board alone in that county (the Board on which the writer was for many years a member) is nine. This is one of many instances which could be given did space permit.

Parts II, III and IV of the Bill were hurried through in similar fashion, and with the exception of a few Government amendments to the most important of which reference has been made, stand part of the Bill as originally drafted. The position of London under the Bill is not included in this article.

According to the Government time-table, there will remain when Parliament meets, nine days of the thirteen allotted to the Committee stage, then will follow three days of debate on Report stage, and one day for third reading, after which the Bill will go "to another place".

DEATH.

At Brighton, 12th inst., after a short illness, ALICE VICKERY, L.R.C.P.I., widow of the late Charles R. Drysdale, M.D., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., in her 85th year. Funeral 18th January.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

CONFERENCE

ON THE

Education of the Citizen

FRIDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 1929.

The Great Hall, University College, London

(By permission of the College Authorities.)

ENTRANCE: GORDON STREET, W.C. 1.

CHAIRMAN: THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, D.B.E., M.P.

SESSION I. 2.30 p.m.

The Teaching of Citizenship in Schools.

CHAIR: THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, D.B.E., M.P.

SESSION II. 5.30 p.m.

The Teaching of Citizenship to Young People After School Age.

CHAIR: DR. CYRIL NORWOOD, M.A.

SESSION III. 8 p.m.

The Teaching of Citizenship to the Adult.

CHAIR: ALBERT MANSBRIDGE, M.A., LL.D.

The aim of the Conference is to ascertain the general lines on which the organizations connected with the teaching of citizenship are working. There have of recent years been important developments in the methods adopted and it is felt that, particularly in view of the urgent need for the education of the new voters, an attempt to co-ordinate the ideas and experience of those who have a practical interest in this work will be of real value.

Tickets (2/- for each session) may be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

23rd January. 4 p.m. Visit to Showrooms of Messrs. Troughton and Young, 143 Knightsbridge. Mr. Read, A.R.C.A., will speak on "Modern Decorative Interior Lighting."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

8th February. Great Hall, University College, London. Conference on the "Education of the Citizen." Chair: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. Speakers: Dr. Cyril Norwood, M.A., Albert Mansbridge, M.A., J. H. Badley (Bedales School), Miss Pennethorne (P.E.N.U.), Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Matheson (B.B.C.), B. Ingram, Esq. (L.C.C. Continuation Schools), and many others. First session, 2.30 p.m.; second session, 5.30 p.m.; third session, 8 p.m. Tickets 2s., or 5s. for the three sessions, from the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

Barnsley S.E.C.—30th January, 5.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Room, Miss Patricia Hall: "Peace, from the point of view of the Under-thirties." Chair: Councillor J. Jones.

Preston W.C.A.—21st January, 7.30 p.m. Orient Café, Friargate. Mrs. Hunter, (Woman) Probation Officer for St. Pancras: "Woman Probation Officers."

The Need for Women in Parliament.—Public Meeting in the Church Hall, Scarthoe, arranged by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, on Wednesday, 23rd January, at 3 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Wintringham, J.P., on "What the Vote has done in the last 10 years."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (BIRMINGHAM).

21st January, 5.30 p.m. Medical Theatre, The University, Edmund Street. Sir Charles Grant Robinson (Vice-Chancellor): "America."

UNION OF WOMEN VOTERS.

28th January, 5.30 p.m. 55 Chancery Lane, W.C. Miss M. Scott, A.R.C.M. (Founder of Society of Women Musicians): "Is there Equality of Opportunity for Women Musicians?"

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

21st January, 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, "Our International Responsibilities." Chair: Viscountess Dupplin.

TYPEWRITING.

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GOWNS well cut and fitted by experienced dressmaker. Terms from 21/-. Ladies' own materials made up. Renovations a speciality.—Grace Mayman, 168 High Street, Notting Hill Gate. Phone: Park 2943. Appointments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey, Members' Library, Books on Suffrage, Sociology and Economics, Hansard, latest Government Publications, Periodicals, Newscuttings. 10-8 (except Saturdays).

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2/6; workers, 1/-. Suiting fee: Employers, 10/6; workers, 2/-. (Victoria 5940.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 20th January, Rev. J. V. Bartlett, "The Secret of a New Life."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

Edward Wright & Cavendish Bentinck Lending Libraries.

These two libraries contain some three thousand volumes, including sections on current political, economic and social matters of special interest to women as citizens, as well as a historical section of the Women's Movement, which dates back to the 15th Century. Boxes containing approximately 20 books are available for Societies, Study Circles, etc.

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For individuals, 10s. 6d. per annum for two volumes per week, or 3d. per volume per week. Book-boxes 5s. per one month.

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