

EQUAL FRANCHISE NUMBER.

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER
 AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.**More Straws.**

Our contemporaries are once again busy with the question of Equal Franchise. A week ago the *Evening Standard* came out with a definite announcement that the Government intended to introduce legislation giving the franchise to women from the age of 21 in time for them to vote at the next election. Several other papers made a similar statement, though not quite so positively. Others who have hitherto not hesitated to express their disapproval of the proposal, now apparently are resigned to the inevitable and have been searching for reasons in its support. We understand ourselves that the Cabinet Committee has not arrived at its final decision, but a very real sign of the times is found in the resolution tabled for the quarterly meeting of the Central Council of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, which is being held this week, regretting the failure of the Government "to have intimated its intention to reduce that age at which women become eligible for the franchise."

Hours of Labour.

It is to be hoped that the debate on the Washington Convention with which the House finished the month of February, will have some effect on the conduct of the Government. In 1919 this country took the initiative in agreeing, subject to ratification, to a 48-hour working week plus an indefinite amount of overtime. This step was due neither to pressure from Labour elements nor philanthropic enthusiasm. The experience of the war had convinced every serious student of the question that the 8-hour day is better than a longer one as well from the point of view of output as from that of the worker. It allows of the best arrangement of breaks and meal-times—whose disturbing effect is in many cases a factor as important as the actual loss of time involved. It can be conveniently fitted into a three-shift or a two-shift system, and gives the best results when accidents, spoilt work, and sickness are weighed against hourly output. In these circumstances it might have been supposed that England, most of whose great industries had already secured the 48-hour week, would proceed to at once implement the convention. Unhappily our official representatives at Geneva believed that they had discovered a sinister intention on the part of France and Belgium to ratify the convention without in fact enforcing its provisions. Under the threat of this, Government after

Government in this country has let the matter slide, though France, Belgium, Germany, and even Italy have gone some way towards carrying out their obligations—on the understanding that we carry out ours. As Major Hills put it in his convincing speech, the opportunity is here but it may not recur. The Government is not asked to do anything precipitate—the House clearly showed that it would agree to a provisional ratification, or to almost anything else which would show a genuine intention to ratify. After this, and an eight years' delay, it is absurd to talk, as did Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, about leaps in the dark. If he is in the dark he ought not to be. If the difficulties are too great for him he should step aside so that someone less incapable may cope with them. Never was a speech so ill-received by all three parties in the House.

Smoke Abatement.

The Ministry of Health has just issued a circular to local authorities pointing out to them their duties under the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926. Those reformers who wanted a more stringent law are, of course, disappointed with the Act, but the path of wisdom is clearly to make the best of what we have got, and citizens who are anxious for reform must see that the local authorities use up to the hilt such powers as those now given them. Fortunately, public opinion is thoroughly alive to the evils of a smoke-polluted atmosphere, and organized women, in particular, may be depended on to do their share in stimulating the local authorities to take action in the matter of industrial smoke. As regards private dwelling-houses, the Government takes no action, but leaves it to the local authorities to impress upon householders that, with care, much may be done to reduce the needless emission of smoke. A few local authorities may undertake this duty, but for the most part, if done at all, it will have to be done by voluntary agencies such as the Smoke Abatement League and those organizations which have made this question a definite part of their programme.

Royal Commission's Report on Lunacy Reform.

Earl Russell's speech in the House of Lords on 25th February on the Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder deserves the attention of the lay public, and his demand that legislation based upon it should be introduced at an early date deserves the backing of public opinion. Lord Russell adopted a moderate tone in making his proposal: he gave no countenance to various sensational stories of sane people confined unjustly in asylums, nor did he enter upon the question of wrongful treatment of patients, as viewed by ordinary conventional standards. His main contention was that the whole matter should be envisaged in accordance with modern scientific knowledge. The Government reply, made by Viscount Gage, amounted to a statement that the subject was difficult, that it was intimately associated with the reform of the Poor Law and little could be done till the Poor Law reform proposals were more crystallized than at present, but that the Government accepted the main proposals of the Commission in principle and were prepared to adopt such of them as they might find possible to adopt. This may mean much or it may mean little. Viscount Haldane spoke wisely when he asked that a Bill should be drafted so that public opinion might express its views in regard to it. We would urge, moreover, that those among the recommendations which do not require legislative sanction should be considered by the Ministry of Health with the least possible delay. The matter must not be allowed to slide, and

debates, correspondence, and meetings based upon the findings of the Commission would do much to make the "time ripe" for enlightened action.

Skimmed Milk.

In the autumn of 1926 Lady Astor called attention to the increasing use of condensed skimmed milk and the deleterious effects upon the health of children which might result from it. Since then the London Research Bureau, at the instigation of Lord Astor, has conducted an inquiry into the facts of the matter. Its findings support the view that Lady Astor has put her finger upon a very real menace to public health. The London Research Bureau has taken as its starting point the assertion of the Linlithgow "Interim Report on Milk and Milk Products," that the importation of condensed skimmed or, rather, mechanically separated, milk, shows a formidable increase in relation to the importation of condensed full cream milk, and at the expense of home produced full cream condensed milk. Approaching the matter from the consumer's end, the inquiry then gives the summarized result of 1650 interviews with condensed milk users. These consumers they classified as working class, lower middle-class, and middle-class. Of the working-class group, 79.89 per cent used separated milk; of the lower middle-class group 66.66 per cent used separated milk; of the middle-class group 45.22 per cent used separated milk. But of the whole number interviewed only 12.12 per cent used separated milk for the feeding of babies. It is among the growing children that the ill effects of this large working-class percentage is likely to be felt. Nor does it appear to be the result of ignorance. The report points out that "it was a common complaint among working-class housewives that they did not want to buy separated condensed milk, that they knew the 'full cream' milk was better, but that they could not afford to buy any but the cheaper brands." So much for the facts. The report does not indicate the remedy, but clearly it must be a fundamental remedy; one which adds to the purchasing power of those responsible for the upbringing of children: one which somehow diverts a larger share of our productive resources to the service of the nation's children.

An Active Membership.

A correspondent writes:—A party of Women's Institute Presidents in Oxfordshire were invited last week by Mrs. John Buchan to "A School" taken by Mrs. Watt. Writing as a Women's Institute President who undertook to be one, without any experience of what the office entails, I came away from the meeting feeling inspired with ideas. The chief theme of the School was to instruct Presidents how to get individual members to take a more active part in the proceedings of the monthly meetings. It has always seemed to me a pity that members expect the monthly meeting to be a pleasant afternoon provided for them by the Committee without any effort on their part. Mrs. Watt suggested many ways in which members, if properly guided, can become the teachers of other members and take a more vital part in the monthly meetings. Shall we be able to get members themselves to give short talks of ten minutes on any subject that interests them? I hope so, but it won't be easy. It should, I think, be quite possible to introduce round-table discussions where six members are in each meeting the conclusions arrived at by the groups. It will be interesting to watch the results that emanate from this extremely interesting meeting.

L.C.C. Report on Common Lodging Houses.

Mrs. Cecil Chesterton's vigorous plea for the homeless woman has stirred the consciences of comfortable people. Our readers cannot feel quite the same after reading her articles as they felt before. But feelings are elusive, and by a natural instinct of self-preservation strong "feelings" even things out by not allowing the feelings to last uncomfortably long. These things being so, we welcome the Report of the L.C.C. Medical Officer of Health on "Common Lodging Houses and Kindred Institutions" which has just appeared. Its appearance is indeed one of those happy apparent coincidences which are often among the first fruits of an inconvenient reformer's work, and Mrs. Chesterton is to be congratulated. Pages 9 to 14 deal specifically with the question of accommodation for women, and those interested will do well to collate the statements here made with those made by Mrs. Chesterton. The Medical Officer

makes out as good a case for the authorities as seems to him compatible with truth. Possibly the reformer's sympathy with the down and out may blind her just a little to other considerations. But the case for some action cannot easily be destroyed. It is impossible to deal in detail at present with the points raised by the Report. The fact that some members of the L.C.C. staff have spent anything from ten to thirty years in the work makes it unbecoming to dismiss their views as of no account, even in the face of the most crying case for reform. The matter will receive further consideration in our columns.

A Glasgow Woman Wins for all Women.

"In escorting her to the police station and reporting the matter to their superior officer, the defenders acted without malice and with reasonable and probable cause in the *bona fide* execution of their duty as constables." Such was the defence put forward by the "defenders" in the action brought by Miss McArthur, of Glasgow, against two constables of that City who had arrested her because she, with two male friends, waited in the street to secure a taxi or cab. The jury found unanimously for Miss McArthur, and assessed the damages at £300. Such is the bald story of an occurrence which, unless it had actually happened in the month of February, 1927, would have seemed wholly incredible. The arguments for the immediate reform of the whole legal system affecting solicitation directly or indirectly, could be no more forceful than that such a thing could happen. We congratulate the pursuer, as Miss McArthur is quaintly described in Scottish legal phraseology, on her courage in bringing and on her ability in winning an action so necessary for the defence of the liberties of women.

A Woman County Councillor.

A third woman member has been elected to the Middlesex County Council, Miss Louise Bernice Prescott, who has been returned at Tottenham by a majority of 149.

By what Authority?

Although women can be members of the Westminster City Council, they apparently cannot represent that body on official visits to the Abbey. Recently, one of the women members, Mrs. Lionel Harris, was appointed with two aldermen and three other councillors to attend officially a service at the Abbey, but was told the following day that she would not be wanted as women were not allowed to sit in the choir stalls, the seats in which the councillors would be accommodated!

Committee on the Solicitation Laws.

No further news has come as yet with regard to the nature or personnel of the committee set up to inquire into the Solicitation Laws. We understand great pressure has been brought to bear on the Home Office to make it really representative. We congratulate the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene on the result of unremitting work and propaganda on their part, the Committee being the direct outcome of their Public Places (Street Order) Bill.

Questions in Parliament.

SICK LEAVE IN THE POST OFFICE.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons, Viscount Wolmer gave figures showing the annual average of sick leave taken by men and women members of the Post Office staff. Over the last three or four years it works out that men are absent on the average ten days, disabled men nearly fifteen, and women rather over twelve. Two points will immediately strike our readers, one is the very small difference between the sickness leave of men and women respectively; secondly, the very high average rate for all workers. The rate seems to us one immensely greater than that of ordinary well-run offices. We are forced to look for the reason in the bad atmosphere and absence of light in many post offices and sub-post offices of the country.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

In answer to a question as to whether the Government intended to send a woman as a delegate to the International Labour Conference next May, and also women as technical advisers, Mr. Betterton replied that at present the Government did not propose to send a woman delegate, but it is expected that one of the technical advisers will be a woman.

THE PROMISED LAND IN SIGHT.

Though we can number many among our best parliamentary friends, past and present, who have been and are Conservatives, the attitude of the Conservative party as a party towards equality of franchise between men and women has until recently been much less clearly defined than that of the other two parties. The Labour party inherited its faith in adult suffrage as a doctrine essential to political salvation, and in recent years at least the Liberal party too has been pledged to electoral equality. The present Government, however, as every reader of this paper knows, only comparatively lately came into line and promised to take some step forward. Yet there is at the present time good reason to believe that it will be a Conservative Government which will receive the blessings of posterity as the giver of the complete political emancipation of women. Truly, the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

Almost exactly three years ago Miss Eleanor Rathbone, in her presidential address, printed in these columns, taking as her text, "Put not your trust in Parties," referred to the bewilderment and disappointment felt by all suffragists at the attitude of a Labour Government from which so much was expected. In a well-deserved rebuke to the Parliamentary Correspondent of the *Nation* last week, Lady Acland points out that there is good ground for holding that the slump in the fortunes of the Liberal party dates from their dubious and often obstructive attitude towards the woman's suffrage movement before the war. Now is the accepted time for a Conservative Government. It has it in its power to do what other parties have failed to do. It can get things done and in this instance we believe that no opposition will be met with from the opposite side of the House. Such opposition as will be encountered will come solely from a few die-hards on the Government's own back benches. But the most serious cause of obstruction may probably arise from a few so-called believers in equality who with intentions which may or may not be sincere will endeavour to secure justice by raising the voting age for men and reducing the voting age for women to 25. But the party which claims to stand for constitutional rights will, we fancy, make short work of this insidiously dangerous proposal. For our part, as befits a non-party organ, we are entirely

indifferent as to which party leads us to the promised land so long as we do reach its smooth and pleasant pastures. But it will be an interesting political event if this final democratic step in political enfranchisement is granted by a Conservative Government.

We as a suffrage paper have stood consistently for votes for women on the same terms as for men since our first appearance in the world nearly twenty years ago. When the first incomplete measure of political equality was secured, our continued existence and that of organizations existing for the same object was threatened. Our work was done we were told. Women's societies could sing their "Nunc Dimittis." New organizations sprang up which found no place for equal franchise in their programmes. But we knew better. We struggled on. In season and out of season we urged the complete extension of the franchise as the foundation of all true equality between the sexes, and we shall continue to do so until the goal is reached. As the years passed by, however, it became more obvious that this reform was not a mere matter of course, to be achieved as soon as the country had accustomed itself to an electorate which included women, and during the last year or so many societies have united in an intensive campaign of which the most conspicuous event was the Hyde Park demonstration last July. To-day we find ourselves once again all agog with delighted expectancy. Though elderly as journals go (we have confessed to twenty years) we are not blasé and can still experience a thrill of excitement when waiting for a Government pronouncement. Within the next few days from the time of writing, the Council meeting of the original suffrage association will meet, and a great demonstration on the lines of many historic demonstrations of the past will be held in the Central Hall. A few days later the Prime Minister will receive a representative deputation of women's organizations. It is practically certain that before our next issue something will have happened and we ask ourselves what? We are incorrigibly optimistic, but we cannot go further than predict that coming events will follow the course already outlined by the Government. There will be some sort of inter-party conference this year, and a Government Bill will be introduced next year. But we are, we believe within sight of the promised land.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

On Monday, 21st February, a day of Supplementary Estimates, the Minister of Pensions had the unusual experience of the approval of nearly all speakers. He was warned, however, somewhat grimly, that there were several rods in pickle for him. When his estimate had been disposed of, there were short discussions on the Scottish Board of Health and the Ministry of Health, but no point of general interest emerged.

On Tuesday, 22nd February, came the second reading of the Poor Law (Emergency Provisions) Scotland Bill. The Scotch Poor Law differs from the English in that it provides no relief for the able-bodied. In order to obtain it, an applicant must be infirm as well. No doubt the stern severity of this rule has been relaxed, and particularly in 1921, at the time of the coal strike, it was substantially modified. When the coal dispute of last year started, the Secretary of State for Scotland circularized the Poor Law authorities in Scotland advising them to give relief to the dependants of miners out of work, though strictly this relief was against the law. Now came the problem of finding the money, and accordingly the present Act provided that 40 per cent of the cost should be paid by the State, and 60 per cent by the localities. An extraordinarily good bargain for Scotland, this; the taxpayer bears 40 per cent of the cost of Scotch Poor Law relief, whilst in England the whole burden falls on the ratepayer. On the principle, however, that when you get a concession you should always ask for more, the Scottish Members of all parties clamoured for payment of the whole amount by the State. This, however, was refused by the Government, and the Bill passed its second reading.

At 8.15 Mr. Allen Parkinson moved a motion urging the Mines Department to promote systems of co-operative selling of coal. Somewhat unexpectedly, the Government opposed this, though assuredly they need not have done so, seeing that it is in line with the Report of the Commission. Nevertheless they did so, and the motion was talked out, after a discussion that might have been better than it was.

On the following day, Wednesday, 23rd February, various small matters got through. The resolution providing the money for the Poor Law (Scotland) Bill was passed, the Public Works Loan Bill got through Committee, and some supplementary estimates were taken. But the matter of most general interest was the discussion at night on the London County Council Bill. A hot fight was engaged over the clause licensing street traders and interest was added by the presence in the gallery of three costers, in most beautiful pearly suits. The discussion was one that disregarded party, and the costers found their champions and their assailants on both sides of the House. In the end, however, they were defeated, and under the Bill, as it leaves the Commons, they will have to apply for a licence.

Thursday was also a day of small things. The Scottish Poor Law Bill got through Committee and so did another small Government Bill. The evening was devoted to some Railway Bills, but any points of difference had been settled beforehand, and they got through without any difficulty.

On Friday, 25th February, a Private Members' day, there was what often happens on such occasions, a good debate. The subject was a Bill destined to prevent the ring or knockout at auction sales. It was introduced from the Conservative side of the House, and opposed by the Labour party. They opposed it on two grounds, first that it was badly drawn—which it certainly was—and second, that, since agreements and understandings to raise prices were common, it was absurd to deal with one corner of the problem and leave the bulk unchanged. The discussion swung to and fro, and finally the Bill passed its Second Reading. Thereafter, for a short time, the House discussed another Private Member's Bill, one allowing the chairman or the manager of a Limited Company to be put upon the voting register. This was opposed by the Labour party and talked out.

Some comment has been caused by the expulsion of Mr. Spencer

(Continued on page 30.)

LABOURERS UNTO THE HARVEST.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS by ELEANOR F. RATHBONE at the ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE N.U.S.E.C., on 2nd March, 1927.

Anniversaries in the lives of individuals and annual meetings in those of Societies have been doubtless devised by humanity as a check on its own proneness to indolence and self-satisfaction. Nothing else seems, in a sense, so to shorten life. Every time the Secretary of a Society is overtaken by the necessity of drawing up a statement of the year's achievements, she probably murmurs to herself: "It surely cannot be a year since the last time I did this"; and the same thought may be with many of us as we meet together at this familiar place for our annual balancing of accounts.

Whether the feeling left in our minds by these occasions is on the whole one of satisfaction or dissatisfaction must depend considerably on the results they reveal. How much has been accomplished by the year's work? What is the state of our profits and loss account? The answer, unfortunately, does not depend only on ourselves. We may have spread our wares ever so enticingly, and tried every lure to bring purchasers, but the public, with pre-occupied minds or empty pockets, may have passed us by.

So far as immediate gains go, the past year has been a politically bad one. That is not surprising, after the unusually good year which preceded it. The Government, having invested largely in N.U.S.E.C. reforms during 1925, felt they could afford to give us the go-by for 1926. The prospects for 1927 are uncertain, but either during this or next year (probably next) we confidently expect to gain Equal Franchise. I will say no more on that subject, because we expect to devote to-morrow evening to it, except that the profit there is such a big one that we must on no account risk losing it through slackness or over-confidence. Equal Franchise must be looked on not so much as one among other reforms, but as the key position which gives access to them all.

What I want to discuss with you for the remainder of the one short occasion during the Council meetings when I can speak to you—not as the protagonist or antagonist of some controversial resolution, but as the President whom you have rightly or wrongly chosen to represent you all—is not our concrete gains or losses, but the spirit and methods of the Union, of its Headquarters, and of its Societies.

I have been spending some time lately in going through the Annual Report, including the reports sent in by our Societies. On the whole, the result has been to quicken my pride and confidence in the Union. Those of us who are old hands in reading reports soon learn to distinguish between those which represent real work and those which merely testify to the Secretary's faculty for window-dressing. I recently overheard a conversation between two very small boys, gazing into a sweet shop. Said one to the other: "I don't like those grand chocolate boxes; there is so much gilt paper and padding in them; I like them better by the pound in a bag." A good many reports are like those chocolate boxes—all tinsel and padding. Others, on the other hand (and the N.U.S.E.C. Report is one of these), have to pack so many solid facts into its pages that the result is almost too desiccated to be interesting. It resembles a box of dried figs or sardines rather than of chocolates.

I suggest to you a little experiment. Take our Annual Report when it reaches you in its printed form. Sit over the fire with it and a red pencil in your hand. Score under every statement which records—not vague assurances as to how active we have been nor grandiloquent principles and claims—but a definite action taken. Then do a few little sums in simple addition. Next do the same thing with the printed reports of any other half dozen women's (or men's) societies you like to name. I am not afraid that the result will make you blush for the N.U.S.E.C.

The summary of the activities of our affiliated Societies contained in the main report has had to be so severely abbreviated that it is hardly fair to them. But I have seen some of the originals and I can say this: some of them could bear to be submitted to the test I have suggested, others could not.

I am going to be very frank. A few of our Societies seem to feel that they are justifying their pledge "to do all in their power to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women" and "to promote the self-education of women as citizens," if on three or four occasions during the year they hold members' meetings for the discussion of a few of our reforms (it being duly recorded that Mrs. Blahk kindly provided tea). And if they subsequently send a resolution or

letter to their local M.P. asking him to support the reform in question. Such a programme hardly deserves the name of political propaganda and self-education. It is a

"A thing of shreds and patches,
Of singing songs in snatches."

There are again a few of our Societies which have a lamentably small membership and apparently only two or three active members, usually its officers. But the activity and zeal of these devoted individuals is so great that the Society reminds one of the old Irishwoman who said that she "had only two teeth in her head but, thank God, they met." Such a Society acts often like a small electric power station in a large centre of population. Insignificant in appearance, its existence scarcely remembered by the inhabitants, it yet manages to transmit light and energy into innumerable homes and places of manufacture. A devoted Secretary does this by using her influence to get her speakers heard, her resolutions passed and sent up to the Government, her M.P. and Town Councillors interviewed and influenced, not merely by her tiny Society but by every organization in the town which she can manage to reach.

Again, there are among our Societies some which remind one of the old platitude "It is always the busiest people who can find time for more work." Their membership is large and their activities innumerable. They are for ever opening up a fresh ward, centre, or starting a new sub-committee for some special form of propaganda. It is just these busy societies, "up to their eyes" already on their own local affairs, who are usually quickest (so I am told) to respond to our Headquarter circulars, and to undertake work in promotion of our parliamentary reforms.

There are, I know, some of us who look askance at this multiplication of activities, and fear it will distract the members from their fundamental duty of preaching the pure gospel of feminism. I do not deny that there is a real danger in this. The localized, practical activities may be so much more visibly productive that they may become an excuse for neglecting the more difficult, unpopular tasks. But in this matter I speak as a provincial. We provincials know how essential it is, if we are to keep our Societies alive, to give them plenty to do and to let them see some visible and tangible results of their efforts. Dwelling far from Westminster we find it hard to fulfil this latter condition if the work is wholly confined to propaganda for reforms which must eventually be carried out through Parliament. Further, a Society's effectiveness, even in the matter of Parliamentary reforms, depends considerably upon its membership, standing, and reputation in its own locality. This is likely to be enhanced if some at least of the Society's work directly affects the well-being of the locality. Let me give two practical examples.

The year's report of one of our Societies in a northern industrial town, records the leading part it took in the collection and administration of relief to the wives and children of those affected by the Coal Dispute. There was an activity which even those of us who take the most latitudinarian view of equality could scarcely manage to bring within that much-disputed formula. Yet when we remember how difficult we have found it to gain the confidence of wage-earning men and women, to convince them that we are not merely a middle-class organization, without understanding or sympathy with their special needs and difficulties, does it not seem probable, nay certain, that that very practical piece of work will have done something to bring about a better understanding and a readier hearing for our Society when, engaged in its normal activities, it preaches the feminist reforms of equal opportunities and pay or family allowances?

If our object is to get things done not merely to relieve our own souls by talking about equality, the first essential is that our Societies must have life and have it abundantly. There must be no stagnation in the waters. They must be kept in constant motion by the inflow of fresh currents.

I may seem to have been judging our work by gross and mechanical tests, as though our Union were a shopkeeper and its Societies bagmen touting for its wares. Whereas in reality many of our results, like the results of the forces which are opposing us, are invisible and intangible. Like the armies of opposing bacilli, which fight one another in the human body, they produce health or sickness in the body politic. We know that we are winning, not by merely reckoning the sum of our

actual gains, but by all the symptoms of a healthier attitude towards women, as jurors, as Parliamentary candidates, and potential voters. We are still suffering from acute localized diseases, for example, in the industrial sphere. But they are partly the results of abnormal post-war conditions, which will pass in time.

I cannot end this critical review of our activities without paying a tribute to the devoted work of many of your secretaries of Societies. The "tasks in hours of insight willed" by our Executive Committee and Mrs. Hubback, have to be "in hours of gloom fulfilled" by you, often with very little encouragement and with none of the mechanical aids to production such as a Gestetner pouring forth circulars with the velocity of the proverbial sausage machine. I often wonder how you manage to do it. You could not do it if the flame of the spirit were not kept burning in your hearts by a lively imagination, always dwelling not merely on the concrete events which surround you, but on the deep-lying causes of these events—the selfishness and prejudices of sex and class. But the harvest is bright and the labourers are far too few. I appeal to all of you to bring more labourers unto the harvest.

MESSAGE FOR THE MASS MEETING ON EQUAL FRANCHISE FROM DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT.

"Tell the meeting on 3rd March that I am wholly with them in their demand for Equal Franchise. We demand the fulfilment of the pledges given us by the Government soon after the General Election on this point; it is what our Societies have been working for uninterruptedly since their formation in 1867."

(Signed) MILLICENT FAWCETT.

THE FIRST STEP.

By RAY STRACHEY.

The present demand for the completion of Equal Suffrage is the last lap of the long struggle which opened when John Stuart Mill moved his amendment to the Reform Bill in 1866, and the final instalment of justice which we are now requiring this Government to give us is thoroughly overdue.

It is nine years since the first step was taken, that "dangerous" first step which costs most, and which Governments and Parliaments found it so supremely difficult to take that they hesitated on the brink of it for fifty-two years. And perhaps, in the last lap of the second phase it may be worth while to look back at the last lap of this first phase, and to recall some of the incidents of that exciting time.

Everyone remembers, of course, how the question of women's suffrage dropped out of sight at the beginning of the war, how the national needs called women out into new and varied positions, and how the revelation of their latent powers suddenly set the tide running in favour of women, and made the granting of some form of franchise to them seem an obvious and irresistible reform.

Underneath this general movement of opinion, however, there ran a strong current of effort, and the time, encouraging and triumphant as it was, was not without anxieties and dangers. In the spring of 1916 the question of a new Register became acute in Parliament, and at once it became clear that no satisfactory solution of the practical problem of how to let men vote could be reached without widening the basis of their qualification. The Suffrage Societies, overwhelmed as they were with war work, could not allow this to happen without the inclusion of women's suffrage, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at once pointed out to the Government that while a simple registration bill might leave matters as they were, if any change of qualification was proposed they must raise their claim again. This was admitted, and in the summer of 1916 a Speaker's Conference was set up which in January of the following year recommended a measure of women's suffrage more or less on the lines which are now in force.

From that moment until the critical debate in the Commons, which took place on 22nd and 23rd May, there was a great revival of suffrage activity. Meetings were not often possible in war conditions, but all the other well-known forms of agitation began again. Deputations by dozens came up from the constituencies of "doubtful" Members to urge them to become "sound"; "inspired" articles appeared all over the Press, and political circles hummed with the ins and outs of the proposed reform. There were some factors which made this revival of agitation easy, and others which stood in its way. On the one hand there were new "converts" in shoals, whose example it was not difficult to turn to good account; and on the other there was of course the ever present preoccupation with the war which overshadowed all home affairs, and absorbed the energy, the interest, and the money of the whole nation.

Through these months, however, the agitation went vigorously on, and as the date for the Second Reading of the Bill drew near success began to seem almost secure. The card index of M.P.s at headquarters showed an enormous majority of supporters in all parties, and the visits which Dame Millicent had paid to each Cabinet Minister had revealed a very satisfactory state of affairs. Nevertheless, no slackening of effort was allowed, and in the last weeks a fresh batch of letters from constituents poured in upon Members, and on the day itself a tabulated summary of the imposing volume of public support which had been accumulated was published as a full page advertisement in *The Times*. And so numerous were the Corporations, public bodies, societies, associations, trade unions, and guilds which were supporting the movement that only the closest printing and the most careful arrangement sufficed to tuck them all in. For the debate itself little booklets had been prepared containing the names of all the Members who were expected to vote for Clause IV, and these booklets were given to four unofficial whips, who undertook to stand at the doors of the Chamber and keep the friendly from going away. But there was little need of their watchfulness, for the House was crowded throughout the debate, and in the division Clause IV was carried by 385 to 55.

This result was so good that before the Report Stage a further advance seemed safe, and a demand for the extension of the municipal vote to the wider basis of the proposed new Parliamentary vote was formulated. This reform, which though long desired by women had not been much discussed and which had previously formed no part of the campaign, was resisted by the Government. But such a flood of telegrams poured in upon them during the intervening week-end that when the final debate came they gave way. It was a foretaste of the power of the vote: but perhaps it was helped by the coincidence of the dates; for the telegrams all went to the private houses of the Ministers, their secretaries were off duty, and the parlour-maids, probably, put them into the hands for which they were intended. It was a most triumphant affair.

The passing of the Bill in the Commons was followed by a pause of several months, and then there came the final tussle in the Lords. The size of the previous majority really ensured success, but for all that such methods of pressure as could be brought to bear on the Second Chamber were employed. A Memorandum of a most "lordly" character was prepared and handsomely printed, setting forth popular support, war services, weighty opinions, and reassuring arguments for their lordships, and it was put into their hands just too late for an effective reply to be possible, though not too late for a hasty and feeble one to be scabbled together by the other side. A little discreet lobbying among Peers, an active whip on the right side, combined with the fortunate weakening of Lord Curzon, and the thing was done. But, after all, great as the triumph was, it was not quite done even then. And the last stage lies before us now.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

In connection with the Equal Political Rights Campaign a very successful meeting to demand an immediate Government measure giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men was held at the Fulham Town Hall on 23rd February. Miss Butler-Bowdon, of St. Joan's Alliance, presided, and the speakers were Councillor Miss Packer (Conservative), Mr. Victor Duval (Liberal), Mr. Palmer, the Labour candidate, and Miss Waldron, the daughter of the Mayor of Fulham, who spoke on behalf of the women under thirty. As an outcome of the meeting Colonel Vaughan-Morgan, the Member for East Fulham, will receive a deputation of his constituents from the meeting at the House of Commons during the week.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE

RED

WHITE
& BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner

In making, use LESS QUANTITY it being much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE

A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.

By L. M. MOTT.

The leaders of non-party women's societies in large cities are often perplexed by the problem of how to secure the interest and help of the busy woman worker whose support is so desirable, not only because of her special expert knowledge but because her feminism is often based on actual experience of the restrictions still imposed on women, and therefore not lukewarm. Meetings of the usual type attract mainly the married women to whom a lecture and discussion may be a welcome and refreshing change from their work at home, whereas to the professional and social worker it is a considerable effort, at the end of a long day, to turn out again after a hasty evening meal and hurry down in crowded trams to the central place of meeting—an effort that only the devoted few will make.

Another outstanding problem in organization is to avoid concentrating the real work and interest in the hands of a powerful committee, who alone know what is going on and who alone have any real responsibility. The mass of members, many of them as capable as the committee and harbouring much special knowledge and talent, become indifferent and uninterested, and a great potential source of power is lost. The danger is, of course, greatly accentuated when, as generally happens, the same people offer themselves for re-election year after year. Disaster lies ahead of all societies who do not meet this danger. At last the tired hands relax their grip, and the next watch is missing, not ready to seize the wheel.

In an attempt to meet both these points the Liverpool Womens' Citizen Association has started a fresh group, open to all members who wish to join, but designed especially to draw in the expert woman worker, whether professional or voluntary. The group has a monthly corporate meeting which begins early in the evening with an inexpensive supper in a private room of one of the city's cafés. Over this meal many new introductions are made, and ideas interchanged between women whose absorbing work gives them ordinarily little opportunity of meeting their co-workers in other fields. The group proceeds, in an atmosphere of ample leisure, to the discussion of some concrete problem which seems to be ripe for action after thorough investigation and deliberation. When the opinion of all those with special knowledge has been heard, further work on the matter is entrusted to a sub-committee on which members specially interested volunteer to serve. The sub-committees report back to the group, and take further counsel with it as they require.

Problems already taken up include child assault, the appointment of women on hospital boards, and smoke abatement. It is too early yet to register results, but the enthusiasm and interest of the members is too marked not to raise high hopes of what those results may be.

The propaganda on women's questions most wanted at the present moment is not that which is carried on by large meetings, involving much organization and leading often to meagre results. The necessary body of public opinion is, in many cases, already in existence, educated by our efforts of the past. But there is a gap, unfilled, lying between the will of this public opinion and its realization. Our rulers, sitting on public bodies, are often untouched by and even unaware of the strong demand for some reform, ignorant probably of its reasoned basis. They never go to the meetings at which such demand is voiced, nor read the literature or propaganda. It is essential that this gap should be bridged, and it can be done by small groups of citizens, knowing their subject thoroughly, and skilled in argument and debate, taking their case to the powers who alone can remedy the abuses and initiate the reforms. The central group of the Liverpool W.C.A. will aim at fitting its members for this work.

NEWS ITEMS.

The Irish Free State Government have accepted in principle an amendment moved by Sir James Craig allowing a woman to have her name placed on the panel of jurors if expressing in writing her willingness to serve.

The Labour Government of South Australia propose an extension of the franchise for the Legislative Council which will give votes to an additional 87,000 women.

For the first time an Education Committee—that of Leyton—has stated that women as well as men may apply for the position, now vacant, of Director of Education.

The South African Parliament, by a large majority, refused leave to the Labour party to introduce a Bill extending the franchise to European women.

FANNY ANNE.¹

It seems probable that Fanny Anne Burney would not have been in the least pleased at being spoken of only as the great-niece of her great-aunt. Although Madame d'Arblay, the real, original Fanny Burney, was alive when this journal was begun in 1830 and although her great-niece certainly saw her from time to time, the references to her are of the slightest. Moreover, when the great-aunt's journal was published in 1842, the great-niece was obviously bored. The very idea of six volumes made her yawn, and she considered that the editor, Mrs. Barrett, should have pruned with no sparing hand. Her own editor, Miss Rolt, thinks it possible that the appearance of Madame d'Arblay's Diary and Letters "came in some sort as a blow to Fanny Anne Wood—that in the recesses of her reserved Burney soul there lurked the feeling that this book was snatching away from her something to which she herself had almost unconsciously aspired! Did she, ardent nocturnal scribbler that she was, cherish, deep hidden in her heart, a never-breathed, inarticulate longing for appreciation, publication! And so did it strike her as a trifle unfair that the memory of an old lady—dead these two years—should be revived anew to be crowned with fresh laurels?"

Whether this was so, or not, it is certain that if Fanny had not written, very much less interest would now be taken in Fanny Anne. Writing from 1830 to 1842, she describes a less interesting period than that in which her great-aunt lived; and, in spite of what the editor says, it is not apparent that she had anything like Fanny's gift of shrewd observation. She certainly had not Fanny's wit nor her skill in delineating odd characters. Her journals are, indeed, rather dull. Nevertheless they have a certain charm, and if one puts aside the horrid suspicion that she was jealous of her great-aunt one can't help liking her. She was born in 1812, and married, in 1835, Major James Wood, of the 5th Dragoon Guards. With him she seems to have lived a happy, easy life, travelling about a good deal. She had one daughter, and both the picture of "Dear Baby," at the age of two, and the stories of her infantile remarks, are charming. Charming, too, in a different way are the references to two other girls, her husband's wards, Margaret and Jane Wood. Fanny Anne had the care of them in their holidays; and when Jane got ill with consumption, Major and Mrs. Wood took her to Madeira. Poor little Jane died there, and Fanny grieved for her if as she had been her own child. This part of the diary softens one a good deal towards the writer, and one becomes more inclined to be interested in her description of people and places; but there is nothing very much in them and, on the whole, it seems unlikely that Fanny Anne will be remembered except as the other Fanny's great-niece.

IN A NEW YORK BOOKSHOP.²

THE COLFAX BOOK PLATE, may be heartily recommended to anyone who is suffering from influenza at the present time. It is very agreeable reading, and contains the kind of murder mystery which will pleasantly occupy a weary brain without haunting it. The scene is laid in an American "super" bookshop, and is told by a young woman who had chosen book-selling as a profession, while she was still at college, "and long before it was advertised as a 'Career for Women.'" One cannot help liking Miss Constance Fuller, with her passion for cataloguing, her amused interest in "young people's" love affairs, her pleasure in good food and nice houses, and her unquenchable zest for work. Her colleagues in the bookshop and the life there are minutely described; and, at the end, Constance is rewarded, not by a triumphant love affair, or by inheriting a fortune, but by being appointed to represent her firm on an important business mission to London, and by being told that she has their "entire confidence." I. B. O'M.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER (continued from page 27).

from the Labour party. True, he had left the Miners' Federation and formed an opposition union, but he had not left the Labour party, or taken any action against it. Nevertheless, he has been expelled. The other incident of the week has been the Labour victory at Stourbridge, which is truly symbolic. Between Conservative and Labour there is a complete reversal, and the one stands where the other did in 1924. No amount of political arithmetic can minimize its effect, and the opposition are naturally jubilant.

¹ A Great-Niece's Journals, edited by Margaret S. Rolt. (Constable 21s.)
² The Colfax Book Plate, by Agnes Miller. (Ernest Benn, 7s. 6d. net.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Hon. Secretary: THE LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

STOURBRIDGE BY-ELECTION.

Our Parliamentary Questionnaire was sent to all the candidates at the Stourbridge By-Election. Both Mr. Wellock, now Member for the division, and Mr. Glyn Edwards, Liberal candidate, answered all the questions in the affirmative. No answer was received from the Conservative candidate.

CONFERENCE ON TRAINING OF WOMEN POLICE,
Monday, 7th March, at 11.15 a.m. at the Caxton Hall.

Lady Balfour of Burleigh will be in the chair, and the speakers will be Commandant Allen and Miss Tancred. Visitors' tickets may be obtained on application to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., or at the door.

LEAD PAINT (PROTECTION AGAINST POISONING)
AMENDING BILL.

Mr. Harney, M.P., will shortly be introducing a Bill on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. to amend that section of the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act which provides for the exclusion of women.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

SUTTON COLDFIELD W.C.A.

On Thursday, 10th February, Mrs. Barnes, wife of the Bishop of Birmingham, gave her presidential address on "Common Things" to about 460 members of the Association.

COULSDEN, KENLEY, PURLEY, SANDERSTED, AND WOODCOTE W.C.A.

On Wednesday, 9th February, Miss M. E. Berry, secretary of the Local Government Section of the N.U.S.E.C., gave an interesting speech on the arguments for and against Poor Law Reform.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

On Saturday, 5th February, a dinner was held at the Oak Hall, Princes Street, to commemorate the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. An excellent programme of music had been arranged, and the company, numbering one hundred, was vastly entertained by the racy humour of the speeches. So very successful did the evening prove that it has been decided to make the dinner an annual event.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AND DISTRICT W.C.A.

The Association has sustained a great loss in the death of its Chairman, Mrs. Elizabeth Gilroy. Mrs. Gilroy worked for many years in the Ashton Suffrage Society, and subsequently helped to found the Women Citizens' Association in 1918, in the work of which she has always taken an active part. A midwife by profession, Mrs. Gilroy acted for many years as Nurse-Superintendent at the Hurst Infant Welfare Centre, and represented the local branch of the Midwives' Association on the Ashton, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield Trades and Labour Council for over fourteen years. Two years ago she was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for the County of Lancashire, and during her last illness was elected as Chief Ranger of the Ashton Independent Order of Foresters.

A new banner has been made and kindly presented to the Association by Mrs. Ashmore Thompson, of Stalybridge, and is to go to London for the Equal Franchise Demonstration.

On Wednesday, 23rd February, a meeting was held to consider the Factories Bill. The Speaker was Mr. Giggins, secretary of the District Weavers' Union, who dealt with the Bill from a Trade Union point of view. A meeting has been arranged for 9th March, when Miss E. Wilkinson will speak on the Factory Bill as it specially affects women.

BARNSELY S.E.C.

At a meeting on Wednesday, 16th February, in St. Mary's Parish Room, Mrs. Aldridge gave an interesting address on Restrictive Legislation for women. Questions and discussion followed, and literature on the subject was sold.

CROYDON W.C.A. AND N.C.W.

The annual business meeting was held on Monday, 14th February. After reports which showed a continuance of good and interesting work, from the various district secretaries, Miss R. McLeod gave an account of the year's work of the Association, which is of ever-increasing importance and bulk. The things which stood out especially were (a) the three important and largely attended meetings, with speakers on both sides, which considered restrictive legislation for women, the problem of the mines, and family endowment; (b) the efforts made to help forward the housing difficulty, and a sum of £50 being handed over to the Surrey Garden

Village Trust. Members also took part in the Peace Pilgrimage and delegates were sent to many conferences and meetings and various bills were actively supported. This meeting was also the occasion for the retirement from the chair of Mrs. H. T. Crosfield, who has given such valuable and ungrudging service for the past two years. Mrs. Corner was elected for the next two years, and Mrs. Crosfield was elected vice-chairman unanimously; whilst Miss W. Hudson, Miss R. McLeod, and Mrs. Thomas were re-elected as Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Assistant-Secretary respectively.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LIBERTY OF THE MARRIED WOMAN.

MADAM,—If the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship at its Council meeting this week should expel Family Endowment and Birth Control from their place on the Immediate Programme it will be sacrificing the real liberties of married women to a formula.

The married woman is grateful to the N.U. for her vote (if over 30), for equal divorce laws, for equal guardianship of children, for improved maintenance laws, for its fight for the right to retain her own nationality on marriage. But none of these seem to her comparable in importance with the liberties she would win in the right to know how to control the birth of her children, and the right to a share of the wealth of the community for their nurture. The realization of these rights would bring liberty indeed. She is impatient when some pause coldly to consider whether that liberty can be nicely defined in terms of equality.

She must be secured the right to engage in paid work, but to very few mothers of young children is that the solution and equal pay without family allowances will only add to her burden in reducing the economic resources of her husband.

She looks to the N.U. to interpret "equality of liberties and opportunities" for her in a sense which bears some relation to the facts of her life.

Liverpool.

[We insert the above letter because the policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is determined under its constitution by the Council of the N.U.S.E.C.—ED.]

WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

MADAM,—I have been asked to draw attention to the remarkable statement made on page 11 of your issue of 18th February, 1927, under the heading "Women and Unemployment Insurance." Your contributor says "the abuses popularly associated with 'reliance on the dole' are negligible, so much so as gravely to disappoint the Charity Organization Society, which had hoped otherwise." The actual words in the C.O.S. memorandum, communicated to the Departmental Committee and printed by them, on page 234 of volume two, are these, "when this material was read to our people on Monday last, they were much disappointed at the general character of almost all of it." You will observe the disappointment felt was that we were not able to supply the Committee with the volume of detailed information which we had hoped, as our Committees had for the most part sent in general comments.

In view of the very small number of people who actually read the text of Blue Books, we may perhaps be allowed to plead for scrupulous exactitude in the quoting of them.

J. C. PRINGLE,
Secretary, C.O.S.

WHAT IS EQUALITY?

MADAM,—It has been said that lookers-on see most of the game. Without arrogating as much as this to oneself, it may be permitted to an outsider to make a few comments on the recent articles in your columns. Those who owe to the N.U.S.E.C. much help and guidance cannot fail to take a deep interest in its future policy, even if outside its ranks. Whatever decisions are reached at the coming Council meeting must have a real effect on the whole woman's movement. There seems to be some confusion between means and ends. The equality formula represents the end, not of our work, but of our efforts to reach a position in which real constructive work can be begun. Until this ambition so sublime, to which we shall surely attain in time, is reached, every proposal must be put to the simple test, will this help on the struggle for equality? If it will not, then it is outside our province as feminists, even though in itself it may be as desirable as the proposal, for instance, to establish a State Medical Service. The justification for the existence of such organizations as the N.U.S.E.C. seems to me to be the realization on the part of its members that without such equality effective work by women for betterment of the world is gravely hampered. This means in practice that such questions as Family Allowances, which to its advocates at least seem indispensable to the attainment of equal pay for equal work, may by those holding this view be included in the programme. On the other hand, such questions as Birth Control would appear to belong to the domain of Health legislation, and to follow, not precede, work for equality. Finally, equality to the present writer does not mean that directly men have gained anything women should immediately demand the same. It means that nothing is to be refused to women because they are women, for instance, a position in the Secretariat of the Education Office, where in Belfast at present there is no woman—and nothing given to men because they are men, for instance, any office under the Housing Committee of the Corporation.

DORA MELLONE.

Dublin.

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COMING EVENTS.

ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

MAR. 9. 7 p.m. E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau, Strand, W.C. 2. Lecture by Mrs. Christine Frederick on "Simple Household Repairs."

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

MAR. 7. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Miss Eva Macnaghten on "My Impressions of America."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

PUBLIC LUNCHEON. Friday 1 o'clock, at Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly. Speakers to include The Viscount Astor, The Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, and Miss Maude Royden.

SIX POINT GROUP.

MAR. 7. 3 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Miss Ursula Williams on "The Legislative Results of Women's Franchise."

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LARGE, unfurnished ROOM to let in Bloomsbury, overlooking gardens; 3 windows; rent 20s. weekly, with use of kitchen and bathroom (keyser); attendance by arrangement.—Box 1,309, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

WIMPOLE STREET (adjoining) for working gentlewoman, one single, one double room. Gas fires, ring; meals by arrangement; letter.—Box 1,400, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

CHILTERN HILLS.—Attractive, sunny COTTAGE to let during summer; 2 sitting, 3 bedrooms, bathroom (h. and c.), electric light, loggia, garden; 4 guineas.—Miss Cobb, Chinnor, Oxon.

OFFICES to let, near Victoria Station; first and second floors; 2, 3 or 4 newly decorated rooms; terms very moderate.—Hayler, 99 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1. (Tel., Vict. 8792.)

WANTED, by University woman working London, quiet BED-SITTINGROOM in country for week-ends, preferably unfurnished.—Reply, Box 1,403, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

HOLIDAYS IN SUNSHINE.—Pinewoods, rocks, sands, sea. Widow welcomes guests in pension on secluded Bay of Heraclee; ideal for artists; £3 weekly.—Madame Roy, Villa St. Michel, La Croix, Var, France.

TO LET, comfortable and charming little BED-SITTING-ROOM and KITCHENETTE; £1 per week. W.C. 1.—Box 1,405, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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FOR SALE AND WANTED.

IRISH LINEN TRAYCLOTHS.—Dainty snow-white hemstitched Irish linen traycloths, size 12 x 18 in., 4 for 4s.; 14 x 20 in., 4 for 5s.; 15 x 22 in., 4 for 6s.; 16 x 23 in., 4 for 8s. A real bargain line. Write for Complete Bargain List To-day.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

NEVER-FADE LINENS.—For all those purposes for which coloured Linens are now so popular, Hutton's Never-Fade genuine Irish Linens are ideal. Guaranteed absolutely fadeless by sun or washing and this year reduced to 2s. 6d. per yard (36 ins. wide), they are increasingly in demand for curtains, bedspreads, table-runners, etc., as well as for dresses and children's frocks. There are 64 artistic colours to select from, including ten of the newest shades. Every yard stamped "Hutton's Never-Fade Linen." Send for full range of patterns FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

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

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LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,141, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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SOCIAL WORKER, 3 mornings weekly, Holland Park district; small remuneration.—Apply, Box 1,404, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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AS WORKING HOUSEKEEPER to one or two ladies. Elderly woman, strongly recommended by Kelly, 3 Vere Street, W. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 6th March; 3.30 Music. Dr. Delisle Burns on "Experimental Religion." 6.30, Maude Royden.

TAX CATS!—TO CAT LOVERS. Taxation means recognition and protection for cats. Ask for it now, and keep on till you get it.

EDUCATION FOR WOMEN IN INDIA.—A Campaign will be opened at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, on 6th March, at 5 p.m., by Sir Frederick Whyte, K.C.S.I. Mr. Arthur Mayhew will speak on "The Test of a Western System of Education for Women in India." Mr. R. H. Tawney will preside. All are cordially invited. Inquiries to the Secretary, "The Four-and-a-half Indian Colleges Fund," 12 Palmer Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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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.

For Societies of the N.U.S.E.C., 15s. per annum or 5s. per book-box per three months.

For Societies other than those of the N.U.S.E.C., 25s. per annum, or 7s. 6d. per book-box per three months.

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