

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.**Mr. Chamberlain at Geneva.**

The Times tells us that the British Foreign Secretary spoke at Geneva on 10th September, as the representative of an Imperial Nation, and also observes that his country thoroughly approves his statement of plain facts. We are driven to ask ourselves: What is this Imperialism of which *The Times* speaks so glibly? The glory of the British Commonwealth is of a different quality from that of the old Empires, and there is nothing in its constitution to prevent the closest co-operation with the League. Also we ask on what authority does *The Times* declare that the country approves Mr. Chamberlain's speech? It is true that some of what he said is "plain fact," but the way he said even this leaves much to be desired. The speech reads more as the address of a headmaster to his rather recalcitrant pupils, than of one delegate to his fellow delegates. Space forbids a detailed analysis of his utterances, but one example may be given of the way he begged the question in several cases, viz. his implication that the "tea table" conclusions of the big powers are at all analogous to the private conversations of the representatives of almost powerless small nations. *The Times* recounts the various acts by which Mr. Chamberlain has, in its opinion, shown himself a good friend of the League and of peace. In regard to this last point, we do not deny that he is a sincere supporter of the League. But we cannot agree with *The Times*, nor with Mr. Chamberlain himself, that he has always done those things he ought to have done, and never left undone those things he ought not to have done. It is not necessary to be a blind enthusiast for that somewhat imperfect instrument, the Protocol, in order to do things crying aloud to be done at the present moment in the cause of peace.

What of the Optional Clause?

Germany has signed the Optional Clause of the Constitution of the International Court of Justice, thereby binding herself, with certain reservations, to refer suitable disputes to the Court. France with somewhat elaborate reservations has done likewise. Mr. Chamberlain might well consider doing likewise on behalf of this country, even if it is impossible to persuade all the Dominions to follow suit. The argument that in fact Great Britain has suggested arbitration on many individual disputes is surely no argument against, but rather one of the strongest possible arguments in favour of a more general adoption of this principle.

Women's Trade Union Congress.

The second annual Women's Trade Union Congress, which was held in Edinburgh last week, and was attended by delegates

from thirty unions representing 337,000 women, arose, as Miss Bondfield explained in her presidential address, to meet the demand that women should be given a larger part in the discussions of the Trade Union Congress. It evolved out of the old Women's Trade Union League, which did its most useful work in the days when hardly any trades union had a woman official. Now that nearly every union catering for women has its own women officers, Miss Bondfield pointed out that there was an increasing number of women who took part in the administrative and executive work of the unions. "What we strive to secure," said Miss Bondfield, "is that women equally with men should hammer out trade union policy and help in trade union administration." In an attack on the Open Door Council, Miss Bondfield added: "I need not remind you that an open door can admit sweated conditions of labour and unrestricted control of the most helpless . . . section of the workers." We are sure Miss Bondfield will agree that the demand for equality with respect to conditions of work does not necessarily mean asking that protective legislation should be denied women, but may and very often does mean that it should also be applied to men, and also that protection, though it does in most cases very greatly improve the conditions of work for women in industry, can in certain instances be abused so as to limit unnecessarily the occupations women may enter.

Duties of Women Police: The Home Office Speaks.

The recent criticism of a policewoman by Mr. Mead, Magistrate at Marlborough Street Court, has had a satisfactory result. Mr. Mead complained because the policewoman gave evidence in an "unpleasant" case, the details of which are not given in the Press but which we learn was one of indecency between a man and a woman, in which the man had run away, while the woman was arrested and punished. "I should have thought," he remarked, "that such matters should be left to male constables entirely." A *Morning Post* representative very rightly made inquiry at the Home Office and received the following statement from an official there: "Women's organizations are anxious that there should be women police. These women are sworn as constables, and sent to certain places on duty. It is their bounden duty, as sworn constables, to prevent crime of any description, just as it is also the duty of a male constable. A policewoman must endeavour to prevent picking pockets, a murder, or any other breach of the law she may encounter. After all, sworn constables cannot be merely "half-policemen."

Intuition and Logic.

The British Association has been discussing the comparative reliability of intuitive judgments in women and men. According to the lecturer there is a widespread belief that women, though less logical than men, are superior in some power of judging character by intuition, and this belief is not well founded. This we are prepared to believe, for what, after all, is an intuitive judgment? In nine cases out of ten it is a judgment formed on grounds which are not clear to the person who forms it. This deficiency may be due to mental laziness, to a lack of the habit of analysis, or merely to a small and indefinite vocabulary. If such a person be a man, and he be asked why he said he distrusts Mr. Z., he will either give no reason at all—being a man, if he has said such a thing that ought to be enough—or feeling the need for some logical explanation, he will invent a reason, and thus apparently remove his judgment from the sphere of the intuitive. A woman, on the other hand, will feel a need not to seem logical but to be polite, and in order to answer when spoken to she will say, "Oh, I don't know, I just felt it." In truth, the

correct answer in both cases would have been, "I looked at him and saw that he had a mouth like a fish, a flabby skin, unpleasant eyes, and an unctuous voice." But most people in these days are not in the habit of fitting words accurately either to what they see or to the emotions inspired in them by what they see, and if they were few of their friends would allow them to finish their sentences.

Women and the Factories Bill.

Prospects in regard to the Government's Factories Bill seem vague. This fact, though unfortunate, has at least the advantage of giving more time for propaganda for the principle that legislation for the protection of the worker should be based not upon sex, but upon the nature of the occupation. The old absurdity of classing "women and young persons" together in itself perpetuates a false outlook, and we note with much pleasure that the Open Door Council stress this point in their recent circular letter addressed to the Trade Unions and branches of the Labour party who were represented at the Trade Union Congress. It is obvious that to incorporate in a new Bill a clause forbidding women to carry heavy weights or to clean machinery in motion might delay the drafting of really scientific and comprehensive regulations covering the dangers which threaten both sexes. It is well known that a man not in perfect condition is liable to rupture as the result of weight lifting, and a clumsy, inexperienced, unsuitably clothed person of either sex is not fit to clean machinery in motion. It is wearisome to have to reiterate these facts, but the hydra-headed monster of sex antagonism can only be slain when protection is extended to cover both men and women so that women are no longer artificially privileged or handicapped, but are free to choose from a wide range of well-regulated occupations those which they prefer and which are most suitable to them.

The Quality of Mercy.

We should like to draw attention to the wise and sympathetic words of the Lord Mayor of Bradford in addressing a number of new magistrates recently:—

"Think kindly of your brother man and gently of your unfortunate sister. They have not had your environment, training in public service, and upbringing. Think how frail human nature is and let your justice be tempered with mercy. You are not here entirely to punish crime, but to effect reformation where possible."

We only wish that among his hearers had been the Sunderland magistrates who a short time ago sentenced to prison a woman for the abandonment of her child. The woman had apparently been separated from her husband, who has recently come out of prison for arrears of maintenance. When the baby was born she lost her post. We should like to know the value of the month's imprisonment as a redemptive agency for a woman in this situation!

One-roomed Flats.

A correspondent to *The Times* writes: "Over two years ago an organization known as 'The United Women's Homes Association' was founded in order to meet the needs of single or widowed women who found it difficult to obtain suitable accommodation. This was registered as a Public Utility Society. On a site adjoining Ashted Park one-roomed flats have been built that can, if necessary, be converted into three-roomed family flats. The rent of the one-roomed flats is from 5s. to 6s. a week. This experiment has proved so successful that some eighty one- and two-roomed flats are now being built in the Hampstead Garden Suburb, while at East Acton one-roomed flats are being arranged on three floors running around a central courtyard. Each flat comprises a living room with a bed recess at one end, and at the other a work recess containing a sink with draining-board, a small gas cooker, a 5 ft. bath, with table-top fixed, a geyser, a built-in larder, and two store cupboards. The success of the original association has been so marked that a subsidiary body known as 'The Young Citizens' Homes Association' has been formed in order to extend the same facilities to childless couples and single persons of either sex. It should be noted that the association is entirely self-supporting, and that all profits are strictly limited."

"Mother India."

We should like to draw attention to a particularly interesting contribution from Mrs. Normanton in our correspondence column. Mrs. Normanton's letter comes in answer to our editorial appeal for suggestions as to what British women can do to help fight the evils described in that haunting book. We consider Mrs. Normanton's suggestion that a commission should be set up

by the Indians themselves to inquire into the extent of the evils referred to a valuable one. From information we have received from many residents in India, there appears to be very little overstatement in Miss Mayo's book, but if even only a small proportion of the women, children, and animals suffer lives such as those described by Miss Mayo, in a population of over 300 millions, the actual number must be enormous.

Conference on Family Allowances.

It is a curious thing, that in spite of the widespread interest which has been taken in Family Allowances and the many isolated propagandist meetings which have been held, there has as yet been no series of discussions on all aspects of the problem. This deficiency is now being made good by a particularly interesting conference which is being organized by the Family Endowment Society, particulars of which will be found in our advertisement column. The conference, which will be held at the London School of Economics, on Friday, 14th October, and Saturday, 15th October, will boast among its speakers Sir William Beveridge, Mr. Brailsford, Mr. J. L. Cohen, and Professor Mottram, and among the Chairmen, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Mr. J. Maxton, M.P., and Miss Eleanor Rathbone. A good attendance is promised.

Women in Council.

We would like once more to draw attention to the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, to take place at Bournemouth from 11th to 14th October. The meetings are to range round the central idea of "Women and Public Work." Public meetings are to be held on: "Some Problems of Women who earn their own living," to be addressed by Miss Rosamond Smith, L.C.C., Miss Louisa Martindale, J.P., M.D., and Miss Eleanor Kelly; "Some Problems of Magistrates," including juvenile offenders, probation officers, and the need for women police, addressed by Mrs. Barrow Cadbury; "Some Modern Methods of Prison Reform," by Mr. Alexander Paterson; a meeting on "International Affairs," at which Sir Arthur Salter will speak on the World Economic Conference, and Mrs. Rolfe on the Responsibilities of British Women at Home and Overseas. As Bournemouth is easily accessible from London and elsewhere, this most interesting programme should attract a large number of delegates.

A Girl Guide and a Boy Scout.

A correspondent from Brighton has called our attention to an inspiring encounter between a British Girl Guide and a French Boy Scout which occurred on the banks of the Rhône, last month. It appears that Miss Lockie, aged 20, captain of the 9th Brighton (Chapel Royal) Girl Guides, was camping with the St. Etienne Girl Guides Company at Pegraud. Patrol-Leader Ranze-Marcel, aged 18, of the 1st St. Etienne Troop went down to bathe in the neighbourhood of the Guides Camp. Ranze, an imperfect swimmer, soon found himself in difficulties with a full river and an uneven bottom. In his losing struggle he rose five times to the surface, and finally sank. At this point Miss Lockie awoke to the fact that his frequent disappearances were not occasioned by sportiveness, and dived in search of him. Twice she dived in vain. The third time, with no little difficulty, she succeeded in hauling the unconscious Ranze ashore. Then began a solitary effort in artificial respiration according to Girl Guide lore, which was finally successful. The highest award of the French Boy Scouts, the order of the *Loc de France* has now been bestowed upon this gallant and pertinacious British colleague.

Y.W.C.A. Central Club.

The purchase of the site for this Club for business and professional women has now been completed. It is situated close to the junction of Tottenham Court Road, Charing Cross Road, and Oxford Street, and covers approximately 18,000 square feet. It is intended to begin building as soon as sufficient funds are available. Lady Patricia Ramsay is opening a bazaar on the afternoon of 9th November at the Central Hall, Westminster, part of the proceeds of which will be given for the Club.

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 their opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

RELIEF AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Sir Alfred Woodgate and his colleagues in West Ham claim that they have been able to reduce the weekly bill for out-relief from £28,000 to £8,250, and this without pressing with undue harshness upon the destitute. If their contention is correct—our only means of judging will be provided by the health statistics for the borough—then they have certainly performed a service not only to West Ham but to the whole nation. They have saved the unfortunate local rate-payers from a burden which they should never have been made to carry—it is intolerable that a man working hard to earn £2 a week, should be rated to keep in idleness another man receiving £4 a week—but more than this they have replaced disorder by efficiency, and ended a system which, however well-intended, set an example of degradation and corruption. Whether they have or have not gone too far in their economy, we shall never, of course, be really able to tell. There is no exact point at which a saving to rate-payers' pockets can be nicely balanced against a diminution in children's food. On the whole the men now out of work are probably the less capable of the workmen in the borough, but, having regard to the causes of this particular wave of unemployment, that does not necessarily mean that they are racially of less valuable stock. If there is not enough money to go round in West Ham, we cannot be certain that by letting their children bear the brunt of it we are doing the best for the England that is to be. In short, we are here on the horns of not one, but several dilemmas. In the first place it is clear that man is not a perfect moral being. He will not, as a rule, work hard unless there is some considerable inducement. If as at present the case, the finding of work is extremely difficult, discouraging, and disagreeable, we may be sure that after a while he will not even try to work unless he is compelled to do so. If, in spite of all this, there were in the end sufficient work, and the only problem was getting the man into it, it would be not only just but essential that the compulsion should be strong enough to force the man to find it. A healthy man who will not work when he could work must not complain if he be left to suffer. Unhappily that is not our problem now. There is no work for over a million of these men, and until we have a government which realizes that trade will not recover

while prices fall, there will continue to be no work for them—whether it takes five or ten or twenty years. Two questions then arise—in the first place, is it just that a man, his wife, and children should suffer through year after year for what is no fault of theirs; and in the second, is it sensible for a nation which is after all spending millions a year upon extreme luxury, to allow to be reared up without proper food or housing or recreation, a substantial proportion of its future citizens? It may be desirable in theory, to keep a man in misery for long periods, so that you may be sure that he will make every possible effort to find work which is not there, but at some point in the scale it becomes undesirable to put any further pressure on to his family, or even, for their sakes, on to him. Here, however, comes in the problem of the rate-payer. Our system of rating was not designed to cope with these terrible pools of local unemployment, and it does not cope with them. The result is that in certain areas, every effort to provide decently for the unemployed, if it does not actually force still more factories to close, drops down into an almost equal misery some of the men who are in receipt of what would otherwise be adequate wages. Nor is there any easy way out of the difficulty. The people who ought to pay for the unemployed are the people who made contracts to receive money when the pound was worth half what it is now, and who are receiving, owing to the financial policy which has created our unemployment, double what they expected to get. Unhappily there is no way of making them pay. If then the rest of us have got to pay it would seem better that we should pay more or less equally and not that some districts should be crushed while others escape. But even if this were secured the problem of the work-shy man would still remain. On the whole the answer to that is that relief must be adequate but should be given almost entirely in kind. Children could be fed at school, meals could be cooked at centres, it should be made impossible for coal and boot tickets to be exchanged for money. The man who longs to find work must be incommoded because other men are lazy, just as we all are incommoded, and more than we usually remember, because other men and women are dishonest or cruel.

THE EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

By K. E. INNES, B.A.

The title above marks a quite interesting new departure. Each previous assembly has been named as an assembly according to its year—the Sixth Assembly, the Seventh Assembly, and so on; and each one has been a new institution. With this apparently insignificant change of title the important fact is notified that the Assembly has become a continuous and permanent institution like the Council, which has now reached its forty-sixth session. Henceforward, delegates to the Assembly are appointed for the whole year, and if for any reason a special Assembly is called during the year the present delegates will automatically form the delegation. The change was made last year by a Committee known as the Bureau of the Assembly, in connection with the arrangements for the election of non-permanent members to the Council for periods of different lengths. The decision, of course, adds to the power and importance of the Assembly as against the Council. So the machinery of the League is gradually developing and settling down in ways which will have lasting importance on its future.

No outstanding feature has given cause for much speculation before the opening of the Eighth Session. The perennial question of Danzig has been before the Council, the Danzigers objecting to a Polish munition dump near their city, and the Poles contending that the Council, having once sanctioned this cannot revise its decision. This has led to the posing of a nice legal point, important it is true, but more exciting for those closely interested in this aspect of the growth of the League machinery than for the general public.

Lord Cecil's absence is the subject of much regret among the keen League supporters, but it is very generally felt that his resignation may free him for work which will in the end promote the good of the League in general, and help better than he otherwise could have towards the solution of the Disarmament problems in particular. The widespread respect and affection accorded to him in the Assembly is extended to no other member of the British delegation. Lord Onslow, who will lead our delegation when Sir Austen Chamberlain leaves, does not stand out as a League protagonist, and there is some criticism of the

appropriateness of the Under-Secretary for *War*, holding that position.

It is undeniable that there is a feeling abroad that the League is passing through a most critical period. Is it to become what its founders meant it to become—a new method in international politics? Or are the old methods of secret diplomacy and private agreements to deal as before with all the important questions of international relations and to persist apart from the League—till war becomes the inevitable outcome?

The value of the humanitarian and social activities of the League is very great, and M. Villegas in presiding over the first session rightly emphasized this, but those are no friends of the League who overstress the value of these activities in themselves, disconnected from the abolition of war between the nations which are thus learning to co-operate for human ends. Humanitarian achievements must go hand in hand with progress, in the conclusion of agreements not to resort to war, to which we are bound in the Covenant, or the League is doomed to failure. M. Villegas ended his Presidential speech by emphasizing the League's function in this respect, and the challenge that before long we must renew "something like the Protocol" was flung down by the first delegate for Holland, who is her Foreign Minister, in the first day of general debate. The reply of the League to this challenge—or its failure to reply—may make this the most critical year of the League's history.

No new outstanding figure is present with any delegation. Among the women substitute delegates are the now well-known League figures of Dame Edith Lyttelton from Great Britain; of Mrs. Marthe Larsen Jahn, Mrs. Bugge-Wicksell, and Miss Henni Forchhammer from the Scandinavian countries, and Miss Vacarescu from Roumania. Australia again sends a woman, Mrs. Moss, but there are no additional countries doing so. One or two have women experts or secretaries among them, Frau Lang-Brumann, a member of the Reichstag, with the German delegation, and Mrs. Dugdale, of the League of Nations Union, as secretary to Major Walter Elliott with the British group.

(Continued on next page.)

SEAFARERS' EDUCATION SERVICE: WHAT SAILORS READ.

By HERBERT E. MILLIKEN.

"Education booming—slump in attendance at church and in drunkenness." This in the language of the stock exchange might describe one aspect of the post-war period. The Adult Education movement has shared in the rise in education stock and has been at the same time to a considerable extent responsible for it. Some branches of this movement are now well known, for example, the W.E.A. (Worker's Educational Association) founded by Albert Mansbridge in 1903, but there is a new piece of work which shares parental honours with the W.E.A., which is not yet familiar to the general public.

The Seafarers' Education Service was founded in 1919, because somebody said to the right person "Can anything be done for sailors—anything, education I mean," or words to that effect. It was pretty clear that certain things, such as weekly tutorial classes, could not be done and in fact it was soon realized that seafarers would have to educate themselves, and that the function of the Seafarers' Education Service would be to supply them with the means of education, namely books. Accordingly arrangements were made to place libraries for crews on ships and to-day on 240 British merchantmen, the means of self-education are at the disposal of the crews. It is to be hoped that before long this figure will be multiplied by ten; it could be quite easily, and even then there would be ships without libraries which ought to have them. Ships going long voyages have been tackled first: on them the need is of course greatest, and there are 3,000 such vessels.

The number of books placed on board naturally varies; there are libraries of 50, 100, 200, and 300 books, which are allotted roughly as follows, the proportions holding good whatever the size of the library:—

Novels	40
Essays	8
Poetry and Drama	8
Science	16
History, Travel, and Biography	25
Miscellaneous	3

In these hundred books are included an atlas, a dictionary, a history of England, and the complete works of the late Mr. Shakespeare in one volume. For changing books there is a most efficient organization; at 16 Russell Square (it is painted blue, so you can't miss it), however, they do not change books, they "refit." On board one of the crew acts as librarian; he enters each book as it is issued and returned in his card index, and notes the rating of the reader—an important point. The cards come back to Russell Square in due course where they are carefully analysed. The results of the analyses are very important, because they show exactly to what extent and by whom the books are being read. It is one thing to supply books, but quite another to read them. The analyses at the office of the S.E.S., and I have carefully studied a good many, show beyond doubt that the books are supplying the real needs of the crew from captain to cabin boy. Here are some examples of actual reading on a voyage this year: a second officer read twenty-seven books, including *Buried Alive*, *Dead Man's Rock*, *Outline of History*, and *English Seamen in the Sixteenth Century*; an A.B. read nine, the *Return of the Native* and the *Golden Treasury* amongst them; and lastly, in the eight books read by the mess boy were the *Undying Fire*, *Merchant Fleet at War*, and *Trooper Police of Australia*.

From examining a large number of analyses I have drawn one inference which is full of hope. The younger members of crews go for serious literature at least as readily as the older ones. This means that for these youngsters there will be no educational gap between the age of fourteen and years of discretion, say twenty-five. Their education instead of stopping suddenly dead can go on continuously and they will not have to go through the tiresome and sometimes insuperable difficulty of picking up broken threads. The examples given show the wide range of seafarers' reading; the fact is the average crew reads roughly as a chance group of landmen does; "best sellers" are more read than other works, but as elsewhere there is a good proportion of serious reading. Seafarers have perhaps one peculiarity, they like books about their profession and so there is a keen demand for books by Conrad, Masefield, and Tomlinson, to mention only a few. Scientific works about winds, currents, and fish are popular and so too are books descriptive of foreign parts. When selecting new books for a ship, her route is noted and a certain number of books which deal with the seas and countries she will pass are sent. Some ships are supplied with music, and

good music too, and the state of dilapidation into which it sometimes falls is striking proof that it is used and appreciated; it is not proof of rough handling, for what landsman or lands-woman for that matter, can keep music tidy?

Lastly it is perhaps well to mention that the Seafarers' Education Service is not a charity; true it receives help from the Carnegie Trustees, but otherwise its income is derived from the shipping companies whose vessels it supplies with books, and grants from the Maritime Trade Unions and Associations. Gifts of books, of course, are welcomed (to what library are they not?), but the books must not be those you don't want. If you don't want them, the chances are the men of the Mercantile Marine don't want them either.

THE WORK OF THE I.L.O.¹

The Jeremiahs and Doubting Thomases are getting busy again. In every suburban train the political wiseacre can be heard informing his fellow passengers that the League of Nations is no adjective good anyway, and can anyone tell him, please, what practical purpose it serves? Part of the answer to his philippic may be found in this little book. It gives the briefest possible outline of the work that the International Labour Organization has done and hopes to do. The difficulties of finding generally accepted international standards with regard to wages and conditions of employment are enormous—but not unsurmountable—as the International Labour Organization has proved. The work that it has done on such subjects as the eight-hour day, the work of children and young persons, has had already far-reaching beneficial results, and the research work it is undertaking with regard to unemployment—to mention but one important problem—is of the utmost value. The older school children, for whom this book is intended, will find it clear and interesting. Others may read it with advantage as an introduction to the work of the International Labour Organization. On the last page but one we read: "one principle not yet acted upon by any conference is 'the principle that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value.'" Well, well. It is something, anyhow, to know that the International Labour Organization has such sound principles.
M. B. B.

OPPOSITE THINGS.²

Miss Carta Sturge has, in her essay, *Opposite Things*, embarked on the ambitious task of expounding one aspect of Hegelian philosophy in terms which ordinary people can understand. Her theme, as its title suggests, is concerned with Hegel's dialectic—with that part of his philosophy which contributes to the philosophic background of the famous Marxian dialectic of the class war. She expounds the meaning of *thesis*, *antithesis*, and *synthesis*, and with no little ingenuity, weaves the synthetic conception into a kind of comforting philosophy of which she tells us very little. Nevertheless her effort opens out a fruitful field of effort for other students of philosophy. She had attempted to bring a unit of the philosophic treasure back into the market place where philosophy had its birth. There are other units which we would gladly see purveyed to the multitude in similar terms.

THE EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from previous page.)

France, in nearly four pages of delegates, substitutes, expert advisers, and secretaries, finds room for no women.

The leader of the Indian delegation this year is our old suffrage friend and supporter, the Earl of Lytton, who comes by virtue of his office as former governor of Bengal.

As always there are an immense number of interesting events going on outside the meetings of the Commissions and of the Assembly. One evening at the Athenée, Dame Edith Lyttelton spoke on the theme she has made particularly her own—the teaching of League facts and principles. Perhaps the most interesting revelation of the evening was the fact that supporters of the League present from many countries stressed the importance of the teaching of peace as a means towards the total ending of war even more than the speaker. The peoples, one feels again and again, are more ready to go forward to acceptance of the peaceful settlement of all disputes than are the governments of the leading nations.

¹ *The League of Nations and the World's Workers*, by Kathleen E. Innes, B.A. (Hogarth Press.) 1s. 6d.

² *Opposite Things*, by M. Carta Sturge, M.A. (Burling Ltd.)

THE LITTERLOUSE.

This is the title of a delightful poem which to read is to cure you for ever of leaving scraps of paper and orange peel in beautiful spots. The holidays now so nearly over will not have been spent in vain in spite of the weather if at the end of them we have vowed a vow never thus to offend again. We take it all too much for granted—the woods and downs and commons, and yet if we do not love them with the brain and the wits as well as the heart they will soon be lost to us. The bungalow pest, as Dr. Inge calls it, is spreading—the litter-lice exist in their thousands. London is set in a fair garden, the Home Counties have some of the most beautiful bits of unspoiled country still, but much of this beauty is in deadly peril of disappearing. Miss Margaret Grant's little book *Our Common*,¹ tells the story of the love and self-sacrifice which has gone to secure Wimbledon Common "for ever" for the public use. Let us ponder what we can do, if only to preserve and add to these lovely public spaces, but also beware lest we desecrate them with garbage.

"The pest which gets our loudest grouse
Is, first and last, the Litterlouse.

Egg-shells and empty cartons ('fags')
And orange peel and apple rind
Are not nice things to leave behind
Upon the clean and friendly grass
Where decent folk (and fairies) pass."

Miss Maude Royden considered the subject worthy of a sermon on the Sunday she returned from her holiday. She had encountered wet *Daily Mails* in the waves as she bathed, and her blood was hot within her.

The people who left the *Daily Mails* on the beach were probably pleasant people—a hard-working clerk perhaps with his wife and family with just a week's respite from almost ceaseless drudgery. But he lacked the one thing needful—imagination. There was a case reported a short time ago of a man who rose from under a tree in some public park and walked away. As he walked he was watched by a representative of the municipality and followed, and the sequel was a law court, where he was charged with having left his evening paper under the tree. How unkind all this seems! And yet if for one week, something of the sort were to happen to every offending citizen, young and old, the world would become a different and a happier place, for nothing drills the imagination like a prison or a fine.

A trained imagination means the development of that old-fashioned but timeless virtue, reverence.

And the twin question to the question of orange peel and newspapers and tins, is the question of bungalows. Human beings are probably meant to live in houses, at least no blame to them if they do—but there are houses *and* houses. Surely those especially who want to live on the downs and commons or in the woods or fields must have in embryo an instinct for beauty, and yet it is horrible to think of the sacrilege they often commit. Pink diagonal tiles—grey cement, imitation black oak beams, rickety trellis work which half conceals and half reveals the dustbin—it is a sin to think of these things, and yet, day by day, with a spottiness which is an added crime, they scatter themselves over the country. There exist tentative little societies to remedy these things, but what is wanted is a great national movement analogous to the playing fields movement. And who could lead this movement more appropriately than the women of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the National Council of Women, and, last but not least, the Women's Institutes?

A. H. W.

THE LAW AT WORK.—Continued from page 258.

which was explored in 1924 and 1925, by the Committee of Offences against Young Persons. Many other changes in the law are required with the object of bringing offenders more certainly to trial, of ensuring that the truth is brought out at the Court proceedings, and that those convicted (including the adolescents, the mentally defective, and the habitual offenders) should each in their own category be wisely dealt with. There are also important preventive measures to be considered. New legislation, together with changes in administration, is urgently needed, and it is to be hoped that, as a result of the Home Secretary's study of the Reports, we shall not have much longer to wait.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

¹ The Hill Book Shop, Wimbledon. 2s. 6d.

REPORTS.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

This association has just published its annual report and, as usual, it shows a record of work, valuable not only for its quantity, but for the spirit in which it is done. The people this Council deals with seem real people. One of its principal objects is to make it possible for the unmarried mother to keep her child with her, and the office and these children seem to understand each other well, if we may judge by a few typical cases described in the Report. Case 3,255 opens thus: "Tommy" made the acquaintance of the Council when he was only a few weeks old, and he and his mother were in a maternity home. They went together to a domestic situation where Tommy spent most of his days in a London garden, whilst his mother learnt to cook, etc."

The Legitimacy Act, for which the Council has worked so hard, came into force on 1st January. The Act is not perfect, but it is a big step forward. The Bastardy Bill, which they have also mothered, failed to pass its second reading in the Lords on 17th March, and has been redrafted. Much work and propaganda is needed before its reintroduction in the Commons, which is desirable in the near future. We congratulate the Council on its past efforts and wish it all success in the future. We also urge our readers to obtain the new edition of its pamphlet on the law relating to the unmarried mother.

WOMAN SANITARY INSPECTORS AND HEALTH VISITORS.

The annual report and handbook of this Association contains much that should interest those interested in social welfare. A larger number of sanitary inspectors and health visitors, together with the improved status which comes from good pay and good conditions of work, are much to be desired, and it is interesting to note the scale of salaries approved by the Association, which range from £190 for beginners up to £500 for an experienced superintendent health visitor. In the matter of status of salaries, much support can be given by outside bodies, and the report contains particulars of assistance given by the London and National Society for Women's Service, partly by means of the fully representative "Committee Employed by Municipal Authorities" which they inaugurated and which meets at their office. One feature of the Women Sanitary Inspectors' Association deserving of high commendation is its zeal for knowledge. The Winter School held nine months ago at Bedford College appears to have been a great success, and the syllabus for a forthcoming Correspondence Course, drafted with the help of Professor Winifred Cullis, sets up a high standard.

AN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL.¹

The International School at Gland was a great success, and the only regret was that so few British students were present. The lectures and discussions were extraordinarily good, and the fact that most of the lecturers stayed in the School for several days gave opportunities for further informal talks and discussions.

It is difficult to pick out special lectures when all were so interesting. M. Madariago, the Spanish Chief of the Disarmament Section of the League of Nations was very impressive in his discussion of the International spirit. He showed us how often the virtues we thought our national prerogative were shared by other peoples to at least an equal degree.

The British students were glad to learn that M. Madariago was going to spend a year in Oxford.

Dr. Schweitzer, author of *Tropical Africa*, described his hospital and his work among the natives to a crowded audience, whom he held spellbound for almost two hours and three quarters.

But perhaps the most delightful lecture of all was from Mr. Mukurji, who gave us a real glimpse into the life and philosophy of the East, and his description of the education of the little Brahmin boy will live with all who heard it.

Dr. Frobenius, at least as much poet as a scientist, gave us a most interesting account of his reconstruction of the old Negro Culture of Central Africa—a manual of hard work combined with imagination.

M. Rappard's lecture on Mandates was admirable and he gave us ground for hope when he pointed out how valuable was the publicity given to the annual reports of the mandatories.

The lectures would have been invaluable to English teachers and others. Perhaps next year it may be possible to organize a school nearer home and one where there is room for more students.

¹ Contributed by the Woman's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

THE LAW AT WORK.

By C. D. RACKHAM, J.P.

LEGISLATION AND CHILD WELFARE.

We have it on the authority of the Home Secretary himself that he is devoting most of his "exiguous holiday" to the study of two Reports. The reports which are being thus honoured are those of the committees on Sexual Offences against Young Persons and on the treatment of Young Offenders respectively. The object of the Home Secretary's studies is to arrive at a considered opinion as to the legislative action which should be taken to carry out the recommendations of the committees. Many months ago, in answering Lady Astor in the House of Commons, the Home Secretary said that legislation on the former of the two Reports must await the publication of the latter, as both of them involved certain alterations in the Children Act. The Report of the former committee appeared as long ago as Christmas, 1925, and it is greatly to be hoped that there is now no reason for any further delay in giving effect to the committee's recommendations.

There are several points at which the two committees coincide. Both recommend that when an offender is placed on probation at Assizes or Quarter Sessions no conviction should be recorded against him. Many people are under the impression that this is the case at present, as of course no conviction is recorded under similar circumstances at Petty Sessions. In a certain class of sexual offence, where a youth of previous good character is charged with an offence against a girl almost the same age and there are extenuating circumstances, probation may be the right method of treatment, and it is highly undesirable that a conviction should be recorded.

But much the most important recommendations on which the two committees are agreed are those which relate to neglected or ill-treated children. It has been found by social workers and others that there are certain loopholes in the Children Act which require to be filled if child-life and welfare are to be properly safeguarded. The committee on Young Offenders consider that the Children Act should be extended so as to ensure the protection of:—

(i) Children and young persons under 17 who have no parents or guardians, or parents or guardians who are unfit to take care of them or who do not exercise proper guardianship, where the court is satisfied that the children or young persons are falling into bad associations, or are exposed to moral danger, or are beyond control.

(ii) Children or young persons under 17 in respect of whom specified offences (such as cruelty or sexual offences) have been committed, or who are living in homes where such offences have been committed in respect of other children or young persons, and the court is satisfied that they require special protection.

The first category would include the difficult class of girl described in the Report of Offences against Young Persons: "Witnesses of varied experience have brought to our notice that there is an increase in the number of young girls who are beyond control, and who are living in a manner likely to lead to their downfall. . . . We have had instances reported to us in which girls have been misconducting themselves for over a year, staying out late at night, and defying every measure taken to restrain them. Parents have sought the advice of social workers and of the Juvenile Court, but there are no statutory powers to control such a girl unless, or until, she goes so far as to commit some offence, such as stealing." If the Children Act were extended so as to enable steps to be taken to protect young persons, boys and girls who are out of hand or who lack proper guardianship, by enabling them to be dealt with as beyond control, it would be possible, on the case being proved, to bind over the parents, or to place the young person on probation, or to commit to the care of a fit person."

The second recommendation deals with children whom both committees found to be inadequately protected by the law. There should be power to take measures for the protection of children whose father has been convicted of a grave indecent offence against any of his children, and the responsibility for taking such action should be placed upon the Petty Sessional Court, before whom the case was brought in the first instance. And money should be available from public funds to pay the "fit person" to whom such a child may be entrusted.

This legislation for the protection of children (important though it is) covers, of course, but a small portion of the field

(Continued on page 257.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: MISS MACADAM.
Parliamentary and General Secretary: MRS. HUBBACK.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

UNIONIST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND EQUAL FRANCHISE.

During the vacation we have been collecting further particulars about the attitude on Equal Franchise of Unionist Members of Parliament, from our records, from other Societies, and from the members themselves. We shall shortly be publishing a revised list of Unionist Members who have not declared themselves in support of Equal Franchise. It is this list which will form the objective of our winter campaign.

We have also compiled a constituency index which contains particulars of all women's organizations in every constituency in Great Britain and should be of great assistance to those Societies who are prepared to work in constituencies other than their own. Copies will be sent on request.

AUTUMN SCHOOL.—GLENBURN HYDROPATHIC, ROTHESAY.

The following is the programme of lectures for the above Autumn School, which is being organized by the Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A., in co-operation with the Edinburgh S.E.C.:—

Friday.—2.30 p.m., "Equal Franchise: Present Position, Future Action," Miss Helen Ward, Member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C. 5 p.m., "Scottish Bills," Miss Bury, Parliamentary Secretary of the N.U.S.E.C., Eastern Area of Scotland. 8 p.m., "Industrial Fatigue," Miss Enid Weatherhead, B.Sc., Glasgow University.

Saturday.—9.30 a.m., "Employment of Married Women," Miss Helen Ward. 11 a.m., "Problems of Population," D. T. Jack, Esq., M.A., Lecturer in Political Economy, Glasgow University. Afternoon free. Excursion round Bute. 8 p.m., "Legislation affecting Women: Factories Bill, Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill," Miss Helen Ward. 9.15 p.m., "Probation and Juvenile Delinquency," Miss Mackenzie, Warden of Atholl House, Glasgow.

Sunday.—4.45 p.m., "Women and the Church," Mrs. Albert Gray, Miss Helen Ward. 8 p.m., "Some Impressions of the Assembly of the League of Nations with special reference to the Report on the Traffic in Women and Children," Miss Helen Ward, Mrs. Albert Gray. 9 p.m., Meeting of Representatives of Societies in the Eastern and Western Areas of the Scottish Federation.

PERSONAL: MRS. HUBBACK'S RESIGNATION.

In last week's paper our readers will have seen with dismay that Mrs. Hubback has accepted the post of Principal to Morley College for Working Men and Women. This blow is only lightened by the knowledge that the close proximity of Morley College to Dean's Yard will make it possible, we hope, for us still to have the benefit of constant advice and guidance from Mrs. Hubback. How we should get on without this it would be hard to say, nor is it easy to measure what the Union has owed to its Parliamentary and General Secretary during the past ten years — to her fertile brain, great suggestiveness, skill in drafting, knowledge of parliamentary procedure and personalities, above all her great vitality, vivid personality, and active sympathy with every Society and member of a Society in all their efforts and difficulties. We have only space here to remind our readers of a single instance of this. It was Mrs. Hubback who had the brilliant thought of removing the inequality in the divorce laws between men and women by means of a single clause Act—the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1923—which she herself drafted (with legal assistance), persuaded parliamentary backers to sponsor, and shepherded through both Houses with less effort and opposition than any other measure with which we have been associated has ever cost us.

N.C.W. ANNUAL MEETING.—BOURNEMOUTH, 11th to 14th OCTOBER.

We have not as yet received a sufficient number of nominations for delegates to the above Conference. We should be glad to receive further nominations as soon as possible.

CONFERENCE ON FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

We refer in another column to the interesting public conference which has been arranged by the Family Endowment Society, at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C. 2, on the evening of Friday, 14th October, and the afternoon and evening of Saturday, 15th October. As this is the first public conference which has ever been organized on Family Allowances, we very much hope that all our Societies will make a particular point of sending as many delegates as possible. An endeavour will be made to arrange hospitality. As the

conference is being held over a week-end, it will be possible to take advantage of week-end tickets. The full programme will be sent on application to 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

RECEPTION TO DAME EDITH LYTTTELTON, D.B.E., and MRS. MOSS. Caxton Hall, Monday, 10th October, at 4.30 p.m.

We wish to remind our Societies of the above Reception to Dame Edith Lyttelton, D.B.E. (Substitute Delegate for Great Britain to the Assembly of the League of Nations), and Mrs. Moss (Substitute Delegate for Australia). Tickets (price 2s. 6d.) and leaflets are now obtainable on application to 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOTHER INDIA.

MADAM,—Your readers and yourself will doubtless have observed that controversy in India about the book *Mother India* is just getting well under weigh—that the professional politicians are infuriated at it and have held at Calcutta Town Hall a meeting of indignation against it (see *The Times* of 6th September); whilst Mrs. Savojini Naidu has publicly urged that reform of the evils it has exposed, rather than mere political vituperation should be India's answer to it (see *The Times* of 5th September). I am writing to you, not as one who has visited India and has any eye-witness to bring to bear, but as one who formerly edited the Congress organ *India*, and who in that capacity met the majority of India's present-day Nationalist leaders. To that extent I can claim direct acquaintance with their mentality, so I can well guess what feelings such a book will have aroused.

You have yourself penned one or two very able editorial notes stressing the very heavy responsibility which lies upon us British women if indeed our Indian sisters, fellow citizens with ourselves in one common Empire, are suffering in the passive yet horrible manner described in *Mother India*. To whatever extent the truth has been revealed the remedy is long overdue. But our great trouble is, what is the exact extent of truth revealed? May I make one practical suggestion? Indian politicians are well acquainted with the principle of the roving Commission of Inquiry. After the Amritsar calamity the Congress itself appointed a Commission which held an investigation parallel to that conducted by the Government under the name of the Hunter Commission. Both bodies issued Reports which attained world-wide publicity.

It is a very large, massive, *quantum* of evidence which we need before making up our minds and lending influence to reform policies. Everything Miss Mayo says may be literally true and yet misleading as to the *quantum*. May I be permitted to give an illustration? Some years ago I was asked by a most learned Indian gentleman for an English book of high calibre, and I sent him Thomas Hardy's *Mayor of Casterbridge*. Readers will remember that (as a sort of archaeological curiosity) there is an actual sale of a wife by a husband in that story. The net effect produced upon the mind of the recipient of my gift was expressed thus by him: "I did not know before this that your Englishmen had a practice of selling wives to strangers."

Now we should be resentfully amused if Indians on the strength of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* sent us missionaries to induce us to give up wife-selling! Please don't carry that illustration too far. I do myself personally believe that Miss Mayo has not over-coloured her picture, but at the same time as a lawyer I cannot agree that she has produced *enough* direct proof. One individual could not hope to do so; a lifetime would not suffice to survey 300 millions of people.

I therefore hope that some highly responsible body of women (I suggest the National Council of Women in its next annual Conference) might formally acquaint the Indian National Congress that it had officially taken note of the substance of the book *Mother India*, and that it requested Nationalist India to appoint a travelling Commission of Inquiry to take evidence as to the present day condition of women in the social life of India. The Commission ought to be composed very largely of women, the men members should be willing to retire when Purdah ladies gave evidence, and it would be highly desirable to have some women doctors (Indian naturally) upon it. Probably some legal women would also be of real use in reducing the evidence taken to helpful form—there are some Indian women barristers. One can imagine Miss Tata and or Miss Sorabji giving most useful advice upon such a Commission and perhaps Mrs. Savojini Naidu with her long experience of public life in India would be the right chairman.

Where we English women could aid would be in raising a fund to meet the heavy expenses entailed—and also in keeping off the Commission even if invited. Let it be an Indian inquiry into Indian conditions and then its presentations would not be annulled in the future by Indian Nationalist innuendo.

Apologizing for the length of this letter.

HELENA NOMANTON.

A Public Conference on Family Allowances

WILL BE HELD AT THE

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS,

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Chairman: LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.

Saturday, 2.30 p.m. PROF. V. H. MOTTRAM, on "The Physiological Basis of the Minimum Wage." 3.30 p.m. J. L. COHEN, Esq., on "Family Income Insurance." 4.30 p.m. TEA. 5.30 p.m. H. N. BRAILSFORD, Esq., on "The State and Family Allowances."

Chairman: JAMES MAXTON, Esq., M.P.

8.15 p.m. PRINCIPAL JOHN MURRAY on "Family Allowances in Industry."

For further particulars apply to the Hon. Secretary, Family Endowment Society, 4/24 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

GLASGOW SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP & GLASGOW WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION (amalgamated).

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Friday, 30th Sept. (Mid-day), to Monday, 3rd Oct., 1927.

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COMING EVENTS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 3. Scottish Summer School at Glenburn Hydropathic, Rothsay.

OCTOBER 10. Caxton Hall. 4.30. Reception to Dame Edith Lyttelton, British Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations.

Ashton-under-Lyne W.C.A. OCTOBER 5. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Bebington W.C.A. OCTOBER 4. 7.45 p.m. The Technical Institute, Boundary Road, New Ferry. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Birkenhead W.C.A. OCTOBER 5. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Bolton W.C.A. OCTOBER 6. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Farnworth W.C.A. OCTOBER 6. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Preston W.C.A. OCTOBER 3. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Waterloo W.C.A. OCTOBER 4. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18. 6.30 p.m. Jack Straw's Castle, Hampstead Heath. Equal Franchise Meeting. Speakers: Miss Ledden and others.

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LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1 (new address), requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 7s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square S.W. 1. Sunday, 18th September. 6.30, Maude Royden: "Lord Cecil, the League and Ourselves."

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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