

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Ratification at Last!

Without a division on Monday night, the House of Commons approved the ratification by the present Government of the Optional Clause of the League Covenant. Thus the will of the people confirms the Government's decision that in future Great Britain shall stand, in all justiciable international disputes, on the merits of her case as interpreted by the Permanent Court of International Justice. For many years the weight of organized women in Great Britain has, as Miss Picton-Turbervill pointed out in the course of the debate, been directed to this end. This particular task is now happily completed, and one more stone has been added to the edifice of constructive pacification. The last parliamentary stand against this almost universally welcome step was made on Monday night in the form of an amendment moved by Sir Austen Chamberlain, vigorously supported by Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson (and happily defeated), for the qualification of parliamentary approval by a limiting reservation designed to safeguard the freedom of the British fleet in war time. But it was not easy, in following the speeches of these two gentlemen, to distinguish their enthusiasm for this particular reservation from their general attitude of repugnance to the implications of international arbitration. Sir Austen's carefully phrased peroration on the historical influence of British sea-power sounded curiously like the pre-war Empire Day homily of a private school-master fresh from the study of Admiral Mahan. It was, at the present juncture, a singularly inept utterance—but what of it? Sir Austen addressed the House, as Sir Herbert Samuel pointed out, across a century of time. His voice was an insignificant echo. It has ceased to be of importance either in London or Geneva.

This Year, Next Year, Sometime . . .

We are not alone in deploring the Government's decision to postpone so much important legislation until the Autumn. Congestion there certainly is, but it is difficult to see why some of this should not have been removed by the methods usually adopted on similar occasions, such as the encroachment on Private Members' time. Private Members have had a good run for their money this session, and the subjects chosen for some of the Wednesdays will prove so barren as to be inevitably a waste of time. Mr. Lloyd George's obstruction is too thin an excuse. We feel bound to wonder whether the postponement of the long overdue Factories Bill and the Bill to embody the Washington Eight Hours Convention may not be accounted for by opposition on the part of the industrialists.

Births and Deaths.

The provisional birth- and death-rates issued by the Registrar-General for England and Wales during 1929, show some spectacular features. The birth-rate has fallen from 16.7 in 1928 to 16.3 in 1929—this gives us the lowest birth-rate on record. The death-rate has risen from 11.7 to 13.4. The rise in the death-rate is attributable to the ferocious weather conditions and the accompanying influenza epidemic which occurred in the early part of the year. It fell with great severity upon babies under one year; with the result that 1929 shows an infant mortality rate of 74 as compared with 1928's record low level of 65. It may be noted that this unprecedentedly low birth-rate, coinciding with a high death-rate conditioned by abnormally severe weather, still gives us a substantial natural increase of the population. We have not yet reached the "stationary state." The increase in the infant mortality rate is, however, a deplorable feature of 1929—a form of national wastage which we cannot tolerate with equanimity. Many of those babies died because they were inadequately housed, inadequately nursed, inadequately doctored, and inadequately fed. They died because their parents were poor and ignorant. Their death is a national reproach.

Organized Women in India.

Delegates from all parts of India, including the Indian States as well as British India, attended the fourth session of the All-India Women's Conference in Bombay last week. The procedure as reported in *The Times* is sometimes reminiscent of our own Councils; its programme included such subjects as equal guardianship, the removal of untouchability, the suppression of dedication of women in temples, the abolition of enforced purdah, and enforced widowhood. Education naturally occupied an important place, and resolutions were passed in favour of the establishment of a central college for the training of women teachers. Lady Sykes opened the conference, and Mrs. Naidu, who presided, alluded to the passing of the Child Marriage Act as the great achievement of 1929. It is significant that the report of a women's conference in India should occupy a considerable and conspicuous space in the English papers the day after it takes place. We hope that fuller details will follow.

Lady Simon and Modern Slavery.

Women's organizations are thoroughly roused on the subject of slavery. The British Commonwealth League held a luncheon last week presided over by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, at which Lady Simon, Mr. John Harris, and Miss Nina Boyle were the chief speakers, and an important conference on the subject has been convened by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, for Wednesday, 12th February. At the luncheon Lady Simon pleaded for a crusade against slavery as it still exists in nineteen political areas of the world and referred to incredible conditions which still prevail in Abyssinia. Mr. Harris quoted from a missionary in China some first-hand facts of the slavery of children accompanied by cruelty. Miss Boyle, who introduced this question in our own columns some months ago, made a stirring appeal for the women victims of slavery still to be found under the British flag.

Mui-tsai.

We welcome Dr. Shiels' assurances, printed elsewhere in this issue, in reply to a question from Miss Picton-Turbervill, that the regulations for the protection of children registered as mui-tsai in Hong-Kong are steadily being put into force. In her recent book, Lady Simon recounts the steps that have been taken by successive Governments to abolish this scandal. It has taken full fifty years to reach the present stage, still far from complete, as Major Haslewood, who with his wife, here worked

unceasingly for years to secure this reform, points out in a timely warning in the *Shield*. Ceaseless vigilance is still necessary, he tells us, for the same officials who raised obstacles in the past are now called upon to put the law into operation. We hope and believe that it will not require the work of half a century to do away with some of the hideous customs of domestic servitude which have recently been revealed in other parts of the world for which Great Britain is responsible. Women have votes now, and there are already signs that they will not tolerate the existence of such conditions.

Family Allowances in the Navy.

The complete unanimity of all the speakers connected with the Navy in the debate in the House of Commons on 23rd January on marriage allowances to Naval officers of the rank of lieutenant and above, was very significant. It was unfortunate that the House was counted out before the Government had made its reply, and before a division could take place. We fear that our Parliamentary Correspondent is right in thinking that this shows a disposition on the part of the Government to shelve the situation. But we trust that its naval advocates will show the traditional tenacity of the Senior Service in sticking to their guns.

The I.L.P. and Family Allowances.

The conference of women representing 140 branches of the I.L.P. held at Gateshead recently, devoted the whole of its time to a discussion of Family Allowances in a multitude of aspects—and indeed this is no disproportionate mead of attention to bestow upon this vital and far-reaching subject. In considering various alternative systems, members of the conference, in conformity with I.L.P. policy, plumped heavily for a State scheme involving a measure of redistribution as between rich and poor. We suspect that in this matter logic and sound economics are on their side—but it is clear enough that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is not, and we greatly hope that neither they nor anybody else will shut their eyes to the possibilities of partial or sectional schemes which may be calculated (as is the way of British social experiment) to incline men's minds eventually towards a national scheme.

Local Authorities and Birth Control.

Further information has come through during the past week, concerning the action of Local Authorities in response to the Shoreditch Borough Council's demand for support in its request to the Ministry of Health for leave to provide information on birth control through the medium of the local public health service. Recently we recorded the decision of the Bootle Borough Council and of the Birkenhead Health Committee to support the Shoreditch request. We now learn that the St. Helen's Council has taken similar action. The Hove Council has, however, decided to take no action in the matter. In Manchester it has been considered by the Public Health Committee, where the majority of the Labour members warmly supported the Shoreditch recommendation; the Committee, however, decided to take no action. In all probability it will be raised again at the next meeting of the Manchester City Council. Meanwhile, in Greenwich, a proposal of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to support, with reservations, the Shoreditch proposal, was referred back after what seems to us a singularly ill-informed discussion.

Anæsthetics in Childbirth.

It is nearly a year since Lady Williams in these columns first called attention to the suffering of mothers in childbirth owing to the lack of provision of anæsthetics. On 10th January we published a letter from the Queen Charlotte Hospital, stating that, largely due to the efforts of Lady Williams, one resident anæsthetist had been provided at Queen Charlotte's, the largest voluntary maternity hospital in the country, and that another was urgently required. The matter has now gone further; the scheme proposed by Mrs. Baldwin in connection with the National Birthday Trust Fund for the extension of maternity services, has been supplemented by an appeal for funds to meet the requirements of hospitals in the London area which appeared in *The Times* on Monday of this week, signed by the Duchess of Atholl, the Duchess of Portland, Mrs. Baldwin, Lord Buckmaster, and Lord Carson. This appeal should meet a ready response for, as the appeal points out, it works for the discharge of a deep and heavy debt rather than a gift to those who suffer in giving life. No money will be spent on administrative expenses, as Lady Balfour of Burleigh (31 Bedford Gardens, W. 8) has undertaken to be treasurer, so that immediate results should

follow in London in the first instance and later throughout the whole country. One question, however, makes a stop in our mind. Are anæsthetics given in maternity hospitals formerly under the Poor Law Authorities, and now to be taken over by Public Health Committees, or is voluntary action once more going to show the way?

What Wallsend Cannot Do.

At a recent meeting of the Wallsend Education Committee the question of dismissing married women teachers arose out of a report by the staffing Sub-Committee that an application had been received from a teacher asking to continue service after marriage. According to the *Shields Daily News*, the Chairman dealt with the matter by pointing out "that they could not dismiss any teacher except on the grounds of lack of ability"—so presumably the request was duly granted. It is, however, an unfortunate fact—established by legal decision in the Poole case—that an education authority *can* dismiss a teacher on the irrelevant ground in question. But doubtless the Chairman of the Wallsend Education Committee used the word "can" in a moral sense; as one might say, "We cannot, consistently with our duty to the personal rights of our fellow citizens and the well-being of our school service, dismiss . . ." If so, we heartily agree with him!

The Distressed Areas.

Out of sight is out of mind. The distressed areas are well out of the beaten track of British travellers on the Great North or Great West Roads, and it is easy to assume that all is well. There is indeed a vague assumption on the part of those who think about it at all that the situation has improved, or at all events, that it can be adequately coped with by the organization set up last winter. A statement issued by the Coalfields Distress Committee of the Society of Friends clears our minds as to the present position. The number of unemployed men has it is true gone down, but reports from South Wales show that in November, 1929, there were still no fewer than 72,000, and the need for help is still urgent. The Lord Mayor's Fund will continue to help the families of the unemployed, and will give grants for outfits for men or women who have found employment, and for certain special purposes. The Friends Committee is making special efforts to supplement this by different kinds of constructive help. Not the least valuable is the formation of training clubs offering one day's work as well as social and mental amenities, and their scheme of allotments which is to be extended to new districts. Many well-to-do towns have already "adopted" a distressed locality, but much more must be done in this direction. We commend the admirably drafted appeal of the Friends' Committee to the notice of our readers (copies may be had from Friends' House, Euston Road, N.W. 1). Relief is necessary, but relief is not enough. There must be some personal contact. Sir Arthur Lowry and Dr. Pearce, in their report on the South Wales Coalfields, stressed the aspect of depression and listlessness that they observed. The work of the Friends (well named) brings new hope and energy to dispel the despair of prolonged compulsory idleness, and we who are more fortunately placed must support it.

"A Room of One's Own."

In an interview recently with a representative of the *Daily Telegraph*, Miss Jeraldine Jebb, the new Principal of Bedford College, made an urgent plea for increased endowments for the higher education of women. There was, she said, a complete lack of organization, and endowments were very few and far between. "In this direction higher education for women is still sadly handicapped." Her own college, she added, could not provide sufficient residential accommodation and a considerable number of potential students had always to be turned away. Her plea is a prompt and practical echo of Virginia Woolf's notable essay: *A Room of One's Own*—with its delicately drawn chain of sequence between the fruition of women's creative genius and the penurious finance of their higher educational environment. We hope that these lines may catch the eye of some dying or decrepit millionaire.

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

THE PROBLEM OF THE SLUMS.

The Prime Minister stated in the House last week that the Slum Clearance Bill would be introduced shortly. Considerable discussions are taking place among those particularly concerned with the problem, such as the Local Authorities who have had some information with regard to the general lines of the Bill. Shortly before the Prime Minister's statement, a letter from Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Mr. E. D. Simon appeared in *The Times*, drawing attention to what is the kernel of the slum clearance problem, that is, the rehousing of the slum dwellers in new houses. They went on to stress the argument familiar to our readers, that those whose poverty is due not only to their wages, but also to their having large families, would only be able to afford new houses if an additional subsidy such as a children's rent allowance were given.

But a leading article in the same issue of *The Times*, commenting on their letter, brings us sharply against what, with all respect to our great contemporary, we cannot help calling ill-informed and prejudiced criticism, and a sad failure to grasp the essentials of the problem. So much weight is attached in many high quarters to the views expressed in *The Times*, that we feel it worth while to attempt to show where we consider their article to be most at fault.

In referring to the Bill, the article expresses the hope that its main object will be the duty of dealing with the slums in situ. It refers to the desire of people to live near their work, and to the fear of expensive fares, as being reasons why slums persist. We readily admit that in any slum clearance scheme a certain proportion of the inhabitants will need to be rehoused in the same area, though as town planning and transport facilities develop, this need will become increasingly less. In view of the fact, however, that any plan to rehouse even a proportion of the dispossessed on the same site will inevitably continue to be an extraordinarily expensive process, and in view also of the desirability of having children brought up where there are open spaces and fresh air, slum clearance must inevitably be preceded by the building of new houses, suitable for families, at a rent which the former slum dwellers can pay. Build new houses first; induce as many former slum dwellers as possible to move out—then the problem of how to deal with the remainder becomes manageable. If, however, an attempt is made to start the other way round, i.e. to rehouse before the new houses are built, the only result can be further overcrowding in neighbouring areas

and very slow progress. By the very nature of the case it is impossible, even were it desirable on economic and hygienic grounds—and it is not—to rehouse all the inhabitants of a slum on the same site.

We feel therefore that the main condition of a so-called "slum clearance bill" is that it should be first and foremost, a "house building bill," as, given the vast amount of overcrowding which still exists, it is only by having a large number of new houses that the problem can be solved.

The Times proceeded to criticize the proposal for children's rent rebates on the ground "that it includes all the disadvantages of a selective subsidization of wages out of public funds, which proved so disastrous in the days before the Poor Law Commission of 1834." We feel, however, that not even the most reactionary individualist could imagine that to reduce the rent for a small section of the workers in any industry, or in any district, for the few years during which their children are young, could possibly affect so large a proportion of workers as to have any effect whatsoever on wages, moreover, the new rent thus reduced is not likely to be less than that now being paid. It is not always remembered by those who argue against this recognition of the family responsibilities of the working classes, that every income tax payer receives a rebate amounting to nearly 5s. and 4s. per week for his eldest and other children respectively. This is nearly four times as much as is being asked for the children of the workers.

With regard to the prospective cost of building, *The Times* also makes some amazing statements. It quotes Sir Tudor Walters as saying that there is no reason why the price of houses should not be brought down to £260, at which price, states *The Times*, the economic rent works out at 6s. per week. In giving this figure of 6s. a week, however, *The Times* has forgotten to include rates, cost of roads, drainage, etc., and adequate arrangements for the repayment of capital. Moreover, Sir Tudor Walters stands alone in thinking that the cost of building of a three bedroom house can, as far as we can yet see, be brought down to a price less than £360, which represents an inclusive rent, not of 6s. a week, but of 10s.

We await the Government Bill with some trepidation, and feel that it must be judged not only or even mainly on the opportunities it gives to rehouse those who cannot move out on the present sites, but on the inducements given to local authorities to move the child slum dwellers to better surroundings.

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

The last week of Parliamentary sittings before Christmas was so full of excitement—of hot feeling and brilliant oratory over the disputed Coal Bill, of relief at a hair-breadth escape from a Government defeat followed by a General Election, and of enjoyment of the really first-class pugilistic encounter between Mr. Snowden and Mr. Winston Churchill—that the meetings of the first week after the recess have seemed all the flatter by contrast. It has been rather like coming back with the flavour of the Christmas turkey and pudding still in one's mouth to sit down to a diet of resurrection pie and boiled potatoes. Members who stole an illicit extra week's holiday have been rewarded instead of punished. However, we have clearly plenty of excitement ahead of us in the renewed discussions on the Coal Bill and in the impending tussle over the Lords' amendments to the Insurance Bill and we have already begun this week with one first-class debate on the Optional Clause.

The solidest if not the tastiest ingredient of the resurrection pie was the first debate on the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Labour, which enabled Miss Bondfield and her understudy Mr. Lawson to make a statement regarding the position of training centres for the unemployed. We are learning to be thankful for small mercies in this connection and Parliament, so it is something to know that out of over a million unemployed, the training centres for handy men offer 3,300 places, those for overseas training 1,220 places and that the Zoological Society was prepared to give continuous work for two years to 160 men, which would be "a great help for the transference schemes and would help the distressed areas". We finished off the day appropriately by talking out (for the second time) the Second Reading of the Collecting Charities Bill. Meantime, the House of Lords had been discussing the much-disputed "genuinely-seeking-work" condition and the famous Clause 4 which replaces it in the present Bill. Needless to say, their Lordships led by Lord Banbury were deeply concerned at the thought of anyone being tempted by the new clause to live in idleness at the expense

of others, and they finally decided to delete the clause by 94 votes to 14. At least no one can say that they were not speaking here out of a large fund of personal experience, but they cannot have had much hope that their decision would be accepted in the Lower House and we are awaiting with interest the result of the conflict.

22nd January was wasted (in the eyes of many of us) over a quite unnecessarily protracted debate over a Private Member's motion to appoint a Committee to consider the hours of sitting of the House. It is quite true and worth saying, that sittings ending at 11 p.m. and often much later come hardly on Members who have to travel a long distance to reach their lodgings and cannot afford taxis. It is also quite true and worth saying, that to occupy the mornings with sittings of the House would destroy for many of us every chance of really fitting ourselves for our legislative duties by concentrated reading and writing and would also make the work of Committees and of Ministerial Offices extremely difficult. But both these obvious truths could surely have been expounded and illustrated in something less than a solid four and a half hours talking, resulting in the appointment of the desired Committee by a small majority. Then began in a very thin House a discussion on marriage allowances for naval officers. To the protagonists of Family Allowances, it must have been cheering to hear one distinguished officer after another pleading for this reform, reminding the House of the overwhelming expert opinion in favour of it pronounced by the Goodenough Committee some five years ago and reminding the present Government of its previous declarations of support and of the opportunity now given them to translate those declarations into reality. Unfortunately, the solitary representative of the Government on the Front Bench did not appear anxious to grasp the opportunity. Anyhow, when a count was demanded the Members who rolled in from the adjacent lobbies and smoking rooms were observed to have a word or two at the door of the Chamber with the Government Whips and then melted silently

away, so that when the count was taken the requisite forty righteous men were not found; the House was adjourned, and the Government saved once again from declaring publicly that they found it inconvenient to carry out their previous promises.

On 23rd January the chief ingredient added to the resurrection pie was sugar beet and again the amount of attention devoted to that useful but uninteresting vegetable seemed disproportionate. Then we passed on to Land Drainage in Scotland and most of us paid silent tribute to the principle of Scotch Home Rule by leaving the Scots to settle that question by themselves.

In real significance, Monday's debate began and began well the work of the third quarter of this protracted session. Mr. Arthur Henderson's opening speech, read slowly and carefully with several repetitions of significant phrases (a not unimpressive trick which is probably useful when addressing foreign audiences), was lucid and weighty and not lacking in eloquent passages. The Opposition case as set forth by Sir Austen Chamberlain, was also weightily delivered, but it did indeed bring home the truth of Sir Herbert Samuel's commentary that the debate was "almost a debate between two centuries; not a debate between two sides of the House, but a debate between 1930 and 1830." For my part, I would give the palm to Sir Herbert for the best speech in this debate and would unhesitatingly award the prize for the silliest saying of the week to the criticism on it by Sir William Mitchell Thompson, who wound up the Opposition case and who charged Sir Herbert with "labyrinths of woolly generalities." I have never yet heard a speech of Samuel's which deserved that criticism. He is a perfect master of statements that are at once lucid and simple, morally impressive and intellectually convincing, delivered with an air of most engaging modesty, as though he would say "I am a plain man and don't wish to dogmatize but this is how it strikes me." First-class speeches were also delivered by Mr. Noel Baker and Dr. Burgin, these two being among the few speakers who stuck throughout to the really difficult points concerning the actual application of the proposed reservations and how they would work out in concrete cases, instead of enlarging on general considerations applicable rather to the whole principle of settlement of disputes by arbitration than to the particular form of that principle which we were discussing.

Two of the women members, Miss Picton-Turbervill and Lady Cynthia Moseley, made creditable contributions to the debate, though evading its more technical aspects.

But perhaps its most interesting feature psychologically was the maiden speech of Mr. Norman Angell. As I heard it, I seemed to suffer an optical delusion. I was looking down a long long tunnel like a tube railway. From its distant end there shone the lights of an illuminated advertisement, which read "The Great Illusion". Down the tunnel there was running a figure which emerged into the light as a spare little elderly man, with grey hair and worn features, the author of that famous book, so falsified in one sense, so justified in another. May it prove to be no great illusion that in signing the Optional Clause, we have made a great step forward in the cause of permanent peace.

CROSS BENCH.

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THE TOLL OF THE ROADS.

By A Correspondent.

It has been suggested in this paper that the appalling death and accident rate from motor accidents is a matter to which women's organizations might turn their attention. The public that was recently deeply moved at the loss of twenty lives in a gale at sea and the death of seventy children in a cinema disaster appears strangely insensitive to the daily tragedies of the road, in which children and helpless persons form a large percentage of the victims. Perhaps imagination becomes blunted to horrors which are of constant occurrence, and the monotony of fatality lists in the daily Press fails to make any lasting impression.

Fortunately, thanks largely to Viscount Cecil, who raised the question in the House of Lords, public inaction has been stirred. A much-discussed Road Traffic Bill is before the country; an important conference on accidents in the London traffic area this month convened by the Minister of Transport, has passed important recommendations; the Press has found that articles and correspondence on the pros and cons of speed limits and other suggested remedies have good publicity value. It is not, of course, suggested that no efforts have hitherto been made to reduce the evil. On the contrary, the Automobile Association, the Royal Automobile Club, the Safety First Association, and some local authorities have done what they can to make motoring fool proof. But notwithstanding this, the percentage of casualties fatal and otherwise shows not a decrease but an actual increase each year. Everybody has said "something must be done" and turned away to do something else. To-day there is a tendency to say "Thank goodness something is going to be done at last." But this is clearly a matter that cannot be solved by legislation alone, and the object of this article is to press the suggestion that Women Citizens' Associations, Women's Institutes, and Townswomen's Guilds everywhere should give the problem their immediate and resolute consideration.

It may be useful to start off with some facts gleaned from an article in the January number of *Safety First*, the official journal of the Safety First movement. The figures quoted are drawn from coroners' returns, and readers who wish to pursue the subject further will find statistics for 1926, 1927, and 1928 reprinted in the first report of the Royal Commission on Transport. The period covered by the article is July and August, last year, holiday months when the total number of all fatal street accidents was 781, resulting in the deaths of 815 persons. Of these, 376 were pedestrians, 199 motor cyclists, 36 motor drivers, and 98 pedal cyclists. A table gives the contributory causes in order of frequency. The first two run each other close: (1) "Motor drivers, driving too fast, having regard to all the circumstances" accounts for 14.46 of the accidents, while (2) "Pedestrians, stepping off footway without looking" for 13.70 per cent. Causes numbered three and four come equally close: (3) "Drivers, collision at road junction" 6.91; and (4) "children playing in streets" 6.02. Beginners will be relieved to learn that inexperience accounts for very few, and temperance reformers may at first sight be disappointed to find that drink is only responsible for 1/3 per cent disasters. But who can say to what extent even a moderate amount of alcohol is responsible for failures or errors of judgment "on the part of drivers"?

The article sums up the points of interest which emerge from these figures, and we select three of special significance. First, under 1 per cent of the accidents were classified as being entirely unavoidable. Second, under 3 per cent of motor drivers were women, though in the case of pedal cyclists 12 per cent women were involved. Third, over half of the pedestrians killed were under 15 years of age.

What is the remedy? We pin some hopes to the Road Traffic Bill. It raises the minimum age for motor cyclists to 16, and for drivers of heavy cars to 21, and a declaration of physical fitness is in future to be demanded. No test of competence is, however, to be imposed, and the above figures appear to bear out the contention that inexperience is an infrequent cause of trouble. The most reckless driver could probably pass any given test of efficiency in his sleep. Turning to the question of speed limits, the Bill proposes to abolish the speed limit for light motor cars and motor cycles and to continue a graduated scale of speeds for heavy vehicles. The present speed limit is of course a joke; on the other hand there is much to be said for a compulsory reduction in London and large towns. The limits imposed by traffic conditions are not always sufficient as the bad record of the Embankments, where space is often comparatively clear,

shows. Another clause in the Bill gives power to the authorities to inquire into the cause of any motor accident solely with the object of seeking solutions. As many accidents happily neither lead to a coroner's inquest nor the police court, this should give valuable additional data on which to base future remedies. Third party insurance is to be made compulsory and the number of driving hours on commercial cars is to be limited. Penalties are to be made severer. Two very important additions were made during Report stage in the House of Lords last week. The first required insurance to cover expenses incurred for hospital treatment. The second which will appeal to every country dweller was proposed by Lord Cecil—that it should be the duty of a highway authority to provide proper and sufficient footpaths. If this provision becomes law, Women's Institutes may surely be trusted to see that the new powers are utilized.

Societies should not, however, wait until the Bill reaches the Statute Book. Now is the time for action. Local figures should be obtained and scrutinized. Safeguarding efforts should be examined and weak spots pointed out by pedestrian or motorist alike; inadequate pavements or footpaths should be reported; conferences of parents and teachers as well as ordinary citizens with those in authority should be organized. If the public really makes up its mind that there shall be an end to the present wholesale slaughter on the highways and byways of our towns and country places, an improvement will speedily be visible. Hitherto the Safety First movement has been regarded as a man's job. We are grateful for what has been done, but let us see what women can do.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Wednesday, 22nd January, 1930.

HONG-KONG (MUI-TSAI SYSTEM).

Miss Picton-Turbervill (for Colonel Wedgwood) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any and, if so, what steps are being taken to protect the registered mui-tsai in Hong-Kong from cruelty.

Dr. Shiels: The girls are free to leave their employers, and in any case the law now provides for their conditions of employment, their inspection, and the punishment of employers guilty of cruelty. It also gives power to remove from the employer any mui-tsai if it is decided to be in the girl's interest.

Miss Picton-Turbervill: Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us whether there has been any information since Lord Passfield's letter of 22nd August and the White Paper of November, and also whether the registration is duly being enforced in view of the fact that there are 10,000 of these mui-tsai, half of whom are under the age of 14?

Dr. Shiels: Yes, the regulations of which the House has been informed are steadily being put into force, and I think that it is true to say that the worst abuses which have been complained of in regard to this matter have already disappeared, and we hope that in a very short time the state of things in Hong-Kong in this connection will be entirely satisfactory.

27th January.

GREAT BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES (PASSPORTS).

Mr. Hannon asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that in the case of a woman of British citizenship marrying an American citizen she is bound to report her change of nationality to the local police; if the married lady desires to accompany her husband to the United States of America she is still regarded as a British subject, and must secure a passport with a visa of an American consul; and if, through diplomatic channels, he can secure an arrangement with the United States of America by which a lady in such circumstances may accompany her husband as an American citizen or travel to join her husband in the ordinary way without the grant of a temporary passport by the Home Office.

Mr. A. Henderson: Any woman of British nationality marrying a United States citizen thereby ceases to be a British subject under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act of 1914, and becomes an alien, subject as such to the requirements of the Aliens Order, including registration with the police. Under United States law, however, an alien woman marrying a United States citizen does not thereby become a United States citizen. A British woman in such circumstances therefore becomes a stateless person, and is not entitled to receive any national passport unless in the particular case she becomes a United States citizen by naturalization. For the purpose of travelling to the United States either with or without her husband, she is provided with a form of affidavit by the United States Consulate-General,

to which a United States visa is fixed. I am afraid that in view of the law in force in the United States it would not be possible to request the United States Government to issue United States passports in cases of this sort.

Mr. Hannon: Does not this reveal a very anomalous state of affairs, and would not the right hon. Gentleman in these times, when such a kindly spirit exists between the two countries, use his influence to bring about an adjustment of this awkward and embarrassing relationship?

Mr. Henderson: Yes, it is quite anomalous, but we cannot cure in six months what the late Government failed to do in four years.

AN AMERICAN WOMAN'S "GREAT WAR."¹

This is the "best War novel" of America, judged to the tune of a £2,500 prize won by its authoress. The story of Anne Wentworth and her experiences in France between 1917 and the Armistice is founded on the authoress' own two years there, first with a Base Hospital unit in Bordeaux, and afterwards in Paris with the American Air Service as "stenog" to a High Hat, and, finally, disgusted with red tape and the senseless sexuality of 1917 Paris, as a Y.M.C.A. canteen worker in the Zone of Advance and the Army of Occupation in Germany.

War, to this American girl, was unromantic, smelly, almost bloodless, exhausting and seldom stimulating, and messy on every page with the unceasing love affairs of all but Anne. Anne was sensitive within her limitations, serious, oh! so very serious, but abnormally preoccupied even for a war with food and the sex experiences of her fellow workers. These last are told with a pre-war obscurity, and Anne's own were nil. On the last of the 690 pages, Anne gets a letter announcing the engagement of the man who has said that he would remain celibate unless she would have him. Anne, though she wouldn't have him, believed him, and it is small wonder that we are told that "the soup of life" had for the moment grown cold for her!

That unnecessarily ugly adjective is characteristic of the whole book. The U.S. Nurses, if Anne was typical, were obsessed with the idea of food and drink. "Say, girls, aren't we having a good time?" "Say, I had the swellest tea with Evans." "Say, girls, it's a great War!" War was a material and not a political event. Our comfortable New England security gone, baths and polite conversation, culture, all was gone. For Anne there was never, though regretting these, any thought of the war's political significance, and it was never grim or tragic, only silly. In so far as men's bodies were mutilated, and driven to satisfy a physical urge, under "Red lights" and "Blue lights" (seldom tempered even with affection), Anne saw its piteousness. But it was all material and physical. The book exhausts us, but rather from boredom than any keener "reaction" to war as Miss Lee portrays it. Sincerely horrified as she is, we have now had "Good-bye to all that", have had Remarque and Edmund Blunden, as well as her own countrymen, the authors of *Diary of a War Bird* and the *Enormous Room*. Miss Lee has nothing to add, and her literary style is bad. She labours a cliché, and her almost total absence of verbs makes reading a tiresome and irritating task.

Miss Lee thinks that "what women voters ought to have was facts about the War." We agree, and facts written by a woman would have had a certain interest. We must regret therefore that this book contains so few facts, and so much feeling. Anne felt, and her creator feels but rarely thinks. It is a pedestrian and painstaking record, but disappointing. Nor can we congratulate Anne on the feminists she met in New York after the War, for "their need of Causes . . . stars to hitch their empty wagons". Evidently Anne's experiences on the "Home Front" were going to be equally unfortunate and thin.

I. G. G.

¹ *It's a Great War!* by Mary Lee. (George Allen and Unwin. 1930. 690 pages. 10s.)

THE OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

A SUPPER

will be held on

Thursday, 13th February, at 7 p.m.

at

Pinoli's Restaurant, Wardour Street, W. 1.

Speaker: DR. JANE WALKER, J.P.

"FACTORY LEGISLATION: THE HEALTH OF WOMEN IN INDUSTRY"

Chairman: MRS. ELIZABETH ABBOTT.

The Supper is open to all who are interested. No tickets required.
Supper 2/6 exclusive of wine, etc.

MISS M. J. TUKE.

Principal of Bedford College, 1907-29.

Miss Tuke has retired from Bedford College. The news makes an old student of hers sit down and muse.

Scene I.—A new student arrives on her first day at College, awkward and shy in a strange environment. She waits in a long queue outside the Principal's office. At last her turn comes to enter and she finds herself facing a short woman with grey hair and kindly eyes, who, in a very few moments, helps her make the difficult decisions about her courses. But at the same time Miss Tuke has done more than this. Some artists can, with half-a-dozen seemingly careless lines, draw a perfect representation of an object. Miss Tuke possesses the even rarer gift of, with a few words, stimulating a whole new mental outlook in her hearers. The new student leaves the office five minutes after she entered it, no longer a self-conscious schoolgirl, but rich with enthusiasm for the wide life opening up before her.

Scene II.—A group of third-year students are full of schemes for the welfare of the College. They lay them before the Principal. She is the perfect listener, and then when all the facts are before her she quietly offers that mixture of criticism and encouragement which is most helpful. A general meeting of all the students is summoned, and onto the platform steps a tiny woman attractive to look at with her grey hair, grey eyes, grey dress and grey shoes. She speaks and her audience remains spellbound till when she finishes, a roar of applause bursts forth, and the floor rocks with the stamping of feet. An American Professor of Psychology is experimenting on methods of obtaining an objective measurement of the degree of attention of different audiences. He fixes recording instruments under the seat of each chair, and reckons that the interest aroused is in inverse proportion to the number of wriggles recorded. If this theory is true, Miss Tuke's audiences would certainly be as still as any that could be found.

Scene III.—A past student returns to College for some function after several years' absence. She looks vainly round for contemporaries, and feels perhaps a little forlorn. But then Miss Tuke comes up to her and all is well, for Miss Tuke's fairy godmother gave her at birth that most gracious gift of making the people she is with feel at their best and happiest.

Three very ordinary scenes have been chosen to show Miss Tuke's influence at Bedford College. However, the whole college life of any student fortunate enough to be with her was permeated by her personality. Scholarly, humorous, kindly, and above all, broad-minded and mentally fearless, she seems to typify the culture that a University life offers.

During the twenty-two years that Miss Tuke was Principal, Bedford College grew from strength to strength, what a large proportion of this success is due directly to Miss Tuke's wisdom and energy can only be realized by those who had the privilege of working with her.

"AN OLD BEDFORD COLLEGE STUDENT."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. ALFRED HUGHES. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. RYLAND.
General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BALLOT.

We solicited the help of a number of friendly Members of Parliament in the hope that one of them might secure a place in the ballot for resolutions, and would thus be able to raise the question of the Nationality of Married Women, but none was successful in securing a place. Since time was not found for the second reading of the Bill on this matter introduced on our behalf by Captain Cazalet, we had wanted the House of Commons to be given an opportunity of giving a mandate to the British delegates to the Conference on the Codification of International Law which is to be held at the Hague in March.

DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE.

In response to the offer made by Mr. Clynnes to the deputation of women's organizations, when he said that the Government might consider appointing a woman in some capacity to the British delegation, who would, however, be bound by Government instructions, and asked for nominations, the N.U.S.E.C. after very careful consideration has submitted the name of Dr. Ivy Williams as a woman lawyer whose qualifications render

her exceptionally well suited for the post, although her views do not entirely coincide with those of the women's organizations. The N.U.S.E.C., in conjunction with the other organizations, is urging the Government also to allow a woman to be attached as an assessor or technical advisor who would be free from Government instructions and able to represent the organized women's point of view on nationality. In the hope that our request will be granted, we have nominated for this post Miss Chrystal Macmillan who, as all our members know, has made this question very specially her own.

GUARANTEE FUND, 1930-2.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following further promises and donations to this Fund, which have been given in addition to those already acknowledged in this column on 13th December.

	£	s.	d.
Promises received to 13th December, 1929	416	6	0
Auerbach, Mrs. (Earmarked Townswomen's Guilds)	5	0	0
Brunner, Miss Clara C.	2	0	0
Buchanan, Miss M. J.	1	0	0
Bulmer, Mrs. Fred	5	0	0
Elgood, Miss J. O. S.	10	0	0
Fawcett, Miss P. G.	1	1	0
Freeman, Mrs.	1	0	0
Gray, Mrs.	5	0	0
Hoc, Miss Mary	10	10	0
Lowe, Councillor Mrs.	1	0	0
MacIver, Mrs.	1	1	0
Munro, Mrs.	1	1	0
Pollock, Mrs.	3	0	0
Stocks, Mrs.	3	3	0
Wicksteed, Mrs.			
	466	7	0

	£	s.	d.
Advance payments (for 3 years) and Donations received to 13th December	31	0	0
Cholmeley, R. F., Esq.	1	1	0
Elliot-Nish, Mrs.	15	0	0
Fraser, Miss K. P.	2	0	0
Gandell, Mrs.	70	0	0
Humphreys, Mrs. Noel	1	1	0
Pierce, Miss Ruth	1	1	0
Radford, Mrs.	2	0	0
Scott-Moncrieff, Lady	9	0	0
Spicer, Miss Charlotte	1	1	0
Spicer, Miss Harriet	1	1	0
Tod, Miss Harriet E.	10	0	0
	134	15	0

CONFERENCE ON THE FORMATION OF SOCIETIES IN LONDON.

An informal conference of representatives of a number of the affiliated Societies in and near London was held at Church House on Tuesday, 28th January, to consider the formation of societies in other parts of Greater London. A most interesting discussion took place which should prove of great value in the organization of societies in the various districts of London where at present there is no affiliated society.

PERSONAL.

MRS. HANNA.

We feel sure that her many friends in the National Union will hear with great regret that Mrs. Hanna, Vice-President of the National Union and ex-President of the Petersfield S.E.C., has been seriously ill for some months. All those who have had the privilege of meeting her and have known the devotion which she has shown to the Cause, will unite with us in wishing her a complete return to health.

MRS. CARTWRIGHT.

We greatly regret, also, to have to announce that another suffragist, Mrs. Cartwright, of Oswestry, is ill, and no longer able to take the active part which until quite recently, she has played in the work of the National Union. The many friends and acquaintances who have known her during her long association with the woman's suffrage movement will, we are sure, wish to join with us in an expression of good wishes for her complete return to health.

A CLUB FOR NEW VOTERS.

Particulars have come to Headquarters of a Club for New Voters, inaugurated by the Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A., which we believe will be of great interest, not only to those in Glasgow who may be fortunate enough to enjoy the amenities offered by it, but also to those in other districts who feel that a Club on similar lines would be of value. This club, the inaugural meeting

of which was held on 13th January, aims at giving an opportunity to girls and young women of meeting for discussion and debate on current topics of civic, social, and Parliamentary interest. The programme for the first quarter of the year includes such stimulating subjects as the Suffrage Movement and the Growth and Development of Local Government, and at each meeting shorter items such as talks on "Should Girls have the same education as Boys", etc., and a Mock Town Council Meeting, will offer excellent opportunities for the ordinary member to take an active share in the proceedings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PEOPLE'S POET.

MADAM,—As a reader of yours and also the *People's Paper* containing the "Fragrant Minutes" of Wilhelmina Stitch referred to by your correspondent "H. B.," I cannot let the intelligence of the average lover of poetry be so ridiculed or let such a display of superiority pass without comment.

H. B. (which I assume stands for "High-Brow") should know that the love of poetry in school children must have a beginning, and that among other efforts, memorizing Wilhelmina may well benefit them all through their lives. The minds of young, normal, modern children are not—and had better not be—upon the unearthly plane affected by H. B.

Likewise the average reader, the average music lover, and the ordinary "Man in the street" each have the right to enjoy their own happy medium, for everyone cannot thrive upon the "angel food" H. B. prefers.

One swallow does not make a summer, and there are legions who gratefully appreciate the day-to-day tonic Wilhelmina Stitch supplies, and I register a protest against reckless lauding of the dead and decrying of the living. In my opinion there are monuments to many whose works are less worthy of fame than the "People's Poet" so criticized.

With most of your readers, I too, value culture, but nevertheless resent the inference that Evangelistic work, to be efficient, must of necessity be scholarly and intellectual. The Founder of our Faith who "spoke as never man spake" did so in simple parable and simple words, likewise many of His followers speak to-day, and with great and good results.

JOSEPH WOODWARD.

"Everest," St. Mildreds Road,
Ramsgate, Kent.

[We feel that this correspondence has reached a stage when the views elicited might profitably be left to germinate in the minds of readers. We propose, therefore, to close it. In doing so we cannot refrain from pointing out that it has amply borne out the assertions of our reviewer concerning the unshakable and widespread popularity of Miss Wilhelmina Stitch. It is not for us to express views upon the public taste in this matter. Like the good cobbler we are disposed to stick to our last. Yet we are tempted to point out, in defence of H. B. (whose initials, by the way, have no cranial significance), that classical literature like classical music is sometimes very simple indeed. There are some small poems of Walter de la Mare which are as easily learned and as readily appreciated by the young as are the daily poems of Miss Stitch. The very obvious airs of "The Magic Flute" and the absurdly simple tune of Bach's "Passion" Chorale, may sing no less hauntingly in the memories of common people than the better known melody of "Sonny Boy." We feel sure that Miss Wilhelmina Stitch herself would be the last person to claim a monopoly of simplicity. We would even venture to add that the good humour with which she has received the criticism of our envious reviewer reveals qualities of which even the admirers of her poetry may be unaware.—Ed.]

BOOKS WANTED.

MADAM,—I crave a few lines of space to beg—not for money, but for books. Will anyone who would like to do a kind act, collect books they no longer need and send them to me at the address below? Of course, they must be books of general interest, fiction, history, and essays. They are for men and women in mining areas, where several clubs have been recently opened. At present we have not a single book, and a most urgent request has come to me begging me to collect some. They would be a very great boon to a great number of people in a very poor area.

EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILLE, M.P.

Morris Hall, Church Street,
Wellington, Salop.

"MATERNAL MORTALITY."

MADAM,—May I return to the charge in this matter of maternal mortality?

What should be demanded of the Ministry of Health is:—

1. Returns showing an analysis of deaths, and abortions if possible. How many took place in poor houses, how many in well found, how many attended by midwives, how many by fully qualified medical midwifery practitioners, how many by practitioners not yet fully qualified; in how many cases had a previous examination been made, and what was the nature and extent of such examination.

2. To place on husbands the definite responsibility, under substantial penalty, for providing decent accommodation—which might be specifically defined—for their wives at confinement.

3. To provide that no non-qualified practitioner—except in case of emergency—shall be authorized to take charge of a childbirth alone and unaided by some qualified person.

My reason for these last two points is that I have been informed that in order to qualify for midwifery certificates, the aspirant must have conducted twenty-five confinements—before qualifying, be it understood! I have further been informed that it is the custom for husbands to apply at hospitals, at the very last moment, for this unqualified—and unpaid—kind of service, because it is unpaid; and that these unqualified persons

go to such cases alone and unaided by any more competent person; that they frequently find conditions that beggar description and that would tax the skill of the most highly qualified—the woman on the hearthrug, the only bed full of children, the husband drunk, a gathering of men friends to see the show . . . I do not say these conditions are; I only know that I have been told so by persons who know what they are talking about.

A husband who allows himself to be drunk when his wife is expecting her confinement, or who brings other men in to see it, or who neglects to make proper provision for her, or to apply to some organization or institution who will help him to do so, and who omits to get the children out of the way should be liable to a very heavy penalty. If these conditions exist, it is time they were stopped, both by establishing the apparently non-existent responsibility of the father or husband, and by curtailing rigidly the responsibilities of the unqualified persons desiring to qualify. No one of these points has been brought up, so far as I can remember, in any of the manifold discussions ranging round this subject.

C. NINA BOYLE.

6 Balcombe Street, N.W. 1.

"TRAFFIC MORTALITY."

MADAM,—The Road Traffic Bill now before Parliament is a subject of such great importance to women it seems surprising that so little attention is given to it by the numerous women's societies.

It regards us women in particular—for many of us are mothers, many of us have to use the roads on our ordinary business, many of us have our houses by the road side, and along these roads we have to send our children to school (the law compels this). In towns we have the pavements, but in the country, on main roads and in the lanes, the danger of speeding cars is terrible. I have seen women with perambulators and small children forced into the hedges in fright. Why should a toll of such constant anxiety be imposed on women?

The public roads are for the use of all the people. It should be noticed that recently a prominent Review announced that the main roads must be reserved exclusively for motorists. Pedestrians are in a vast majority in England, so that to take from them the use of the public roads almost amounts to stealing.

The present Bill proposes abolishing the speed limit for private cars, and does not propose introducing any test of driving. England is the only civilized country that has no test for private cars. Lord Howe, himself a racing and expert motorist, maintains that a speed limit ought to be enforced, and that the present Bill will increase the dangers of the roads and the accidents.

Deaths from motor accidents exceed four a day in London, and seventeen a day in the whole of England. Between 300 and 400 serious accidents are reported to the police every day.

Should we not bestir ourselves to consider these things?

SUSAN GILL.

Cowdray Club, W. 1.

[Yes indeed we should. We refer our correspondent to an article in this issue which expresses our own views, and, doubtless, hers.—Ed.]

HUMANE SLAUGHTER.

MADAM,—May I ask your readers to show their interest in the Humane Slaughter of Animals by writing to their M.P.s urging them to vote for the Bill for Humane Slaughter introduced by Colonel Moore, C.B.E., which will come up for second reading on 7th February. A measure for making the humane slaughter of animals compulsory in this country, as it is now in Scotland, and has been for years in most European countries, is long overdue, but the unreasonable opposition of the supporters of the old fashioned and cruel methods of slaughter has so far been successful in defeating humane measures urged for years by all lovers of animals. The National Council of Women is urging all its members to write to their M.P.s at once, and I am confident that members of the N.U.S.E.C. will do the same once their attention is directed to this Bill.

NESSIE STEWART-BROWN,

President Liverpool and Birkenhead Branch N.C.W.,
Chairman Ladies' Committee Liverpool Branch R.S.P.C.A.

A TRIBUTE TO MISS GRUNER.

MADAM,—As one of the earliest subscribers to the Women's University Settlement, Blackfriars, I wish to be allowed to add a few words of appreciation to what has been said in your columns of the late Miss A. Gruner.

To her devotion and ability the successful start of the work at 44 Nelson Square was in a great measure due. The house was opened in the summer of 1887 by the Executive Committee of the Women's University Association for Work in the Poorer Districts of London, and Miss Gruner was appointed our first Head Worker. The scheme was the outcome of papers read at Cambridge earlier in the year by Mrs. Barnett and Miss Gruner, a meeting being held at Newnham College the following day.

Girton, Somerville, and Lady Margaret Colleges quickly responded to the invitation to form a joint committee, and Cambridge residents contributed liberally towards the launching of the scheme. The first year's work under Miss Gruner justified our experiment.

GERTRUDE M. JOHNSON.

276 Cherryhinton Road,
Cambridge.

THE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN'S HAIRDRESSER

MADAME EDYTHE,

118 VICTORIA STREET, S.W. 1. (Private Entrance.)
TEL.: VIC 2389.

PERSONAL ATTENTION. MODERATE CHARGES.

COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C.

Mondays. 10.45-11 a.m. "The Future of Domestic Service." 3rd Feb. Mrs. W. MacIver: "How the Mistress of a one-servant House sees it."
Tuesdays. 10.45-11 a.m. "The Countrywoman's Day." 4th February. Dr. Stella Churchill: "How Welfare Centres can help you."
Wednesdays. 10.45-11 a.m. "The Week in Westminster." 5th February. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.
Fridays. 10.45-11 a.m. "The Townswoman's Day" (in the Home).
 7th February. Miss J. Williams: "Fruit and its place in Diet."
Saturdays. 10.45-11 a.m. "Saving the Countryside." 1st February. Lady Trevelyan: "A Problem for Everyone."

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

4th February. 1 p.m. 17 Buckingham Street, Strand. Luncheon. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill, "Women and Palestine."
COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

12th February. 4-6 p.m. Caxton Hall, S.W. 1. Conference on certain forms of Slavery affecting Women under British Administration throughout the Empire. Speakers: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon.

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM.

7th February. 1 p.m. Luncheon, Pinoli's, Wardour Street, W. 1. Sir Joseph Priestley, K.C.: "Probation."

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.
 31st January. 8 p.m. Dr. Stella Churchill: "Public Health."
 7th February. 8 p.m. Capt. Casey, D.S.O.: "Australia." Chair: Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew Nathan.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Acton W.C.A.—Sunday, 2nd February. 3 p.m. Citizenship Service in the Congregational Church, Churchfield Road. Chair: Miss Smee, J.P. Speaker: Miss Helen Ward.

TYPEWRITING.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWAM—
 TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walk, Manchester.
 Tel.: 3402 City.

TO LET AND WANTED.

BOARD AND LODGING. Quiet home at moderate terms. Bed-sittingroom and service for lady or gentleman at Cheam. Pleasant country in easy reach of London.—Apply, Mrs. Bampton, Puttsboro', Alberta Avenue, Cheam.

RECOMMENDED by Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Swiss family receives paying guests. Large comfortable house and garden near Lake of Geneva. French lessons arranged if desired. Mlle Reitzel, le Prieuré, Tour-de-Peilz (Vevey).

RECOMMENDED by L. M. Thompson: Vegetarian Guest House; 1/2 hour by tram from centre of Bath; central heating; large garden; fine views; boating and bathing in River Avon.—Misses Tollemache, Bath-easton, Bath.

CAMBRIDGE.—Accommodation for two ladies (friends) offered in a convenient nine-roomed house, sharing expenses with occupier.—Miss Alice Johnson, 111 Grantchester Meadows, Cambridge.

COMFORTABLE Accommodation; bed and breakfast, 5s. 6d. and 6s.; reduced rates for delegates to conferences; proprietress member Townswomen's Guild and Women's Institute; recommended.—Mrs. Spate, "The Gresham," 12 and 15 Woburn Place, W.C. 1. Telephone: Terminus 5550.

EXCEPTIONAL, one or more roomed flatlets, furnished or unfurnished; Kensington; service; breakfasts, dinners optional; also similar in country and seaside cottage, 1 1/2 hour London; glorious air.—Box 1,580, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

UNFURNISHED Residential Chambers. Central lounge. Evening meal, breakfast arranged. Constant hot water. Telephone. Large garden. Garage.—Miss Heaton, Cambridge House, Croydon Road, Wallington.

OFFERED.—Comfortable room in ladies' warm house. Constant hot water. Convenient all parts. Reasonable. S.W. Meals if required.—Box 1,581, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

NEAR VICTORIA, tiny top floor room to let (ladies only), unfurnished, £24 p.a.; furnished, £30; service charge, 3s. weekly; larger room, £34 unfurnished, £42 furnished, service 3s. 6d. weekly. The two rooms £56 unfurnished, £68 furnished, service 5s. 6d.; rents include electric light and use of bathroom; bathrooms every floor; meals very moderate tariff; telephone.—78 Belgrave Road, S.W. 1. (Tel. Victoria 2750).

SOUTH CROYDON.—Lady and gentleman offer quiet home for elderly paying guests. Recommended by and address from Mrs. M., 32 Camborne Road, Sutton.

LADY offers very comfortable rooms or board-residence; warm house, standing high; near shops, sea, baths; care of invalids; excellent cooking.—Sunnycroft, Sidmouth.

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

POSTS WANTED.

RECOMMENDED by I. B. O'Malley, Evening Secretary with Portable Typewriter, knowledge French, Spanish; low terms. Mrs. R. D. Taylor, 12 Greville Place, N.W. 6.

AU PAIR. Russian lady (refugee) studying dentistry would be glad of house-keeping or similar post, with time off for studies. Highly recommended. Her friend (Russian) seeks post in family in order to improve English. Domesticated; fond of children; good languages; excellent references.—Write, Mrs. J. Brants, 32 Russell Square, W.C.

DRESS.

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

6th February. 3 p.m. Committee Room, Municipal Offices, Winchester Street. Mrs. Ryland: "Social Insurance."

Edinburgh W.C.A.—4th February. 27 Rutland Street. 5.15 p.m. First of Study Circle Addresses on "Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929." Speaker: Sir W. Whyte. "General Administration." Questions and discussion.

Gillingham W.C.A.—3rd February. 7.30 a.m. Arden Street. "Foreign Affairs up-to-date." (Lantern lecture.)

Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A.—New Voters' Club. 3rd February. 7.30 p.m. 172 Bath Street. Ex-Bailie Snodgrass: "The Suffrage Movement, 1867-1918." The Chairman will give simple rules of Chairmanship, followed by five minute speeches by Miss A. Harkness and Miss M. Wattie.

Preston W.C.A.—5th February. 7.30 p.m. Orient Café, Friargate. Debate. Speakers: Mrs. James Todd, Dr. Mary Lowry. Chair: Miss Wilkinson.

OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

13th February. 7 p.m. Supper, Pinoli's Restaurant, Wardour Street. Speaker: Dr. Jane Walker: "The Health of Women in Industry." Open to all interested.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

3rd February. 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Schools, Soho. Miss Pressley-Smith: "Women Pioneers in Labrador." (Lantern lecture.) Chair: Rt. Hon. Lord Morris.

THE SUFFRAGETTE CLUB.

6th February. 6.30 for 7.15 p.m. Mack's Restaurant, 100 Oxford Street. Anniversary Dinner. Hostesses: Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Flora Drummond, Mrs. How-Martyn, Mrs. K. Marshall and others. Tickets 3s. 6d. from Ardsett, The Ridgeway, N.W. 7.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

6th February. 4.30 p.m. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Frank Briant, J.P., Esq. "Child Assault." (Tea at 4 o'clock.)

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

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.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 2nd February, 6.30 p.m. Percy Dearmer, D.D.

Charges for Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

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