

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Housing.

Considerable satisfaction will be expressed among all those interested in the provision of new houses to let to lower paid workers at the Government's Housing Bill, which provides for a further extension of the subsidy of £7 10s. for town houses and £11 for rural houses, which the last Government had decided to reduce to £6 and £9 10s. respectively as from next September. The need for a further subsidy to enable slum dwellers with families to take advantage of the new houses which will be built with the help of this Wheatley subsidy, will be referred to again in these columns next week. Although it was made clear that the present Bill is only an instalment of the Government's policy, brought up now to prevent the slackening off in building, we should much like to have some indication of what future action is likely to be taken, and to know why no reference was made to housing in Mr. Thomas's unemployment proposals.

Maternity and Child Welfare and the Block Grant.

When it was known that the Government was going to introduce a Bill to remove Scottish Education Committees from the scope of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, the hopes of those who have opposed the substitution in both English and Scottish Acts of the block for percentage grant for the health services rose. It was distressing, therefore, to hear Mr. Greenwood state, in the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. E. D. Simon's question as to whether he would restore the percentage grant for the maternity and child welfare services, that he did not intend to do so at the present stage, although the effect of the new system of grants on the public health services was to be watched carefully. In view of the Labour Party's own strenuous opposition to the block grant, and of the fact that the restoration of the percentage grant for maternity and child welfare would have a far smaller effect on the structure of the Act than will the proposed change as regards Scotland, it is a singularly disappointing prospect.

Equal Pay in the Civil Service.

Some anxiety has been caused among those advocating equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service by the refusal of Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, when questioned in the House of Commons, to state whether the Government has already accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work, and whether therefore what would fall to the task of the Royal Commission on this point would be the *methods* by which the principle should be applied. When specifically asked if the Government accepts the principle of equal pay for equal work, he replied that

"this is a point for the Royal Commission." In view of the fact that the House of Commons has twice passed resolutions in favour of equal pay, and that the principle of equal pay figures in the Labour Party's programme, it is difficult to see how the question of whether the Government should accept the principle can in any way be regarded as an open one. We hope, therefore, that the terms of reference of the Royal Commission will be such as to make this clear.

Education and Parliament.

Sir Charles Trevelyan has been the target for innumerable questions from all sides of the House reminding the Government of its pledge to raise the school leaving age to 15. So unanimous is the desire that this reform should be carried out, both on its own account and on account of its bearing on the unemployment problem, that it is difficult to imagine that the Government will not fall into line, although Sir Charles resolutely refused to say whether any statement on the subject would be made before the House rises. His statement repeated more than once, however, that he had not the slightest doubt that the Government were going to fulfil all their promises, is hopeful. On the subject of nursery schools, with regard to which he was also questioned, Sir Charles answered that he was anxious to see an expansion in the supply, and was considering what steps could most effectively be taken to encourage their provision. That this is indeed urgently necessary was made clear when he stated that the total number of nursery schools in England and Wales is only 28, though proposals have been drawn up for eight new ones. Since writing the above it has been reported that the Government will make a statement before the House rises that legislation will be introduced to raise the school leaving age.

The New Government and Women Police.

When the Prime Minister received a deputation of women's organizations before the Election and was questioned *inter alia* as to whether, if returned, his Government would agree to enforce on all local authorities the appointment of women police in reasonable numbers in accordance with the Police Regulations Act, he replied that the appointment of more women police was necessary, and suggested that if it came into office, his Government should confer with women's societies interested as to the best way of carrying this out. Mr. Clynes's answer, therefore, to Sir George Penny in the House of Commons on 11th July—"I think the employment of women police by local police authorities may properly be encouraged where there is scope for them, but it is not, in my opinion, a matter for compulsion"—does not appear to be carrying out the spirit of Mr. MacDonald's reply. We hope that on reconsideration Mr. Clynes will agree both that the appointment of women police in *every* area should be encouraged, and that compulsion, if possible by consent of the Local Authorities, must if necessary be exercised. It is interesting to note that the Chief Constable of Birmingham, in his report for the year 1928, states: "The women police have been such a success in Birmingham and have done such splendid useful work, that they have more than justified their existence. . . . I look forward soon to obtain an increase in their number, which at present is inadequate."

The Incongruous Occupation.

On Wednesday of last week Mr. Ayles, a well-known pacifist and feminist, asked the Secretary for War in the House of Commons whether it was intended to hold British military manœuvres in occupied German territory during the next three months. The Secretary for War replied in the negative, adding

that the Government had no wish to cause "annoyance or inconvenience to the civil population." One might have supposed that such an answer would give universal satisfaction. It is well known that public opinion in Great Britain is overwhelmingly hostile to the continuance of the military occupation of Germany, more especially in view of the pacific implications of the Locarno Treaties and the Kellogg Pact. Speedy evacuation was moreover one of the definite points emphasized by the Women's Peace Crusade at the recent General Election, commanding the eager assent of widely representative bodies of organized women. Therefore any act or, as in this case, absence of act, which may lighten the burden of the occupation during its unavoidable but strictly temporary continuance is clearly in accordance with the general will. But one Member of the House of Commons at any rate finds himself strangely at variance with the spirit of his time and his country. In reply to the ministerial statement quoted above, Sir A. Knox, Conservative Member for Wycombe, asked the Secretary for War to "consider the desirability of promoting further good feeling by directing the commanding officer of the army on the Rhine to offer the services of his officers and men as nursing maids or mothers' helps." His weighty fist is strangely self-revealing. It suggests that in his view consideration for the feelings of civilians displays a lack of bull-dog British robustness. It adds to that the further implication that the work of mothers and nursemaids is vaguely "mawkish" or "silly." One can imagine Sir Alfred, in his own youth as the kind of little boy who might have teased his sister about her doll, or tried to pretend at school that he was without a mother or a Christian name. But he should have outgrown that attitude. It is time he reached the next stage in his mental development and learned to make jokes about mothers-in-law and drunken men.

The Local Government Campaign.

Before the general scattering of forces that takes place at the end of this month we wish to urge on our readers the importance of the Local Government Elections which take place in the beginning of November. We have year by year called attention to the need for more women and the urgency of the education of candidates for local responsibilities. This year importance of both is increased enormously by the changes brought about by the New Act, and a leading article which we print in this issue by Miss Fulford is an eloquent appeal to women's organizations to begin at once to prepare for these critical elections. We hope all readers will read, mark, and act.

Penalization of Marriage.

The last time that the town of Oldham figured in these columns was on the occasion of its Education Committee's decision to refrain from dismissing women teachers on the sole ground of marriage. We now learn with regret that where the Oldham City Council stepped forward, the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society has stepped back. On 9th July a meeting of members confirmed the decision of the committee to dispense with the services of married women. They are to be given six months' notice, with right to appeal in cases of hardship, while in future all women employees will be required to resign on marriage. The Chairman stated, with commendable frankness, in support of this decision, that complaints had been received from several members to the effect that there was no chance for their girls to secure employment from the society. We would suggest that here is a matter which might well claim the attention of the Women's Co-operative Guild with a view to the education of its own rank and file, as well as of the rank and file of the Co-operative movement as a whole, in the very dangerous implications which lie behind local action of this kind. The Co-operative employees themselves would in all probability be reluctant to regard the remuneration of their services as a kind of outdoor relief extended to them by virtue of their personal needs without respect to the efficiency of their work, if the matter were put to them in this way. Moreover, from the point of view of the co-operative consumer it is a dangerous precedent that the personal interests of members should be allowed to govern conditions of employment and staff recruitment. The Oldham Society has taken a retrograde step and we can only hope that it may stimulate active resistance within the wider ranks of the Consumers' Co-operative movement.

The Lord Mayor's Fund.

Dr. Marion Phillips last week asked the President of the Board of Education whether a report of the working of the Lord Mayor's Fund would be published, including the amount

which has been distributed, the areas of distribution the principles under which the areas for distribution have been chosen, the amount of the fund now remaining, and its adequacy to relieve present distress. The answer that a report is shortly to be published will be appreciated by those whether subscribers or others interested in the Fund. Since its inception so little has been heard outside the areas themselves, both as to the amount which has been spent and the methods of administration, and there has been such a wide feeling of dissatisfaction that sums urgently needed were being held up by the local committees, for various reasons resolutely refusing to face the fact of exceptional distress in their areas, that at least it will be a step forward to have the facts.

An International Committee for Training for Social Work.

At the first International Conference on Social Work held in Paris last year one of the main sections was devoted to the subject of training for social work. At the closing session it was agreed to form some kind of international federation of schools of social work and a meeting of representatives of the schools of different countries was accordingly held in Berlin on 12th and 13th June immediately before the Berlin Women's Congress. At this meeting representatives from seven countries were present—Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, and Switzerland—and it was agreed that an International Committee of Schools for Social Work should be formed. The object of this committee will be to bring about an exchange of opinion and experience between schools of social work in different countries and to deal with all problems of international co-operation such as the exchange of teachers and students, the formation of a centre of documentation, and the preparation of international conferences. Delegates to the Berlin Congress for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship who had the opportunity of seeing something of the social work of the city must have been impressed by the importance that is attached to the training of all types of social workers. This movement began in the United States and in Germany about the same time as in our own country, and though it has developed on different lines its aims and methods are very similar. In other countries, especially those in which schemes of social work are of recent growth, the provision of training is almost coincident with the provision of social welfare. The League of Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the International League of Red Cross Societies are already centres of international activity in social welfare in the widest sense of the term; many specialized branches of social work have now formed international groups. It is therefore very fitting that schools of training should be similarly associated and the promised close co-operation with the League and the I.L.O. will give an urgency and weight to the movement for training that it has not yet acquired in every country.

Social Work for Mental Health.

It is reassuring to turn directly from an International development in the field of social administration to a mark of progress in our own country. We have just received the preliminary notice of the first course of social training designed for men and women who wish to specialize on Mental Health. This new scheme is the outcome of negotiations between the recently formed Child Guidance Council and the Department of Social Science and Administration of the London School of Economics. It is intended only for students who have already completed a university social science course, for a background of general social experience is a primary requisite for such very specialized work. Some progress has already been made in this direction in the United States and in Germany, but this is the first full-time course of formal training which has been organized in this country. As the syllabus indicates social workers in the past have been mainly concerned with physical and economic conditions, and much suffering and unhappiness due to mental causes has been allowed to escape attention. In the early treatment centres which have done pioneer work in this country and in the proposed new Child Guidance Clinics the team of workers includes both the psychologist and psychiatrist and the social worker. The Child Guidance Clinic will soon become an indispensable piece of social machinery in every town, and trained workers will be required in much larger numbers. This was forestalled a week or two ago in our own advertisement columns, when the newly formed Liverpool Child Guidance Council announced a bursary for a woman holding a social science diploma for this new course at the London School of Economics.

THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

By C. FULFORD.

In 1869 the municipal franchise, an ancient right taken from women in 1835, was restored to them, but more than forty years of struggle and effort were needed to achieve the position occupied to-day by women in local government. Has all that is desired been gained? There are to-day eleven County Borough Councils and 159 non-County Borough Councils without a single woman member, and on the majority where women are serving they are very much in a minority. To all who value the services and co-operation of women, who know of the special gifts that they can bring to local government work, the knowledge of such a state of affairs must bring a challenge which cannot be ignored. This loss to the community cannot be allowed to continue. The responsibility lies on the local government electors of seeing that this inequality is put right and immediate action is called for as the candidates for the November election are even now being selected.

That this inequality can be put right is certain, but let no one imagine that in all cases the path will be smooth. Some of these local authorities are hoary old strongholds taking pride in their masculine isolation, and possibly whether they have read the Fathers of the Church or not, sharing the views of St. John Chrysostom, known as the golden mouthed, who declared woman to be a "necessary calamity, a domestic peril, a deadly fascination, and a painted ill"! All the wisdom and the resource that women have shown in their struggles in the past will be still needed to achieve equality in this particular respect. If there are any who doubt the need for these efforts, who need stimulus after weary battles at the general election, let them reflect on the nature of the work to be done by these local authorities and the call to action will meet with immediate response. Grave responsibilities are laid on the local authorities in relation to Housing, to Public Health, to Education and Recreation, and to much other work of importance, and these will be greatly increased by the duties dealing with Public Assistance which will be imposed on them by the Local Govern-

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

The precincts of the House, both the Chamber itself and the Lobbies, continue to be crowded. A new feature is the very large attendance at question time, due doubtless to the anxiety of Members to compel the Government to greater definiteness upon the many questions which the King's Speech dealt with only very vaguely. Hitherto Ministers have evaded, sometimes skilfully and sometimes very much the reverse, all attempts made to force them to premature disclosures upon questions upon which they obviously have not considered schemes to disclose. Their caution on some points seems excessive even to the supposedly more conservative parties and has frequently aroused their left-wing followers to demonstrations of dissatisfaction which are no doubt mild and tame in comparison with the furious outbursts which would have greeted a similar failure to immediately implement election promises had any other Party been in power (but which are none the less emphatic and vociferous enough to cause some embarrassment to the Ministerial Bench and considerable amusement to the opposite side).

One of the Ministers who, we may surmise, is gratified rather than embarrassed by the pressure to which he is being subjected is the Minister for Education. Sir Charles Trevelyan is a keen educationalist and no one blames him for his inability to give satisfactory answers to the numerous questions showered upon him on the subject of the promised raising of the school age coupled with maintenance grants. The most he has been able to do has been to reiterate his faith that the Government will not fail in time to fully redeem all their election pledges. But this is not enough to dispel the fear that difficulties are being raised by other departments, probably the Treasury, which may cause fulfilment to be deferred until it is too late to be effective.

Another Minister who has failed to satisfy inquirers has been the Minister for Labour. Miss Bondfield has not yet been forgiven by the Clydebank Members for her signing of the Blanesburgh Report. The Bill she has introduced merely restores the Government contribution to the Unemployment Fund from the present figure of two-fifths of the joint contributions of employers and employed to the one-time figure (the proportion has been repeatedly changed) of one-half the joint contribution

ment Act from 1st April, 1930. The administration of the Poor Law under this Act will add immensely to the present work of the Councils, which also in the case of County Boroughs, include the care of the blind, the insane, and the mentally defective.

There are roughly to-day about 2,500 women guardians, and though theoretically they are free to offer themselves for election, obviously only a tiny fraction can be successful. However unflattering may have been verdicts passed on Poor Law administration in the past, the work of women guardians has frequently been singled out for praise, and even the most hardened anti-feminists have not denied their special aptitude for it. The effect of this Act on the services of women, in spite of what has been said to the contrary by those advocating it, gives ground for great anxiety and for greater effort than before.

Can it possibly be tolerated that women should not be sharing equally with men on these authorities the work of trying to provide decent housing accommodation for working-class families at low rents, the work of trying through the application of all of the provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act to lessen the high maternal and infant death and damage rate, all the work relating to Education that is administered by the Councils as education authorities, and much besides, to which is now being added the administration of the Poor Law?

We are painfully aware as citizens of the failure of many Local Authorities to carry out their responsibilities in these directions, and may at intervals give expression to our views.

Let us face facts. Is it not probable that the absence of an adequate number of suitable women on these authorities is largely accountable for results which we all deplore? Is it not clear that the remedy lies in the hands of every local government elector and that no stone should be left unturned from now up to the election in November, to ensure that the community be no longer deprived of the services of women where they are so urgently needed?

of the other two parties or one-third of the whole amount. This change is merely designed to prevent the deficiency in the Fund which would otherwise have accrued within the next few months. As her critics have not been slow to point out, it makes no provision for the more generous treatment of the unemployed which has been repeatedly promised by the leaders of the Labour Party. Miss Bondfield was evidently prepared to meet her critics on this point on Monday, when she moved its second reading. But she was ruled out of order by the Speaker and required to confine herself to the particular proposal contained in the Bill. This caused considerable surprise, as it is usual to allow some latitude of discussion in second reading debates and it seemed reasonable to suppose that an exposition of the needs which a particular Bill is intended to cover should also contain references to other needs and some indication of how the Government intended to deal with them. Miss Bondfield obeyed the ruling of the Chair. But other less responsible members of her party showed considerable skill, but little generosity, in pursuing their attacks upon the Minister by means of speeches which just evaded that ruling. To those who have only thought of Mr. David Kirkwood as one of the Wild Men of the Clyde, it was a revelation to see how ingeniously he managed to steer his way along the narrow channel left by the Speaker's ruling and to fire his torpedoes into the Ministerial flank—his youthful appearance, his shock of red hair, and his broad Scotch making his dialectical skill all the more effective. One statement he made will be carefully treasured up by many of us for use on future occasions. He told the House that though he had been a Member for seven years for one of the poorest districts of Glasgow, he had never yet received a single complaint from any constituent of the rate of his insurance contributions. That will be useful to remember if it ever becomes necessary to urge an increase in contributions in order to help out much needed extensions of the scope of the Insurance Acts.

Another Bill, also making a purely interim contribution for the fulfilment of a pledge, was the Housing Bill, which provides for the retention of the subsidy at its present rate and reverses the diminution intended by the late Government. The two best speeches were those of Mr. E. D. Simon, the Liberal Member for Withington, and Miss Susan Lawrence, Parliamentary

Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who replied on behalf of the Government. Mr. Simon's speech was closely packed with facts and figures drawn from his own book "How to abolish the slums" and was a far more effective defence of the Wheatley Act than that made by its author, Mr. Wheatley, in the course of a truculent attack on the Government for not going back to the original amount of subsidy. Miss Lawrence's speech was a gem and confirmed the striking impression of her ability first created by her contributions towards the de-rating debates of the last Parliament. The tradition that women M.P.s are only useful as contributing "the human touch" to debates on questions specially affecting women and children must be rapidly fading from the mind of a House which has this week listened not only to the speeches of the two women Ministers, but also to the effective contributions to the Safeguarding debate by Miss Wilkinson and Dr. Marion Phillips and to the Unemployment debate by Miss Jenny Lee.

CROSSBENCH.

MISS PICTON-TURBERVILL, M.P.

Our readers will be interested to know that Miss Picton-Turbervill has been appointed one of the fifteen Members of the House of Commons to serve on the Ecclesiastical Committee during the present Parliament. We believe this is the first time that a woman has served in this capacity, and we congratulate the Committee on having enlisted one whose interest in ecclesiastical matters is so keen.

(Continued from next column.)

Another instalment of family allowances may be given in this Parliament in the event of the school-leaving age being raised to 15, in the form of the maintenance grants advocated by the Labour Party as a compensation to parents for the lost, or rather deferred, earning power of the children. This is endorsed by the Liberal Party to the extent that they recommend maintenance grants "where necessary." The necessity for these grants has been brought home to all educationists who have this reform at heart. In France, where the State is always ready to hold out a helping hand to the family man and does so in some fourteen different ways—quite apart from the family allowances paid through industry—some concessions are in respect of housing and several are educational.

The issue may also be raised in connection with the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, which will certainly deal with the question of equal pay as between men and women. Family Allowances would offer a logical and equitable solution of this question, but it is obviously a solution that can come about only by consent of the Civil Servants themselves. Were this to be secured, there is no reasonable doubt that a measure of family allowances in the civil service would find favour with all parties in the House.

In agriculture the Labour Party announce that the wages of agricultural labourers will receive attention. We venture to think that if Mr. F. Acland's amendment on children's allowances to the Agricultural Wages Bill of 1924 had been adopted the position of the agricultural labourers and their families would have been vastly different to-day and that at a saving of some millions to the community. One can only hope that the interests of the children will not be sacrificed indefinitely to the delusion that uniform wage increases will ever be able to secure to the fathers of families a higher standard of living that will be real and lasting.

M. L.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER
EVERY FRIDAY. TWOPENCE.

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THE NEW PARLIAMENT AND FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

There is no doubt that on the market of social reforms Family Endowment stock has gone up considerably in price. The new Parliament contains several redoubtable champions of the measure who form a small but solid nucleus and may be expected ultimately to prove themselves the leaven that leavened the whole. But the task before them is no light one.

Two important groups of the Labour Party are strongly in favour of Family Allowances, the Independent Labour Party and the women's section, in addition to a growing number of individual members, but the Party as a whole have not yet officially adopted this reform and it is well known that the leaders are divided on the question. It is no secret that the lion in the path is finance, and this is a lion with a very loud roar. But the boldest lions may be tamed and this one too may come to feed out of one's hand. There is, in fact, within the Labour Party, both in and outside the House, a much larger measure of support for Family Allowances than may appear to the superficial observer, and it is only party allegiance and the natural desire not to embarrass the Government, and, above all, not to increase the difficulties of the Chancellor of the Exchequer by adding to his already heavy load of commitments, which prevent much of this real and genuine support from becoming visible. This diffidence may be all to the good in the long run if it compels the advocates of the measure to rally their forces, marshal their evidence, and demonstrate incontestably the actual but unrealized volume of support for it throughout the country.

It is a good omen that one of the new Members is Miss Eleanor Rathbone, who may be trusted not to neglect the true interests of that unconsidered trifle, "the disinherited family," and not to jeopardize them by premature and hasty action such as one might fear at the hands of a less experienced parliamentarian and a less statesmanlike politician. Within the Labour Party one who may be counted on to help forward the movement is Sir Charles Trevelyan, who has proved that his belief in the merits of family allowances is not merely academic by initiating the system on his own estate in Northumberland.

Other Members of the Party, who are in favour of a national scheme, include Mr. Fenner Brockway (Editor of the *New Leader*), Dr. Hugh Dalton, Mr. F. W. Jowett (who frequently provides the *New Leader* with good ammunition for the campaign), Mr. J. J. McShane (a member of the National Union of Teachers), Mr. J. Tinker (of the Lancashire Miners' Federation, who seconded the resolution in favour of allowances carried at the Annual Council of the Miners' Federation at Llandudno last year), Miss Picton-Turbervill, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, and Mr. E. F. Wise. Other Labour Members mentioned Allowances in their election addresses. Mr. Arthur Henderson and Mr. Ben Turner, who have given much serious study to the question, may be relied on to use their influence in favour of children's allowances. Miss Bondfield is believed to be in favour of family allowances in the form of an extension of the social services. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has so far made no official pronouncement on the subject.

In the Liberal Party much greater interest is now being taken in children's allowances. The first instalment of family allowances likely to materialize is a children's Rent Allowance. The election programme of the Women's National Liberal Federation, as well as Mr. Lloyd George's famous Unemployment manifesto, both gave place to a policy of rent rebates. Mr. E. D. Simon is certain to push this measure when he can seize the opportunity to bring forward his proposals for slum clearance. The Rent Allowance should appeal as a compromise both to those who desire family allowances by cash payments and those who would like to see them given by an extension of the social services, since it is indeed a cash benefit and at the same time an extension of the social services. The only defect of Mr. Simon's scheme is that it deals with limited numbers. Income limits are always controversial, but there seems no reason why rental limits might not be adopted and the principle applied to the tenants of all houses below a certain rental. This principle is already operating successfully at that extremely model garden city at Welwyn, which in this direction too deserves the compliment of the sincerest form of flattery for a very useful piece of pioneering.

(Continued in previous column.)

BOOKS ABOUT WOMEN.

BEFORE THE BLUESTOCKINGS, by ADA WALLAS. (Allen and Unwin, 8s. 6d. net.)

FIVE QUEER WOMEN, by WALTER and CLARE JERROLD. (Brentano's, 18s. net.)

The history of women, a subject in which only a very few feminists used to be interested, begins now to be recognized as a matter of importance. It is being attacked in two ways. On the one hand, a great deal of attention is now given to economic records bearing on the work of women; and, on the other, biographical sketches of celebrated or notorious ladies abound. The reader who wishes to get some mental picture of the life of that half of humanity which was not supposed to have any public importance will do well to peruse both economic histories and biographical studies, choosing, however, only those that are good of their kind.

The Essays of Mrs. Graham Wallas are slight in texture. It was almost inevitable that they should be so since not very much is known of those she treats. But she has selected some amusing contrasts as her subjects, and her way of writing has much charm. There is less to be said for the other book before us. *Five Queer Women* has not enough new information in it to be worth the attention of the student, and it is rather too heavy and lacking in special distinction of style to form good entertainment for an idle hour. At least two of the five women described in it have been written about in quite recent years, Aphra Behn by Miss Sackville West, and Susanna Centlivre by Miss Mona Wilson. All are readily accessible through their own writings, or the writings of their literary contemporaries, in books to be found in many libraries. None, as they appear here, have any very special charm. It is moreover impossible to resist the impression that this fat volume costing 18s. might have been very much shorter and cheaper, without loss of anything that is valuable in it. There is too much book-making at the present time.

Reading or re-reading the lives of the ten people treated in these two books, one impression left with one is pain at thinking of the intolerable odds against which women have had to struggle in every path of life; another is wonder at the many different ways in which (in spite of obstacles) they have earned their own living and that of their children.

There was Hannah Woolley, subject of Mrs. Wallas's first study. She was left entirely dependent on her own exertions about 1637, when she was only fourteen; was sole mistress of a little school before she was fifteen; a governess in a distinguished family at seventeen, and a few years after her lady's "stewardess and her scribe or secretary." At twenty-four, when she was married to a schoolmaster, she herself became a medical practitioner, which she could quite well do, as she had, according to her own account, "knowledge in discerning the symptoms in most Diseases and giving such Remedies as are fit in such Cases." She attended the boarders at her husband's school in "Feavors, Meazles, Small-pox, Consumption, and many other Diseases." Later in life she kept a registry office for servants and wrote a number of cookery books, and books of advice on all the matters which now engage the attention of the ladies' papers.

In quite a different line of excellence was Elizabeth Elstob, one of those natural scholars in whom the thirst for knowledge begins in infancy and is only extinguished by death. She was one of the most learned students of Anglo-Saxon and other early Teutonic languages of her day, i.e. the early eighteenth century in England. As Mrs. Wallas remarks, "her life poignantly illustrates the difficulties which a woman student, however gifted and however industrious, had then to face."

Aphra Behn, who gave up the Secret Service in favour of play-writing and shocked the Restoration public by the freedom of her language, Eliza Haywood, founder and editor of the *Female Spectator*, and in earlier days a great purveyor of scandal, Letitia Pilkington, whose disreputable life was not much glossed in her lively memoirs,—all were extraordinarily different from Elizabeth Elstob and from that high-minded, rough-speaking Churchwoman and feminist, Mary Astell.

But all in their several ways were valiant and all had to struggle not only against the troubles and difficulties common to human life, but against special obstacles set in their paths because they were women.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

RESEARCH AND ITS USES.¹

Mrs. Neff has set herself to examine the conditions of certain selected groups of women¹ (in spite of her title they are not all of them working women) during the later transitional years of the industrial revolution. Without any very determined attempt to provide a framework of economic and social background, she has lifted her material straight from contemporary sources of fiction and journalism, sorted out her multitudinous references under the selected headings of textile, non-textile, dressmakers, governesses, and idle women, and presented them to the reader with a running accompaniment of such explanations as they seem to require and such conclusions as seem to emerge from them. These last, however, are neither very original nor very well co-ordinated. The merit of the book, if indeed it has merit, lies in the amusement to be derived from the quotations themselves, some of which are gathered from relatively obscure sources not readily accessible to modern readers. And one feels at least that the author must have spent many pleasant weeks among her novels and magazines.

Nevertheless it is doubtful if so large a book and so great a quantity of painstaking research as Mrs. Neff presents to us, is wholly justified by its results. It is amusing and instructive to read her quotations, but it is more amusing and more instructive to read them as part and parcel of the works of the popular authors from whom so large a number of them are abstracted. One must admit also, that many of her final conclusions are incontestable. It is true, for instance, that literary material cannot be relied upon to give "a reliable social picture of any age." It is true that novelists since 1850 have tended to an over-concentration upon the emotional history of their heroines. It is true that women have made a series of definite economic and social advances since 1850, but that middle-class English-women "still have most of their professional struggles before them." All these things are true enough, but they are familiar truths, nor do they seem to have their roots in the considerable volume of research which comprises the bulk of Mrs. Neff's volume. And this reflection leads inevitably to one of two conclusions. Either this research has been ill-directed, or it has been ill-digested. And if any reader of this review is led to a suspicion that its subject has been hardly dealt with, let him reflect upon the following paragraph:—

"A new development of women's independence has come through birth-control, also foreshadowed by Richard Carlile and Francis Place early in the preceding century. When women are voluntary mothers they become free to develop a less haphazard programme of occupation. They also have the same chance for adventure as men. What the results of this new freedom will be is still uncertain. The new adventuress, however, occupied the centre of the stage in contemporary literature. Hardy, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Galsworthy, Mr. Wells, and Mr. Aldous Huxley have been concerned with the woman of independent spirit, although none has yet succeeded in doing anything of importance with her newly-discovered energy."

Now quite apart from the question of whether this astonishing statement has any relevancy to Mrs. Neff's selected field of research, let us ask ourselves whether it is true in itself. By "the new adventuress" Mrs. Neff presumably means the woman who, by the practice of birth control has freed herself from the ties of haphazard motherhood. But in which of Hardy's novels, in which of Mr. Shaw's plays (to take only two of these curiously selected authors) do we find the centre of the stage occupied by ladies who have attained independence through birth control? To the best of our memory, in none of them. But perhaps, by a wholly inadmissible and sudden change of theme, Mrs. Neff means something more general by "the woman of independent spirit." In which case is it true to say that none of the independent spirited ladies to be met with in the works of our five authors "has yet succeeded in doing anything of importance with her newly discovered energy"? The fact is that Mrs. Neff's meaning is exceedingly obscure. Or, to put the matter bluntly, her reasoning is deplorably sloppy.

M. D. S.

¹ *Victorian Working Women. An Historical and Literary Study of Women in British Industries and Professions, 1832-1850.* (George Allen and Unwin, 12s. 6d.)

THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN RELATION TO INFANTS.¹

This is not a book that women magistrates will buy to read right through; it is a book of reference to be consulted when some point of difficulty arises. Much of it is too technical to be discussed in these columns, but the Guardianship of Infants Act and the Adoption of Children Act, both of which are fully dealt with in this book, are subjects of keen interest to the readers of this paper. With regard to the former it is pointed out that in deciding as to the custody of a child its welfare is not the *sole*, but it is the first and paramount consideration. The common law rights of a father and a mother still remain. On the subject of Adoption, doubt is expressed as to whether the mother of an illegitimate child can apply for an adoption order. It would be in some ways an advantage for her to do so: the child's name would, for one thing, be entered in the Adopted Children's Register, and no mention would be made of its illegitimacy; but as she would be herself both respondent and applicant, it is uncertain whether the machinery of the Act provides for such a case.

A difficult point which is made clear is that of the woman who, having obtained an affiliation order, afterwards marries the father of her child. The order continues in force, unless it was expressly limited to determine on her marriage. One cannot see any reason why such a limitation should be made.

C. D. R.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday, 9th July.

CHILD ADOPTION.

Sir G. Penny asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether an Adoption of Children (Scotland) Bill will be introduced on the lines of the English Adoption of Children Act.

Mr. W. Adamson: The question is receiving consideration, but I am unable at present to give any undertaking as to legislation.

Wednesday, 10th July.

HONG-KONG (MUI TSAI SYSTEM GIRL-SLAVERY).

Mr. Foot asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet received the Report promised by the Governor of Hong-Kong upon the question of the abolition of the system of mui tsai.

Mr. Lunn: The further report promised by the Governor of Hong-Kong has just been received, and is now under consideration.

Thursday, 11th July.

PROBATION OFFICERS.

Mr. Lovat Fraser asked the Home Secretary if any and, if so, how many benches of magistrates have failed to appoint probation officers as required by the Criminal Justice Act, 1925; and whether he intends to take any steps to enforce the law.

Mr. Clynes: Apart from one combined area where arrangements are in progress, but are not completed, only 12 out of 1,028 Petty Sessional Divisions were returned as being without probation officers at the end of last year, and this figure includes casual vacancies. Before the Criminal Justice Act of 1925, 137 Courts were without probation officers. A great deal has been done in recent years to improve the organization of the probation service with encouraging results, and I do not think there are any other steps which my Department should take at present.

TWO-SHIFT SYSTEM.

Mr. Kelly asked the Home Secretary the number of orders granted under Section 2 of the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Child Act, 1920, for the operation of the two-shift system, and the number granted during the last three months.

¹ By B. A. Bicknell, LL.B. (Published by The Solicitors' Law Stationery Society, Ltd. Price 15s. net.)

Mr. Clynes: Up to the end of June, 852 Orders had been granted; 26 were granted during the months of April, May, and June.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Captain Margesson asked the Minister of Health the number of slum clearance schemes approved and actually carried out, respectively, for the years 1924 to 1929.

Mr. Greenwood: Since 1st January, 1924, 86 slum clearance schemes have been confirmed by my Department. Up to the 1st April last, the latest date to which information is at present available, 14 of these schemes had been fully completed, and 66 were in course of execution.

Monday, 15th July.

ASSEMBLY (BRITISH DELEGATION).

Mr. Mander asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will consider the advisability of appointing a woman as one of the three principal delegates in the British delegation to the League of Nations Assembly this year.

Mr. A. Henderson: The composition of the British delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations was announced by me in the reply to the question by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Mr. R. Taylor) on the 4th instant. The rules of the League only make provision for three principal delegates from each country and these posts will be filled so far as the British delegation is concerned by the Prime Minister, the President of the Board of Trade, and myself. I would, however, draw the hon. Member's attention to the fact that for the first time two women will be included in our representation at the Assembly.

LONDON LOCK HOSPITAL.

Dr. Phillips asked the Minister of Health if the Committee of Inquiry on the London Lock Hospital has yet submitted its Report; if so, whether the Report is unanimous; and whether he proposes to publish it.

Miss Lawrence: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and to the second part in the negative. As regards the third part, papers as to the administration of the hospital have been presented and are in the printer's hands. I hope that copies will be available for hon. Members this week.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT PRAGUE.¹

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (of which the Women's International League is the British Section) is holding its Sixth International Congress this August in the beautiful city of Prague. The general subject is to be: "How to make the Kellogg Pact a Reality." Miss Jane Addams, the International President of the League, is coming over from the U.S.A. to preside. There will be delegates from the National Sections in the U.S.A., Canada, Great Britain, France, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland, Australia, Austria, Holland, Ukraine, Norway, Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, Germany, Ireland, and Poland. The Congress will also be attended by women from Tunis, Japan, China, and India. The speakers will include: Miss Emily G. Balch, Miss Agnes MacPhail (a member of the Canadian Parliament), a representative in the Polish Sejm, Lucie Dejardin (recently elected a member of the Belgian Parliament), Mrs. Laura Puffer Morgan, Emmy Freundlich, and Miss K. D. Courtney. Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell will be one of the British delegation. The Congress lasts from 23rd to 28th August, and many will go from it to the W.I.L.P.F. Summer School, which is being organized by the Hungarian Section and held at Lepence-Visegrad on the Danube from 2nd to 15th September. Lepence is within easy reach of Budapest and not far from the famous old town of Esztergom. Further information regarding either the Congress or the Summer School will be gladly given by the Secretary.

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

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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DEPUTATION TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

In response to our request, Mr. Greenwood has agreed to receive an informal deputation from the N.U.S.E.C. on Thursday, 25th July. The need for making compulsory certain provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, will be urged. With regard to amending Bills on the National Health Insurance Acts and the Widows', Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act the following points will be raised: Provision for dependents of sick insured persons; medical benefits for dependents; improved maternity benefit; partial pooling of surpluses; rates of pension; general age of dependency; old age pensions and the wife whose husband is under 65; migrants and widows' pensions; voluntary contributors—married women (under both Acts); equality of men and women in insurance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.

Societies are urged to watch closely their local papers for the notices indicating that their county and county borough councils have submitted to the Ministry of Health their schemes regarding the work of Boards of Guardians and the payment of contributions to voluntary associations providing maternity and child welfare services. These schemes have to reach the Minister of Health by 27th and 30th September respectively, and representations regarding them must reach the Minister within four weeks of the publication of the notice stating that they have been submitted. It is of particular importance to watch that provision is made for the full co-operation of women in the administration of relief.

TESTAMENTARY PROVISION FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.

In response to our request to the Home Secretary that he should receive a small informal deputation of members of the Executive Committee to discuss the possibility of the Government's supporting legislation to enforce testamentary provision for spouses and dependents we have now heard that the Lord Chancellor is prepared to receive such a deputation. Readers may remember that the Prime Minister, when he received the deputation from the N.U.S.E.C. before the General Election, indicated his very great interest in this matter, and his conviction that the law required changing in this respect.

PERSONAL.

Our Societies will, we are sure, wish to join with us in congratulating Mrs. Poole on her return as Conservative for the Caerau Ward of the Newport (Mon.) Town Council at the recent by-election. Mrs. Poole was the first secretary of the Newport and District W.C.A., and is now its Honorary Secretary. We feel confident that she will have a very valuable contribution to make to the work of the Council.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

CARDIFF W.C.A.

By the kind invitation of the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. W. R. Williams) a largely attended Garden Party was held at the Mansion House on Friday, 12th July, at which Mrs. E. M. Bennett, wife of the Member of Parliament for Cardiff Central, gave an address on "Nursery Schools", and described the work of Miss Margaret Macmillan at Deptford. The chair was taken by the Lady Mayoress. Mr. R. G. Robinson kindly arranged a programme of music, and after tea, which was served in the grounds, Miss Maud Brown provided a delightful display of folk-dancing by parties of children from some of the Cardiff schools.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN AND THE CABINET.

We reprint the following letter from the *Daily News* of 10th July:—

SIR.—Now that Miss Margaret Bondfield's inclusion in the Cabinet has met with universal approbation, there are certain questions relating to her position which other women workers are anxious to have answered.

- (1) Is Miss Bondfield to receive a smaller salary than the other Ministers because she is a woman?
- (2) Should she marry during her term of office will she be compelled to resign?
- (3) If so, will she thereby forfeit not only her salary but also the pension to which an ex-Cabinet Minister is entitled?
- (4) If one of our visitors—say, from the U.S.A.—were the fortunate man, would she be regarded as an "alien" and have to sue for the restoration of her English nationality?
- (5) Will she be "protected" by exclusion from her workshop—the House of Commons—after certain hours of the night?
- (6) Do the male civil servants in her Department feel "humiliated" in serving under her?

ROSA DARTLE.

Selly Oak, Birmingham.

EQUAL PAY.

MADAM,—I am puzzled by a sentence in your article on equal pay this week. You say "the valuation of a man's or woman's work in a competitive labour market should be uncomplicated by the irrelevant fact of family dependency."

I should quite agree with this statement, but I do not see how you can appeal to the "competitive labour market" when you are urging that women should be paid at the same rate as men, when nothing is more certain than that their price in the labour market is lower.

It has always seemed to me unfair to the taxpayers to demand that they shall pay women a higher wage than the women can get in the open market, and a higher wage than the women themselves are willing to take, merely because men cannot be obtained for that wage.

If you are going to bring in standards of equality in economic value which do not in fact exist, there is no less "complication" in your view than there is in that of the people who maintain that the reason for paying men more than women is because men have dependents to provide for.

The truth is that men are paid more than women because there is more demand for their labour in relation to the supply. For the same reason there are innumerable inequalities in the payment of labour as between man and man. That a schoolmistress is paid less than a schoolmaster is not more unjust than that a ploughman should be paid less than a bricklayer.

MAUD SELBORNE.

MRS. GASKELL'S BIOGRAPHY.

MADAM,—In your issue of 12th July, the reviewer of Mr. Stanton Whitfield's *Life and Work of Mrs. Gaskell* assumes that no biography of the novelist has ever been written before. This is erroneous, as the late Mrs. Ellis Chadwick published a *Life of Mrs. Gaskell* in 1910, the centenary of her birth.

Also, I was supplied with biographic facts of her mother's life by the late Miss Meta Gaskell, for a centenary article in *The Cornhill*, and for an illustrated one in the weekly *Graphic*.

At the request of Miss Gaskell I made researches to authenticate the date of Mrs. Gaskell's birth, hitherto a surmise, and to discover the house where she was born. These were published in my article and resulted in a tablet being placed on No. 93 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.

Mrs. Chadwick, working independently, arrived at the same conclusion regarding Mrs. Gaskell's birthplace, and published it in her *Life* of the novelist issued shortly after my article had appeared in *Cornhill*.

SARAH A. TOOLEY (Mrs.).

99B Addison Road,
London, W. 14.

FUTURE WORK OF WOMEN FOR PEACE.

The future policy of the Women's Peace Crusade was discussed at a meeting of the Council held at Crosby Hall last week, when Lady Acland was in the chair. The Crusade conducted an intensive general election campaign throughout the country for the return of a Parliament of Peacemakers, and naturally wishes to keep alive the wider interest in peace and international affairs which the campaign has helped to arouse among women. The Council decided to hold a yearly conference in London or elsewhere, at which progress towards peace during the past year will be reviewed. Several delegates thought that a large proportion of women voters did not yet realize the immense power that lay in their hands, or understand how they could use that power to ensure world peace. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Arthur Henderson, has consented to receive a deputation from the Women's Peace Crusade, which will put before him evidence of the volume of public support for a progressive foreign policy.

COMING EVENTS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C.—22nd July, 3 p.m. Garden Meeting at Pembroke Lodge, Pembroke Gardens, W. 8. Miss Rathbone, M.P., will speak on "The New Parliament and the Women's Movement." Chair: Miss Vera Brittain.

RURAL INDUSTRIES BUREAU.

25th July, 11-6. Londonderry House, Park Lane. Exhibition and Sale of Quilted Work made by women and girls in the distressed mining areas of South Wales and Northern England. The Exhibition will be opened by the Lord Mayor of London at 11 a.m.

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.

WENSLEYDALE.—Board-residence, every comfort; electric light, bath; sunny garden, garage; beautiful views.—Smith, Warnford, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.

SELF-CONTAINED FLAT TO LET, August; alcove bedroom; large sitting-room with settee bed; kitchen, bath-room, constant hot water, telephone, restaurant.—Apply, 514 Clive Court, Maida Vale, W. 9.

NORTH DEVON.—Delightful old-world village, unspoilt; moors, river; modern guest house; August 3 guineas, July, September, 2½.—Mrs. Hamilton, Hatherleigh.

JERSEY.—Three Furnished Rooms, rose-covered cottage; adjoining cliffs, heath; use kitchen; bathing, tennis; 30s.—Mrs. Pinel, La Fosse, Portelet.

CHARMING FLAT TO LET, furnished, August; double bedroom, lounge, dining-room, kitchen, bath-room, gas and electric, lawn; centre Bournemouth.—Councillor Mrs. Laney, 22 Oxford Road, Bournemouth.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB.—In house with garden adjoining Heath, three bed-sittingrooms and share drawing-room and dining-room. Suitable for Reading Party. Full board if required, meat or vegetarian.—Apply, Miss Marshall, 2 Linnell Drive, N.W. 11. Telephone: Speedwell 3042.

POSTS WANTED.

SWISS GIRL (20), daughter Geneva feminist desires au pair with young people August-September; now visiting Bournemouth.—M. Corbett Ashby, c/o THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

HOLIDAY POSTS wanted by women students and others. Care of children, coaching, and light housework.—Educated Home Helps Bureau, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1. Tel.: Vict. 5940. Fees: Registration, employers 2s. 6d., workers 1s.; Suiting, employers 10s. 6d., workers 2s. 6d.

HOLIDAY POST REQUIRED; lady would run small house or flat, seaside, with one or two adults; cooking, etc.—Write, Box 1,553, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

COACHING, French and German, by Alsatian lady, trained teacher; many years' experience abroad preparing for Cambridge, etc.; very successful with backward pupils; references.—Write, Box 1,552, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

LADY wishes to accompany lady or family for holiday during August; offers services, not cooking or children, in return for board, near Catholic Church.—Box 1,550, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

POSTS VACANT.

WANTED, Assistant Secretary, end of September, for Southwark Diocesan Association for Preventive and Rescue Work. Typing, book-keeping, and good experience of social work desirable.—Particulars from Miss Retallach, 125 Kennington Road, S.E. 11.

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.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousseaus, 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.)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Bedrooms now available for short periods not exceeding a fortnight, for House Members. Terms, including breakfast, 6s. 6d. per night, ½ 2s. per week. Applications by letter only to the Secretary.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 21st July, 6.30. Rev. H. Schenk, of West End Collegiate Church, New York City.

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. (Victoria 5940).

GOODWILL HOLIDAY PARTIES; sociable continental parties for women and girls start every Saturday throughout the summer; prices reasonable and absolutely inclusive (from 7/10 for a fortnight); The Tyrol, Switzerland, Brittany, Normandy, Paris, and other places.—Apply (stamp), Miss Brandreth, The Old Hollies, Teddington. Molesey, 424.

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