# THE

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# AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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# NOTES AND NEWS.

# Parliament at Work Again.

The House of Commons reassembled unobtrusively on Tuesday afternoon, and set grimly to work upon the remaining stages of the Local Government Bill. As far as our own particular reforms are concerned, the fight is still to come, and the Government's time table suggests that it will be a short one. Seldom indeed in the history of social legislation have momentous administrative changes received a severer hustling. Meanwhile, we cannot refrain from extending a certain sympathy to the seven dissentient Conservatives, including Lady Astor, who voted with the minority in favour of an amendment to exclude the tobacco and drink industries from the benefits of derating. We are not oblivious of the technical difficulty of disentangling specific industries from the whole scheme, but it is cold comfort for temperance reformers to be assured, in this connection, that lower production costs, operating through price reduction and increased consumption, is likely to stimulate employment!

#### Women and Health Insurance,

At a conference of Trade Union Approved Societies held in Manchester last week, Mr. Walter Davies, chairman of the Manchester Insurance Committee, delivered an address on sickness and mortality among insured women. He presented his audience with figures which illustrated the disproportionate incidence of sickness among insured women and suggested that the National Health Insurance Act "would not, from the women's standpoint, carry the strain." What was the remedy? The chief difficulty lay with insured married women; and he suggested the possibility of their exclusion from sick pay, with "a marriage dowry of some kind and a greatly improved medical service in lieu of sick pay." In this connection he drew attention, in some detail, to the stagnation of medical science in relation to maternal mortality, and its heavy incidence due to illness arising from childbirth. He was, indeed, inclined to suggest that pregnancy cases should be lifted out of the Act, "and in lieu, preventive science placed to a much larger degree at the call of the mother-to-be." It is in our opinion difficult to blame those responsible for the administration of a definite piece of social machinery such as the National Health Insurance Act, when they press for the exclusion of so upsetting an actuarial factor as the insured married women. It is a matter of common experience that the health of this particular category is deplorable, and preventably deplorable. We are glad, too, to notice that Mr. Davies did not neglect the positive side of the problem. We are inclined to believe, however, that the administrative difficulties of the insurance machine are a useful material spur to the public conscience, and that any attempt to relieve these difficulties by a policy of exclusion might in effect relegate the chief sufferers to the position of obscurity and neglect already

enjoyed by the uninsured married working women. This is more especially the case at a time when Government policy, by the withdrawal of percentage grants, is likely to aim a bad blow at the expansion of such public maternity service as already exists.

#### The Turn of the Birth-rate.

The Registrar-General's report for the week ending 29th December, completes the material necessary for a tentative calculation of the 1928 birth-rate for England and Wales. This appears to work out at 16.7 per 1,000, as compared with 16.6 in 1927. We thus get, for the first time since 1921, an upward movement. Whether this represents a turn of the tide, an indication that with the low birth-rate of 1928 we touched bottom, time alone will show. Meanwhile, in order to get some notion of the reactions of this reserves at the reactions of this reserves. the reactions of this movement on the growth or otherwise of our aggregate population, we must bring the death-rate into play. This appears to show a drop to 11.7, as compared with 12.3 in the preceding year. Thus, as a result of the double movement, more births and fewer deaths, we may expect a net increase of population in 1928 to the extent of round about 200,000, as compared with 170,000 in 1927. It is satisfactory to note that such figures as are available suggest also a sharp decline in infant mortality; the rate of deaths for children under one year being 65 per 1,000 births, as against 69 per 1,000 in 1927. With an unprecedently low infant mortality rate, and a general crude death-rate 0.1 above the lowest ever recorded for England and Wales, we may therefore acclaim a growing capacity for economy in the production and conservation of human life. So far so good. Whether the increased survival rate which results from a combination of such conservation with an increased birth-rate, is equally a matter for congratulation, is less clear. The economic, æsthetic, social, and international consequences of an increasing density of population in what is already the most densely populated country of the civilized world, are considerations which transcend the scope of this note.

#### Mussolini and the Population Problem.

Signor Mussolini, however, has no such doubts concerning the desirable movement of population in his own relatively well-peopled domain. He wants more and more and still more babies; and because of this, further measures have been promulgated by his cabinet with a view to securing their more rapid production. Married men with children are to receive preferential treatment in the Government service, and in the allocation of flats under State housing schemes. Married women workers are also to receive a months' holiday before and after childbirth, with a guarantee of continued opportunity for work under their former employers. Here, as in his recently recorded opposition to the dismissal of women on the ground of marriage, Signor Mussolini shows his capacity for doing the best things for the worst reasons—since his published speeches suggest that his thirst for population is inspired by considerations of military power and imperial expansion rather than by considerations which relate the conception of an "optimum" population to improved economic and cultural standards of life. But the birth-rate is an incalculable and intractable factor in social life; as the prophecies of economists and the history of legislative experiments show. It may be that by raising the material standards of the family Signor Mussolini's admirable measures may at the same time increase the sense of responsibility under which human life is generated. If so, what will happen to the birth-rate? It is, of course, impossible to answer such a question without knowing to what extent, by what methods, and in response to what motives the Italian birth-rate is at present being deliberately checked by individual parents.

# Women and the Relief of the Mining Areas.

It seems unfortunate that there are now no women on the large joint Executive Committee which has been formed in London to administer the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief areas. We understand that the committee is composed partly of members nominated by the Lord Mayor and partly of members nominated by the twenty odd voluntary societies which are now co-operating. It was, we understand, expected that some of the latter would be women, but this is not the case. We have no personal knowledge of the working committees in the actual areas concerned, but are informed that women do serve on these. Work of this kind is confined to the relief of actual want-food, boots, clothes, with no doubt special help for expectant mothers; women, we are often told, are encroaching on the work of men, but here is surely a glaring instance of work for which no one questions women's special fitness and experience, left wholly in the hands of men, at all events so far as central administration and policy are concerned. We have no wish to say anything that may check the present flow of liberality; for every penny is urgently needed. But we have the strongest possible objection to the creation of a new ad hoc relief department for the delicate and responsible task of relief work on a large scale, from which women are wholly excluded.

#### Women in the Salvation Army.

We have no wish to express any opinion on the present deplorable crisis in the Salvation Army, and we regret the limelight that has been thrown by the Press on every detail of the proceedings. We welcome, however, the reminder given in an admirable article in the Sunday Times that one source of strength to the Army in the past was its recognition of the place of women in its service. "Catherine Booth, the mother of the Army, was no less a power than William." Women were included among its officers; they shared the peril with the men and were not offered a shelter which they did not desire for themselves. Whatever the future may lead to, we hope that this equality between the sexes which has always characterized the Army, though so conspicuously absent in the churches, will not be lost. Only in one point does it appear to fall short. A rule dictated by the General himself prescribes that the retiring age for women officers shall be five years less than that for men—a difference which finds no justification in actuarial calculation of expectation of life.

#### "Scotts Wa' Hae!"

On Monday night the winner of the Victory Scholarship, a silver medal and £150, was officially announced at the Royal Institute of British Architects. The subject set was a design for "a faculty of fine art in a university." It seems that the competitors comprised twenty men and one woman. In the end the one woman, a twenty-two year old student at the Architectural Association, carried off the prize. As her name is Miss Betty Scott, it may possibly be suggested by the superstitious that she was foredoomed to success. Students of architecture must be growing chary of entering competitions whose lists comprise this magic name. On the other hand, it is a name which needs living up to, and we congratulate Miss Betty Scott upon being the second woman to shoulder that responsibility.

# "Conspicuous Ability."

It is doubtful whether Miss V. J. M. Stephenson's task in defending John Holmyard on a charge of murder was made easier or more difficult last week by the Press publicity given to the fact that she was the first woman barrister to shoulder such a responsibility. On the one hand it focussed an intensified limelight of attention upon her case, on the other hand, it divided personal interest from the plea to the pleader. But whether or no it made her task more difficult, it must have made it a great deal more unpleasing. And the evidence showed it to be, from the beginning, a task which offered no reasonable hope of a favourable verdict. Nevertheless, she discharged it, in the words of the Judge, "with conspicuous ability," and "in a manner which reflected the highest possible credit on her carefulness and on her own ability." We may add, knowing the ways of our world and its infinite readiness to generalize from particular instances, that she discharged it in a manner likely to enhance the prospects of other women barristers in the sphere of

#### Lady Bailey's Homecoming,

Lady Bailey reached Croydon on Wednesday of last week in her redoubtable Moth, and on the following day was entertained at lunch by the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Royal Aero Club, the Air League of the British Empire, and the Society of British Aircraft Constructors. Lady Bailey consistently attempts to discount the personal skill and endurance of her long African flight. She was, she says, "just flying about." The engine "kept running," though "she knew so little about it." We suspect that the matter was more accurately gauged by Col. the Master of Semphill (President of the Royal Aeronautical Society) in his telegram of welcome: "In admiration we send you our warmest congratulations on completion of your successful African tour that has proved to the world yet again and in the most convincing fashion the sterling qualities of the British light aeroplane, and perhaps more important still, brought us to realize how large a debt we, and in particular those who follow us, will owe to gallant women pioneers."

#### The Listener.

We offer a hearty welcome to our new contemporary The Listener, and in so doing dissociate ourselves wholely and emphatically from those wide sections of the Press which have greeted its coming as a threat to entrenched vested interest. The time has gone by when the issue of a popular periodical by a public corporation could be characterized as a blast of unfair competition in a fair field of private enterprise. The gradual syndication of the British Press into vast and impersonal combines which maintain an inflated news circulation by means of advertisement revenues, football coupons, and insurance benefits, has undermined the claim of the vast majority of our periodicals, daily, weekly and monthly, to be regarded and respected as organs of independent public opinion. With honourable exceptions, their news content and criticism has become subsidiary to irrelevant elements of commercial policy. Into such a world The Listener comes as a breath of fresh air, from a disinterested source, determined to give all the support in its power to the educational activities of the B.B.C., and to make that object its sole concern. We are delighted that its critics and opponents have so far cut so little ice in Government circles, that The Listener has appeared in spite of their efforts, and that its first issue, dated 16th January, 1929, gives promise of high quality and wide interest. We have already had occasion, moving among thoughtful working men students, to note the genuine appreciation and interest which its diverse contents have evoked.

# Married Women's Property in France.

A trivial legal dispute over the possession of an "American bar" has, it appears, had momentous and beneficent consequences for all British women domiciled in France. The case in question involved a conflict of application between the French and British law regarding married women's property rights. The bar was formerly the property of a Mrs. Ashley, who in 1913 married an English national domiciled in Paris—an ex-clown known as Footit. After their marriage they worked together in the bar, and on their death a dispute arose between Footit's son by an earlier marriage and the late Mrs. Footit's relatives. The former claimed that under French law the bar became by Mr. Footit's marriage, the joint property of her and her husband. The latter claimed that under British law its ownership remained with Mrs. Footit. The Courts decided in favour of the late Mrs. Footit's relatives, on the ground that since the deceased were British subjects, their property came under the English Married Women's Property Act. This finding establishes once and for all the property rights of all British married women domiciled in France.

#### Women's International Bibliographical Bureau in Paris.

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship has established an International Bibliographical Bureau in Paris, 4 rue de Chevreuse (6E), open Mondays and Fridays from 2 to 6. This Bureau aims at collecting the bibliography of all questions concerning the social, economic, and political activities of women, and is prepared to give accurate and complete information on all subjects within its scope to the best of its ability. Feminists, students, women writers, women in politics, can obtain from it the information they require. All feminists are asked to help the work of the bureau by sending to it all documentary information they may possess, and making its activities known. Those who have personal memories of pioneers of the woman's movement would be doing a service to the Bureau if they would send notes of their reminiscences before the end of March, as a collection is being made of the biographies of the best known feminists throughout the world in preparation for the Berlin Congress in June, 1929.

#### HUMANIST OR PURITAN.

The report of the Street Offences Committee, reviewed in our columns last month by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, concerns a subject of such complexity that though usually unable to spare space for long reports of meetings, we think it necessary to reprint in full the two opening speeches at the meeting held last week by the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene.

JANUARY 25, 1929.

Miss Alison Neilans spoke on behalf of the A.S.M.H., and Mr. Sempkins on behalf of the National Vigilance Association. On the whole, we find ourselves in agreement with the Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Geikie Cobb, who, describing the rival points of view presented as respectively "humanistic" and "puritan," pronounced himself unhesitatingly on the side of the humanists. But we cannot deny the difficulty of the problem for which neither the Street Offences Committee nor anyone else appears to have found a really satisfactory solution. It seems at first sight so obvious and so plainly just that before anyone is convicted either of "annoying" or of "importuning," the evidence of the person annoyed or importuned should be required. Yet the Street Offences Committee fail to recommend this and were apparently of the unanimous opinion—for there is no reservation as to this—that it would result in the law becoming practically a dead letter since such evidence would hardly ever be forthcoming. Miss Neilans proposes to meet this by omitting reference to "an immoral purpose" on the ground that passersby will then more readily give evidence. She further points out that the law as recommended by the Street Offences Committee would, if fairly carried out, be equally a dead letter, since prostitutes do not, in fact, usually importune, if by importuning is meant pestering the clients whose custom they are soliciting. The truth is that it seems beyond the wit of man to conceive any method free from unfairness of effectively ridding the streets of prostitutes of either sex, so long as willing sellers and willing buyers of their wares continue to exist in considerable numbers. The real "social evil"—as the fine quotation from Milton with which Miss Neilans closed her speech, indeed, implies—consists in the will to immorality rather than the technique of publicity which for ages has existed to gratify that will.

Conferences similar to that convened by the A.S.M.H. should be organized all over the country. With a General Election approaching, women's societies should lose no opportunity of forming the opinions of their members and the outside public on a subject which, whatever its difficulty, is of deep concern to all. At the annual council meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship the subject will be fully discussed with a view to the policy to be adopted both at the General Election and in the next Parliament. The report of the Street Offences Committee, whatever its defects, at least marks a very considerable advance in public opinion. The proposal to repeal existing legislation relating to solicitation between the sexes would mean the disappearance, at least from the legal code, of that tragic figure, "the common prostitute." That in itself would be a great step forward. The provision that evidence should be necessary in charges of frequenting for the purpose of prostitution is, at least, a half-way house towards the requirement of such evidence in all cases. But it is a far cry from the report of the Committee to the translation of its recommendations into Statute law, and even if these recommendations were so translated we cannot believe that they would in effect result either in purifying the streets or in establishing complete equality of a moral standard so far as the administration of the law is concerned, but they would go some way towards that end.

#### THE REPORT OF THE STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

TWO POINTS OF VIEW

Miss Alison Neilans: representing the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene.

Miss Neilans said that the only part of the Report which need concern them that day was the Committee's own summary of Recommendations on page 28. The first Recommendation proposed sweeping away all the existing legislation in England, Scotland, and Wales, dealing with solicitation of one sex by the other. It was obvious then that the law which the Committee proposed to take the place of the existing legislation was the crux of the Report. She proposed to deal mainly with that Recommendation as the Report would stand or fall by it.

The A.M.S.H. cannot accept the proposed substitute law—

- (i) because it eliminates annoyance as an essential part of the evidence;
- (ii) because it makes an "immoral purpose" essential to proof of the offence;
- (iii) because it does not require the evidence of the person importuned and convictions can follow on police evidence only.

Elaborating these objections, the speaker said that since neither importuning nor immorality, nor prostitution, nor solicitation were in themselves legal offences, the only legal offence which could rightly be charged was annoyance, obstruction, or danger to passengers.

The objection to the inclusion of the words "immoral purposes" was that it was entirely contrary to the whole principle of British law to make the purpose of an act an offence when the act, if achieved, was not an offence. If the purpose were not a criminal purpose the law had no concern with it. Finally, "immoral purpose" is not capable of satisfactory proof. On this point Miss Neilans quoted three legal opinions.

Turning to the question of evidence, the speaker pointed out that if the definition of importuning given in the Report, namely, "offensive words and behaviour," were strictly and impartially applied, the law must be practically a dead letter. Against ordinary men and women it would be impossible to prove an immoral purpose, and against a prostitute it would very rarely indeed be true to say that she importuned by offensive words and behaviour. Therefore if the Committee's Recommendation would prove a dead letter they might just as well have recommended that the evidence of the person importuned

Report of opening speeches at meeting held by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene on Tuesday, 15th January, 1929.

Mr. Sempkins: representing the National Vigilance Association.

Mr. Sempkins said that Miss Neilans had dealt particularly with the findings of the Committee and had strongly criticized the suggestion to deal with importunity. He himself took strong exception to the second main suggestion which dealt with frequenting, because that suggestion was quite ineffective and would be a dead letter. Those suggestions were, therefore, clearly open to criticism.

The Report was certainly not unanimous so far as the suggestions were concerned, but it was unanimous so far as the findings of fact were concerned. No consideration of the suggestions could be adequate without a consideration of the findings on fact which the Committee had arrived at. He proposed, therefore, to go through those findings, compare them with the findings of the National Vigilance Association, and see in what respects they differed.

and see in what respects they differed.

There was first the problem. The National Vigilance Association agreed that the law should not deal with private immorality but with a nuisance. The Committee took the same position with one point of difference. The National Vigilance Association linked their interpretation of a nuisance with the idea of protecting the young against that nuisance. The Committee dealt solely with adults.

The second point was the people concerned. His Association found it necessary to consider different classes separately and the Committee had accepted the same division of classes.

There was next the question of the existing law. The National Vigilance Association found that it was not perfect in wording or application but had in general been admirably effective. The Committee said that it had worked reasonably well in practice. That was, perhaps, as much as any law could be expected to do.

There followed the argument as to whether any laws were of use in this matter. The National Vigilance Association protested strongly against any policy of laissez-faire and asked for definite laws to deal with a definite nuisance. The Committee agreed with that in an almost dogmatic manner.

But the existence of laws necessitated consideration as to who should prove the offence. His Association said without hesitation that the police should. The Committee took the same view

The Association maintained that corroboration of police evidence was both unobtainable and unnecessary. So did the Committee.

should be required to prove the offence. They dismissed this suggestion on the ground that it would be a dead letter, and put forward another proposal equally or even more unsatisfactory

Miss Neilans laid stress on the fact that the Street Offences Committee had apparently rejected the definition of offensive words and behaviour expressed in the first note of reservation by Mr. Jowitt, K.C., Sir Henry Fairfax-Lucy, and Miss Margery Fry. She reminded the audience that 12,000 women a year had been convicted on what the Committee itself called "perfunctory evidence," and which the official witnesses called "legal fictions" and "artificial evidence", yet that the Street Offences Committee had the temerity to state the existing law had been administered without injustice, although so large a number of women had been convicted of offences which in fact they did not commit. Was there any guarantee that the evidence of offensive words and behaviour in the future would not be equally perfunctory, fictitious, and artificial?

Referring to the police and the question of black sheep, Miss Neilans said it was absurd to talk of a few black sheep among 20,000 men. The police who dealt with these offences in London, at least, were a very small group of specially selected men: selected for experience, integrity, and high character, and it was within this small group of specially selected men that the last year or two had revealed a serious state of affairs. She also gave the official figures for the number of police compelled to resign by their superiors or dismissed for misconduct. Were these police then specially bad people? She suggested they were not, but that they were placed in a position of overwhelming temptation, both sexual and monetary.

Referring to Recommendation 4, "frequenting any street for the purpose of prostitution or solicitation so as to constitute a nuisance," she said that the A.M.S.H. was glad to see the Committee under this section required the evidence of the persons aggrieved. The only objection the A.M.H.S. took was the inclusion of the words "for the immoral purpose of prostitu-

Turning to Recommendation 6, which continued to deny to men, charged with soliciting men, the right to a trial by jury, she said that her Association regretted very much the Committee had not proposed to remedy this grievance, which it was believed led to very serious injustice to men.

In closing Miss Neilans said that both the proposals of the Street Offences Committee and of the A.M.S.H., if fairly applied, would still leave prostitutes in the street free to patrol, but so long as prostitution existed and was so largely accepted as a necessity, it was well we should be constantly reminded by the obvious presence of the prostitute how far we had failed in our social order. It spurred us on to deal with the *causes* of prostitution in both sexes, which incentive would be lacking if we succeeded in sweeping the prostitute off the streets while not changing the public attitude of mind which brought her there.

On the question of the temptation to men Miss Neilans ended by quoting from Milton:—

"I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and seeks her adversary, but slinks out of the race, where that immortal garland is to be run for, not without dust and heat. Assuredly we bring not innocence into the world, we bring impurity much rather; that which purifies us is trial, and trial is by what is contrary."

## OCTAVIA HILL.

OCTAVIA HILL: Early Ideals. Letters edited by Emily Southwood Maurice. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.,

Octavia Hill, though a contemporary of Ruskin, may be said to belong to the present century, which witnessed some of her best work. She died only two years before the outbreak of war; she was a vigorous member of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws which reported in 1909, and the present writer recalls her visit to Liverpool in company with other members of the Commission to investigate Poor Law institutions of different types. Many living and still active persons worked with her and drew their inspiration from her. Possibly her name is known to a wider circle to-day than during her life-time. The 'Octavia Hill" system of house property management is discussed in Council chambers and on housing committees and visitors to the loveliest parts of our island have reason to bless it. The volume which lies before us is a welcome supplement to the life written by her brother-in-law; it gives us a deeply interesting glimpse of the thoughts and ideals of the girl Octavia developing into strong, confident womanhood. Artist and dreamer, and at the same time half hard-working teacher He thought that the most valuable decision of the Committee was the recommendation that proof of annoyance should be eliminated from the statutes.

The remaining question was that of penalties. He was of opinion that it was impossible to abolish fines, though they should only be imposed when absolutely necessary. The proper method was a probationary order and the recommendations of the Committee for increased penalties would go very far to meet the position adopted by the National Vigilance Association.

There was, therefore, substantial agreement between his Association and the Committee on points of fact. They split quite clearly on the question of action against the common prostitute. The Conference should appreciate the fact that the reason given by the Committee for not using those words was not connected with unfairness or with the unpleasantness of the words. It was solely because of agitation and those responsible for it were entitled to the fullest credit for the result of that agitation, although the speaker emphatically disagreed with it. He desired as strongly as any one to do away with the words if possible. He could see no method of doing so in practice. In their own suggestions to deal with a "nuisance by frequenting," the Committee had recognized the necessity for taking action against this class, but the decision to delete the words "common prostitute" made it quite impossible to them to suggest an adequate law to deal with the problem they had so correctly visualized. In connection with the suggestion actually made to deal with "nuisance by frequenting" it would be even more difficult to obtain the evidence of aggrieved persons than it was in the case of an individual annoyed by an individual

Nothing in the Report made him change his view that the suggestions made by the National Vigilance Association were preferable to those of the Committee. They were reasonable and would be effective were they adopted, whereas those of the Committee would be in practice a dead letter.

(Continued from preceding column.)

and practical social worker as she was, the social reformer in her discloses itself at an early age. In 1856, aged about 17, she writes after attending a meeting about "Ragged Schools," a pet scheme of mid-nineteenth century philanthropists: "I'd rather be a table than a ragged school child! not an attempt to show how the teaching influences the children themselves, plenty of statistics about numbers of Bibles given away."

But the real interest of this book to the ordinary reader lies in the letters which cover the period of Octavia's friendship with Ruskin. John Ruskin was her teacher, her benefactor, and unquestionably her intimate friend. He was a great deal older than his young disciple; he died at the beginning of this century after many years of retirement from work, and his influence, unlike hers belongs almost wholly to the nineteenth century. It just happens that another book published about the same time as these letters has done much to rekindle interest in his life. The Tragedy of John Ruskin, 1 by Mrs. William-Ellis, is a study of the deepest human interest and the present writer has enjoyed both books the better because she read them together. It was John Ruskin who gave Octavia Hill the opportunity which opened out for her the career of usefulness which she is remembered. Her reverence and affection for his friendship was deep and strong, but she on her side, strong, decided, self-reliant, had something to give which he deeply appreciated, though there are indications in the letters that her unfailing optimism, her young "All's right with the world" attitude towards life sometimes jarred on his ultrasensitive fastidious spirit. "I cannot understand how you maintain your faith in good coming out of evil to the person themselves." he writes in one place, and again, "I sometimes think that you are too successful to be quite right." In one of the last letters printed he refers to Octavia Hill's work as "only mitigating of mortal pain," while on the contrary his own is 'radically curative." "London," he writes, "is as utterly doomed as Gomorrah . . . but I have to labour wholly to fence round fresh fields beyond the smoke of her torment." In these lines we read something of the tragedy of his nature. The palliative enterprise which he criticized was the foundation of the system of housing reform for which Octavia Hill became famous while his "radical" reforms were forgotten.

But we cannot, however, forget that the practical worker owed much to the idealist—inspiration as well as the tangible means of giving effect to her schemes. Who can tell now the full extent of Ruskin's unrecorded influence on the lives of other men and women whose work lives after them, though the origin of their inspiration is unknown?

E. M.

1 The Tragedy of John Ruskin, by Amabel William-Ellis. (Jonathan Cape.)

# THE LAW AT WORK.

JANUARY 25, 1929.

This Report has a very good frontispiece. It is a broadsheet, published about 100 years ago, telling the story of Thomas King, a boy of 12, who after a life of crime was sentenced to death. The sheet gives a picture of the boy in his cell and a copy of verses. After this beginning the Report is somewhat di appointing. To say this is not for a moment to undervalue the services which are being rendered to neglected and delinquent children both by voluntary workers and by officials; but not much advance is being made. This is the more noticeable as no Report has appeared for three years, and there has been time for progress and new developments. To take an example, in 1925 an exhaustive account was given of the Juvenile Courts which clearly showed the extremely unsatisfactory conditions under which many of them are held. In this Report there is nothing to show what improvement has taken place except that a new Court has been built at Birmingham through the generosity of a private benefactor.

In one respect there has been an advance: the number of Courts at which there is no Probation Officer has fallen from 147 to 16. But the number of part-time officers is still very large, and there are several hundred Courts without the services of a woman. The anomalous position still persists whereby Probation Officers are in so many cases the agents of voluntary societies, and we are told that in London there are special part-time officers to deal with Nonconformist boys and Jewish girls!

Particulars are given of the early history of 1,000 lads who have been sent to Borstal during the last three years; nearly one-half had appeared in the Juvenile Court before the age of It is pointed out that some of the lads had been put on probation again and again, and it is suggested that too great burden is being placed upon the probation system. may be the case, but it might equally well be pointed out that probation might have been successfully used for some of the 40 boys who were birched, the 58 sent to industrial schools, or the 14 sent to Reformatories—all for their first offence. It is curious that, with the great increase in the number of probation officers, the number of probation orders made in 1927 is actually less than in 1926, 15,973 as against 16,596. It does not look as if—speaking generally—probation was being used too freely. It is disappointing too that fewer probation reports are being sent by the Courts to the Home Office, so that it is difficult to judge how the system is working or to summarize the results.

The number of children in industrial schools and reformatories has fallen from 6,871 in 1926 to 6,550 in 1927; the number committed during the year also fell, and three schools are mentioned as having been closed for want of children. An interesting account is given of the various forms of training in the schools, with a special chapter devoted to farm training for lads. As farming is carried on in 17 out of the 22 reformatories for boys it is rather surprising that only 13 per cent of the boys go to this occupation on leaving the schools. This seems to show that lads are not sent to farming unless they show a real taste for it. The time spent in the training is very longthree years' full time work spread over four years in the institu-tion—when it is remembered that it is impossible to reproduce outside conditions on institution premises, and that the tendency is for the boys to work very slowly. It is very satisfactory that so many girls have gained scholarships to secondary schools. One school in London is specially set apart for these girls. One regrets that there is no corresponding arrangement for boys.

One of the most valuable proposals in the Report of the Committee on Juvenile Delinquency—published now nearly two years ago—was that hostels for probationers should be established. The only progress recorded in this direction is that the hostel at Liverpool has been approved by the Home Office, and that the Leeds probationary committee is recommending the establishment of a hostel in that city. Hostels are urgently needed, but it is difficult to see how the need is to be met while their establishment depends entirely on local effort. When the large centres of population have established hostels (and this is happening very slowly indeed) they will need the accommodation for their own boys, and the needs of the smaller places which could not maintain a hostel of their own will not be met.

A chapter of the Report is devoted to the subject of offences against children. There has been a tremendous decrease in the number of persons tried for cruelty to children. It has fallen from 4,106 at the beginning of the century to 1,200 last

(Continued at foot of next column.)

1 The Fourth Report on the Work of the Children's Branch. Home Office, November, 1928. Price 1s.

# A MESSAGE FROM DAME MILLICENT.1

It is one of the chief joys of the elder suffragists to watch the important developments which are constantly taking place among those who were among our early supporters. I cannot pretend to give an exhaustive list but I can mention two cases which I never think of without a thrill of gratitude. I refer to the Men's League for Women's Suffrage which came into being about a quarter of a century ago, when Mr. Asquith was a most vehement opponent. At that time it required considerable physical as well as moral courage to show us friendship. The chief creator and organizer of the Men's League was Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, then quite a young man, and he was associated with Dr. and Mrs. Wilmot-Herringham. Between them they did much to protect the friends of women's suffrage from physical violence and ill-treatment from enraged Liberals at public meetings. Now Mr. Malcolm Mitchell is the secretary of the Carnegie Trust, which has done so much to develop all kinds of social and educative activities for both men and women in every part of the United Kingdom. Women's Institutes, Village Libraries, and a hundred other valuable activities have been and are being promoted by him. And Dr. Herringham is now General Sir Wilmot-Herringham and is chairman of the Council of Bedford College. It was mainly through him that women were rendered eligible for the Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians. I had the pleasure of a call from Mr. Mitchell the day before I started on this little holiday cruise, and it delighted me to hear how greatly the work of the Carnegie Trust had developed on all sides.

## EVENTS THAT MUST NOT BE MISSED.

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

Interpretation of Classical Plays. By Dorothea Spinney. The Bacchae of Euripides. 28th January. 8.30. Arts Theatre Club, Great Newport Street, W.C. (Leicester Square Tube). Particulars from Miss Alice Michaelis, 10 Canfield Gardens, N.W. 6.

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

The Story of Westminster. Told in four lectures with lantern slides. 5.30 p.m. Westminster School, Large Hall. 19th February: Its Churches, by Dr. Jocelyn Perkins. 25th February: Its Schools, by Lawrence E. Tanner, F.S.A. 5th March: Its Highways and Byeways, by A. H. Blake, Esq. 12th March: Its Palaces and Houses of Westminster, by T. Wilson, Esq. Tickets and particulars from Westminster Housing Association, 32 Charing Cross, S.W. 1.

#### (Continued from preceding column.)

year. Unfortunately the position as regards sexual offences against children is much less satisfactory. There has been a large increase in the number of indecent assaults: those on boys have increased from 43 in 1909 to 125 last year, those on girls from 593 to 959. In each case there is also an increase on the figures for the previous year. It is very disappointing that this increase should persist. It is now three years since the Committee on sexual offences against young persons presented its Report, and it is deplorable that so little should have been done to carry its recommendations into effect.

We want many things—another experiment in Reformatory treatment on the lines of the Little Commonwealth, an observation centre where delinquent boys and girls could be examined both medically and psychologically, proper Remand Homes in which children could be detained pending necessary inquiries, a thorough reorganization of the Juvenile Court. And with regard to offences against young persons we want women to be associated in every way with the proceedings so as to lessen the strain on the children and young persons, we want less delay and we want some overdue changes in the law. And there is nothing in the Report to tell us of progress in these directions.

CLARA D RACKHAM.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The above short article was written on the S.S. Otranto en route to Ceylon.

#### OBITUARY.

# ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY. By EDITH HOW-MARTYN.

Dr. Alice Vickery, whose death occurred on 12th January, after a short illness, was above all a feminist. To her observant gaze and penetrating intellect the world in which she was growing up eighty years ago did not seem a fair one to women nor did it offer the young woman opportunities to use the gifts struggling for expression within her. Alice Vickery showed courage and determination and was soon to be counted among the small band of pioneers who were blazing trails for women in all directions. Their paths were hard. Their difficulties, trials, hopes, disappointments, and successes have been told in connection with the struggles for opening the medical profession to women, for opportunities of higher education, for the right of married women to the guardianship of their children and to ownership of property and with the sixty-years-long struggle for their political enfranchisement. Dr. Alice Vickery supported all these movements in addition to the struggle of entering the profession of her choice. She qualified in pharmacy and then attended the first medical lectures given to women in London at the Royal Free Hospital by Dr. Charles R. Drysdale, whom she afterwards married. She continued her medical studies in Paris, and was one of the four women who first took a medical degree after Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, and had to go to Dublin for the purpose

In 1876 the trial of Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh for selling the Knowlton pamphlet giving contraceptive informa-tion roused the country. Both Dr. Vickery and her husband gave evidence on their behalf at the trial and afterwards helped to found the Malthusian League, of which Dr. Charles R. Drysdale was the first President and Mrs. Annie Besant Hon. Secretary. On his death in 1907, she became President of the League and of the International Federation of neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Leagues.

Her marriage to Dr. Charles R. Drysdale was a real partnership in life and in work and their son, Dr. Charles Vickery Drysdale has splendidly carried on the family tradition by his distinguished scientific attainments. Her husband and his brother, Dr. George Drysdale, and later her son emphasized the economic aspects of the Malthusian doctrines; Dr. Alice Vickery's firmly rooted feminism led her to regard the scientific control of their motherhood by women themselves as fundamental to their personal freedom and the keynote of women's emancipation. In this I think she was entirely right but reforms are not based on, nor are they won by, logic or justice undiluted. In actual practice advances were made in education and the opening of professions, while the birth control propaganda was carried on by a small group with but little encouragement and much opprobrium. Dr. Alice Vickery was an enthusiastic member of this group, though at times she endured much mental suffering due to ill-informed abuse and social ostracism. With the victory of women's suffrage in 1918 the birth control movement entered a new phase, attracted new workers and has taken a firmly established place on the programmes of some of the largest progressive women's organizations.

Dr. Vickery always considered that women's chief concern should be the welfare of the race, and to discharge this responsibility women need complete freedom of choice and action in all affairs of life. Artificial limitations inflicted on women only found in her an uncompromising opponent. She hated the law of coverture and especially the inequalities in the laws relating to marriage, children, divorce, and inheritance. Conventions, however apparently trivial, which seemed to arise from unequal laws, she thought it always worth while to defy. She never ceased to use her own name after her marriage, and advocated one form of address for adult women as for men instead of Mrs. and Miss.

Like many of her pioneer contemporaries Dr. Alice Vickery was not as well known to the present generation of feminists as she deserved to be. She welcomed young recruits and was a warm supporter of the suffragettes. She was always willing to discuss with beginners and give them the benefit of her experience. She had little interest in personalities and her point of view was unbiassed and impartial. She constantly went back to first principles and tested conclusions by them.

Her interest in feminism remained lively to the end of her life, and the wider and truer understanding of the social benefits of birth control gave her intense pleasure.

The difference in women's position, opportunities, and achievements to-day compared with sixty years ago amounts to a social revolution, and Dr. Alice Vickery was fortunate in sharing the struggles, sacrifices, and sufferings and in living long enough

Dr. Alice Vickery has been an inspiration to me during the twenty-three years I have had the privilege of knowing her, and I am glad to offer her even this slight tribute of apprecia-Her untiring zeal in the pursuit of her aims, her steady disregard of anything like discouragement, made it impossible not to be impressed by the strength of her character and convictions.

# MRS. R. C. BLACKSTONE.

By the death of Mrs. Blackstone on 1st January, Bath lost a citizen of long standing who had done much to make the citizenship of women an effective reality. For thirty years she has worked in that city, first for the development of women's activities in local government, and later, as hon. secretary of the Bath Suffrage Society, for the parliamentary franchise. When the Act of 1918 set her free from the absorbtion of that agitation, she threw her energy into the Bath Women Citizens' Association and the League of Nations Union. Other aspects of her rich personality showed her as a musician and as the mother of three daughters of her own calibre.

# MRS, ALLAN BRIGHT,

Many readers will have felt a sense of personal loss when they read of the death of Mrs. Allan Bright, at Barton Court, Colwall, Herefordshire, on 20th January. In a subsequent issue we will give a short account of her life and work.

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MODERN METHODS OF WELFARE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE CIVIL POPULATION.

# FRANKFORT-ON-MAIN, 4th-6th JANUARY, 1929.1

This Conference, organized by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has aroused a great amount of public interest and support. The long list of distinguished names from all countries on the General Committee, the eminent scientists who read papers, and the large number of organizations, national and international, of all shades of opinion, who sent representatives, showed the importance attached to the Conference, and this was borne out by the space given to it in the European Press and the favourable comment it evoked.

During two days and a half papers were read by scientists and technicians from France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, Great Britain, and Poland. A great wealth of valuable material was presented to the Conference, and, in view of the enormous importance of the subject and the interest aroused, this material will be published in English, French, and German. The lecturers approaching the subject from different points of view, all tended to come to the same practical conclusions, viz. that the Governments of great Powers were all now preparing for gas warfare, by the manufacture of various poison gases, by far reaching chemical experiments, and by the ouilding of air-fleets; that in any future war the whole country of the opponents would be turned into a battlefield and that poison gases would be directed in devastating quantities on towns and factories, annihilating the civil population, while at the same time explosive and incendiary bombs wiped out the buildings; that no effective protection can be afforded from these horrors; that therefore a future war would mean the mass extermination of the population on each side; that no treaties or agreements will deter governments from using these and every other newly discovered form of weapon; and that the only way to rescue civilization and humanity itself from destruction is to abjure absolutely all war, to carry through total disarmament, and to organize the peaceful settlement of all disputes.

The following extracts from some of the papers read give some of the leading points: Dr. Steck, chief of the Swiss State office for protection against poison gas, said: "Most States are equipping themselves for gas war," and he showed lantern slides illustrating the elaborate apparatus for protection against gas attacks now prepared in Switzerland. Dr. Hoejer, Sweden, described the deadly results of poison gases on the human organism, and said: "Modern war will be a war of men against children, mothers, and invalids who cannot defend themselves It will be not a war of heroes but of cowards." Professor Lewin, the great German toxicologist, expressed the horror felt at the adoption of this method by one whose life had been devoted to the study of poisons. Poisoners had always been regarded as the worst criminals, and this method of flooding a country with clouds of poison, against which there was no defence, would turn civilization into a desert. Dr. McCartney, of the University (Continued at foot of next page.

<sup>1</sup>Contributed on behalf of the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street. W.C.

# NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

JANUARY 25, 1929.

President: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss Macadam.
General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mis. Horton.

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

## NORTH MIDLOTHIAN BY-ELECTION.

In addition to the replies from Mr. Lewis Spence (National Party candidate) and Mr. Andrew Clarke (Lab.), published last week a letter has now been received from Mr. Keir (Lib.) While not replying to the questionnaire, he writes: "In the press and hurry of a by-election it is quite impossible to give the deep consideration to the objects you have mentioned that their seriousness calls for. It would be unfair on my part, without that consideration, to state my views. Rather would I prefer to await a more quiet period for thought and meantime say that the basic principle of equality of opportunity is one to which I heartily subscribe.

#### THE GENERAL ELECTION.

Preparations are now beginning everywhere for the General Election. The National Union began its preparations some months ago with literature for the new voter and work in constituencies in which women are standing. At the next Council meeting a definite election policy will be agreed upon, for there appears to be no difference of opinion on the importance of this ection in which women for the first time will be on equal terms with men. Money specially allocated to this purpose is necessary, and it has been the custom of the National Union to raise a special fund. For no object has it been easier to raise money members of the National Union have always flocked to the colours (if we may be forgiven so military a metaphor) at the cry of a General Election. This appeal cannot wait until after the Council, and it has just been issued by the President and Treasurer on behalf of the Executive Committee. All donations will be earmarked for work in bringing the most urgent points on our equality programme before prospective candidates for Parliament and in work for women candidates of all parties.

#### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.-6th-9th March, 1929.

Secretaries of Societies will have already received full particulars of the Annual Council Meeting and the Preliminary Agenda will be posted on Monday, 28th January. May we remind them that the latest date on which nominations for Officers of the Union, Members of the Executive Committee, and Vice-Presidents must reach Headquarters is 4th February and the latest date for amendments to the Preliminary Agenda and all applications for tickets, 12th February.

# HOSPITALITY.

Many of the delegates to our Annual Council Meeting come from a considerable distance, which entails heavy railway fares, and we are anxious to obtain hospitality for some of these so that no Society should be prevented from being represented at this very important Council Meeting on account of expense. We should be very grateful to receive at Headquarters offers of hospitality from members and friends, and should be glad if those who are able to help in this way would let us know as soon as possible whether they are able to offer bed and breakfast only, or late dinner as well. Such help on the part of those who live in London is very greatly appreciated and quite invaluable.

#### PROXY DELEGATES.

Where it is quite impossible for Societies to send a delegate or their full quota of delegates to the Council Meeting, Headquarters is anxious to arrange for proxy delegates, and would be glad to hear from any members willing to act in this capacity. Society for which a proxy delegate is required supplies the delegate with tickets and full instructions with regard to voting, etc., and the proxy delegate is asked to send an account of the Council proceedings to the Society represented.

#### THE EDUCATION OF THE CITIZEN.

Great interest is being shown by the Press in the Conference on the Education of the Citizen on Friday, 8th February, in the Great Hall, University College, London, particularly in view of the urgent need for the education of the new voters. We hope that as many members of Societies as possible are keeping this date free. May we remind them that the sessions will be at 2.30 p.m., 5.30 p.m., and 8 o'clock. The Chairman will be the Duchess of Atholl, D.B.E., M.P., and the Chairman of sessions will include Dr. Cyril Norwood, M.A., and Mr. Albert Mansbridge, M.A., LL.D. Further particulars and tickets, 2s. for each session, or 5s. for the three sessions including tea, may be obtained on application to headquarters.

# NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

ACTON W.C.A.

The Acton W.C.A. has been engaged in an active campaign on the question of Maternity Mortality. Two meetings have been held; one, with the Mayoress in the Chair, addressed by the Medical Officer of Health and Consulting Gynacological Surgeon, and the second addressed by the Treasurer of the Midwives Institute. As a result resolutions have been forwarded to the local Council, the Board of Guardians, and to the Member of Parliament. In addition visits have been arranged to maternity homes in Chiswick and Fulham, to the Lying-in Hospital at Isleworth and to Infant Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries, and an interview with the Mayor. Two of the members of the W.C.A. are on the Child Welfare Committee of the Borough Council.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMAN'S EMOTIONAL LIFE

MADAM,—I cannot allow Ann Pope's courageous letter to remain unendorsed. May I suggest to those who find life lonely, a shilling translation of Claire Galichon's *Imitation of Jesus Christ*, the work of an old Lady Margaret scholar, published by Messrs. Fowler. The hymn beginning "At even when the sun did set" and Browning's "La Saisiaz", the lines following "And as for love . . ." has shown me that the purging of the vine branches with soft soap rubbed into the eyes necessitates the shedding of meant the street of the street of

Late Lady Margaret Hall.

## SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR WOMEN WORKERS.

MADAM,—Your interesting review of Mrs. Blainey's book on The Woman Worker and Restrictive Legislation contains a tribute to Mary MacArthur, my friend and colleague, at the Women's Trade Union League

May I elaborate the sketch of policy there attributed to her, which was indeed the policy of the League, whose secretary she was, and which at the time of her death in 1921, represented by affiliation, practically all organized women. I well remember our discussions, both in 1908 and 1909, before she moved at Trade Congress, the resolution which Mrs. Blainey cites. The broad principle of "wherever possible advancing by the prohibition of the use of poisonous ingredients" rather than by the exclusion of any class of labour, was that of the Women's Trade Union League. It was achieved in the case of the Yellow Phosphorus Act; urged without success in the case of the use of lead in the manufacture of which and eartherward lamp to account a limitation on a company. china and earthenware, and we have to accept a limitation on women's labour in certain processes where their special susceptibility involves risks.

Every case has to be judged on its merits, but other broad principles on which we worked are summed up in the article on Women's Employment in the pamphlet issued by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations of which Mary was Chairman. It was published in 1919 before Mary MacArthur and Margaret Bondfield went to Washington as women Labour Advisers to Mr. Stuart Bunning, the Labour representative for the first International Labour Conference held that year at as which Labour Arvisers of Mr. State Bulming, the Labour Labour conference held that year, at which it will be remembered the Washington Maternity Convention was framed. "We lay down two principles: that no bar should be placed on women's work which is not imperatively dictated by the demands of the race and the health and well-being of mother and child, and that when it is proved that work is injurious to maternity, any prohibition should carry with it adequate compensation for the lost wage. To do otherwise is to penalize motherhood."

Challenged at the Working Women's Conference at Washington of the challenged at the Working Women's Conference at Washington of the same date as to the desirability of an immediate sweeping away of all restrictions on women's labour, she said: "Complete freedom is the goal, but we have not reached it yet, and until the position of women in industry is secured by organization, we cannot afford to part with protective legislation, lest we hand over these unprotected workers to exploitation."

13 Chester Terrace, S.W. I. Gertrude M. Tuckwell. 13 Chester Terrace, S.W. 1.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (continued from p. 398).

of Edinburgh, in his paper on "Chemical Industry and Chemical Warfare," pointed out how easily the chemical industry of peace time can be used for war material. Control of the industry and the provision of protection would be extraordinarily difficult Therefore the only satisfactory protection lay in attacking all forms of warfare and combatting the war spirit. Chemical industry is indispensable to modern life and it can produce poison gas in secret. Moreover, whatever protective methods may be adopted may be made ineffective by a new discovery.

Francis Delaisi, the French author, made some interesting points in his speech to the public meeting held at the close of the Conference. Hitherto, he said, the soldier at the front has been supported in his sufferings by the thought that he was defending his country and home. In future that will not be the case his country and home will be invaded and laid waste behind his back. His address showed also the interweaving of peace and war industries, so that all the manufacture of dyes, celluloid and artificial silk can easily be diverted to the production of war material. Consequently even disarmament is not enough; war must be absolutely banned.

The Conference may be considered to have done extremely valuable work by arousing the interest of a large new circle, who are not accessible to ordinary peace propaganda, and by collecting a wealth of material that will be used in extending M. SHEEPSHANKS. the interest already roused.

<sup>1</sup> See Report of the Departmental Committee on the use of Lead (1) Minority Memorandum by Miss Tuckwell.

<sup>2</sup> See above, and also *Lead Poisoning and Lead Absorption*, Legge and Goadley, 1912, p. 42, etc.

#### COMING EVENTS.

#### BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

29th January, 1 p.m. 17 Buckingham Street, Strand. Luncheon. Mrs. Dalton, "Some Race Problems Affecting the Women of the British West Indies."

#### GUILD OF GIRL CITIZENS.

13th February, 8 p.m. The Guild House, S.W. 1. Public Meeting, Miss Ishbel MacDonald, "The Work of the L.C.C." Chair: Lady Maurice.

#### GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

4th February, 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, S.W. 1. Miss Biggs (Secretary Westminster Housing Association), "Housing in Westminster: What remains to be done."

# MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

7th February, 8 p.m. 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. Pi Graham Wallas, "America." Chair: The American Ambassador.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

8th February. Great Hall, University College, London. Conference on the "Education of the Citizen." Chair: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. Speakers: Dr. Cyril Norwood, M.A., Albert Mansbridge, M.A., J. H. Badley (Bedales School), Miss Pennethorne (P.E.N.U.), Mrs. Wintringham,

Miss Matheson (B.B.C.), B. Ingram, Esq. (L.C.C. Continuation Schools), and many others. First session, 2.30 p.m.; second session, 5.30 p.m.; third session, 8 p.m. Tickets 2s., or 5s. for the three sessions, from the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

Acton W.C.A.—25th January, 8 p.m. Committee Room, Acton Municipal fixes. Miss Macadam: "The New Voter and the Coming Election."

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

Preston W.C.A.—31st January, 7.30. St. John Ambulance Hall, nnual Re-union.

#### OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

7th February, 7 p.m. B.B.C. Debate. Dr. Marion Phillips (Chief Woman Officer of the Labour Party) and Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott (Chairman Open Door Council) will broadcast a debate on Restrictive Legislation.

#### UNION OF WOMEN VOTERS.

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

#### TYPEWRITING.

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SALE.—Coloured Linen Tray Cloths, Hemstitched, made from Hutton's "Never-Fade" Linen in Saxe, Helio, Nile Green, Lemon, Pink, Flame, Orange or Cinnamon. Size 14 by 20 in., each 1/-. Hemstitched Table Runners in any of these shades; size 11 by 33 in., 1/6 each. Complete Sale List FREE.— 1/6 each. Complete Sale List FREE HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey, Expert advice on Openings and Trainings for professional women; interviews 10-1 (except Saturdays) or by appointment.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Feccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 27th F Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. January, Rev. F. L. Donaldson.

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

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