

THE WOMAN'S YEAR.

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 AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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RETROSPECT, 1928.

Last year has been, by suffrage standards, a singularly easy year, which is not to say an idle year, but rather a year of straightforward and satisfying endeavour. The crowning peak of that endeavour was, of course, the complete and final accomplishment of "votes for women on the same terms as they are or may be granted to men." But even here, by suffrage standards, progress seemed to run on smooth and well-oiled lines. For though effort, organization, and vigilant reminder were demanded at every turn, the issue was never really in doubt. It can almost always be truthfully said that the successful political campaigns of the present are governed by the apparently unrewarded efforts of the past. But seldom has a situation been so irrevocably governed by a definite incident of the past as was the 1927-8 equal franchise campaign by the exaction of an election pledge from Mr. Baldwin in 1924. 1928 presented for the more honourable opponents of women's suffrage an absolutely iron-bound situation. And from the beginning they seem to have realized its implications. As a result the final stages of a long and acrimonious conflict were accomplished in an atmosphere of debonair politeness and well-concealed resignation. Only the more vulgar elements of the syndicated Press continued to protest to the end that election pledges were made to be broken and that all women between 21 and 30 were just 21. Seldom has a Press campaign fallen more flat.

Internally, the woman's movement has experienced a year of suspended peace. The disagreements over the formulation of a demand for equal opportunity in industry and over the correct frontiers of feminism which in 1927 rent the Annual Council of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, were in March, 1928, deliberately shelved in the interest of an unruffled pre-occupation with Equal Franchise. What process of unremarked change have these tangled controversies experienced during their quiet sojourn on the shelf? Do such matters grow stale, or perchance irrelevant with long keeping? Well—1929 will show, for 1929, as far as one can see, will present

tasks of internal reconstruction and perhaps redefinition of old principles to meet the demands and express the powers of altered status.

In the professions and the arts, the exploits of women are duly set forth in the pages which follow. But we venture at the risk of disproportion, to indicate a new sphere in which women have done work of conspicuous merit. Over our heads they are playing their part and holding their own. We refer of course, not to the Press-glorified rescue of Miss Elder and her ubiquitous lip-stick, nor to the passive but plucky trans-Atlantic adventure of Miss Earhart, who has disarmed criticism by herself disclaiming any skill or merit. But in the lonely air-currents of the Dark Continent two intrepid and skilful British airwomen have done active pioneer work, and one of them is responsible for a new altitude record. For all the airwomen who may come after, the work of Lady Bailey and Lady Heath has carved a path through the clouds of prejudice, and set a standard in the upper air of high endeavour.

But has 1928, with its final accomplishment in the field of political democracy, really left tasks big enough and definite enough to demand such a reconditioning of feminist forces? We invite our readers to turn this problem over in their minds after reading the lines, and between the lines of this retrospective issue. For all its triumphant accomplishment 1928 shows signs of some dark ground-swells. In the medical world women are actually fighting on the defensive. Anti-feminism is attacking. In the civil and municipal services they are fighting, if not in defence of threatened privileges, at any rate on the same old tedious front of equal pay and equal opportunity. In industry, the general low stagnation of the woman's position is perhaps a function of its difficult intractability. 1928 may indicate fine progress, but without question it indicates also the obstinate persistence of obscure yet pressing feminist problems. For the solution of these problems, more than at any period in the history of the woman's movement, must we pledge ourselves to continue the kind of fight which is most difficult to wage: "*mental fight.*"

THE POLITICAL YEAR.

EVA M. HUBBACK.

A favourite quotation with many Suffragists has long been those lines of Clough which begin, "Say not the struggle nought availeth." This year we may well claim that the "flooding in of the main" has indeed occurred, and the knowledge that the long suffrage fight has at last met with complete and, at the last lap, easy and in many quarters really ungrudging success, makes 1928 only second to 1918 in importance. This is not the place to refer to the past aspects of the long fight; these have been recorded faithfully in our columns year by year. It is our pleasant task merely to record the easy history of the last few months.

It might, perhaps, be useful to remind those of our readers who are less familiar with the struggle during the last ten years that the real fight might almost be said to have been over by 1922, when Mr. Bonar Law wrote to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship that he was in favour of Equal Franchise, as it was stated to be his opinion of his which persuaded the present Government to come down on the same side. For the first time, therefore, the enfranchisement of women found a place in the King's Speech. Next came a big meeting in the Queen's Hall on 8th March, organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, where the Prime Minister announced his intention of introducing the bill the following week. On Thursday, 29th March, came the second reading. What a contrast to earlier measures, not only in the measure itself, but also in the general atmosphere and tone of the debate! The Home Secretary struck the right note in his admirable speech when he claimed that this bill was the logical conclusion of a series of Reform Bills beginning with that of 1832. The speeches that followed were wholly in tune with this attitude of conscious and confident rectitude. There was a complete absence of the half apologetic approval or the passionate appeal of past rhetorical efforts. A curious feature was that for the first time, perhaps, in parliamentary history, the sole opposition to a Government Bill came from the Government benches themselves; even so the "Ten Tough Tories" who were found in the end to vote against the measure, did not base their opposition on anti-suffragist arguments. Mr. Baldwin himself spoke with real sincerity and feeling, and ended his speech in the following words: "To-night marks the final stage in the union of men and women working together for the regeneration of their country and the regeneration of the world."

The later stages of the bill went like clockwork, the committee stage being enlivened by a peculiarly gay and sparkling speech from the Home Secretary. The only amendment on which serious discussion arose was that providing that the minimum voting age for new voters should be 25. This was lost by 359 votes to 16. The third reading was passed on the 7th May amid cheers, not a voice being raised against it. It is difficult to realize the amount of history that lies behind that brief and pregnant statement—the hopes, the fears, the struggles of two generations, the speeches, the meetings, the propaganda, the controversy, the fighting; yet at the end, when the final decision came to be taken, the third reading of the Equal Franchise Bill passed in the House of Commons without one dissentient voice or vote.

On 22nd May came the second reading in the House of Lords; the Lord Chancellor opened with a lucid statement, and the familiar voice of Lord Banbury was raised to move the rejection of the bill. The debate included a fine speech by Lord Lytton, with a touching reference to the old Suffragists, but the most dramatic event was the speech by Lord Birkenhead, skilfully deputed by the Government to sum up on its behalf, on the principle, we suppose, of "set a thief to catch a thief." He wound up amid laughter with the recommendation to the Lords to go into the Lobby in favour of the Bill "if without enthusiasm, yet in a spirit of resolute resignation."

On Monday, 2nd July, just after 6 p.m. the Royal Assent was given, those present including Dame Millicent Fawcett. It was sad to think that during the passage of this bill Mrs. Pankhurst had passed away.

Edinburgh Corporation Bill.—Although not fought on feminist lines, the defeat of the Edinburgh Corporation Bill on its second reading on 19th April, was regarded with universal satisfaction by the women's organizations. This private bill, put forward by the Edinburgh Corporation, provided that the treatment of venereal disease should be made compulsory in certain cases.

A considerable campaign against the bill had been undertaken by organizations, led by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. The bill was opposed by the Government on the grounds that work for the elimination of venereal disease has always been in proportion to, and not in advance of, the volume of public opinion which can support it and also on the familiar grounds that compulsion defeats its own ends, as it is apt to prevent patients from coming forward for treatment.

Testamentary Provision for Spouses and Children.—For some time the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has been considering the possibility of introducing legislation providing for testamentary provision for wives, husbands, and children, in view of the fact that the present law—under which a husband is bound to support his wife during his life time, but may leave her and her dependent children penniless on his death, even though he may be possessed of a fortune and his wife may have lost much of her value in the labour market on account of marriage—produces a crop of hard cases. Lord Astor took a great deal of interest in this subject, and on 16th May introduced a resolution into the House of Lords asking that a Select Committee should be appointed to see whether a change in the laws governing testamentary provision was necessary. The resolution was withdrawn, being opposed on various and mutually destructive grounds, but an extraordinary amount of interest was displayed by the general public, and an almost wholly favourable Press, including the legal Press, resulted. Lord Astor, therefore, went further and on 1st August introduced the *Wills and Intestacies (Family Maintenance) Bill*. This bill was based partly on the Scottish precedent and partly on the Dominion laws, and laid down that spouses, children, and in some cases dependents, for whom adequate provision has not been made, can apply to the courts or affect a compromise with the executors. No application can be made in cases in which a share of not less than the income from one-third of the aggregate estate for the surviving spouse, and one-third of what would have been due to them in the case of intestacy for children, has been left. Later in the year a conference of women's organizations was called, and Lord Astor has every intention of returning to the charge next year.

The Minimum Legal Marriage Age.—As reported last year, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship took a deputation on 8th November, 1927, to the Home Secretary asking that the Government should introduce a bill to raise the minimum legal marriage age for both boys and girls to 16, and was asked by him to propose an agreed form. A draft was prepared and submitted, and it was hoped that before the end of the 1928 session the Government would itself have introduced the bill. This did not prove possible, but there is every reason to hope that next year a bill will be introduced by a private Member in the House of Lords, and that the Government will take a benevolent attitude. Our readers will remember that the main push behind this bill comes from those who are concerned with the position, in this respect, of other countries of the world, and with India, it being almost impossible to press for the age of 16 to be considered the minimum age of consent and age of marriage in certain backward countries on the League of Nations Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young Persons at Geneva, while our present laws still remain on the statute book. It should not be forgotten, also, that an average of some 30 cases of marriage of girls below the age of 16 occur annually.

The question of the *Nationality of Married Women* is one which women's organizations have been watching particularly closely this year, as the subject will be discussed at the Conference on the Codification of International Law to be convened by the League of Nations in the Autumn of 1929. No action has been taken by the Government to alter the existing law during the year, the question being raised in Parliament only on individual cases, although it has been approached by representative women's organizations urging the necessity of immediate acceptance of the principle that married women should be given freedom to retain or to change their nationality. The Government, unfortunately, has so far refused to act until the Committee of Experts set up by the Imperial Conference has issued its report, and there is no indication when this may be expected.

The autumn session has been almost entirely monopolized by the *Local Government Bill*, and here certain of the women's organizations have played an active part in pressing for amendments to those clauses which determine the nature of the committees and sub-committees to be set up by the County and

County Boroughs to take over the functions of Boards of Guardians. The attempt to make co-optation compulsory failed, however, and the further great point for which many organizations are working—the exclusion of maternity and child welfare from the block grant proposed under the bill—remains still to be determined early next year.

So much for legislation. We turn next to the appointment of some among the large number of Commissions which deal with points in which readers of this paper are especially interested.

The Simon Commission.—On its first return from India, a memorandum on the desirability of associating women with the Indian Statutory Commission, and on the needs of women in India, was sent by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to the members of the Commission. The memorandum pointed out that "organized women in this country have become acutely anxious as to the well-being of Indian women and as to the effect which changes in the method of government may have—for better or worse—upon the generally acknowledged evils which beset their lot, such as illiteracy, early marriage, the high infantile and maternal death-rate, bad housing and sanitation, perpetual seclusion, etc." The memorandum suggested that women should be appointed as investigators or technical advisors from among those who had had experience of responsible work in India.

The Street Offences Committee. which had been set up in 1927 to inquire into offences against the criminal law in connection with prostitution and solicitation for immoral purposes in streets and public places and other offences against decency and good order, sat for some months in 1928, and the report was finally published in December. Evidence was heard from a great many organizations, including the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, to whose indefatigable work we can owe the establishment of the committee. The main recommendations were as follows:—

"That the existing general and local legislation in England and Scotland relating to solicitation between the sexes should be repealed."

"That there be substituted a simple enactment of general application constituting it an offence for any person of either sex to importune a person of the opposite sex for immoral purposes in any street or public place."

The word "importune" is defined "as referring to acts of molestation by offensive words or behaviour."

"That it be made an offence for any person to frequent any street or public place for the purpose of prostitution or solicitation so as to constitute a nuisance, but that the evidence of one or more of the persons aggrieved be essential to a conviction."

If embodied in legislation these, though not perfect, would constitute a real advance on the present law.

The Savidge Inquiry.—In the summer considerable interest was aroused in the Savidge case, in which the police were said to have exerted undue pressure to obtain evidence from Miss Savidge after her case had been dismissed, in order to prepare the defence for two officers against whom perjury had been suggested. As a result of the public outcry, two commissions were appointed—a tribunal of three, to deal with the case itself, on which in spite of many efforts, no women were appointed, and later the *Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure* "to consider the general powers and duties of police in England and Wales in the investigation of crimes and offences," on which two women, Miss Margaret Beavan and Dame Meriel Talbot, were appointed. The report of the Savidge Inquiry pronounced the desirability of a policewoman or matron being present when it is necessary for men to put to a young woman questions of an intimate character, unless the person being questioned expressly made a request to the contrary. No suggestion was made, however, that women should themselves take the statements. The recommendations of the report were adopted by the Home Secretary. The second Commission will not be reporting for some time.

The question of *maternal mortality* has more than ever been exercising the minds of all organized women. In April the Minister of Health published Circular 888 calling upon Local Authorities to systematize the causes of maternal death, and pointing out that there are still certain areas in which much remains to be done and to improve the maternity service as a fundamental branch of practical preventive medicine. Shortly after two departmental committees were appointed by the

Minister of Health, one to "advise upon the application to maternal mortality and morbidity of the medical and surgical knowledge at present available, and to inquire into the needs and direction of further research work," the other "to consider the working of the Midwives Acts, 1902 to 1926, with particular reference to the training for midwives (including its relation to the education of medical students in midwifery) and the conditions under which midwives are employed." Several women were appointed on each of these committees, which have been actively at work throughout the year. In the meantime a big campaign had been initiated by the Maternal Mortality Committee, consisting of representatives of various organizations, the moving spirit being Miss Gertrude Tuckwell. It has organized several conferences of a representative nature.

The Kellogg Pact.—The great outstanding event as regards international peace has, of course, been the Kellogg Note, to which our own Government replied in May "that the suggestion for the conclusion of a treaty for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy has evoked widespread interest in this country, and His Majesty's Government will support the movement to the utmost of their power." Mr. Kellogg had previously made it clear that the signing of the Pact could not take away the inalienable right of self-defence and inserted a clause in its preamble giving express recognition of the principle that if a State resorts to war in violation of the treaty the other contracting parties are released from their obligation to that State, and it was stated that the treaty was open to any power in the world who wished to join. It was felt unfortunate in some quarters that our Government felt bound to put forward reservations providing that our "freedom of action" was not to be "prejudiced with respect to certain regions of which the welfare and integrity constitute a special and vital interest for our peace and safety," though fortunately this did not stand in the way of our signing. Towards the end of August the Kellogg Pact was signed, and the Press of the whole world greeted it. The treaty was new for some and for others constituted reinsurance—for all the beginning of a happier era.

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

By M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

1928 has seen sad breaches in the ranks of the notable international women. Yet we are thankful they lived to see the result of their work.

Our greatest loss is by the death of Mrs. Anna Bugge Wicksell. Her position in the country of her marriage was unique as an international lawyer of great distinction; she was a valued adviser in the women's movement to the land of her birth, Norway, and as a member of the Mandates Commission she gave devoted and invaluable service to the solution of some of the most difficult of modern problems. Perhaps the best tribute to her work was the appointment of her successor, another Scandinavian woman, Miss Dannewig.

Our own Mrs. Pankhurst died just as votes were assured to all women in this country. Miss Mary Garrett Hay, of the United States, passed away suddenly, but she, too, lived to see the League of Women Voters a force in the land. Our warm sympathy goes out to Mrs. Chapman Catt in this personal and national loss.

It was tragic that on the eve of our peace conference at Dresden, Frau Stritt, the great German pioneer of suffrage and equality, passed peacefully away. We had so hoped to honour her at the twenty-five anniversary ceremonies in June next year.

Whereas the woman's movement in Europe has shown small progress in 1928, the advance in Asia, in the Pacific and South America has been notable. In India the States of Baroda, Gondal, Kashmir, Jobal, Indore, Mysore, have all fixed the marriage age at 14 for girls, and 18 for boys, Rajkot has 15 for girls, 19 for boys, only Mandi has, alas, chosen 13 for girls, while raising the age of marriage for boys to 18. The age of 13 and 14 is certainly deplorably low, but the mere fixing of an age limit shows an enormous advance in popular thought, and an increased appreciation of the position of women. When we groan at the low age fixed, let us remember our own legal age is 12 and that historically it is only the other day that marriage of girls of 14, 15, and 16 were extremely common. Sixteen appears even to Jane Austen as quite possible.

The United Provinces and the Central Provinces have followed the good example of Madras, and have appointed (not elected) a woman member of the legislative council.

Ceylon, thanks to the activity of the new Women's Franchise Union, will shortly have women voters, either at the age of 30, as recommended by Lord Donoughmore's commission, or possibly at a lower age.

Burma has a women judge, Miss Daw Me Khin.

Japan has now a suffrage movement so strong that four organizations are voicing the views of different sections of the community. We welcome this necessary stage of development, hoping that joint parliamentary action is the rule, though propaganda may be independent.

In South America there is the splendid outcome of the Pan-American Conference, the appointment of an inter-American Committee of women to study the legal and civil equality of women in order to present a report to the next conference. Our warm congratulations go to Miss Doris Stevens whom the British delegation to Paris will remember.

The Pan-Pacific Women's Conference in Honolulu was a great landmark. Women from all the countries bordering the Pacific were present to discuss a wide programme. The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship was represented by Mrs. Rieschbieth, Australian member of the Board.

A significant commentary on the changing status of women was the survey and inquiry set up into industrial and professional status and pay of women. Meanwhile the women of Rio Norte da Grande in Brazil have exercised their vote, the first women of the last continent to do so. Chile has appointed a woman consul in Hull and a woman vice-consul in Glasgow. Bolivia has appointed two women to posts in the consular service, and we understand Cuba has now a woman judge.

The number of women sent to the Assembly of the League was nine, of whom seven were substitute delegates and two were technical advisers.

The number of women sent to the International Labour Office Conferences has steadily decreased since 1919, and this despite the fact that, for instance, this year the two questions, that of the machinery for fixing minimum wage rates and of the prevention of industrial accidents vitally affect the enormous and growing number of women in industry.

The result of the conference on the minimum wage convention was particularly disappointing. The high water mark of idealism reached in the Treaty of Versailles which laid down the fundamental principle of equal remuneration of men and women for work of equal value has been succeeded by an ebb tide. A reference to the principle was made in recommendation B "that Governments were to recall this principle they had formally adhered to." The battle ground has thus been shifted to the various parliaments which will be called upon to ratify the convention.

Austria has appointed Frau Enny Freundlich as the one woman member of the Economic Section of the League.

In Denmark, Fru Petersen, the President of the Danish auxiliary of the Alliance, has been elected a member of the Upper House, and in Holland, our friend Mrs. Italie van Embden is now an M.P. France and Finland have opened the diplomatic service to women, but in France only candidates having done their military service may take posts abroad.

Ireland has a woman sheriff for the first time, and New Zealand has appointed two women as magistrates for the children's courts.

The German general election returned thirty-two women as members of the Reichstag, showing no change, but there are forty-three women in the Prussian diet, giving an increase of four.

The United States has 126 women members of the state legislatures, a gain of four over 1927. Seven women sit in Congress, but none in the Senate.

Sweden has only three women M.P.s, Norway only one, Mrs. Helga Karlsen. From Roumania comes the news of an important reform of the civil code, improving the position of the married woman.

On the whole, 1928 has seen a consolidation of the woman's position, but no spectacular advance.

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WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS.

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In any one normal year there may not seem to be a great deal to record as to the progress of women in the professions, but this has been a year of retrospect, an occasion for looking further back than January, 1928. In this year we have reached the goal of full political enfranchisement, and that leads to retrospection, and in this year too we have had presented to us a history of the women's movement which gives us a picture of women seventy, sixty, and even fifty years ago, not in the professions but a long way out of them. With this picture in our minds the most vivid impression made upon us in this present year of grace is the amazing number of women there are in the professions and the remarkable variety of their professions.

We read of women surrounded by closed doors, every opportunity of using their faculties barred to them, and of the long struggle to gain admission to the medical profession, the timid approach to the Universities, the gradual opening of the doors of the law and the Civil Service and so on. We look round now—1929—and we see hurrying in all directions women doctors, professors, lecturers, barristers, solicitors, civil servants, accountants, women of business and of professions past counting.

All this has come bit by bit; there has been some more each year, perhaps in some years only an inch or two "e pur" si muove."

This year it is the women architects who have made a leap forward with the acceptance of Miss Elizabeth Scott's design for the Shakespeare Theatre, a prize won in open competition.

There has been a new distinction in medicine too. Dr. Justina Wilson has been elected F.R.C.P. of Edinburgh, the first woman Fellow of either of the British Colleges of Physicians. But on the other hand there has been an unpleasant setback for women students of medicine in the closing to women of nearly all the London Medical Schools.

In various branches of research women have been active. It seems clear that archaeology and anthropology are subjects which attract a number of women and in which women have shown marked ability. Last winter Miss Caton Thompson and her geologist helper, Miss Eleanor Gardner, spent arduous months in the unexplored and very inaccessible desert region of Fayoum and obtained interesting and valuable results and this year Miss Caton Thompson has been commissioned by the British Association to investigate the mysterious ruins in Rhodesia of which every one has heard but which have never yet been thoroughly examined.

Miss Garrod, who two years ago discovered the Gibraltar Skull, is now busy with excavations in Palestine, and Miss Winifred Lamb (who is Curator of Greek Vases in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge) is digging in Greece.

At Cambridge Miss G. A. Nairn, of Girton, was awarded one of the Chancellor's Medals (Classics). This year three medals were awarded, two open to men only and one to women only. But to attain the standard required for a Chancellor's Medal is a very high achievement indeed.

At Oxford the Newdigate Prize was again won by a student of Lady Margaret Hall—Miss Angela Cave; at Cambridge Miss G. Nairn was awarded the Chancellor's Medal. It is worth noting also that fourteen papers were read by women at the meeting of the British Association and that there was—though not by any means for the first time—a woman President of one of the sections, namely Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan.

In the Civil Service examination for the Administrative Class, Miss Nancy Proctor-Gregg, of Newnham, was ninth in a list of eleven successful candidates.

There has been no change for the better yet in the position of women in the Civil Service but the demand for equal opportunity grows stronger and is now reinforced by the support of the newly enfranchised voters. These younger women hold specially strong views on the subject of compulsory dismissal on marriage in the Civil Service and in other professions, and what they are determined to have they will undoubtedly manage to procure.

The Manchester City Council took a firm line in rejecting the proposal of their Education Committee to require the resignation of teachers on marriage and this led to a long and heated correspondence in the *Manchester Guardian* and other papers.

The Education Committee of Leigh, Lancashire, became involved in a long controversy on the subject by attempting to enforce compulsory retirement in a small provided school.

The managers of the school resisted so stoutly that in the end the Committee were not only obliged to give way in the particular case, but also to rescind the rule altogether.

On the other hand unfortunately this rule had been newly adopted by several local councils.

There has been striking recognition this year of the value of trained women as managers of house property. In London the Commissioners of Crown Lands and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have employed women managers for some years, and women have now been appointed as managers of municipal property in a number of other boroughs. Chesterfield, which was the pioneer in this matter, has now been followed by Scarborough, Chester, Rotherham and Liverpool.

These appointments have been made by the various boroughs in order that the work may be done on the lines laid down by Miss Octavia Hill and it is recognized that work on these lines can be done best by women. It is interesting that a Committee of the Chester Council appointed to inquire into the working of the system, reported that they considered it economical in the truest sense of the word.

In other directions women are also moving forward. There is news this year of four women tax inspectors, a newspaper proprietor, some Coroners' Clerks, a Registrar of Births and Deaths, and a stationmaster, besides many other less picturesque appointments; and in many directions it is evident that the doors of opportunity are swinging a little on their hinges, so that women, if they can push hard enough can here and there edge their way in.

WOMEN IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

By PROFESSOR WINIFRED C. CULLIS, O.B.E. D.Sc.

In the past year the event in connection with women in the medical profession which has provoked the greatest discussion amongst the general public, and has produced a deep feeling of resentment in the minds of those who know of the splendid work done by women in this profession, has been the decision to close to women three of the remaining hospitals in London who were offering co-educational opportunities. At different times and for varying periods, women students have been admitted with men to St. George's, St. Mary's, the London, University College, King's College, Charing Cross, and the Westminster Hospitals. The three first had closed down to women one after the other in previous years, and now the last three have come to the same decision to limit their student facilities to men. This leaves available for women medical students in London the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, the pioneer and for 40 years the only School in London which admitted them, and which is as its name implies for women students only, and University College Hospital, which allows of the entry of a strictly limited number.

This closure of the doors has aroused a deep resentment in the minds of fair-minded people, since however strenuously the hospitals concerned deny any such implications, it undoubtedly has been regarded by the general public as a criticism on the value of the work done by women in medicine and their suitability for the profession. That this cannot be the reason is well recognized by informed opinion, the probability being that the underlying cause is an economic one. Outside London, in all the medical schools of the country co-education is available. But it is a striking fact, probably having relation to the post graduate facilities offered by the schools, that whilst in the co-educational schools, the numbers of women students entering them has diminished during the past three years, in the one woman's school the numbers have been rising. It is greatly to be desired that in the near future sufficient facilities will be available in London, for all those students both men and women who desire co-education.¹

¹ Under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship a Joint Committee has been formed of Women's Organizations to Promote Equal Opportunities for Women with Men in the Medical and Hospital Services. To this are affiliated the following:—Association of Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools, Association of Head Mistresses, British Commonwealth League, British Federation of University Women, Catholic Women's League, Conservative Women's Reform Association, London and National Society for Women's Service, National Council of Women, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, National Union of Women Teachers, National Women Citizens' Association, Open Door Council, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Six Point Group, Union of Jewish Women, Women's Freedom League, Women's International League, Women's National Liberal Federation, Women's Unionist Organization—Central Women's Advisory Committee.

This Committee has issued a memorandum arguing the case against the closing to women of the London Medical Schools described in Professor Cullis's article. It has also approached by means of deputation and letter the hospitals themselves, and a number of other bodies concerned in the question.—EDITOR.

Otherwise during the year there has been steady if not spectacular progress. Continually there is a record of yet a new qualification or of a new post secured for the first time by a woman: thus we read during the past year of the first election of a woman to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, of another to the College of Surgeons, Australia, and of hospital and other professional appointments held by women for the first time.

To illustrate a further important phase of the work of medical women, mention may be made of the step which has been taken by a group of medical women who have been researching into the use of radium as applied to the treatment of cancer. This work which has been distinctly encouraging in its results, has been carried on in different hospitals grouped for this purpose, but geographically separated by many miles, which has meant a great waste in the time of use of the radium. Already many more women than can be dealt with are seeking for help and to make the best possible use of the radium and of the other facilities, a house has been taken where the cases can be collected. This by special permission is to be called the Marie Curie Institute. Surely it is a happy omen that the name of the woman who gave this element to the world, should be associated with this most beneficial application of it to the relief of suffering. Another pleasant feature is the appointment of Miss Scott as the architect to deal with the construction and alteration work in the Institute.

The outstanding feature, however, of the work of medical women as a whole to-day is the greater number turning towards general practice. More women are entering this field of work and are more quickly building up for themselves good sound practices. It is a field in which they are much wanted, for there are by no means enough women to ensure that opportunities for treatment by their own sex are available for the rapidly increasing number of women who desire them.

There is no question but that medical women are becoming more and more established as an important part of the medical profession and a part whose influence and opportunities of service are steadily increasing. This is seen in all branches of the profession, in the public services, in research, work and in private practice both specialist and general.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

By H. C. ESCREET.

When I received the command of the Editor of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* to write on the subject, I began to turn over in my mind what I should say. Much cogitation since that moment has only brought me to the same point at which I started, i.e. to the statement that women are certainly in industry, but that their position there in 1928 differs little from that in 1927 or (one is inclined to predict) in 1929.

There are still (roughly) three men in industry to every one woman, as there were in 1907. There are those who would tell us that industrial women now as then are crushed and kept down by a weight of oppressive restrictive legislation which prevents them from taking their rightful place in the industrial scheme of things. Frankly the present writer has not noticed it. What she has noticed is that trade union membership which is the bulwark whereby the man worker keeps his "position in industry" as secure as he can, had according to the latest return, decreased for women by over 40 per cent since 1920. It is true that the trade union membership of women is, even in spite of this decline more than 80 per cent greater than it was before the war, and trade union organizers are so far to be congratulated. But they would be the first to admit the seriousness of the present decline and to assure us that in their opinion legislation was a liberating and not an oppressive factor in the situation. Indeed, we should probably learn from them of their indignation that the Government Factory Bill, referred to in this survey two years ago, has not come to fruition, and indeed has now been hopelessly abandoned. We might also find them indignant that during the debate on the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, the Labour Party failed to carry their amendment which would have had the effect of abolishing the two-shift system. Those responsible for the policy of this paper do not share that indignation,¹ but agree instead with the Home Secretary who maintained that no case had been made out against the system in regard to any ill-effect on health. A matter upon which indignation would, however, become common

¹ Readers may be reminded that the policy of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* involves no opposition to legislative restrictions as such, but rather to the principle of sex differentiation in industrial legislation which may have dangerous and restrictive reactions upon the demand for female as compared with male labour.

again would be the attempt of the Government to secure at Geneva early in the year a revision of the Washington Eight Hours' Convention and its continued refusal to ratify the Convention as it stands.

It is sad that part of this article must inevitably deal with the women who are not in industry only because at this moment they cannot be—the unemployed women. During the year under review the very small amount being done for a few such women by way of government-aided training for other employment (chiefly that of resident domestic employment in which the demand for skilled workers is greater than the supply) has been still further reduced, and there seems little likelihood of larger grants being given.

There is a certain amount of mobility of this kind of labour (we make no pronouncement as to whether it is skilled or unskilled) and the fact that there has, during the year, been found necessity for setting up a Home Office Committee to inquire into the question of lonely girls in London, proves that many young working women arrive thus to seek their fortunes. Most of these girls come to London to take up domestic service, many of them doubtless reluctantly, and their reluctance is shared by their fellows in other countries. German and Austrian girls apparently take up this employment willingly; not so the maiden in Switzerland, where a recent inquiry has revealed the fact that in spite of fairly good wages it is not popular.

This article should make some reference to a subject which would more strictly affect the position of industrial men than that of industrial women, though they would have their share in it: the subject is that of the provision for the nation's wives and children by the introduction of a system of family allowances. It cannot be recorded that any very definite steps have been taken; but the matter was raised at the Annual Conference of the Labour Party. As it now stands the principle of some measure of family allowances has been accepted by the Executive Committee, which does not, however, feel able to move without decisive backing by the General Council of the Trade Union Congress. Among trade unionists (apart from the miners, who have expressed themselves in favour) the fear of the effect on the standard wage prevents unanimous acceptance at present, and more educational spade work must be done before this hesitancy can be overcome.

The final paragraph of this survey shall be one which might well be the same in all the other surveys—a reference to the full enfranchisement which women have gained during the year of grace 1928. Whatever we believe on the subject of family allowances, whatever we think right in regard to "restrictive legislation," whatever are our pet cures for the unemployment problem, we shall rejoice one and all that the young industrial woman has at last obtained the right to take her share in making up the nation's mind, and that last June she acquired, if not a different position in industry, a different position in the citizenship of her country.

WOMEN IN COMMERCE.

By CAROLINE HASLETT.

It is difficult to point to any outstanding advance in the position of women in Commerce during 1928, as the women who are doing the best work and holding the most influential jobs are doing so in a very quiet way.

Quite often the woman manager or director does not regard herself as at all exceptional and most frequently she does not wish her work to be specially talked about.

In fact it is often true that the better the work, the woman is doing, the less the public knows about her. This, in a way, is a very happy sign as it means that women are beginning to regard it as possible to take over managerial and other administrative posts in industry in the most natural way possible.

One interesting tendency which continues to grow is the interest which fathers are taking in new careers for their daughters. During the year I have had a number of interviews with fathers who have daughters who show a bent toward engineering, and it has been very refreshing to find that the father is quite willing to spend the same amount of money in training his daughter as an engineer as he would have spent on a son.

Another interesting tendency has been the very cordial attitude of the large scientific societies and engineering institutions toward women. Practically all these institutions have women members and are always pleased to welcome women at their meetings and invite them to join in discussions.

In addition to women who have trained in the orthodox way in commerce or industry one is continually coming across women

who are in charge of important businesses which frequently they have been forced to carry on after the death of their husbands. Three such instances have come to my notice within the last few weeks where women have taken up the reins of business almost at a moment's notice, and are successfully carrying on the family business.

Such instances prove that there must lie dormant in many women the capacity for a business career if only the opportunity occurs.

A further development which is likely to extend in the future is the number of women who are running businesses of their own.

Women realize more and more that the best way to create their own working conditions including the well-worn phrase of "equal pay for equal work" is to do so by becoming their own employers. This, of course, involves an entry into an entirely new world, that of Company Promotion. Here many difficulties are encountered and it will probably be some little time before the necessary capital will be forthcoming for businesses run entirely by women.

However, there are already one or two making considerable headway and the time will no doubt come when many such companies will be successfully floated.

Many women now occupy seats on the Board of Directors of companies and take part in decisions which involve the spending of many thousands of pounds.

In the electrical world which is developing so rapidly opportunities are being offered to educated women to help in the work of educating the women of the country in regard to the uses of electricity in the Home. One or two quite good appointments have been made during 1928 and we hope that as more trained and educated women are produced that still more remunerative openings will occur.

It is more and more realized that although a training in any given subject is necessary the most essential qualification for success in commerce and industry is the right kind of Personality.

In industrial welfare women continue to do excellent work and are undoubtedly holding their own in this newer field of service.

During the summer of 1928 an interesting band of American women visited this country, representing many different kinds of businesses and professions now open to women. The leader of the party, Miss Lena Madeson Phillips, is a prominent New York lawyer.

During their travels in this country the American business women were entertained by groups of British business women and discussions took place as to the possibility of forming an International Committee of Business and Professional women.

Miss Phillips feels very strongly that the time has come when it would be of value for the women of different countries to exchange experiences and to present a united point of view on any international question which might affect women engaged in business and commerce.

WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

By BERTHA MASON.

A SURVEY.

The outstanding events of the year 1928 in connection with local government have been:—

(1) The series of elections for local government authorities on all of which women are eligible to serve;

(2) The introduction of the Local Government Bill which was presented to Parliament on 12th November, 1928.

County Councils.—Elections for County Councils took place between the 1st and 8th March. These were followed in March and April by elections for Parish Councils, Urban and Rural District Councils, and for Boards of Guardians. Finally, on 1st November came the triennial elections for the Metropolitan Borough Councils and the elections for one-third of the members of Borough Councils which outside London take place annually.

Counties.—In London, sixty-five women came forward as candidates compared with forty-nine in 1925, of whom twenty-two were returned. These, with the addition of women aldermen of whom two were elected at the first meeting of the Council, brings the total of women now serving on the L.C.C. to twenty-six.

Returns from the provinces show that the number of women now serving on provincial County Councils, including aldermen and four women who have been successful at by-elections is 148. Soke of Peterborough for the first time has a woman on its County Council.

In England, the Counties of Essex, Lancashire, Middlesex, Kent, Norfolk, Monmouth, Northumberland, Hants, Sussex, Surrey, Suffolk (E.) and Wilts have increased the number of

their women County Councillors and Caernarvon, Carmarthen, and Merionethshire in Wales.

In Scotland two women were returned.

The total number of women County Councillors in England, Wales, and Scotland is approximately 150. The actual number serving at the time of writing may be slightly in excess of the figures here given as full returns in respect of the appointment of aldermen, except in the case of London, are not to hand.

Thirteen County Councils in England and Wales and thirty-two in Scotland have still no women members.

Urban and Rural Districts and Parishes.—Information received indicates that in spite of the terrible apathy which characterized the spring elections throughout the country, there is a growing interest in the work of District Councils on the part of women, and an increasing willingness on the part of the electorate in many parts of the country to recognize the need for the co-operation of women in the administrative work of local government.

Returns show that for seats on Urban District Councils, approximately 137 women were nominated, of whom forty-one were elected.

At Penrith a 90 per cent and 80 per cent poll was taken in three wards. "An unusual feature of the election was the return of the first woman candidate."

At Brightonsea there was a record poll.

At Long Sutton a woman candidate, the first, was returned at the head of the poll.

The number of women now serving on Urban District Councils is still very small, approximately 280. 590 of 785 Councils are still without women members.

The figures for rural districts, so far as women are concerned, are more encouraging. There is a steady increase of women members. The number now serving on 274 councils is approximately 493. Nevertheless, 372 out of 646 Rural District Councils are still without women members.

Boards of Guardians.—Recent returns show that in England and Wales, 2-300 women are serving as elected members of Boards of Guardians. The outstanding feature of the election on 2nd April of this year was the remarkable number of women candidates. In many areas the willingness of persons to come forward as candidates was more marked than the willingness of persons to elect. In London, 1,300 candidates were in the field.

In Leeds women played a prominent part.

In Birmingham nineteen women were returned out of thirty-six standing for election.

At Stockton the feature of the election was the number of women candidates.

Between thirty and forty Boards have elected women chairmen.

It must be here noted that one effect of the Local Government Bill if it passes into law will be to reduce very considerably the number of women now serving the country as Poor Law administrators.

Metropolitan Boroughs and Town Councils.

On 1st November the triennial elections for the 28 Metropolitan Borough Councils took place. The number of electors entitled to vote was, approximately, two millions, women electors being in a majority to the number of 6,000. The numbers of vacancies was 1,374. The number of candidates was about 3,000, including it is estimated 450 women. Of the total number of men and women about 150 were returned unopposed. Keen contests took place in the majority of Boroughs. The successful candidates included 180 women as compared with 149 elected in 1925.

In the provinces, where the conditions of election are different from those in London, one-third of the Municipal Councils retiring annually instead of the whole Council every three years, many exciting contests took place. Hundreds of women candidates were in the field. The total included a larger number than before of keen young women, amongst whom were medical women, teachers and other working women, many of whom secured election.

The most encouraging features of the municipal elections of 1928 were (1) the spirited bid by women for a fairer municipal representation, (2) the number of busy women who were willing to come forward to contest seats and to give, if elected, some of their time to voluntary local government service.

Women Mayors.—Ten women have been elected this year as Mayors for the boroughs of Alderburgh, Christchurch, King's Lynn, Sandwich, Stratford on Avon, Thetford, Tynemouth, Welshpool, Whitehaven (re-elected), Wrexham (re-elected).

Women Magistrates.—The number steadily increases, and has now reached the total of 1,800 in England and Wales.

Legislation.—(2) The all-important measure so far as Local

Government is concerned is the Local Government Bill now before the country, the Second Reading of which was carried on 29th November by a majority of 179. At the time of writing the Bill is in Committee Stage.

The interest of women centres mainly (1) on the proposal to substitute a Block grant for the existing percentage grants in aid of Health Services, and (2) the proposal for the abolition of Boards of Guardians and the transference of their functions to the Councils of counties and County Boroughs.

(1) Those who are actively engaged in work connected with the health services view with grave apprehension the danger to the efficiency and expansion of that work which may arise if the percentage grants in aid are abolished.

(2) The menace to the position of women in Poor Law administration, the curtailment of their opportunities to continue to serve the destitute and the country as directly elected representatives of the Poor Law service are points in the Bill which call for protest and opposition on the part of all women before it is too late.

This survey, though in many ways encouraging, clearly shows that the need for vigilance is still as great as ever.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

By E. LOUIE ACRES.

There is little to report under this heading, except a change of heart and mind which is very gradually making itself felt in the Church.

Readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER will remember the resolution passed—with one dissentient—at the Annual Council of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. The resolution ran: "That this Council reaffirms its conviction that the full ministry of religion should be open to both sexes, and further it urges upon the Archbishops and Bishops of the Established Church of England the importance of dealing with this matter at the forthcoming Lambeth Conference, 1930."

They will also recall the publication this year of *Women and Holy Orders*, by Canon C. E. Raven; a book able to do valuable work, in that it reached many who would not ordinarily be affected by the work of societies like the N.U.S.E.C. or the L.C.M.

The pioneer efforts of the Inter-Diocesan Council for Women's Work in the Church, in pressing for a more authoritative standard of examinations with sanctions from authority are now beginning to bear fruit. There are now twenty-four dioceses possessing Boards of Women's Work or bodies analogous to this; of these, fourteen are affiliated to the I.D.C. There is also the Advisory Council, which is yet quite in its infancy, and which sets out to be a kind of clearing house and information bureau for women's work in the Church. One useful piece of work that the Council has done is the publication of a leaflet (A.C.W. 1) setting out the terms of service, the qualifications required and the opportunities that offer in the Church. This leaflet and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Room 25, Church House, Westminster, S.W. 1.

The Central Conference of Women, which is purely deliberative, having no executive powers, is representative of the dioceses and of societies especially concerned with the work of women and of workers overseas. This body has met twice during the year, and aims at educational work only, which through the representatives may have its effect in the dioceses and among the bodies represented by those attending the meetings.

One outstanding feature of the year was the part taken by women attending the International Missionary Council at Jerusalem, when women of all nations brought their contribution to the discussion on "The Christian Message"—although from the purely Anglican point of view, one must admit that the contributions from women of other communions showed up in marked relief the small share given to women of the Anglican Church at that Conference; but it was an excellent demonstration of the work women are doing with and without the recognition of those in authority.

With regard to those working specifically for the full admission of women to the Ordained Ministry of the Church, there is not a great deal to report, for it is a period of transition. The League of the Church Militant, in a letter signed by its President and Chairman said "while still desiring to see women ordained to the three-fold historic Orders of Ministry in the Church, they felt that the movement within the Church has reached such a phase that the education of churchpeople along these lines could now be carried on more satisfactorily through other channels than those of a society whose activities had been directed along political lines in the past. Since the League

started its work of education and propaganda, thought on women's service to the Church has advanced so rapidly that it was felt that Ordination to the Priesthood must inevitably follow in due time, and that the best way that women of this and future generations could further this cause was by prayer for its fulfilment and by preparing themselves mentally and spiritually to meet those opportunities and responsibilities of service in the Church that may open up to them in the future."

The League will therefore have ceased to exist by the time this article is in print and it is too early to speak with any certainty of future developments, although one believes that the seeds it has sown will grow and bear fruit in many ways.

Those who would favour the formation of an Inter-denominational League for the Ministry of Women in the Churches are invited to get into touch with Miss Cecil Barker, 70 Warwick Street, S.W. 1.

Members of the Church of England who desire the Church to remove the existing barriers to the admission of women to the priesthood are uniting in a Guild of Intercession for this object; further information can be obtained from Miss S. A. Villiers, Stevenage, Herts. Information is being collected by yet another group for the preparation of a memorandum for presentation to the Lambeth Conference of 1930. Any reader of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, who can supply any information or lend material likely to be of assistance to the latter mentioned group, is asked to get into touch with Mrs. Marston Acres, c/o THE WOMAN'S LEADER. Information will be required from all parts of the world as to the position and work of women in all denominations.

WOMEN IN THE FREE CHURCHES.

By CONSTANCE M. COLTMAN.

1928 marks a real advance in the position of women in the Free Churches. It may be that the passing of the Equal Franchise Act has liberated energies and released resources formerly concentrated on the political aspects of feminism but now available for the last and greatest fight of all, the struggle to secure spiritual equality within the Christian Church. Certainly there have been signs in diverse quarters of a rising tide of interest in the ministry of women.

Last July the Wesleyan Conference made history by accepting the principle that "A woman who believes herself called of God to the Christian ministry in our Church may offer under the same regulations as apply to men." The prescribed procedure involves that under the most favouring circumstances no woman could be accepted as a candidate for the Wesleyan Ministry prior to May, 1931. Further, all the questions involved in the actual carrying out of the theoretical admission of the principle were remitted for further consideration to a committee that has already been discussing them for the past seven years. The most difficult of these practical problems is the question of the marriage of women ministers. Most Wesleyan women seem disposed to acquiesce in the recommendation that "As by marriage a woman accepts another vocation involving responsibilities which would interfere with the fulfilment of the duties of a woman minister, her marriage shall be regarded as equivalent to resignation." Only a few have urged that a scheme which had to say that marriage should end vocation did not really envisage the problem in the best way. Readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER who share this view should take advantage of the respite gained by the postponement of the final decision. Unless another viewpoint is pressed, there is grave danger that next summer's Conference will irrevocably decide that a woman minister must resign on marriage and it might take generations to reverse such a decision.

The Conference of women ministers held at Oxford last October represented the largest gathering of women ministers which has ever met in this country and its meetings received wide publicity. A large congregation attended the public service of the Conference. At the business meeting it was resolved to adopt the title of "Fellowship of Women Ministers" (President, Rev. Constance M. Coltman; Secretary, Rev. Joyce Daplyn) and to hold regular annual meetings.

The session on ministerial problems considered the position of the married woman minister with special reference to the Wesleyan discussions. Certain members affirmed that their marriage and motherhood had not proved an insuperable barrier but rather a precious enrichment to their ministry. The interesting fact emerged that women ministers showed an even more decided tendency than women doctors to marry men of their own profession.

One of the most interesting personalities of the Conference was the brilliant young Scottish student, Rev. Vera Findlay,

M.A., who has just become Scotland's first woman minister. In November she was ordained to the important charge of Partick Congregational Church, Glasgow, amid unusual demonstrations of public interest. On the Sunday evening when the newly ordained minister preached her first sermon, hundreds were unable to gain admission. It is reported that Scotland as a whole is watching the experiment with interest and, generally speaking, in Presbyterian circles, the attitude is rather critical and unfavourable. But there is every indication that the first woman minister in Scotland will make good.

Last January the Rev. Dorothy F. Wilson, B.Litt., after a very distinguished theological course at Oxford, was ordained at the historic Carr's Lane Chapel, Birmingham, as Assistant Minister in charge of Educational work. The appointment was for an experimental period of a year. The thesis for which she gained the Oxford B.Litt. degree has been published by the Student Movement under the title "Child Psychology and Religious Education."

So much for the advance. There have been one or two setbacks. Manchester College, Oxford, has this year closed its doors to women, although it was the first theological college in the country to admit women students and at least nine women have passed through it into the Unitarian ministry. The Rev. Constance Harris, who was inducted to the pastorate of Highland Place Church, Aberdare, last February, completed her training at Manchester College only last year. The decision, however, is stated to be only temporary and due to lack of proper accommodation for women. The United Church of Canada, comprising Congregationalists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, has recently pronounced unfavourably on the question of the ministry of women. It suggests merely a "deaconate" of women, and is not prepared to allow a woman to administer the Sacrament.

On the other hand, the younger Churches of the East are facing this problem with greater clarity and courage. At the Jerusalem Missionary Conference last Easter, when for the first time, the Churches of the East and of the West met on an equal footing, the Oriental women delegates made remarkable claims for spiritual equality. Miss P. S. Cheng of China, Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro of Japan and Miss Helen Kiduk Kim of Korea all voiced their conviction that "in Christ there is no distinction between men and women and He has set the same moral standard for both sexes."

In face of such a witness the Council was reminded by Mrs. R. E. Speer that the West, far as it had gone, had not hitherto carried into modern life the implications of the thought and practice of Jesus for women.

Only when East and West are met together will the mind of Christ be fully revealed for women and for the world.

WOMEN IN SOCIAL WORK.

By ELIZABETH MACADAM.

Since social work has always been regarded as a legitimate sphere of work for women, its annual record of progress presents none of the picturesque features to be found in other fields of effort. Perhaps it is because social work offers the line of least resistance that there is a tendency on the part of the women of to-day to pass it by for more adventuresome careers, with the result that the leadership in many departments of modern social administration is in the hands of men, though the routine work is almost wholly done by women. It would be out of place here to embark on a discussion of the reasons for this neglect of work in which women specially excel. Distinguished Victorian women proved that their sex had a genius for social experiment and organization combined with that impatience of social evils which gets things done. But where are their Georgian successors? "Oh, for a Florence Nightingale," wrote a correspondent recently in these columns, as she deplored the dilatory and ineffective treatment of the situation in the mining areas. We cannot but believe that if women had been in places of authority either in connection with economic reconstruction or public or voluntary schemes of relief, we should not have had to cry in these columns like voices in a wilderness, for over a year of slowly accumulating suffering for the appearance of some kind of systematic attempt to deal with the problem. It was, we have good reason to believe, a woman—her Majesty the Queen—whose concern led to the establishment of the first relief fund and the Friends' Relief scheme, described by *The Times* as the largest and most effective in operation, is associated with the name of Miss Joan Fry. Though the year, so far as social work is concerned, has been shadowed by the tragedy of the miners, we close the year with hope that at last the public conscience has been awakened and that better days are in store for our suffering fellow-citizens.

In this brief survey it is only possible to select a few instances of development during the year in which women have played a part. Perhaps the most interesting is the progress made by the Child Guidance Council, the formation of which was due to the initiative of Mrs. St. Loe Strachey and the executive capacity of Miss Evelyn Fox. This Council is financed during its early stages with great generosity by the American Commonwealth Fund, and during the past year several British workers have visited the United States to investigate the methods of treatment of difficult and delinquent children. A highly qualified staff has now been appointed; accessible and attractive quarters have been acquired, and it is expected that the clinic under the auspices of the Council will be opened in the spring of 1929. This clinic which will provide for the needs of children of school age who show signs of mental instability in its early stages, will be the practising ground of the first scheme of specialized training in mental social welfare, which has now been arranged by the Social Science Department of the London School of Economics. Social students familiar with the pioneer work of Dr. Crichton Miller, Professor Cyril Burt and others in mental therapy in this country will welcome with eager anticipation this new scheme for schoolchildren in need of trained guidance.

Another feature of the year has been the increasing demand for trained women for house property management. Truly the work of Octavia Hill lives on, and her original experiments of thirty years ago are now bearing fruit. The Corporations of Chester, Chesterfield, Liverpool, and Rotherham, among others, have appointed such managers and we are told that the demand will shortly exceed the supply. Other work in connection with housing reform has been carried on by Mrs. Barclay and Miss Berry, fully qualified surveyors, who at the request of groups of London citizens, have followed up their survey of housing conditions in Westminster last year with similar surveys of other Metropolitan boroughs.

The movement for social residential settlements, though it carries us back in memory to last century, belongs more truly in a spiritual sense to the present day than to the eighties and nineties, for its founders were in advance of their time. The recent survey of the work of the British Association of Residential Settlement, of which Miss Hilda Cashmore is chairman, indicates developments, too often crowded out in the past owing to the defects and shortcomings of social legislation, which faithfully represent the ideals on which the movement was established. These include study of local conditions, parliamentary action, and branch activities in the populous new housing areas which are springing up all over the country.

Turning from progress at home to events with which we have been associated abroad, the most important development of the year has been the International Congress on social work, which was held in Paris last July when over five thousand delegates from forty different countries assembled. The chairman was a woman—Dr. Alice Masarykova. Two of the five sections had women chairmen, and many speeches and papers were given by women delegates, including several British women. All this was in marked contrast to the proceedings of the Child Welfare Conference, held at the same time, described recently in these columns by Miss Nina Boyle. Miss Boyle was moved to protest against "a platform clogged with male persons," during such discussions as those on infant feeding and the general domination of the masculine element. Her protest aroused shouts of laughter and some resentment on the said platform, but she found it was echoed in the breasts of the Frenchwomen themselves, who declared only the vote would give them their rightful place. Thus feminism and social work join hands.

The International Social Work of the League of Nations, under the able direction of Dame Rachel Crowdy, tends to cover each year a more embarrassing wealth of subjects and at the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee for the protection of children and young persons at Geneva it was agreed to limit discussion next year to a few subjects selected as specially ripe for action. Among other interesting inquiries which were instituted is one undertaken by Mademoiselle Chaptal, dealing with children in moral danger.

The death of Miss Eglantyne Jebb, one of the assessors of this Committee, removes one of the too few outstanding figures of women in social work. Her work in connection with the British and International Save the Children Fund has endeared her name to thousands of children in many lands. She had originality, imagination, and faith to move mountains, and with more normal health might have ranked with such leaders of social thought as Florence Nightingale, Josephine Butler, and Octavia Hill.

WOMEN AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The year has been a very barren one as far as new legislation is concerned. There is nothing to record. One small but important amendment to existing legislation must, however, not be overlooked. A private Member (Mr. Hurd) introduced a Bill which passed through all its stages without difficulty, to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act by the substitution of twelve months for nine months as the time limit of the period during which prosecutions may be begun in cases of offences against young persons. It will be remembered that women's societies pressed for this in the 1922 Act and Mrs. Wintringham, then in Parliament, moved an amendment which was defeated.

The Home Secretary stated recently at Birmingham that he would conceive it as one of the greatest honours of his official career if he could introduce a new Children's Charter modernizing the Charter of 1908 in accordance with all that we have learnt in the last twenty-one years. But this aspiration remains at present unfulfilled and no measure has been introduced. This cannot be for want of material on which a new Children's Charter might be based. We had a Report on Offences against Children and Young Persons in 1925, on Juvenile Delinquency in 1927; in connection with each subject a separate Report has also been issued for Scotland. The number of recommendations from the four Committees must be over 150 and yet no Bill has been introduced.

We have had two documents issued from the Home Office during the year which are of interest to magistrates. One was a circular sent out in July entitled "Young Offenders." This deals with young persons between sixteen and twenty-one years and urges magistrates to refrain from sending them to prison. Before taking such action the courts should satisfy themselves that no other method can be employed, and the various alternatives are set out very clearly. A fine may be imposed and the offender put under supervision until the money has been paid in instalments, or he may be placed on probation on condition that he resides in a hostel for a fixed period. The alternative plan of making residence compulsory in a home and not in a hostel is discussed, and it is pointed out that "the use of homes under proper safeguards is a resource which the courts can ill afford to lose, and which may well prove in some cases the best means of avoiding imprisonment." The safeguards are that the home should be approved and inspected, that the Probation Officer and the Court should keep in touch with the probationer while he is in the home, and the duration of stay required by the Probation Order should not normally exceed six months. These are wise provisions, and, if they are observed, there is no doubt that this plan fills a very useful place in our penal system. It is urged that when none of these methods is suitable a sentence of Borstal detention rather than imprisonment should be imposed. It is satisfactory that a Borstal sentence should be referred to as a "severe punishment" as there is no doubt that it is such in the eyes of the culprit himself, his relatives, and the general public, and it is better to acknowledge it. The circular concludes with some observations on Probation Committees and a remainder that probation is not intended only for first offenders or for children and young persons, but is to be applied to any case that the magistrates consider suitable.

The second document issued by the Home Office was a very useful pamphlet explaining exactly what is involved in various forms of penal detention, such as imprisonment with or without hard labour; the first, second, and third divisions; Borstal detention; penal servitude and preventive detention. Other smaller matters such as remission of sentence and the stage system were also explained. The pamphlet can be obtained for 2d. from H.M. Stationery Office.

An important event of the year was the appointment of a Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure; there are two women members. The subject of women police is receiving much attention, and evidence is being given on the subject by Chief Constables and others from all over the country. A Departmental Committee was appointed to consider the organization of juvenile courts in London; to this two women have been added, but not without outside pressure being brought to bear upon the Home Office as the first list of members contained only the names of men.

As this article was being written, the long awaited Report of the Committee on Street Offences made its appearance. It contains some valuable proposals together with others that will require careful scrutiny. The subject is too important to be adequately dealt with here.

Two books which will no doubt be indispensable to justices' clerks and could also be usefully consulted by magistrates, have appeared during the year: a new edition of Lushington's *Law of Affiliation and Bastardy* by Albert Lieck, and *The Law of Adoption and Guardianship of Infants*; together with the *Legitimacy Act, 1916*, by W. Clarke Hall and Justin Clarke Hall. Both are published by Butterworth; the names of the authors are well known to magistrates, and are a sufficient recommendation of the quality of the books.

Mr. A. Fenner Brockway has followed up his great book *English Prisons To-day with A New Way with Crime*, published by Williams and Norgate, with a preface by Lawrence Housman. The names of both writers should recall grateful memories in the minds of suffragists. The book demands a fundamental change in the old penal system, and courageously expounds a new one. It should be read by all who are dissatisfied with things as they are.

Lastly, mention must be made of the fourth Report on the work of the Children's Branch, issued by the Home Office in December. It is three years since the last Report appeared, so that this one will be more than usually welcome. It is full of interest, and will be reviewed in a later issue of this paper.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

WOMEN IN THE THEATRE.

Among this year's achievements of the woman playwright is to be noted Clemence Dane's *Adam's Opera*, produced but a few weeks ago at the Old Vic and inspired, as the author's preface informs us, by the aspirations and failures of our own war and post-war world. It is an ambitious play, an unusual play which has obviously worried and puzzled the critics by its blend of Christmas pantomime form with the inner spirit of tragedy. Outwardly it is the legend of Sleeping Beauty modernized, and decked with modernized and musical nursery rhymes. Adam, the Prince who kisses Beauty back to life is a symbol of those of whom the world is not worthy, the leaders who live before their time. Because he aspires where they cannot follow, those he has awakened—the household of Beauty, even Beauty herself—in the end turn on him, and his portion is death at their hands. The leading idea of the allegory is both clear and fine; but in its working out the symbolism is often curiously unclear and Miss Dane has permitted herself certain incongruities which mar the even tenor of enjoyment. Though the year has given us nothing by Gertrude Jennings, a new comedy by her is about to face the public, but not in time for mention in these columns. The recently opened Embassy Theatre, at Swiss Cottage, started its career with a more than promising first play, *The Yellow Streak*, by Mabel Ellams Hope, and Mr. Ernest Truex, at the Criterion, has also struck oil with a woman's play; but in this case the author, Lilian Bradley, is an American, so her achievement in farcical comedy cannot be placed to the credit of the English drama.

As to our leading actresses: London has seen little of Sybil Thorndike who, some months ago, carried her repertory to South Africa. Edith Evans' second essay in management was *Napoleon's Josephine*, a Napoleonic comedy on unusual lines, which held the stage of the Fortune Theatre for the autumn. Jean Forbes-Robertson, one of the most interesting of the younger school, gave her admirers the chance of comparing her *Constant Nymph* with Edna Best's original; and Gladys Cooper scored by her choice of *Excelsior*, an adaptation from a French original, dealing with the professional career of a cocotte. In conclusion, a recent theatrical event has been the return to the stage of Violet Loraine, who has proved that even a seven-years' absence is no handicap to art such as hers. Her play, by the way, *Clara Gibbings*, is, in part, the work of a woman.

When all is said and done, the year theatrical is marked for many of us, perhaps for most, by the passing of Ellen Terry. To the audience of to-day her acting is a legend only; but it is a legend, a persistent tradition—of loveliness in art and personality. By the generation that remembers her Portia and her Beatrice all other Portias and all other Beatrices are still compared with those who once lived before their eyes in the palmy days of the Lyceum. Her life linked us not only with the later Victorian stage she adorned in her prime but with the early Victorian stage of Charles Kean—with whom she appeared as a child. She wrote a glad chapter in the history of the English drama; and it is good to know that the stage she loved and the public she served are combining to honour her memory in worthy manner. It is proposed to buy the black-

(Continued at foot of next column.)

WOMEN AND LITERATURE.

By AMBER BLANCO WHITE.

The literary event of the year from our point of view has been of course the appearance of *The Cause* by Mrs. Oliver Strachey. It is a history of the women's movement from its inception to the present day, and I think one may feel sure that it will remain the standard work upon the subject. I say this not only because it is accurate, complete and just and written by an acknowledged authority upon the subject, but because in these pages Mrs. Strachey has been able to catch and to reflect the living spirit of the movement she is describing. Here are all the humour, the humanity, the breadth of view, the idealism mingled with practical common-sense, the exhilaration and the fixity of purpose whose happy combination has marked our struggle, and marked it out from the other great revolutions in social history. The result is not merely a chronicle of interest to partisans and students but a fine book, in which the movement, as well as the writer, must take pride. It is to be hoped that women who have taken part in the fight will make a point of handing down copies of this record to their descendants. They could find no better way of perpetuating the spirit which animated the great reform to whose successful issue they were privileged to contribute.

The other event is the publication of a book by Virginia Woolf. I do not pretend to speak with impartiality about this lady's work. It delights me too much. Her wit, her imagination, the lovely pattern of her words carry one beyond the point at which a critic can feel certain that his feet are on the ground and his mind informed with cold discrimination. I note that many people have not been pleased by the last part of *Orlando*, feel that they don't grasp its intention and that its dancing sequence is too much for them. To my mind, which does not agree with them, all that falls to the ground beside the fact that it is a book of marvels, of pictures, scenes, passages, which could not be more beautiful or enchanting and also a brilliant running commentary—over which I laughed myself silly in the Tube—on two centuries of English literature. The rest of the year has been disappointing. Neither Miss Sackville-West's *Twelve Days* nor Miss Stella Benson's *Worlds Within Worlds* can withstand the comparisons they invite. Miss Rose Macaulay's *Keeping Up Appearances* is funny but amounts to nothing in particular, and the successor to *The Constant Nymph* is a dreary failure. Miss Edith Wharton's *The Children* and Miss Susan Glaspell's *Brook Evans* are good but not very good, and one cannot say even that of Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith's *Iron and Smoke*. Mrs. Haden Guest, *The Yellow Pigeon*, a description of life behind the lines in Belgium during the war, is interesting but badly-written and spiteful. The best first novel by a woman which I have read is *A Good Marriage* by Mary Brearley, which is excellent in a well-trodden way. Miss Radclyffe Hall's *Well of Loneliness* I have not read, but I gather that its readers consider it either a courageous social study or an outrageous attack upon society, as their feelings take them, rather than a work of art.

On the other hand, women have turned out some good short biographies, of which I may mention *Jane Welsh and Jane Carlyle* by Elizabeth Drew, *L.E.L.* by Mrs. Enfield, and the life of Elizabeth Barrett Browning in the "Representative Women" series. I am told that an admirable life of Lady Mary Wortley-Montagu has been written by a woman, but I cannot at the moment (for my sins) discover its author's name. This is not a very cheering performance. Some years must of course be worse than other years, but one factor may be that the realistic novel, whether purely domestic or not, is out of fashion, and this is the class of fiction in which women have as a rule done their best work. Writers everywhere are either trying to make themselves more fantastic, exotic and sophisticated or extensively-informed than they can be, or are discouraged by feeling that they are out of touch with their age. In any case women must be hard put to it in a year which has given us *The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism*, *Mr. Blettsworthy on Rampole Island*, and *The Enormous Room*.

(Continued from preceding column.)

and-white Kentish house that was her home for the latter years of her life, preserve its English beauty as a public possession and, while leaving her own rooms as she kept them in life, convert others to the uses of a theatrical library and museum. There can be little doubt that the necessary funds will be raised; Ellen Terry's death made it abundantly clear that, despite her long retirement, the memory of her art was still green.

CICELY HAMILTON.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER IN 1928.

The principal events in 1928 so far as THE WOMAN'S LEADER was concerned fell at the beginning and end of the year. In January the removal, foreshadowed in our last annual survey, from the top floor of 15 Dean's Yard to two ground floor rooms at 4 Tufton Street, was effected. Our new premises are more conspicuous and more accessible than those vacated and have the unusual advantage in these regions of a large plate-glass window in which copies of the paper and of recent publications issued by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship can be effectively displayed. Offices with a rental within bowing distance of our resources in this particular corner of Westminster are not easily come by, so that the acquisition of our new quarters within a few yards of the office of the National Union was indeed a stroke of luck with which to embark on the New Year.

The year closed in equally happy circumstances. Realizing that the second guaranteed lease of life of the paper would terminate in the spring of 1929, the Board of Directors felt it was necessary at once to face the future. Two important decisions were therefore taken. The first was to raise the price of the paper to 2d.; the second, to take all its readers into their confidence by a frank statement of the financial position and to invite those who believed that the paper filled a necessary and useful place to come forward with promises of guaranteed amounts for a further period of three years. The result of the first decision still hangs in the balance, as the full effects of the change of price can only be known gradually. But the immediate reaction has been entirely favourable, and if arrangements can be made for Societies requiring large quantities we believe the experiment will be completely successful. The result of the second has surprised us. With three exceptions—and those three wrote in favour of a monthly issue—there was complete unanimity among our many correspondents as to the continued existence of the paper and the required amount was guaranteed before Christmas. Some well-known friends at a distance, or for other reasons have not yet responded and to these we would say that while our bare existence is no longer in peril, a larger assured income would enable the editors to carry out long cherished plans for the improvement and development of the paper which the present rigid economy of expenditure makes impossible.

Between those two landmarks our path ran smoothly enough. The unprecedented historic interest of the final stages of the suffrage movement during the summer led us in an excess of uncalculating rejoicing to burst into occasional double and (in spite of our invariable rule against illustrations) illustrated numbers. Our issue of 13th July, copies of which can still be obtained and their value increases as the number diminishes, had no fewer than three reproductions—two Equal Franchise cartoons reproduced by kind permission of *Punch* and a photograph of the group of suffragists, including Dame Millicent Fawcett, outside the Houses of Parliament immediately after the Royal Assent had been given. Earlier in the year the appearance of the Prime Minister himself at the last of a long series of Queen's Hall suffrage meetings was celebrated by the reproduction of a flashlight photograph taken on the occasion. On 13th July, four days after the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act became law, it was indeed fitting that the leading article should come from the pen of Dame Millicent Fawcett, "The End Crowns All."

We have, therefore, at the close of 1928, to pay a more than usual tribute of gratitude to those who have so faithfully helped us in the past and to that large company of guarantors who have promised to help us in the future. But our thanks are not confined to those who give regular financial support; they extend to those who, without fee or reward, have helped by contributions to our pages, particularly those whom we are proud to count among our regular contributors. With our future secure for another period of three years at least, we begin the new year with many plans to increase the usefulness of the paper. In anticipation of the General Election special consideration will be given to the needs of that unknown and much-discussed quantity "the new voter" in the hope that readers in touch with young women, women's institutes, and similar organizations will find material for talks on the responsibilities of fully enfranchised citizenship.

Our last word must be that if our continued existence is to be justified the feature of the coming year must be a definite increase in our regular subscribers. We are not in a position to send agents throughout the country, nor are we in a position

(Continued at foot of next column.)

OBITUARY.

Death has taken a heavy toll of our eminent women during 1928.

In the radiance of a peculiarly golden July, Ellen Terry departed from her Kentish village in the manner chosen by herself, without mourning or shadow. It was as though Beatrice or Portia, grown old in the spirit of gaiety and kindness, had stepped into Walhalla with a last kindly glance of reassurance to her grateful varied world of earthly memories.

Strangely sombre in comparison was the death of Mrs. Pankhurst in June, on the very eve of the Equal Franchise victory. History is not yet old enough to measure very accurately the weight of her immense contribution to that final victory. Even in the comparative obscurity of her post-war years she was the centre of extreme controversy, and much of her work as well as of her elusive personality lay outside the vivid limelight of the militant suffrage movement, whose heart and soul she was. She was a dark heroine—but that she was a heroine, those who have followed her into battle and those who have watched her strange leadership very well know. Genius and fanaticism were mixed in her work, supreme and obstinate courage, and a baffling reserve which at moments produced a curious withdrawn quiescence. A sudden illness carried her from the political field in the midst of new activities, but it is impossible to conjecture what manner of work lay ahead of her. Her passing raised a cloud of turbulent and splendid memories. The very repetition of her name induces a kind of inexplicable awe.

In April the academic and literary world lost Jane Harrison, that vivid and whimsical veteran student of Greek culture. Though she served its world with an ability which gave her a high status among scholars, she served ours as a feminist speaker and writer of outstanding originality. Her eminence in the one gave weight and point to her advocacy in the other. Nor will the infinite variety of her shining personality be quickly forgotten in Newnham College which was the centre of her work and interest.

A denizen of the same intellectual world was Lady Strachey who departed at a great age on the eve of Christmas. Unlike Jane Harrison, her constructive work lay in the centre of a large active family, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. But the radiance of her personal significance was wider than that wide circle, and stretches back to the palmy days of Victorian political life and letters, and to the dawn of the suffrage movement, in which she played an active part.

In April Oxford University lost Miss Winifred Moberley, late Principal of St. Hilda's College. She had been one of the most active of its lately acquired women members, as well as one of the most widely experienced in travel and diverse interest.

The world of pacific and constructive international activity will be the poorer for the death, in December, of Miss Eglantyne Jebb, the indefatigable and irrepressible spirit of the Save the Children Fund. She fought a long battle, up and down the railway systems of Europe, against obstinate ill-health. She died at an unduly early age, but she started early and accomplished much.

In October the Women's Auxiliary Service lost the active service of Chief Inspector Champneys, a kindly and constructive pioneer of women's work in new fields. And the National Council of Women had occasion to mark the passing of its former secretary and founder, Miss Emily Janes, from her well-earned retirement. Her devotion and precision during the early formative years of its existence had set the model for much of its subsequent work.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was reminded, in November, of the pre-war services of one of its most ardent and active organizers, Miss Helga Gill, who perished suddenly and violently in the autumn storms. It was dramatically fitting that one who had loved and worked in the adventurous open air, should meet her end among wind and trees. In the Societies, too, death has taken a heavy toll. Mrs. Lewis, of Cardiff, Mrs. Tucker, of West Dorset, Mrs. Albert Gray and Mrs. Sage, of Glasgow, Mrs. Smithson, of Hitchin, Mrs. Plevin, of Chester, and others—whose names may or may not have been specially recorded in print at the time of their departures, but whose work is part and parcel of the Women's Suffrage victory for which 1928 will be remembered in all ages.

(Continued from preceding column.)

to advertise. Here again we must depend on our friends. They alone can serve as our representatives; they alone can advertise our goods. We are content to leave it at that for we believe that those who have given our paper, or those who have wished for it, a new lease of life will help to introduce it to a wider circle of women voters.

COMING EVENTS.

BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

7th January, 3 p.m. 154 St. Charles Street. "Conference on Local Government Bill."

FABIAN SOCIETY (WOMEN'S GROUP).

8th January, 8 p.m. Caxton Hall, S.W. 1. Miss Susan Lawrence: "Women in Industry."

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

10th January, 8 p.m. 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. Sir Michael Sadler: "Ruskin's Social Ideals." Chair: Sir Fabian Ware, K.C.V.O.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh W.C.A. 16th January, 8 p.m. Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Lady Leslie Mackenzie, F.E.I.S.: "From the Highlands and Islands to Kentucky." Chair: Lady Findlay.

OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

10th January, 12.45 p.m. Pinoli Restaurant, Wardour Street. Luncheon. Mrs. Abbott, "Progress of the Open Door Council."

UNION OF WOMEN VOTERS.

28th January, 8 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?"

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

21st January, 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, "Our International Responsibilities." Chair: Viscountess Duppplin.

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