

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

World Population.

The conference on world population which opens at Geneva on Tuesday of this week represents, as the final announcement tells us, a first attempt on an international scale to grapple with one of the most fundamental problems of mankind. The conference is not to be held in the interest of any specific school of thought and no propaganda of any kind is permitted. "Its viewpoint is that of the scientific laboratory or the study, rather than that of the pulpit or the hustings." The subjects treated will include Biology of Population Growth, Optimum Population, Population and Food Supply, Effects on Race of Differential Birth-rate, Migration and its Control, Fertility and Sterility in relation to population, Heredity and Social Inadequacy. The lecturers are all acknowledged experts, but it is curious that no woman finds a place among them on a subject which not only concerns women so closely but which is known to occupy so much of their attention. It is still more curious that unless women unknown to us are disguised by initials or titles, there are none on either the advisory or general council. Among those from Great Britain who are to take part we find the names of Sir Bernard Mallet, Professor Julian Huxley, Professor Carr Saunders, Professor Roxby, and Dr. J. W. Gregory. It is proposed that a permanent International Union shall spring out of this pioneer effort, which will undertake to collate and integrate data on various aspects of this problem from the different nations of the world. We hope to give a report of this conference in a later issue.

Education in the League of Nations.

Over 400 men and women, including many Americans, gathered together for the fourth annual gathering of the Geneva Institution of International Relations held recently at Geneva in co-operation with the British League of Nations Union and the New York Non-Partisan League of Nations Association. Geneva is becoming a great centre of education on all questions affecting international relationships, and it is fitting that

Professor William Rappard, Rector of the University of Geneva, who speaks perfect English, should associate himself so closely with all such efforts for intensive study on the spot. No one has had better opportunity for knowing the League from inside and his address on the Evolution of the League was one of the events of this important gathering.

Working Women in Conference.

We print elsewhere a report which has reached us of the third Triennial Co-operative Women's International Guild Conference, which was held in August in Stockholm. As the report says, this is probably the first time that working women have met to discuss internationally the daily problems of their home life. The discussions on food purity and food values, co-operative dividends, and not least "the family wash", must have been worth hearing. But the women did not wholly confine themselves to domestic problems. A report was presented on the recent International Economic Conference and resolutions were passed on problems affecting international relationships.

Women Engineers.

Women will have a share in the coming Shipping, Engineering and Machinery Exhibition to be held next month at Olympia. The annual conference of women engineers will be held during the exhibition, when papers on various technical subjects will be read. An official tour of the exhibition and a visit to the factory of McVitie & Price will be arranged. A dinner at the Lyceum Club will be given in honour of women aviators and motorists. We are glad to note that members will stay at Crosby Hall and that several interesting functions will be held there. Crosby Hall has a special interest for readers of this paper, and we believe that it will rapidly become a centre of all progressive movements with which university women are associated.

Sweating.

An intolerable case of sweating in the catering trade was disclosed last week in the course of a London police court case. The accused, a woman manageress at a pavilion in Parliament Hill Fields, pleaded guilty at the Marylebone Police Court to stealing chocolate and cigarettes valued at £3 13s. 6d., the property of her employer. The prisoner, it appeared, was in the habit of working from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. for seven days a week, for a wage of 31s. 6d. a week and food. It further appeared that as manageress she would handle from £50 to £60 a day, and was responsible for an indoor staff of eight or nine, in addition to outside stall-sellers. In view of these intolerable conditions, with their attendant temptations, Mr. Hay Halkett, the magistrate, took a very lenient view of the case, remanding the accused in custody and saying that he would think further about the matter. The conditions of employment he bluntly described as "slavery, and a perfectly monstrous state of affairs."

"Honours Unequal."

The *Manchester Guardian* in a recent issue discusses the fact that women students have only won six out of seventy-eight "firsts" at Oxford this summer. Even when the numerical differences between men and women are taken into consideration this seems a surprisingly low proportion. It would be interesting

'Keep fit on
cocoa'

BOURNVILLE
SEE THE "Cadbury" ON EVERY PIECE
NAME OF CHOCOLATE

Write
Cadbury, Bournville
about Gift Scheme

to know how Oxford compares with other universities in this respect, and also what explanations are given by those who are responsible for women's education. It is suggested that possibly the curriculum at boys' schools aims more directly at the university and its honours than at girls' schools. But whatever the reason may be, this disparity between men and women in examination results is puzzling in view of the advance of women in other directions, with which we deal elsewhere in this issue.

Advice on Insurance Problems.

The Liverpool Council of Voluntary Aid has recently initiated a scheme by which those who wish information or advice on Industrial and National Health Insurance may receive it from qualified Insurance Officials. A rota has been formed and representatives attend at the offices of the Personal Service Society one evening each week. This appears to us a most valuable and much needed experiment and we hope it will cover pension schemes in so far as they are related to National Health Insurance. There is no more useful function for modern voluntary organizations for general social welfare than that of interpreting and broadcasting information on recent legislative experiment often complicated and difficult for uneducated people to understand. Such advisory bureaux should be multiplied all over the country.

Llandudno and Married Women's Work.

In the Llandudno Council recently an attack was made on the retention of a newly married woman employee for six months to finish some new work on which she was engaged, the assumption apparently being that she would leave as a matter of course when the work was completed. The leader of the opposition contended that with a million unemployed in this country, the payment of £3 10s. a week to a married woman whose husband drew a good salary was not right. "Her place is to keep house for her husband!" It is to the credit of the Council that the attack failed and the lady remains, at least until her present task is finished. After that, whatever her private wishes are, she will, we gather, be obliged to retire to private life.

An Experiment in Housing.

Students of the housing problem to which we have been devoting a great deal of attention will read with interest of the experiment recently undertaken again by the York Women's Council. A York House Improvements Society has been formed and efforts are being made to acquire property not sufficiently bad to be condemned and put it into condition fit for habitation. It is proposed to manage the houses on the system established by Miss Octavia Hill and at present two voluntary workers are collecting the rents and supervising the property. Voluntary effort is of the highest value as propaganda and experiment, but it is open to question whether it can do more than scratch the surface in a problem so deep-rooted as housing.

Miss Gertrude Bell's Letters.

Of the women who have "done things," few have had opportunities equal to those which fell to the lot of Miss Gertrude Bell, whose letters will shortly be published. *The Times* last week gave a "foretaste" of this remarkable book, which whets the appetite for more. We are told that she was one of those rare people whose lives can be reconstructed from their correspondence. "Scholar, poet, historian, archaeologist, art critic, mountaineer, explorer, gardener, naturalist, distinguished servant of the State." Gertrude Bell was all of these, and was recognized by experts as an expert in them all. As *The Times* points out, not the least of her public services is the record of her life which she has left behind her.

White Slavery in Paris.

A queer tale has reached the British Press concerning the activities of white slave traffickers in Paris. It appears that two girls, aged respectively 13 and 14, disappeared suddenly from their homes. Four days later they were found hidden in two obscure hotels in the Temple district. According to their own accounts, they were awaiting transportation to South America, where they were convinced that dazzling prospects would open out to them. For this state of mind on their part,

a certain M. René was responsible. For some time he had devoted his attention to them, persuading them at last to leave home in his company. He, in his turn, had introduced them to three young men with whom they had stayed at several small hotels, being warned always to remain hidden. One of these young men, an 18 year old Italian, has now been arrested. He declared regretfully that had they not been so speedily discovered they would have presently been safely on their way to brothels in Buenos Aires.

A Wide Conception of Child Welfare.

An article by Ingeborg Strom in the *Newcastle Daily Journal* suggests that Finland is finding out the way to take care of its children. The rural districts are not forgotten, and trained nurses travel far and wide through the agency of a Travelling Bureau of Information. But physical health is not all. Moral and intellectual development is cared for. The League for Child Welfare has secured the co-operation of women's organizations and much voluntary help is given to this truly national scheme of child protection.

Woman Candidate for County Council.

Mrs. Boulter has been nominated for the vacancy in the Aldridge Division of the Staffordshire County Council. Three women are at present members of the Council, which includes, with the aldermen, ninety members. In England and Wales 130 women are serving on county councils, and we hope to see a large increase in the number next March, when the triennial elections take place.

A New Public School for Girls.

It was reported last week that the Rev. P. E. Warrington, founder of Stowe School for boys, has opened negotiations for the purchase of a splendid Jacobean house in the Cotswolds, with a view to converting it into a school for girls. We can think of no better use for a "stately home" too large in these days of motors and mobility for the needs of an individual family, and too good for the sad destiny of destruction or decay.

Mind and Muscle.

Some of the current advertisements of schools suggest a queer picture of the standard of values of the average parent. "One of these runs "stone buildings, central heating, modern plumbing, science laboratory, manual training, extensive athletic fields, milk, eggs, and vegetables from our own farm. Preparation for British and American University Examinations under competent experts." It would be interesting to know more about the qualification of the experts. Are they also stone or merely concrete?

A Plymouth Experiment.

The Plymouth Education Authority, in co-operation with the local Labour Exchanges, has embarked on a scheme for the training and placing of domestic servants. The Labour Exchanges produce suitable girls, and the P.E.A. supplies a month's training in general housework. Payment is only given to those girls who are eligible for unemployment insurance. So far a dozen girls have been trained. We shall await with interest later and fuller reports of the scheme's progress.

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

CROSBY HALL.

A CLUB AND HALL OF RESIDENCE now open for
WOMEN GRADUATES OF ALL NATIONALITIES.
For further particulars apply to—
THE WARDEN, CROSBY HALL, CHEYNE WALK, S.W. 3.

THE MARCH OF WOMEN.

The note with this heading which we quote elsewhere from a contemporary, illustrates two facts or tendencies which may well awaken in feminists conflicting feelings. On the one hand, the publicity given to the doings of women who succeed in any branch of activity is not wholly a compliment. It reveals that the attitude towards women of the masculine half of the public—and the great majority of journalists are male—still partakes somewhat of the scornful condescension of Dr. Johnson's famous comparison of a woman speaker to a dancing dog: "The creature does it badly but the wonder is that the creature can do it at all." (We quote from memory.) Men are still naively surprised whenever a woman is for the first time reported to have made good in some occupation hitherto pursued only by men—even when the occupation is as simple as that of a tram-conductor or a railway booking-office clerk. "The new woman," though beginning to be a little shop-soiled, is still "news," good enough at least for the silly season. (Readers of Rose Macaulay will remember that in *Mystery at Geneva* the reflections on this point of her heroine, disguised as a man, were among the first indications that betrayed to them her sex.) Hence the international publicity achieved by the young Norwegian girl who, as recorded by our contemporary, has passed her examination as a sea-captain and received her certificate as a master mariner!

On the other hand, such facts as these, together with others of greater importance which have occurred recently, have a real significance both in themselves and in the effect they are likely to have on the aforesaid attitude of men to women. In the first place they are symptoms that women are really beginning to stand on their own feet and to be something better than excellent copyists. There was a stage in the women's movement (perhaps it is not yet quite over), when some of us feminists were secretly disappointed at the quality of women's output. An outcrop of academic distinctions would be followed by rather commonplace careers that scarcely bore out the early promise. The girls from whom we expected so much became

admirable head mistresses of the conventional type, or wrote painstaking monographs on subjects of research along trails blazed by male thinkers. We were tempted to compare ourselves and our contemporaries with the women of earlier generations without half our advantages and to wonder whether after all the untrained wild varieties were not superior in vigour and colour to their cultivated successors.

But lately—are we too optimistic in suggesting that there are symptoms of a change coming over women? Certainly some of the most recent achievements show vigour and colour enough. Miss Katharine Mayo's *Mother India* is not only the boldest book on India that has been written for many years; it is an essentially feminine book in the sense that we hope future generations may attach to that hitherto dubious adjective—a book that searches out and casts a shaft of light into just those aspects of life which most male writers conspire to ignore. Mrs. Dod Proctor's "Morning" in the Royal Academy was generally acclaimed as one of the most original pictures of the year. The woman who won the Newdigate, the two women who swam the Channel, the girl who has reached the top of Kilimanjaro—is it absurd to jumble all these very different achievements together and to see in them the straws and sticks which indicate the way the current is beginning to flow? Some people will resent this coupling of mere athletic achievements with those of the mind. But possibly, in respect of the effect produced on the public attitude towards women, Lenglen may in the long run achieve more than Madame Curie. Our most inveterate prejudices are those formed in extreme youth. The schoolboys who witness or read of the achievements of women in their own favourite sports are more likely to be induced thereby to abandon their traditional attitude of contempt than by any mere literary reputations. They may even fall into the attitude of mind of the boy sent to a certain famous co-educational school, whose sole allusion in his letters home to the feature of his new school which chiefly interested the outside public was contained in the remark "There are three new fellows in my form besides me. Two of them are girls."

SOME ASPECTS OF EGYPTIAN LIFE.

By MARIAN BERRY.

The adoption of European methods of life and education is a remarkable feature in many Eastern lands, and is particularly noticeable in Turkey, Egypt, and Palestine. These developments are naturally having a distinct influence on the lives and thought of the people in these countries, and especially among the women, as is shown by that attractive review—*L'Egyptienne*—the organ of the Egyptian Women's Movement. This review—founded by Mme Hoda Charaoui and edited by Mlle Céza Nabaroui—includes not only matters relating to women's interests, but to politics, sociology, art, and literature.

For some time the questions of Public Health and Infant Welfare have been receiving considerable attention by the Egyptian Authorities, and the past year has seen a distinct movement to improve the sanitary conditions of the people and to provide health teaching in all parts of the country. The Government has given funds for the founding of new hospitals, and is seriously considering the question of creating a Ministry of Health. The cause of public health has been materially aided by the establishment of a Museum of Hygiene in Cairo, which King Fuad has presented to the nation. It is hoped that this Museum may be a means of education in health matters for the mass of illiterate men, women, and children who will visit it.

The three main halls on the ground floor of the Museum are devoted to physiology and geology, and include among the exhibits many simple diagrams and charts. The walls of the staircase to the first floor are hung with engravings—Japanese for the greater part. In addition there are various diagrams giving practical advice in regard to baby hygiene and pointing out the infantile complaints that will follow if wrong methods are adopted.

Ample space is devoted to the study of Child Hygiene, the various stages of a baby's life from conception to birth being illustrated in a manner so simple as to be understood by the most ignorant person, and special regard has been given to the detection of syphilis in the newly born. Unfortunately, this disease is extremely prevalent in Egypt, and the authorities have now established several clinics for its treatment.

Crowds throng the Museum, but the majority cannot read

and Mlle Céza Nabaroui recently urged that the custom of European Museums should be followed and a guide appointed to explain the exhibits to the people who are anxious to learn. The Museum would then realize the aim of its founder by becoming a home of education for the people, who would acquire the knowledge of health laws which will enable them to become "sound in body and mind."

Besides the efforts for improved sanitation, there is the movement for a deeper intellectual life which is making itself felt in the demand for a national drama and for the establishment of an Egyptian Association of Literature. Ahmed Rachad, in a recent number of *L'Egyptienne*, gives three reasons why literature occupies so insignificant a place in the nation's life. They are: (1) Lack of social life; (2) want of encouragement and held for the small group of writers that exist; and (3) need of education; and the writer goes on to show that social life as it is understood in Western countries is an indispensable factor for evolution, progress, and emancipation. Man is a social being and society gives birth to conversation, conversation to ideas, and the latter are essential to the creation of any work of lasting value. The Egyptian writer is in a difficult and embarrassing position. Owing to social conditions he has always to rely on his own experiences whether the characters depicted are rich or poor, and only with the removal of the narrow and artificial restrictions which at present control life in Egypt, will it be possible for the author to obtain the wider knowledge which is essential for the creation of any work of art.

There is also the need for education. It is true that the demand for a national literature comes from a very small minority of the people; the majority can neither read or write. Elementary education has now been made compulsory for both girls and boys, and in taking this action, which is not popular, the Government has rendered a great service to the mass of the people. But with the provision of education the importance of a supply of good and readable books is apparent. Ten or twelve newspapers and reviews exist, but, with the exception of the old books, there is little else in the vernacular for those who can only

(Continued at foot of next page.)

"THE MOTHERS' INTERNATIONAL." FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The third Triennial Co-operative Women's International Guild Conference was held on 12th and 13th August, 1927, in the beautiful Concert House at Stockholm, fittingly decorated with the rainbow coloured flag symbolic of the union of all the countries of the world in the great brotherhood of the Co-operative Movement. The President of the "Mothers' International," as it is affectionately called, Mrs. Emmy Freundlich, M.P., of Austria, stated that this conference was the largest that had yet been held, the two previous conferences being held in Basle in 1921 with only 37 delegates and in Ghent in 1924 with 100 delegates. This time, in spite of distance they had with them 205 delegates and visitors, representing 14 countries, either as delegations affiliated to the International Guild or as fraternal delegates, including 107 from Sweden, 25 from England, 9 from Norway, 3 from Czecho-Slovakia, and one delegate each from Austria, Belgium, Scotland, Ireland, and Switzerland.

The first day's session was occupied with the alteration to rules and with the subject of "Low Prices or High Dividends," introduced by Miss Jonson, of the Swedish Women's Guild; in the discussion the general opinion was expressed in favour of a dividend that is neither too high nor too low. Some delegates pointed out the fact that the dividend is sometimes indirectly paid in the form of collective life insurance, pensions for co-operative employees, holiday homes for sick children, etc.; others spoke in favour of no dividend at all, urging that the money should be used to promote the productive side of the co-operative movement. The resolution put to the conference embraced the need for co-operative loyalty so as to increase trade and thus gain control over prices and eventually over the standard of life of the workers; it also urged co-operative women to study the influence of the economic circumstances of their countries over prices and dividends.

The second morning's session was devoted to a typically housewife's subject, "The Family Wash," introduced by Mrs. Webster, of the English Women's Guild, and the discussion which dealt with Municipal and Co-operative Wash-houses and whether women prefer to do their washing at home or to send it to Public Laundries showed clearly that women of all countries desired that the drudgery of the washing day should be lightened. The introduction of cheap electricity, co-operative or municipal laundries, and labour-saving appliances within reach of the poorer housewives were advocated in order to free women from the drudgery of washing day to take their part in wider social work. This is probably the first time that working women have met to discuss internationally the problems of their home life. At the afternoon session "Food Purity and Food Values" was introduced by Mrs. Heymann, of the Belgian Guild, who pressed for the establishment of international scientific laboratories for the study of all questions relating to the adulteration, purity, and value of all foodstuffs.

The conference also passed a resolution of protest against the execution of Zacco and Vanzetti, while a resolution on Total Universal Disarmament included a protest against the breakdown of the Naval Conference and the failure of the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament in connection with the League of Nations; it was urged that women should be represented at the coming Disarmament Conference. The President's Report on the International Economic Conference of the League of Nations was accepted, and it was urged that a Committee be set up at Geneva for the Rationalization of industry and that every Government should form a committee of housewives, industrialists, and technicians to work in conjunction with the International Committee for the improvement and lightening of domestic work.

SOME ASPECTS OF EGYPTIAN LIFE.—Continued from page 239. read their own language. Many people consider that the teaching of French and other languages is not sufficiently emphasized in the Government schools, and the new University is making special efforts in this direction. The former Minister of Education, H. E. Aly Pacha Maher, has prepared an elaborate scheme of education, which in the view of many is beyond the present capacity of the students.

If the present intellectual movement is to be of real worth to the country, it is felt that there must be some means of financial help for the small band of writers, who can then devote themselves to literary work without the fear of pecuniary worries. With this aid and with the establishment of a national theatre which shall be "une école de grandeur d'âme" the facilities for education in Egypt should be assured.

A CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL.¹

Fifty English school children, with fifty French and fifty German, both boys and girls, between the ages of 12 and 16, have formed the first Children's International in history, and the experiment has proved immensely successful.

The primary purpose of the gathering was educational—the idea being to show children the value of learning languages and to give them a unique opportunity of gaining a knowledge of the customs, literature, and music of other countries, and a desire to learn more. The scheme originated with Miss Gilpin, the head mistress of the Hall School, Weybridge, and was carried out under her direction during the first fortnight of August in the Chateau de Bierville, Boissy-la-Rivière.

There was almost feverish activity the whole day long. In the morning the children divided up into groups in which all three nationalities were represented and, under the guidance of leaders but virtually by themselves, prepared entertainments for the evenings. They were encouraged to sing songs, recite poetry, etc., in a language foreign to them—and they certainly needed very little encouragement. The German children were especially anxious to teach the others their songs, and they were overjoyed when we sang them right. First thing every morning the children sang together songs of their different countries. A typical evening's entertainment consisted of "The House that Jack Built," recited by French and German children in English, a dialogue in English by two German girls, one of Grimm's Fairy Tales acted in French by English and German children, and a performance of "The Three Bears," in which each bear spoke a different language. On another evening an orchestra composed of all three nationalities played Handel's "Largo," some Scotch reels, and a Chorale by Gustav Holst, and then volunteers were asked to come forward and play examples of the works of well-known British, French, and German composers. There was no limit to what the children would not attempt.

It was a memorable occasion, and the children who took part in it will never forget it.

A MERCIFUL RELEASE.

From the Palestine Press comes the story of a lecture delivered by a young Christian Arab woman at the Jaffa Orthodox Young Men's Club. Its subject was "Modern Woman," and in the course of it a strong plea was made for the abolition of the veil by Moslem women in Palestine, as in Turkey. A Moslem woman in the audience was there and then converted to modernism, and on the following day appeared unveiled in the streets of Jaffa. As a result, divorce proceedings have been instituted by her outraged husband. We surmise that the fate of the young woman in question will not be an easy one—the public disgrace of divorce in a Moslem environment, the fury of relatives, the gibes of an obscurantist Oriental society, perhaps even, the tearing of deep-rooted family affections, will doubtless combine to make the price of her freedom a heavy one. But we hope that sooner or later the heroine of this strange tale will find herself able to regard the loss of such a husband and such a domestic status as a merciful release transcending all the discomfort and opprobrium which accompany it!

COMPULSORY MORALITY.

The new Italian penal law imposes heavy penalties on offences against morality. A man who lives on a woman's immoral earnings is liable to imprisonment for six years. A man guilty of seduction may be sentenced for three years or, in the case of victims under age, for five years. Three years' imprisonment is the penalty exacted for persons guilty of adultery. A few years' experience of these drastic penalties should afford interesting evidence as to their effect on the offences in question. Will they deter the persons offended against and the general public from reporting offences and thus defeat their object, as proved the case with the "hanging for sheep stealing" and other Draconian provisions of our eighteenth century laws? Or will they have a really valuable effect in impressing on the mind of Italian youth the fact that offences against women are no less serious than offences against property? Who can say?

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

IN PRAISE OF FRANCE.¹

Food is an acceptable topic to-day. Lettuce, brown bread, rye vita, raw carrot, ground nuts—cheerful eaters of each of these are to be found, who claim to be brighter, stronger, of longer life, more moral, than those others who merely drag out an unprofitable existence on the other thing.

But the acceptability of this topic derives from the medical world or, at least, from the self-conscious amateur of food fads. That is, from those unhappy ones who eat to live. Their eating is a science, the science of health.

But what of those who live to eat? There are among them the merely greedy, those who eat plentifully but without discrimination! Such as these we will ignore. What then of those who regard the cooking, the serving, and the eating of food as a fine art? Of such as these it may be said that for them Stephen Gwynne's book was written. *In Praise of France* is, as its title suggests, a pæan to the glory of that fair country, rather than a pæan to the praise of food and drink, yet the author convinces us, if we were in doubt, that no one can love France with an understanding love who does not value good food and good . . . Anent drink, silence is golden, and those whose principles compel must miss out the passages in praise of the wines of France.

The eighth chapter, called "Classics of the Table" strikes its note: "Eating covers a larger field in life than fishing, hunting, golf, or even gardening; the history of the table is closely connected with the history of civilization. 'Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are,' is an aphorism in the chief of these classics, and 'how you eat' is even more important to ascertain. Man is not only gregarious, but a social animal: nutrition, the first animal need, links itself rapidly with necessities for companionship that involve his spirit and ultimately he shows himself for what he is in the act of eating and of assisting others to eat."

The high vocation of the one who knows about these things is made clear to us. "To make those eat who lack appetite, to make the wit of the witty sparkle, to help the would-be witty to find some witty saying, these are the supreme achievements of the gastronomer as host."

Having thus prepared our minds to offer due homage, Mr. Gwynne tells the story of the great professors of gourmandize. The king of them was Brillat Savarin, author of *Physiologie du Gout*, "typical of France as Izaak Walton was typical of England." Of him our author says: "He was a big jolly man, a keen sportsman, a reformer before the days of the French Revolution, and, after the Revolution had taken and shaken him, a tenacious clinger to his job." Alexandre Balthazar Laurent Grimod de la Reynière has his own fame for, among other things, his *Almanach des Gourmands*, from which may be quoted: "Gourmands only eat the sweets out of politeness, but, as a rule, they are extremely polite" (perhaps they had studied Brillat Savarin's chapter on how to enjoy food and not grow fat!). Of Napoleon, Reynière writes: "Nobody admires our great Emperor more than I do. But I may be permitted to deplore the use he makes of his talent. My lord, had he applied himself to the advancement of cookery, who can tell what point of perfection we might not have attained?"

In Praise of France speaks of drink as well as of food and other things. Those whose principles permit will enjoy the chapter "Vintage Time in Bordeaux", full of facts about the estates which have given their names to famous vintages—St. Julien, Margaux, St. Emilion, Sauternes, Pontet Canet. But Mr. Gwynne makes provision for the soul and spirit. Chapter three on Montreuil sur Mer (our headquarters in the war) is typical. Here is a word picture, one of many scattered throughout the book: "Sun streamed down upon the ramparts, and the towns people were out there taking their pleasure: black robed women, somehow very mediaeval and appropriate; wise deliberate men, whose ancestors were probably burghers when the town levy had to man the walls . . . the tiled roofs were a joy all of those two sunny days, etc."

Holiday makers going to France, and, above all, those going to some dark spot outside, must get *In Praise of France*, for it is the quintessence of holiday. Those who stay at home will have had a holiday if they read it.

A. H. W.

¹ *In Praise of France*, by Stephen Gwynne. (Nisbet and Co., 10s. 6d. net.)

THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.¹

As a young man of twenty-three, exploring the inland route from Peking to India, sleeping in the open on icy heights of the Himalayas and looking up to the glittering sky, the author of these reminiscences felt that he belonged to it quite as much as to earth. "We all seemed one together—my men and I, and the spotless mountains and the radiant stars." Two years later, on another mission among the same mountains, going alone to meet hostile raiding chiefs in their strongholds, strung up by responsibility and danger, he felt that he was on the brink of discovering a new religion, the essential truth about man and nature was almost, but not quite, within his grasp. Four years later again on the Chitral expedition he determined to "seek the inner spirit of things, and find out which is that highest and best towards which all things are being impelled, and towards which we should strive. After another ten years in Tibet carrying out what was perhaps one of the most difficult and dangerous diplomatic exploits ever accomplished, he felt that after long seeking and much tribulation he had found what he sought: "I had direct and immediate experience of the inmost spirit of things, I had experience that the world is not only good and lovable, but that it loves—and loves with over-mastering power." When he returned to England this experience was corroborated in very different surroundings during the Welsh Revival meetings of 1903 and 1904. His later life has, we gather, been an endeavour to think it out in all its philosophic bearings, to realize its practical results in daily life, to accept its implications himself, and to impart them to other men.

His career has been an extraordinarily active one and full of accomplishment. From the time when, as a very young subaltern, he turned from the gaities of Simla to study the position of Russia in Asia, and to throw himself into special "frontier" work, he has always been doing as well as thinking. As an explorer and a diplomatist he has made history. Some of the adventures recorded with such simplicity in this book might have come straight out of the pages of Kipling (who would, however, have told them differently); but whether the writer were interviewing a frontier chieftain, who had to be spoken to firmly but unprovocatively because he had poisoned his father and thrown his brothers over precipices; or going unbidden and unescorted into the presence of the Lamas of Tibet; or crossing an ice-slope ending in a sheer abyss, without any mountaineering equipment except an Alpine stock, one cannot doubt that he knew himself to be all the time pursuing a spiritual quest. He is a man of action but also a mystic; a dreamer, but of a different kind from Rhodes, of whom he candidly remarks that it was "difficult to understand him," because "he had such extraordinary ideas of right and wrong." He attributes Rhodes' attitude to his conviction that the strongest must, and should, carry all before them. His own theory is a very different one: "I am myself no greater believer in the survival of the fittest. The sacrifice of the fittest is what makes the world go on." On this belief he has always acted and he has found a harmony between it and the stars, and the mountains and the yearning; of the many different kinds of human beings among whom his life has been passed.

I. B. O'M.

THE RETURN OF DON QUIXOTE.²

Don Quixote is a suitable subject for Mr. Chesterton, and his latest romance is characteristic of his strange genius. It begins with a house party at Seawood Abbey, private theatricals, a "syndicalist" labour member, and a learned librarian who talks delightfully about "periods". The theatricals develop into a peaceful revolution which sets up the librarian as the Mussolini of a new mediaeval state. The syndicalists revolt against this—not peacefully—but soon discover that they are mistaken in doing so, as they are the only people who are really at home in the middle ages. The Capitalists are overthrown but everybody else revolts, and the mediaevalists then realize that they have forgotten the chief thing in the Middle Ages, namely religious faith. In the end we gather that they set it up again and all is well. It is a strange extravaganza, a fantastic dream; but, like some dreams it opens great vistas to the imagination, and at the end of them we catch glimpses of something which looks like eternal beauty and of something which may be eternal truth.

I. B. O'M.

¹ *The Light of Experience*, by Sir Francis Younghusband, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (Constable, 21s. net.)

² By G. K. Chesterton. (Chatto and Windus.) 7s. 6d. net.

DUSTY ANSWER.¹

Dusty Answer is a close and convincing study of a modern girl and her personal relationships with those of her own generation. Personal relationships are everything in the world in which she lives. The young people Miss Lehmann describes so vividly are pagans without any horizon beyond their own stormy, and, on the whole, rather unhappy lives. No passion for abstract ideas balances or colours their passions for each other. Judith Earle, the heroine of the book, has an immense capacity for loving, which is deepened and sharpened by her circumstances. She is an only child, and not allowed to go to school. She therefore concentrates her affections on a large family of cousins who come and live next door. The imaginative glamour which surrounds them is increased by the fact that after some years of intimacy they go away and do not reappear till she is almost grown up. Soon after meeting them again she begins life at Girton. There she becomes absorbed in a fellow-student, whom she loves with a mixture of passion and tenderness, and to whom she transfers some of the glamour of the children next door. Miss Lehmann recognizes the fact that, for girls of Judith's type, friendship for those of their own sex is not essentially different from falling in love. It is an ardent desire to give, combined with a longing for union, and for escape from that loneliness of the soul which is such a sharp pain to the unaccustomed young. In this kind of passion, as in love between men and women, there are physical reflexes, though of course they are not the same. To people of Judith Earle's temperament they can never be the most important thing; and perhaps they are less important than ever to the Judith Earles of this generation. It is probable that much of what seems like shamelessness to Victorian elders is merely that disdain of the body which so often accompanies disbelief in the soul. Judith offers her body to the young man she is in love with, as she had offered a kind of maternal tenderness and eager companionship to her friend. In both cases she gives them what she thinks they desire, and asks in return that they should continue to want her. It is all described sincerely and with much beauty and delicacy of style.

Beauty is the one divine thing in which the young people described in this book consciously believe. It is constantly shining into their lives, which, except for this, would seem chaotic, and at the same time rather empty. They are not typical of a whole generation, only of a very small group within a generation; but it is a group which we all know, and we cannot but be grateful to Miss Lehmann for describing it with so much sincerity and skill. I have found this an absorbingly interesting book.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

L'INFORMATION FÉMININE.

The second number of *L'Information féminine* appeared in July, and is as interesting as the first was. The aim of this review is to give French women exact information in regard to their position under the law, in commerce, and in the professions. The review, which is edited by Mlle. Marcelle Kraemer-Bach and M. Robert Moureaux, has the support of two Committees formed of distinguished French and foreign representatives, Mrs. Corbett Ashby being a member of the latter. Both numbers are attractively illustrated, and the July Review includes reproductions of sculptures by Mika Mikout—one being the "Jeune Fille verte" which was shown in the Salon des Tuileries this year.

M. Raymond Baranton, Député for Paris, discusses the Bill which he has introduced into the French Chamber to provide for the eligibility of women as jurors, and which will be an amendment to the Act of 1872: this Bill, which has been referred to the Commission on Civil and Criminal Legislation, provides that the annual jury list shall be made up of names, one-half being those of men having the qualifications now existing, and the other half those of women taxpayers and of women entitled to vote for members of trade councils. In any case, in which a woman is to be tried, six members of the jury must be women.

Information is given as to the position of women jurors in other countries, and a strong plea made for French women to take their share in this public service. M. Scherdlin, Attorney-General, and M. Dreffus, first President of the Paris Court of

(Continued at foot of next column.)

¹ *Dusty Answer*, by Rosamond Lehmann. (Chatto and Windus, 7s. 6d. net.)

A BEQUEST TO THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE.

Readers of the *International Woman Suffrage News*—and we hope that many among our own readers are to be found among their number—will have seen with interest that Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker has informed the Alliance that he is leaving it a sum of £300. An interesting letter from Mr. Prelooker appearing in the *Eastbourne Gazette* explains his object in announcing this fact during his lifetime. He states that since his early youth he has taken an active interest in the emancipation of women, and it is interesting to learn that it was the suppression by the Russian censorship in 1888 of his lectures on "The Comparative Position of Women in the Religious systems of the World" which led to his coming to live in England. Ever since then he has been an active participant in the activities of the woman's movement in this country. He is anxious that his interest should not cease with his death, "and what other practical method is there to attain this object than leaving a legacy, the fruit of which, however small, will continue in perpetuity?" Mr. Prelooker is specially interested in the International Alliance because its activities extend "all over the world and he permitted the announcement of his generous intentions in the hope that others might be encouraged to follow his example. We echo the hope of the Editor of *Jus* that it will be long before the "Prelooker Trust" comes into existence, and that he may long be spared to continue his great personal interest and warm encouragement, and we congratulate the Alliance on the possession of so loyal a friend.

THE MARCH OF WOMEN.

We reproduce a note from the *Liverpool Daily Post* of Wednesday, 24th August, referred to in our leading article:—

The advance of women in the world of action is variously illustrated by the following items in one day's news:

Gudrun Trogstad, of Oslo, nineteen years of age, has passed her examination as a sea captain, and has received her certificate as a master mariner.

Miss Cottle, Miss Foley, and Mrs. M'Lean have taken first place in the international motor-cycle contest held in the Lake District.

Miss Sheila MacDonald, of London, has climbed Kilimanjaro, being the first woman to reach the summit of the mountain.

A certain Moslem woman, who attended an address on "Modern Woman" at the Jaffa Orthodox Young Men's Club, resolved to become a "modern woman" and next day walked the streets of Jaffa with her face uncovered. The incident reached her husband's knowledge. He at once dispatched his wife to her father's house and is divorcing her.

(Continued from previous column.)

Appeal, both support the proposal to include women on juries; and in an interview with a representative of *L'Information féminine* the former spoke warmly of the benefits that would accrue from this change in the law, and said that the arguments put forward in support of women jurors could not be reasonably opposed.

Recent legislation and Parliamentary Bills affecting women are dealt with by Mlle. Kraemer-Bach in an article which relates to the position of the wife and mother as well as that of the employed woman.

M. B.

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FINANCE AGAIN.

After a temporary respite, the unpleasant but necessary reminders of the need for money must begin again. We are glad to hear of prospective money-raising efforts in different parts of the country. The Sheffield Society for Equal Citizenship, which has already sent a generous contribution to Headquarters, announces an American Garden Tea in aid of the Campaign for Equal Franchise.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret the death of Mrs. Ramsay, the result of a motor accident. Mrs. Ramsay has for many years been closely identified with the Cambridge Society, and with many forms of public and social work in the city. We hope to give later a short appreciation of her life and work.

The Edinburgh S.E.C. has suffered loss in the death of Mrs. M. S. Bertram, a loss that will be shared by most of the women's societies in the city. She was one of the pioneers of the women's movement and as a journalist her pen ably supported the demand for women's suffrage and, later, the many aspects of the work for equal citizenship. Though often in ill-health, she was indefatigable in her work for the causes which interested her, attending meetings, securing good reports, and often as a correspondent following up the subject afterwards in the daily press. A lover of animals, she did much to rouse the public conscience on behalf of the neglected and starving cats in the city.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

We are amused to read in the *New York Sun* in an article describing Miss Monica Whately's visit to the United States, that the National Union has "gone humanitarian" and forgotten that it stood originally for "ladies first." It is more distressing to be told that it has "lost its teeth!" We think, however, that if the writer of the article paid a visit to 15 Dean's Yard and spent a few days there when the Parliamentary work is in full swing, she would find that the National Union still has some bite left!

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AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT.

We read in *The Times* of an interesting new scheme which is being launched in Liverpool in order to find a market for the work of modern artists. A lending library of artists has been formed, with an annual subscription of 5 gns.; each member of the newly formed "arts circle" will receive in his home every month an oil painting, water colour, etching or piece of sculpture by a contemporary Merseyside artist. The subscriber may select what he wishes from a central studio. The picture or piece of sculpture is priced and may be bought by the subscriber or by any of his friends. In this way an ever-widening circle will be made acquainted with the work of Merseyside artists, and the work itself will be put into circulation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"MOTHER INDIA."

MADAM,—One would gather from Mrs. Loveday Cameron's letter that in her opinion "suttee" was abolished too hastily by the British Government, because its abolition occasioned discontent! She continues: "All big changes come slowly and in India, where Time does not matter as it does in Western countries, how much more slowly can alterations take place."

Are we then to conclude that the process of being burnt alive would "not have mattered" to the thousands of Hindu widows who would have suffered this fate if the British Government had dealt more tenderly with the "deep religious feeling" which prompted the practice? Neither the British Government, nor any individual who has the power to prevent it, has a right to show "toleration" of customs which inflict torture on other people, not even where (perhaps least of all where) the crime masquerades in the name of religion. The Hindu's treatment of widows and of women generally has, I suggest, its real roots not in any form of religion, but in a propensity of human nature which is not confined to the East, the desire to exalt oneself by keeping someone else in subjection. The tyrannies of sex, of class, of caste, all spring from this common root. FEMINIST.

MADAM,—While deploring with you the evils of child marriage in India, and longing for the day when the people themselves shall cast aside the chains of superstition that bind them, I feel that perhaps the writer of your article does not quite sufficiently realize the very difficult position of fathers in that country, especially of fathers (or perhaps I should say parents) of several daughters. Public opinion, without exception, immemorably, and universally, demands that a father should find his daughters husbands. If he has not done this by the time they have become grown up, he is simply considered inhuman, and lacking in his first natural duty. I say particularly "grown-up" as so many Indian parents would be confused if asked for a "year of birth." Children's age is usually shown, (by a hand at a certain height) not calculated. A child begins to follow caste customs, not when he is "so old" but when his first teeth have come out, and so on.

But as fewer boys than girls survive infancy, finding husbands is often extremely difficult. Families are put to piteous shifts in the search. Therefore a law to forbid large categories of marriages would certainly meet with dismayed opposition. Still there might not be so much difficulty in passing the law. It would be the enforcing of it that would be so impossible. It must be realized that only to mention a man's wife in the most casual conversation, is a deadly insult. To enter his house, with a view to inquiring into the age of the ladies of his family, is the most likely way I can think of, of starting a riot. This, it will be remembered, was the occasion of the rebellion of Wat Tyler in England. It would be worse in India, for there the whole thing is indissolubly bound up with religion. There would be bloodshed, not once nor twice, but continuously. You can "force" the people of India up to a certain point, as your contributor suggests should be done, but not beyond a certain point. Zenanas and harims are situated definitely beyond that point. (Mrs.) M. SMITH.

Liangollen.

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

Sheffield S.E.C. SEPTEMBER 15. 3 p.m. American Garden Tea at Oaklands, Collegiate Crescent.

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