

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Women and the League of Nations.

Do women care for the League of Nations? An answer to that question was given in the Albert Hall on February 6th, and was emphasised by Miss Royden in an eloquent gesture. It was a mighty gathering, and it did not stand alone, for two overflow meetings were being held at the same time. It must have been a great encouragement to all who believe, as we do ourselves, that the future of the world depends on the great idea of the League of Nations becoming a living force among the people. In our country, at any rate, and among part of the people it is becoming so. The Albert Hall meeting demonstrated it. Lord Robert Cecil, in a speech which was the climax of the meeting, said, "You are no longer voiceless and voteless, you have become full citizens of the Empire with an influence as great as that of your male fellow-citizens. But do not forget that this change has thrown upon you a great responsibility. Surely the cause of peace must appeal to women, even more than to men. Be up and doing. The starving children of to-day, the unborn children of the future ages, call for your help. Take care lest future generations may say that in the first great call to the enfranchised women they failed to do their duty." We think that this will not be said; we believe that Englishwomen will do their duty by the League of Nations, and that they will lead the women of the world.

Is the League Too Good to be True?

As Miss Royden pointed out, in a speech which she has seldom surpassed, there have been two great difficulties which have affected two sets of people and have made them slow in their awakening. There is, first, the difficulty of those who think the League of Nations idea too good to be true. Human nature, they say, is human nature, and cannot be changed; strife is part of human nature. There have been wars, and there will always be wars; peace and fraternity among nations is an impossible ideal. To these, Miss Royden replied: "Only let us try it." So many things have been called impossible, and yet have taken effect; so many things have been talked of as vain dreams which it was useless to try, because nothing could ever come of them. It was said that it was useless to give women votes, because they would never use them. It was said that it was useless to give working people decent houses because they would never live in them. It was said that it was useless to admit women Members of Parliament because they would never be elected. It was said that women took no interest in national or international affairs. It is now said that there cannot have an effective League of Nations—let us try! To those who looked out across the vast and crowded hall, to Lady Astor sitting beside Miss Royden, the point of these remarks was obvious. And when the speaker went on to say that we were going to find an answer to the old question, "what happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object" it seemed that what was present there that night might indeed represent an irresistible force.

Is the League Too Bad to be True?

Miss Royden went on to address an even more eloquent appeal to those who are so bitterly disappointed with the League as it is now, that it seems to them almost too bad to be true. She sympathised with them in their disappointment but urged them not to let matters rest there. "The League exists," she said, "it has the power to revise the Treaty, and the world is turning towards sanity. Do not let it be your fault if, when the sanity returns, there is no machine by which it can give judgment. Do not let the machine be seized and wrested to evil purposes by the enemies of the world. It can be used for love and pity if you choose. It can be used to alter what is wrong, it can be perfected; but if you cast it aside, do not complain if your enemies use it." She might perhaps have added one more appeal to the vast number of people who do not think that the League is too good to be true, or too bad to be true—merely that it is there, and that nothing need be done about it. But this appeal too was implicit in her words, and many who heard her speak went away determined to work for the League, and make the service of it part of their own lives.

Essential to the Peace of the World.

Lady Astor undoubtedly made a good impression at the League of Nations meeting. The Albert Hall is itself a heavy trial, even to the best of speakers, and to those comparatively accustomed to it; but Lady Astor's fine voice carried triumphantly; and if it was clear that she was a little nervous, none of her audience liked her the worse for that. The sincerity of her double appeal, to England and to America to try and understand each other, was obvious, and it came with added force from one who, as she pointed out, belongs to both countries. Miss Mary Macarthur spoke with her accustomed ability. The resolution moved by her: "That this meeting regards the League of Nations as essential to the Peace of the world," was carried unanimously, and Mrs. Randall Davidson must have been proud of the great gathering of so many different kinds of women over which she so worthily presided.

The International Labour Conference.

The International Labour Organization of the League of Nations, though it held its first Conference at Washington, has its headquarters for the time being in London. The "Conventions" adopted at the Washington Conference now govern its proceedings and will come into force not later than July 1921 by which time all the nations participating must be prepared to enforce the conventions as law. Readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER will observe that little alteration of labour conditions in Great Britain will be entailed by conformity with the International agreement so far as employment of women is concerned. No woman will be permitted to work in industrial or commercial undertakings within six weeks after her confinement, she shall have the right to leave her employment six weeks before the birth of her child, and it will be illegal to give her notice of dismissal during her absence. No woman shall be employed on night work, except in cases where the raw material is subject to rapid deterioration. "Night" is taken to mean eleven consecutive hours between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m. In seasonal occupations this period may for sixty days in the year be reckoned as ten instead of eleven hours, and in some climates work may be allowed at night if compensatory rest is given during the day. The whole question is governed by the Convention imposing an eight-hour working day for all classes of labour which is to come into force in July, 1921.

Regulation of Women's Labour in America.

The regulations controlling women's labour still differ widely from State to State. Ohio has published a long list of occupations forbidden to women, including gas or electric meter reading and service in public rooms, where substitutes for intoxicating liquors are sold. Women's hours were reduced last year in six States, the eight-hour day in Utah and the nine-hour day in Massachusetts being secured after half a century's struggle. It is interesting to note that New York excluded women reporters and news writers from its prohibition of night work, which in that State means work between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Oklahoma excludes none but pharmacists, nurses, and women employed in agriculture or domestic service.

American Child Labour.

The American Labour Legislation Review for December records the re-enactment by Congress of the child labour regulations which had been pronounced unconstitutional in their original form. The minimum age for employment in all States is thus fixed at fourteen, the age prescribed in the Draft Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference. The minimum age for mines and quarries is sixteen. Individual States have during the past year extended restrictions much further than this limit. Missouri for the first time forbids the employment of children in working any power machinery unless in agriculture. Montana forbids wage-earning under sixteen unless the child has infirm dependent parents. But Vermont, on the other hand, authorizes the Commissioner in Agriculture to suspend laws regulating the employment of women and children for two months in the year in the case of businesses dealing with perishable goods. The new law in Ohio penalising the issue, contrary to law, of "age and schooling certificates," indicates that increasing effort is being made to enforce the

mass of child labour legislation already on the statute book but not infrequently evaded. It is obviously of the greatest importance that progressive nations, attempting to raise the labour conditions of more backward countries by international conventions, should scrupulously observe their own rules.

Unanimity at Paisley.

There are some who said that votes for women would make little or no difference in the readiness of Parliament to attend to women's interests; there are some, even now, who attempt to argue that the women's vote has not made much difference. But in our pre-Suffrage days was there ever an example of such unanimity in the replies of Parliamentary candidates to questions put to them by women, as was shown at Paisley the other day, when a deputation of Women Citizens waited on Mr. Asquith, Mr. Biggar, and Mr. MacKean? The deputation included representatives of all three parties with one of the "under thirties," and was introduced by Mrs. Laurie, whose work as Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Women's Hospitals is well known both in Scotland and in England. It soon became plain that if women were to use their votes solely for women's questions they might make their cross with their eyes shut at the election. But Paisley women remember that important as questions concerning wives and mothers are for the common good, there are other matters which citizens must take into consideration. Perhaps they remember, too, that election promises are election promises; that there is such a thing as a Parliamentary answer, and that fair words butter no parsnips—no, not even with butter substitute.

Not Noticed.

Although there is little difference in the answers given by the candidates, we understand that there was some difference in the knowledge of the questions before them. "It was pretty evident," says our correspondent, "that Mr. Biggar (the Labour candidate) was the only one who had studied them beforehand. Mr. MacKean (the Coalition candidate) admitted having lost his, but his assent to each question as he read it, was none the less emphatic. Mr. Asquith through a mistake of his agent kept the deputation waiting some time. Still, the former opponent of women's suffrage went the whole length in his assent, the only qualification being in his answer to the question on the nationality rights of married women, which he admitted was just in principle, but would be difficult in practice. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Asquith electrified his audience by saying that he had noticed that the 'Glasgow Herald' had 'unearthed' the fact that the Sex Disqualification Bill had been passed! He was, he said, until the 'Glasgow Herald's' excavations had enlightened him, under the impression that the Bill was still being debated! The deputation concealed its astonishment as best it could at this interesting discovery, and listened to the one-time opponent of women's suffrage commiserating the voteless junior of the party!"

Mr. Biggar's Reservation.

Mr. Biggar, in answer to the question "Are you in favour of full professional and industrial freedom of opportunity for women?" said he wished to make a reservation with regard to work for which women were physically unfit. He told the deputation that men and women were physically different (we seem to have heard this before!), that he had seen women during the war engaged on work too heavy for them (this also we have heard before!), therefore he would have the harder forms of physical work forbidden to women; finally, it was the tender consideration for women's frail physique which prompted the opposition shown by the Trades Unions to letting women into the industrial field. Mr. Biggar gave a negative reply to the question: "Are you in favour of the separate taxation of the incomes of married women?" The reason he gave was interesting. He believes that the separate taxation of married women's income would work out unfairly for the working man whose wife does not bring a separate unearned income into the household treasury. Instead of this he would have every unit of the population taxed, and exemption for every unit up to the limit of the cost of living. That Mr. Biggar strongly upholds the full freedom of the individual was shown by many of his remarks; for instance, in that referring to the equal guardianship of children, he emphasised the fact that the child is a separate unit and personality, not the possession of anybody,

but an individual unit towards whom during his minority both parents have equal responsibility. Mr. MacKean had no reservations, he answered everything in the affirmative.

Glad Tidings.

This week brings glad tidings to the discharged woman war worker; hopes which she has fostered long, but which were growing dimmer as the months rolled by, are now realised. She is to be given an opportunity of making a big thing of her life; no longer need she struggle to keep a precarious foothold on that overcrowded unskilled clerical labour market; she is going to train for the work that lies nearest her own heart, she is going to realise her ambitions. The war not only wrought havoc in men's lives, but in women's too. It has changed the circumstances and conditions of so many that thousands of educated but untrained women, now that their war work is finished, find they are ill-equipped to battle with the struggle for existence—which is what life means to an untrained woman. At last it has been decided to turn the energies and enthusiasm of these women—who have been tried and not found wanting during the war years—to good account. In training such women for work of real national importance it is the nation as a whole, as well as the women themselves, who will be the richer for it. In the years of reconstruction ahead of us, for the war we must yet wage against disease and ignorance we shall need trained women; for, of its very nature much of this work will be women's work. Even to-day, while certain enlightened people are advocating emigration for our surplus women, the Board of Education alone is crying out for nine thousand women teachers!

£500,000 for Women.

The residue of the Queen's "Work for Women" Fund, with a further sum of £500,000 allocated by the Executive Committee of the National Relief Fund, will be used for training women who are unemployed, or whose earning capacities or opportunities have been affected by conditions arising out of the war. The Ministry of Labour has appointed the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment to be a Standing Committee to carry out the scheme; the Marchioness of Crewe is Chairman of the Committee, Miss Mary Macarthur hon. Secretary, and Mrs. H. J. Tennant Treasurer. A number of maintenance scholarships will be provided immediately to enable women to qualify for Domestic Science, Physical Culture, Ministry of Health Work, Higher Grade Cooking, and Higher Clerical work. A scheme to provide a short course with maintenance has been arranged with various education authorities throughout the country, and hundreds of Government clerks, by short intensive courses, will be brought up to the standard required by the Board of Education for training as elementary school teachers. There will also be opportunities for suitable applicants to qualify for the Higher Professions, such as Law and Medicine. Many hundreds of the more competent dismissed clerical workers will go on to higher clerical work, where they will learn Spanish with a view to our trading with South America. Women will be trained only in those professions when there is a demand for more workers, such as highly qualified nurses, teachers of domestic science, physical culture, and health supervisors. The Committee have already secured the co-operation of the Employment and Training Department of the Ministry of Labour, and hope to secure the sympathy and services of the Universities and local Education Authorities. We trust that the efforts of the Committee to help the unemployed war workers will be crowned with success; that they will bear fruit in the years to come we cannot doubt.

Women Clerks and the Premier.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries held a meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on February 5th, the objects being to lay before the members the result of the second Deputation to the Prime Minister, and to consider future policy. The meeting was an enthusiastic and unanimous one; the speakers were: Miss Maguire (Organiser of the Association), Mr. Brown (representing the Assistant Clerks' Association) and Mrs. Lillingston (of the Woman's Army of Progress), and there were present about two thousand women clerks. The Association is dissatisfied with the manner in which the Prime Minister received their Deputation, the only concession they gained, namely, that every temporary clerk who was dismissed after the cessation of the out-of-work donation, i.e., after November 25th last, should receive a month's notice or a month's pay in lieu of notice, is now being challenged by the Treasury, who maintain that this concession

was only meant to date from the day the Deputation was received. Mr. Lloyd George was averse from women competing for the higher posts in the Civil Service, and flatly turned down the demand for a gratuity. In thus refusing to grant equality of opportunity to women in the Civil Service, the Association considers that Mr. Lloyd George has broken the pledge made by the Coalition Government at the last General Election, which was that all inequalities as between men and women should be removed. The Association therefore called upon the clerks to use their political weapon by launching an organised campaign against the Coalition Government, and the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That this meeting instructs the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries to lay before the women electors of Paisley and the Wrekin and any subsequent by-elections, the facts as to the unfair treatment of women clerks by the Coalition Government and its responsible head, in order that they may use their votes against the nominees of those who have betrayed their pledges to women."

Dockers.

Mr. Ernest Bevin's opening statement at the Dockers' enquiry, was an example of what such a speech should be—clear, simple, full of detail, but never encumbered by it. It was obvious that his knowledge of the dockers' case would be greater than that of any counsel who could have been instructed, but his marshalling of the facts compelled the admiration of barristers who are advocates by training and profession. Whatever the result of the enquiry, it is all to the good that the case should have been so well put, that it should have received so sympathetic a hearing from the Court and that the abilities of a labour leader in this field should have been so fully demonstrated. We may be glad too to notice the ungrudging attitude of the Bar to the amateur, and to remark that the educational advantages even now open to industrial workers enable men of ability to find their own level in public affairs.

The Dockers' Budget.

In the course of his appeal for a minimum wage of sixteen shillings a day, Mr. Bevin made an interesting estimate of the minimum cost of livelihood for a docker's family of five, calculating it as £6 a week. This included ten shillings for rent, twenty-one shillings for the father's food, and fourteen shillings a head for the mother and three children, while the family bill for clothing came to twenty-five shillings a week. Middle-class housekeepers will think this last item low as compared to their own, but may incline to consider the fourteen shilling allowance for food as high, all things considered. A heavy worker like a docker naturally requires more food than a sedentary worker, and the working mother of a family is hardly equal to her task unless she has a food allowance equivalent to two shillings a day. But the children of the poorer professional classes do not get this, nor did they, before the war, get its equivalent seven shillings. The heavy charges for education which are incurred by a middle-class family perhaps entail undue economy in food. Everyone knows that the Belgian refugees who were offered hospitality by Oxford and Cambridge professors thought that their hosts were sharing with their guests what was manifestly insufficient for the original household. Certainly a child's food bill of fourteen shillings a week has an opulent sound to the housekeeper of the poorer professional middle classes.

Building by Guilds.

The Manchester Guild scheme for building working-class houses is being considered and may be imitated by Bournemouth, Wrexham, Colwyn Bay, and other towns, and the London Building Trades' Federation and the National Guilds' League are demanding its application to London. Most local authorities now have acquired sites and adopted plans, the great obstacle to progress is the lack of labour, and the Guild scheme promises fair to surmount this difficulty.

Miss Ashwell's People's Theatre at Bethnal Green.

Miss Lena Ashwell's interesting endeavour to provide good theatrical performances at popular prices for the people of Bethnal Green, is as yet very little known outside the circle of people who are helping her in the work. Since she only wants to attract audiences from that district, there is no reason at present why it should be advertised in the West-end, but if this movement grows, as there is every prospect of its doing, it will certainly become an important factor in any scheme for social

betterment in East London. At the conclusion of the armistice, Miss Ashwell used the funds remaining from those subscribed for her concert parties in France, in organising a theatrical company of demobilised actors and actresses who were willing to go down to the East-end and play every evening to working class audiences, in a hastily adapted hall, such well-known plays as the "Duke of Killiecrankie," "Leah Kleschna," &c. Before her coming, two cinema shows were the only form of amusement provided for the thousands of people living in this part of London. Since the opening of the Excelsior Hall, Mansford Street, the size of the audiences and their very evident appreciation of the plays provided, have proved the growing need for this class of healthy entertainment. At Christmas time, Miss Cicely Hamilton's Miracle play, "A Child in Flanders," was performed to large audiences, and the result of the movement has been altogether so encouraging that Miss Ashwell hopes to extend it if she can get enough support in her excellent work.

In Evening Bethnal Green.

A few nights ago, Miss Hamilton's admirable little one-act play, "Mrs. Armstrong's Admirer," was given for the first time in England, and followed by "The Monkey's Paw." Miss Hamilton, who has continued the help she gave Miss Ashwell in France by stage-managing the Excelsior Hall Plays, acted the part of the Mother in Mr. W. W. Jacobs' gruesome play in the inimitable fashion that makes her acting always remembered. Though it was a Friday—an unfashionable theatrical night in this district for financial and other reasons, the big hall was fairly well filled. There were fathers and mothers with babies, a sprinkling of elderly people, but many more of the youth of both sexes who make the ideal audience for this kind of movement. The actors and actresses gave of their best, an excellent orchestra provided a programme from which not even the rival attractions of oranges could distract the attention of the hearers, and when the curtain fell on the tiny stage and one was left in the rather grim surroundings of the hall, one felt that another atmosphere—something that caused thought or wonder, fear or laughter, but something different, had been imported into Bethnal Green—which was perhaps what Miss Ashwell intended.

The Femina Prize.

The first award of the annual prize offered by the publishers of *Femina* and *La Vie Heureuse* to an English writer, is gained by Miss Cicely Hamilton for her novel, "William, an Englishman." A preliminary recommendation of three works of imagination suitable for translation into French was made by an English Committee, of which Mrs. Belloc Loundes was chairman, and the final choice rested with a French jury. We may congratulate ourselves on being represented by so admirable a novel as Miss Hamilton's in the literary world of France, and think it fortunate that the author of the prize novel is a woman who has done so much for France and France's Allies.

V.A.D. Convalescent Home.

The war is fast becoming a distant memory, but the work of the V.A.D. in many instances is far from being completed; there are at the present time over four thousand V.A.D.s serving with military authorities. Many hundreds of these will be demobilised during the spring, they will then have completed five or six years of hard and unremitting labour, and many of them are in dire need of rest and medical treatment. The V.A.D. Convalescent Home near Camberley, to which they might have gone for recuperation, will have ceased to exist; this Home has been a boon to nursing V.A.D.s during the war, but the lease is up, and the Home must go. *The Spectator* has made a very moving appeal in its columns for the loan of a large country house with grounds for the period of one year, in order that these women who have done such self-sacrificing work during the war may not go out into civilian life broken in health and physically unfit to take up other employment. A number of V.A.D.s, it is true, can recuperate in their own homes, but the great majority who are now serving have not the means to do so, and in the existing home at Hartsleap there are sad cases of V.A.D.s suffering from heart-strain and breakdown, who are literally without any resources whatsoever. These have sacrificed their own health in nursing and caring for others, and there must be few families in England to-day who do not owe a debt of gratitude to the nursing profession. The appeal, "Care for those who care for others," cannot go unanswered, and someone, as a mark of gratitude for the wonderful services rendered by V.A.D.s will surely offer them another refuge where the good work of restoring them to health may be carried on.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

By JOHN W. HILLS, M.P.

THE year which saw the first woman sitting in the House of Commons, which forced the door of that stubborn profession, the law, and which cast on women the burden of serving on juries and the privilege of sitting as magistrates, contained, in spite of brilliant successes, features giving rise to disquiet. On the surface all was fair. Peace had come; women had stepped into the place which the new world required that they should occupy; the inequalities still existing seemed to the enthusiasm of the moment to be few in number and small in extent; and, with the general goodwill which was assumed to be universal, it looked as though the haven of equality was in sight. I do not deny that progress has been made, and that that progress has been not insignificant, but when we look at tendencies rather than occurrences and try to weigh psychological factors and the influence of temperament and tradition I am not sure that our easy optimism will not get a shock.

I am not so much concerned with material obstacles, I mean the actual alterations of the law which must be made before men and women are completely equal. I am concerned with factors less obvious and with opposition more difficult to combat. Still, material barriers are not slight. Though the House of Commons carried by a substantial majority a Bill giving women the vote at twenty-one it allowed the Government to shuffle out of the duty of passing it into law. The divorce laws remain unequal and unaltered. Many other examples will occur to anyone who reads this.

But these difficulties are not the most dangerous. To sweep away legal anachronisms is important; but there is a more important battle which has to be fought, not only in Parliament but in the human heart and mind, before victory is won. That is the battle of equality of opportunity, carrying with it equality of duty and equality of reward.

When the Act for Removing Sex Disqualification was debated last autumn, the gods who mock at mankind must have held high revel. The Minister in charge was one of the most single-minded members of the Government, an able man with a shrewd head and a kind heart. The House was honestly anxious to do the right thing. And yet the result was a laughable travesty of equality in that vital part of the Act dealing with Government service, with its immense potentialities, carrying with it, as in future it must, not only the vast municipal services, but the even greater opportunities given by quasi-public bodies such as railways, water companies, and lighting companies. In all these occupations, expressly or by implication, the dice are loaded against women. And this was done by a Minister and by a House who intended the very opposite.

Now it might have been different had there been a body of women members in the House. At the time there were none; but had there been only three or four they could have created an atmosphere which would have obliged Parliament to grant the concession. It was not so much a matter of argument as of showing a point of view, an attitude of mind, an outlook on life. Equality is a creed, and creeds convert, they do not convince; and iteration, the secret of conviction, is still more the secret of conversion. What was required was to bring Parliament to a conception of what equality meant, and to show that it did not mean asking for something to which you were not entitled or demanding excessive payment for inferior work; but that it was a lofty and stern school, in which women asked to be allowed to try their power and to bear burdens as well as to reap rewards.

All this is so much a commonplace among those who believe in equal citizenship that I am almost ashamed to write it, but it would have been refreshing to hear it in Parliament last October, and especially so if voiced by women. For surely they, better than any man, could have expounded a creed so long fought for, so deeply visioned, and so passionately believed. It is difficult to overstate the result which might have been attained by a few women members.

But besides such a set and obvious occasion as the Disqualification Removal Act, there is all the play and movement of the House, the give and take of question and answer, and the ever-

changing surface of debate, which present innumerable occasions for asserting your view. Whether it be the position of women under the Pre-War Practices Act, or their treatment by Employment Exchanges, or their neglect by the Health Ministry, or the denial to them of rewards for war service, not a week passes without some opportunity arising. It may, of course, be said that it is not necessary for women to be actually in the House, for women's societies are active outside, and they can warn their supporters when anything of interest is coming on, and that the case can be equally well put by men. But there are two answers to this. First, the simple one that it is better that women should state their own case, and the second that unless you are actually in the House you miss most of what is going on. Political topics change as unexpectedly as English weather, and the barometer is an equally unreliable prophet for either. Unless you are there constantly, of the House as well as in it, you will miss opportunity after opportunity, and it is not possible for the few men members who believe in equality to be as constantly watchful as a body of women would be.

Up to the present I have been talking mainly about the interests of professional women, of those who are now being called to the Bar, or being articulated to a solicitor, or reading for the Civil Service Examination.

The case of women in industry is even more urgent. The position is really tragic. All the great advance in wages during the war, which raised them from 12s. or 15s. a week up to nearly 40s., looks like being lost, and most of the employments opened during the war have been closed. The only protection for women is Parliament. Trade unions do not help, for be they of men or of women or of both they cannot, and cannot be expected to, act against so big and settled a matter of labour policy as the restoration of pre-war practices. Parliament can help. Steady permeation of opinion among trade unions can do much, but Parliament can do more, not only by passing laws, but because it is a great sounding-board, and what is spoken there reverberates over the world.

It will be realised that complete equality is not won yet by a long way. Neither in the professions nor in industry has this been reached. Men, whether they be bank clerks or bus conductors, Treasury officials or aircraft workers, schoolmasters or engineers, politicians or waiters, do not admit it. They believe either that women should not be admitted to their particular province, or if admitted that they should come in at a lower rate of pay. Of these two alternatives I believe the second to be the worst; for complete exclusion can be combated and eventually beaten, but once you allow women to come in at a lower rate than men you are committed to a conflict in which all that is best in both must fight against you. However, I do not mean to be led in discussing equal pay, but to point out how steep and stony is the road that has to be travelled before equality is reached. The struggle must be carried on in every sphere. Parliament gives the biggest opportunity, but the opportunity will not be fully used till there are more women members.

The present House of Commons, elected during a transition, reflects the atmosphere of its birth. Most unexpectedly women failed to win at the General Election. Looking back it is not difficult to see why, for they came late into the field and had to contend against both the party machine and our veneration for traditional forms. But when the transition is past, when the world is once more in its stride, when democratic assemblies truly represent the electors, it cannot be doubted that a substantial number of women will sit at Westminster. Indeed without their alert and constant intervention the new order will not be possible, for if it is to be permanent it must carry with it a resorting of activities and a reassessment of values, which cannot be achieved without their help. Real equality and true democracy mean freedom for women and men to do that work for which they are best suited. We are far indeed from that new world, and we can only reach it if the highest and noblest beliefs in men and women lead us on the road, and in that journey those who believe most deeply should be in the van.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

The Parliamentary Session which opened on February 10th may prove to be the last session of the present Coalition Government. All the political signs, both in the country and in the House point to an early election, and the chances are that Mr. Lloyd George will not wait much longer before appealing to the country again. There is much to be said about the political astuteness of such a course: but what is more interesting than political intrigue is the question of what the alternatives before the country will be. Labour, of course, is clear enough; and the Free Liberals, presumably, will go on as they are. But will the Coalition stand solid as a single Party, still endeavouring to harness radicals and reactionaries together, or will Mr. Lloyd George draw away from the really crusted Tories and try to set up the new Centre Party for which so many people are looking?

There is nothing in the King's Speech to answer this question. It steers carefully past the only issues upon which a satisfactory election can be fought, while it indicates some valuable measures of reconstruction, it leaves the serious questions of the day (including Ireland) in the same indistinct position as ever.

Labour, of course, challenges the Address on the question of the Nationalisation of the Mines, but the Government utterance on this, which is in progress as we go to press, promises to be no more decisive than previous utterances.

The startling feature of the Speech is the slight and cursory mention that it makes of foreign affairs, and the absence of any reference whatever to the League of Nations. Both the Independent Liberals and a group of increasingly independent Conservatives are challenging the Address on this point, and the debate which will be of great interest may have far-reaching results upon the position of the Government at home.

The rising prices, and the state of the foreign exchanges, which are optimistically alluded to in the Speech, are the serious domestic symptoms of what is little short of a wholesale European disaster; and the fact that the Speech merely congratulates this country upon being less hard hit than others is not a very satisfactory thought. It is true, of course, that it is not in the power of any single Government to solve these problems. They can "explore" facts and "inform" public opinion; but to remedy the bankruptcy of Europe does not lie in the hands of any one country, and the only hope is in the speedy and active working of the League of Nations.

This week has marked another step towards the establishment of this hope, partial and incomplete as it must necessarily be till the great power from the other side of the Atlantic and the great ruined powers of Central Europe take their place in its Councils. The second meeting of the League, the first for the transaction of business, marks the real beginning of its life. Too many clouds hang over a world that is nominally at peace, and it is to be hoped that this meeting will not delay to establish the International Court of Justice that is one of the first subjects on its agenda. The extraordinary demands for the trial of war criminals made by France and Belgium have raised a difficulty that may grow to great importance. If the League could but avert this storm it would give new hope to Europe.

With regard to the details of the Speech, it is satisfactory to note that the question of Drink is to be dealt with. As we go to press we learn that Lady Astor's maiden speech will be made on this point and will urge that this settlement shall be along the lines of a piecemeal referendum, offering a choice of Prohibition, State Purchase, or the status quo. Such an arrangement would allow of experiment and experience, but there are, of course, obvious disadvantages to piecemeal reform, and the action of the Government on the point will be of considerable importance.

Besides Drink, the Speech is silent upon social reform. Industrial matters, of course, have their place, and business and agricultural developments; but of housing there is no word. Up to now we have had talk about houses in plenty, but none of the real things. We can only hope that now that the talk has stopped the houses may be forthcoming!

With the beginning of every new session Parliamentary gossip takes on a somewhat active character. The recent Labour departures from the Government, and the further threatened resignations, taken with Lord Robert Cecil's letter to Mr. Asquith, and the very critical reception of the Address, makes its convolutions particularly feverish. But speculation apart, it is clear that the new session opens amid real difficulties, both at home and abroad.

SPECTATOR.

SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE.

THE other morning Mr. and Mrs. Differently Occupied met by chance on the front seat on the top of a 'bus. This was their first encounter that day, for Mrs. Differently breakfasts early and has many activities, while Differently breakfasts late and has a few sporting hobbies.

"Hullo, Diff.," cried Mrs. Diff., "How odd to come across you!" Then—as she perceived a suspicious scuffle in the vicinity of Differently's left boot—"What on earth is that," she added. "That," said Differently, placidly, "is a dog at my risk." "What did you say, dear?" "I said," repeated Differently "a dog at my risk." "Wrist, you mean," said Mrs. Differently firmly. "I do not," said Differently. "If you use your eyes, besides, you will see it's not at my wrist but at my ankle." "Then why did you say wrist, Diff. dear?" "I didn't, darling, I said risk." "Differently, what do you mean?" wailed Mrs. Differently. For reply Diff. pointed silently to a battered tin notice before him:—

"Small dogs, under proper control, and at owner's own risk may travel on the top of the omnibus."
Mrs. Diff. collapsed with suddenness.

"Well, dear," said Differently blandly, now in excellent spirits, "and where may you be taking your pretty little self?" "Oh, I'm going to a conference on the Co-optation of Women to local Dust Dispersing Committees."

Differently eyed her coldly. "I do wish," he said "that you would give up this silly pose."

"Diff., darling, you must remember that I am a feminist," protested Mrs. Diff. patiently.

"I wonder," said Differently with meaning bitterness, "what sort of feminist you have the face to call yourself?"

Mrs. Differently regarded him with a twinkle. Of course she is devoted to Differently.

"A small one," she said softly, "under proper control and at the owner's own risk!"

So much for the Differently Occupieds. But alas! How many stolid, antiquated Differentlys there are in the world. Here is a story from Rochdale. The Rochdale Women Citizens' Association has been collecting signatures for a petition to the Mayor to remedy the "Smoke Nuisance" which at present is spoiling the home, doubling the work, injuring the children, and distressing the heart generally of every good housewife in Rochdale. Being sensible folk, the Rochdale women citizens did not limit the signatories of the petition to themselves but had a heading for supporters' signatures also, and sent the petition out broadcast to be signed. One copy returned, not with a signature—dear me, no!—but with the following little moral dissertation annexed:—"If the members of your association would attend to their home duties as our mothers and grandmothers did, and see the men-folk got their shirts made at home, and their stockings mended, and also you made your own under-clothing, did the home baking and washing and own household work, you would be doing useful work—and the town and country would be better for it—instead of trying to control something you know nothing about. An old Citizen."

Oh dear! isn't it terrible to think how bad the smoke must be if it has already encrusted even the brains of the oldest citizens!

Hullo! Hullo! Is that Rochdale W.C.A.? Are you still there? Hold on please!

A very nice story this week, against the P.M. himself! Miss Dorothy Evens, the secretary of the Federation of Women Clerks and Secretaries, was visiting Downing Street to plead the cause of the unemployed Government "flapper." While she was there she heard it stated that Mr. Lloyd George was a trifle sceptical about the question of women's employment as he had tried and failed to find a would-be housekeeper for No. 10. Miss Evens wasn't going to sit down under an insinuation like that. Next day Downing Street was full of would-be housekeepers, and the Prime Minister's secretaries were on the telephone praying for mercy!

Last Saturday Dr. Ethel Smyth, the eminent woman composer whose autobiography we have all been reading recently with such interest and amusement, conducted one of her own compositions at the Queen's Hall. I can't help wondering whether Dr. Ethel Smyth sent a complimentary ticket for her concert to a certain well-known "Gander" who was recently decrying the artistic capabilities of the "Goose."

THE GOOSEGIRL.

SI MUOVE.

By B. L. HUTCHINS.

WHETHER one does or does not accept the materialistic conception of society, it is evident that social ethics, the standards of social behaviour, become modified in response to changes in the economic structure of society. The familiar example of the industrious apprentice will occur to us all as an illustration. That worthy, if somewhat priggish and worldly-minded, youth was no doubt a useful type and example as long as industry was carried on by the small master-craftsman, but he has become largely irrelevant to the capitalistic system, under which boys are apprenticed very much less and marry their master's daughter not at all. And the operative classes, living and working under a new dispensation, have had laboriously to set themselves to the task of working out new loyalties, a new system of social values, to suit the new social order—often to the somewhat naïf astonishment of critics of another stage and another class, who for the life of them can't understand why the manual workers should have given up competition for combination! Something the same sort of change is taking place in regard to the customary standards of women, perhaps more rapidly; it might be expressed as the change from a negative to a positive conception. As the traditional activities of women, or many of them, have ceased to be carried on at home, their social duties have necessarily developed considerably beyond the comprehensive "Don't" that once bounded them like a park wall. Women used to be told not to think about outside subjects, certainly not unpleasant ones. If public opinion was feeling rude and out of temper it told them not to interfere with what didn't concern them (which begged the considerable question of what *did*); if it was in a mood of smiling patronage it told them not to trouble their dear little heads about anything too serious. It was unladylike to criticise the standards and institutions under which we lived, and which were obviously incapable of improvement. The influence of persistent suggestion is enormous, and women being thus inhibited from thinking, and told how nice it was to "let who will be clever," often accepted the gospel quite obediently. As Delzons remarks,* the pressure of social opinion, especially in the case of women, is so strong that a case of conscience is often formulated, not as "what is my duty?" but as "what will be thought of me?" And such a discipline of opinion may attain a high degree of power and be very strictly observed. In point of fact the inhibition of thought and reflection has in the past been responsible for an incalculable waste of latent power and intelligence among women, by no means only in the upper classes. In the manual working class there was, and indeed still is, a strong feeling for "leaving politics to the men," and the women even in mixed unions seem to have mostly left the management of the union to men. Such a negative conception of duty is an impoverishment of the whole social life.

It is, however, gradually becoming recognised that customary ideas and taboos are not things too sacred to be discussed, but are what we all make them in their functioning day by day and hour by hour. Changes in industrial methods increasingly drew women outside the home as individual wage or salary earners, and this, although causing infinite misery and loss in the transition, has had the good effect of causing a revision of the ethics of "don't think." Ignorant women streaming into the industrial market, competing for work by taking lower wages than their competitors, were a danger to the whole body of industrial workers, and the crude expedient of exclusion could be effective only in a few special industries. In the middle classes the increasing need for paid work by women modified the class tradition of dependence. Still more insistent, perhaps, was the new recognition of the need for a more conscious, better organised social life in regard to public health and the care of children. The appalling revelations of insanitary conditions and the state of the people's homes in the nineteenth century, and especially the rise in infant mortality in the 'nineties, showed that under

* *Evolution de la Famille Française*, p. 41.

modern conditions the family cannot be isolated. The most devoted mother cannot care for her children properly, unless the city or the nation provide the means necessary for healthy life. The care of children must be partly a social function, and this once recognised it was not a very long step further to perceive that women must take their share in local government, must get to understand the functions exercised by local authorities and organise local opinion to control and stimulate these bodies.

By this time the old morality of "don't think" might be considered dead and buried, but if it lingered ingloriously anywhere it was subjected to the rudest possible shock in time of war. It is impossible within the limits of a brief article to do more than point to the far-reaching effects of war in changing the old-established prejudices about what is right and proper for women. The recent Report on Adult Education tells us that the events of the last few years have brought about a new situation.* The numbers of women students in tutorial classes and other forms of adult education are steadily increasing. "The calls upon women, which met with so generous a response, to undertake new work, play unaccustomed parts, and generally to take a much greater share in the public life of the nation, have resulted in a broadened outlook, a greater independence of thought, and have proved a stimulus to intellectual activity. This, followed by the extension of the franchise to women over thirty years of age, has meant a great advance towards a fuller citizenship, and brings with it the need for increased educational facilities adapted to the peculiar difficulties and special circumstances of women."

The Workers' Educational Association has always admitted women into its classes on equal terms with men, but after some years experience it has been found necessary also to make special provision for women. Many branches of the Association conduct special women's classes, have women's sections and committees, and supply teachers and lecturers to other bodies connected with the education of women, such as co-operative guilds, the Y.W.C.A., and others. In some cases women have been very shy and nervous of joining in class work, having had no similar experience since leaving school at thirteen, yet some of these very women have developed surprisingly, attended with regularity, written essays (though at first "overcome" by the idea), and continued their studies for several years. Great care is necessary to adapt the arrangements and methods to the special requirements of the students, and in some cases a nursery run in connection with the classes has contributed greatly to its success. It is highly significant, we think, that this increasing interest in and desire for education among working women is usually aroused by some propagandist or political organisation. Although not pursuing educational ends, these societies are indirectly of much educational value. The spark is kindled, some sudden influence of pity, sympathy, or indignation is felt; inquiry follows—why should these things be?—and the inquirer then begins to feel a craving for more knowledge. At a later stage comes the realisation that in order to obtain knowledge some mental training is necessary, so as to get a fuller use of one's own mind. In some such way as this a proportion of women all over the country are beginning to awaken, and stir, and think. And many of our working women are endowed with a keen natural intelligence—no one can mix with trade unionists or co-operative guilds women without seeing that. They have lived very close to life, and can judge and observe within their range with great shrewdness. But they have been hampered by their school life ending so early, and have had hitherto not much chance of acquiring a knowledge of history, politics, and economics to give perspective to their own life drama. A woman file-cutter at Sheffield has recorded that she attended a Board School for seven years. "But you just get interested and can

* *Final Report of the Adult Education Committee*. Cmd. 321 of 1919, p. 255. (Price 1s. 9d.)

understand it and know its value when you have to leave."* The craving for better education among the Sheffield women recently described is strongly marked. One of them on being asked her "favourite male character in real life" mentioned the present President of the Board of Education, evidently in reference to his Bill for extending the school age. We fancy he will appreciate such a tribute more than many compliments from staid persons. It is true, of course, that these thoughtful and intelligent women—"the well-equipped" as they are described—are in a minority—i.e., about one quarter, according to the Sheffield study. But each woman of this type will have influence over her immediate circle or group of friends. And such women have been stimulated to new efforts and new views. They have seen and shared in the immense strain to which the country was put in time of war. If so vast a reserve of energy was available to destroy a wrong idea, an evil civilisation in Germany, some corresponding effort, they think, could be made to create a better civilisation here.

European civilisation has broken down, and women are now asked to help reconstruct society over a ruin they did not make. The environment used to say to them, "don't think," and they

responded, all but an occasional rebel or two, to what they were told was the call of duty. Now the new demand has come, and gains strength from day to day, that the mind of women is needed, that they too must take their share. For my part, I believe there is a store of political power and reserve force among working women that has never yet been drawn upon, and that when once they do begin to think they will think to considerable purpose. This awakening, this need for knowledge, is felt in various strata of society. The women's colleges are all full and have a waiting list. Among other educational influences the women's press is evidently destined to play its part, not only in the necessary work of ventilating grievances and voicing the need for equal citizenship where it is not yet attained, but in constructive work, the building up of a new social life. The Report on Adult Education, as already quoted, has testified to the value of the suffrage propaganda in stimulating thought and leading to the demand for better knowledge. I trust that THE WOMAN'S LEADER, with a wider platform and a more extended scope, will successfully continue and enlarge the good work initiated by THE COMMON CAUSE.

THE HOME IN PARLIAMENT.

Because the home-loving woman so often thinks that Parliament is no concern of hers, and, because as a matter of fact Parliament has a great deal more to do with the home than you imagine,

And because, during the coming Parliamentary Session in particular, Parliament will be discussing and deciding a number of questions which every good housekeeper must understand:

For these reasons you will find, every week on this page during the session an article about one home question with which Parliament is concerned, showing just how the home comes into Parliament's discussions and debates.

You will find this article because the "Woman's Leader" knows that only the woman who understands how Parliament is dealing with her affairs can be a really responsible citizen and a really reliable home-keeper.

FROM COAL SCUTTLE TO GAS METER.

"Why whatever is wrong with the gas to-night?"

How tired we are all getting of noticing the light suddenly grow dim and hearing everybody ask the same startled question! How tired we are all getting of giving the same dreary answer that "it is always like that about this time"! We are growing quite clever at avoiding other people's breakfast and dinner and supper hours when we want to cook our own breakfast or dinner or supper, for bitter experience has taught us that if we do not, we shall find our gas-stoves slow at the cooking! But it is difficult to arrange not to want gas in any shape or form at these hours, and still more difficult to arrange not to lose our temper when, at the most exciting page of our novel, the light dies down to a faint flicker, or, as we are undressing for our bath, the geyser suddenly decides to produce tepid instead of boiling water. Those of us who are in the secret look reproachfully towards the coal scuttle at such moments and no doubt the coal turns its eyes equally reproachfully towards Parliament. For behind the life story of the gas lies the life story of the coal, and, as we said last week, with the life story of the coal Parliament is very closely concerned indeed. It is because our coal scuttle and our gas meter are such very near relations that it seems a good plan to follow up our last week's consideration of the coal problem with some discussion this week about gas. And again we shall find that politics have rather more to do with our home affairs than we imagine, and that, when we least realise it, Parliament comes knocking at our door disguised as the gas man, just as it often staggers down our cellar steps with a sack of coals on its back.

WHY GAS IS DEARER.

Sad things have happened to our gas since the war. Before the war it burned brightly and steadily; now it is often dim and wavering. Once upon a time when we put a shilling in our meter we could forget about meters altogether for a space; now a shilling's worth of gas takes us nowhere. Since the war our gas has become much more expensive and much poorer in quality.

One of the reasons that our gas is poorer is because certain of the products that were used before to make it, were commandeered by the Government to make munitions. Another reason is that coal, of which gas is chiefly made, is scarce nowadays and must be used sparingly. And it is coal again that lies behind the increased cost of gas.

Coal is not only expensive to buy but expensive to bring. And it is expensive to bring largely because it is expensive to

buy. The train that brings coal to the gasworks itself uses coal as it comes, and the gas company must pay not only a higher price than of old for its coal, but also a higher price for the carriage of the coal. As a result the gas company must try to economise in the use of coal, to use less coal and coal of a cheaper quality, and for the rest must raise the price of gas to meet the increased cost. This is why our gas burns dimly and our meter has twice its former appetite for shillings.

COAL REDUCED WHY NOT GAS?

A short time ago you remember—but of course you remember, for no one talked of anything else for several days!—the Government suddenly announced that the controlled price of coal was to be reduced by 10s. a ton. The reduction came as a great surprise to everyone, for it was not long since the Government had raised the price of coal by 6s. a ton and had given no hope of any but a small reduction in the near future. In consequence of this increase and the Government's gloomy view the price of gas had also been raised, so that of course when the price of coal came down with a run everyone looked anxiously towards the gas companies for some announcement of cheaper gas to come. Announcements came but no reduction. The anxious house-keeper is still waiting for her cheaper gas.

Now why is this? Partly of course that the price of labour is very high and quite likely to be higher, so that by the time the manufacturer of gas has paid the wages of his workmen and the cost of his coal and all his other expenses he has not much left to make up a profit of the size to which pre-war days accustomed him. He is therefore not really in the mood to think kindly of reductions. But more especially is he unwilling to lower the price of gas, because he is waiting to see what the Government intends doing about coal this session. Whatever decision the Government reaches about coal, the price of coal is sure to be affected, and that means that the price of gas will be affected also. No doubt the manufacturer of gas feels there is little point in lowering the price of gas now, if a few weeks will make another change necessary.*

So again we must wait patiently for Parliament to reopen before our domestic difficulties can be settled. And all we can do is to hope that its members have suffered as we have suffered during the last few months from shadowy rooms and uncertainly timed meals. If they have, surely they will make common cause with the long-suffering woman in the home and take a burning interest in the gas problem of the day. Surely they will insist on an improvement in the quality and cost of our gas or know the reason why!

INEZ M. FERGUSON.

* Since this article was written an announcement has appeared in the Press that, for London at least, gas will be 14d. cheaper per 1,000 cubic feet.—Ed., W.L.

* The Equipment of Workers, p. 185.

ARCHITECTURE AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN.

By ANNIE HALL, M.S.A.

II.

I CANNOT do better than give particulars of some of the principal schools of architecture, in some cases quoting from the prospectuses which they issue.

The following is an extract from the prospectus of the Architectural Association School of Architecture, giving general conditions for students proposing to enter the School:—

"Students must be interviewed by the House Master before their application for admission will be considered. They should bring any drawings (freehand or otherwise) which they have for inspection, or evidence of their ability in draughtsmanship.

"There is no entrance examination to the School, but evidence must be produced of the Candidate having reached a good standard of general education, equal to the Oxford or Cambridge Senior Local Examinations, or London Matriculation. A leaving certificate from a School, recognised by the conference of Headmasters will be accepted. Students should be prepared to take a course of not less than three years."

The completion of the three years' day course satisfactorily will entitle the student to a certificate exempting her from the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

"Whilst it cannot be too strongly urged that this course is in itself only a preliminary training for the complex calling of an Architect, it is claimed that the School course forms the basis of subsequent training, and enables a Student to acquire, at a moderate cost, the rudiments of his (her) work, and will therefore enable him (her) to take up later the practical routine of office training, with a fuller understanding and without waste of time."

In addition to the regular courses the School offers the following five Post Graduate Courses:—(a) Communal Planning and Modern Housing. (b) Advanced Construction, including Ferro-Concrete and Steel Framed Buildings. (c) Interior Decoration, including Colour Schemes, Furniture, Accessories, &c. (d) Business Training, including all matters affecting professional practice. (e) Advanced Design. I may here say that I attach great importance to these and other post graduate courses offered in other schools.

The fees are twenty guineas per term for each of the three years of the course, and ten guineas per course per term for the post graduate courses. There are the three usual terms in a year.

All students are required to become members of the Architectural Association. The entrance fee is two guineas, and the annual subscription one guinea.

All students are required to provide themselves with the necessary instruments, drawing-boards, books, notebooks, and drawing materials, &c.

Students are instructed in the making of surveys of ancient buildings; and vacation work of the "study of ancient buildings by means of measuring and sketching" is a definite and valuable part of the course. Visits and excursions are made to works in progress, workshops, and historical buildings.

A number of scholarships, including two entrance scholarships, each worth £63 and tenable for one year in the first year course, studentships, and prizes are offered annually by the Architectural Association, and are now open to women candidates on the same terms as men.

The following particulars relate to the University of London School of Architecture:—

"The school is organised so as to give a course of systematic training on a broad basis to students about to enter the Architectural profession. The aims of the school are to interest students, to encourage amongst them a spirit of emulation to help them to understand the importance of the career upon which they are entering, to ground them in construction and the principles of design, and to give them some insight into the nobility and beauty of the Architectural masterpieces of the past.

"Architecture is a many-sided subject. Practical and aesthetic requirements are equally important and need consideration side by side. An architect must be able to construct soundly, otherwise his building will not stand; he must be capable of giving it fit expression and character, otherwise it cannot rank as architecture. In the short time—two or three years—that a student remains in the Day Courses of the school, it is impossible that he can master all technicalities, but the courses are made as broad and comprehensive as possible so as to include the most essential."

The following courses are provided:—I. The B.A. Degree Course (Honours in Architecture) of the University. II. The

Certificate Course in Architecture. III. The Seniors' Design Class. IV. Certificate Course in Town Planning. V. Diploma Course in Town Planning and Civic Architecture. VI. Diploma Course in Town Planning and Civic Engineering. VII. Evening Courses in Design and Academic Design.

The fees for the Degree Course are forty-five guineas for the first year, forty guineas for the second year, and thirty-five guineas for the third year. Students of architecture and of town planning are eligible for a number of scholarships and prizes.

College Hall in connection with University College offers the advantages of collegiate residence to women students, and is of great value for those whose homes are not in London.

Instruction is given gratuitously to suitable students in the Architectural School of the Royal Academy of Arts.

The Royal College of Art offers instruction in architecture. The Board of Education annually grants National Scholarships in Architecture, value £60 per annum, tenable for three years at the Royal College of Art.

The First Atelier of Architecture provides in England opportunity for the advanced student to develop her powers of logical and imaginative architecture after the manner of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

The University of Liverpool possesses one of the leading schools of architecture in this country. The school offers three courses of study, the Certificate and Degree Course, leading to the University Degree of Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.), the Certificate and Diploma Course, leading to the University Diploma in Architecture, and the Certificate Course in Architectural Design.

The Degree Course takes five or six years to complete. The student is required to attend the school full time during the first three years, and to combine work in the office of a practising architect with work in the school for another two years, or to have spent a third year in practical work under conditions approved by the faculty. The fees amount to about the same as those at the London University School. Several scholarships are open to students of the school.

The Liverpool School of Architecture has an important Department of Civic Design for Town Planning and Landscape Architecture, founded by Lord Leverhulme. The department offers a Certificate Course, a Diploma Course, and several Lecture Courses.

Other important Schools of Architecture whose training and certificates are entitled to give exemption from the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A. are the following: Cambridge, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen.

I have dwelt at some length on the method of training suggested for those fortunate students who can afford to take a University Course previous to their specialised education, and who can take advantage of the excellent training offered by one or other of the best schools of architecture in the country.

Now I wish to show less privileged students how they may obtain the necessary training. I am writing now for the benefit of those provincial students who cannot afford to leave home, and who do not happen to live near enough to a first-rate modern school of architecture. These may still find articulated pupilage to be the best and most practicable system to follow in their individual cases. The selection of an office is always of great importance. It is by no means always best to choose the largest and best-known office. The important point is to get into one which is justly renowned for its high-class work, and preferably one where the greater part of the practice consists of good domestic architecture. Many architects now welcome women pupils in their offices, and there is usually no great difficulty to-day in being accepted as an articulated pupil. The premium for

pupilage may be anything up to £500, though generally less than this in the provinces.

Whenever possible the country student will be wise to supplement her office training with some school work, provided that the instruction offered be given by practical architects; otherwise this school teaching may prove more of a hindrance than a help. Particulars of the various schools will be found in the R.I.B.A. Kalendar. Whatever course of training the student decides upon it should be one which ensures numerous visits to workshops and to works in progress. A student should ever bear in mind that it is practical designers who are required and not mere draughtswomen to carry out other people's ideas.

It is only right to say that amongst architects there is considerable diversity of opinion as to the best training for the profession. Architects by no means all approve of the training given in the schools; many think that practical experience in the building crafts is the only real and true foundation for the practice of architecture. But a systematic training in a good school of architecture certainly lays a sound foundation for any further knowledge, and enables the student to pass the professional examinations without difficulty.

Although the woman student should always bear in mind her ultimate goal, probably house design, it is unwise for her to specialise too early. She will be all the better architect for having a thorough all-round knowledge of, and training in, departments other than her own of domestic architecture. She should take full advantage of everything the school and office can teach her. Her practice may require the wider experience. For instance, the time may come when she will be called upon to design a private chapel in connection with a private house, college, convent, almshouse, or other building. If she had confined her studies to ordinary house design she would be at a loss with her private chapel.

A student after graduating, and having obtained considerable practical office experience, should not be in too great a hurry to start in practice. She will still have a great deal to learn, which is better learnt at this stage than later. If wise she will probably have combined one or two post graduate courses with her office experience, but there may still be several other special courses which will be of decided advantage to her. And then if she can possibly afford the necessary time and money I should most strongly advise her to go for six months' or a year's foreign travel to study for herself architectural treasures in other lands.

The successful woman architect must first and foremost be an artist, for the designing of her buildings and the drawing of her plans; something of a scientist and mathematician for the technical part of her work; something of a psychologist for dealing with her clients, assistants and office staff, builders, contractors, and craftsmen; and something of a visionary. She should know everything there is to know about house planning and design; and should know something of everything concerned in the theory and practice of architecture. Now that more women are entering the profession it is probable that two or three women student friends may set up in practice in partnership to their mutual advantage, each one specialising in that part of the work which she does best.

It usually takes several years to build up a good private practice, and an architect should have some funds to draw upon for the first two or three years at least. One of the most successful ways of commencing in practice is to build a small house or cottage for oneself or one's own people. It is not possible to make the same use of a client's house, even though that client be a personal friend. A suitable piece of land should be purchased at least two years before it is intended to begin the building. This site should then be laid out and planted, leaving space for the house and for the building operations, of course. Properly done this will take off much of the aggressive newness of the building without resorting to any of those weak adventitious aids sometimes foolishly employed to give a false appearance of age. This little place if well designed and well built where it can be seen is sure to bring in other work.

THE BALLAD OF MARY JANE.

A Poet of Childhood,

BY LADY STRACHEY.

MARY JANE was proud and free,
Mary Jane was bold,
Mary Jane commanded me
For she was six years old.

She was six and I was five,
And she would say with scorn,
"A whole long year was I alive,
And you not even born.

So wipe your nose, and hold your tongue,
Say 'Thank you, Mary Jane.'
For I am old, and you are young,
And that I think is plain."

One day at Mary Jane's command
We started for a stroll,
"Come, child," said she, "and hold my hand
Lest in the dirt you roll."

The lane was green beneath our feet,
The hedges were so high
They seemed above our heads to meet,
And almost touched the sky.

Sudden, a fearful noise was heard—
"What's that?" cried Mary Jane:
A great, mad, bellowing bull appeared
Galumphing down the lane!

No place of refuge could we find—
She pushed herself in front,
And gasping out "You get behind,"
Stood there to bear the brunt.

She bit her lip, and clutched her frock;
Though with a shaking knee
She stood as fixed as any rock
Between the bull and me.

And now a thing most wonderful
Occurred; I can't think how,
But as it charged along, the bull
Was changed into a cow!

Although it had been mad before,
It suddenly grew sane,
Began to walk, forgot to roar,
And stared at Mary Jane;

Then moving sideways in the lane
Left us a passage free;
And oh! how I hugged Mary Jane,
And Mary Jane hugged me!

I think she cried a little bit,
I'm very sure that I did;
But when we came to talk of it,
She said in tones decided:

"I had to save you in this fix,
No one, of course, can doubt it,
For you are five, and I am six,
And that's just all about it."

COUNCILLORS AND OFFICIALS.

By EDITH HOW MARTYN.

(COUNCILLOR OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.)

TRYING to find one's proper place in an administrative machine is an interesting experience. The contrast between being a Councillor and a candidate is vivid. A candidate for election is for the moment the centre of attraction. Wild hopes are raised, extravagant promises made by enthusiastic canvassers anxious to see their candidate head the poll. The excitement is increased when a woman is making an attempt to gain a seat on a body hitherto exclusively masculine. The seat is won. The candidate becomes a Councillor and her real work and difficulties begin. Enthusiasm has evaporated. Inexperienced, friendless, shivering in the cool atmosphere of reality the solitary woman member proceeds to take her seat, to collect her thoughts, and to attempt to live up to the reputation so easily provided by her supporters.

This experience was mine last March when I was returned to the Middlesex County Council, the first and at present the only woman member in a body of fifty-nine Councillors and nineteen Aldermen. In these circumstances I do not delude myself that I can do very much. I rejoice that I have the privilege of holding aloft the feminist flag in a masculine stronghold, and if I can do that fairly well until other hands and brains come to share the burden I shall be well satisfied.

My first endeavour is to understand the machinery. Thanks to the help so cheerfully and unflinchingly given by the Clerk, Mr. Hart, and his colleagues that is a very interesting process. However, I am not waiting to act until there is nothing more to learn about the machine, as a lifetime would hardly suffice to master all its intricacies. I propose to discuss very briefly what seems to me perhaps the most important part of the structure—the official staff.

The public may hear a little about the Councillors, but perhaps beyond knowing the names of the Clerk to the Council they do not trouble to inquire into the conditions of work, the methods of appointment, the qualifications and prospects of those on whom the successes and failures of Local Government ultimately depend.

A large public authority employs a clerical and administrative staff, a professional and technical staff, and workmen and women. My experience shows me that one of the most important and useful duties of Councillors is to secure for the public service a highly qualified and capable staff, and further to provide such conditions of pay, promotion, superannuation, control and environment as will allow the members of the service to do their best work.

The workmen employed by Councils are usually organised in trade unions, and receive the wages and conditions customary in their unions, but there are some who come outside whose cases need investigation and improvement. The women cleaners, caretakers and others are not generally so organised, and their conditions might well receive the special attention of women Councillors.

The professional and technical staff—the teachers, the medical officer of health, maternity and tuberculosis doctors, dentists, midwives, accountants, analysts, inspectors, nurses and others all possess qualifications laid down by professional organisations or the Government. Those Councils wise enough to pay adequate salaries and offer good conditions of work will naturally attract the best among those duly qualified. The professional organisations can also bring pressure to bear on public authorities who fail to reach a good standard. Women Councillors have to secure for the worker pay according to grade and irrespective of sex, and to abolish any penalisation of married women workers.

The clerical and administrative staffs have no very clearly defined status, and their professional organisations are not yet strong. Few authorities hold entrance examinations or require any standard of qualification, fewer still make proper provision for further professional education to fit the junior staff for promotion. Each authority makes appointments according to its own fancy, and this chaotic lack of standard reacts very unfavourably on the service as a whole.

In pre-war days the staff included men only, with a few insignificant exceptions. During the war women largely replaced men in the less important posts, and it is essential that women Councillors should safeguard the women against dis-

charge, except, of course, in those cases where soldiers have returned. The Women's Employment Committee appointed by the Ministry of Reconstruction gave special attention to the "Local Government Service with its immense opportunity for women," and summed up their recommendation thus:—

"The Committee, therefore, recommend that free entrance to the clerical posts in Local Government Service should be accorded to women; that all clerical posts open to men should be open to women; and that with a view to securing a proper standard of education it should be required that no woman could be appointed who had not passed such school or special examination as might be prescribed."

It is for women councillors to ensure that this shall be attained as quickly as possible, for it is certainly not in the interests of local government to limit the field of selection of officials just as certainly as it will be in the interests of those appointed, both men and women, that an entrance examination is required of them.

The London County Council alone among county councils has a carefully graded standard of entrance examinations. Its example might well be followed by County and County Borough Councils suitably grouped for the purpose. The City Council of Manchester holds an open competitive examination, and a few other County Boroughs, for example, Sheffield, Portsmouth, Preston, either hold examinations or require candidates to hold the certificate of some recognised examination. Many other authorities are moving in the same direction and it is significant that the National Association of Local Government Officers has instituted an examination which authorities, without any such provision, might well require their candidates to have passed pending the possible establishment of a national examination conducted by a body of Local Government Service Commissioners.

Mr. Boutwood, in his memorandum appended to the Majority Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, gives his view of the qualities required of the administrative officials, and surely no lower standard should be demanded in the Local Government Service. "The work of the Administrative Grade in the Civil Service is a form of political government. Consequently, it cannot be performed without high qualities of mind and character. An insight which can thoroughly analyse complex movements in social life, a sympathetic understanding of contemporary tendencies, and of the needs and aspirations of men, knowledge that can place facts in their true relation, sound judgment, initiative, tact, courtesy, manliness that can assume and bear responsibility, these are characteristics of the first-class administrator."

I suggest to women voters, and especially to women councillors, that the selection and conditions of work of officials is a task worth more careful thought and attention than it has received.

However enthusiastic we may be for Public Health, Education, or any other department of public work, we must never forget that the difference between a living success and a mere routine administration of the law depends very largely on the individual work of officials and their ability to combine in successful team work.

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THE FROG BABY.

A Story in Four Parts.

By ELIZABETH ROBINS.

PART II.

WHETHER Miss Marna was making herself useful to her aunt or whether the matron's goodness of heart forebore to insist, at the moment, on that bread-earning which she had declared indispensable, the girl and the baby were still at the hospital when Lady Terence came back from helping in her sister's canteen in Boulogne, some two months later.

The same scene was going on in the convalescent ward. Mothers with glorified faces, or wearing the remembered look of peace; nurses dressing and undressing the babies, speaking of them with that proprietary air acquired so soon by those who have to do with the helpless—and all the speaking praise.

As she hurried along the corridor on her way out, Lady Terence met Marna Neal.

"You are coming to see our baby," the girl said with that smiling composure which, in taking for granted, goes far to create the inclination presumed.

If it had only been any other baby!

Lady Terence would have tried to escape, but there was Miss Neal waiting at the door. "Yes, you ought to see what a good baby he is. He never frets now—unless he frets for Marna. And as for being ugly—" The matron turned her cheerful face on Marna—"I suppose you'll say he never was ugly!"

"No. I won't say that," returned the girl. "But I'll say he's got over it. He's—" she commended him quietly to the authority in aesthetics: "He's pretty now!"

Lady Terence would gladly have taken her word for the impossible fact and let it pass. But that wasn't permitted. She was led to the tiny room where the child lay on Marna's bed. Lady Terence braced herself.

And lo! it wasn't necessary. The baby mightn't be exactly pretty, but he certainly wasn't hideous. Rather a dear. She said so—staring, half incredulous. "And he's nearly got over squinting," she added unwarily.

"He doesn't squint at all," said Marna, "if you look at him straight."

This cool transference of the odium to the looker-on, so diverted Lady Terence that she retailed the incident to her husband. It made Admiral Lord Terence Carrick laugh. An achievement in these days. When he felt less harassed and inclined for small talk: "How's the Frog Baby?" he'd say.

At Christmas the Frog Baby was still at the hospital. Lady Terence found Marna helping to string the garlands and to hang the banners.

"I must go now," said the girl.

The ward sister protested. "You needn't. John's sound asleep."

"Who is John?" asked Lady Terence.

"John's the Frog Baby," the sister began—

"I told you," Marna interrupted with a touch of the matron's manner, "you weren't to call him that. It's an absurd name for him." She found an opportunity presently to say to Lady Terence: "He's beautiful! You think it's my silly partiality? Wait!" She threw down the garland and went out.

When he was brought into the ward he did the festive scene no disgrace. If he wasn't beautiful, he was pretty. Yes, engaging.

Marna wouldn't let the ward sister touch him. "No, go away. You aren't worthy." But she allowed Lady Terence to hold him. What was more to the point, John allowed it. He sat up on her arm and stared at the garlands. When Lady Terence spoke to him he turned his curly head and fixed her with inquiring blue eyes. Then, profoundly inspired, he held up a hand—really to the sparkle of her swinging earring. She thought it was to her. Lady Terence kissed his hand. He took the act of allegiance right royally. Lady Terence was amused, touched—even a little thrilled. It was the change in him, she explained afterwards in the matron's room, which had intrigued

her. The transformation looked like substitution. Was it the same baby?

"Oh yes, the very same John Mundy."

"Why is he called that?" She was struck with the fact that Monday was her day.

For a little John Bull, the first name hadn't needed any hunting. "And Monday—well—he came on Friday, but there's only one Man Friday, and as Marna says, she discovered him on a Monday. So that's what she calls him."

Lady Terence knew, or so she said, that babies did alter very much. But had the matron ever seen anything like this before?

"Perhaps not to the same degree. But—you mustn't give me away if I tell you a professional secret. A secret I wouldn't share with our best doctors. They wouldn't understand. They'd think I was—" she tapped her temple. "But the truth is, weak health isn't the only thing you can love a baby out of."

Lady Terence stared. Her astonishment not all, or chiefly, for the abstract doctrine. To think that this sensible woman could so romance about that commonplace, unemotional Marna. "You aren't telling me that a baby can be loved out of being hideous."

"Don't say I told you so—but I've seen it. Just doing the necessary things for a baby—that won't work the miracle."

On the following Monday Lady Terence asked after John. Their acquaintance prospered. On the second Monday John was asleep. She went in with the matron to look at him. He lay there a miracle of pink and white, the heavy rings of silk fallen over his eyelids.

"The greatest darling," said Lady Terence in her softest voice.

"Yes," returned the matron, loud enough to wake the poor lamb. "It's a pity to have to send him away!"

"Send him away!"

She had already kept him much longer than she had any business to, Miss Neal said, as she led the way briskly to her own room.

"What is going to happen? Where will he go?"

There was the appointed place for such babies, said the matron. She was already thinking more about the tea-table than about the baby.

"You don't mean to send him to the Waifs and Strays?" Lady Terence felt a distinct impulse of dislike towards this stout, rosy-faced woman pouring China tea out of her Wedgwood pot. She made herself very comfortable—did Miss Neal!

"They go to the workhouse as a rule," said the woman, who had expected you to believe that fairy tale about the miracle of Marna's affection.

"What does she say about it—Miss Marna?" Lady Terence demanded.

Marna would be going back to her work. "She must, you know."

"Must she? And that nice baby—he'll be growing ugly again—according to your doctrine."

The matron seemed able to face that. She only laughed.

Laughed!

"A boy, too," said Lady Terence, after a moment. "Now-a-days especially!" She left the rise in the market value of boys to penetrate the matron's mind. But Miss Neal instantly began about the news from the Front.

"Surely," Lady Terence led her back, "you could find somebody to take a boy," she persisted. "Haven't you thought of trying?"

"Yes, it had occurred to me. I wanted Marna to show him to that woman who was here last week—you saw her, I think."

"That wasn't the kind of person I meant."

"Well, anyway she took the twins."

"Did she! And quite poor she looked. Really people seem to have gone mad in these days about adopting babies!"

There had always been a certain amount of it, the matron said, especially among the poor.

Lady Terence thought that natural. "It wouldn't be such a risk. But I've thought sometimes, I might—. The trouble is," a little thoughtful frown appeared between the delicate eyebrows—"you could never be sure how he'd turn out."

"You could never be sure of that if he were your own," Miss Neal observed, with that unsuitable freedom which now and then jarred on Lady Terence.

"Quite so. Only then, we have to accept it."

"That's what happens in either case," the matron maintained.

"Only," Lady Terence held herself a little stiffly, "one would know what was in the blood."

"Would one? Most families have their surprises."

Lady Terence betrayed some slight annoyance. "He might, as my husband says, he might develop criminal tendencies."

"You've talked it over?" the matron smiled.

"Oh quite in the vague. When I've read out the advertisements in the *Times*, I've sometimes threatened to put one in—not under my own name, naturally—just to see what would happen. Of course I couldn't ask Terence to adopt a child we didn't know all about. But a nice baby, with good blood, and healthy and all that. . . ."

"I see. A Prince in Exile."

"Could I, for instance, well, could I—" Lady Terence demanded with spirit, "ask my husband to adopt the Frog Baby?"

Though she didn't answer directly the matron saw the impossibility of such a suggestion.

"But something ought to be done." The unaccustomed frown deepened between Lady Terence's brows. "It doesn't seem right to let a baby like that go to the workhouse. A boy, too. . . ."

When they parted, the matron had promised not to take any further steps, till Lady Terence had pointed out to her husband that a boy 'like that' was a national asset; and had further asked why shouldn't she find some nice woman in the country to take care of John Mundy for a while anyway, "and see how he turns out."

Lady Terence re-appeared at the hospital the very next day. She had had an inspiration in the night. Why shouldn't Miss Marna postpone going back to her work a little longer?

"I don't think you're as well as you were. I assure you I've been quite haunted by your white face. Wouldn't—" she appealed to the aunt—"wouldn't it do her all the good in the world to go and live in the country awhile? And she could have the baby to keep her from feeling lonely. And of course there'd be a salary.—Should you mind trying it anyway?"

Miss Marna didn't think she'd mind.

Lady Terence thanked her. It would give her time, she said. She didn't specify for what.

* * * * *

It was great fun establishing Marna and John Mundy in a darling little cottage on Lord Terence's Hertfordshire estate. Petrol was not so husbanded yet, but what Lady Terence could run down as often as she liked to see how John Mundy was faring.

In truth he throve astonishingly. John Mundy was turning out not only pretty but intelligent, amusing.

Lady Terence found herself thinking about him in season and out of season. "He has very marked likes and dislikes," she would announce without preamble—"really a wonderful amount of character for anything so young." Lord Terence would look up from the *Times* with the expression of one shifting the focus of an invisible opera glass. "Oh—a—the frog baby?"

"He isn't a frog baby!"

"That's what you said he was."

"Not the very least a frog-baby." And when Terence laughed at her vehemence—"It shows how little you know about babies. They're all frog babies at first," she announced.

"Are they?" he'd say with a grin. "Then that's why I don't like 'em."

"You'd like John Mundy."

The Admiral returned to his leading article. "I mustn't bore him about John Mundy," she said to herself with that new

protective instinct at work. Though she thought about him more and more, she left off talking so much about the baby in her husband's presence. Not by design exactly. Instinct. Her sister called John Mundy "Anne's secret vice."

She bought the prettiest clothes she could find for him, and dressed him in them with all the delight of a child adorning her doll. She had been right about the strength of John Mundy's likes and dislikes. He wouldn't stand much dressing up, though he stood an astonishing lot from Lady Terence. If he amused her, her ladyship amused the waif quite immoderately. John Mundy loved the rattling of charms and the clanging of bangles. He liked the tick-tick. He liked the two friendly, silky little dogs. Oh, never a doubt but he liked a pretty lady with bon-bons in her bag and toys, animate and inanimate, in her motor car.

They were immense friends.

The stolid Marna looked on.

"Does he give you much trouble?" Lady Terence asked. He had been nine months now in the country and this attack of croup was his first illness.

"Well," Marna answered, "he keeps me on the hop."

"I'm afraid he breaks your rest," she said to the girl, who had been up all night.

"He'll sleep better to-night," said Marna.

Lady Terence came oftener as the weather improved with the early spring. She would dress John Mundy up like a little Arctic explorer, and take him for a drive in the car. John Mundy adored driving in the car.

"Now you'll have some peace and quiet," Lady Terence would say to Marna, standing at the gate.

"Yes," said Marna.

When John Mundy perceived that Marna wasn't coming too, he began to pucker his face and look back. But that was only at first. He outgrew such babyishness as befitted a person nearly two. Marna commended John Mundy for manly behaviour.

(To be continued.)

[Note.—Those who missed the first number of the "Woman's Leader" and are anxious to read Part I. of the "Frog Baby," will be glad to know that they can still obtain copies of our issue of February 6th, on application to the "Common Cause" Publishing Company, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.]

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"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN LITERATURE.

THE POET OF THE CAPTURED AND BETRAYED.

More than half-a-century's work is included in the volume of lyrical poems by Thomas Hardy, recently issued by Macmillan*. It is a wonderful book, and to one who has known Mr. Hardy chiefly as a novelist, a revelation. Not that the Hardy of the Poems is different from the Hardy of the Wessex novels. Almost everything that is in the novels is in the Poems in a more concentrated and barer form. Opening the book on Wessex Poems, first published in 1898, but written between 1866 and that year, we find exciting stories, dramatic action, subtle psychology, whole characters and lives rapidly presented in a series of imaginative visions. In "Valenciennes" (included in "The Trumpet Major"), and in "San Sebastian," old soldiers relate the experiences that had coloured all their lives. One had lost his hearing at the storming of Valenciennes:—

"I never hear the summer hums
O' bees; and don't know when the cuckoo comes;
But night and day I hear the bombs
We threw at Valenciën.

"O' wild wet nights, when all seems sad,
My wounds come back, as though new wounds I'd had;
But yet—at times, I'm sort o' glad
I foug at Valenciën.

"Well: Heaven wi' its jasper halls
Is now the on'y town I care to be in.
Good Lord, if Nick should bomb the walls
As we did Valenciën!"

The other had suffered all through a life, which his neighbours thought successful, haunted by seeing in the eyes of his own lawfully begotten child the look of a girl whom he had violated in a stormed city:—

"She raised her beseeching eyes to me,
And I heard the words of prayer she sent
In her own soft language Fatefuly
I copied those eyes for my punishment
In begetting the girl you see!"

"Maybe we shape our offspring's guise
From fancy, or we know not what,
And that no deep impression dies,—
For the mother of my child is not
The mother of her eyes.

"And I nightly stray on the Ivel way
As though at home there were spectres rife;
I delight me not in my proud career;
And 'tis coals of fire that a gracious wife
Should have brought me a daughter dear!"

But much more complicated and sensational stories than these are related in the short, concentrated verses of many of the poems, none of which take more than two or three pages, or have to be printed in double columns. In "Her Death and After," for instance, we have a whole psychological novel. In 135 lines, containing less than a thousand words, we are told how a man visited the deathbed of the woman he loved, and who was married to someone else; what she said to him about herself, and herself, and her husband, and her child; how the child was afterwards ill-treated by its father and stepmother; how he (the lover) longed to get possession of it; what means he took to achieve that end; how he succeeded, and how it all turned out! We are left with the question whether, in this case, the end justified the means, and whether there was any cause for remorse. There is enough plot and action in this poem for several hundred pages of prose fiction. The stories of the later poems tend to be shorter and less complicated, but there is still a good deal in them; as, for example, in the dreadful "Conversation at Dawn," written in 1910.

If the story-teller of the Wessex Novels and Wessex Tales is at least equally present in the poems, the philosophy of life which informs Mr. Hardy's prose is still easier to decipher in the poems. It is perhaps the saddest philosophy that any great imaginative writer has upheld; or it would be so, if something noble and courageous in the creatures who are shown as the victims of cruel circumstance and a cruel God did not awaken the hope their creator seeks to quell. Mr. Hardy pictures a world in which every helpless creature feels—and feels with an intensity which perhaps really belongs only to the poet. Lovers

of "Tess of the Durbervilles" will remember the scene in the wood at night when the wounded pheasants are heard dropping off the branches. They are types of poor Tess herself, as the horse killed by Wronski in "Anna Karenine" is a type of Anna. But they are more than types. Hardy really attributes to the birds as much conscious suffering as if they had been human beings. In "Poems of the Past and Present" there is a triolet called "The Puzzled Game Birds," in which the pheasants actually reason about treachery housed in human hearts. In Mr. Hardy's philosophy Nature is always cruelly indifferent to her creatures; and behind Nature there is something worse, some horrible force which delights in entrapping and torturing the helpless; in fact, God, if there be a God, is a devil. But no one can say that either the poet or the characters he creates worship this devil. They are joyful, loving, passionate in the face of Nature's profound indifference; indomitable in the face of the cruel God.

Take, for instance, Julie-Jane:—

"Sing; how 'a would sing!
How 'a would raise the tune
When we rode in the waggon from harvestine
By the light o' the moon!"

Dance; how 'a would dance!
If a fiddlestring did but sound
She would hold out her coats, give a slanting glance
And go round and round.

Laugh; how 'a would laugh!
Her peony lips would part
As if none such a place for a lover to quaff
At the deeps of a heart.

Julie, O girl of joy,
Soon, soon that lover he came,
Ah, yes; and gave thee a baby-boy,
But never his name.

—Tolling for her, as you guess;
And the baby too . . . 'Tis well.
You knew her in maidhood likewise?—Yes,
That's her burial bell.

'I suppose,' with a laugh, she said,
'I should blush that I'm not a wife;
But how can it matter, so soon to be dead,
What one does in life!'

When we sat making the mourning
By her death-bed side, said she,
'Dears, how can you keep from your lovers, adorning
In honour of me!'

Bubbling and brightsome eyed!
But now—O never again.
She chose her bearers before she died:
From her fancy-men."

No one but Mr. Hardy could have written the story of an unmarried mother quite like this.

It goes without saying that many of these poems are about women and the wrongs of women. Women are perhaps more sensitive than men, certainly they are more helpless. Against them, the cruelties of circumstance are strengthened by the cruelties of men-made convention. They are caught in a double net. Therefore, they are specially dear to this poet of the captured and betrayed. Hence such poems, or stories in verse, as "The Seasons of Her Year," "The Ruined Maid," "The Supplanter," "The Sunday Morning Tragedy," "A Wife Waits," and others, the refrain of which seems to be:—

" . . . of sinners two
At last one pays the penalty—
The woman—women always do!"

The poignancy of the poems about women and girls is only equalled by the poignancy of the poems about birds. Nearly all the poets have loved birds, but they have loved them in different ways. To Shelley, the skylark was a type of unearthly bliss. The nightingale sang to Keats of immortality. Tennyson observed with sympathy the robin's eager interest in human doings, and the mother swan's anxiety when she heard a stranger's footfall among her "secret reeds." But though Hardy has some delightful poems about birds, as birds

THE WORLD OF A GREAT LADY.

"Catherine Cladstone." By Mary Drew. (Nisbet. Price 14s. 6d.)

MRS. DREW's life of her mother* Mrs. W. E. Gladstone, introduces us into a world most wonderfully remote from the world in which we live. It is a world of stately country houses populated by Dukes and Duchesses, Peers and Peeresses; a world which is intimately in touch with the domestic circle of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort; a world over which the struggle for existence casts no shadow; withal, a world of incredible and indescribable goodness. When we have discounted a small percentage of this goodness as priggishness, phraseology and author's bias, there is still enough of it left to leave us aghast. We do not believe that it can really be so very difficult for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven with this serene and gracious world as a jumping-off place. Did its inhabitants never lose their tempers and swear? Did they never hate one another across the breakfast table? Did they never fling their domestic duties to the winds and go street-loafing? Mrs. Drew gives us no reason to believe that they ever did any of these things.

And yet—let us confess it bravely—this world leaves us unsatisfied. There is something lacking in it. It may be the essential element of divine discontent. It may be that tiny grain of devilry without which goodness is apt—on paper—to become cloying. We find ourselves thinking regretfully of a contemporary biography, reviewed in these columns more than a year ago, whose heroine frequently lost her temper and on one occasion gave vent to a memorable and disastrous outburst of recrimination in a sacred edifice.

But perhaps the real cause of our discord is that the fact that we are the children of a turbulent century, incapable of resting our minds in the splendid oasis of peace which the governing classes in this country made for themselves during the long Victorian age. We must needs criticise the whole basis of their civilisation: The relation of property to labour, of husband to wife, of God to man.

Nevertheless, the goodness of Mrs. Drew's world was clearly not of a purely negative order. Its central figure, Mrs. Gladstone, was an exceedingly busy and vigorous woman. She was something more than the wife of a great man and the mother of a large family. She was a friend and a sick nurse to all in need. She gave to the poor with such open hands and such an open heart that we can forgive Mrs. Drew for her headlong use of those outworn and sinister words, "charity" and "good works." Mrs. Gladstone made her immense circle of friends and relations exceedingly happy—radiating among them her graciousness and righteousness. When all is said, she made a complete success of her life and its opportunities, and without her presence the world of which Mrs. Drew writes would be infinitely poorer than it is.

In conclusion, we should like to offer a word of practical advice to the National Union of Societies For Equal Citizenship. Let a copy of this book be preserved on its shelves. It contains numerous references to occasions on which statesmen have publicly burst into tears; and these should provide the Parliamentary Department with useful references in the event of Lady Astor being similarly overcome. MARY STOCKS

The Englishwoman.

As time goes on "The Englishwoman" is a source of increasing pleasure. The contents of the February number reach an even higher standard than usual. Miss Maud Royden opens it with moving article on "Women and the League of Nations." The Manifesto, calling upon women to join the League of Nations Union, which was issued by women representing every school of thought in and outside the Women's Movement, to all women, in the writer's own words: "bases itself at once upon the broad grounds of humanity, and holds up the ideal of the League of Nations as the solution of problems which, if left unsolved, must threaten not a sex, or a nation, but civilisation and humanity itself." Miss Beatrice Harraden continues the narrative of her journey through devastated France. Olga Raester tells the story of the first woman doctor. Alice Kemp Welsh weaves into her beautiful little story "Queen Eleanor and the Troubadours," pictures of Mediæval France, the Crusaders, and the England of Thomas à Beckett. Two intensely human and well-written short stories, dramatic criticism and reviews which include three of the most discussed books of the moment namely "Fanny Goes to the War," by Pat Beauchamp; "The Road to En-Dor," by E. H. Jones; and "Maureen," by Patrick Macgill, complete the "Englishwoman's" list for this month.

(for instance, "The Robin," and "Birds at Winter Night-fall," and the enchanting "Spring Call"), he generally writes about them as if they were little human beings, more sensitive and helpless than men and women, but reasoning like them about Nature and life, and vainly hoping to learn from them "How happy days are made to be." Starlings on the roof muse on the fact that it is no good to migrate, because "Every house has a ghost alack." And if human beings are noble in their acceptance of undeserved misfortune, the birds are nobler still. The thrush in winter cold toiling to reach a single rotting berry, takes it with thankfulness. The blinded bird does not resent its wrong:—

"Who hath charity? This bird
Who suffereth long and is kind,
Is not provoked, though blind,
And alive ensepulchered?
Who hopeth, endureth all things?
Who thinketh no evil, but sings?
Who is divine? This bird."

The bullfinches, convinced of Nature's indifference and death's nearness sing all the more sweetly and zealously. Even the caged finch on the grave tries to sing. The song of the thrush in the winter darkness does indeed awaken in the poet at last, and for once, the same kind of hope that his creations awaken in us:—

"At once a voice burst forth among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carollings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware."

"The Bullfinches" is so typical of Hardy's philosophy, and so full of the transcendental beauty, which belongs of right neither to the novelist, nor to the philosopher, but only to the poet, that we quote it in full:—

"Brother Buleys, let us sing
From the dawn till evening!—
For we know not that we go not
When the day's pale pinions fold
Where those be that sang of old.

When I flew to Blackmoor Vale,
Whence the green-gowned faeries hail,
Roosting near them I could hear them
Speak of queenly Nature's ways,
Means, and moods,—well known to fays.
All we creatures, nigh and far
(Said they there), the Mother's are;
Yet she never shows endeavour
To protect from warrings wild,
Bird or beast she calls her child.

Busy in her handsome house,
Known as space, she falls a-drowse;
Yet, in seeming, works on dreaming,
While beneath her groping hands
Fiends make havoc in her bands.

How her hussifry succeeds
She unknowns or she unheeds,
All things making for Death's taking!
—So the green-gowned faeries say
Living over Blackmoor way.

Come then, brethren, let us sing
From the dawn till evening!—
For we know not that we go not
When the day's pale pinions fold
Where those be that sang of old."

Surely no one could have written like this, who had not somewhere and somehow touched a "blessed hope" of which not only we, but even he, may at ordinary moments be unaware?

I. B. O'MALLEY.

* "Collected Poems of Thomas Hardy." (Macmillan. 8s. 6d.)

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PURSE STRINGS.—I.

BY L. H. YATES.

WOMEN are generally referred to as the spending sex because they keep the household purse and spend the money that others supply, but the war has left the woman's position altered in this respect as in other matters, and the purse's contents are very often her own earnings. Then, too, among the four million or so of investors who make up the membership of National War Savings Associations women form a large proportion, and through training of this kind Englishwomen have acquired some of the ambitions and business methods for which Frenchwomen have long been noted. They may not set out to buy War Savings Certificates and Exchequer Bonds with the intention of procuring for themselves *une existence assurée*, as a Frenchwoman does who buys Rentes, nevertheless this easily managed type of investment, purchasable over any bank counter, has been the first introduction to independent monetary transactions for a great many women. It has simplified the problem of saving for all people of the middle as well as of the working class, but it is to be regarded only as an introduction to investment, and an intelligent woman should be able to go a step or two farther than this.

There are three types of women who hold the purse-strings. There is the woman who earns and sets aside a certain proportion of her earnings; there is the woman whose income is derived from money invested on her behalf; and there is the wife who has an allowance. The case of the woman who earns and saves is simple enough. That of the woman who has been given no control over the investments that provide her income is a very different one, while that of the wife who is given a "dole" is almost as humiliating. For a grown-up woman to find that she has been treated like a child and given no discretionary powers, not even the power to rectify a mistake or a wrong judgment, is galling as well as humiliating; and it is hardly less bitter for a wife to have to ask for money for desirable and necessary things that may be outside actual housekeeping necessities.

Let a father give his daughter sufficient instruction in the management of investments to enable her to know how and when to buy or sell, how and why to choose this and reject that, how and when to consult a banker or broker; and he would safeguard her future far more effectively than when he leaves her, as he thinks, "safely provided for."

And it is surely but a matter of courtesy that a wife should at least be given the standing of the ordinary salaried worker whose earnings are paid to her by cheque, as to the disposal of which it would be presumptuous to enquire! Her financial dependence has been the one bitter drop in many a wife's cup of happiness, more especially so after she has once known the sweets of independence. And courtesy apart, the wife's share of the mutual income should be sufficiently under her own control to enable her to use the profits of her own thriving, if she is thriftily-minded. With a bank account and cheque book and her regular cheque she has opportunity as well as incentive to make savings or investments, as she is able to do so. With a sum paid to her in cash at intervals, she has neither.

Because a few women are foolish spenders—with every temptation put in their way by firms who thrive on their foolishness!—it is to be generally assumed that women are incapable of using money in the larger and more productive ways that men use it? Money is power, and a man's pleasure in its accumulation is for the power it gives him. It is his use of money as power that has opened up the world to trade and occupation. It has been the golden key that has unlocked storehouses and treasuries. But the ability to use money as power has been gained by long and careful training; father has trained son, employers have trained subordinates, and finance has been developed to a game of the highest skill. This training and practice has been completely withheld from women; even its veriest rudiments have not been included in their education. A little "pin money" for her pocket, sufficient money for food and raiment, a little to spend, has been all that has been considered necessary, and when man the protector died he left his capital so "tied-up" that woman's fingers should never be able to undo the knots.

Against all this women must protest, nor must they be satisfied with protestation. They must require that teaching of business principles regarding the use of money, the keeping of accounts, the meaning of investment and the character of investments, with at least some outline of banking and broking business shall form part of their general education. Women are fitting themselves to earn larger salaries and to enter more important business and professional positions. They must not be content to be mere holders of the purse-strings. They must keep their own bank account and use their own cheques, invest their own capital and act for themselves. With that idea in view we shall refer to this subject from time to time.

THE IDEAL HOMES EXHIBITION.

BY CLEMENTINA BLACK.

THE chief impression left by the lower half of the Exhibition at Olympia is the eagerness with which materials other than brick are being sought for the building of houses. Here are concrete blocks and "units" of many different potteries, steel frames, compositions for roofing, compositions for flooring, and several sorts of metal frames for windows. Of course, no ordinary visitor can judge the merits of these materials; he can but perceive how very much wider is the field of choice than it ever has been till now, and comfort himself by observing the frame-and-asbestos offices of Messrs. William Harbrow. If concrete buildings can look like this, our new towns need be neither hideous nor monotonous. But the wider the range of choice the greater the possibilities of going wrong, and the greater the need of high artistic intelligence among architects. Every material has its own character and its own implicit law, and the power of discerning these is the mark of the real artist. We, mere members of the onlooking public, can but feel (and do feel most uncomfortably), when the character has somehow not been regarded and the inner laws have not been obeyed. What a glorious thing, just now, to be a young architect facing all these new materials and new problems!

Upstairs, in the gallery, are labour-saving devices; many of them very good, not many of them quite new; most of them dreadfully expensive; almost all of interest to women who understand housekeeping. There are several varieties of kitchen cabinet and dresser—nearly all good; and with these may be named an excellent cupboard, about twenty inches square, which has an inner revolving fitment divided into four sections; of these one is without shelves, so that brooms, mops, and other long-handled implements can be hung along the two sides of it; a second has two shelves above the base; and the third and fourth have several shelves, upon which can be accommodated a very large number of those small objects which are so necessary in a kitchen and so apt to be mislaid. Another sensible invention is the "Cinderello" shovel, which looks like a covered dustpan but is really a combined shovel and cindersifter. Ashes and dust can be picked up in it, sifted without any danger of flying about, the ashes put on the fire, and the dust emptied away. The Premier Washer-up, too, avoids several difficulties of some other patterns; no water has to be filled in or emptied away, the crockery once placed in the rack is not touched nor removed until next wanted for use. The fitment consists of a rack for plates, cups, &c., in galvanised iron, fixed beside or above the sink, and connected by a flexible pipe with the hot-water tap. The tap is turned on, water rises into the rack and falls again, and after two or three minutes the tap is turned off and the crockery left to dry. If the washing is adequate (and with really hot water there seems no reason to doubt that it would be) here is a labour-saving device that should be in universal use; for, as every housewife knows, washing-up is the veritable last straw: washing-up after the family dinner, by artificial light, and putting every object back into its proper place!

Of vacuum cleaners there are almost as many varieties upstairs as of building materials below, but the competition among them has not done the office that political economy used to assign to it, for none of them is cheap.

The Exhibition will remain open until the 25th of this month, and is very well worth a visit.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

MADAM,—I was glad to see the letter of Miss Helen Ward in your last issue, and write to support her plea that the suffrage societies take up in real earnest the League of Nations question.

When ten and more years ago we were fighting for women's suffrage, active members of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage (including myself) and also the other and larger societies, made a big point of the great influence in the direction of permanent peace the granting of votes to women would mean, and I do not think that I can remember one single meeting of the several hundred times at which I was a speaker or otherwise assisting at suffrage meetings, at which in some form or other I, or some other speakers, did not prophesy this as one of the good results that we expected, whilst the Anti-Suffrage League backed us up by taking it as one of the reasons why women (ruled, as they said, more by sentiment than knowledge of foreign politics and diplomacy) should not have the vote.

Now we are the side that can, with a certain amount of pride, say "I told you so" on practically every one of the prophecies we made so far as these have had time yet to operate, and the other side, well, they consider it rather bad manners on our part if we rake up the past, and I trust it will be even so as regards our expectations of the woman's influence on international politics.

The chief difficulty that those of us who are now working for the making of the League of Nations a real, living force are up against, is the lack of platform opposition.

This is due to the fact that those at the War Office and others of the opposition, think it safer tactics to ignore us than to openly oppose, and unless we can force the opposition into an attitude of defence, I personally think that the opposition will win.

There is no reason why we should not win instead of them, for not only is it a question of the sacrifice needlessly of millions of lives in the future, but economically it is truer to-day than it ever was that we cannot maintain the armaments and pay our debts without both starving all reforms that require financial assistance (and most do), and by the heavy taxation necessary, cause a standard of living much lower than would otherwise be obtained.

If the women would come out in really large numbers there would be a much better chance of us being able to work up the public opinion that is essential for victory, and let them make it in a broad sense of the phrase a religious fight, for did not the leader of most of your women say, "Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the children of God."

H. M. THEEDAM.

THE NEED FOR INSTRUCTION ON FINANCE.

MADAM,—From my own observations and those of friends elsewhere in East Anglia, I come to the conclusion that the new rich are extremely ignorant of how to put their savings out to the best advantage to themselves and their country. We often hear of the foolish spending, but the opposite extreme is even worse, as it does no one good. Example No. 1. Respectable fisher folk hoarding in their cottage £1,000; this was the sum a year ago, it is possibly greatly increased by this time. The reason they give for so doing is, that they do not trust banks and like to be able to have it at hand. No. 2. Many persons leave our banks here with £300 or £400 in their pockets, and will not listen to any advice from the clerks. I believe, in many cases, it is done to avoid Income Tax. Do you not think an Act of Parliament should make it illegal to hoard wealth, while our country is in such great need of every penny we can save?

On the other extreme there are women of quite the lowest classes buying expensive clothes, and taking little care of them. Just think of a benighted village on the borders of Suffolk and Essex, where immorality is rife, and cruelty to animals quite an every day affair, and these women giving £8 to £10 for a coat and skirt, and buying pianos, at the same time only having one pail for the house, which is used for holding drinking water and every other purpose imaginable. Boys earning, during the flax harvest last year, over £2 per week; one only wishes it did them good morally and spiritually. It seems a great deal of wealth has got into the wrong hands, and such deserving folk, such as a lawyer's clerk I know of, who after thirty years' service with the same firm has to manage on 37s. 6d. per week. When are the ordinary clerks coming out on strike? It is their turn next, surely.

EAST COAST.

PRISONS AND PRISONERS.

MADAM,—The question of Prison Reform is bound to come before British electors within the next ten years. On such a difficult subject wise decisions can only result from long thoughts, and those thoughts must be based on knowledge. Yet of prisons and prisoners the greater number of electors are profoundly ignorant. You would confer a very great boon upon the electorate if you would use the columns of your reliable paper for furnishing it with this much-needed knowledge.

At present, the prisoners within our prisons are denied the exercise of their two divine gifts of free will and speech. They are thus reduced

to the level of animals in a menagerie. Nay, they are reduced lower than these, for the keepers of animals are allowed to talk to their captives, while keepers of men are forbidden. The consequence is, that prison deforms where it should reform, and so does harm both to the individual and to the community.

MARY M. ADAMSON.
(Penal Reform League speaker.)

A DANGER TO THE WORKING NURSE.

MADAM,—The *Daily Telegraph* has opened a Shilling Fund especially addressed to soldiers and sailors, for the double object of assisting disabled nurses and endowing the College of Nursing Ltd.

The appeal is accompanied by a generous tribute to the services rendered by nurses, with which we are entirely in accord. The important fact is also stated that nurses have, quite recently, after many years of effort, received the due recognition of their professional status by the passing of Acts for their State Registration.

These are the very reasons, Madam, why we are compelled to ask you to publish our urgent protest against this dangerous system of begging for assistance to raise a large fund to be administered by a body closely associated with the employers of those it is intended to benefit. Not only is the public appeal for charity degrading in the eyes of self-respecting nurses and one which no other profession would tolerate, but a large fund of the kind in the hands of a body controlled mainly by matrons and employers and not even representative of the democratic associations of working nurses, is a distinct economic danger.

The State is clearly responsible for those nurses who have suffered owing to their war work. Where help is required for aged nurses who are in need, owing to the disgraceful conditions in the past, it should be rendered unobtrusively and in such a way as not to injure the prestige of the present workers, and this can most safely be done by subscribing to the various established funds which are administered by generally representative committees. There is no doubt, however, that the only action that will really improve the conditions in the nursing profession is the granting of better salaries and greater freedom, and it is well-known that a huge charity fund, especially one administered under the influence of employers, tends to lower the standard of pay and to encourage an inevitably dependent spirit amongst those for whom the doles are intended.

Just at this time, when nurses have won their Charter of Freedom by Act of Parliament, the profession is threatened with this bar to their real well-being and progress.

We earnestly trust that those who really care for the good of nurses will refrain from giving assistance in the forging of a weapon which will injure those whom they desire to assist.

ETHEL G. FENWICK,
President, Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

ISOBEL MACDONALD,
Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association.

MILDRED HEATHER BIGG, R.R.C.,
Lady of Grace, St. John of Jerusalem; President, Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

M. F. RIMMER,
Hon. Organising Secretary, National Union of Trained Nurses.

MAUD SHAW MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary, Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

WOMEN WELDERS.

MADAM,—The writer of the paragraph in *THE COMMON CAUSE* of January 22nd, on Women Welders, is not quite accurate in saying that the Pre-War Practices Bill does not touch Women Welders. The Act does not depend on whether there were an insufficiency of skilled men in any special branch of engineering, but on whether any women were employed in that special branch before the war.

As there were no Women Welders before the war, it is illegal, under the Pre-War Practices Bill, to employ them now if any men object to their employment. Consequently, if any firm continues to employ the Women Welders, contrary to the wishes of the men, the firm is liable to a fine of £25 per day.

(The Honourable Lady) KATHARINE PARSONS,
Women's Engineering Society.

[Lady Parsons is right in saying that there were no women welders before the war. If there had been any men welders, the exclusion of women would have been a Trade Practice under the meaning of the Act, and employers using women for this work would now be liable to a fine. But our contention was that welding was not a separate occupation for men before the war, there being so few places where it was done that fitters and coppersmiths, &c., were employed and paid at their own previous rates. This trade has only come into distinct existence since 1914, and is therefore a new trade. Sir Robert Horne said in the House that the Pre-War Practices Bill did not apply to new trades, and we believe that the continued employment of women as welders is not illegal. —Ed., W.L.]

INFANT WELFARE IN DUBLIN.

MADAM,—May I venture to appeal to the well-known generosity of the readers of *THE COMMON CAUSE* on behalf of a little-known hospital in Dublin, which has no funds for advertising?

The present rate of infant mortality in Dublin is 164 per 1,000. This is, of course, only an index to the sickness rate, which crowds the eleven hospitals and swells the number of the physically unfit. The Child Welfare Centres do all that is possible, and the out-patient department of the big Children's Hospitals do their part, but they cannot take the baby under one year old unless the mother comes in with it. This is obviously impossible where there are other young children, or where the mother is a widow, forced to leave the home for work. Meanwhile, a very large proportion of cases of infantile sickness require treatment which is often beyond the power, still more often beyond the knowledge, of the average mother, living in a tenement house room, and with one water tap and the one sanitary accommodation in the yard of the three or four storey house.

These facts led to the establishment, in May, 1919, of a special Infant Hospital, where these babies could be treated as in-patients, without the mother and where the out-patient department could receive more attention. Five of the best-known women doctors give their services as Visiting Physicians: one of these ladies, Chairman of the Medical Committee, is one of the principal organisers of the Child Welfare work in the city. A large, dilapidated house was placed at the disposal of the Board at a greatly reduced rent. The main portion of this is being transformed into a modern hospital. The present work is carried on in the rear portion. Here, the one ward contains eight cots, is on the top floor, as the other rooms were too small, and is difficult to warm in winter or cool in summer. There is no space for sitting-room or dining-room for matron and nurses, who cheerfully put up with the big kitchen. There is ample space outside for open air treatment, and the grass for the little herd of goats, which lessens expense and provides the very best nourishment for the infant patients. Two examples of successful treatment may be given. One baby, admitted at the age of four and a-half months, weighed five pounds. After four months in hospital, during which he was fed on goats' milk and barley water, he was discharged in perfect health. Another, admitted at ten months, weighed eight and a-half pounds; after four weeks, the weight had increased to fourteen pounds, and a complete cure was effected. Many are nursed out children: the unmarried mother in Ireland has only what she can earn, and cannot command really competent service. However poor, almost all the parents make some small contribution, and try to continue the treatment. In one case the father

made a collapsible cot in his spare time on the model of that used in the hospital, for open air treatment.

So far, the hospital has depended on voluntary support, except for £100 given by the City Council. It is hoped the L.G.B. will give a grant under the Child Welfare scheme. Amongst the subscriptions was £50 from Queen Alexandra. The bulk was given in small amounts. Everything had to be supplied in the house, electric light, bathroom, washing basins, &c. The basins alone, though secured as a bargain, being slightly flawed, were £20 each. In the beginning, the equipment was of the most meagre character. Even now, the building is bare of everything but absolute necessities. The matron studied methods in the Manchester Infant Hospital, and they are copied as far as possible. The cost per patient is practically the same, £2 per week per baby in Dublin, £2 2s. in Manchester. The present urgent need is for £300 to convert a large room in the main part of the house into a ward capable of accommodating thirty cases. Will the readers of *THE COMMON CAUSE* help to make up this amount? Donations will be welcomed by Mrs. Fisher, Hon. Registrar, Infant Hospital, 37, Charlemont Street, Dublin.

DORA MELLONE.

THE HOME IN PARLIAMENT.

MADAM,—May I venture on one criticism of your excellent first number and suggest that if such intricate questions as the Nationalisation of Mines are to be dealt with under the heading of the Home in Parliament, the writer should confine herself to an accurate and unbiased presentation of facts, leaving her readers to form their conclusions. It is interesting to have the various sides of a question explained by writers with different points of view, who understand their subject; but if the *WOMAN'S LEADER* aims at appealing to women of all political parties it is essential that it shall maintain a reputation for presenting facts fairly, and avoid any appearance of partizanship.

Miss Ferguson's statement that the Sankey Commission "sent in its report in favour of nationalising the mines" is most misleading. Anyone who had read no other account of the Commission would naturally infer from this that its members were unanimous. This, as most of your readers will no doubt remember, was very far from being the case. Various reports were signed by different sections of the Commission, and it would be valuable to have a summary of each, the question of Nationalisation of Mines being by no means so simple as Miss Ferguson would lead one to suppose.

A. M. MEREDITH.

UNANIMITY.

The following answers were given by the candidates at the Paisley Election to the questions put to them by representatives of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

1. Do you support the equal moral standard for men and women and will you watch legislation dealing with the social evil with a view to the establishment of a real and not merely verbal equality between the sexes in the laws and their administration?

MR. MACKEAN (*Unionist*).
Yes, certainly.

MR. ASQUITH (*Liberal*).
Certainly.

MR. BIGGAR (*Labour*).
Certainly.

2. Are you in favour of the further extension of the franchise to women by lowering the age limit, and making the qualification the same as for men?

Yes.

Certainly.

Certainly.

3. Are you in favour of giving the same nationality rights to women as to men?

I am.

Qualified assent.

Certainly.

4. Are you in favour of the separate taxation of the incomes of married women?

I am.

Yes, certainly.

No.

5. Are you in favour of the equal guardianship of children by both parents?

Certainly.

Yes.

Certainly.

6. Are you in favour of the full professional and industrial freedom of opportunity for women?

I am.

Yes, certainly.

Yes, with reservations.

7. Are you in favour of giving men and women equal pay for work of equal value?

Certainly.

Certainly.

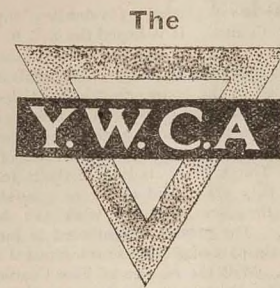
Certainly.

8. Are you in favour of giving the wife in Scotland full control over her property as well as her income, as is the law in England?

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.



and the
SITUATION IN EUROPE.

Europe Cries Out for Help.

The British Y.W.C.A. has decided, in spite of its own financial difficulties, to respond to appeals from South-East Europe and the Near East.

The Conditions cannot be Described.

There is complete lack of barest necessities of life. The Y.W.C.A. cannot cope with the famine, but are already sending out through the World's Committee experienced women to organise the women of South-West Europe to help themselves. We are now sending workers to Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia, North Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, Jerusalem, and the Near East. For this work alone we require £6,000.

Need Pressing.

For instance, there are now 4,904 students in Prague University alone. As compared with only 300 girls before the war there are now over 1,000.

Lodging, Food, Clothing

are not only insufficient, but *non-existent*. Many walk five miles to and from the University, and live on one meal a day, for which they have to stand in line for over an hour, insufficiently clad, in rain and snow. The Y.W.C.A. though in difficulties, must respond to such calls for help. A large Cafeteria for 3,000 is to be erected in Prague, the Y.W.C.A. directing the Women's Wing. The American and British Y.W.C.A. bear expenses of work in Europe and the Near East. Will you help? Our need for help is now three-fold,

1. For money to extinguish present debt, which by the generosity of the public has been reduced from £30,000 to £10,000.
2. For forwarding work in housing, education, etc., at home.
3. For our work in stricken Europe.

Please send to-day to—

MISS E. PICTON-TURBERVILL, O.B.E.

Young Women's Christian Association

26, George Street, Hanover Square, London, W.1.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE WOMAN'S LEADER when ordering goods.

**THE COLLEGE OF AMBULANCE
APPEAL FOR £100,000**

To establish this College on a permanent basis as a NATIONAL MEMORIAL to all VOLUNTARY WORKERS during the war.

Special 2/6 fund for those who wish to send small donations.

SEND YOUR DONATION TO-DAY TO
The Hon. Treasurer, College of Ambulance Ltd.,
56, QUEEN ANNE STREET,
Cavendish Square, W.1.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE
TO SECURE
STATE PURCHASE & CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE

AN IMPORTANT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Will be held on

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th at 5 p.m.

in

THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

on
The STATE PURCHASE of the LIQUOR TRADE

SPEAKERS: The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Oliver Strachey,
Miss E. Picton-Turbervill.

The Chair will be taken by Lady Henry Somerset.

All women interested in Social and Temperance Reform are invited to attend. **ADMISSION FREE.**
Miss M. Cotterell, Organising Secretary: Parliament Mansions,
Victoria Street, S.W.1.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT AND CENTURY LIFE OFFICE
and
CENTURY INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Aggregate Figures:
Annual Income - - - - - £950,000
Funds - - - - - £5,000,000

It is important that all professional and business women should consider the question of Insurance of all kind. Write for particulars of Life Assurance, Annuities, Fire, Burglary and all forms of General Insurance to

MISS ALLPORT,
The Women's Department.

FRIEND'S PROVIDENT AND CENTURY LIFE OFFICE,
42, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN.

President: Mrs. M. A. SPIELMAN.

1. The Union of Jewish Women provides an organisation ready and able to assist Jewesses throughout the United Kingdom and the Empire with information and advice.
2. The Union promotes Conferences dealing with social subjects. It trains social workers; also keeps registers of voluntary workers and lists of Societies needing the help of voluntary workers, as well as of gentlewomen seeking paid employment.
3. The Union gives expert advice to Jewish girls and women training for professions or skilled vocations; and administers a Loan Training Fund entrusted to them for the purpose.

For further particulars apply to:—

MISS HALFORD, Secretary, Office, 4, Upper Gloucester Place, London, N.W.1.
Telephone: 352 Paddington.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

We are constantly receiving enquiries for furnished and unfurnished rooms, flats, &c., in and near London. If you can supply these needs, advertise them in our small advertisement columns and help to solve the housing problem for the woman worker.

**NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL
CITIZENSHIP.**

President: MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. A. K. Game.
Acting Hon. Secretary: Miss Macadam.

Parliamentary and Information Bureau Secretary:
Mrs. Hubback.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss Rosamond Smith.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Telegraphic Address: Voiceless, Westcent, London.

Telephone: Museum 2668.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

TO NON-MEMBERS.

As the Woman's Leader will fall into the hands of many who are not members of our affiliated societies, we may perhaps briefly explain the object and methods of organisation of the Union. The object is "to obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women." The programme of work for industrial reforms carried on by the Union is decided each year at the Annual Council. Its immediate programme which will be reconsidered at the Council in March, 1920, is composed of six reforms:—

1. That parents shall be equal joint guardians of their children.
2. Pensions for widows with dependent children.
3. To enable women to become Solicitors, Barristers, and Judges.
4. To secure an equal moral standard for men and women.
5. To promote the candidature of women for Parliament and the adoption of Proportional Representation.
6. To safeguard the interests of women in industry with respect to equal opportunities and equal pay.

The N.U.S.E.C. is a thoroughly democratic body which works through its constituent societies. These are scattered all over England, Scotland, and Wales. Where no such societies exist Women Citizens' Associations or other women's organisations are urged to affiliate in order that the work of propaganda for the reforms on the Union programme may be carried on. Groups of not less than ten persons, whether within an affiliated society or independently, may affiliate with the Union, even if they exist for other purposes, provided that they support the main object of the programme. In places where no such groups exist, local correspondents to promote the work of the Union may be appointed.

Societies, whether of men or women, not yet affiliated to the National Union but in sympathy with its objects, are invited to make application to the Executive Committee for affiliation.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The Preliminary Agenda for the Annual Council Meetings on March 10th, 11th, and 12th, has just been sent to our Societies. It contains resolutions with regard to the future election policy and programme of the Union which are certain to lead to interesting discussion. Other resolutions deal with Married Women's Property and Domicile, Women as Jurors, Women in the Civil Service, Women and Unemployment Insurance, the League of Nations, and Women's Service in the Churches.

Societies are reminded that February 16th is the last date for posting to Headquarters amendments to be printed on the Final Agenda and applications for delegates' tickets.

We hope that even at the eleventh hour Societies which have not yet decided to send a delegate will do so in order that the decision of the Council shall be as representative as possible of opinion in all parts of the country. Hospitality and proxies can be arranged on application to Mrs. Godfrey Warr.

£10,000 APPEAL.

The National Union has a machinery throughout the country built on years of hard work under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, our former President. It has won the respect of Parliament and of public opinion, and we feel that though rigid economy at Headquarters must be practised we cannot afford at a critical time like the present to allow this machinery to become less efficient. Funds are therefore needed, first to maintain its Headquarters staff, its Parliamentary Department, Information Bureau and Library, and, secondly, to send organisers, for whose services we have constant appeals from Societies, to carry on our propaganda in the country to strengthen our old Societies and to secure the affiliation of new ones. Unfortunately the amount received was overstated by mistake in our last issue and money is still urgently needed.

If any readers of this page whether members of our Union or not are in sympathy with our primary object, which is to obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women, we

ask them to send us a contribution to our special fund. Such contributions may if desired be earmarked for any particular reform on the programme in which the donor is specially interested.

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

The following letter has been sent to the Prime Minister, and copies have been forwarded to the Labour and Liberal Parties, and to all Members of Parliament asking for their support:—

February 4th, 1920.

DEAR SIR,

Since the Manifesto, addressed to the Electors of Great Britain and Ireland by yourself, on November 22nd, outlining the programme on which the Coalition Party has been returned to power, included the undertaking that:—

"It will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women," and that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill has only dealt with certain of these inequalities, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

(1) Urges the Government immediately to give effect to this pledge by announcing in the King's Speech and forthwith carrying through Parliament legislation to remove the remaining political, civil, and economic inequalities in the law as between men and women.

(2) It emphasises the need of framing such legislation as to ensure among other things:—

- i. That the Franchise is extended to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men.
- ii. That all civil and judicial offices and posts shall be opened to women on the same terms as to men, including those of Members of the House of Lords and of the higher grades of the Civil Service.
- iii. That the status of married women be raised:—
(a) so that parents shall be equal joint guardians over their children, each with power to name a guardian to act jointly with the survivor, and that parents shall be called upon to maintain their children according to their financial position, whether the parents are living together or are separated.
(b) so that civilian widows with dependent children shall be granted adequate pensions free from the taint of the Poor Law.
(c) so that a British woman shall be given the right to retain her nationality on marriage with an alien—a right enjoyed by her until 1870—and that a woman shall be given the same right to choose her nationality as a man, including the right to naturalize independently of her husband.
(d) so that the income of a married woman shall be reckoned as separate from that of her husband for the purpose of the rate of income tax levied.

NOTE.—The N.U.S.E.C. has bills prepared for (a) and (b).

iv. That the law dealing with moral offences be based on the equal moral standard, and the law dealing with solicitation and common prostitutes be abolished.

v. That the Divorce Law shall be made equal between men and women.

We wish to point out that the extension of the Franchise to women, and the opening of all civil and judicial functions and posts to women on equal terms as to men has already been passed three times by the House of Commons in the Women's Emancipation Bill.

We therefore wish especially to urge that the desire of the House on these matters should, without fail, be given effect to, and legislation thereon announced in the King's Speech.

We are, Sir, &c.,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) ELEANOR F. RATHBONE (President),
ROSAMOND SMITH (Hon. Treasurer),
ELIZABETH MACADAM, (Hon. Secretary).

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

The list of meetings arranged for the current week so far as is known includes the following places:—Shanklin, Ryde, Brondesbury, Exeter, Plymouth, Liskeard, Ilkley.

• Birmingham Society for Equal Citizenship and Women Citizens Association has sent us the syllabus of a Citizenship Competition to be held in March. The syllabus in itself is an excellent summary of what women who aspire to be good citizens should know.

Doncaster.—The Doncaster Branch has given a good lead to our Societies in appointing a Special Correspondent for the Headquarters page in THE WOMAN'S LEADER. An interesting report has been received from Doncaster of a meeting held on January 29th. Miss Clarke was in the chair, and Miss Hartop was the speaker. Miss Hartop's lecture on "The Woman Citizen" was very much appreciated.

REPORTS.

ALBERT HALL MEETING.

The League of Nations Meeting, which was held in the Albert Hall on February 6th, was one of the most inspiring women's meetings ever held in this country; the hall was packed from floor to ceiling, about twelve thousand women being present. Mrs. Randall Davidson presided, and the speakers were Viscountess Astor, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Mary MacArthur, and Lord Robert Cecil. Mrs. Davidson read the following message from their Majesties: "Mindful of all that womanhood has sacrificed, endured, and achieved in these years of war, their Majesties feel that British idealism can have no more noble aim than that of securing to the world enduring peace." Telegrams were also read from Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Humphry Ward; Mrs. Fawcett's message read as follows: "My doctor has just been in and has ordered another week's rest for my foot. I am sorry not to be with you to-night. I shall think a great deal about you all and hope the meeting will be a great success." The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

(1) That this meeting regards the League of Nations as essential to the peace of the world.
 (2) That this meeting pledges itself to support the League of Nations by every means in its power.
 In her address Mrs. Davidson said the women of England were gathered there to further the cause of the League of Nations. A great cause which could only succeed if it was the outcome of the determined purpose of everyone throughout the land, and not merely the purpose of statesmen. To prevail it would have to be the purpose of everyone—the people's purpose, the people's will. That purpose was not merely the stopping of great wars, not merely the resolve that there should be no "next time." It was that by the united efforts of all people righteousness should prevail, not only between nations, but within the nation's life. If that purpose prevailed then we would be more fitted to bear the terrible aftermath of war, and the sacrifices of our dearest ones would not have been in vain, for they would have won for the world a victory greater than anyone yet had even dared to dream.

Miss Mary MacArthur, in proposing the first resolution, said not so very long ago there were people in this country who could be found to defend war for its own sake. In one of our leading newspapers just before 1914 this quotation appeared: "Peace means greater comfort, greater enjoyment, and longer life, but without war human character would deteriorate and we should become a nation of degenerates." No one to-day presented that point because we are still living in the shadow of war, many of us are destined to spend the rest of our lives in that shadow. It had been made clear to us that war not only destroyed the body, but warped the soul of men; the conqueror and conquered suffered alike in this. The social chaos into which Europe had been flung was such that in Vienna 80 per cent. of the children under five years of age were deformed, and in Budapest the mortality among infants was 90 per cent. Who is bearing the burden of this aftermath of war? The mothers of Central Europe. We one and all entered into the war with high ideals; it was to be a war to end war. We have dreamed dreams of a new world, but this new world will not be built in a day. The ideal of the League is to make an alliance of the best in all the nations against the worst in all the nations. We must have a new attitude and a new spirit; we must admire a nation not for her vast dominions and her Colonial supremacy, but for the contribution she is able to make to the wisdom, power, and goodness of mankind.

Viscountess Astor, who seconded this resolution, thought that many people were very lugubrious about the League. She was not, for although it was but half a League as yet, still, it was half a League onward. Women were overwhelmingly behind the League of Nations, said Lady Astor, because, realising what war meant, they wanted to make a sincere and practical effort to correct the causes which led to war. The old methods of secret diplomacy by which both statesmen and nations got a distorted idea of each other would cease, for the League set up a system by which the responsible ministers of different nations met round a table and discussed any differences that might arise. Women must keep this practical and simple idea before them. They must not despair about the League, even if it did not stop all wars at once, for Rome was not built in a day. Neither must they despair because America made reservations regarding some articles in the Covenant. Reservations did not much matter provided the United States would make a start. The League, nevertheless, was above all a spiritual matter, and wars would never be abolished until the seeds of war had been rooted out of our hearts; jealousy, greed, pettiness, and ignorance in men's hearts must be uprooted, and in their place we must sow the seeds of love. Women owe a great responsibility to the coming generation; they must throw their whole weight into the task of meeting suspicion, jealousy and hatred, not with their own weapons of force and bitterness, but with goodwill.

Miss Maude Royden, who proposed the second resolution, said women being new to political life have not yet learnt that most delightful things are impossible. Every great idea, when turned into a political machine, loses something of the loveliness with which it was conceived; the fact of women being new to politics gives them faith to believe that nothing is impossible. If some things are impossible women should know that there are also things that are intolerable. We have thrown into the furnace not only seven million lives, but millions more, maimed and maddened and distressed. After over a year's Peace we are still surrounded by an abyss of famine and starving children. The time has now come for the world to refuse to hear that some things are impossible, but to remember that certain things are intolerable.

We ask that nations may be given an alternative to war, that is the soul of the League of Nations. We offer an alternative. We create an International Tribunal; each nation shall bring its claim before the judgment of humanity, before the bar of the world—little nations as well as great. We cannot say that nations will never accept an alternative to war when one has never been offered to them. If the League is

scrapped the world will never dream such a dream again. The enthusiasm of women must help to make it a reality. The world is sick of war; we must not tell it that the path to peace is blocked.

Lord Robert Cecil, in seconding the resolution put by Miss Maude Royden, said we live in a democratic country—a country, that is, in which the ultimate sovereignty rests with the electorate. In the last resort, Governments can only carry out the policy which the electors approve. It is our business to see that the electors do approve the League of Nations, not merely passively, but actively. For that combination is essential. Single, we can do little or nothing to influence the Government of the country; combined together we may do much. That is the reason for the existence of the League of Nations Union.

If, then, you are sincere in your support of the League of Nations, you must help the Union by joining it yourselves, and by establishing branches of it wherever we can.

In the dark situation that prevails to-day our one hope is in the League. It must be made a reality. Its organs must become living organs; that is why we ask that the Assembly, that great constitution of all the States in the world, should be summoned without delay. That is why we hope that the other machinery of the League may quickly be put in order. We want the Court of Justice to begin its work. We want the mandates allotted and defined. Above all we are anxious for the first steps towards disarmament. At present we hear a great deal of rattling of the sabre on the Continent, but we are told that the American Fleet is being increased, and we read that the military forces of this country are being reorganised. All these things may be necessary, but they cannot be called encouraging to the lovers of peace. For be well assured that without some measure of general disarmament we can feel no real security for peace. The old days when we could comfort ourselves with the belief that if you want peace you should prepare for war are gone for ever. They have been shattered by the high explosives of the late war. Therefore we want the disarmament provisions of the Covenant put in force without delay. If the League fails our outlook is dark indeed; but I do not believe it will fail—not, at any rate, if it is supported by the determination of the peoples of the world.

That is why I speak to you. This is, as probably you have been already reminded, the anniversary of your enfranchisement. You are no longer voiceless and voteless; you have become full citizens of the Empire with an influence as great as that of your male fellow-citizens. But do not forget that this change has thrown upon you a great responsibility. You can no longer stand aside, even if you wish to. Surely the cause of peace must appeal to women even more than to men. Be up and doing. The starving children of to-day, the unborn children of future ages call for your help. Take care lest future generations may say that in the first great call to the enfranchised women they failed to do their duty.

Coming Events.

- BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP**
 FEBRUARY 14.
 Anstey Training College.
 Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 7.30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 17.**
 The Convent, Olton (Birmingham).
 Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 7 p.m.
 Subject: "European Famine."
- BRADFORD SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP**
 FEBRUARY 13.
 At 57, Southfield Square (By kind permission of Mrs. Percy Lund).
 Speaker: Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone. 7.30 p.m.
 Subject: "The Future of the Women's Movement."
- KENSINGTON SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**
 FEBRUARY 17.
 Annual Meeting at The New House, Airlie Gardens, W.8 (By kind invitation of Mrs. George Booth).
 Business Meeting (for members only), at 3 p.m.
 Open Meeting, at 3.30 p.m.
 Speakers: Mrs. H. B. Irving and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A.
 Applications for Invitations to Mrs. Fyffe, Hon. Sec., 79, Victoria Road, W.8.
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**
 FEBRUARY 14.
 Members' Meeting, at Grosvenor Lodge Studios. 3 p.m.
- PADDINGTON WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.**
 FEBRUARY 17.
 Town Hall, Paddington Green.
 Speakers: Mrs. Yorke Fausset (National Savings Association).
 Subject: "How the Citizen can Help the Nation," and
 Speaker: J. B. Carrington, Esq., F.S.A.A. (Borough Treasurer).
 Subject: "National Savings Work in Paddington."
 Chair: Mrs. Karslake (Chairman of Executive Committee).
 Admission Free. 8 p.m.
- WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE.**
 FEBRUARY 16.
 Conference Hall, 1, Central Buildings, S.W.1.
 Speaker: Miss Z. Hawley.
 Subject: "Labour Aims and Methods." 8 p.m.
- INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.**
 FEBRUARY 18.
 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.
 Speaker: Mr. Dimsdale Stocker.
 Subject: "Some Poets and their Message."
 Chair: Mr. Henry Simpson. 8.15 p.m.
- WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**
 FEBRUARY 16.
 Minerva Café, 14, High Holborn, W.C.1.
 Speaker: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A.
 Subject: "A Single Woman's Meditations upon Marriage." 7.30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 18.**
 Speaker: Miss Edith Neville.
 Subject: "The Work of the Penal Reform League." 3 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 19.**
 Belmont Hall, Clapham, S.W.
 Model Parliament Election. All Women Candidates. Count will be made by a Member of the Proportional Representation Society. 7 p.m.

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F. 169. Plain Hemmed Turkish Towels.

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24 x 48 in.	39/6 doz.
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32 x 56 in.	8/6 "
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F. 208. Irish Linen Embroidered Tea Cloths.

Size.	Sale Price.
36 x 36 in.	15/6 each.
45 x 45 "	22/6 "
54 x 54 "	32/6 "

F. 209. Tray Cloths.

Size.	Sale Price.
14 x 20 in.	5/8 each.
16 x 24 "	6/9 "
18 x 27 "	7/11 "
20 x 30 "	8/11 "
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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INQUIRIES on subjects of interest to women as citizens will be answered by the Information Bureau of the N.U.S.E.C., which is in co-operation with other expert bodies. Scale of Charges: For individuals, 1s. per inquiry; For Societies of the N.U.S.E.C., no charge; For Societies other than those of the N.U.S.E.C., 10s. 6d. per annum, or 1s. per inquiry.

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