Official Organ of the National Federation of Women Workers.

Edited by MARY R. MACARTHUR. Published at Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

Vol. 1.-No. 2.

OCTOBER, 1907.

ONE PENNY.



FIRST, our thanks, sincere and right hearty, are due to all those friends who have given The Woman Worker so generous a welcome. Especially are we grateful to those, many of whom are personally unknown to us, who have assisted us in manifold ways.

The circulation of our first number exceeded our most sanguine hopes. The day after publication our first edition was sold out. At the end of a week, more than four times the number of copies we originally asked our printer to estimate for had been sold.

This splendid result is largely due to those in different parts of the country who have worked so hard in making the magazine known, and in seizing every opportunity for its distribution. We especially direct attention to the letters published in our correspondence column from the propaganda prize-winners. We have received many similar communications, and we can only say that in future issues we hope to be a little more worthy of such whole-hearted service.

We are also grateful for several letters of kindly criticism. Many of these contain helpful hints which will be utilised. Several of our correspondents complain that we are ' elementary." We plead guilty. For some time to come we must remain elementary. The A B C of the Trade Union and Labour Movement has still to be learned by the great majority of the women workers throughout the land. Our primary mission is to appeal to them, but our more advanced readers will find that their needs will not be neglected.



We publish this month a short autobio-graphical sketch, "Memories of the Mill," from the pen of Mr. George Barnes, M.P. Mr. Barnes is one of the outstanding men in the Labour movement. As the respon-sible official of one of the greatest of our Trade Unions he is famed for his administrative capacity. He has worked consistently throughout his whole career for the Independent representation of Labour in Parliament, he stands high in the counsels of the Labour Party, and was summed up once by Keir Hardie as "the truest of friends and. the most loyal of colleagues.

The National Association of Telephone Operators are to be congratulated upon a most important victory. For some time past there has been great dissatisfaction in Glasgow amongst the night operators as to their periods of duty. These girls had to work

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the wrists, and there is feathering and lace at the neck. I tell you it can't be done, Mr. Perret, for less than three-pence halfpenny. It's dirt cheap at that. It takes me four hours 'ard to do one, and then there's thread to pay for." There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women behind. "Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Per-ret, suavely. He waits a moment, but the girl's passion has already waned, and he adds, "You'd better put an extra tuck on the sleeves!" the wrists, and there is feathering and

twelve hours nightly for seven consecutive Leng, is very busy dealing with applications nights, without any definite break for rest for new membership. or meals. The Association has had the matter in hand for some time, and after prolonged negotiations with the National Telephone Company, and a reference to the matter at Question time in the House of Commons, has succeeded in getting a six nights' duty instead of seven. Bravo, Miss Glen ! Glasgow should increase its membership after this. * * *

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The Trade Union Congress, held at Bath last month, was by no means epoch-making. It was, however, much more businesslike than usual. This was largely due to the chairman's excellent conduct of the proceedings. If Mr. Gill's presidential address lacked fire and inspiration, his tact and diplomacy in the chair could hardly have been improved upon.

The National Federation of Women Workers are to be congratulated upon the unanimous endorsement of the resolution north is even more critical. There the calling for the establishment of a Wages Board in sweated industries, as also upon the splendid vote of 414,000 polled by their secretary, Miss Louisa Hedges, in the election of the Parliamentary Committee. Had the voting been by section, Miss Hedges would have been elected at the top of the poll in the Miscellaneous Group. As it was, from his account, and the firm recouped the miners' huge vote given against her kept itself by fleecing the helpless workers. * * *

General regret was expressed at the absence from Congress for the first time for many years of Miss Margaret G. Bondfield. There is no doubt that had Miss Bondfield been a candidate for the Parlimentary Committee this year, she would have been elected, and the women Trade Unionists would at last have had a representative to voice their special needs on that exclusive body * * *

Ruskin College-especially to Mr. Watkins and 12th, in Manchester on October 26th, and Mr. Keatley-for the splendid help they and later still in Liverpool. And at the have recently given us in organising the women workers in Oxford and district. Nor must we forget Mr. Charles Lister, who has exhibition in which the tasteful products of worked like a Trojan. Mrs. Pete Curran's recent visit has proved a fruitful one, and Handicraft Guild are contrasted with the

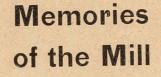
One result of the awakening in Oxford is a very natural determination to secure immediately some redress from the many grievances prevalent in some of the factories. In this connection we are glad to say that an interview will take place early this month between one of the largest employers and the Federation. * * * ployers and the president and secretary of

How militant our youngest branches are ! We have hardly began to tackle the grievances at Oxford when an imperative call reaches us from Hull. Dissatisfaction is again rife at the local tin-box works, and the president of the Federation, in company with Mrs. Chew, will shortly visit the district and endeavour to secure a satisfactory settlement.

* * The situation at a branch still further wages of some of our members have recently been subjected to most scandalous deductions. In one case, more than 50 per cent. of the total earnings were deducted for work more than six months after the order complained of had been dispatched. The customer, it is said, made the deduction

* * The factory in question is well organised. The deduction in question is distinctly a breach of the Truck Acts, and public opinion will be with us in resisting so iniquitous an injustice. We have more than one arrow in our quiver. It would be premature to say more at the moment. * * *

The movement against Sweating, we are glad to notice, gains continually in force and volume. We hear of Conferences in many A special tribute is due to the students at large towns : in Glasgow on October 11th Bishopsgate Institute, that ardent spirit, Julia Dawson, has organised a remarkable work done by members of the Clarion the energetic local secretary, Miss Nora result of Sweated Labour in the homes.



By GEORGE N. BARNES, M.P.

I HAVE just been reading the Woman Worker, and, needless to say, have been greatly interested in it and pleased to find that it has succeeded in drawing expressions of goodwill from such a variety of people. From Harry Quelch to Herbert Gladstone is a far cry, and that both of these, as well as many more between, are ranged on one side is proof of the urgency of the mission on behalf of women workers.

To me no testimony is needed. I speak as one with knowledge-a knowledge burned into me in my early days.

I am writing this in the railway train, speeding through the Western Gloucester Valley, perhaps the most bewitchingly beautiful district of our beautiful country. And as I cast my eye over the pleasing scene, my mind travels away to quite other scenes in which I have played a part.

I think of the time, now nearly forty years ago, when I was in the jute mill, and I wonder how many of my fellow urchins of that time have been so fortunate as to get more or less broken time through sickness, such glimpses of nature's loveliness, or later of broken health and dependence, and similar respite from the dull, drab life that finally of her disappearance, probably into I look back upon with disgust. I know a the poorhouse, where she may be waiting good many who have not. There is release from a life full to her of labour and Margret Mills, for instance. Margret was sorrow. a weaver, and from her I learnt much of the life of the factory before I saw it and me: some who fared even worse than was part of it. She was a neighbour, and Margret; some I know of fine feeling and a great crony of my mother's. Well do sensitive nature who have been literally I remember the "two-handed cracks" they used up for profit in the hellish grind of

girls as Mr. Perret. The is the con-cocter of the specious advertisement and -I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed." Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme ; that honour be feathering at The Simple Life -Walt Whitman. The True Atheism -Russell Lowell. Complaints and the Law. PORTIA. Talks with the Doctor Dr. X.Y.Z. Trade Union Notes Mr. Ferret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour be-longs to a more prosperous competitor, * N.B.—The facts contained in this article are vouched for. Names are. of course, fictitious.—En. MARY R. MACARTHUR. Women's Labour League Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week.

THE WOMAN WORKER

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d by permission from the Labour Annual, 1898.)

had together o' winter's nights-I, lad of

eight or nine years old, sitting on the

kitchen stool, they on either side of the

fire talking and thinking, probably, that I

was too young to heed what I heard. It

learnt of bad cops, lengthening cuts, bully-

ing tenters, and other troubles of the

weavers' life, although I am afraid I added

to the list a year or two afterwards when

of Margret on my visits home, first of con-

tinued work and steady earnings, then of

Right up to recent years I used to hear

There are others whose names occur to

I was employed among them.



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was then, as a matter of fact, that I first

the capitalist system of industry. Margret far-away place; but the existence of an Act last refuge of the jute worker who is not and get, or help to get, such Acts. children

hope and an offer of help.

It is true they are poorly organised; it may be that Parliament seems to them a improve.

would, perhaps, have ended her days as a of Parliament depending upon organisation sack sewer had she been strong enough, for its enforcement may induce them to which she was not. Sack sewing is the organise. I hope they may rally up now

sufficiently nimble to keep up with the pace At all events, it is to right the wrongs of in the mill; or sometimes it is resorted to such as these that I know this little paper so as to supplement the earnings of the has been born. It will not lack friends. man by homework of the woman and the Those who are leading the Women's Industrial Movement may count on whole-hearted It is to these, and such as these, that The support from a myriad of wellwishers who Woman Worker will carry a message of are sad and sick when they contemplate the position of working women, which haply the new paper may do something to

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT STUTTGART. By GENOSSE.

To gather together 1,000 men and women steadily lifting the burden of suffering and from all the countries between the poles in injustice which they have borne for so long. the service of ideals of peace and brother-

The General Congress.

There were many great debates in the larger Congress, those on Colonisation and Militarism being the most exciting. The delegates who belong to the Revisionist school contended that Socialists in Parliament should take their share of responsibility for the government of colonies, and thereby make such government tolerable and humane; but they were overborne by the Revolutionary school, whose large generalisation that Colonisation meant oppression and spoliation was endorsed by the Congress.

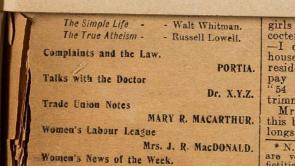
The discussion on militarism was a tense matter for the French and German delegates, as these were conscious that almost any time they may be ordered to fling fraternity aside and begin the grim work of slaying their comrades over the border. The French delegates who were prepared to go to any lengths to resist such a command were anxious that the Germans should be equally great pleasure with her report of the 130,000 extreme; while the Germans, an unbridled sturdy British women who are now organ- declaration from whom would probably bring down Governmental persecution upon their movement, felt it necessary to be more cautious. They agreed at last upon a resolution urging the workers to get into touch with their comrades in other countries, so as to be able to take joint action to avert threatened hostilities, and, pending the abohowever, was an exceptional case, and the lition of armies, to transform them into general impression given by the Congress armies of citizens democratically managed was that the determination of the women and controlled, which the governing classes workers and their loyalty to one another is could not use for purposes of aggression.

than the inculcation of the principles of THE Editor invites brief letters on subjects of general Correspondents should write on one side association and combination among women Letters should be sent in not later the paper only. workers. Large sections of men have the 20th day of each month, and should attained considerable advantages by unity Woman Worker, Club Union and organisation. Unless working women Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C. adopt similar methods, their labour will We select a few letters from a great many that express delight at the appearance of *The Woman Worker*. Others will be inserted in future issues. never be fairly appraised, and the aspiration to live a higher and truer life, which characterises the thoughtful of both sexes, will R. Blatchford (Editor of "The Clarion") remain in the nebulous region of unrealised

writes : "I have felt that I ought to send ideals. Because I believe your magazine a word of greeting to The Woman Worker, is pregnant with great possibilities for the if I only sent my blessing. I hope the new elevation of women workers, I wish it the paper will flourish, and will help in the completest success-a result I am sure it good work of making every woman free and happy. If I could only hope that every will deserve under the control of its accomplished editress."-G. H. Roberts. woman worker would help us to get A. H. Gill, M.P. Socialism, I should feel confident of victory. writes : "I congratulate you on the issue of The Woman Worker. It is just what is Woman has helped man for thousands of years. Nice mess he would have made of wanted, and will do good work. Accept things without her ! Now she looks like my hearty good wishes for its success .-helping woman. Good ! I hope she will put some force in it. If I were a woman A H Gill. I should fight and shriek. Time somebody J. R. Clynes, M.P. did. But the women will do better. They writes: "The necessity of The Woman can do things. If they only realised their Worker is written deep in the conditions now power, and used it, they could accomplish existing for women workers. They will marvels. Meanwhile, The Woman Worker receive neither human conditions nor just wages without organisation. I know that will tell the women what are their sisters' griefs, and wrongs, and needs. Long life your paper will give hope and encourageto it ! I send you my heartiest greetings .-ment to the women who are in need, and R. Blatchford. enable you also to more widely apply your experience and knowledge on their behalf. C. W. Bowerman, M.P. You deserve success and our help to ensure 'I have read with considerable interest and it."-I. R. Clynes.

pleasure the initial number of The Woman Worker. Evidence of earnestness of purpose is apparent in every line within its for so long championed the cause of the women workers, and who are devoting their lives to help them to raise their position and increase their happiness and prosperity, the success of the journal is assured."-C. W.

'Best wishes for the success of The Woman Worker. If the new paper helps Bowerman. to organise women workers, it will be a G. H. Roberts. M.P. great blessing. Under your editorship it No greater service can be rendered to ought to succeed, and I feel confident that the cause of progress and social betterment it will."-F. W. Jowett.



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hood, is a feat to be celebrated in more

columns than The Woman Worker can

Here it is possible only to take a rapid

glance at the accomplishments of the great

The Women.

about 100 delegates the opportunity to listen to encouraging accounts of what their sister

women in different nations were doing for

Trade Unionism and Socialism. From Fin-

land, where the women have just won the

vote, we had the first woman M.P.; and her

eloquence, which was copious, was not more

so than that in which many of her continental

fervour and determination with which

women everywhere are fighting for an im-

proved condition. Miss Macarthur gave

ised, and she was given many greetings for

them from delegates, many of whom had

much less favourable situations to deal with.

Among these were the Russian delegates,

with a sad report of little Unions, built up

with infinite care and devotion, to be harried

and broken by despotic authorities. Russia,

colleagues gave impressive narratives of the

The Women's Congress met first and gave

easily afford.

Stuttgart International.

THE WOMAN WORKER



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Enoch Edwards, M.P.

" I heartily welcome your new paper, and covers, and in the hands of those who have trust The Woman Worker may secure the success the cause so richly deserves."-Enoch Edwards.

F. W. Jowett, M.P.

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Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour be-longs to a more prosperous competitor, He waiting women bening. "Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Per-ret, suavely. He waits a moment, but the girl's

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the girl rment in her astonishing three tucks Five tucks and eves. There's en tucks and l with featherderneath as

Prize Propaganda Letters.

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DEAR MR. EDITOR,—In the attempt to popularise The Woman Worker, I have sold copies at factory gates when the women have been coming out, and have placed others in the Mile End and Limehouse have placed others in the value End and Endenbuse Libraries. I have given away copies to those who could not afford to buy them, or would not buy them, and have placed several in station waiting-rooms, and in tramcars and 'buses. At the East London Shop Assistant open-air meetings I have shown the picture "Sacred Motherhood" to the crowd, quoting Hood's "Song of the Shirt". Hood's "Song of the Shirt'

"With fingers weary and worn, With eyelids heavy and red, A woman sat in unwomanly rags Plying her needle and thread." R. THURLOWAY.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,-I hope, as you anticipate, a good many readers of The Woman Worker will be anxious to help in making the magazine known. I at least am one of these, therefore am writing to tell at least am one of these, therefore am writing to tell you what I have done to popularise the magazine. I like the magazine very much, and can conscien-tiously ask people to read it, which I do. I have talked about it and tried to arouse the sporting instinct by urging all to compete for one or other of the prizes, while promising to do so also myself. I have asked those who have bought a copy to recommend it to their friends. At a Co-operative Conference I asked those with whom I came in con-tact if they had read the new magazine. As a Conference I asked those with whom I came in con-tact if they had read the new magazine. As a result I had several inquiries about it, and had the pleasure of sending a copy to friends in Harwich, Rochester, Woolstan, Portslade, Battersea, etc. I have left one on the waiting-room table at the railway station and here select on the select of the second seco have left one on the waiting-room table at the railway station, and have asked one of our librarians to have some on the table, and in this way he has sold three. Lastly, I am asking our Trade Union friends to present their wives with the new maga-zine, and have given copies to friends who might be in a position to bring it to the notice of a larger in a position to bring it to the notice of a larger circle of women. This, however, is what is known as a residential locality, and the "woman workers" mainly consist of domestic servants, laundresses, and dressmakers, so that there is not the opportunity for propaganda there is where many work together at a trade. Wishing the magazine prosperity, I am, Yours, E. E. M. ALLEN.

Miss ADA THOMPSON, of New Sharlston, near Wakefield, writes that she bought a copy of *The Woman Worker* at a meeting addressed by Mr. Sum-merbell, M.P., and read it subsequently with great interest. She thinks it admirable, wishes it were a weekly, and can hardly wait with patience for the second number. Miss Thompson sends a short article, which it is hoped to publish in a future number.

* * *

MR. A. J. SMITH, of London, writes similarly. He hopes all Trade Unions will advertise their branch meetings in *The Woman Worker*. Especi-ally he hopes that readers of *The Woman Worker* any he hopes that readers of *The Woman Worker* will do their utmost to get any women clerks they know to join the Clerks' Union. Mr. Smith enumer-ates the hardships of a clerk's lot, and urges Unionism as the remedy.

MISS J. ROSEMAN, of Manchester, says that the paper is a new interest, and gives her something to look forward to. She hopes it may induce workgirls to stick together, as in her trade (she is a machinist) they undersell one another, and make living wage impossible.

LEGAL ADVICE.

FREE legal advice on industrial matters will be given to any of our readers who require it. Complaints as to bad conditions, long hours, insufficient meal times, fines, deductions, bad sanitary arrangements, are invited, and will be treated in strict confidence. Enclose name and address, which will not be divulged, and a "pen" name for publication.

Jenny (Blackpool).-It is certainly illegal for young girls to be employed more than eighty hours per week. The Shop Hours Act, however, is not satisfactorily administered in many places. We are advising the proper authorities. Why does not Jenny join the Shop Assistants' Union?

John J.-Such fines as you quote are iniquitous. We do not think that a deduction of 2/6 from 6/2 wages could possibly be termed fair and reasonable, even by a magistrate giving judgment under the Truck Act. Send further particulars.

Rose H .- We have seen many rules, but the list you send is certainly the most extraordinary in our experience. We are forwarding the complaint to the proper quarter, but don't you think the girls would do well to join the Federation? If they all joined, we should very soon get their grievances redressed, and there is certainly room for an increase in the wages you quote.

Florence L. (Kensington) .- Yes, under the circumstances you are entitled, we think, to a week's wages in lieu of notice. We have written to the employer as you authorised us to do, and, if necessary, we shall be prepared to take your case to court.

Domestic Servant, L. H.-Your case is a hard one, but over-work is not an accident under the Act. We are writing to your late employer, and hope something may be We are also trying to get you a done ticket for a convalescent home.

Mrs. D. (Fulham) .--- You have made a great mistake to settle your claim for $\pounds 4$. Had you applied to us in time, we could easily have secured for you 8/- per week, and probably later on a substantial lump sum

THE WOMAN WORKER

Our Portrait Gallery.

2. MISS MARGARET G. BONDFIELD

(Assistant Secretary Shop Assistants' Union.)

THE subject of this month's sketch is a winsome little woman, with a voice that is sheer music. Margaret Bondfield is a



Somerset lass who planned to be a teacher, but, after a short period of employment n school, left for Brighton, where she went behind the counter. She has vivid memories of her first contact with industry. Behind a small drapery counter," she once said to me, "one may find the dust not merely of a shop but of a civilisation." Behind such a counter one may get nearer to the heart of commercialism and competition than did Cobden or any of the economists." In shop employment Miss Bondfield came face to face with fines, arbitrary dismissals, overtime, under-payment, and the hundred special evils that are summed up under the name of "Living-in."

Miss Bondfield was not the woman to endure such conditions tamely. She broke into quick revolt, and did her utmost to rouse the crushed spirits about her.

In the early years of its career she joined the Shop Assistants' Union, and attracted attention by her fiery zeal in working for reform. The young Union appreciated the efforts of its gifted recruit, and in 1897 showed its wisdom by making her assistant showed its wisdom by making her assistant secretary. Thenceforward Miss Bondfield has laboured tirelessly for shop life improve-ment, and the National Union, which has now upwards of 22,000 members, owes very much to her ability and devotion. She has been its splendid spokeswoman at

place on that committee next year ! MAY DAY MESSAGE. "The primroses are carpeting the hollows; the hedges and copses, with their myriad forms of life, are daily growing more beautiful—and I fain would 'go a-maying' as in the olden times, and with joyous song herald the coming of Spring. "But these simple joys are buried under the found-ations of Capitalism, and instead we gather in great crowds—over-worked and workless men and tired women-to protest against the absence of light and laughter, to stimulate a healthy discontent with the daily drudgery of our lot, and a yearning for the good things of life-healthy minds in strong bodies, sweet, clean dwellings, nature's bountiful gifts of flowers, grasses, and green fields-the music of the sea and the wind. 'It is not within our power to command all these

 Walt Whitman.
Russell Lowell.
Russell Lowell.
Russell Lowell.
Russell Lowell.
Russell Lowell.
PORTIA.
PORTIA.
MARY R. MACARTHUR.
Mars J. R. Machonalo
Macho The Simple Life The True Atheism -Complaints and the Law. Talks with the Doctor Trade Union Notes Women's Labour League * N.B.—The facts contained in this article fictitious.—Ep. He waits a moment, but the girl's passion has already waned, and he adds, "You'd better put an extra tuck Women's News of the Week. on the sleeves

Miss Bondfield's activity has not, however, been confined to work for the shop assistant, who, she realises, is but one of many who are wronged. She is in touch with all phases of the reform movement a member of the committee of the Women's Trade Union League, president of the Adult Suffrage Society, and a prominent member of the Social Democratic Federation, on whose platforms her splendid rhetoric is heard to its best effect. Oratory is, indeed, the greatest of Miss Bondfield's gifts, for she has the birthright of noble speech, and at will can lend her beautiful voice that subtle monotony that stirs the blood like a trumpet call. She is happy in any vein, but happiest when contemplating large ideas of friendship and brotherhood in the mood of her characteristic May Day message to the Swansea Labour Demonstration, which is given below

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Meetings, and before Parliamentary Committees. She has conducted special investigations into shop conditions, read papers before learned societies, and written much in newspapers and magazines.

It remains to be added that only Miss Bondfield's absence from this year's Trades Union Congress prevented her election to the Parliamentary Committee, for which on several occasions she has been given a heavy poll. May she take her well-deserved

She has been its splendid spokeswoman at Trade Union Congresses, Labour Party ship, "a sense of oneness with our kind," without which the most perfectly-planned social system is foredoomed to failure."

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ENNY.

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ies the girl irment in her astonishing three tucks Five tucks and eves. There' tucks and l with feather

THE PARABLE OF THE FOOLISH IRISHMAN. By MARY R. MACARTHUR.

THIS story of the foolish Irishman is a workers affiliated to the Women's Trade favourite one of mine, and many of you have Union League. He surrendered unconheard me tell it more than once; still, its ditionally, and the girls returned to work lesson is so important that I do not apologise at their old wages. But they had learned a lesson and no longer posted danger notices, for repeating it. Those of you who have visited hilly like the foolish Irishman, at the foot of the districts must often have noticed the familiar hill. Right at the top of the hill the employers signpost at the top of a steep hill, "Warn- can now read the warning, "We are all members of our Trade Union, and will ing to Cyclists. This Hill is Dangerous." unitedly resist injustice and wrong.

Our Irishman was engaged by the Cyclists' Club to post these notices up in a certain mountainous district. When the inspector came round he was surprised to find the notices placed at the foot of the hill instead of at the top, and he proceeded to soundly upbraid Patrick for his folly. "What do you mean," he shouted, "by putting these the accident happened. notices at the foot of the hill?" "Shure, where else would I be putting them?" said Pat. " Isn't it at the foot that the accident always happens?"

A great many women workers, who may laugh at this story, are not so unlike this foolish Irishman as they may suppose. They also wait too often till the accident happens. I remember some time ago receiving an urgent message asking me to go at once to East London, where some one hundred girls employed by a well-known blacking firm had gone out on strike, because their wages had been reduced from ten shillings and twelve shillings per week to five shillings and six shillings. I asked them what they hoped to gain by the strike, as they had no organisation to protect them, and as their employer knew starvation would force their surrender before many days. One girl, with a touch of bitter wit, replied, "We might as well

starve out here as starve inside, filling those dirty blacking bottles. It's starvation anyhow, either way. Needless to say, I did not lack sympathy

with her point of view, but, as I pointed out, had they all belonged to a Trade Union, and had their employer been sure that the resistance could be maintained for weeks, he would never have ventured to so shamefully reduce their already scanty earnings. After events proved I was right. The girls at the eleventh hour became Trade Unionists. Later I interviewed the employer, represent-

The Sim	ple Life V	Valt Whitman.
The Tru	e Atheism B	Russell Lowell.
Complaints	and the Law.	
11		PORTIA.
Talks with	the Doctor	
		Dr. X.Y.Z.
Trade Unio	u Notes	
	MARY	R. MACARTHUR.
Women's La	bour League	
	Mrs. J.	R. MacDONALD.
Women's No	ws of the Week.	,
Wonten's No	two of the Week.	the first start was a

Hark ! that rustle of a dress Stiff with lawish costliness ! Here comes one whose cheek would Aush But to have her garment brush Gainst the girl whose fingers thin Wove the weary 'broidery in Bending backward from her to

And borne upon the wings of Time There comes to beautify the earth The era of Democracy-

* *

Ethel Carnie.

Some Spring to a Mill Girl.

Oh, sister from the mill, come out; We've made for thee a bonny dress. To meet thee in a merry rout

Daisies and daffodillies press, The birds, thy brothers, fly about. Dear sister from the mill, come out.

Oh, sister from the mill, come out ! Put off thy pallor and distress; Thy dolour, sister, never doubt

Will vanish at my light caress. Old Toil, the Tyrant, thou mayst flout. Dear sister from the mill, come out.

Oh, sister from the mill, come out And dance, and taste the sun, and bless The gods that put the fiends to rout That held thee in a vile duress. They're dead that held thee, and I shout :

Dear sister from the mill, come out !

P. Fenton.

A Twentieth Century Song.

28

Arise ! ye men of heart and mind : The world has need of earnest souls. Come, lay aside your garb of fear, And loiter not when duty calls.

Come, men of intellect most keen, Lift Freedom's banner to the skies; Its folds are dyed with the life-blood

Of martyrs brave. Arise! Arise!

Old Superstition's cankering chains Are weakening 'neath the grasp of Time; Slowly the people's mind awakes Unto this symphony divine :

" Arise ! Life's fairest things are yours, Its beauty, melody, and light;

The flower that springeth from the seed By Labour sown is Labour's right.'

Behold the peasant, as he toils From pearly morn to day's last blush, Has scarcely time to pause and list

Unto the carol of the thrush.

Beneath the burning noonday sun, Wearily pacing, till the night Brings a short draught of peace and rest,

To vanish with the break of light.

But Freedom, footsore though she be, Still presses on to meet mankind;

And Justice, with the scales in hand, With every hour becomes less blind.

Lest her tears the silk might spoil And in midnight's chill and murk Stitched her life into the work -LOWELL PRIZE POEM.

THE WOMAN WORKER

No mortal power can stay its birth.

Most of you must remember cases in which your wages have been docked, prices arbitrarily reduced, or unjust fines inflicted. All the rebellion latent in you has surged to the surface, but resistance has been either futile or impossible, because you waited until

I ask you, therefore, to join your Union to-day, so that next time you are faced with an injustice you may be able to fight it successfully, with the assistance not only of your immediate fellow-workers, but with the additional help of the great army of organised workers throughout the country.

There is another consideration : sickness or loss of work may overtake you. In your Union you can insure against either. If you join the National Federation of Women Workers on the "B" scale, you receive a weekly allowance when medically certified as ill. If you join on the "C" scale, you also receive an allowance if you are out of work through no fault of your own.

You may get into legal difficulties, you may be dismissed from your work without notice, you may have an accident for which you ought to receive compensation. If you are a member of the Union, the best legal advice is placed at your disposal free of charge. Again and again a week's wages in lieu of notice has been secured for girls who have been illegally dismissed. Again and again compensation-in several cases as much as £100-has been secured for girls who have met with an accident in the course of their employment.

Once more I say to you, don't wait until the accident happens-don't wait till the rain comes on to think about getting an umbrellå. An umbrella protects you from the storm. A Trade Union will protect you and ing his employees, who were backed in their help you in almost any difficulty or trial struggle by the hundred thousand women which may beset you in your industrial life.

127

ENNY.

Leeds Not who conduct lines.

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Mr. Perret is not the originator of nis brilliant scheme; that honour be-ret, suavely. He waits a moment, but the girl's He waits a moment, and he

feathering at

* N.B.—The facts contained in this article re vouched for. Names are. of course, ctitious.—En.

29

"PUT TO THE PROOF."-Concluded. By CONSTANCE SMITH.

him to treat as a child absorbed in a new become acute. plaything-was struggling painfully on the brink of the gravest decision she had ever again. Margaret said her prayers over the been called upon to make in her young life. The grievance of those three hundred girls in her factory whose cause she had set herself to champion were great and increasing. The heads of the firm declined firmly to discuss them with any representative deputa- Margaret heard a familiar knock at the tion of workers. The men's unions were looking on indifferently, having, as Fred Sewell rightly prophesied, rejected by a large majority the appeal of the women for membership. Suddenly, Messrs. Backhouse, having engaged in an ingenious scheme for cutting prices, made a reduction of wages in several of the women's departments. The girls affected were disposed to resist this reduction, which in their case meant exchanging a bare living wage for a pittance on which it was scarcely possible to exist; and, very reluctantly, Margaret judged that the moment had come for calling out the members of her union in support of their fellows. These skilled workers could ill be spared by the firm for so much as a few weeks, and a strike on their part dismayed. All her fears had never pictured might therefore be reasonably expected to a return like this. He had spoken no word bear fruit.

30

She announced her opinion at a general meeting of the union, specially summoned, and not a voice was uplifted save in approval. But all the enthusiasm of her fellow-workers could not lift the load of responsibility for action from Margaret's shoulders. The choice had been hers; she knew that they would follow wherever she led. Was she leading them in the right and their friends. As long as I supposed direction?

This was one question that lay heavy at her heart. And another-thrust again and again aside, but ever forcing itself anew Margaret's eyes. upon her troubled consciousness-was, What will Bernard say?"

He had been a fortnight absent from Oldfield, engaged in a special piece of work demanding all his time and attention. Much depended on its execution, since success yet. They've offered me the post of librarian would probably bring in its train an appoint- there. You must see for yourself, now, ment good enough to permit of his marrying that it's impossible for you to go on with

Meanwhile, Margaret-whom it pleased that the chronic trouble at Backhouse's had

Now a few days would see him back letter in which she wrote of the step her union was taking, and lay awake all night after posting it.

The post brought no answer to her communication, but on the following evening door. Opening, she found herself face to face with Bernard White, wearing such a look as she, at least, had never seen him wear before.

"Bernard! We didn't expect you till Saturday.

"I only came on account of your letter. I must go back by the night train. Come in here

Bernard led the way into the little sittingroom, which was empty, and shut the door. "Look here, Margaret, you must give up this strike business-give it up at once, you understand.

The young man's voice was harsh, his manner imperious. Margaret paled and flushed as she stood before him, utterly of greeting-scarcely touched the hand she held out to him.

'But I don't understand," she faltered. 'How can I give it up. You never made any objection to my being secretary of the union.

"Because I never dreamed of your engaging in these idiotic proceedings-getting yourself talked of in the newspapers and abused all over the place by the Backhouses the thing to be a mere harmless amusement I put up with it, but now----!"

There came a dangerous gleam into

"I always told you it was no matter of amusement to me," she rejoined.

"Amusement or not, you must let it go. Fancy my wife-! It would undo me at Cray altogether. I forgot-you don't know immediately. It was during his absence this thing. I presume you don't wish to

ruin me," seeing her face did not change. Do you mean that my having organised strike would-if we marry-entail the loss vour appointment?"

Bernard White hesitated a moment.

N-no, I wouldn't quite say that. But would do me-do us both-infinite harm ocially. We should never take our proper lace in Cray. It's a question of that.' Her pale face flamed suddenly.

And for the girls-three hundred of hem-it's a question of enough to keep ody and soul together.'

He flushed too.

Well, you must choose between themnd me," he retorted sullenly.

The cloud like a man's hand had spread ill it covered the whole heavens. Margaret ooked up appalled into the universal black-When she had craved an opportunity ness. of sacrifice, she did not think that sacrifice would be so bitter. * *

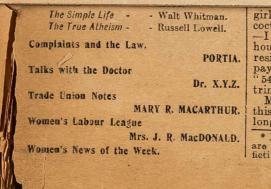
To this day the successful strike at Backhouse's is quoted as an example of brilliant organisation. It ended in victory all along he line : grievances redressed, the right of ombination among women workers coneded, a foundation laid for future equitable egotiations between employers and emloved; and the famous Trade Union eader who came down from London to pronounce his blessing on the final settlenent concurred with the equally famous awyer who had acted as arbitrator in refering the happy issue of a complicated affair hiefly to the tact, wisdom, and industry of the union secretary, Miss Margaret Read.

I suspect Miss Margaret is pretty cock--hoop after all these flowery tributes," Fred Sewell remarked, as he laid down the Oldfield Times and Mirror one day towards the end of September.

Poor Margaret! I don't think Mr. ackson's compliments will do much to comfort her," was his sister Amy's rejoinder.

To comfort !" echoed Milly Lambert, who had lately become engaged to the distinguished ornament of the Oldfield Debating Society. "Oh, you mean that she quarrelled with Mr. White over the matter. Still, if she could give him up for a thing like that "-the speaker shot an expressive glance at her Fred-" she can't care much for him.'

'You don't, either of you, understand The first instalment will appear in our November Number. Margaret one bit," Amy said.



THE WOMAN WORKER

Dational Federation of Momen Morkers. . .

31

The General Objects of the Society are-

1. To unite, for their mutual protection, workwomen who are engaged in unorganised trades. 2. To improve the conditions of employment of working women; to watch their interests, and secure the redress of individual or collective grievances.

To regulate the relations between employer and employed

To secure fair payment for services rendered. To give legal aid to members.

To give regar and to members.
To provide a weekly allowance for members been ill or out of employment.
To financially support members who may be volved in a dispute, with the sanction of the dentity.

Federation

8. To bring all members in touch with one another by means of social gatherings, and in such other ways as may promote comradeship and recreation

Entrance fee, 6d. Contributions : Class A, Id.; Class B, 3d.; Class C, 4¹/₂d.

Class A entitles to Trade protection

(a) Assistance generally in raising wages and improving working conditions;
(b) Free legal advice;

(c) Dispute pay.

Class B entitles to all benefits under Class A, and, in addition, a weekly allowance for a stated period when medically certified as ill, and marriage dowry as per Rule XII.

Class C, all benefits of Class A and B, and, in addition, an allowance to members when unemployed through no fault of their own, and marriage dowry as per Rule XII.

Rule books, 1d. each. Contribution cards, 1d. each.

Further information may be obtained from the general secretary, MISS LOUISA HEDGES, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

Look out for ----

OUR SERIAL STORY, "PARTNERS."

The Story of a Man and a Woman.

Written specially for "The Woman Worker,"

CONSTANCE HINTON SMITH.

127



ENNY.

n Leeds Not who conduct lines.

's busy time. wait in a row ntents of their

ese 'ere gowns istomers, Mrs. ly to one of oking women. Why, it ain't artic'ler about

I don't maike ar for that lot the woman

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girls as Mr. Perret. He is the con-cocter of the specious advertisement and -I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed." Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour be longs to a more prosperous competitor, *N.B.—The facts contained in this article

* N.B.—The facts contained in this article are vouched for. Names are. of course, fictitious.—Ep. passion has already waned, and he adds. "You'd better put an extra tuck on the sleeves!"

BOOKS FOR THE WOMAN WORKER.

By ELLEN M. CREAK.

woman and because she is a worker, needs life. For the sake, then, of fitting herself books. For as the days of oppression and for the share she has undertaken in the conscious degradation fall away and give work of social reform, as well as for the place to freedom and self-respect, the sake of her own clearness of mind and woman worker must see to it that, lifted to a more honourable level as to work and wages, she does not lag behind in the intellectual life. Rather she must be filled with the social spirit, and give active and systematised help towards the coming of the good time. She has taken her place in the forward ranks now for good and all. And in this, as in every struggle, the emotions, the hopes, the indignations, the patient waitings, must, if the issue is to be a worthy one, be regulated by the mind. The problems of individual and collective life must be first of all understood before they can be fairly and thoroughly dealt with.

32

Now the supreme value of books is the aid they give towards the understanding of life. Reading and observation, thinking about what has been read and observedthese are necessary to the making and carrying out of plans of social salvation. Ultimately, indeed, it all resolves itself into observation. For what we read is what someone else has observed, and what he has thought about it. And because in the case of each of us (and this applies in a general way even more to women than to men) the sphere of observation is so very limited, it is of importance that we should enlarge it by making use of the observations and thoughts of others. For the understanding of life, then, we use books. Not always with this conscious purpose. We use them for what we call amusement: to vary the deadly monotony of the daily work and surroundings; to secure an hour's forgetfulness of care and trouble. But the craving thus satisfied is an unconscious desire to know life-to know even more of it than it happens to be showing to one's self to hand, "The Reader's Review," to be at the moment. Whether the woman reads published by the Home Reading Union for her amusement or with the definite aim and the Libraries' Association. From this of gaining knowledge and "improving herself," all that she reads (provided always those who are too busy to look up such that the book be honest and wholesome) is things for themselves.

THE woman worker, both because she is a so much help towards the understanding of breadth of sympathy, which shall in turn react upon her companions, and especially her children, the woman worker must read.

The question "What shall I read?" may have the widest answer. Anything that you enjoy and that is good of its kind. Literature is the treasure-house of human thought and experience. Dip into it where you will you find the warmth of life. Touch that warmth, and your own life will be the fuller for the knowledge of what human nature has done and thought and felt. Poetry, history, travels, biography-all these and more are ready to hand. If fiction be your choice, it is not a choice to be ashamed of. For there you have love and adventure and hate and joy and sorrow; and these are life; and with the understanding of life comes the desire and the power to regulate it.

No money for books and no time for reading is urged by many a busy woman. Yet the supply of cheap books is growing every day; and even now a large number of the best that have ever been written in any kind may be bought for a few pence apiece, or at most a shilling. And the free lending libraries are growing in scope and usefulness. As for the lack of time, even those who are so hard pressed that so much as a quarter of an hour cannot be spared from the day's continuous duties, may open a book and read one sentence-one rememberable sentence. Collections of such sentences, written by some of the greatest thinkers of the world, may be bought for one penny.

A new aid to the choice of books is just we expect much valuable information for



The Editor reserves all rights to publish unsuccessful contributions. Send name and address with each contribu-

PRIZE AWARDS.

Propaganda Prize. 10/-

is divided between the two competitors whose letters appear under "Correspond- reader who obtains the largest number of ence." Five shillings each have therefore been sent to Mr. RALPH THURLOWAY, 7, Selsey Street, Limehouse, London, E., and Miss E. E. Allen, Roydene, Reigate.

stead, Woolwich.

Contribution Prize. 5|-

has been awarded to Miss ETHEL CARNIE, 76, Windsor Road, Great Harwood, for her original poem, "A Twentieth - Century Song," published on page 28.

(Miss Carnie is a textile worker, and is only 21 years old. We prophesy a future for her.)

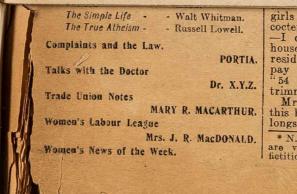
Suggestion Prize.

has been awarded to Miss ETHEL DRAKE, 55, Tosson Terrace, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, who suggests a Dressmaking and Needlework column, with hints for the cutting out and making up of simple garments

(We will try to adopt this suggestion in an early issue.)

Free Lecture Prize.

The largest number of copies sold by any recipe appears on page 34. single local organisation was 1,462, by the Workers.



THE WOMAN WORKER

33

PRIZE OFFERS.

Subscription Prize. 5|-

We offer a prize of five shillings to the new subscribers to The Woman Worker. Annual subscription, 1s. 6d. post free. In addition to this, we offer to send The Woman Worker for one year free of charge Honourable mention is given to Mrs. to all readers who secure six new sub-STEVENSON, 9, White Hart Road, Plum- scribers. (Subscription forms free on application.)

Distribution Prize. 5|-

We offer a prize of five shillings to the individual reader who sells or distributes the largest number of Woman Worker's during October. Copies may be had on sale or return at 9d. per dozen, or 8s. 6d. per gross.

Contribution Prize. 5|-

We offer a prize of five shillings for the best contribution suitable for publication in the magazine. The contribution may be a short story, article, or an original joke or anecdote. Preference will be given this month to a short story.

Recipe Prize. 5|-

has been won by Mrs. E. FEY, 62, Finch Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, whose

We offer a prize of five shillings for the Dundee and District Union of Jute and Flax best cooking recipe or household hint, preferably written on a postcard.

Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour be-longs to a more prosperous competitor, * N.B.—The facts contained in this article are vouched for. Names are. of course, fictitions.—Ep. fictitions -- En

girls as Mr. Perret. The is the con-cocter of the specious advertisement and -I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed." the wrists, and there is feathering at lace at the neck. I tell you it can't be done, Mr. Perret, for less than three-pence halfpenny. It's dirt cheap at that. It takes me four hours 'ard to do one, and then there's thread to pay for." feathering at

There's a murmur of sympathy from the waiting women behind. "Well, three shillin's," says Mr. Per-

on the sleeves!



INNY.

Leeds, Not who conduct lines.

's busy time. wait in a row ntents of their

ese 'ere gowns stomers. Mrs. to one of Why, it ain't artic'ler about

I don't maike ar for that lot the woman

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lot-five and re payin' too res," he says. e at two an

the girl rment in her astonishing three tucks Five tucks and ves. There's n tucks and with featherderneath as

Every Lady should know hat Southalls' Sanitary Towels are a comfort, convenience, and saving of the cost of washing, and an absolute necessity to health-**SOUTHALLS'** Towels the greatest invention of the age for women's comfort, are sold in silver packets, each containing one dozen, by drapers, ladies' outfitters and mists everywhere. A trial will immediately convince that there is no real substitute for these goods. A Sample Facket containing six towels in the four standard sizes, post see for 6 stamps from the Lady Manager, 17, Bull Street, Birmingham. Southalls' Compressed Towels—tiny silver packets only 24 inches long. ze A, 1d. B, 13. C, 2d.

Home Hints.

HUNDREDS of excellent cooking recipes and household hints have been sent in, and it has been difficult to decide which was best.

The following recipe, sent in by Mrs. E. Fey, Birmingham, is economical, original, and tasty, and has been awarded the prize. (See page 33.)

Savoury Pie.

34

Solvery Pie. Put $1\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. butter or dripping in saucepan and 1 lb. Spanish onions; let cook gently near fire, but not near enough to burn, for twenty minutes. Then chop 1 lb. of tomatoes and lay on top, and then 1 lb. of potatoes on top of tomatoes. Put lid on and let cook gently till the potatoes are cooked through through.

Aunt Jean says that it was a stupendous task to adjudge this prize. She wishes she had had fifty prizes to award, so varied and excellent were many of the recipes and hints sent in.

Sponge Cake. Beat 2 eggs well, add 4 ozs. castor sugar. Beat again. Mix 2 ozs. flour and 2 ozs. ground rice and add to egg and sugar. Add 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder or Paisley flour. Bake in a hot oven about 15 minutes.—Mrs. Drake, Heaton, Neucastle-on-Tune.

Madeira Cabe

Madeira Cake. Ingredients : $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. butter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. castor sugar, rind of 1 lemon, 6 eggs, and 2 ozs. candied peel. Beat the butter as a cream, and dredge in the flour, then the sugar and lemon-rind, and lastly the eggs well whisked. Beat the mixture well, put into a buttered tin, garnish the top with peel cut in thin slices, and bake in a moderate oven about one and a buff to two hours. Mrs. Steeenson Plumstead

thin slices, and bake in a moderate oven about one and a half to two hours.—Mrs. Stevenson, Plumstead Almond Cheesecakes. Pound well together 4 ozs. cooking almonds, with the same quantity of castor sugar. Beat I egg and mix together thoroughly. Line some patty-pans with good pastry, fill with the almond mixtures,

place bars of pastry across, and bake in a moderate en.-R. Parker, Jarrow. A further selection from the recipes and

hints sent in by our readers will appear next month.

This is one of the lightest ways of using cold meat

Savoury Shape. Half-pound cold meat finely chopped, 3 ozs. bread-

crumbs, 2 ozs. suet finely minced, little grated nut-meg, ¹/₄-teaspoonful curry powder, ¹/₄-teaspoonful herbs, 2 teaspoonfuls browned breadcrumbs, 1 or abasin with butter, cover surface with browned crumbs. Mix all other ingredients in order given above, put all in basin, and cover with greased paper. Steam an hour. Serve with brown sauce.

Breakfast-cupful daintily flaked cold fish, boiled rice, tablespoonful butter, teaspoonful chopped parsley, hard-boiled egg chopped, salt and pepper. Melt butter in pan, toss in lightly other ingredients, and stir over fire till hot. Pile lightly in hot asket, nd garnish with parsley

teaspoonful of fine sugar added to all vegetables when cooking aids digestion. AUNT JEAN.

The terrible infant death-rate in this country is one of the ugliest of blots on twentieth-century civilisation. One of its causes is undoubtedly improper feeding. When mothers are unable to nurse their infants, pure milk, modified by scientific preparations so as to make cow's milk an efficient substitute for

so as to make cow's milk an efficient substitute for human milk, is the only scientifically satisfactory diet. Cow's milk not treated by these methods is un-suited for infant digestion. Of the modified milks, Allenburys Milk Foods, prepared on scientific principles, from pure and clean cow's milk, are altogether suited to their purpose. By their use digestive troubles are avoided, and a thoroughly effective food,

THE WOMAN WORKER

THE SAFEST MEDICINE

For Bilious and Liver Complaints, Indigestion, Wind, Nervous Depression, Loss of Appetite, Irritability, Lassitude, Dyspepsia, Heartburn, Lowness of Spirits, Gidd.ness, &c.

AS A GENERAL FAMILY APERIENT MEDICINE

Composed of the Finest Drugs. Gentle and Tonic in their action. Certain in their Curative effects. They can be taken at any time, without inconv

They cleanse the Stomach from all impurities. They Stimulate the Liver to healthy action. They Strengthen the Nervous System, restore and preserve

HEALTH, STRENGTH, AND VITALITY. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes, $1/1\frac{1}{2}$; and three times the quantity, 2/9.

A FREE SAMPLE BOX

Will be sent to all who write, enclosing a penny stamp to cover postage (mentioning this paper), to W. LAMBERT, 47, Lime Grove, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

Letter from Miss Louisa Hedges. DEAR FRIENDS,—I hope all branches will send in branch reports for the magazine not later than the 15th of every month. The few which have been sent this month are very Labour League, the National Amalgamated Society of Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters, the National Anti-sweating League (local branch), and many other organisations will take part. It is hoped that the conference will hasten organisation among the many something, no matter how short, for insertion in the magazine. No doubt this kind of thing is new to some, but do not let that thought keep you from women workers in Birmingahm, who badly need it.

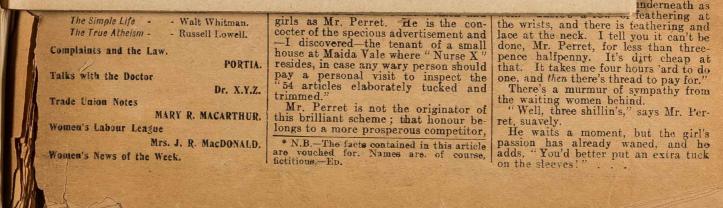
writing. Send something, and you will be surprised to find that you all possess great talent in this direction. It is so pleasant to get these accounts at the Head Office, and will be far more pleasant to the Head Office, and will be far more pleasant to the readers of the magazine than anything I can write. I am very pleased to report the formation of a branch in Norwich—the result of a week's organis-ing work by Mrs. Pete Curran. Everyone seems delighted with the magazine and its contents, and I feel sure that through it the members will be brought into closer touch with one another. Trusting to hear from you all as to more

another. Trusting to hear from you all next month, Yours fraternally, LOUISA HEDGES (General Secretary).

Branch Reports.

Bournville. — Our Bournville correspondent writes : This branch would be better known as the Bourn-ville "Card Box Department" Branch, all the 286 members being from that department. It is hoped during the winter to spread the movement into other

Hull. — Although quite recently formed, the Hull branch are making good headway, and the members working very hard. Miss Hall, the secretary, writes : "We have a pleasant social evening every week, and these have been instrumental in bringing At the September committee, one of the members was prevailed upon to act as secretary, on trial. A man is secretary at present, which is, of course, not forward more members from other factories in the town besides the tin works. The magazines are very much appreciated, as well." quite in order. The next general gathering (October 2nd) is to be



Dr. SCOTT'S PILLS

ARE UNEQUALLED.

Clerkenwell. -- Miss Hilary reports that the Clerkenwell Dressmakers have had a very enjoyable outing at Hadley Woods. Those who were present had a real good time, and they are feeling in fine trim for the work of organisation they are to attempt this winter.

Edmonton - The garden party mentioned in the September number took place on August 31st, and was even a greater success than any of the socials which preceded it. The grounds of the "Cedars," at Tottenham, where it was held, were beautifully decorated, the weather fine, and everyone had come fully prepared to enjoy the party. Needless to say, they succeeded in doing this, and the only regret is, it is now too late in the season for another; but never mind, our socials during the winter are eagerly being discussed by all the members of this branch.

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Oxford. - Miss Leng writes: "We now have the ajority of the workers at our firm in the Union," us to talk to the girls who remain at present outside the Union." and think we shall very soon succeed in converting those outside. We are delighted with Mrs. Pete Curran. She and Miss Elvery spoke splendidly at the garden party which Mr. F. Charles so kindly Scottenber uth We have the garden party which Mr. P. Charles so kindly gave to our members on September 14th. We have to thank Mr. Watkins and all the members of Ruskin College for the help they are giving to us. We are holding our meetings the last Friday in the menth.

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Taunton.—Miss Spence writes : "We had a meet-ing at the Club Room on August 31st, at which Miss Hedges was the chief speaker. Much regret was felt by all at the absence of Miss Macarthur through illness. We are pleased to report that, in spite of a few of our members falling off, the new ones have more than made up for the deficiency. Wellattended committee meetings are held every alternate week. We are making 'Go forward!' our watch-

Woolwich - Mrs. Stevenson writes : " On March Woolwich — Mrs. Stevenson writes : "On March 16th, at an Anti-sweating League meeting, a public appeal was made by the secretary of the Trades Council for help to organise the women workers. Several responded and promised to help. As a result, Miss Hedges came to Woolwich and met them, and addressed a meeting of girls at Mulgrave Club on the advantages of Trade Unionism. On June 20th we had a public meeting at the Co-opera-tive locitude Parson's Hill when a few girls ioned June 20th we had a public meeting at the Co-opera-tive Institute, Parson's Hill, when a few girls joined the Union. We are only small in numbers as yet, but are hoping for better results as the advantages are better known. Like the snail, I hope we are slow but sure. We are looking forward to a good winter's work here among the girls. It is proposed to have a social evening early in October to enable

Greetings from Women in Printing Trade.

MISS MARY ELVERY writes: The Women's Branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters give their fraternal greetings to all organised women, and through the medium of this much-needed magazine hope to feel more and more their relation to the great family of omen Trade Unionists

Our Union, which was started sixteen years ago by the late Lady Dilke, to whose devotion to the cause of the working woman we hope to be a worthy memorial, is now progressing very steadily. We have 1,300 members, 850 of whom belong to our London Branch. Our other branches are

bridge, St. Albans, Reading, Gravesend, Oxford, and Birmingham. Our editor cannot give me enough space to tell you about all of them, but I should like to say a word about our Oxford Branch, which has been the most successful. This branch has only been in exist-ance four months, but because every git joined it most successful. This branch has only been in exist-ence four months, but because every girl joined it at once they have obtained, instead of a maximum time wage of 11s. 1rd., a minimum wage of 15s. per week. They have secured also the increase in their piece-rates, and have abolished a vicious bonus system. Their secretary, Miss Gomm, and many others, now feel they want to do something to help other dick and women to ordanise that they also other girls and women to organise, that they also may get a just price for the only article they have to sell, namely, their labour.

Just a word about our London Branch : We have ately been able to close down to non-unionists most of the principal shops; we are getting into our ranks a new shop nearly every week, and are becoming known as a force that has to be reckoned with. This month we are discussing a minimum time and piece-work rate for the whole of London which we will endeavour o get recognised by the Master Printers and Allied rades Association. If they refuse—well, we shall work harder than ever at organisation. We have the Printing and Allied Trades to support us, and ultiwe shall obtain our bargain of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

HE Second Annual Conference of the National Federation of Women Workers, will be held on Saturday, 23rd November, at Club Union **Buildings, London. Resolutions** for the Agenda and all Nominations for Committee and Officials should be sent to the General Secretary not later than November 1st.

All Branches should endeavour to send Delegates.

Week End Tickets can be had from most Provincial Districts.

THE WOMAN WORKER

Dr. ALLINSON'S **FOOD** for Babies

o other food can equal it. THE ONLY KNOWN ROYAL TWINS-viz., those of Prince Frederick Charles of Hesse, who are nephews to King Edward VII.—were reared on it, and it is sent regularly to them. FOR SUFFERERS from Stomach Troubles, such as Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Gastric to them. FOR SUFFERERS from Stonach Houses, such as Dyspepta, indigenous, disting Catarrh, Ulcer of the Stomach, and Wasting Diseases, it is the best and cheapest known. It has been the means of many thousands being restored to health, strength, and ability to work. A baby's digestive powers are very limited, and it is therefore one of the primary essentials of robust growth and development that the child should take food which is capable of easy assimilation. The and development that the child should take food which is capacitor of casy austimuted. This ignorance of this fact is the chief reason for the alarming mortality amongst young children. A long and special study of this great question resulted in the introduction of **DR. ALLINSON'S NATURAL FOOD**. The great food specialist designed this preparation with a view to imparting the maximum amount of nutrition to children at a minimum expenditure of digestive energy. It is NOURISHING and SUSTAINING in the HIGHEST DEGREE. Makes flesh, muscle, bone and brain

Dr. ALLINSON'S FOOD FOR BABIES

Chemists, Grocers, Bakers, Corn Dealers, Co-operative Stores and others, in 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d. and 5s Tins.

If any difficulty in obtaining it, a IS. or 2S. 6d. tin containing 4lbs. weight will be sent carriage paid, on receipt of remittance value IS. or 2S. 6d. by

THE NATURAL FOOD COMPANY, LTD., (Room 210) 305, Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green, London, E.

List of Names and Addresses of Branch Secretaries.

ABINGDON.-Miss Leng, 19, Wellington Street,

BATH.-Miss Clark, 73, The Triangle, Bath.

BOURNVILLE,—Mr. J. E. Wain (hon. secretary pro. cm.), 194, Maryvale Road, Bournville. Committee neetings the first Tuesday in each month at the tirchley Institute at 6.30 p.m.

COVENTRY.—Miss Oliver, 14, Alma Street, Coven-y. Meetings held the first and third Wednesdays the month at Alexandra Coffee Tavern, Ford eet, at 8 o'clock. All are welcome.

SHADWELL.-Miss L. Crabbe, 18, Holbrook Road, Plaistow Road, West Ham. Committee meetings, the first Wednesday in each month at the Farrance Street School, Limehouse, E., at 8 p.m. DERBY .- Mr. S. F. Pritchard (hon. secretary pro. m.), 7. Bars Street, Derby.

LONDONDERRY .- Miss McCarron, 2, Stanley Terace, Londonderry.

EDINBURGH.-Miss Milme, 27, St. Leonard's Street,

EDMONTON .--- Miss Murray, 23, Somerford Grove, Park Lane, Tottenham

CLERKENWELL.—Miss L. Hedges, 116, Ivydale Road, Nunhead, London, S.E. Committee meetings the last Friday in each month, at Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, at 8.30 p.m. General meet-ings the last Friday in the months of June, Septem-December, and March.

Walt Whitman. The Simple Life -The True Atheism -Russell Lowell. Complaints and the Law. PORTIA. Talks with the Doctor Dr. X.Y.Z. Trade Union Notes MARY R. MACARTHUR. Women's Labour League Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD. Women's News of the Week.

* N.B.—The facts contained in this article are vouched for. Names are. of course, fictitious.—ED.

Men "I'se getting 'Wincell

MACARTHUR (Dept. X.), AYR, N.B.

HALSTEAD.-Miss Ada Newton, 6, Causeway, Halstead, Essex.

HULL.-Miss Hall, 19, Clarence Avenue, St. Mark Street, Hull.

NORWICH .- Miss M. Bird, 30, Northcote Road, Sprowston, Norwich.

pro. OxFORD.-Miss L. Leng, 19, Wellington Street, ittee Oxford.

PRESTON .- Miss A. Walsh, 215, Newhall Lane, Preston

PAISLEY .- Miss A. Macpherson, 31, New Street,

SILVERTOWN.-Miss L. Gardiner, 19, Buxton Road, Stratford E.

TAUNTON .- Miss F. Jarmen, 1, Jubilee Street, Rowbarton, Taunton.

WHITECMAPEL.-Miss Melsheimer, 22, Scrafton Road, Ilford.

WOOLWICH .-- Mrs. S. E. Stevinson, 9, White Hart Road, Plumstead.

CENTRAL OFFICE.-Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C. General Secretary, Miss Louisa Hedges.

girls as Mr. Perret. He is the con-cocter of the specious advertisement and -I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed." Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour be-longs to a more prosperous competitor, * N.B.—The facts contained in this article

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Trade Union Congress.

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The Trade Union Congress, held at Bath WE have much pleasure in calling attention in September, was attended by 521 dele- to the attempt being made to erect in Longates, representing nearly 2,000,000 organised men and women.

Operators, whilst the National Federation of The need of a clearing house of social reform Women Workers sent Louisa Hedges and has been long felt, and it is clearly stated Mary Macarthur. Miss Tuckwell, Miss in a circular issued by Mr. G. Holroyd Constance Smith, and Miss Elvery were Edwards, on behalf of a committee which amongst the members of the Women's Trade has undertaken to raise funds in order that Union League who were present as visitors.

legal minimum wage in Sweated Industries was carried unanimously.

Bath is not an industrial town, but the meeting for women workers held in the Guildhall was well attended, and a small branch of the Federation was formed later in the week.

The Annual Conference of the League was a great success. Over 250 delegates were present.

Resolutions were passed condemning the wretched Laundry Act passed by the Government, and calling for the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Truck Acts. Next year Congress will be held in

Nottingham. * * *

Women and Wages.

" CONSIDER, too, the wages which our civilisation allots to adult able-bodied women. It is difficult to believe that the 'shilling-aday ' wages of unskilled women in the East End of London, the 6s. or 7s. per week earned by the Belfast rope-maker or the tobacco-worker, or even the 10s. or 12s. earned at piece-work by the skilled linenweaver or Glasgow cotton-mill operative, represents any appreciable advance on the scale of the past generation. Women's wages for unskilled labour still gravitate as a rule pretty close to the subsistence level, below which they can never have sunk for any length of time. Out of the four millions of women who are working for wages at the present time, a very large percentage must be earning practically no better subsistence than their grandmothers did. It is at least doubtful whether any previous age could show so large a total number at this low level."-SYDNEY WEBB, in "Labour in the Longest Reign.'

don a suitable edifice in which the hundred organisations making for social betterment Elizabeth Glen represented the Telephone may find a common centre and habitation. a wide appeal may be made in the interests The Federation resolution calling for a of the proposed institute. Any readers of The Woman Worker who can aid with a donation should forward it at once to Mr. Edwards at 6, Plowden Buildings, Middle Temple Lane, London, E.C.

NATIONAL REFORM INSTITUTE.

THE WOMAN WORKER

FOR NOVEMBER

Will contain, amongst many other interesting features :---

"Federationists at Christiania," by Pete Curran, M.P.

- "Partners." The first instalment of a Serial Story by Constance Hintor. Smith.
- "Living In," by Margaret G. Bondfield

Portrait & Character Sketch of Ada Neild Chew.

- "The Parable of the Boy and the Nuts.'
- Special Articles on the Glasgow Conference on Sweating and the Clarion Exhibition.

An explanation of the Constitution of Garden City Press Ltd., addressed to those seeking employment in its works.

ARDEN CITY PRESS LTD. is a Co-partnership Society. Any person above the age of 16 employed by it may become a member and share in the responsibilities of regrement, in the profits or losses, and in furnishing capital. There is a code of 21 Special and 120 ral Rules comprising the constitution, a copy inch may be obtained on payment of 6d. ch new employee passes through a probation d of twelve months, during which he receives ull rate of pay agreed upon as wages. At the f twelve months, he must join the Society, that ecome a member (shareholder), or resign his tion. Should he join the Society, he must sign in f_1 shares: payment for his services ceases to wares, and instead he becomes entitled to a would be liable to refund whatever had been lent to them in excess of those real earnings, each employee

G ARDEN CITY PRESS LTD. is a Co-bardeneship Society. Any person above the amember and share in the responsibilities of margement, in the profits or losses, and in furnishing date capital. There is a code of 21 Special and 126 General Rules comprising the constitution, a copy of which may be obtained on payment of 6d. Tach new employee passes through a probation of detwelve months, during which he receives the full rate of pay agreed upon as wages. At the end of twelve months, he must join the Society, that is become a member (shareholder), or resign his provide the straines of the business, very much as in a private partnership. The method is as follows: His work continues to be estimated at the same base of the earnings of the business, very much as in a private partnership. The method is as follows: His work continues to be estimated at the same base abefore, but payment for services cannot this work continues to be estimated at the same base abefore, but payment for services cannot the amount earned by the business is sufficient, and the amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient. The amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient, at the amount earned by the business is sufficient. them in excess of those real earnings, each employee member abating strictly in proportion to his earnings. The Society is governed by a President, Secretary, Manager, and a Committee of six, elected half by the employees who are Shareholders and half by the other Shareholders. Every Shareholder, whether working member or ordinary has one rote only no working member or ordinary, has one rote only, no matter what amount of share capital he may have invested over the initial sum of £10. In addition to the Committee of Management, there is a Board of Conciliation elected partly by

being placed to the credit of the member as shares of the books of the Society. As it is obvious that few working men would be able to wait six months for their share of the earnings, a special arrangement is made by which, week by week, three-quarters of each individual's estimated earnings are *lent* to him by the Society, the remainder being paid at the close of each half-year if the profit be working the credited with a share of that also. there is a Board of Concultation elected partly by working members and partly by ordinary shareholders. In the event of a working member being suspended by the Manager, the person so suspended may refer his case to the Committee for consideration. Should the Committee confirm the Manager's action, appeal *If there still remained a surplus of profit, he would be credited with a share of that also.

GARDEN CITY PRESS is strictly a Trade Union House. The working hours are 48 per week.

A copy of the above conditions is handed to every new employee engaged by the GARDEN CITY PRESS LTD. It constitutes the worker's charter, and is

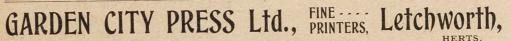
THE SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS -AS FINE PRINTERS.-----

A member of a large London firm of printers has expressed astonishment at the variety, quality, and volume of our output. He finally came to the conclusion that the reason for it lay in the new spirit which animates our whole staff. We appreciate the testimony, and feel its truthfulness.

Your Orders and inquiries for General Printing will he esteemed and promptly attended to.



READ THIS!



*54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed." Mr. Perret is not the originator of this brilliant scheme; that honour be-longs to a more prosperous competitor, * N.B.—The facts contained in this article are vouched for. Names are. of course, fictitious.—En.

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VERHEARD BY THE·LITTLE·BIRD· At Bath. That a branch of the Federation was formed here during

tion was formed here during Congress week. That the Women's Trade

Union League meeting was a great success, and so was the Conference.

At the Same Place.

That Miss Hedges received a good vote for the Parliamentary Committee.

At the Same Place. "Where is Margaret Bondfield?"

where is margaret bonuncie

At the Cedars.

"Do you belong to the Union?" "Course I belong to the Union, don't you?" "Rather! and I think *everyone* ought to! Look what the Union has done for us!"

At Edmonton.

That the magazines were heavy; but, never mind, we've sold them nearly all.

At the Same Place.

That the garden party was a great success.

That the anniversary social will be a greater success.

At Head Office.

More orders for *The Woman Worker*; and still they come.

At the Same Place.

Our first number is sold out; no more can be had for love or money.

At Oxford.

That the garden party was jolly !

That Mrs. Curran is charming. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Charles.

At the Same Place.

We can't think why the others do not come into the Union.

That we mean to stick to our guns.

At Taunton.

That the secretary of our branch is a brick.

At Hull.

Isn't the magazine interesting?

At Clerkenwell.

That the telephone has its disadvantages. "Who are you, please?"

At Preston.

That we like *The Woman Worker* very much.

At Aberdeen.

That the Shop Assistants had a fine meeting here.

The Woman Worker was on sale.

At Alva, N.B.

The annual social was a great success. The Woman Worker sold well. Our members are delighted with it.

Felt Hatters & Trimmers' Unions

DON'T COMPLAIN !

About hard conditions of Toil and Sweating, and then go out and without discrimination, purchase your commodities.



and without discrimination, purchase your commodities. Whenever it is possible buy "Union-made Goods." And in buying Felt Hats insist upon seeing the Un Label under the leather.

YOU will thus help to **raise the standard of life** of the Workman, his Wife and Family.

No Woman should **tolerate** a man who wears an Unlabelled Hat!

The Union Label, as above, is printed in Black Ink on Pink Paper, and is placed under the leather in UNION-MADE HATS by the WORKPEOPLE ONLY, during Manufacture.

LOOK FOR THE LABEL & BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS.

THOMAS MALLALIEU, General Secretary, 113, MANCHESTER ROAD, DENTON.

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