

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Guardianship of Infants Bill.—Critical Situation.

The triumphant Second Reading of Mrs. Wintringham's Guardianship of Infants Bill on Friday, 4th April, in which there was no division and only one dissentient voice, proves emphatically that the realization of the need for this Bill is now appreciated by all Parties. The debate was of unusual interest to readers of this paper, in that five of the Women Members spoke. Mrs. Wintringham introduced the Bill, and moved the Second Reading in an able and convincing speech, and was supported by Lady Terrington and Miss Jewson. Mrs. Philipson was prepared to support the Bill in its present form, and the Duchess of Atholl spoke in its favour. During the whole of the discussion there were not more than two or three speeches against the Bill. After this magnificent reception it is therefore intensely disappointing that the outlook with regard to the translation of the principle of Equal Guardianship between father and mother into law this Session should appear so black. The difficulty arises from the attitude of the Government. Mr. Rhys Davies, speaking on its behalf, announced its intention of introducing a Bill of its own in the following words:—"We want to see the main principles adopted and we promise the promoters that the Government will bring in a measure embodying the main principles of this Bill in another place as soon as possible after Easter." This sounded promising, but in outlining the proposed Government measure, he showed that it would only contain three provisions, as follows:—(1) "In any dispute that comes before the Court the claims of the father and mother shall be equal, and regard will have to be had to the welfare of the child." (2) "That a wife may obtain an order for custody and maintenance while still resident with the father, but . . . that such an order shall not be enforceable while she still resides with him." (3) "That absolutely equal rights as to the appointment of guardians both to the husband and wife shall be granted."

We have no reason to doubt the Under-Secretary's good faith. He is admittedly unacquainted with the law in this respect, and probably did not realize that the Government provisions *in no sense* carry out the main provisions of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill to make the mother equal guardian with the father, to give her equal rights and responsibilities, and to impose upon both parents the need for maintaining their children according to their means.

The Government Bill.

Mr. Rhys Davies' first provision provides hardly anything more than is already the law, as it only applies to cases which *under the present law* can come before the Court. The majority of such cases would be (1) those brought under the Divorce and Separation Acts; (2) those brought under the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1886; (3) those brought when a child is a ward in

Chancery. With regard to (1) the present law works perfectly equally between men and women. No demand exists for changing it, and Mrs. Wintringham's Bill does not propose to change it.

In the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1886, it is explicitly stated that the welfare of the child is to be the primary consideration. But, at the same time, it is admitted that in view of the fact that the father alone is regarded as the guardian, in cases in which no very clear lead is given to the Court as to what is the welfare of the child, the case is invariably decided in the father's favour. The same difficulty might still obtain under the proposed Government measure, as the father is to remain the sole guardian. With regard to (3) if the mother makes her child a ward in Chancery, she can apply to the Court for its direction with regard to its maintenance, education, etc., but this is a roundabout method, and is not practicable for the mass of the population, as it involves settling a sum, however small, on the child. The Government's second proposal is already provided for as regards the Summary Courts in the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, which will probably reach the Statute Book this Session, and is therefore largely unnecessary. It does not give, as does Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, a right to a wife to receive maintenance for the children when still living with the husband. The third provision is common to both the Government's Bill and Mrs. Wintringham's, and is valuable. It is essential that no effort should be spared to make the Government realize that women interested in this Bill would not be prepared to accept a Government measure on these lines in lieu of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, and would far rather, even if it means waiting for another Session, wait for a Bill which carries out the Government's pledge to give "equal rights and privileges in parenthood."

Child Adoption.

A committee has been appointed by the Home Secretary, with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, to examine the problem of Child Adoption and to report upon the main provisions which in their view should be incorporated in a Bill on the subject. The Committee has representatives of the Board of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Home Office, with two Women Members of Parliament, the Duchess of Atholl and Miss Dorothy Jewson. Mr. Justice Tomlin is the Chairman, and Miss Enid Rösser, of the Lord Chancellor's Department, the House of Lords, is the Secretary; all correspondence on the subject should be addressed to her. A letter from Sir Archibald Allen, the chairman of the Associated Societies for the Care and Maintenance of Infants, appeared in *The Times* of 9th April, protesting against the appointment of this Committee. He pointed out that Bills on this subject have already been introduced in both Houses, and that the proper course would have been to refer them to a Joint Select Committee. He outlined the recent history of the whole question. War conditions led to a number of adoptions which had of course no legal force. The Associated Societies for the Care and Maintenance of Infants, which represented 30 societies, inquired into the whole subject, and, on the basis of the evidence they collected, they urged the Government to introduce a legal system of adoption. In August of the same year the Home Secretary appointed a Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Alfred Hopkinson, to investigate the question. In February, 1921, after an exhaustive inquiry, the Committee reported and unanimously recommended the introduction of a legal system of adoption. A Bill on these lines, recommended by the Committee, was introduced in the last Parliament, and passed the second reading. Last week a similar Bill passed the second reading in this Parliament. One cannot fail to agree with Sir Archibald Allen's contention that there is no reason for delaying a settlement of this question by setting up another Committee of inquiry. A Joint Select Committee of both Houses with the information

collected by Sir Alfred Hopkinson's Committee, would be in a perfectly adequate position to deal with the question. Another Committee simply means the postponement of a much-needed reform, besides great waste of public money.

Social Insurance.

A most interesting article appeared in *The Times* of 7th April on the subject of social insurance. The writer pointed out the many anomalies which exist under our present unco-ordinated schemes. It is impossible to produce any logical explanation, for example, of the fact that the number of dependents is taken into account for unemployment benefit, but not for health insurance benefit; or for the fact that lower benefits are received when a man is sick than when he is injured in the course of his work and is therefore insured under the Employers' Liability Act. Even more important is the question why there is insurance against some emergencies and not against others equally common and equally serious. For women there are two vital points—why is there no pension scheme for widows and orphans, or for non-employed persons in sickness? Why should unemployment, or the illness of a person in employment, be an insurable risk, whilst the permanent loss of wages due to the death of the chief bread-winner or the sickness of the mother who stays at home be non-insurable risks? There are anomalies too in the division between contributory and non-contributory schemes. There is no reason why payments in sickness should be on a contributory, and old age pensions on a non-contributory, basis. The writer of the article pleads for a Royal Commission on Social Insurance and the Poor Law, to work out a comprehensive scheme with units of administration. We heartily endorse this suggestion. But we would point out that such a scheme cannot be produced speedily. In the meantime, widows' pensions are a crying need, and their introduction should not be delayed by the possibility of a wider reform at some future date.

Women's Suffrage in France.

One of the statements frequently made by the opponents of Women's Suffrage in France, is that the experience of other countries is not a valid argument. The enfranchisement of women, they urge, has been confined to Anglo-Saxon countries, and what has taken place amongst people of so different a race has no real bearing on the French situation. The "Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes" has sent a letter to every Deputy pointing out that this argument no longer holds good. In Spain the electoral rights of women have been recognized; in Belgium women have been granted the municipal franchise, and a Bill on the same lines is being considered by the Italian Government. Such developments amongst French speaking and Latin races should help to strengthen the women's claims in France. There are few Western countries where the extension of the vote to women is more needed than in France. It is true that in many respects the French woman has a very great influence; the way in which the French bourgeois woman, for example, so often shares in her husband's business interests is a standing source of surprise and admiration to the Anglo-Saxon observer. In spite of this, however, the legal position of women in France is far behind anything that the present generation of English women has ever experienced. A married woman in France, to take one instance, is still not allowed to open a banking account without her husband's consent, so that her control of her own property is dependent on his goodwill. It is, of course, the very backwardness of France in such respects that makes women's progress there such uphill work, as they are up against the very real material advantages that the men get from their legal position, and there is nothing that rouses greater prejudice than the fear of possible material loss.

"What Women M.P.'s will not do."

The *Daily Chronicle* quotes under the above heading the observations of Judge Cluer, at the Shoreditch County Court, with reference to the unfairness of the law relating to the debts of married women as compared to the law for married men. He remarks that women M.P.'s will make no attempt to alter this state of affairs. We would like to ask Judge Cluer if he can substantiate this statement with any evidence of sex bias on the part of our Women Members. We think he will find, if he takes the trouble to examine their records, that they have stood with remarkable fairness for the interests of both sexes among their constituents. Does Judge Cluer not know that many women's organizations with which the Women Members are associated

stand for the entire abolition of such inequalities as at present exist which place men at a disadvantage equally with those in which the interests of women suffer.

Women Magistrates.

Three new women magistrates have been appointed at Portsmouth. They are Mrs. Long, Mrs. Kingswell, and Miss B. Redding, all three of whom are well known for their local work. The work of the women magistrates is of the greatest importance, and any increase in their numbers is a matter for rejoicing to all who have women's work at heart.

A Girl Blacksmith.

We learn with interest that the daughter of a London blacksmith has so far forgotten the traditional division between men's and women's work as to help her father at his forge. And the worst of it is that she is being successful, and wields the heavy hammer with ease. If the modern girl goes on at this pace, some future Wagner may yet write a forging story to be sung by the operatic heroine. However, those who think a woman should never handle a weapon heavier than a needle may still find consolation, for this lady is only taking the place of her father's assistant during his illness, and her heart, she tells a newspaper reporter, is in her millinery work. A much more seemly occupation for a young woman—but yet how convenient for her father that the athletic girl of to-day can show such adaptability.

Women Engineers.

The second conference of the Women's Engineering Society was held at Manchester last week, when Lady Parsons delivered the Presidential address. It was stated in the annual report that during the year the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers had each elected their first woman member, and that one of the members of the Society had been admitted a college apprentice at a large firm of electrical engineers at Manchester. The Lady Mayoress, Miss Jackson, who is herself a professional woman, welcomed the delegates at a civic reception at the College of Technology. We hope to give a fuller report of this interesting conference in our next issue.

Women Judges in Belgium.

We read in *The Times* that the Belgian Parliament has decided by 110 votes to 18 that women may be appointed as judges in commercial tribunals. The women's movement in Belgium is advancing slowly but surely, though they have not yet secured the Parliamentary Franchise.

The Black Smoke Tax.

A deputation consisting of members of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee on Smoke Abatement waited upon the Minister of Health last week and submitted a memorandum which stated that public opinion was ripe for reform with regard to the smoke nuisance. Mr. Wheatley gave the deputation a very sympathetic hearing and stated that an effort would be made to submit a Bill to Parliament at an early date.

Questions in Parliament.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION: WOMEN AND GIRLS' WELFARE DEPARTMENT.—In reply to a question from Mrs. Wintringham, the Secretary of the Overseas Department stated that special rooms were being constructed for women working at Wembley to be supervised by the G.F.S. and Y.W.C.A.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION: WOMEN POLICE.—Mrs. Wintringham asked whether, in view of the large number of visitors to London during the Exhibition, the Home Office would consider the employment of additional temporary women police in London and at Wembley. Mr. Henderson replied that the arrangements were not yet settled, but any women police "whom it may be decided to employ at the Exhibition" will be additional to the present numbers.

WOMEN POLICE.—In reply to a question from Mr. Foot, Mr. Henderson stated that 34 police authorities are employing women. Only in the Metropolitan Police and the London Police do the numbers of women employed exceed six.

PEERESSES BILL.—In reply to a question from Mr. Briant, Mr. Ayres said the Government were not prepared to give facilities for the Peeresses Bill.

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

THE GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS.

In order to effect a reform in this most important branch of law, so as to remove one of the most keenly felt inequalities in the law between men and women, more appears to be required than a united House of Commons and widespread public interest. Up to the present, owing to the vicissitudes of Private Members' Bills in Parliament, in which a General Election appears to be becoming as frequent and inevitable an autumnal phenomenon as the Michaelmas Daisy, the fights over successive Equal Guardianship Bills have never been fought to a finish. It is not necessary to remind our readers that in 1921 the first Bill of this kind did not reach its third reading owing to the obstructionist tactics of a handful of Members, and that in 1922 and 1923 the Joint Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament which heard exhaustive evidence on the Bills from all points of view, came to an end without having had time to present a report, owing to successive Dissolutions. Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, referred to in another column, represents the fruits of long study of the problems involved and was drafted with a precise appreciation of the force of the arguments likely to be brought up against every point. Those criticisms which had been most convincingly made, or certain points in the Bills of former years, were taken account of, and everything possible in the way of "ballast" was thrown overboard. The main principles remain: the principles which, in many cases, constituted one of the most powerful motives in the original suffrage fight, and which, since 1918, organized women have made up their minds to achieve, viz. equal rights and responsibilities between mothers and fathers, and the reform of the maintenance laws with regard to children so as to make these rights and responsibilities effective. What, then, are the main features of the present situation? The first Bill, which contained conceptions of sex equality strange to many in 1921, has become familiar to all in 1924, and its principles have been increasingly accepted as platitudes by Members of Parliament, candidates, and voters. All political parties made reference to the need for legislative reform in their programmes during the last two

elections. If proof is required it can be found in the unanimity of applause and sympathy with which Mrs. Wintringham's Bill was greeted on the 4th April. Why, then, have similar Bills not already reached the Statute Book? Why would only a very enterprising bookmaker give odds in favour of this Bill this session? The answer is clear—it is that officialdom in the various Government and legal departments affected is opposed to the new proposals as it has been opposed to changes in the law ever since there were laws to change. Before both Joint Select Committees which sat on the Bill, evidence against was given by representatives of Government departments and of the Chancery Bar, and by practically no one else. The reason for this stiff-necked attitude is obvious; there are admittedly certain difficulties in the administration of a law which gives equal and divided rights and responsibilities, and the friends of the Bill are the first to appreciate them. Opinion as to whether these difficulties are likely to be insuperable or not depends on the general point of view of its holder. If he is so tied up with dry-as-dust formulæ that he is unable to adapt them to new human needs, and if he is suffering from the "Turk Complex," the clauses of the Bill will seem impracticable to carry out. If, on the other hand, he (or she) views the matter from the commonsense point of view, and is saturated in modern notions of sex equality, the administrative difficulties fall into their proper place as matters which a little patience and sympathy can solve. Unfortunately the actual members of the present Government—itsself pledged to "equal rights and privileges in parenthood"—who are responsible for the Bill do not happen to have given the matter sufficient consideration, and have so far merely accepted the departmental point of view. It appeared last Friday as if the Under Secretary for Home Affairs genuinely thought that the proposed Government measure really incorporated the principles of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill. What is required therefore is a determined protest, over the heads of the officials, to members of the Government in order that the vital principles of Equal Guardianship may eventually be carried into law.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The centre of interest during the last week has of course been the Rent Restriction Bill, and its reactions on the position of the Government, which have been serious. Their original plan to relieve the unemployed from the obligation of paying rent was one of the worst conceived schemes which have been placed before the House for many a day. One would have thought it was obvious that the palpable injustice of placing a part of the burden of unemployment on the landlords instead of the community would be bound to raise the opposition of the majority of the House, more especially as many of the landlords of working-class houses are men and women in very modest circumstances, to whom the loss of rent would involve serious hardship. The Government's attempt to get over this by making exceptions in cases when the non-payment of rent would involve greater hardship to the landlord than its payment to the tenant, hardly helped matters. What would be the feelings, one wonders, of the unemployed workman who was evicted because his landlord depended for his living on the rent, whilst his neighbour stayed on in his house rent free because his landlord was a man of wealth. The situation is inconceivable. Moreover, there was absolutely no reference in the Bill to the many complications that would arise from the scheme. If the tenant were exempted from paying rent when it included rates, would the landlord nevertheless have to pay the rates? Or again, would a house from which a landlord received no rent, be subject to the inhabited house duty, or not? The clause was withdrawn, as was inevitable, and to discuss its manifold failings may savour too much of a post mortem, but these points are important since the Government's failure to recognize them before the debate, obvious as they are, has seriously shaken many people's belief in its practical sagacity. Nor was the situation improved by the further discussion on Friday. Mr. Clynes, speaking for the Government, made it clear that they would not proceed with their original proposal. He first conveyed the impression that the rent would be a charge on local authorities, but afterwards informed the House that this might only be in the first instance, and that the Government had no objection to making it a national charge. But his contradictions and vagueness were so marked that the House was left with no idea as to the Government's real intentions, or whether they were even clear themselves.

The third act of the drama took place on Monday night in a more excited and heated atmosphere than has been known this session.

The clause laid before the House simply specified that no eviction order should be granted until the Court was satisfied that the unemployed tenant had had an opportunity of applying to the Poor Law, but there was nothing to indicate that the granting of relief would be obligatory on the Poor Law authorities, nor whether relief, if granted, would be a national or local charge. Mr. MacDonald in his speech gave no hint of what was the intention on these points, but tried to justify the Government by stating that this was an emergency measure. But even an emergency measure must be something more than a mere pious expression of opinions without any indication of what is to be done, and which consequently would in practice leave things much as they are. There was some division of opinion amongst the opponents of the Government, whether it would be better to pass the first reading of the Bill so as to be able to deal with it in Committee. From this point of view the Government defeat is to be deplored, for it gave the Prime Minister the opportunity of alleging that the House had voted against the whole Bill. What the intentions of the Government may be has not been announced at the time of writing; the situation is simplified by the fact that Mr. Simon's Bill, which embodies the Government's clause on evictions under last year's Act, has passed the second reading unopposed, and will probably be easily passed through Committee. The knowledge of this doubtless affected the voting, for it leaves only the question raised by the disputed clause to be dealt with.

In the excitement of the moment, the Government's new Unemployment Bill, the text of which was issued on Monday, has not as yet roused much interest, though this will doubtless come. It is proposed to include children of 14 to 16 years of age, to raise the present benefit both for men and women by 3s. a week, and the allowance for each dependent child by 1s. a week. The benefit period is also increased from 26 to 41 weeks.

Before concluding this week's "News from Westminster," it would perhaps be advisable to add that an account of the debate on the Guardianship of Children's Bill has only been omitted owing to the writer's certainty that it would be dealt with elsewhere in this paper by specialists on the subject.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—E.D.]

WHAT I REMEMBER. XXXI.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899-1902 (contd.).

Party feeling was running very high at home, and everyone concerned with the administration of the camps was spoken of by their political opponents as if they were Herods presiding and gloating over a deliberately planned massacre of the innocents. The Government ardently desired to check or prevent the great mortality in the camps, and the question arose as to how to do it. All this was very much occupying people's minds when one day, in mid-July, 1901, Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton came in to see me, and asked me if I would be willing to go to South Africa, starting almost immediately and accompanied by other ladies with expert knowledge of infant welfare, to make recommendations to the Government with the view of improving the conditions, especially of child-life in the camps. Mrs. Lyttelton's husband, Alfred Lyttelton, was then a member of the Government. He was admired, beloved, and trusted by all parties and all sections of the country as few men have ever been, and although his wife did not say so, I felt sure she came, in a sense, as a messenger from him and the Government. I at once consented to go, and told Mrs. Lyttelton I could be ready to start in a week or less. My colleagues were to be Lady Knox, wife of General Sir William Knox, then on active service in South Africa, and Miss Lucy Deane, a trained Inspector of Factories and also an expert in Infant Welfare work. We were to be six altogether, the other three were already in South Africa. Two of these were medical women, Dr. Jane Waterston, of Cape Town, and Dr. Ella Scarlett; the third was a trained nurse, formerly a Sister in Guy's Hospital, Miss Katherine Brereton. I did not know any of my colleagues except by hearsay. Those of us who were in England were given berths on a troop ship; I was accompanied by my daughter, Miss Deane by her sister, and Lady Knox by a maid. We soon became friends, and sat on deck discussing plans and learning a smattering of Taal, so that we should be able at least to interchange a few words with the inhabitants of the camps. There was a Cape Dutch nurse on board who superintended our studies in the Taal and helped us about pronunciation. She also produced little books of poems in Taal, all of which were translations from the English, such as "We are Seven," "Lucy Gray," and Southey's verses about little Peterkin and Wilhelmine. We inquired about literature in the Taal which was not a translation, but our teacher did not seem to see what we were driving at, so at last we had to put it to her rather bluntly: "Is there nothing of your own? No verses or books to read written originally in your own language?" Then she at once replied, "Yes, there is plenty, there is *Til-Bits*." After this we gave up trying to make our teacher understand what we wanted. As we approached Cape Town, one of the most beautiful and impressive views it is possible to imagine broke upon us, with the noble Table Mountain for a magnificent background; but our hearts nearly stood still when we saw all the flags at half-mast. We had been nearly three weeks at sea, of course there was no "wireless," in those days, and we dreaded to hear of some new calamity. Queen Victoria had died in the preceding January and I had lost a very dear niece just before I left England, and now Death, it seemed, had laid his hand on us again, and we were all asking in our hearts, "Who is it?" The first boat which reached the ship brought us the answer to our question and told us of the death of the Empress Frederick. Life had brought her so many sorrows and such anguish of disappointment that we felt Death must have come to her as a friend. The great lines arose in our minds: "O let him pass! He hates him that would upon the rack of this rough world stretch him out longer."

We found Cape Town riven into hostile sections, full of gossip, of inventions and unfounded suspicions and fears. We were conducted to the Mount Nelson Hotel, and had not been there many hours before an A.D.C. from Government House arrived. He was an extremely polite young man, but he had to deliver a not at all polite message, namely that His Excellency and Lady Hely Hutchinson would prefer us not to call at Government House. It was a little perturbing, for it was our first experience of being desired not to call on the great and mighty, but we guessed it was a symptom of the rages and feuds which were then tearing the social world in Cape Town into violently hostile factions. We discovered then, and later, that in a war the people who have not fought are much more fierce and vindictive than those who have. We sought and obtained an interview with a

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several weeks.

committee of ladies in Cape Town who were ardently in sympathy with the Boers. We told them that we had at our disposal a moderate sum of money from private sources which we wanted to spend in a manner most calculated to be of service to the people in the camps: could they, with their experience, tell us how best it could be employed? They immediately replied, "Send them calico to wrap their corpses in." This startled us. We had while on the ship prepared a list of twenty-one questions bearing on what is now called Welfare Work, but we had never thought of this. Our twenty-one questions dealt with water supply, sanitation, kitchens, hospitals, occupations, education, the care of orphans, and so on. We now added a twenty-second, dealing with the reverent treatment of the dead, including the provision of clean and orderly mortuaries and cemeteries, and suitable coffins and shrouds. In the ensuing months we visited thirty-three camps, some of them twice, and in each of them we made special inquiries on these points, and in not one single instance did we meet with a vestige of complaint from the people most nearly concerned as to any failure on the part of the administration to observe the pious reverence for the dead which is instinctive in Dutch and British alike. It is almost unnecessary to say that we did not in this, nor in any other of our inquiries, content ourselves with asking questions solely of the officials. We did this as a matter of course, but we also went, either singly or two of us together, to visit the women in their tents and endeavoured by friendly talk to encourage them to tell us whatever was uppermost in their minds. We had many interesting conversations in this way, and never once did a single human being utter a word which justified the Cape Town ladies' insinuation that what these poor people wanted most was calico to wrap their corpses in. They naturally wanted a great many things, but not this.

But the Cape Town Ladies' Committee had made another suggestion to us, namely that we should bring into the camps a supply of candles and distribute them among the Boer women. I shall never forget the lugubrious severity with which one of them said to us, "It is very difficult to nurse an invalid by the light of a match." This also was a grievance which we did not hear of in the camps. We did hear, however, that the Boer women were very expert in using candles as a means of signalling to their friends on commando in the quiet hours of the night. I for one, could not blame them if they did; if we had been in their position should we not have done the same thing? The instinct of the non-combatant to help the combatant on his own side is very powerful and practically universal. It was for doing this in 1915 that Edith Cavell laid down her life. But of course no Englishman ever dreamed of killing a Boer woman who helped, or tried to help, her own brethren in the field. The military administration did, however, refrain from giving them a plentiful supply of candles to do it with.

REFUGEES IN GREECE.

Lord Cecil in a letter to *The Times* makes a final appeal to the British public for the Christian refugees in Greece. He states that, in spite of the successful work of the League of Nations' Settlement Committee in reconstruction, the present position so far as the refugees are concerned remains in all essentials as tragic as 18 months ago. The Settlement Committee is prohibited from utilizing its funds for temporary relief, and the task of settling individuals in productive employment is necessarily slow. Therefore acute distress and suffering among the mass of the 500,000 refugees still prevails. Both money and clothing are wanted. Gifts of money should be sent to the Imperial War Relief Fund, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C. 2, and clothing addressed to the Fund, care of New Hibernia Wharf, London Bridge. As Lord Cecil says: "Gifts of money and clothing made now will not only save the lives of our unfortunate fellow Christians who have suffered so much, but will prove of essential help in a great international work of reconstruction."

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

The seventeenth Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League was held on Saturday, 5th April, when Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., delivered the Chairman's address. Mrs. Coates claimed that women needed quite half the seats in the House of Commons, with women at the head of some of the public departments. Resolutions were passed on Equal Franchise, Equal Pay, etc.

"THE DISINHERITED FAMILY."

The Disinherited Family is a notable achievement, and Miss Rathbone is to be congratulated on it. The book is packed full of facts and arguments, and presents a case that not only every feminist but every person interested in our attempts to work out the social problems of our civilization should consider. Its contention concerns itself with a problem that every feminist realises is a fundamental one of the woman's movement and of civilization—the economic position of the mother—and Miss Rathbone's conclusion, skilfully and ably presented, is that her position can only be sound and the children's rights to a decent upbringing secured if the family is endowed. Miss Rathbone has abandoned exact schemes for this country and leaves it an open question as to which method of securing the allowances, by industrial organization or by state action, would be the better, though she personally obviously feels that the state action would.

Miss Rathbone has also apparently decided that the original idea of making a payment to mothers as such, instead of establishing her right to a proper proportion of a man's earnings, should not be insisted on. No scheme she cites as used in other countries, or projected, does this, and it always seemed to me a fundamentally objectionable principle from a feminist point of view. Its effect on women's right to work, already restricted, can be imagined, and its whole basic conception appears to some of us wrong and thoroughly mistaken.

The book begins with a chapter on the growth of "the dependent family" kept by the male head of the family, and states this is a quite modern arrangement, and that it is not even true completely of any one country or of a very great part of the world to-day.

It is even less true than people living in our country, especially in industrial surroundings, are apt to think, and one would like to have had more consideration given to the question as to whether our type of civilization could not be planned more on lines that would permit a married woman and mother to achieve in it a position bearing more relation to her economic position in other types of society, without its meaning either slavery or hardship for her. To say that we have not even begun to conceive the possibilities of scientific organization of our lives, through the knowledge possessed now, is to understate the case, and in no line is this so true as in the case of women.

No one with knowledge will dispute many of Miss Rathbone's contentions as to the difficulties of working, and one can add, in these days, middle-class mothers, and the bad position of the less happily married. There is not a shadow of doubt, as Miss Rathbone admits, that the position of some women in sex-relationship and child-bearing would tend to be, if anything could, worse under endowment, though most of us would agree that it is, on the whole, unlikely to affect, to any real extent, the birth-rate.

Birth-rates move on greater and deeper causes than this, and one is not surprised to learn that the French schemes, obviously greatly inspired by this desire for increased births (most of the scales show it), have not secured it.

The infinitely deeper problem, and indeed the basic foundation for Miss Rathbone's plea, is that apparently we will produce population to our capacity of bare subsistence, or if we put it another way, that we cannot or will not develop our skill and capacity and organize life so as to give a really good living for all. That our falling birth-rate is a sub-conscious and conscious, reaching out for this conception of a better life, we know.

That our industrial organizations and Trade Unions have arrived at methods and conclusions that do not appear to serve thoroughly the needs of the child in our wage system we know also.

To make rigid and standardize in narrow limits industrial men's payments so that we have practically eliminated, over great fields of work, the gradual rise in wage, bearing some relation to normal increased responsibilities, to the older and more skilful men, seems doubtful wisdom.

That we have tried to meet it by co-operative action through lightening income tax, education, welfare schemes, etc., we know, and it would have been interesting to have had in this book just what these represent in money paid to-day in our country locally and nationally, and to have had some rough computation of what the single and childless do carry now as their share. In this connexion one notes Miss Rathbone makes no mention of other dependents than children.

The book is full of good things on the women's movement

and women's position that one would enjoy discussing at length, but its great value is that it sets out a statement on the needs of the child that should be studied by everyone.

It is a book calculated to stimulate thought in a country with population and work problems that are big and difficult, as ours are. The more people try to think clearly on their basic ideas of the organization of life the better for us, and its examination from another angle would lie along lines of one's conception of what we men and women are aiming at, and by what methods we are likeliest to obtain what after all is surely the one thing worth while—not systems or schemes, but developed perfected individuals. Any plea for fairer treatment for the child, as this is, ought therefore to command our deepest attention, and Miss Rathbone has done us all a service in writing this book.

HELEN FRASER.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

THE CHILSWELL BOOK OF ENGLISH POETRY. Compiled and annotated for the use of schools by ROBERT BRIDGES. (Longman, 3s. 6d. and 6s. 6d.)

This anthology differs in two ways from all its predecessors. It is compiled by a Poet Laureate, and it is dedicated to the use of schoolboys. As an example of the personal taste of so austere a master as Dr. Bridges it must be of great interest, and with his preface and his characteristic notes it should be of immense value to those who are responsible for the future of our English speech.

LETTERS OF MADAME. Vol. I, 1661-1708. Translated and edited by GERTRUDE STEPHENSON. (Chapman and Dodd, 18s.)

Madame, second wife of Monsieur, brother of Louis XIV, was the daughter of Charles Louis, Elector Palatine. With her plain face and brusque manners, she was always a strange and lonely figure in that graceful and artificial court. She brought with her alien ways both a clear vision and direct speech, and these qualities make her correspondence a storehouse for students of the manners and customs of her time. Be it said to his credit, Louis XIV was always her firm friend. His favour made her the fashion, even her clothes and oddities were copied by slavish fine ladies. She lived to see the decline of Louis' splendour and the rigid reign of Mme. de Maintenon.

MY LONG LIFE IN MUSIC. By LEOPOLD AUER. (Duckworth, 21s.)

Music lovers will find much to interest them in Professor Auer's book. The greater part of his teaching career was passed in St. Petersburg, where he met and made friends with all the Russian musicians. His memories of that vanished world have considerable historical value as well as much genial charm.

COMPROMISE. By WILFRANC HUBBARD. (Macmillan, 7s. 6d.)

Let all who love a quiet tale, delicately and humorously written, take *Compromise* with them on their Eastern travels. The scene is laid in and near Rome, and the characters are many of them Italian. Both are depicted with the knowledge and affection of one who knows his subjects by heart. The chapter about the Pomptine Marshes and an imbroglio in a little country town will not quickly be forgotten.

OBITUARY: MISS JOURDAIN.

We regret to learn the death of Miss Jourdain, who has been Principal of St. Hugh's College, Oxford, since 1915. She started at a time when the financial future of all educational establishments seemed full of difficulties, but in spite of war problems she persevered with the scheme for extending the college buildings; as a result of her courage in this respect the numbers were increased from 50 to 150, so that the college was able to play an important part in meeting the growing demand for women for University education. Her own academic career was a distinguished one. She was a doctor of the University of Paris, and received the Palmes Académiques of France; she was also one of the first women to obtain a University post at Oxford, being appointed Taylorian lecturer and examiner in French. Although during the last few months there have been unfortunate internal difficulties in the administration of the College, she will leave a great name as an administrator no less than as an inspiring teacher and a helpful and understanding friend to the students.

THE LAW AT WORK.¹ TWO BOOKS FOR JUSTICES.

We have received for review a copy of a recent book, *Light on Law for Lady Justices*, published at 7s. 6d. by the Wessex Press. It is difficult to imagine a title more likely to irritate those for whom the book is intended. Women magistrates cannot conceive of any "Light on Law" which is useful to them which would not be equally useful to their male colleagues of the same standing, and in the second place, when it is necessary to differentiate between magistrates of opposite sexes, they prefer to be called women. And, if after this unfortunate beginning the reader happens to open the book at page 9, where certain maxims are translated into doggerel verse, presumably that they may stick in the mind, she is likely to go no further.

But if she takes courage and proceeds, she will find many items of interest, and bits of information which it is well to possess. If the book is scrappy, that is almost inevitable in a handbook of this kind. The subject is so vast that the author cannot deal adequately with any part of it unless he leaves much altogether unnoticed. The result is that we have two pages on Evidence, three on Wrongs to Persons, two and a half on Bastardy, and so on. There is no information as to maximum penalties, nor as to whether particular charges can be tried at Petty Sessions or not. Nor is there any mention of the poor prisoner's need of free legal aid in the lower courts. But it is idle to discuss what a book of 85 pages does not say on such a subject as Law. We will confine ourselves to what it does say.

The chapter on Children is the fullest in the book. Crimes committed against children as well as by them are discussed. There is a wise warning on the subject of Juvenile Courts. Though these are less formal than ordinary courts, it must never be forgotten that the laws of evidence must be enforced with equal strictness, and that nothing whatever in the nature of hearsay evidence must be admitted. The author expresses very sound opinions on the sending of children to Reformatories and Industrial Schools. He says that magistrates will often be urged to send a child away for its own good to remove it from "bad surroundings," but they must always be careful to inquire exactly how bad those surroundings are, remembering that in sending a child to an institution they are depriving it for years of any acquaintance with home life, and indeed of the possibility of such individual affection, while placing it among a collection of delinquents, many of whom will probably be worse than himself.

In the chapter on Husbands and Wives, the various grounds on which a wife can obtain a separation from her husband are well set out. There is no mention of the grounds on which a man can get a separation from his wife. A good many difficulties which confront magistrates are sympathetically mentioned, as, for example, the need for corroboration in bastardy cases, and the decision as to when cruelty is persistent or drunkenness habitual. But the author is inclined to raise the difficulties and then to leave them without any indication as to how they should be solved. The peculiar difficulty of dealing with cases of solicitation is not mentioned.

A second book for magistrates which was published last year, is *Wigram's Justice's Note-Book* (Tenth Edition), published by Stevens and Sons, price 12s. 6d. This contains 49 pages of general description of Summary Jurisdiction and of the different methods of dealing with indictable offences. Then follow 400 pages of alphabetical notes on offences and matters of every kind that are of interest to Justices, beginning with *Abduction*, and ending with *Witnesses*. As a work of reference, this part of the book is invaluable, and there is hardly a point on which an average magistrate wishes for enlightenment that is not dealt with here. Under the heading *Justices* there is given some good advice on the importance of Justices always remembering that they are Jury as well as Judge, and acting as if they had taken the Jury-men's oath. We must protest against the method in which the subject of Probation is treated. We find *Probation*, see *Punishment*. That is bad enough, but on obeying the instruction, we merely find a subsection under *Punishment*, viz. *Recognizances: Probation*, followed by a page of matter in which the Probation Officer is dismissed in four lines. The paragraph *Poor Prisoners* is also inadequate, as no indication is given as to how the poor prisoner is to set about obtaining legal aid. But these shortcomings do not detract from the fact that the book is a rich quarry of information presented in a clear and attractive form.

C. D. RACKHAM.

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crafts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP. IMPRESSIONS OF A PROVINCIAL DELEGATE.

It was sad that our first impression was that of the Tramways and Omnibus strike. Still, provided with easy shoes—Cuban, not Louis heels—optimism, and umbrellas, we adventured ourselves up to London, fearing that all taxis would be reserved for the idle rich only. But the stars, and Tubes, were with us, the weather held fair, and the Council, like Felix, went on walking—went on walking still.

Our Agenda reviewed many things; from the effect of the tolerated houses in Hong Kong upon the health of the British Navy, to the nourishment available for a child upon an allowance of a shilling a week, and its effect. New delegates kept their heads wonderfully in the riot of amended forms of resolutions, amendments, riders, and other strange animals, whilst the kind Chairman would occasionally ask—"You really understand what you are voting on?" A new barrister, pertinacious and irrepressible as her own dimples, lost, fighting, a Minority Report on the Taxation of Married Persons. We could not see why a man should get a marriage abatement of £90 added to an unsalaried housekeeper, nurse, sock-mender, and amusing companion; marriage being an economy, when there are no children. Still there are dangers for the childless wife, and Miss Conway, with her references to Henry VIII, made the hair of such rise on their hatless heads. The Public Luncheon gave much pleasure. Holborn impresses us from the provinces with its suggestion of spaciousness and luxury. We love to see the people one reads about, we love to feel "in" important changes. We saw and heard dark, capable Margaret Bondfield, Mr. Adamson, Lord Askwith, our own venerated Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Astor, our wonderful First Ajax defying the thunderers, the woman who didn't mind going "where she wasn't wanted" and told us—"Don't disband until you have got any way a hundred women into the House." To this feast were bidden, for the good of their souls and bodies, many loved but unawakened relatives. One such leaving the Holborn, confessed, "I don't yet see as you do" (it was Equal Franchise), "but I expect I shall in the end."

A more hardened person said, in a firm voice, "I do not understand Proportional Representation, and I hope I never shall." Which made one feel as if P.R. were a new and false religion connected with obscene dances. The last day was strenuous. After—not much—tea, Miss Macadam wrung from the assembled officers of affiliated Societies the inmost secrets of their varied, and sometimes inauspicious activities. And we encouraged each other. Our recollections of the Reception—the end of a tiring day—became blurred. Stirring international music, red stones on the dark hair of an élégante of the Executive, friendly delegates, Mrs. Corbett Ashby speaking of the things that matter, Miss Manus' curiously clever English, glasses of yellow lemonade, and a communal taxi back. A memorable three days, and we go home to our little town, pensive, half proud—to belong to our own big Union, half ashamed we do not do more for it!

T. O.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

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

PARLIAMENTARY.

Guardianship of Infants Bill.—It is a matter of considerable satisfaction that the above Bill, promoted by the National Union, and so ably taken charge of by Mrs. Wintringham, should have been welcomed so enthusiastically on Friday last. At the same time the situation with regard to the Bill is critical. It is referred to in another column.

Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill.—There is little further to report with respect to this Bill, except that there is reason to hope that its promoters are prepared to waive those clauses of the Bill not referring to Equal Franchise, in which case it is possible that its Committee stage may be accelerated.

The Legitimacy and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bills have been referred to Standing Committee "B" of the House of Commons, and will probably be coming up for consideration in Committee shortly after Easter.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE N.U.S.E.C.

The following is a list of Vice-Presidents of the National Union elected at the Annual Council Meeting, 26th March, and we wish to welcome most warmly the newly elected, namely, Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Lady Scott Moncrieff, and Mrs. Taylor.

Miss Margaret Ashton.
The Viscountess Astor, M.P.
Mrs. Auerbach.
Lady Beilby.
The Countess Brassey.
Mrs. George Cadbury.
The Rev. Professor Estlin Carpenter
Mrs. C. H. Corbett.
Sir Francis Darwin, B.Sc., M.B., F.R.S.
Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.
Miss I. O. Ford.
The Hon. Mrs. Franklin.
Mrs. Hanna.
Miss Jane Harrison.
The Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, D.D.

*Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.
The Rev. the Hon. E. Lyttelton.
Miss S. E. Mair, LL.D.
Mrs. Osler.
The Lady Maud Parry.
Mrs. Pennington.
The Lady Laura Ridding.
Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson.
Miss Maude Royden.
*Lady Scott Moncrieff.
Professor F. Soddy, F.R.S.
Lady Strachey.
*Mrs. Taylor.
Dr. A. N. Whitehead, F.R.S.
Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.
The Ven. Canon Wilson, D.D., F.G.S.

*Elected March, 1924.

MALVERN S.E.C.—ANNUAL REPORT.

We have received from the Malvern S.E.C. an interesting report for 1923. Perhaps the most noticeable feature of the report is the well-balanced arrangement of the programme—discussions on questions of national import alternating with addresses by workers experienced in the details of Local Government, on their work. In addition to meetings and propaganda, action has been taken on behalf of Bills promoted and supported by the N.U.S.E.C., and during the General Election publicity was given to the attitude of candidates to questions on Equal Citizenship. We congratulate the Malvern Society on this ably-presented record of a successful year.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A pamphlet published by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene on "The Regulation of Prostitution in Hong Kong" may be had on application to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C. (price 3d., post free). Copies of the Report of the Annual Council Meetings may also be had on application (price 4d., post free). All Secretaries of affiliated Societies will receive a free copy of this Report.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

(British Section: 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.)

The report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade under the Chairmanship of Lord Blanesburgh, "to advise upon applications for the release of property of ex-enemy aliens in necessitous circumstances," has just been issued, and can be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, price 6d. It is of great interest to members of the Women's International League, who have been keenly aware of the great injustice and cruel hardship suffered by people of humble circumstances—many of them actually British by birth—who have placed their life-savings in this country and have found themselves since the war utterly without provision.

The personal property of enemies has for 300 years been exempt from capture in this country, and though it is the opinion of Lord Blanesburgh's Committee that it was not the intention of those who framed these Treaty of Peace Orders to violate the declaration made by Lord Finlay in 1918 that "It is not the law of this country that the property of enemy subjects is confiscated," none the less the effect of these Orders made the property of all people of enemy nationality (whether by birth or marriage) that came within its jurisdiction subject to confiscation.

The only justification was to be found in an attempt to use the property of ex-enemy nationals for the purpose of discharging debts due to our people from other ex-enemies of the same nationality as those whose property was appropriated. Had it been possible to have secured the payment by his country to the person whose property was so taken, the scheme might have worked fairly, but in practice it was found to be impossible. In any case, the devaluation of the mark reduced to nothing the compensation offered by the German Government to the nationals dispossessed. So that the Treaty did, in fact, do that which it had been solemnly asserted was contrary to the law and practice of this country for many generations, viz. authorize appropriation of the property of former enemies without the latter being able to get any adequate compensation. The inevitable consequence was that by our deliberate action we caused widespread misery and distress which this report recognizes and attempts to relieve. It can only be regretted that so long a time has elapsed before such an attempt was made to effect redress.

In the main, and having regard to all the circumstances, the Report offers reasonable relief. The recommendation, however, that the release can only extend to property that is still unrealized raises an uncertainty and confusion which is not easily resolved. For instance, is a bank balance which was honestly handed over to the Public Trustee at the earliest moment a realized or unrealized asset?

The whole story constitutes a chapter of sorry reading in the history of a country that has always professed to pride itself on obedience to the law and generosity to the enemy.

GUILDHOUSE FELLOWSHIP HOUSING CONFERENCE.

Possibly the strongest impression carried away from the Conference on Housing, held under the chairmanship of Miss Maude Royden, at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, on Saturday, 5th April, was that of hope. Speakers on Housing and all it entails are so apt to fall headlong into the slough of despond and to drag their audiences after them that it was a real relief to remain safely upon dry land through the three sessions of the Conference. One slipped down the bank now and again, certainly, but always managed to recover oneself in time, and to regain a position from which it was possible to view, if not an actually "promised land," at least a land which offered redemption should one desire to enter it.

Mr. Herbert Morrison's clear explanation of the project of satellite towns each within a given area around London, and each directly connected to the City by rail and road, opened up the prospect of workpeople living in healthy and pleasant surroundings instead of amid the darkness and smoke and squalor of present conditions. "You cannot," Mr. Morrison said, "separate a man's happiness from his industrial efficiency," and he went on to explain that monotonous houses made monotonous people, and that out of drab lives came drab thoughts and drab efforts.

This commonsense way of looking at things pervaded the spirit of other speeches. Mr. Henry Aldridge, in dealing with the same subject—satellite towns—spoke of the irrepressible good humour of the slum-dwellers, in spite of privation and difficulty; but pointed out that, because of the very bravery of this attitude, it was the more necessary to press for better conditions for these people.

One could have wished that Mr. W. McG. Eager's speech had come earlier in the day. Even the most ardent reformer is human, and Mr. Eager spoke at a point when the audience was not at its best. "The greatest hope of the present time," he said, "is the fact that people everywhere are becoming unable to tolerate slums." And he went on to sound what was perhaps the truest note of the day. Reminding the Conference of the coming Government pronouncement regarding Housing, he made it clear that, to evolve a scheme big enough to tackle the problem, would undoubtedly mean a certain sacrifice for everyone—might, indeed, mean sacrifice on no mean scale. The duty of every individual who had the reform at heart was to see that during the coming months a spirit was created generous enough to bear any trial, which would make for a cleaner, better future. "Anything good," as Miss Bushell, who was one of the last speakers, declared, "is possible for humanity if humanity wants it."

Perhaps the most challenging speech of all was that of Mr. Coppock, General Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives. He made a strong indictment of society as it is with its "ca' canny" in spheres very far removed from that of the industrial worker. "Workers," he said, "build palaces and go out of them, they build workhouses and go into them." Yet his heart was passionately in the matter of houses for decent human living. The Addison houses were good, "but we, Building Operatives, will build better ones—if—" But space forbids. Mr. Coppock gave us the first news of the Government scheme—the workers' scheme—and that will be for all the public to know in a few days.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LEGITIMACY BILL.

MADAM,—In the name of Religion, I strongly oppose the letter signed by "M. Dale," in the *WOMAN'S LEADER* of 28th March. As a Church worker in the Anglican Branch of the Holy Catholic Church, I say it is an utterly untrue slur to cast upon the Priesthood in saying "Priests are always the same . . . They always want to tyrannize over somebody or something in the name of their religion." There undoubtedly are some Priests and some ordinary people all the world over who delight in tyrannizing, but why should the whole body of "Priests," many of whom are working nobly for the highest good of mankind and for all that we women stand for, be thus maligned?

C. J. M. ROBSON.

"THE COMPLEAT CHILD."

MADAM,—The extraordinary statements *re* progressive women and Roman Catholics in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Miss Colt's letter in your last week's issue prompt me to write and suggest that if you do publish an article on religion in a Latin country it be by a Catholic. Obviously Catholics know more about their Church than Anglicans do. Personally, I think to introduce anything that might lead to a religious controversy into the *WOMAN'S LEADER* a mistake. Most people are agreed that children and adults should be "completely" instructed and educated; it is when we get to details the trouble begins, and especially if members of one denomination begin writing on the teachings and doctrines of another denomination, as in nine cases out of ten they will say something hurting to the other and most likely quite wrong.

A. J. MUSSON.

[We regret that owing to lack of space this correspondence must now cease.—ED.]

SEPARATE TAXATION OF MARRIED PERSONS.

MADAM,—Would that all your correspondents might remember that among your readers are probably some who need enlightenment on details. No doubt everyone ought to know what is "the Sub-Committee" referred to by W. A. Elkin as considering the question of joint and separate taxation of married persons—but I very much doubt if everyone does. And from the context there is nothing to tell us if it is—shall we say—a Sub-Committee appointed by the Treasury or by the Executive of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Judging from the suggestions, the latter is more probable, but it would be well to have exactness.

L. FISHER.

[We thank Mrs. Fisher for calling our attention to this oversight. The Committee referred to in Miss Elkin's article was formed as the result of a conference of women's organizations held some months ago under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.—ED.]

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

APRIL 14. 3-4.30 p.m. (The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. "Let us have good Houses in Westminster." Lady Maurice (Hon. Secretary, Kensington Representative Housing Committee).

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

APRIL 17. 8 p.m. Informal Discussion.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION, FELLOWSHIP BRANCH.

APRIL 15. 8 p.m. The Guildhouse Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Debate between Mrs. H. M. Swanwick and Sir Frederick Maurice, on "The Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance." Chairman: The Rev. H. Hudson Shaw.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

CROYDON (North Ward) W.C.A. APRIL 25. 3 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "Equal Franchise."

EDINBURGH W.C.A. MAY 14. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. Discussion: "Scottish Hospitals: Should they be Voluntary, or State-Aided and Rate-Aided?" Speakers: Sir George Beaton, M.D., K.C.B., and Mr. John S. Fraser, M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

LEEDS S.E.C. MAY 5. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. Annual Meeting.

REIGATE AND REDHILL W.C.A. APRIL 15. 3 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "Current Legislation."

WESLEYAN METHODIST EDUCATIONAL TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

APRIL 16. Cheddar and Banwell Circuit Temperance Rally. Churchill Memorial Chapel, Special visit of the Rev. Henry Carter. 4 p.m., Public Service; 5.15 p.m., Public Tea; 6.30 p.m., Public Temperance Assembly.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPEWRITERS.—
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NORTH DEVON.—Guests received beautiful old manor house; special terms workers. In reach all noted beauty spots. Farm produce.—Tabor, Lee House, Marwood, N. Devon.

WENSLEYDALE.—Comfortable BOARD-RESIDENCE in quiet house; electric light. No motor dust. Moors, waterfalls, ruins. A few vacancies for Easter.—Smith, Low Green House, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.

ATTRACTIVE small furnished HOUSE (telephone), 2 reception, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, 2 lavatories. Golders Green station and all routes, including Wembley. Owner (abroad) desires careful tenant; longish let preferred.—Write, Taylor, 55 Woodgrange Avenue, N. Finchley 158.

BED-SITTING-ROOM in lady's house; gas-fire, use of kitchen; breakfast optional; moderate terms.—Box 1059, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

NORTH DEVON.—Few Paying Guests received; comfortable cottage, sea and country, interesting part; terms moderate.—Pottery, Fremington.

PROFESSIONAL.

LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Mauresa Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1, the only Income Tax Agency owned and managed by a woman. Telephone: Holborn 377.

MADAME FLORENCE DUNN (late pupil of Mr. Charles Tree, London), Contralto Vocalist, Teacher of Singing. At Messrs. Forrest & Co.'s Studio, Shrewsbury.—For terms, apply, 40 Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton, Salop.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

FINE quality Irish Linen Glass Cloths, lettered "Glass," "Tea," "Pantry," "Housemaid" or "Basin," size 22 by 30 inches, 12s. 6d. per dozen. Also larger size, 23 by 31 inches, same letterings, 14s. 6d. per dozen. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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

THE HAT DOCTOR, removed to 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W. 1, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,017, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

HOUSES FOR SALE.

BUNGALOWS, summer or permanent, 3-5 rooms; one ready, £300. View, water, bath, conveniences; freehold land; sandy, healthy; golf; buses. London, 80 miles.—Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

DRESS.

MISS MALCOLM'S DRESS ASSOCIATION, 239 Fulham Road, London, S.W. 3. Bargain Gowns, Evening and Afternoon, at 21s.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sara, 163 Ebury Street (5 min. Victoria Station). Tel., Ken. 9347. Children's Dresses of original and practical design. Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Smocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, S.W. 1. Office closed March 21st-31st. Then address: 16 Marsham Street, Westminster. Opening of Members' Centre to be announced later.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro. tem.).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 13th April, 3.30. Music. "Thy Kingdom Come: A Play for Easter Eve," by Florence Converse. 6.30. Maude Roydon: "Christ and the Universe: the Drama of the Incarnation."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 161, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 17th April: Informal discussion.

HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10.
Tel.: Kensington 5213.

On and after December 14th, 1923, the Employment Registers of the Centre will be closed and work will be concentrated on its second and third objects:

"(1) To encourage training and interest in Domestic occupations."

"(2) To do everything possible to raise the status of Domestic Service, as Florence Nightingale did that of Sick-Nursing."

As this will entail much outside work the office will only be open for interviews once a week—on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., except by special appointment.

ANN POPE, HON. SECRETARY.
(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

HOME-MADE CAKES, made with butter and eggs (no substitutes), can be obtained from Nan's Kitchen, 15 Furnival Street, Holborn, London, W.C. Layer cakes, éclairs, meringues, etc. Regular orders undertaken. A room for tea and light luncheons. Recommended by Ann Pope.

THE SHIELD CO-OPERATIVE RESTAURANT, 1 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, has an excellent French cook. After 3 o'clock there are two rooms on the 1st floor which can be engaged for private tea parties. Tea and lunch served daily in the restaurant. Smoking-room.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **1½d.** including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

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