

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### The Coming Session.

Before every Session of Parliament there seem to loom issues of sufficient moment to justify the verdict that exceptionally vital decisions await His Majesty's Government and Opposition. And the Session which will open before our issue of next week goes to press is no exception to the rule. Are we on the eve of a new effort on behalf of industrial peace, or a second round of the class war? The answer seems to depend upon whether Mr. Baldwin once more sets his hand to the plough of social reform and lengthens the furrow whose direction was set by the pensions scheme of 1924, or whether he sharpens the embitterment of a disaffected working-class by an attack upon the legal position of trade unionism. Perhaps this live issue is bound up with the dominant issue of cabinet reconstruction recently stirred by a *Times* leader—a leader attributed by some to the deliberate inspiration of Downing Street itself. Meanwhile there is a new factor in the situation: reconstructed Liberalism under the leadership of Mr. Lloyd George. The conspicuous ability which Mr. George displayed during the successive coal debates suggests that with the restored confidence of his party, he may contribute to the coming Session a consistency and efficiency of attack which the Labour party has during the past year failed to contribute. But what of the Labour party? With its dirty linen washed clean and hanging out to dry, there may come to it an access of self-confidence and self respect. The history of the Labour movement shows, with curious regularity, the swing as of a pendulum between industrial aggression and political aggression. Failure in the industrial front invariably generates new reliance on the political front, and a new focus of attention upon parliamentary possibilities. And never since the 1830's has failure on the industrial front been so complete or so irrevocable. Therefore, all things considered there is some ground for the belief that we are face to face with a parliamentary session of very peculiar moment.

#### The Conservation of Life.

Last week the Registrar-General issued his provisional 1926 figures for the birth and death-rates of England and Wales in 1926. The birth-rate shows a decline as against 1925 of from 18.3 to 17.8 per 1,000. With the exception of 1918, it is the lowest yet recorded. The death-rate shows an even greater decline. From 12.2 in 1925 it has fallen to 11.6 in 1926; actually the lowest rate yet recorded and equal to that of 1923. Infant mortality shows the most striking fall. From 75 per 1,000 births in 1925 it has fallen to 70 in 1926. For London taken separately, the fall is from 68 to 64. Those people whose interest in vital statistics is limited to the birth-rate may see in its latest drop a threat to the continued increase of the race. But it should be remembered that it is the *survival rate* rather than the birth-rate which governs the increase of population, and considera-

tion of the survival rate requires us to see the birth-rate always in relation to the death-rate—more particularly the infant death-rate. It is the difference between the birth-rate and the death-rate which really matters to those who desire a steady increase of mankind. And from the point of view of the survival rate, this latest double movement of our vital statistics must be regarded as eminently satisfactory. It is clearly more economical, in terms of money, physical wear and tear, and individual happiness, to secure a natural increase in the population by means of a low birth-rate, and an even lower death-rate, than by means of a high death-rate and an even higher birth-rate. Slowly but surely we are receding from the time when the people of this country were willing to sow the seeds of life indiscriminately on unprepared ground in the hope that some might survive their haphazard sowing and bear fruit.

#### The One-sided View.

Meanwhile, *The Times* leading article of 24th January, on "The Falling Birth Rate" most adequately illustrates the danger of concentrating upon only one element of vital statistics. Its writer, in attempting to account for the decline mentioned above relates the movement of the birth-rate to two causes. First, some general decline in the fecundity of the human race following upon the increased fecundity of the early nineteenth century (he speaks of fertility, i.e. the number of children born, but he clearly means fecundity, the number who could be born), secondly, the rise and fall of material prosperity, operating to increase population with the increase of production during the industrial revolution and to bring about a state of quiescence in our own time. But while biological science (we have in mind Professor Carr Saunders' recent monumental work on population) seems unable to confirm any suggestion that human fecundity has declined, historical research appears equally unable to substantiate the belief that the birth-rate rose rapidly during the industrial revolution. What it is proving with some conviction—as was shown by Miss Buer in a book recently reviewed in these columns—is that the unprecedented increase of population which took place at the end of the eighteenth century, and the beginning of the nineteenth, was due not to a rise in the birth-rate, but to a stupendous fall in the death-rate.

#### The Mental Deficiency Bill.

The Central Association for Mental Welfare has sent to the Press a memorandum dealing with the two most hotly contested points in the Mental Deficiency Bill which was dropped last session. They point out that the effect of the proposed changes would only be (i) to bring under the Act children whose development has been stopped or retarded by injury or a disease, such as sleepy sickness, as well as those included at present whose abnormality dates from a very early age, (ii) to enable poor children to obtain the protection of the Act without their parents, who are probably doing their very best for them, being forced to plead "neglect." These effects must be desired by everyone, so that the opposition which undoubtedly exists can probably be met by better drafting. By all means let the Bill go through. We shall then have intensified our real difficulty—the lack of accommodation for children who require treatment. The institutions which exist are crowded; children may have to wait two or three years before they can be received. The problem is threefold—there are children who can, be made, by care, into useful citizens; these it is a privilege and should be a delight to save. There are children who cannot be restored to normality, but who can be made harmless and kept tolerably free from wretchedness in suitable restraint. These it is our duty to preserve from the dangers which send them, at present, in increasing numbers, into our hospitals, workhouses, and

prisons. Finally, there are the comparatively few terrible and hopeless cases, the creatures who should never have been born, frequently diseased in body as well as mind, incapable of even an animal happiness. These, who in a primitive community would die, we choose to keep alive in misery. Their own best interest would be a painless death. If, in the interests of our consciences, we must deny them this, let us see to it that these same consciences repay their debt to the children for whom something can still be done.

#### Justice and the Death Duties.

The deaths, which we regret to record, of Lord and Lady Bearsted, occurring as they did within a few hours of one another, remind us of the great injustice done to widows by the present system of Death Duties. A man and his wife, while both are alive, count as one person for the collection of income tax, but should one die whatever money over £500 passes from the deceased to the survivor must pay Death Duty and Inheritance Tax. That this is illogical perhaps does not matter very much; what does matter is that its operation is often harmful to family life, and harsh. Take the common case of a married couple who live together and on the husband's earnings bring up a family. This income may not be earned by the wife in one sense, but in another, if she is the ordinary decent responsible mother and housekeeper, she gives value to the community for her share of it. At any rate it is her only income—all the money she gets for the work she does. The breadwinner dies leaving her with, say £200 a year, the interest on what they have jointly saved, and with the education of her family not completed. At the very moment when her standard of living is drastically reduced by the loss of her husband's earnings, and her children's future threatened, the State steps in to tax her small capital—money which in many cases was saved rather by her thrift and good management than by her husband's. At a time when Widows' Pensions are being given to those who have not been able to save, surely this is indefensible. Rich men with astute solicitors evade such taxation by leaving their fortunes directly to the eventual heirs, their sons or grandsons, with an understanding that the mother is to receive an allowance during her life. The State therefore does not benefit, but the wife loses, and that huge discrepancy is still further increased which exists between the amount of money owned by men and the amount which is owned by women.

#### Two Enterprising Business Women.

Hull boasts the possession of a woman pioneer in the sphere of commercial engineering: Mrs. Rosalie Harrison, manager and traveller for a firm of belting manufacturers and mill furnishers. In 1915 Mrs. Harrison undertook the work of assistant manager of the Hull branch, under her husband, who was then manager. On his death shortly after she assumed his whole duties, which she has performed with success for twelve years. Now she is proposing to take over the Hull depot on her own account. We wish her all success in her venture. In the same county of Yorkshire Mrs. G. W. Willson, M.B.E., President of the Women's Engineering Society, is developing a new housing estate. She has already built a group of houses in the neighbourhood of her husband's engineering works, and its success stimulated the local authorities to entrust her with the construction of a group of working men's houses in another area. These are now on the way to completion. Mrs. Willson herself worked in a factory in early youth, and has first-hand knowledge of the conditions and requirements of working-class life.

#### New Ventures Overseas.

Mrs. Felicia Fischer is the first woman in Vienna to secure a licence to drive a taxi—nor did she secure it without some difficulty. Having passed her driving tests, she was refused leave to apply her skill in the way she desired, on the ground of sex. But this decision she happily succeeded in circumventing by an appeal to the Courts "in the name of equal rights for all citizens before the law." We congratulate the woman who obtained this judgment and the court which gave it. In Italy Signorina Giuriati claims the distinction of being the first woman air pilot. Further afield, in Persia, Madame Heidary, Secretary to the Minister of Public Works, is the first woman to be appointed as member of a Government Commission. In China, Mrs. Sun Yat Sen has been nominated as first president of a new Cantonese Government, while in Madras Mrs. Muthu Lakshmi Ammal, the only lady member of the Legislative Council, has been elected deputy president, unopposed.

#### The Revolt of the Charwoman.

The one class of married women workers against whom no voice has risen in protest—the charwoman—has, we are told in the *Daily Express*, herself become vociferous. We have no authentic information about the reported revolt at Whitehall, but we think there is a good deal to be said for the proposed inquiry into the system of cleaning Government offices. We have no special knowledge of Government as compared with other offices, but there is no doubt that the office char often has a hard time of it. She is seldom the direct employee of any firm, but is engaged by a caretaker who wants to get the most work out of her for the least possible pay. Complaint on the part of the tenant of any office would mean her instant dismissal. Methods of cleaning are old-fashioned, utterly ineffective, and physically exhausting to an unnecessary degree. The unfortunate charwoman has usually long distances to travel twice a day, for we are told it is absurd to expect housing accommodation for the workers in the heart of London. Altogether her lot is an unenviable one, but she has this advantage when once she realizes it—that she is becoming more and more indispensable in these days of servant shortage. With labour-saving apparatus, and better-trained labour, the non-resident worker, even the humble cleaner, will inevitably assert her rights and emerge from her present draggled and down-trodden existence.

#### Co-ordination at Sheffield.

Co-ordination is becoming a governing principle in all departments of local government, and a step in its direction has recently been taken by the Sheffield City Council. In future all health services for which the Council is liable will be under the administration of the Public Health Committee, including the care of the mentally deficient and of the city's municipal baths. The special committees which were formerly responsible will cease to exist.

#### Municipal Banks.

The success of the Birmingham Municipal Bank has led to the establishment of a Treasury Commission to consider the further establishment of such banks, and, if so, within what limits. It has been found in Birmingham that the bank has tapped a type of depositor not touched by other banking establishments. A meeting of Swansea ratepayers recently approved the promotion of a Bill which will give their Council power to "establish a saving and housing bank, for the acceptance of deposits and to make advances on property."

#### A Duel in the Air.

Mrs. Elliott Lynn has celebrated her decision to remain an active air-pilot by challenging a French colleague, Mlle Adrienne Boland, to a "duel" in the air. We understand that these two eminent ladies will not attempt to kill one another, but merely to out-fly one another in all respects. The event should take place some time in May.

#### Ourselves—Appreciation and Criticism.

A correspondent recently wondered if our "admirers are as ready with their letters as our critics." It is only fair to say that we receive many appreciative letters, usually accompanying renewal forms, and not intended for publication. We venture to give extracts from two recent letters, both by a curious coincidence from women engaged in public work. A member of a public authority, writing to thank us for the article on Equal Pay for Equal Work in the issue of 7th January, writes: "One gets very tired fighting these battles (equal treatment for women), but your paper does cheer." A Public Health Worker writes: "I am quite convinced that any extra service I have been able to render is due not only to experience gained by several years' public health work but to the feeling of being a woman citizen which I have acquired through reading your invaluable paper. . . . I regret most sincerely, not being able to send you a subscription in proportion to my gratitude, for it would then be a substantial one." It occurs to us that there are many women engaged officially in some form of public or social work who cannot afford to buy books or papers. It would be a gracious act on the part of any of our regular readers, many of whom are in positions of responsibility, to supply any such women with a year's subscription to THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

#### NEW YEAR COMING IN APACE: WHAT HAVE YOU TO BRING US?

Once again we have to face the beginning of a parliamentary session, which should be a critical time for the woman's movement. In spite of, or perhaps because, it is the ninth year running that organized women have made an appeal to the Government to tackle the question of Equal Franchise, there are for the first time indications that the Government is to make a move. We in these columns have never hesitated to indulge in prophecy, and careful scrutiny of the way various straws are blowing encourages us to give as our opinion that Equal Franchise will find mention in the King's Speech, probably, however, only in the form of an announcement that the long delayed Conference is to be set up. Had this announcement been made last year, it would of course hardly have been a cause for rejoicing, since every women's organization regards the Conference as a time-losing device, but at least there would have been the satisfaction of knowing that the Home Secretary's pledge on behalf of the Government was being honoured, and that there was a reasonable chance of legislation's reaching the Statute Book in time for women to vote at the next election.

Even now we do not wish to take too black a view. Everything, of course, depends on when the election will be. We do feel it imperative, however, that in order that the cry of "too late" should not be raised, names of the requisite new voters should be placed on the register by this October. Legislation must reach the Statute Book before June if this is to be accomplished. The setting up of a Conference would, however, make it mighty difficult, though not impossible, for that consummation to be reached this year.

We shall soon find out whether the Government intends to honour its pledge not only in the letter but also in the spirit; by noting who are to be members of the Conference, with what speed it carries out its labours, and whether any red herring, such as proposing to raise the minimum voting age to 25, will be put before it.

Three other subjects of very direct importance to women will probably engage the attention of Parliament: the reform of the Poor Law, National Health Insurance, and a Factories Bill.

We have often mentioned in these columns, and shall shortly be dealing in greater detail with, the Government's proposals to transfer the powers of Boards of Guardians to County and Borough Councils. Women are, of course, very directly interested in every aspect of this problem. We are confining ourselves for the moment to considering the need for ensuring that on the new authorities women will play as prominent a part as they have on Boards of Guardians. It is difficult to make any suggestion as to how this is to be accomplished, save by providing that there should be an adequate number of women on each committee concerned with relief, whether as co-opted or elected members. Those in close touch with the problem would, however, not be surprised if the Government postponed consideration of this most knotty of all problems, in that it involves a tussle between different local authorities, until another year.

Much the same applies to the Factories Bill. In fact we have ourselves been informed by the Under-Secretary of the Home Office that there is doubt as to the introduction of last year's Bill. We wish we could claim that this was due to searchings of heart on the part of the Home Office, with regard to discriminating legislation against women. We fear, however, that delay is much more likely to be a concession not to feminist principles, but to the powers of darkness in the shape of unenlightened employers, whose parrot cries, that improved conditions will swallow up profits, have been familiar since 1802.

Should, however, the Factories Bill be introduced, many women's organizations will undoubtedly try not so much to reduce the protection proposed for women, but to have it extended to men as well. No one will deny, for example, that it is an anomaly, at a time when the ratification of the Washington Hours Convention is overdue, to deal in a Factories Bill with hours for women and young persons only.

A fine opportunity to improve the welfare of the insured community, and especially of insured women, the wives of

insured men and young persons, will be found in the legislation which has been foreshadowed in, and will, no doubt, be based in part on, the Report of the Royal Commission published last year. The subject is an important one, and we hope to return to it in a series of articles later. We cannot deal with it in all its aspects here, but must content ourselves with saying that at least one big women's organization—the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship—has a very definite policy which it will do its utmost to see carried out. This involves the recognition of the desirability of contributions and benefits being based, not on sex, as at present, but rather according to the rates of wages. It recognizes the need for improving the provision for adequate care and attention during childbirth, by providing skilled attendance, whether by a doctor or midwife, adequate nursing provision and a cash benefit for all who come within the scope of the scheme. Dependents of insured persons are to be provided for firstly by dependents' allowances in the case of the sickness of the wage-earner, and secondly by medical benefits, it being felt that no system of insurance could be called national which leaves out of account altogether the wives, children, and other dependents of the insured community. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is asking also that young persons should be brought within the provisions of the Act, and proposes bringing pressure to bear in order that women should play an adequate part in its administration.

With regard to other matters specially affecting women and children, which it is hoped will be considered by the House this year, there is nothing very new. Efforts will again be made to see placed on the Statute Book the Bills which were either actually before one or other of the Houses last year, or on behalf of which efforts were made to have introduced. Thus Parliament will again be asked to consider the status of the illegitimate child, both in the Bastardy Bill referred to in another column, and the Scottish Illegitimacy Bill. In connection with the Public Places (Order) Bill, which, as we announced last week, is to be introduced into both Houses, there is reason to hope that at any rate a committee of inquiry will be set up. We are informed that Lord Astor is once again going to enter the lists in support of Peeresses in their own right. The publication of statutory regulations with regard to the appointment of women police will probably be discussed in a resolution, as will also the employment of married women by Civil Service and Local Authorities, and the need for testamentary provision for wives, husbands, and children. No doubt attempts similar to those of other years, will be made to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to provide in the Finance Bill for the separate taxation of the incomes of married persons.

And so on and so on—a long list, and one that with a few exceptions might have been copied unremarked from our corresponding number of last year. This tortoise race is a little depressing, perhaps, but after all nothing new. We of the woman's movement have learnt patience in a hard school, and realize that it takes many years and many endeavours to build up each stage of the way. It is only when we look back over a longer period, say since our first suffrage measure was won, that we realize that we have made real progress, and that one of the causes of our depression may be that fortunately the standards of what we want increase with our successes.

E. M. HUBBACK.

#### THE BASTARDY BILL.

The Bastardy Bill, which was introduced by Captain Bowyer in 1925, but did not make much progress owing to lack of time in the House of Commons, is to be sponsored this year by Lord Astor. This Bill, which was drafted by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, in consultation with other organizations interested in the welfare of the illegitimate child, deals with four main principles: The hearing of affiliation cases before the birth of the child; payment by the father to be ordered at the discretion of the Court towards the support of the mother during the later months of pregnancy; affiliation cases to be heard, in spite of the fact that the mother's evidence cannot be given owing to her death or insanity; and an order to be allowed for pregnancy and confinement expenses even though the child is born dead. The support of Local Authorities and voluntary organizations is urgently required for the Bill. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, N.C.U.M.C., Carnegie House, 117 Piccadilly, W. 1.

## THE NEXT "NEW POOR LAW"?

Students of social history will remember how much interest the Poor Law has always aroused from the days of Elizabeth down to the present time. A sidelight on the "New Poor Law" controversies of the 'forties is unexpectedly to be found in that goldmine of interest, Michael Sadleir's new book, *Trollope, a Commentary*, which "everybody" is reading. Trollope's astonishing mother rushed into the fray with little or no knowledge, but with the true crusading spirit and a ready pen against no less a person than the redoubtable Harriet Martineau, whom she had her own reasons for disliking, and published a three-volume novel against the "dry hard utilitarianism and mere pounds, shillings, and pence counting political economy," of the "un-Christian" new Poor Law. Well, as a reviewer in this paper pointed out last week,<sup>1</sup> the new Poor Law will in all likelihood be broken up by Mr. Neville Chamberlain or his successors, and now that the prospects of drastic changes have thrust themselves into the forefront of the political stage, careful study of the subject in all its bearings is a matter not of academic but of practical importance.

To-day the whole question is still in the melting pot and the shape in which the present indeterminate outlines will finally emerge depends largely on the comments, criticisms, and practical alternatives of those who without bias or prejudice are engaged in the consideration of the problem.

Most readers of this paper are at least vaguely familiar with the skeleton proposals adumbrated by the Minister of Health. The arguments for and against these proposals must be examined and the claims of counter-schemes sifted. But this is not sufficient; change of some kind is inevitable, and whether it assumes a form approved by ourselves or not the provisions of any Government measure must be scrutinized with the microscope of experience. Many dangers, some obvious, some hidden, have already been predicted. The risk of the transfer from a specialized authority to a large, cumbersome, inexperienced, and overworked body; the loss of the present personal touch; and, perhaps the greatest danger of all, the same old heavy out-of-date machinery masquerading under a new name; the reduction in the services of women, may be instanced among other consequences of the Government proposals.

Within the next few months the problem will be examined from different angles in the pages of this paper by those who can speak with the weight of knowledge and experience. For the assistance of those who want a background for further study a short list of works of reference is appended.

The primary issue of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals is the abolition of an *ad hoc* authority dealing with public assistance. Boards of Guardians are now the only surviving *ad hoc* public authorities in England and Wales. Health Boards and School Boards have vanished. In the logical course of historical sequence Boards to administer the Poor Law must share the fate of other separate administrative bodies and become merged in a unified scheme of local government. But a strong body of opinion is opposed to this view. For purposes of a better informed discussion it may therefore be helpful at this point to turn to the consideration of the counter proposal put forward in the reply by the Association of Poor Law Unions. This association considers the existence of an *ad hoc* authority, directly elected by the ratepayer for the work of public assistance, to be of paramount importance. It considers that county and municipal bodies have already proved their unfitness in their "inability to cope with the functions of a fundamentally personal service character which have been imposed on them in recent years."

The solution is, in its opinion, to enlarge the scope of the Poor Law Guardians or whatever the body may be called which carries out the work of public assistance, to cover all matters relating to the administration of public assistance to the aged, children, physically unfit, the sick and the able-bodied, not only as affecting the destitute and helpless, but as affecting "all classes of the community who are required in the interests either of the individual or of the community to be provided with one or other of the several forms of personal service." This is indeed a far cry from the destitution tests of the new Poor Law. It involves a transfer almost if not as considerable as the transfer indicated in the Government's proposals—the transfer of administration, of legislation concerned with insurance, mental deficiency, Old Age Pensions, Widows, Orphans, and Old Age Pensions and other Acts dealing with any form of individual assistance.

<sup>1</sup> "The Old Poor Law", WOMAN'S LEADER, 21st January, 1927.

The association admits that a unification of public assistance is required, but believes that this unification can be best brought about by the disentanglement of the public assistance functions which have one by one been added during the past quarter of a century to the primary functions of county and municipal authorities. They admit the truth of the criticism that the present system of direct election of Boards of Guardians excites very little public interest, but they believe that the exclusion of the powers and responsibilities of the re-created authority to embrace modern constructive methods of attacking the problems of poverty would awaken new interest and attract far wider attention than if the work of public assistance became one of many branches of an already overburdened administrative body.

This then is the fundamental issue. Is the work of public assistance in all its many aspects—preventive, constructive, curative—to be co-ordinated by the transfer of the functions at present allotted to Boards of Guardians or is it to be the other way round? Which ever way it may be—and we do not think there is much doubt about the ultimate solution—there are "the wrecked hulls of past experiments" in every direction which can only be salvaged by the joint efforts of the student of history and the well-informed and practical administrator.

E. M.

Short list of books, papers, etc., for reference on reform of Poor Law:—

Reports of the Royal Commission on Poor Laws, 1909 (various summaries are published).

Report on Transfer of Functions of Poor Law Authorities for England and Wales, Cd. 8917, price 3d.

Provisional proposals for Poor Law Reform, 1925. His Majesty's Stationery Office, 2d. net.

Association of Poor Law Unions, reply to Ministers' Poor Law Reform Scheme, Law and Local Government Publications Limited, 27-29 Fournival Street, London, E.C.

## THE ARMENIANS IN SYRIA.

By E. M. PYE.

Of the 3,000,000 Armenians that are said to be left in the world, about 1,200,000 are crowded into Russian Armenia, a tiny country of about 10,800 square miles, of which 3,400 more or less are at present possible of cultivation, the rest being mountains and high marsh land. Between 700,000 and 800,000 are scattered about in other parts of the Soviet republic, in Persia, Greece, Bulgaria, Syria, etc., while a large number of the better educated and better off refugees have emigrated to the United States, South America, and France.

There remain as a serious problem the Armenians in Greece and Bulgaria, and about 800,000 in Syria. All hope is not yet abandoned that Nansen will succeed in his scheme of an international loan for the drainage of some of the marshes in Russian Armenia which would convert them into rich cultivable land, on which could be settled about 25,000 Armenians unwanted by the Greek and Bulgarian Governments who, nevertheless, have made great and generous efforts to help them.

But even should this scheme go through without delay, considerable time must elapse before it would be possible to settle refugees upon the land. The little country of Erivan under the protection of Russia seems, in spite of earthquakes and other misfortunes, to be making good progress towards prosperity, but it would be impossible to look in that direction for any immediate relief of the urgent needs of the present situation in Syria, where the problem concerning 20,000 out of some 80,000 Armenians who remain in that country, is acute.

When the French replaced the British forces in Cilicia, large numbers of Armenians had returned there at the end of the war, and started to piece together again their broken and scattered lives under their protection. In 1922, the French in their turn retired from Cilicia, leaving it to Turkish rule, and the Armenians driven by a fear born of those terrible years of war and massacre, fled again after them, and crowded down into Syria and the Lebanon. The Mandatory Power was wholly unprepared to deal with such a mass of helpless and indigent people in addition to the general unrest in Syria. They were crowded mainly into three huge camps at Aleppo, Alexandretta, and Beirut, where many thousands of them still remain. Large numbers of them are of peasant stock and would be perfectly well able to maintain themselves upon the land if they could be placed upon it, instead of being herded together under insanitary conditions, idle and

starving. The way in which they have maintained their self-respect under such conditions, endured now for nearly five years, is a proof of their high quality of soul.

The question is continually before the League of Nations, and this year a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Refugees was appointed to deal specially with the Armenians in Syria, in close co-operation with the Mandatory Power. Dr. Nansen High Commissioner for Refugees, is chairman, and M. Albert Thomas, vice-chairman. Mr. Johnson, assistant High Commissioner, has just been to Syria on behalf of the Committee to find out what can be done, and his report is most encouraging.

He found the French most anxious to co-operate in every possible way, and as proof of this he cited the fact that the £25,000 granted by the Lebanon Government for Armenian refugees has been handed over to the sub-committee for the scheme for settlement on the land that is now being worked out.

Mr. Johnson reports that there are about 10,000 (roughly about 2,000 families) in the camp at Beirut, for whom provision must be made at once, and another 10,000 throughout the region who ought to be helped as soon as possible. There is fertile land to be had in many places down the coast, and round Antioch there are already a large number of Armenian farmers who would enlarge their farms and take in other families if money for houses, seed, and cattle were provided. The League of Nations Commissioners on the spot has already succeeded in placing a certain number of families in this way at an average cost of about £30 per family.

Great care has to be exercised in the choice of position and the numbers placed together, owing to the immense number of racial and religious animosities that abound in that part of the world; but it seems likely that by placing the Armenians together in small groups as cultivators of land capable of great improvement, a solution of the problem of much individual misery may be found.

The sum needed is at least £120,000, towards which some £33,000 is in sight. The various Societies in this country who are working for the Armenians are uniting to press this scheme and are represented on the Sub-Committee. The British Government has made many promises to the Armenians, all unfulfilled, and it is hoped that at long last a substantial contribution may be made towards this effort in obtaining if not justice, at least mercy for a remnant of the Armenian people.

"THE COMMENTS OF JUNIPER."<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Laurence Housman's new volume of his Little Plays of St. Francis, called *The Comments of Juniper*, is largely occupied with the play of mind and action between Friar Juniper and his beloved master Francis. Juniper, as all who are learned in Franciscan lore are aware, was the fool of the Order around whom gathered anecdotes true and less true, but all characteristic of a "silly" one in the best sense of that old word (selig, blessed), one chosen and set apart by God himself as is the happy myth that would in times gone by gather round the fool in village or town. Francis and his follower understood each other as do a noble master and a noble dog, but Juniper did not mind making, in the literal and metaphorical sense, an ass of himself, whereas few dogs there be who will willingly depart from a certain high standard of personal dignity and self-respect.

These plays, some of which have been acted this autumn in celebration of the Septcentenary, have a remarkable effect upon audiences. But the audience for a "Little Play" is an audience with some knowledge of Francis and his Order, and with some willingness to "assist" in the French sense, at an occasion when not only an appreciation of art, but also some religious insight is essential. Also, be it said, there are those, and the present reviewer is one, who, in spite of a strong specialized public opinion compelling silence, have to confess to a touch of embarrassment in beholding things which, in the old legends veiled by the lovely mist of years, are here set out with the sort of realism that requires, for example, that Juniper shall gambol up and down a confined stage, bearing the holy father pick-a-back. But, after all, why let in the dry east wind of so crabbed a thing as criticism? Those who love Francis love the Little Plays and they love Juniper because of the love between him and Francis. In that lovely sketch "The Order of Release" it is shown how Francis called for Juniper at the last and as he ran to answer the call St. Clare cried out, "Oh, Sisters, how much ought we not to thank God for the making of this Juniper. There goes love for the little Father! Run, run, Juniper! Run!"

A. H. W.

<sup>1</sup> *The Comments of Juniper*, by Laurence Housman (Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd., 5s. net.)

## OUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

THE UNIMAGINATIVE WATCH COMMITTEE.

In our issue of 7th January, we reported a widely representative deputation to the Exeter Watch Committee to urge the appointment of women police. At the close of last year, it will be remembered, a deputation from the Devon Council of Women to the Standing Joint Committee at the Castle of Exeter was also reported. In spite of these efforts the Plymouth Watch Committee endorsed the opinion of a sub-committee that there was no justification for the employment of women police in that city. The work that might fall to women police officers was, in their opinion, adequately carried out by two police matrons and by a whole-time female probation officer. So much for the West of England. From Boston, Lincolnshire, we hear that the Chief Constable has stated that he would not know what to do with a police woman if he had one! In both the above cases the Watch Committee had under consideration a recent circular sent by the Home Office to local authorities calling their attention to the desirability of appointing "one or more police women where the circumstances justify that course." We believe there is no question upon which women are more unanimous than this. The Home Office may not go so far as we wish, but it has at least given a lead in the right direction. But Watch Committees present an impenetrable front, impervious alike to reason or pressure. What is the remedy? There is one remedy, and that is to mark down individual members of Watch Committees who oppose the reform and carry on intensive campaigns in season and out of season among the women voters in their ward. "It's dogged as does it." Another remedy is to get more women on Watch Committees. But that is another story.

MORALS OF A SEAPORT.

Plymouth, with its dockyards and barracks, does not, in the opinion of its Watch Committee, require the services of women police to patrol danger spots in the interests of morality and of the welfare of young and thoughtless people. Another seaport, Hull, has had unpleasant notoriety this week through an attack made by the Port Chaplain at a recent meeting in the city. Apparently the best that can be said on the other side is that the allegations are exaggerated and that Hull is no worse than other seaports. The suggestion that women police might be usefully employed in the solution to the problem comes from the Secretary to the Hull Vigilance Association. Is it impossible to penetrate the dull intelligences of members of Watch Committees and convince them that women police are not only required for the comparatively small number of women convicted of offences, but for the protection of our streets and public places?

IMPETUOSITY, POLICE, AND A FIRE BRIGADE.

It may perhaps interest the champions of women police to note that the masculine police officials of Brighton have summoned the local Fire Brigade for exceeding the speed limit of 20 miles an hour while hastening to a fire. The Fire Brigade have replied (a) that the speed limit for heavy locomotives such as fire engines is not 20 miles an hour but 12, and (b) that they have in their time saved many human lives by a margin of a very few minutes. The police, on the other hand, point out that on this occasion the fire engine mounted the pavement and damaged a municipal lamp-post. The case stands adjourned, so comment is illegal, but the verdict is being awaited with interest by (a) human beings, (b) lamp-posts.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The Bermondsey Borough Council has inaugurated a new scheme for the disposal of its refuse, of which the chief features are the introduction of an up-to-date container to take the place of the old-fashioned dust-cart and a modern incinerator for the destruction of the refuse. For the past four or five years Bermondsey, as is the case with other London Boroughs, has had difficulties in regard to the collection and disposal of refuse, much of which has been barged and deposited down the Thames to the detriment of the public health and of the inhabitants. It is believed that the new scheme will effect a saving of nearly £2,000 a year on the present charges, and it will be possible to use the hard, vitrified clinker for building, road making, and other purposes.

## A CLEARING HOUSE FOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

By G. W. KEELING.

Just as the practical utility of a single volume is impaired by the want of an index, so the vast aggregation of human knowledge is bestowing only a portion of its benefits and power on mankind because so much of it is inaccessible to the many who could profit by it. It was with the idea of remedying this to some extent that in September, 1924, a Conference was called at Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, on the instigation of some of the Research Associations connected with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. So keen an interest was then shown in the interchange and dissemination of information that the Conference appointed a Standing Committee which in April, 1925, established a permanent organization under the name of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, with an office at 38 Bloomsbury Square, W.C. 1.

The main objects of the Association thus formed are to promote the wider distribution of published information, to examine and co-ordinate the activities of special libraries and information bureaux, to establish the principle of free interchange of non-confidential information, and to act as a clearing-house that will indicate to its members where information is obtainable on specific subjects.

As a basis for these activities a Directory of Sources of Specialized Information is now being compiled, by G. F. Barwick, late Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum, in which will be given under subject headings and on as many different branches of knowledge as possible, the sources where special collections of material are to be found in this country. Already a large amount of data has been collected, and it is hoped to go to Press with a first edition this summer. In view of the enormous field to be covered, the first edition will necessarily be incomplete, but subsequent editions will follow and an up-to-date card file of information will be maintained for the use of members.

In considering the work of the A.S.L.I.B. it should be clearly understood that the Association will not itself apply specific information direct to inquirers, but will indicate as definitely as possible those sources where the desired information can be obtained.

Among inquiries recently dealt with were requests from Canada, for a standard list of from 5,000 to 20,000 books suitable for a public library; from India, for the names of "all periodicals on co-operation, economics, and agriculture published in Europe in the European language"; from Japan, for a firm producing centrifugal shot-manufacturing machinery. These are only instances.

A further important branch of the Association's work are the annual conferences which provide a platform where broad policies with regard to bibliography, indexing, abstracting, and so on may be studied and consistently solved; a dominant note of these conferences is the exceedingly practical value of the papers and discussions.

So much for the definite accomplishments; it only remains to indicate some of the potentialities of this young Association; these were well summarized by Mr. J. G. Pearce, Director of the British Cast Iron Research Association and Chairman of the A.S.L.I.B. Council, at a recent Conference at Balliol College, Oxford:—

"It can assist in the vexed question of standardizing the size, frequency of appearance and other details of publications which concern the bibliography.

"It can assist in the formulation of a definite policy with regard to abstracting and diminish overlapping and foster co-operation between abstracting agencies.

"It can formulate and recommend suitable systems of classification, indexing and filing suitable for specialized information bureaux and libraries.

"It might act as a central body for the acquisition of foreign literature and deal with difficulties arising in connection therewith which can only be settled by group pressure.

"It might formulate approved registers of experts in various branches of knowledge and other specialists.

"It might formulate a register of approved translators for particular languages with a view to co-ordinating the demands for various institutions and bodies for foreign translations. The money spent to-day on translations, if organized, would probably serve to cover a much wider field.

"It might act as a clearing-house for back parts or sets of technical periodicals which are now often destroyed as of little or no market value."

(Continued in next column.)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

"GIVE THE CHILD A CHANCE."

Year by year there is a steady and undiminishing stream of defect or physical impairment of the children coming into the schools at 5 years of age. So writes Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of Health of the Board of Education, in the concluding chapter of his valuable and illuminating Report for 1925, published a few weeks ago, on "The Health of the School Child."

In many directions the Report is full of encouragement. It is, however, to the one broad fact just quoted, a fact described by the writer "as at first sight disappointing and foreboding," and to the question, "why after twenty years of medical inspection and treatment are there not more definite signs of improvement in the occurrence and mortality of disease at school age and immediately before it?" that we ask the attention of our readers.

(1) The statement regarding "the stream of defect or impairment" is based, Sir George tells us, (a) on the findings of medical inspections, (b) on the bills of mortality.

Figures supplied by the Registrar-General show that the number of certified deaths of children under 15 years of age in 1925, in England and Wales, was 94,669. Of this number, 81,080 died under 5 years of age, of whom 53,316 were dead before their first birthday. It is true that the figures given show a great improvement on a quarter of a century ago, when in one year the country lost 142,912 infants under one year of age, but the loss of infant life, as Sir George points out, is still very serious, especially if to the total are added 24,000 stillbirths.

(2) Turning now to the question as to why there are not more obvious signs of reduction and improvement, "the answer," says the Chief Medical Officer, "is fourfold, and it can only be suggestive and provisional." (1) There are the biological laws of Heredity and the influence of the Environment upon the individual. The children coming into schools in their fifth year are, in the main, the offspring of six generations of town-dwellers. Like begets like. (2) Our Civilization. All too often we are trying to rear a healthy race which has been born in slums or insanitary dwellings and to nurture it without the necessary amenities of favourable home surroundings. It is not correct to say this cannot be done for it is being done, but it is difficult to do it. In addition, "there must be re-acquired the supreme arts of Maternity and domestic nurture."

(3) An efficient School Medical Service.—The success of the Medical School Service has brought into sight a burden of ill-health which formerly was either unrecognized or suffered without aid. There is not more disease than formerly, but more disease is being treated. But, and (4) we treat disease, but do not sufficiently prevent it. Little organization at present exists for the treatment of the little child between 1 and 4 years of age. A great deal of measles (5,000 children died in 1925), whooping cough, and rheumatic affection receive no treatment at all, and thus seeds of later disease are sown.

There are some enlightened authorities grappling with the question, but there is a call for a greater extension of the work if we are to build up a healthy nation. The time must soon come when each local authority will have carefully to consider the inexpediency of husbanding money alleged to be saved by withholding from little children the medical or surgical aid they need, for such "economy" may prove extravagant, wasteful, and disastrous. True National economy is to save young children from preventable disease.

"The principal needs," says Sir George, "in the immediate future if the health of the school child is to be safeguarded and improved, are (1) Good Stock; (2) efficient, intelligent, and devoted mothers; (3) efficient and extended school medical service."

Lack of space prevents us dealing now with any but this one aspect of the subject treated by Sir George Newman in his latest and brilliant survey of the Health of the School Child. The Report should be carefully studied not only by all members of local authorities, but by mothers and all interested in the welfare of the nation.

(Continued from previous column.)

We have given a brief sketch of this new venture, which is rapidly placing itself in a position to offer valuable services, but its ultimate success will clearly be directly dependent on the degree of co-operation it can foster between the various bodies engaged in the handling of information.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY.  
Hon. Secretary: The LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBARD.  
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 2nd to 5th MARCH.

#### Preliminary Agenda.

The Preliminary Agenda has been published and copies can be obtained from Headquarters, price 5½d. (post free). Members will recognize that many of the subjects proposed, especially those relating to the programme and policy of the Union, are highly contentious and should lead to lively discussions and have important bearings on our future development. Amendments to the Agenda must reach this office not later than Monday, 7th February.

#### Reception.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the reception this year will be held on the first night of the Council, Wednesday, 2nd March, at King's College for Women, Household Science Department, Campden Hill Road, W. 8, by kind permission of the House Committee. Tickets for this reception, free to delegates, price 2s. 6d. to others, can be obtained on application to Headquarters.

#### Public Luncheon.

Among the speakers will be Viscount Astor and Viscount Cecil of Chelwood.

## NORTH LONDON GROUP OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.—EQUAL FRANCHISE.

A Conference on Equal Franchise and Women's Questions before Parliament organized by the North London Group of Societies for Equal Citizenship, will be held in the Town Hall, Hampstead, on Wednesday evening, 2nd February, at 8 o'clock. The speakers will include Mrs. Corbett Ashby, M.A., Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc., Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A., and Miss Eleanor Lodge, M.A. (Principal of Westfield College). The chair will be taken by Lady Pares. In addition to our affiliated Societies in North London, delegates will attend from Hendon W.C.A. party organizations, Co-operative Women's Guilds, adult schools, and girls' clubs. Admission to the meeting is free.

## NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

### ROTHERHAM W.C.A.

At a series of meetings held on 18th January at the Co-operative Cafe Mrs. Abbott spoke on "The Factories Bill" and Mrs. Stocks on "Women and the Poor Law." The Mayoress, Miss Brooke, presided. In the evening the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. Dewar, J.P., was in the chair. There was a lively and delightful debate. The motion "That this meeting disapproves of restrictive legislation for women in industry" was proposed by Mrs. Abbott and opposed by Mrs. Stocks. The voting was against the proposition. Only about half the people voted. The audience was representative of the W.C.A., B.W.T.A., the Labour party, the Women's Co-operative Guild, and others. A most enjoyable and instructive day, and, as Councillor MacLagan said when proposing the vote of thanks—a tonic.

### ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE W.C.A.

On 15th January Mrs. Stocks addressed a well-attended meeting of the Ashton-under-Lyne W.C.A. on Information on Methods of Birth Control being given at Welfare Centres in receipt of Government grants. Mrs. Thompson, of Stalybridge, was in the chair, and one of the results of Mrs. Stocks's splendid address was a generous donation of £3 from the Ashton-under-Lyne W.C.A. to the Headquarters Guarantee Fund.

### EDINBURGH W.C.A.

On 19th January, a public discussion on "Should there be Family Allowances" was held in the Gartshore Hall, Edinburgh, under the auspices of the Edinburgh W.C.A. Miss Rathbone was the chief speaker in favour of the motion and Mr. L. L. Blacknell supported the opposition. The meeting was extremely well attended, and a lively discussion followed the speeches.

## THE OXFORD LIQUOR (POPULAR CONTROL) BILL.

In view of the proposed Second Reading debate in the House of Lords on the Oxford Liquor (Popular Control) Bill early this spring, a special meeting of the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches was convened on Friday last in Caxton Hall, Westminster, to consider the revised form of the Bill, which, sponsored by the Bishop of Liverpool, was introduced into the Lords in November. The main points of the revised Bill were briefly explained by the Bishop of Liverpool and Viscount Astor. At the close of the proceedings the following resolution was proposed by the Rev. Dr. Scott Lidgett, M.A., D.D., seconded by the Bishop of Willemsden, and carried with acclamation:—

"The Council, in view of the vehement attacks upon Lord Astor in the journals of the liquor trade and in a section of the daily Press, as a consequence of his advocacy of legislative Temperance reform and especially of Local Option, places on record its warm appreciation of his steadfast service of the public cause and his courageous support of the legislative Temperance programme of the Churches."

## A GOOD EXAMPLE TO THE CIVIL SERVICE.

We notice in a recent issue of the *Manchester Guardian*, that at a meeting of the Manchester Education Committee it was decided to advertise for a Deputy Director of Education at a salary of £800, rising to £1,200, both men and women being eligible as applicants. In advertising a well-paid post the Manchester Education Committee apparently does not contemplate any differentiation of salary between men and women. We hope that its readiness to consider applicants of either sex on their merits will not in practise be tempered by the widely held belief that £800 to £1,200 a year is too much money to give to a woman!

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### "MA" FERGUSON.

MADAM,—May I call your attention to the note on "Ma" in this week's *Manchester Guardian*? It is so much more adequate than the note in this week's *WOMAN'S LEADER*. In 1924 I regretted beyond words your jubilation over the election of such a woman to be the first woman Governor in one of the States of America. Now you make a joke of it, "while to the serious American public it has been a disaster." That the enfranchisement of women should so quickly have brought about such a scandal is heartbreaking to an old suffragist. Who can now claim that women will purify politics? Alas! alas! and I regret that the *WOMAN'S LEADER* is so little alive (apparently) to the moral issues involved. Godalming. (Mrs.) S. M. PILCHER.

[The career of "Ma" Ferguson may have been a disaster to the "serious American public," but it is a disaster due to their standard of political morality and not to feminism. No serious feminist has ever supposed that every woman born is fit to be a good State governor. Mrs. Ferguson did not stand as a feminist, she stood as a wife, as a cloak, as the avowed emblem of a dishonest system. If she had been unable to stand some male lieutenant of her husband's would have been given the same rôle, and served the same purposes. The moral of this election is surely one which we should be glad to draw—that women should stand and be elected on their own account, because they are qualified for the positions they seek, and not because they are wives or substitutes of this or that man. As for Texas, they sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind; they voted for corruption and they got corruption. Let them hang their heads over it, there is no reason why we should hang ours.—ED.]

## ERRATUM.

In our note last week on the recent presentation of a portrait to the Duchess of Atholl, "Cabinet" should, of course, read "Ministerial."

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY.

ONE PENNY.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

FEB. 3. 7 p.m. E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau, Strand, W.C. 2. Lecture by Mr. W. E. Bush on "Electric Light in the Home and in the School."

## FABIAN WOMEN'S GROUP.

JAN. 31. 8 p.m. Parliamentary Labour Club, 11 Tufton Street, Westminster. Lecture on "The Need for More Sanitary Inspectors," by Miss M. E. Davies.

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

JAN. 28. 1 p.m. Informal Lunch at Lyceum Club, 133 Piccadilly, W. Chair: The Marchioness of Aberdeen. For particulars apply, I.C.W., 25 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

## LABOUR PARTY.

JAN. 28. 10 a.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Conference on Nursing. President of morning session, the Right Hon. F. O. Roberts, M.P.; afternoon, Mrs. Sidney Webb.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

FEB. 1, 2, 3 and 4. 10.15 1st morning, 10.30 other mornings. London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C. Conference on "Systems of Fixing Minimum Wages and Methods of Conciliation and Arbitration in Industrial Disputes."

## LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

FEB. 3. 8 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, S.W. Special General Meeting of Members.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh S.E.C. JAN. 28. 8 p.m. Central Hall, Tollcross. Mass Meeting in support of Equal Franchise. Speakers: Councillor Mrs. Buchanan-Alderton, J.P., Sir Samuel Chapman, M.P., the Right Hon. William Graham, M.P., and others.

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. JAN. 31. 3.30 p.m. Drawing Room Meeting at 4 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7. Miss C. Fulford on "Poor Law and the Proposed Reforms." Chair: The Hon. Mrs. John Bailey.

Leominster W.C.A. JAN. 31. 3.30 Social, 7 p.m. Meeting. Etnam Street Hall, Mrs. Ryland: "Work and Aims of the N.U.S.E.C."

North London Group of Societies for Equal Citizenship. FEB. 2. 8 p.m. The Town Hall, Hampstead. Conference on Equal Franchise and Women's Questions before Parliament. Speakers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. How Martyn, and Mrs. M. W. Nevinston, J.P. Chair: Lady Pares.

Portsmouth W.C.A. JAN. 28. 8 p.m. The High School. Annual At Home by invitation of the Chairman, Miss Cossey.

FEB. 3. 7.30 p.m. Green Row Rooms. Meeting for Women only on "The Prevention of Venereal Disease." Speaker: Mrs. Ramsay, J.P.

Southampton W.C.A. FEB. 7. 3 p.m. Messrs. Lowan's Restaurant. Mrs. Abbott: "The Factories Bill."

## TYPEWRITING.

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## TO LET AND WANTED.

OBERAMMERGAU.—Paying Guests received; large airy rooms; big bathroom; balconies; winter sports; English, German, French spoken; picture of house sent on application.—Miss Ellen Squirell, Pilatushaus, Oberammergau, Germany.

TO LET, TWO ROOMS, unfurnished, as Office Accommodation. £65 per annum.—Apply, Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Telephone, Museum 3179.

WESTMINSTER.—Lady offers comfortable BED-SITTINGROOM to lady student or other lady.—Box 1,307, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

LOWER ground-floor FLATLET in lady's quiet maisonette. Pleasant room and kitchen, e.l., gas-stoves, geyser; separate entrance. Suit professional woman.—S., 7 Gwendwr Road, W. 14.

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TO LET, beautifully furnished BED-SITTINGROOM, conveniently situated in West End near C.L. Tube; gas fire and ring, electric light; fitted basin and use of bathroom with geyser. Rent moderate.—Write, The Hon. Mrs. Dighton Pollock, 13 Kensington Park Gardens, W. 11.

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INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

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## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

GREAT SALE.—AFTERNOON TEACLOTHS.—Dainty afternoon teacloths, made from the finest and best quality of Irish Linen with three rows of hemstitched open-work and finished with scalloped edge. Size 32 x 32 ins., 7s. 3d. each; 36 x 36 ins., 9s. 3d. each; 40 x 40 ins., 11s. 3d. each. Wonderful value. Write for Sale List To-Day.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

GREAT SALE.—NEVER-FADE LINENS.—For all those purposes for which coloured Linens are now so popular, Hutton's Never-Fade genuine Irish Linens are ideal. Guaranteed absolutely fadeless by sun or washing. Sale Price 2s. 10d. per yard (36 ins. wide). They are increasingly in demand for curtains, bedspreads, table-runners, etc., as well as for dresses and children's frocks. There are 64 artistic colours to select from, including ten of the newest shades. Every yard stamped "Hutton's Never-Fade Linen". Send for full range of patterns and Sale List, FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

FOR SALE.—Back numbers of *The Lady and British Medical Journal*, half-price.—Mrs. Herbert, Llangollen.

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.)

## DRESS.

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## POST WANTED.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

QUIET ROOM FOR LUNCH AND TEA at "Blenheim," 8 Blenheim Street, New Bond St. (close to Oxford Street).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SUFFRAGETTE DINNER, 6th February, Restaurant, Craig's Court, Whitehall, 7 p.m. Tickets 5s. from Miss Hodgson, 27 Grove Terrace, Highgate Road.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Expert advice on Openings and Trainings for Professional women; interviews 10-1 (except Saturdays) or by appointment.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 30th January; 3.30 Music. The Rabbi, Dr. J. Mattuck, on "The Soul of Judaism." 6.30, Maude Royden, "Great Britain and China."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and the Free Birth Control Clinic, founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Councillor H. V. Roe. New address: 108 Whitfield Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

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## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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