WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Juggernaut.

Wednesday of last week in Parliament brought the expected defeat of an amendment to the Local Government Bill, designed to secure the continuance of percentage exchequer grants for the local maternity and child welfare services. Mr. Percy Gates, a Conservative critic of the Government's policy in this matter, was its mover; but before the close of the discussion he "came to heel" in response to Mr. Chamberlain's plea that the Act gave sufficient power to the Ministry of Health to demand an adequate service. Thus the opposition parties were left to support his lost cause by a vote of 130 to 206. We cannot conceal our profound disappointment at the Government's refusal to concede a point which commands the support of the overwhelming majority of those immediately concerned with the functioning of this particular service. And it is a matter of minor regret to us that Lady Iveagh should have stepped into the breach on behalf of the Government, in opposition to the unanimously expressed opinion of most of the large non-party women's organizations. The gravest results of a block grant on the health services are, however, to a certain extent reduced by the Government's concession to reduce the first two fixed grant periods to three and four years respectively, after which they will each be five years, and we can only hope that the Minister's assurances that these services will in no way suffer will be justified by future events.

A Concession to the Voluntary Associations.

In crying over spilt milk, however, one must learn to smile upon the few dusty drops which it is possible to spoon back into the jug. As such we may welcome Mr. Chamberlain's concession in the matter of the voluntary associations. By a new sub-section added to the Bill it becomes possible for a voluntary association operating in the sphere of maternity and child welfare and wishing to expand its service, to appeal direct to the Ministry for a revision of the approved scheme within a quinquennial or fixed-grant period. This will to some extent meet the danger that such work may be stereotyped within the inelastic framework of an apathetic local authority's maternity and child welfare scheme. We are thankful for such small mercies. Another amendment was moved by Sir Walter Greaves-Lord, and strongly supported by Lieut.-Colonel Fremantle and others, which was designed to secure without diminished efficiency the continuance of propaganda on a national scale for the prevention and treatment of venereal diseases. But Mr. Chamberlain undertook to "exert such influence as he could" to convince local authorities of the need for this work and the amendment was lost. As the Observer rightly remarks, the spur of the Minister will have to be constantly in use if his promises to see that the dangers and fears are averted are fulfilled.

Midwives and the Bill.

The Midwives' Institute will press for two amendments to Clause 50 for consideration on report stage next week, which it is hoped may mitigate the difficulties likely to result from the transference of the powers under the Midwives' Acts from County Councils to Borough and Urban Councils. The first amendment will reduce the number of small authorities qualifying for the powers, and the second will give time for objections to the Transferring Order to be formulated and the midwives' side of the question heard. The transference to smaller authorities will, it is felt, lead to irritating duplication of supervision and to a lower standard of efficiency. It is pointed out that on the Midwives' Act, 1902, when County Councils had powers to delegate the supervision to smaller councils, ten counties exercised this power, but all revoked their decision later. In 1909 the Departmental Committee recommended that the power should be withdrawn, and in the Midwives' Act, 1918, it was repealed.

The P.R. Amendments to the Bill.

Members of the House of Commons have been asked to support the amendments to the Local Government Bill in favour of applying the principle of proportional representation to the election of local authorities. The arguments put forward in the circular signed by Conservative, Liberal and Labour members are more or less familiar to readers of The Woman's Leader, but it may be well to reiterate some of them. In practically all local authorities of importance there are distinct regions which are a monopoly of a particular type of opinion, and where only members of the dominant party can hope to serve. Results of the elections of last November show that the present system markedly fails to associate the whole community with administration in the Metropolitan Borough Councils and provincial Boroughs. The new Local Government Bill so increases the powers of County Councils that they become the most important unit of local government. It is greatly to be feared that without proportional representation there can be no assurance that County Councils will be fully representative or that there is the least chance of an adequate number of women being elected on these bodies.

French Women and the Vote.

The decision of L'Union Nationale des Femmes to invite the forty members of the Académie Française to express themselves on the subject of women's suffrage has given some interesting results. Of twenty-nine replies, twenty-four were favourable, three non-committal, and only two definitely "anti." Catholic opinion was, on the whole, favourable. Among those who expressed themselves as suffragists were Monsignor Baudrillart, M. Georges Goyan, M. Henry Bordeaux, Marshal Joffre, M. Henri Robert, M. Brieux, M. Besnard, and M. Louis Barthou. M. Poincaré has been known for some time to be favourable, and M. Clemenceau is favourable "en principe." It is sad that such a galaxy of talent, legal, political, artistic, literary, and ecclesiastical, should have so very little effect upon the general stalemate of the French suffrage situation.

"The New Voter"-An Intensive Course of Instruction.

The new voter is still "news," and the Press is much concerned about her. One well-known newspaper has opened its columns to a discussion of the best methods of her education. Another has organized a general rehearsal of the election. The party organizations are hard at work, and non-party organizations with young women members are not idle. We review in another column a useful leaflet issued for its members by the Y.W.C.A., and in our advertisement columns appears the notice

of a conference on the Education of the Citizen, under the chairmanship of the Duchess of Atholl. Throughout the country meetings are being held to which the new voter is enticed by all legitimate devices with greater or less success. We too wish to enter the field; we realize that education for citizenship is not a question of a few weeks' campaign, and that it must begin at an early age. But in view of the approach of a General Election, and the requests for advice which have reached us, we propose to conduct in our columns, beginning next week, something of the nature of an intensive course of "training for the inexperienced voter, new or old. Though open to all the objections which always accompany potted instruction, we hope our series of talks may at least bring the coming election into closer relation to the life of even the least political of the newly enfranchised citizens. We suggest that our more experienced readers should consider it a duty to see that these articles reach the type of reader for whom they are intended, and that women's institutes, societies, clubs, or similar institutions should encourage readers to write short replies to the questions which will be set from time to time.

Married Women to the Rescue.

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The London County Council has just decided to utilize the services of married women teachers to help them through the present influenza season. Married women are apparently to be regarded as reserve labour, called on when the ordinary supply falls short, owing to abnormal circumstances of any kind. There are no doubt married women who would always be glad to step in in times of difficulty, who would be unwilling to undertake permanent work, so that a certain reserve is always available. But the inconsistency of the Council's attitude to married women is here laid bare. In ordinary circumstances out they go—their duty is at home. But when a shortage of teachers is threatened for any reason, the arguments against their employment are forgotten and back they come!

A "White" Lunch

On Thursday, 24th January, the Six-Point Group entertained at lunch at the Criterion Restaurant, a group of individual journalists and representatives of journals, which could boast a 'white" record in respect of women's suffrage. Lady Rhondda, in a singularly felicitous after-lunch speech, welcomed the guests, and explained the significance of the adjective "white." Unfortunately the supreme and shining "white" of the Manchester Guardian was represented only by a letter of regret from its absent editor. But the Nation was represented in the person of its editor, Mr. Henderson, also the Observer, and most of the women's papers (including The Woman's Leader and the Common Cause, whose first editor, Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, gave an amusing account of her early experiences), which have served specifically as the mouthpieces of feminist organizations. Among individual "white" journalists were Miss Rebecca West, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mrs. Blanco-White, Miss Edith Shackleton, Miss Nina Boyle, and "Low." The occasion raised interesting journalistic reminiscences—and among them lurked the suspicion that an objective searcher after "whiteness" and "blackness" would be confronted in fact by a somewhat baffling study, in which the preponderating tone would be grey of varying shades.

A New Venture in Electioneering.

A Woman's International League correspondent writes:-The Women's International League has appointed Miss Agatha Harrison to organize election work in support of their peace policy: to make a reality, that is, of the Kellogg Pact, by sweeping away all reservations and developing the machinery for the settlement of disputes by pacific means, to which the Pact pledges us. Miss Harrison's past international work fits her peculiarly for such a task. She knows the American women's peace movement from the inside, and was amazed, when she travelled in the country speaking for the American Young Women's Christian Association on international subjects, to discover the insistent strength and optimism of the movement. And this, she said, was no less true of the supposedly Philistine Middle West than of New England and the East. She found an immense hopefulness. "It is bred in American women that everything is possible, so why not peace," said Miss Harrison, and she said it of all groups and classes—business women and factory operatives, clubs and colleges. Any lecturer with a

knowledge of other countries was welcomed by eager audiences, and so keen is now the interest in peace that the conventional type of fashion-cum-domesticity women's journal finds it necessary to run editorials on peace questions. "Peace," she said, "has captured the imagination of America as a great new adventure." Before working in America for the Y.W.C.A Miss Harrison had spent some time in China conducting industrial investigations for the National Christian Council, a mixed Chinese and foreign body which was deeply disturbed by the evil results of rapidly growing, unregulated industrialism. The stirring of the public conscience so begun led finally to the Child Labour Inquiry under the Shanghai Municipal Council on which Dame Adelaide Anderson sat, as did also Miss Harrison herself. Earlier still she was in charge of industrial welfare students at the London School of Economics, which brought her in touch with many nationalities. The upshot of all this varied experience is a strong conviction that international contact among everyday, rank-and-file women is of the utmost importance in the peace movement. Though Miss Harrison's immediate task s an election campaign, it is clear that the work of a mind so constituted and so enriched will leave its permanent mark, and she should meet with a sympathetic welcome from organized women wherever she goes.

A Statue in Honour of Mrs. Pankhurst.

We understand that the Prime Minister has consented to unveil the statue which is to be erected in honour of Mrs. Pankhurst. This event will not, however, take place until after the General Election.

Women Students in Japan.

The position of women in Japan is strangely reminiscent of some of the earlier chapters in Mrs. Strachey's book, *The Cause.* At present, so we learn from a recent Tokio report in the *Evening News*, women students are allowed to attend as visitors at certain university classes and lectures. The "visitors" now appear to be launching an active campaign for their own admission as actual members of the Universities. We wish them the best of luck, and hope soon to hear more detailed news of their progress.

Irish Local Elections.

Municipal elections took place in Ulster recently. The polling in Belfast was not marked by any excitement, although keen interest was shown in certain wards. In the contested wards in Belfast 41,292 votes were cast out of 64,031 on the register—a percentage of 64.87. A woman, Miss J. V. Douglas, was elected to the Banbridge Urban District Council. She is the first woman member of the Council, and keen interest was shown in the election, over 80 per cent of the electorate voting. Another heavy poll was recorded at Larne, where 85 per cent of the total votes were recorded for the chairman of the Council. We congratulate Ulster on its keen voters, and only wish as much interest could be aroused in the English contests.

New Post for a Woman.

We congratulate Miss A. Lawrie on her appointment as Lecturer to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. On Saturday last, nearly a hundred enthusiastic men and women listened to the 23-year-old girl explaining the Dutch pictures at the National Gallery.

Public Conveniences for Women.

The recent report of the Medical Officer of Health for London to the L.C.C. on the provision of conveniences in the county points out that the most outstanding defect at the present time is the inadequate free provision for women.

Erratum.-B.B.C. Debate.

Please note that the B.B.C. Debate on "Restrictive Legislation" is on 5th February at 7 p.m., and not on 7th February, as stated last week.

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 woman'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 REPORT ON MEDICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

The report of the Committee on the Medical Education of Women appointed by the University of London, which was presented to the Senate last week, has now been published. Readers may wish to be reminded of the personnel of the committee. Sir William Beveridge, Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of Convocation, when the committee was formed, was its chairman. Dr. Graham Little, M.P., represented the Council for External Students. Other members included the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the University, the Principal of King's College, the Vice-President of Westminster Hospital, and the Provost of University College. The two women members were Miss Tuke, Principal of Bedford College, and Miss Strudwick, Principal of St. Paul's School for Girls. The representative character of the committee and the thoroughness of the investigation lend great weight to its unanimous finding in favour of co-education :—"We are of opinion that no valid objection can be maintained against the system of co-education for men and women medical students; and that this is the only system by which the general policy of the University can be effectively carried out. In our opinion adequate facilities for the medical education of women could not be provided in any hospital or medical school unless resident medical and surgical appointments were open to men and women on equal terms.'

FEBRUARY I, 1929.

The report points out that the University of London was the first University in the British Empire to open its doors to women. Both in its old and its new statutes it is expressly enjoined that the University shall recognize no distinction of sex. After careful consideration the obstacles in the way of medical co-education are dismissed as "capable of adjustment with no more difficulty than most co-educational problems." It is recognized, however, as a definite factor in the situation that an undoubted dislike still obtains among men students for mixed schools, though it questions whether this would be likely to persist in the face of attractions of first-rate teaching and equipment. At the same time it is asked how the exclusion of women can be expected in all cases to increase the number of men entrants all round as the number of possible entrants is not unlimited.

"If the field were clear," to quote the words of the report, "we find it hard to believe that anyone who at the present day was planning fresh medical education in London as a whole, would plan it otherwise than on the basis of being like education in the other faculties, predominantly co-educational. In medicine, as in other fields of study, the services of the schools of the highest prestige and the teachers of the highest distinction

should be available to men and women indifferently, and men and women who after their University careers have to work together in so many new relations, should learn to do so at the university stage." The field is not clear, however; it is overgrown with the weeds of prejudice and obsolete notions of sex relationships. The committee therefore propose to meet the present need with three types of clinical education: (1) for men only; (2) for women only; and (3) for men and women. The London School of Medicine for Women has a high place among medical schools, and its vacancies will continue to be much sought after. Some schools have never admitted women, and have no intention of doing so. But we hope that others which are not tied hand and foot by the tradition of a past age will accept the invitation of the Senate, based on the recommendations of the report to which it has given its "general" approval, to consider the admission of a quota of women. The committee pointed out the undesirability of making use of any powers such as refusing recognition or grants, which the University may posses. It believes that if co-education is to succeed, it must be offered freely by the schools concerned, without any compulsion from the University.

Public opinion has, or should have, however, a strong compelling power since the hospitals serve the public, and in this instance public opinion appears to be overwhelmingly on the side of equal opportunities for men and women. The Press has been a strong ally ever since the exclusion of women was first mooted. Next to the "flapper vote" we can remember no subject on the "equality programme" which has made so much stir and no subject at all upon which there has been such complete unanimity.

A leading article in *The Times* on Monday of this week pleads that medical schools, in taking the important decision invited by the Senate, will not allow themselves to be "swayed solely by considerations of immediate advantage or convenience, but will hold the good of the public steadily in view." Though, as the same article suggests, obscured by all manner of prejudices, submitted solely to this test—the good of the public—the case for equal opportunities for medical women is won. For to continue our quotation "the woman doctor is no longer on her trial. Her place in the service of the community is now an assured one, and her record of work entitles her, fully, to the esteem in which she is held. But it will hardly be denied that her activities will be crippled if in her student days she fails to enjoy the widest possible opportunities of gaining and perfecting knowledge."

FINLAND AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE: A PARALLEL.

By DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E.

Many British suffragists will have read with special interest an article in the December number of the Fortnightly Review, entitled "The New Finland," by Major E. W. Polson Newman. For Finland was the first European country which succeeded in winning for itself in 1917 a suffrage based on the democratic principles, including in its scope women as well as men. Up to this time Finland was under the iron heel of Imperial Russia, and no shade of her ancient freedom which it had formerly enjoyed as an independent grand duchy, was allowed to it There was a strong women's suffrage party in Finland, represented in the I.W.S.A. by the Baroness A. Grippenburg. But Russia itself was autocratic to the last degree, and the fight on the part of Finland to regain its ancient freedom was fierce and bloody, and many precious lives were laid down in the years when Finland was endeavouring to establish its right under its ancient constitution to enjoy free institutions. But the party which was striving for Finnish freedom was splendidly led by M. Michelin and the hour came when he had overcome the enormous difficulties with which he had had to contend, and presented himself before the Czar with the draft of the new, and free, constitution in his hand. As the Czar read it and came upon the clause embodying the enfranchisement of women, he looked up at M. Michelin in horror. M. Michelin replied,

not so much to His Majesty's words, but to the terror which freedom for women had inspired in him, for M. Michelin said Sire, it is absolutely necessary: the whole feeling of the country demands it," and the Czar yielded to this unanswerable appeal. What particularly interests us is the fact that allowing for differences in the circumstances of the two countries, it was this argument which won suffrage for women in Great Britain also. For it was the fact that women in a tremendous national emergency, involving the life or death of her institutions, had in overwhelming numbers and at first with no encouragement at all from Governments or officials, flung themselves heart and soul into the conflict on behalf of freedom. In the munition factories, in all kinds of work which they had never undertaken before, women sought to supply industrially and professionally the place of the men who were being rapidly enrolled in the new armies: doing men's work, and doing it so well that great financial authorities (such as Lord Revelstoke) were able to say that the tapping of the new reservoir of women's labour had saved the situation by enabling the country to keep up its volume of exports.

Major E. W. Polson Newman traces in the *Fortnightly* article very similar activities on the part of Finnish women in their great struggle which ended in their victory in 1917.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION, 1926-27.1

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of this valuable account of the later phases of the Chinese Revolution is its impartiality. The author takes an objective view not only of the relations between different powers, but of those between different schools of thought, which is much more difficult of attainment, although essential in any attempt to understand the situation in China

Enough background is given to make clear the various military campaigns which ended in the Nationalist Army's occupation of Peking in May, 1928, and the end of the first period of the Kuomintang effort as laid down by Sun Yat Sen, though the account given in this book ends before this event occurred. The chapter on the events in Hankow of which the author was an eyewitness is extraordinarily interesting, and give the measure of the detachment and understanding of events which is conspicuous throughout. The chapter on the position of women in China is also good and clear, though it is possible that the spirit of freedom among women is more widespread than Dr. Chapman realizes. One regrets that in this chapter occurs the only instance in the book where he seems to have believed some of the more fantastic rumours to which their sudden emancipation gave rise and which require chapter and verse to be accepted. He does, however, say: "The wonder, as so often in this country of China, is not that there were excesses, but that, when all the usual restraints had been removed, excesses should have been so few. It seems that the young women concerned have, for the most part, kept their heads in the giddy whirl, and that, as they claim, they are quite competent to look after themselves," and this seems to be the view of all those who have come in contact with them.

The account of the relations between the Chinese Communist party (now apparently disappeared), the Russians and the Kuomintang is particularly clear and enlightening. The author shows how the division in the Kuomintang existed since the days of Sun Yat Sen when there was strong opposition to his desire to admit Communists to membership of the party. They were in the end admitted and formed the nucleus upon which the Russian advisers worked in their dissemination of Communist propaganda. But they were an infinitesimally small number and it is doubtful if even they had any conception of the aims of world revolution of their Russian teachers. Certainly the Nationalist party had not. What they were working for was a free, prosperous, and happy China. The idealist aims of Communism made a strong appeal to the suffering and poverty-stricken masses of the Chinese as far as they reached them, but industrial conditions are so small a factor in the situation that the proletariat in the Russian sense can hardly be said to exist. There is no doubt that a number of students were filled with enthusiasm for a doctrine which promised to help the most miserable of the people, and very many gave their lives for it, but the vast majority of the Chinese never subscribed to Communist doctrines at all.

Dr. Chapman has some very grave things to say of the press that is published in China in the English language. He says 'That which in Hankow was readily enough discounted or dissipated within a day or two was too often seized on by the Shanghai newspapers as valuable copy, and from Shanghai was rapidly distributed over the world. " "In some cases, again, reports in Shanghai newspapers written by Hankow correspondents were so utterly at variance with well-known facts that it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that they were deliberately intended to deceive." It is this spirit which has done so much to hinder the acceptance by the Chinese of the friendly policy of the British Government.

His estimate of the effect of changing religious thought in China is very interesting. Of many of the Confucian temples, he says: "They are beautiful still, and peaceful; but it is not now the peace of the quiet confidence and faith of a people in its past but the peace of oblivion and decay." The effect of Buddhism as a religion is seen in the student attitude of to-day towards it. An estimate of a Chinese student leader is, "that of the quarter of a million Chinese students 75 per cent are atheist or agnostic and 25 per cent religious, but that only 10 per cent of the whole number are men or women whose

(Continued at foot of next column.)

RABINDRANATH TAGORE: LETTERS TO A FRIEND.1

There is much to delight the reader in these letters written between the years 1913 and 1921 to his English friend, C. F. Andrews, who co-operated in the work at Santiniketan, the school founded by the poet. Rabindranath Tagore hoped that "this Abode of Peace" would become a centre of world fellowship wherein students and teachers from the East and West would meet and be equally welcome. The establishment of this International University is the central idea of the letters, and again and again we meet with the conception that "our problem is world-wide and that no people of the earth can work out its salvation by detaching itself from others. Either we shall be saved together, or drawn together to destruction." At this moment when world co-operation is the most pressing problem of our day, the publication of this book is distinctly opportune. It well repays careful reading, not only for its beautiful and musical prose, its charming whimsicality, but also for the profundity of its thought, which at times transcends the outward differences between East and West, and touches that point at the heart of things where all reflective minds meet. fuel displays its differences, but the fire is one.

We have an interesting revelation of the conflict between the prophet, who realizes his call to work towards the true union of East and West, and the poet, or, as he described himself, the 'vagabond at heart'', who dreads the deadening hand of organization in his International University, and who suspects that he will "never be able to work with a Board of Trustees."

The reviewer of a book in The Woman's Leader naturally seeks for something of special appeal to the feminist mind Truth compels us to own that the only reference to a woman playing her part in the scheme of things is to "Tora Dutt, the fairest and frailest flower among the writers, who composed her songs only in English, but the fragrance of the Sanscrit past prevades all her works and makes them a national possession." If the letters appeal to humanity at large rather than to women specially, yet they contain much which may cause heartsearchings among us, for do not we own to cultivating strenuousness" to a point not reached by our brothers? Tagore classes strenuousness as "the open foe of attainment: the strength that wins is calm, and has an exhaustless resource in its passive depth." On those of us who still have the unfashionable but "ineradicable passion for doing good" the poet is severe, and his criticism is directed no less to himself than to others. He says: "To try and benefit others and yet not have enough of oneself to give others, is a poor affair. I feel I must protect myself from all distractions for some time, so as to be able to add to my inner resources, never considering it a duty to force myself to work merely with the vain intention of doing good, but rather making the work I do living and real. The cultivation of usefulness produces an enormous amount of failure, simply because in our avidity we sow seeds too closely. But too many quotations of this tone will probably raise the question in the minds of some of us whether this is not a book to study after the Election! In any case do not let us neglect

A H. BADGER.

(Continued from preceding column.)

religion is a matter of strong personal conviction." He adds the significant comment, "that of this 10 per cent the great majority are Christians, very few being Buddhists." "Amidst the crumbling or defective ethical factors in China to-day and the convulsions which are shaking the country, Christianity has already in an outstanding manner demonstrated its vitality and strength.

Dr. Chapman ends on a hopeful note. "The recuperative power of China and its people is so remarkable that a few years of such peace is sufficient to restore its prosperity . . . Its blessings would inevitably be shared by Chinese and foreigners alike in every avenue of life and effort; and such a reign of peace is itself one of the essential pre-requisites for the realization of many of the highest aims and ideals of the Revolution." A book which is valuable to everyone interested in China, as well as to the serious student of Chinese politics.

JUSTICE AND POLICE IN ENGLAND.

This book is based on a course of W.E.A. lectures, and happy indeed was the branch that secured them. The style in places suggests a lecture rather than a book, and sometimes almost takes the form of notes for lectures. The ground covered is very wide; there is a good deal of historical matter including accounts of trials as far back as the twelfth century, and we range from these to perhaps an almost too detailed account of how human blood stains can be detected.

Women justices will find much here to interest them; it would be difficult to find a better book of a popular kind to put into the hands of a newly-appointed magistrate. It is not that it contains so much exact information, but it brings out so many points of importance in the administration of the law. Mr. Lieck dwells on the modern tendency to allow more and more offences to be dealt with by summary jurisdiction and to send fewer and fewer to a jury. He does not criticize this, but he shows his high opinion of the jury system. "Twelve men from the crowd-now twelve men and women-guided by a good judge, is probably the best tribunal ever invented." He quotes a characteristic passage from Mr. G. K. Chesterton, Our civilization has decided and very justly decided, that determining the guilt or innocence of men is a thing too important to be trusted to trained men. . . . When it wants a library catalogued, or the solar system discovered, or any tripe of that kind, it uses up its specialists. But when it wishes anything done that is really serious, it collects twelve of the ordinary men standing round. The same thing was done, if I remember aright, by the Founder of Christianity.

The magistrate who hears the identity of a man being proved by his finger prints must have wondered how the identity is discovered among the half-million finger print slips which are filed at Scotland Yard. A chapter is devoted to a description of the way in which this is done, so that any set can be picked out in five or six minutes at the most, and can be expressed in the form of a vulgar fraction.

There is an introduction from the pen of Sir Chartres Biron, who quotes a witty attorney general as having said that "every obviously guilty man who was acquitted placed the administration of the law on a surer foundation." but it needs to be said, especially in view of what Mr. Lieck says is a growing tendency, namely, to shift the burden of proof on to the accused. The presumption of innocence is a great safeguard, and "the occasional escape of a rogue is a small price to pay for public confidence in the law."

Mr. Lieck thinks we are wanting in imagination because we have so little variety of punishment. He would like to see the punishment more often made to fit the crime as it does when the reckless motor driver is made to forfeit his licence. A trader who adulterates his goods should be publicly exposed, and a lad convicted of horse play in the streets should be put through some compulsory drills. It will be seen that the author's long service at Marlborough Street as clerk to the magistrate has not damped the freshness of his ideas, nor blinded him to the possibilities that still await the penal reformer.

C. D. RACKHAM.

THE REAL ENEMY.2

Eglantyne Jebb, whose death was recently recorded in these pages, was a woman of action rather than words, but she has left behind her a written message in the form of a small volume published not long before her death. To those who know her boundless compassion for the sorrow of the world, and especially the suffering child, and her energy restrained only by the limita tions of the financial resources at her disposal, the lines "Handcuffed" have a pathetic inner meaning. The delicacy and sincerity of her verses and not less the characteristic notes which accompany them, suggests that Miss Jebb might have won distinction as a writer. But she chose a different career and gave her life freely for the children she loved. Her object in giving these verses to the public is described in a postscript. No thought of pleasing the taste of a fastidious critic occurs to her: her sole desire is to stab the conscience of the thoughtless reader, and she succeeds.

THE HOUSE.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER:

Mrs. Zangwill has written a very readable novel,1 with enough vivid characterization and enthralling sequence of incident to make any reader who embarks upon it disinclined for interruptions in its perusal. And to say that much about a novel is to say quite a lot! But seldom is gratitude for several hours' diversion so ungratefully mingled with adverse criticism, as is the case with *The House*. Perhaps because its author has adopted so definite and bold a plan of campaign that the reader sees what she is trying to do as clearly as he sees what she has actually succeeded in doing.

She has tried to subdue the destinies of three otherwise separate and distinct human groups to the destiny of the house which they successively inhabit, in such a way that its personality shall emerge as a continuous, over-riding force, linking their several misfortunes and investing them with a subtile inevitability, to which the fiery destruction of the house itself comes as an inevitable climax. But as a matter of fact this is an interpretation which she never succeeds in "putting across." The fortunes of her three groups remain, in the consciousness of the reader, as distinct as the bare mundane recorded facts of their case would warrant. The element of tragedy never develops; the fortunes and misfortunes of the successive inhabitants are governed by a series of unrelated and inconsequent accidents, of which the destruction of the house itself appears, incidentally, as the last. The house smiles upon its tenants until the end, but its smile is the passive smile of a spectator in the background rather than the enigmatic and purposeful smile of a determining fate. One is sorry that so nice a house should be burned down. One is, at the same time, sorry to be sorry; because of the suspicion that the author intended to provoke a wholly different emotion. Nevertheless, one is also sorry when the book comes to an end with the house; which, as we have already remarked, is saying quite a lot!

EVENTS THAT MUST NOT BE MISSED.

We propose from time to time to give under this heading information of dramatic, artistic, and literary events of special interest to our readers. Under "Forthcoming Events" we shall continue to chronicle notices of meetings mainly of women's organizations, which are sent us. We invite the co-operation of our readers in this, and shall be glad to have suitable events brought to our notice.

Interpretation of Classical Plays. By Dorothea Spinney. The Hippolytus of Euripides. 6th February. 8.30. Rudolf Steiner Hall, Park Road, N.W. 1. Particulars from Miss Alice Michaelis, 10 Canfield Gardens, N.W. 6.

The Lady with the Lamp. By Reginald Berkeley. From 24th January, Garrick Theatre (transferred from Arts Theatre Club; see "The Real Florence Nightingale," page 388, in issue of 18th January.

The Story of Westminster. Told in four lectures with lantern slides. 5.30 p.m. Westminster School, Large Hall. 19th February: İts Churches, by Dr. Jocelyn Perkins. 25th February: Its Schools, by Lawrence E. Tanner, F.S.A. 5th March: Its Highways and Byeways, by A. H. Blake, Esq. 12th March: Its Palaces and Houses of Westminster, by T. Wilson, Esq. Tickets and particulars from West-minster Housing Association, 32 Charing Cross, S.W. 1.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

23rd January, 1929.

WASHINGTON HOURS CONVENTION.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Minister of Labour if he has made any new move towards carrying out the spirit and intention of the Washington Convention of Hours of Labour since his last statement on the subject; and, if so, can he state the nature.

Sir A. Steel-Maitland: As the hon. Member is aware, the policy of the Government in this matter is to secure such revision of this convention as will make possible the effective international regulation of hours of work. Since my last statement in this House, the Governing Body has laid down the procedure to be followed in regard to the revision of conventions. In pursuance of that procedure the International Labour Office was instructed to prepare a draft report on the Hours Convention, and this report will be discussed at the next Session of the Governing Body, to be held next March.

¹ The Chinese Revolution, by H. Owen Chapman, M.B., Ch.M., etc. (Constable, 12s.)

¹ Rabindranath Tagore: Letters to a Friend. (George Allen & Unwin,

¹ Justice and Police in England, by Albert Lieck. (Butterworth and Co.) 2 The Real Enemy. By Eglantyne Jebb. (The Weardale Press, 1s.)

¹ The House, by Edith Ayrton Zangwill. (John Murray, 7s. 6d.)

PRESENTATION PORTRAIT TO DR. S. E. S. MAIR.

The presentation of her portrait, painted by Mr. J. H. Lorimer, R.S.A., to Miss S. E. S. Mair, LL.D., by societies and friends, took place in the Library of the University of Edinburgh, and was attended by a large and representative gathering of distinguished citizens. Lady Aberdeen made the presentation, and the chair was taken by the Hon. Lord Salveser

In making the presentation, Lady Aberdeen spoke of Dr. Mair's life-long work for the higher education of women and for women's enfranchisement. The varied and wide field of Dr. Mair's activities was shown by the numerous Societies combining to honour her the Equal Citizenship Society, Ladies' Debating Society, Chess Club, Shakespeare Society, Archery Club and St. George's School. Dr. Mair, in replying, recalled in beautiful language the pioneers of the woman's movement in Edinburgh, who were visualized by the picture and referred to the wonderful work done by such women as Dr. Jex Blake, Miss Flora Stevenson, Mrs. Bright Maclaren, and many others. Her own feelings were those of gratitude and wonderment.

Votes of thanks were proposed by Miss Simson and Miss Neaves. Dr. Mair and Lady Aberdeen were afterwards entertained to tea at the University Women Students' Union.

MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT.

By a Correspondent.

The news of the death of Edith Bright takes the writer of these lines back to the years before the War, when she and her husband were in the forefront of all progressive movements in her native city, Liverpool. She belonged to a wealthy Liverpool Conservative family, but she broke loose from its traditions and became a staunch member of the Liberal party and a leader in the women's movement. She was the founder of the Liverpool branch of the National Council of Women and the Liverpool Woman's Suffrage Society also owed much to her leadership in its early years. Her influence soon extended outside, and she became a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Societies for Woman's Suffrage and of the National Council of Women. In the critical years 1912 and 1913, when the suffrage controversy was at its height, she became president of the latter body

To those who knew her at that time, Edith Bright seemed destined for a brilliant political career, either in partnership with her husband who was for many years the able leader of the Liberal party in Liverpool, and for a short time Member of Parliament for Öswestry, or as herself one of the first women to enter Parliament. He unique gifts as a public speaker, her intimate knowledge of politics and public affairs, her orderly mind, her mastery of foreign languages, and above all, her strong convictions of political and social reform, would unquestionably have carried her far but for the handicap of deafness and indifferent health. In recent years to the severe loss of Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. Bright came to live in Herefordshire, but though obliged to forego much of the public work for which she was so well fitted, she remained Governor of the Emigration and Immigration Committee of the National Council of Women, and upon this special inconspicuous piece of work she poured the unstinting devotion she gave everything to which she turned her attention. In reviewing her life, cut short as it really seems to us, prematurely, one cannot but regret that opportunities for wider service of the nation were denied her, but who can measure the degrees of service? Those who saw her in her beautiful and hospitable home in her family circle, with the books and studies she loved, knew that with all her numerous public interests and her great practical efficiency, there was another side to Edith Bright which found happiness and content in things pertaining to the mind and the spirit.

THE POLICEWOMEN'S REVIEW.

A MONTHLY PAPER.

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Published by WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SERVICE, 51 TOTHILL STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTES.

Woman County Councillor for Derbyshire.

The first woman member of the Derbyshire County Council has been elected. Mrs. Bourne-Wheeler secured 1,025 votes, being returned by a majority of 377. Three other women have previously stood for the Derbyshire Council, but without success. CHICHESTER'S WOMEN COUNCILLORS.

Two women, Mrs. T. J. Eastland and Miss Younghusband, were elected to the Chichester Council last November, and both are showing a keen interest in the work. Mrs. Eastland has been made a member of the following committees: Housing, Lighting, Canal and Fire Brigade, Library, and Parks Committee, and Miss Younghusband of the Housing, Cemetery and Allotments, Library, and Parks Committee, and also of the Technical Instruction Sub-Committee.

By-ELECTIONS. Another woman, Mrs. Wright, has been elected to the Bolton Council by the narrow majority of 22. Two recounts were necessary, and there were sixty spoiled papers, mainly owing to the electors voting for two candidates which was their right at the November elections. Women are standing for vacancies on the Newcastle and Sutton Coldfield Councils.

EDUCATION AND SEX.

The Committee on Religious and Moral Instruction of the Edinburgh Education Authority have been concerning themselves with the question of stimulating parental responsibility in regard to education in matters of sex. With this end in view they recommended that special meetings should be held for parents of children above 12 years of age, that a short list of pamphlets should be drawn up for the use of head masters, teachers, and parents. Some controversy took place over a paragraph in the report which provided that should any parent express a desire for sex instruction to be given to their children, it should be done only by such members of the teaching staff as are willing to do so, and in the opinion of the head master qualified, or by one of the medical staff, the instruction to be given in all cases by a person of the same sex as the child. Professor J. T. Simpson moved the deletion of this paragraph which he said really expressed a sort of ostrich-like attitude to a real and pressing problem. He was giving notice of a motion that the authority should approve of the immediate introduction of a course in biology in secondary schools. Education in matters of sex would come more naturally out of that course. All our troubles were due to lack of information, and the fact that we were not dealing with the question in the way that our time and generation demanded. Professor Simpson's proposal was defeated and the committee's recommendations, which savoured in the professor's view of the end of last century, were adopted.

GRANDFATHERLY REGULATION.

Last week the Dublin District Court dismissed Mrs. Joseph Lally as an unfit person to hold a bookmaker's licence, on the ground that such an occupation was unfit for a wife and mother. The magistrate expressed the hope that no one would suggest that a married woman and mother of a family was a fit and proper person to carry on a bookmaker's business and go on the course and shout the odds. We hold no brief for bookmakers as such. We think that they are on the whole mischievous members of society, and that the noises they make on race courses are among the ugliest vocal emanations of our modern civilization. But seeing that bookmakers qua bookmakers are tolerated-in response to an admitted and popular demand for betting facilities, we fail to see why women should be excluded qua women, from the confraternity, even from those less exalted sections of it which do ready-money business on the course. It is certainly a much less wearing and tearing occupation than very many domestic occupations—for example child-bearing in an overcrowded and poverty-stricken home. Similar considerations are raised by the recent unanimous decision of the St. Moritz Toboganning Club to prohibit women from running on the Cresta—a decision against which Colonel Moore-Brabazon pleads eloquently in the name of individual liberty in the The Times of 21st January. Riding the Cresta may be an expensive and even dangerous sport, it may pay an insignificant dividend of health and hardihood to those who practice it, but we cannot see that any adequate case has been made out for deliberately excluding the small number of exceptional women who desire to risk life and limb in the adventure. Regulations of this kind, by their very existence, diffuse a far-flung aroma of offensive discrimination and are calculated to suggest or condone the imposition of others, which may matter more.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CTIZENSHIP.

FEBRUARY I, 1929.

President: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss Macadam.

General and Parliamenry Secretary: Miss. Horton. Offices: 15 Dean's ard, Westminster, S.W. I.
Telephone Victora 6188.

OUR GENERAL EECTION CAMPAIGN.

It has been very interesting see the reaction of the "older" suffragists to our need for connued financial support after the goal of Equal Franchise was reached. One of these, in her eightieth year, apologized for ceiving a reminder of her annual subscription "giving trouble in these stirring great days."

Another, also in her eightietly year, wrote us a kind letter on Christmas Day and renewedher subscription. Another past supporter writes that "Equaly still needs emphasis, and that propaganda is as necessary no (among women as well as men) as much as in the earlier days. The appeal for an ad hoc election campaign fund appears to net the same response from the so-called "old voter." Thosh just launched, only a comparatively small number o letters having been actually dispatched, the immediate esults have been encouraging. The expression used in the ppeal "active political force appears to have struck a symathetic chord for the Union has indeed been an active politica force in past General Elections. But what about the "new voer"? Is she going to send her half-crown or guinea as the cse may be to swell the treasury for this great occasion. We elcome the unfailing help of our leaders and life-long friends; ve also look for the contributions from those who have just joied our ranks. It would be very interesting if contributors uner thirty could state this fact!

ANNUAL CONCIL MEETING.

Wednesday, 6th March: 210 p.m., First Session; 8.45 p.m., Reception, King's College of Women, Household and Social Science Department, Campdh Hill.

Thursday, 7th March: 10 m.-12.45 p.m., Second Session;

2 p.m.-5 p.m., Third Session Friday, 8th March: 10 an.-12.45 p.m., Fourth Session; 1 p.m., Public Luncheon, Cririon Restaurant; 3 p.m.-5 p.m.,

Saturday, 9th March: 10 am.-1 p.m., Sixth Session.
All sessions will be at King George's Hall, Central Y.M.C.A.,
Caroline Street, Great Russel Street, W.C. 1, and will be open to the public, the gallery of the hall being reserved for visitors, who can obtain tickets price d. a session, or 2s. 6d. for the six sessions. Copies of the prelimary agenda, which has already been sent to secretaries of soleties, can now be obtained from Headquarters, price 6d.

BY-EIECTIONS.

Mrs. Dalton, Labour candidate in the Bishop Auckland By-election, has now replied to Parliamentary Questionnaire. She has answered all questims in the affirmative, with the following qualifications. In the case of Family Allowances she writes: "I am in favour of a national scheme of family allowances to be financed by increased taxation on large incomes and inherited fortunes"; and in hat of Restrictive Legislation, she replies: "I shall support any legislation which will improve the conditions of work for workers of either sex or of both sexes.' She is "in favour of an increase in the number of women police in suitable areas." No replis have as yet been received from the Liberal and Unionist candidates.

WOMEN ON WATCH COMMITTEES.

The office is anxious to obtain a list of the women councillors serving on Watch Committees, and officers of affiliated Societies and other readers are asked if they would be so kind as to help by sending this information to Headquarters. A list of the places already known was given in he issue of 18th January.

CONFERENCE ON THE EDUCATION OF THE CITIZEN. Friday, 8th February, at University College. Sessions at 2.30, 5.30 and 8 %clock.

Many applications for tickets for this conference are being received from members of Societies and we hope that all who possibly can will take the opportunity of coming to University College on 8th February; fortunately there is ample room in the Great Hall. An opportunity of hearing so many speakers with practical experience of this interesting subject, the teaching of citizenship, will not often be available, and should not be missed. Particulars and tickets, price 5s. for the whole conference, or 2s. for each session, can be obtained from Headquarters.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

On 19th January the opening meeting of the New Voters' Club, which has been inaugurated by the Edinburgh S.E.C., was held in the Scottish Women's Club, George Street. A company of about fifty sat down to supper, which was followed by an interesting programme. Mrs. Robertson, in the absence of the President, Miss Frances Simson, M.A., welcomed the guests. Miss Adam gave a sparkling and witty speech on the experiences of a political organizer, while Mrs. McEwen struck a more serious note and gave the young people present some kindly and wise advice regarding their future responsibilities. Mrs. Gaffney had succeeded in gathering together a company of talented artistes, who acted two short sketches, and Mrs. E. Anderson's Scottish readings were also much appreciated. It was decided that the next meeting should take the form of a debate on a current political question.

The New Voter

The first of a series of Letters to the "New Voter" will appear in

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

On FRIDAY, 8th FEBRUARY.

This series will continue until the General Election, These articles should be useful for meetings of women, girls' clubs, etc.

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

CONFERENCE

Education of the Citizen

FRIDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 1929.

The Great Hall, University College, London

ENTRANCE: GORDON STREET, W.C 1.

CHAIRMAN: THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, D.B.E., M.P.

SESSION I. 2.30 p.m.

The Teaching of Citizenship in Schools. CHAIR: THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, D.B.E., M.P.

SESSION II. 5.30 p.m.

The Teaching of Citizenship to Young People After School Age. CHAIR: DR. CYRIL NORWOOD, M.A.

SESSION III. 8 p.m.

The Teaching of Citizenship to the Adult. CHAIR: ALBERT MANSBRIDGE, M.A., LL.D.

The aim of the Conference is to ascertain the general lines on which the organizations connected with the teaching of citizenship are working. There have of recent years been important developments in the methods adopted and it is felt that, particularly in view of the urgent need for the education of the new voters, an attempt to co-ordinate the ideas and experience of those who have a practical interest in this work will be of real value.

Tickets (2/- for each session) may be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C. DEBATE.

5th February, 7 p.m. Dr. Marion Phillips (Chief Woman Officer of the Labour Party) and Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott (Chairman Open Door ncil) will broadcast a debate on Restrictive Legislation. OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

14th February, 12.45. p.m. Pinoli's Restaurant, Wardour Street. Monthly Luncheon. Mr. Frank Briant, "Economic Equality for Women."

Luncheon. Mr. Frank Dilane,
BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

1 20 Mes Horton, "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

FABIAN SOCIETY (WOMEN'S GROUP).

12th February, 8 p.m. Caxton Hall. Miss Evelyn Sharp, "The Growing Pains of Emancipation." Chair: Mrs. Charlotte Haldane. GLASGOW S.E.C. and W.C.A.

7th February, Ca'dora Restaurant. Commemoration and At Home to meet Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who will speak on "The Outlook for 1929." GUILD OF GIRL CITIZENS.

13th February, 8 p.m. The Guildhouse, S.W. I. Public Meeting, iss Ishbel MacDonald, "The Work of the L.C.C." Chair: Lady Maurice.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION. 4th February, 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, S.W. I. Miss-Biggs (Secretary Westminster Housing Association), "Housing in Westminster: What

JOSEPHINE BUTLER COMMEMORATION SERVICE.

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN. 7th February, 8 p.m. 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. Professor Graham Wallas, "America." Chair: The American Ambassador.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

8th February. Great Hall, University College, London. Conference on the "Education of the Citizen." Chair: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. Speakers: Dr. Cyril Norwood, M.A., Albert Mansbridge, M.A., J. H. Badley (Bedales School), Miss Pennethorne (P.E.N.U.), Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Matheson (B.B.C.), B. Ingram, Esq. (L.C.C. Continuation School), and many others. First session 2.30 p.m.; second session, 5.30 p.m.; third session, 8 p.m. Tickets 2s., or 5s. for the three sessions, from the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

Acton W.C.A.—7th February, 3 p.m. Committee Room, Municipal Offices. Mrs. W. T. Layton, "Unemployment from the Economic Point of View."

Gillingham W.C.A.—4th February, 730 p.m. Arden Street. Mrs. Berry, "Current Legislation with Special Reference to the Local Government Bill."

Preston W.C.A.—7th February, 7.30 p.m. Orient Café, Friargate Mrs. James Todd, B.A., J.P. "History of the Suffrage Movement in Preston." Chair: Miss Stoneman.

SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

1st February, 7.45 p.m. Lauriston Hall, Lauriston St., Edinburgh. Reception to M.P.s, Council Meeting Delegates and lecturers for the session.

2nd February, 1 p.m. Mackie's Restaurant, 108 Princes Street. Lunch to Council Meeting Delegates. Chair: Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B., D.B.E. Members cordially invited.

11th February, 6 p.m. 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1. Meeting on "The De-rating Bill," followed by discussion.

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LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey, Expert advice on what to do with your girls. Addresses to schools and societies in London and Provinces by arrangement.

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EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for al! domestic work Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2.6; workers, 1/-. Suiting fee: Employers, 10/6; workers, 2/-. (Victoria 5940.)

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