

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXIII.

No. 27.

Twopence.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, August 7, 1931.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and
Abroad, 10/10.
Common Cause Publishing Co., 4 Great Smith Street,
Westminster, S.W. 1.

NOTES AND NEWS.

An Important Announcement.

Like almost every other propagandist undertaking, THE WOMAN'S LEADER is feeling the pinch of widespread economy. It is therefore proposed for the next three months, during the Parliamentary recess, to publish only a monthly issue including (for those who take it) the *Townswomen's Guild Supplement*. We believe that many of our subscribers may find this arrangement not unwelcome, but any who object to it will be entitled to claim the return of their subscriptions for this period.

The "Economy" Committee.

The Report of the Committee on National Expenditure made its appearance—prudently and possibly designedly—just too late for Parliamentary discussion before the adjournment. It is a drastic report, and is certain to provoke an outcry from those interested in the services chiefly menaced. Here and now we have space for little except to note a few miscellaneous points of special interest to our readers, yet unlikely to be overlooked by the general Press; such as that in the opinion of the Committee "female labour might be used a great deal more than at present" in certain grades of the Post Office; that the abolition of the marriage gratuity to women Civil Servants is recommended; that suspension of the proposed improvement on the maternity service is recommended; that drastic reductions in housing subsidies are recommended, but nothing said about the wasteful use of subsidies to tenants who do not need them nor of the possibilities of reducing this wastage through the device of rebates. For the rest, by far the two most substantial economies recommended are at the expense of unemployment insurance (£66½ millions) and of education (£13½ millions). We strongly recommend the Reports (Majority and Minorities) to our readers as an interesting, if depressing, form of holiday reading, well worth the four shillings it will cost them.

Proposed Memorial to Dame Millicent Fawcett.

It is just two years since the death of our great leader, on 5th August, 1929, and our thoughts turn naturally to her at this

season. The life by Mrs. Strachey, which has recently appeared, is, in one sense, a memorial; but her friends and followers will be glad to know that other plans are also on foot for a lasting tribute to her life's work. The Millicent Garrett Fawcett Memorial Committee, composed of representatives of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the London and National Society for Women's Service, has been considering the possibilities, and negotiations are on foot with the Dean of Westminster, in regard to an extension of the monument to Henry Fawcett, in Westminster Abbey, so as to make it a monument to Dame Millicent also. We hope to be able to make a definite announcement and appeal for funds in the autumn.

The Disarmament Declaration Campaign—at Home.

The success of this campaign is convincing proof, if proof be required, of the enthusiasm that prevails on the subject of world disarmament. During July, many successful demonstrations were held. In Bristol, thirty thousand children took part in a demonstration in six public parks. In Bolton, a stall was set up in the Town Hall Square and 4,500 signatures were obtained on one day. Shops similar to that in Aston-under-Lyne, described last week, have been opened in many places, for Reigate tradesman are displaying a notice signed by the Mayor and Rural Dean, asking passers by to come in and sign the declaration. In Montgomeryshire, 20 per cent of the population have already signed, and in Merionethshire 25 per cent. Well done Wales! And yet the half is not told. Plans are now in progress for the autumn and winter; Armistice Day brings with it the opportunity for a special effort, and there is every prospect that the final stages of the campaign preceding the Conference will show increased activity everywhere. Readers who have not already done so, should send for forms and use the next few weeks in collecting signatures in their particular holiday resorts.

The Disarmament Declaration—Abroad.

In securing signatures it is very useful to be able to pass on the information that we do not stand alone in this campaign. No fewer than 42 other countries are participating. Local French organizations have been formed in Lille, Rheims, Lyons, Toulouse, Gien, and in the Vosges district. In Germany 24 organizations are taking part. Other countries which are active are Bulgaria, Czecho-Slovakia, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, and the United States of America. Our own Dominions are well to the fore. One of the most picturesque efforts so far recorded is the journey of a Transcontinental Caravan from the West Coast U.S.A. to the East, which left California on 21st June, and is due to arrive in Washington on 1st October, after travelling through twenty-five states.

Mussolini Talks Sense.

Mussolini has long been convinced that the Western world stands in mortal danger of the bacillus of Bolshevism. Yet according to his latest pronouncement, the true prophylactic is not armed combination against Russia, but rather general disarmament. The Hoover proposal, he says, has shown the way, and the next political measure necessary is to assure the world a period of peace for the next ten years. For this reason the Disarmament Conference is of the most pressing importance. It is not only the existence of the League of Nations that is at stake, but the destinies of the human race. The year 1932 will decide our fate for good or ill. We are before a terrible dilemma,

'Keep fit on
COCOA'

BOURNVILLE
SEE THE "Cadbury" ON EVERY PIECE
OF CHOCOLATE

Write
Cadbury, Bournville
about Gift Scheme

the renovation or destruction of our civilization. So much for his present views. They are, being the views of a Mussolini, definite and emphatic. And we choose to believe that this—rather than the Mussolini who proposed to darken the sun with the fighting planes of Italy—is the real Mussolini. We hope and pray that it may be the real Mussolini that pilots Italian policy through the international deliberations of 1932.

The Long Recess.

The Members of Parliament have now, like so many school-boys, dispersed for the holidays, with no doubt relief in their hearts for the temporary release from a thankless task. Some legislative achievements are to be noted. But they amount to so little, that the general impression remaining on the mind of the onlooker is that of a body of well-intentioned people coping with forces too great for them; and where financial and industrial depression are concerned playing little but the part of King Canute. Any small steps forward which have been taken in connection with the question of assistance of Germany, or with the creation of a better atmosphere for the Disarmament Conference have been taken by individual members of the Government, without Parliamentary assistance. But it is still too early to judge as during the autumn many Bills whose stages are still incomplete will by their reaching the Statute Book have created a better record of achievement for the session as a whole. Even so, a minority government, with which the House of Lords is largely out of sympathy, cannot expect too much, and must look for much obstruction and for considerable modifications of some of the measures dearest to the heart.

Ladies First!

The scapegoat of our economic discontents continues to be the married woman worker. At Westminster she has paid the penalty. Now the infection has spread to Lancashire—that ancient stronghold of married women's work. An agreement has, it appears, been reached at Nelson, duly signed and sealed by employers and accredited employed, for the working under specified conditions of eight hours to a weaver. According to the Nelson Weavers' Association, "The signing of the agreement marks the beginning of a new era in the cotton industry. . . . Included in the clauses of the agreement are such important matters as the abolition of timing in the mills, the elimination of women whose husbands are in good positions in the mills, and the discharge of married women weavers in order to find work for married men." In fine, it is asserted that "all parties expressed satisfaction at the terms of the agreement." But can we be sure of this? If it is indeed true that all parties are satisfied, then a curious sex-change has come over the women of Lancashire, with their ancient traditions of economic independence.

Health Insurance and Married Women.

In the debate for the House of Commons, on the Civil Estimates, attention was drawn by Sir Kingsley Wood to the alarming rise in the sickness and disablement benefit claims which has been going on since 1927. Approved Societies which specially cater for married women are in a peculiarly unfortunate position owing to the remarkable increase of these claims among married women estimated as no less than 106 per cent for sickness benefit and 159 per cent for disablement benefit. The claims for unmarried women were also very high and showed heavy increases. Miss Rathbone's partial explanation of what she admitted to be a great new phenomenon calling for careful inquiry was that in time of depression in industry, it is the married women who feel the pinch. The facts relating to the far higher ratio of the duration of claims in the northern than in the southern area points to unemployment as possibly tending to raise the figures in two ways: by sapping the strength of the workers and their dependents, and by giving them a strong temptation to give way to trifling illness as a safe way of securing maintenance when unemployment benefit seems for any reason doubtful. It would be interesting to know if any of our readers, who have special experience either of the working of health insurance or of the social conditions of claimants can throw any light on these undeniably very disquieting facts.

Rent Rebates in the City of Lincoln.

We read with interest in the Lincoln Press that the city of Lincoln is among the first to put into operation the provision of the 1930 Housing Act, which enables Local Authorities to allow rebates on standard rents according to the number of children or the income of the household, or both, instead of

lowering all rent equally, irrespective of the tenant's needs. Although this is the only way of actually carrying out the directions of the Ministry that "rent relief should be given only to those who need, and so long as they need it" local authorities seem slow in adopting the principle.

Maintenance of Adopted Children in Scotland.

Children adopted before October, 1930, will now come within the scope of the Widows and Orphans Pensions Acts, for the Bill introduced by Mr. Mathers to amend the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act passed last year, has successfully reached the Statute Book. It will now be possible for allowances to be claimed in respect of these children, and a very real hardship has been removed.

Scholarships and Women's Colleges.

An interesting criticism of women's scholarship standards was made by Miss M. G. Clarke, head mistress of the Manchester High School, at its annual speech day last week. She complained that the standards required for open university scholarships at the "great women's colleges" had reached a level that was fantastic. She added that "intellectual promise appears to be confused with academic attainment, and a degree of actual scholarship looked for which could not be obtained except by a genius, except by using the school as a forcing house and doing real and perhaps permanent injury to those who pass through the ordeal. The system, as far as these residential colleges are concerned, seems to stand self-condemned by the significant consideration that an able girl has a much better chance of obtaining an open scholarship in a mixed university than at almost any university colleges of this country." Such was Miss Clarke's indictment. We are not competent to express any opinion as to its truth beyond the recognition that as head mistress of a very large and notable school she must speak with considerable weight of experience. There is no doubt that the women's colleges are at present so eagerly sought after that they are in a position to make their own terms and exact their own standards. The question is, do those standards involve at present too great an emphasis on scholastic attainments at the expense of discriminating recognition of intellectual promise? Head mistresses of large secondary schools, who know more about the qualities of the girls they send up than the scholarship examiners are likely to know, and who can draw their own conclusions from a comparison of those chosen and those rejected, are in a better position than anyone else to pronounce upon this question. We should welcome further light upon the matter.

Where are the Women Scientists?

The centenary meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in London from 23rd to the 30th September. It provides an amazing and extraordinarily interesting programme. In looking through names of those responsible both for the organization of the meeting as a whole, and those who are responsible for the separate sections, each representing a different science, it is regrettable to see how very few women's names appear, and science might be deemed to be a uni-sexual department of life. Thus there is no woman at all among the vice-presidents, only one woman—Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan—appears among the ordinary members of the council. Even on the London Committee the only women are the principals of the London University Women's Colleges, and once again Dame Helen. On the London Committee there are, for example, four head masters of big public schools, but not one head mistress. As for scientists holding positions as officers of the sessions, there is no woman president, and only two women secretaries. No particulars have as yet been published, as to readers of papers other than the Presidential address. We wonder how many women will be included.

STOP PRESS.

India.—The addition of a third woman, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, to the Minorities Sub-Committee, is announced.

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.

WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS.

By RAY STRACHEY.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, which appeared at the end of July, makes very discouraging reading for women Civil Servants and for those who are concerned about their position. The Commission, when it was appointed in October, 1929, was charged with the task of reviewing the conditions of the service with special reference—among other things—to the rates of pay of women and the conditions of recruitment and retirement, and the operation of the marriage bar. Under these headings it was hoped that a report might be produced which would take note of the actual present position of women in the Civil Service, and would have constructive things to say about the many real grievances, tangible and intangible under which they labour. In this hope the various organizations of women Civil Servants prepared and submitted full and careful evidence, but the report, now that it has come seems to disregard this altogether. It might, so it seems, have been written before the Commission began its work; and it might have been written by the Treasury unaided; and, in Civil Service matters there can hardly be any harsher condemnation than this!

The main facts of the situation are all too plain. Parliament decided, exactly ten years ago this week, that women were to be admitted to, and employed in the Civil Service upon the same terms as men, save for the three important points of pay, eligibility for service overseas, and dismissal on marriage. But the authorities of the Civil Service (conveniently called the Treasury) believed that this was an impulsive and absurd decision, and that the right thing to do was to allow equal entry so that things might right themselves in the long run, and to proceed meanwhile by a very gradual process, by this plan the equality idea might find some sort of modified expression, after all the existing Civil Servants were safely dead. They said then, and they say still, that there has not yet been enough experience of women's work to justify any great changes; and meanwhile they so arrange matters that there is but the smallest likelihood of their having experience of women's work in responsible positions for years to come.

Anyone who has watched Civil Service matters closely for the past ten years will have ample evidence of how this Treasury attitude has worked in practice. It began with the down-grading of the existing higher grade women clerks under the Reorganization Report, and it has been continued by the refusal to promote or transfer any but a very tiny fraction of the able women already in the Service; and although a few tentative steps towards aggregation have been made, each one of these has been accompanied by a prolonged battle, and none of them, save that of the Factory Inspectorate, can yet be called complete.

The multitude of individual grievances which this process, or rather this lack of process, has involved, together with the three main policy points on which the Government has not conceded even theoretical equality, was one of the major factors which led to the appointment of the Royal Commission. There were, indeed, other service points long overdue for settlement, such as the consolidation of the bonus, and the position of the temporaries and the ex-service personnel. About these matters, and their treatment by the Commission, this is not the place to

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

The closing week before adjournment was less crowded than anticipated, the Government having reconciled itself to letting several Bills stand over till the autumn. Supply days and the Appropriation Bill filled most of the days; but after 10 o'clock a number of uncontentious Bills and undiscussed Votes of Supply were taken, the Opposition rationing themselves in the matter of divisions to about three a day. To the novice the whole proceedings appeared casual and haphazard. It was hard, indeed, to find a Member who could answer the question as we walked through the lobby "What are we voting about?" and the would-be conscientious cross bencher had to content himself with the reflection that the business of the country had to be carried on, and that the division if challenged on any other principle than that "the duty of an Opposition is to oppose" would probably have been among those selected for discussion. The truth is that at all times so many divisions are based on this principle, or to put it less politely, are purely obstructionist, that a genuinely independent Member must inevitably vote in a large proportion of divisions with the Government of the day, whatever its colour and whatever his of her individual political sympathies.

speak; but the women's points were in 1929 and are to-day, of the utmost importance, not only to women, but to the general public, and it is well to realize what has happened.

On the question of the position of women in the Service generally the Commission says practically nothing. It is true that it has a tone in regard to women which is far better than any of its predecessors; but tone is not a very tangible thing. It says in plain words, that it recommends the policy of "the fair field and no favour", which has long been the summit of the women's hopes, and which, incidentally, Parliament adopted and approved in 1921. But even this statement has been misconstrued, and *The Times*, in commenting on it, used expressions which would lead one to suppose that women had been enjoying unlimited "favour" up to now! In addition to this, the Commission recommends "the adoption of aggregation in the Service generally", which is a very fundamental and far reaching thing. But it makes only one specific proposal for its adoption, namely, in regard to the inspectorate of the Board of Education; and as for the Post Office (where the position is the most acute), it does no more than suggest the appointment of another special Committee or Commission to inquire into its general organization. In almost all matters relating to this subject, therefore, the Royal Commission leaves matters much where it found them; and that was in a very bad state.

In regard to the three big points of policy which touch the position of women, the Commission does little more. There seems to have been a practically equal division of opinion in the matter of equal pay and of the marriage bar, with the result that the two opposing views are fully and very ably stated, and the status quo (which is, of course, unfavourable to the women) will be consequently maintained. On the marriage bar, indeed, an attempt is made to produce an arrangement which will in practice allow some women to be kept on after marriage, and some to be recruited; but it is difficult to see how this new regulation can be so framed as to be very useful, so long as the attitude of the Departments, and the Treasury, remains as timid and doubtful as it now is.

On the third main policy question, namely the eligibility of women for service in the Colonial office and overseas, the recommendation is that the Government should again examine the position at an early date; and this, inconclusive as it is, is a recommendation which must immediately be followed up. We hear on all sides of the need for using the services of women in our Colonies and Dependencies, and we know how profoundly real that need is. And yet, as things are, women are not even eligible for service in the Colonial Office in Whitehall. It is a position which would be farcical, if it were not so serious.

Taken all round, no one can say that this report is anything but a disappointing document for women. The rate of its advance over its predecessors is about as slow and small as the rate of change of opinion in the Service itself. There is an advance, and there is a change; but unless we can somehow speed things up the position of women in the Civil Service seems unlikely to improve much until our grandchildren's days. And in the interests of the efficiency, the up-to-dateness and the completeness of our country's major Service that must not be.

Although we are separating in gloomy national circumstances, with trade depression showing little signs of improvement, with the situation in India obscured by official reticence but at best gravely anxious, with all three Parties torn (though the Conservative Party least visibly so) by internal discussions—the prospect of a temporary release from tension and stuffiness, cheered the spirits of all Members, and the "breaking-up for the holidays" spirit showed itself in school-boy fashion—by outbursts of song in the lobbies, bursts of hilarity at invisible jokes in the Chamber, and last-minute hospitalities on the Terrace.

The actual output of the Session is not inconsiderable, though small in proportion to the number of Bills introduced. One veteran Conservative assured me that the number of Government measures is larger than in any similar period of office within his experience. The country districts have done best, with Bills either through or promised a safe passage for their remaining stages—in some cases after considerable mutilation or amendment, as one prefers to view it. These are the Bills for Land Utilization, facilitating small-holdings, experiments in scientific farming, etc., the Agricultural Marketing Bill, the Rural Housing Bill (giving an extra subsidy for cheap cottages in poor districts),

and the Town and Country Planning Bill. The last-named is a really big measure, very generally welcomed by all who care for preserving what is left of the unspoiled face of the country and guiding the development of those portions destined to be built on. Other achieved or safe measures—such as that which permits the Government to go on with its borrowing of ten million pounds at a time to pour into the insatiable maw of unemployment insurance, and the unpopular Bill for slightly slackening the flow by dealing with the worst (or most loudly advertised) “anomalies” of the same system—are of the nature of reluctant concessions to a disagreeable necessity. Among measures neither achieved nor safe, must be reckoned the unfortunately named “Representation of the People Bill” and the Consumer’s Council Bill—both seriously threatened at the hands of the Lords, and a good deal less popular than was expected when they first appeared on the Government’s programme. That programme contained promises which have not had issue even in stillborn children, such as the long-delayed Factories and Children Bill. But there have been unanticipated gains which have given great satisfaction to particular sections—such as the Architects’ Registration Bill, which secures to that increasingly important profession some sort of safeguard against unauthorized and untrained intruders which nearly every other profession or manual craft already enjoys; also Miss Picton-Turbervill’s little Bill concerning the death penalty on expectant mothers, which must excite the hope that never again may there be a mother in a position to profit by the clemency it promises. It is melancholy that one cannot add to these two Private Members’ successes the Humane Slaughter of Animals Bill; nor that for prohibiting the slaughter of worn-out horses; nor that for preventing the capricious disinheritance of spouses and children. All these encounter the hostility of selfish interests, but even in these a step has been taken along the craggy zig-zagging road which those must take who seek to place a measure on the top of Constitution Hill without the help of a Government majority.

And so to bed—or rather to the mountains, the sea, or the slum areas of great cities. “And where are you going for your holiday,” said Cross Bench to the devoted representatives of two of the most “depressed” of industrial town areas. “To my division” was the answer, rather glumly. “But, mebbe,” added one of them, “I’ll get a week later somewhere in the country with my son.”

CROSS BENCH.

FOR HOLIDAY READING.

Two blue books: three biographies: four novels by women.
The Royal Commission on the Civil Service. 3s. 6d.
The Report on National Expenditure. 4s.

Millicent Garrett Fawcett. Ray Strachey. 15s.
Florence Nightingale. I. B. O’Malley. 21s.
Life of Robert Marquess of Salisbury, 1880-86. Lady Gwendolen Cecil. Vol. 3, 21s.

All Passion Spent. Sackville West.
The Shortest Night. G. B. Stern.
The Good Earth. Pearl S. Buck.
The Month of May. Jane Dashwood.

The first two will be sent on application to Headquarters (postage 6d. extra). The remainder should be demanded from local libraries.

AN OLD ARGUMENT REFUTED.

During the long campaign to secure freedom of choice of nationality for married women, one particular argument has frequently been brought forward against any change in our present law. It has been said that if a British woman married an alien and was staying in his country, our Government would not intervene on her behalf if she sought assistance from her own country, even if she had elected to remain British. The contention was that it would not do to interfere in a country that might also claim her as a national. Now, however, a case has come before Parliament which shows that interference in another country can and does take place on behalf of a British citizen even when she still holds the nationality of that country. Mrs. Walford is a Russian who recently married a British subject, but until she obtains release from her Russian nationality she is unable to secure permission to leave her country. Our Government, which recognizes her as British by marriage, is endeavouring to speed up the procedure in Russia, approaches having been made both through the Soviet Ambassador in London and the British Ambassador in Moscow.

AN EXPERIMENT IN HOSPITAL REFORM.

A SUGGESTION FOR OUT-PATIENTS’ DEPARTMENTS.

By FRED BARNES, F.C.C.S.

A matter of great importance to all social workers and to the public in general was discussed at a recent conference of the British Hospitals’ Association, when the known defects of our voluntary hospitals’ out-patient system were considered and explored, and a real attempt was made to put before the members present some solutions to the main problems. Not the least of these problems is the apparently overwhelming difficulty caused through the congestion and long-waiting in out-patient departments.

This problem causes the patients loss of time, possibly loss of earnings, which like expenditure of time and money in travelling, often nullifies the financial benefit of free treatment. In other cases, either loss to employers or neglect of homes is incurred, besides, in many instances, suffering and increased risk of infection. It also deters from applying hospital treatment to those cases whose seriousness renders them unfit to endure the long hours of waiting.

In my opinion too much has been taken for granted that these long hours of waiting are unavoidable. The process through which patients must necessarily pass is inevitably a lengthy one—they must be assembled, registered, sorted, provided with cards before they are ready to be seen by the doctors. It is the general practice in larger hospitals for out-patients to be received in the first instance between certain fixed hours, sifted from the general mass into their correct department, and this method appears to be the one generally accepted as the only efficient manner of dealing with out-patients. It is admitted by all hospital administrators that the accepted scheme leaves much to be desired, and from time to time attempts have been made to solve the problem, but with little success.

There can be no doubt that in spite of all existing defects, out-patient departments do meet a great public need, but when one sees the hundreds of people congregated in a large waiting hall for an average of three hours’ waiting on each attendance one realizes that radical changes are essential and necessary.

The Board of Management of the Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital are much alive to the general conditions existing in hospitals, and are constantly on the alert to find new means of increasing the hospital’s usefulness to the city of Manchester, the major and most important consideration being the increased comfort and benefit of the patients.

With their usual progressive policy, they instructed me that, at whatever cost or effort, the lot of the out-patient must be made an easy one, and with the result a very successful “Booking System” was inaugurated, which, I understand, is the first of its kind in this country. The system does not necessarily mean that if a patient books an appointment at, say, 11 a.m., he is seen precisely at that time. The “booking” is dependent entirely upon the exigencies of the service, and it may be half an hour or possibly one hour before the patient has finished his course of examination and treatment. It is an established fact, and interesting to note, that out of 78,000 attendances last year, 156,000 hours of waiting were saved. Imagine then the saving that could be made in the country as a whole—millions of hours spent in usually dismal surroundings.

In conclusion, may I sum up and state that the day has passed when we should console ourselves with the fact that a large number of patients are content to have a three hours’ wait in an out-patient department, and I am sure that if some statistician could prepare a list of wasted hours spent by men, women, and children in the out-patients’ departments these figures would appal, not only those connected with voluntary hospitals, but also the general public. The time has come for a change and a true reformation.

The scheme in operation at the Manchester Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital has eliminated long waits. Working on the law of averages, a schedule has been drawn up for the whole of the day at the Appointments Bureau. Patients now telephone, write, or call in to make an appointment, just as they would book a seat at a theatre. Patients who do not wish to book in advance make their appointments on arrival at the hospital, and are free to spend their time as they wish, until they are due for examination.

The proof of the experiment is in the out-patient waiting hall, where empty seats are silent witnesses to the success of the scheme, despite the fact that in the current year over 20,000 more treatments have been given than in any year of the hospital’s history, and where previous congestion and crowding prevailed.

ENGLISH FOLK COOKERY AND FRENCH FOLK COOKERY.

By F. WHITE (Ann Pope), Founder of The English Folk Cookery Association.

The other day I was invited to join the French Folk Cookery Association and received from headquarters particulars of their activities. Of course I have known that a determined effort has been made for some years to impose French cookery on the English nation, because I have come up against unflinching opposition to my crusade on behalf of English cookery, but until I received this invitation I did not know how splendidly organized the French Association is in England. Since September, 1926, I have visited as many places in England as possible, trying to find out how much traditional English cookery still exists, just as the late Mr. Cecil Sharpe did for Folk Song and Dance. But I have been handicapped by having at the same time to earn my living as a journalist specializing in food and cookery; this takes up a great deal of time as I have my own experiment kitchen in which food is cooked and dished up to be photographed by the Press photographer as illustrations to articles. Now, so far, the expenses of this Folk Cookery research have been paid out of these earnings. The Association has no subscriptions because I have no time to keep its accounts.

All this sounds very personal, but my aim is to see if there is anyone of leisure in London sufficiently interested who would like to help me once a week with the secretarial work—without payment—with the idea of eventually becoming sole Honorary Secretary of the English Folk Cookery Association? If so, will he or she please write to me?

Under the circumstances it is best to repeat the objects of this campaign: Its leading principle is Economic. People have to eat and drink to live, therefore someone has to be employed in producing and distributing food to the consumer. The last stages of this threefold business are the kitchen, larders, storerooms, and the tables off which we eat and drink. This business therefore is with its collaterals our largest and most important national industry, and should provide a good deal of well-paid employment. Yet in its latest stages it was woefully and increasingly neglected from the ‘fifties of the last century to 1914, and much of our good old English cookery was so lost that English cooks and cookery became a target for the world’s scorn; most of those who still cooked for a wage or for their home people only did it because they were obliged. A young girl I know who wanted to take it up as a wage-earning occupation was told by her teacher “only girls who are too stupid to do anything else or whose parents are too poor to let them train as typists, etc., become domestic servants; a bright, clever girl is too good for such a job.” This was in 1923. Fortunately we have changed all that. Girls—post-war girls born in 1914 and 1915—realize that it requires brains to manage a modern house and kitchen, especially in these days of electric gadgets. They also realize how much there is to learn and how fascinating it all is.

Meantime English neglect of cookery has resulted in the best posts in our kitchens begin filled by foreigners, and it is natural that Frenchmen can cook *à la française* better than English men and women, but they cannot do English cookery nearly as well; which shows there is something inborn in each nation’s way of preparing food.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, writing a preface to a book of Cornish Recipes, says:—

“I have mentioned climate, having learned by observation and experiment that drinks palatable and health-giving in one country are often unsuitable to others and pernicious. Simple viands, unhelped by the stock-pot, ‘belong’ to these parts, with light fermented beverages such as cider and claret. And I wish that our hotels and restaurants in the West would take account of this and discover that visitors to Cornwall (as many of them assure me) buy by preference the fare that our mothers and grandmothers took pride in setting on table.”

Instead, England has been, and to a certain extent still is, suffering from a cookery epidemic the symptoms of which are valiant but vain attempts on the part of English folk to imitate French cookery. Now French cookery when good is very good, but when it is badly imitated it is an abomination. It is the same with English cookery, and the moral is that we should employ English cooks for England and French cooks for France.

Obviously the first thing to bring this about was to re-discover English cookery and to put new heart into English men and women to train as English cooks and thus not only make English cookery praiseworthy once more but relieve unemployment in other

occupations and professions. Incidentally the relief of unemployment would lessen rates and taxes, a consummation most devoutly to be wished. It is this Economic bliss the English Folk Cookery Association is out to do its part in procuring.

A dream! Perhaps. But a practical one. Will anyone help? For the last three or four years the French Folk Cookery Association has been lecturing, in all our public schools and colleges for girls and men, on the superiority of French cookery, and now the head of the movement has written a very good book in English which is published by an English publisher. It is not a book of recipes, but mentions and describes about 3,000 foods and dishes obtainable in different places in France.

Without subscriptions or capital, almost single-handed as far as the Association is concerned, as many as 3,000 English Folk food and cookery recipes have been gathered together from all over England, and in this readers of THE WOMAN’S LEADER have played a proud part. Will someone come forward and help me next winter with the secretarial work? One afternoon a week (a Friday) would be a tremendous help. It is not necessary to be able to type, but someone with organizing ability is desirable. A very interesting bit of work has to be put through. The prospects are splendid, only one (or more) good voluntary workers are needed. Who will help me?

THE MATERNAL MORTALITY PROBLEM.

By NORAH MARCH.

One of the subjects which was discussed at the Baby Week Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare¹—that Conference which is an annual event in National Baby Week and is organized by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality—was that of a complete Maternity Service for the whole country. It is in comparatively recent years that we have paid much attention to the problem of maternal mortality, though infant mortality has come in for a very great and requisite amount of attention.

About three thousand mothers annually lose their lives in child-birth, and in other conditions connected with child-birth. The actual proportion—the rate per thousand births—has increased somewhat during the last year or two. There are critics who would say that the deaths of three thousand mothers constitutes a comparatively small problem of national health when compared with the loss of 49,000 infants in a year. So far as these actual figures are concerned, maternal mortality may be comparatively small, but in considering these problems we do not think only of the deaths. We think of the many thousands of women who are disabled and invalided, sometimes for a period and sometimes for the rest of their lives, through child-birth. If we could get the pooled experience of private practitioners we could get some light on the many other thousands of women in this category.

We really became alert to the problem because we realized from our vital statistics that though we had reduced the infant death-rate by considerably more than one-half during this century, the death-rate of mothers in child-birth has not gone down during the same period: it has shown certain small fluctuations and at the present time is slightly on the upward grade.

It would appear in general that all those preventive measures which have proved so successful in reducing infant mortality are having little or no influence as preservatives of maternal welfare. There may, of course, be the possibility that some new actor has come into play during recent years which has had an adverse effect upon the maternal death-rate in that it has caused deaths the number of which may have balanced or even exceeded the number of lives saved through preventive measures. At the Royal Sanitary Institute Congress last year Dame Louise McIlroy made a striking contribution to the Maternity and Child Welfare Section in which she explained how greatly on the increase was the use of abortifacients and the detrimental effect these might have on a woman’s well-being.

The Ministry of Health is taking some steps to deal with this problem of maternity mortality—an encouraging result of the publication of an Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Maternity Mortality last year. That Committee made it very clear that an improvement in the situation depends mainly upon two essential measures: (1) That the women of the country should be steadily and emphatically enlightened as to the importance of ante-natal supervision and (2) That the maternity service maintained by local authorities should be

(Continued on next page.)

¹ At Cardiff, 1st, 2nd and 3rd July, 1931.

POLICEWOMEN.

Undoubtedly a certain amount of satisfaction will be felt throughout the country by organized women, and all interested in the Women Police movement, at the Government's response to two excellent speeches recently made in the House, although of course not all the demands made were complied with. It was during the debate on Thursday, 30th July, on the Appropriation Bill, that Miss Picton-Turbervill took the opportunity of raising the question of women police. In a very convincing speech she briefly outlined some of the most striking arguments—all well known to readers of this paper—in favour of the extended employment of policewomen. Miss Picton-Turbervill urged that standardized regulations for women police all over the country should be drawn up, and that these should be based on the recommendations of the Baird and Bridgeman Committees (of 1920 and 1924 respectively). She further asked that a woman inspector be attached to the Home Office, and that Miss Peto's appointment at Scotland Yard, which has been extended for another six months, be made permanent. This speech was very ably supported by Colonel Moore, who, in addition to stressing the need for standardization, specially urged the need for equality of training and duties, and equality of pay and pension. Mr. Shortt, the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, in replying on behalf of the Government, informed the House that at a recent meeting of the Police Council draft regulations, in accordance with the Baird and Bridgeman Reports, governing conditions of service, hours and duties for women police, had been considered. Miss Peto's work had given every satisfaction and Mr. Shortt himself was convinced that at some later date it would be necessary for a decision to be made about her appointment being made permanent or otherwise. While the total number of women police was still so small, the Government was not, however, prepared to have a special woman inspector attached to the Home Office.

MATERNAL MORTALITY PROBLEM—(Continued from page 213).

improved and extended as the conditions in the area under their administration necessitate. In many cases the local authorities and the voluntary organizations, as the Minister of Health recognizes, have already realized the importance of exercising to the fullest extent their powers for the care of maternity. Much more, however, must be done if the preventable maternity deaths are to be prevented. Last year in Memorandum 156/M.C.W. the Minister gave advice to local authorities upon the improvement of maternity welfare services. It will be remembered that the Departmental Committee came to the conclusion that the main causes of maternal death in child-birth were those connected with: The absence of ante-natal care; errors of judgment in practice or treatment by doctors and midwives; lack of reasonable facilities available for effective medical care; negligence of the patient or her friends to adopt or carry out medical advice offered to them—in short, in practically half of the total deaths from child-birth into which inquiry was made fatality would appear to have been avoidable.

It is with the object of avoiding these preventable deaths that we are now pleading for a National Maternity Service Scheme—a scheme under which, in principle and in practice, every mother would have at her disposal adequate attention and advice during the period before the birth of her child, at confinement, and during the puerperium. The actual details of such a scheme present many complexities of organization, but already several useful schemes have been put forward—one by the British Medical Association, another by the Joint Committee of Associations to promote the Interests of Mothers and Midwives, and so forth. From consideration of these various schemes we shall ultimately arrive at the practicable scheme for the nation. In the meantime the education of public opinion on the whole matter of ante-natal care and maternal welfare must proceed apace.

The ENGLISH FOLK COOKERY ASSOCIATION will be glad to receive information respecting Scottish, English, Irish and Welsh food and cookery customs, ceremonial dishes, and cakes (local and traditional). 2s. 6d. weekly will be given for the best received written on a post card addressed Miss White, E.F.C.A., care of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith St., Westminster, London, S.W.1.

OXFORD (?) PORTRAITS.¹

Mrs. Courtney has called her volume of short biographies *An Oxford Portrait Gallery*, and it is true that David Hogarth, Gertrude Bell, Hugh Chisholm, and Ralph Thicknesse all had some connection with Oxford besides receiving education there; but it is not to Oxford that they seem most profoundly to belong. David Hogarth was a tutor of Magdalen before he became a "wandering scholar", and he settled down as keeper of the Ashmolean from 1908-15, and again after the war; but one thinks of him not among grey buildings and green meadows, but looking over leagues of burning sand into blood-red desert sunsets and discovering, by their light, cities which were crumbling with age when Oxford spires began to rise. Gertrude Bell was at Lady Margaret Hall for two crowded, brilliant years. When I was up ten years later, women students still repeated to each other the words of a leading history tutor and Fellow of All Souls, who had said that Miss Gertrude Bell could read a book faster and master its contents more thoroughly than any man or woman he had ever known: but one thinks of her not at Oxford but in Persian rose gardens, on Alpine peaks (where her dropped hairpins were said to furnish guiding signs for fainter-hearted climbers) or among the thousands of Arabs whom she protected and interpreted and ruled in her too short later life. From Gertrude, Mrs. Courtney turns to her stepmother, Lady Bell, who quite obviously had nothing to do with Oxford, and then goes on to Hugh Chisholm, whose most marked associations seem to be with Fleet Street and with New York. He was Editor of the *St. James' Gazette* and then of *The Times* editions of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. In the latter capacity he helped H. E. Hooper to engineer the huge publishing stunt which resulted in many thousands of tons of Encyclopaedia, packed in enough cases to build St. Paul's Cathedral, being sold in less than a year. It was an achievement, and no doubt conducted to the spread of knowledge; but hardly in the Oxford manner. Ralph Thicknesse, radical idealist, had the home of his heart in Lancashire, and worked mostly in London. He was a disciple of John Stuart Mill, the author of a handbook on the legal disabilities of women, and a co-worker with W. T. Stead in the exposure of the White Slave Traffic. Mrs. Courtney's sketch of his valiant loving life is admirable, but here again we cannot help asking, is it exactly an Oxford Portrait?

The last essay of the book, however, raises no such question. The Oxford ladies undoubtedly belonged to Oxford and could have belonged nowhere else. Belong, one might say, instead of belonged, for Dame Elizabeth Wordsworth, glorious in her ninety years, walks the streets of Oxford still, and has moreover just published a book. It is true that the somewhat younger Oxford ladies who surround her are not (to outward seeming, at any rate) exactly like those who embroidered sunflowers on peacock blue serge in the "seventies". But perhaps Oxford herself has changed?

Has she or has she not? Not so much, I think, as Mrs. Courtney would lead us to believe. She says that in Miss Wordsworth's Lady Margaret Hall it would have been "impossible to grow up a feminist"; and yet Dr. Maude Royden and Miss Kathleen Courtney and many others who are proud to call themselves feminists grew up there. And now other leaders of causes still lost in the sunrise mist of the future are no doubt growing up there too. They are perhaps finding something that Mrs. Courtney, with all her skill and charm, has somehow left out of her Oxford portraits; a certain ineffable light which dwells in those cloisters and meadows, and seems to some of us to have been the most characteristic thing in Oxford from the Scholar Gipsy's time till now—and to be so still.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

¹ *An Oxford Portrait Gallery*, by Janet E. Courtney, O.B.E. (Chapman and Hall, 12s. 6d.)

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"THE GOOD EARTH."¹

This novel, by Pearl S. Buck, herself brought up in China, is outstanding in its power to give the reader a sympathetic understanding of life in China to-day for the ordinary peasant and farmer. The book neither deals with the intricacies of Chinese politics, nor with the China known to the traveller, but with knowledge which can only come from a real intimacy with the country, the people and the language. It traces the history of a peasant, Wun Lung, from the dawn of his marriage day with a slave, who started life under the Mui Tsai system—through his early married life with its hard work and its poverty, through the horrors of a Chinese famine to the later days of his prosperity, and lastly to the loneliness of his old age. Right through the story runs the main theme, the love of the land, the ever present land hunger.

The greatest interest in the book lies, perhaps, in the account of the day to day life of our hero's family, and of the social customs in which it took part. During the big famine, when faced with the almost utter impossibility of providing food for his wife and small children, came the temptation to sell his little girl, who was obviously slightly defective. The appeal her helplessness made, together with the account given by his wife of her ill-treatment when she herself was sold, caused him to resist the temptation. But he made no comment at all when, on the arrival of another baby, his wife, whose babies always arrived with no outside attention, did not allow it to breathe.

The wife's character is a beautiful one, planned on simple and massive lines. Her life was entirely absorbed by her devotion to husband and children; and until he grew really prosperous, was one long round of work, punctuated by the frequent arrival of children. It was only later, when she no longer possessed the attraction which youth brings even to a plain woman, and when her husband took into his house a gay and beautiful young thing as his mistress, that she asserted herself and made it clear, however uselessly, her resentment and grief.

Incidentally the description of the countryside itself, during the changes which are taking place in China and which are resulting in the downfall of the rich families and in social upheaval in every direction, serve as a rich background to this absorbing book.

E. M. H.

CAREERS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.²

Here, in this excellent manual, is information on almost every way in which a woman can earn a living. The information has been collected by the Central Bureau for Women and Students Careers Association—and very well they have done it.

A short and concise account of each career is given by an accepted authority. Dr. Louisa Martindale on medicine, Sir Henry Wood on music, Miss E. C. Lodge on coaching, Principals of Colleges on the training given with them—and so on. The qualifications needed for the work are stated, also the length and approximate cost of training, and what such training means. Some writers go further and describe the type of woman they consider would be particularly successful in such work—an amusing and useful variation.

There are sections on teaching (twenty-six chapters), the medical and nursing professions, social work, secretarial, artistic, open-air professions, business, and the catering trades, also many others more difficult to classify. It is hard to select one more than another for mention—but all women (and how many hundreds there are!) who are wishing to start the inevitable tea shops would do well to read C. Tothill Fleming's article on "Tea Shop Management," with its excellent advice, and still more excellent warnings.

It is interesting to note that an article by Mrs. Keynes—negative as far as the purpose of this book is concerned, is included, recording the failure of women to obtain entry into the Diplomatic Service.

Two small criticisms. Firstly, in many cases it is impossible to tell the sex of the writer—they are presumably mainly women, but one would like to know the exact proportion. Secondly, it is a pity not to give in every case an address to which those interested could apply for further information. After a long and careful reading of this admirable book one of the main impressions that remain is that women have to undertake many long and expensive trainings—and in the end can only expect in most cases very small salaries.

M. B. B.

¹ *The Good Earth*. (Methuen.)

² Published by Women's Employment Publishing Co. 2s.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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PERSONAL.

Readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER and members of the N.U.S.E.C. will all wish to express their sympathy with Mrs. Swanwick on the recent death of her husband. As a Vice-President of the National Union until the delicate state of her health compelled her to resign, and a former editor of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, she is known to many of us.

AT GENEVA DURING THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY.

All who contemplate visiting Geneva during the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations, will welcome the news, already announced, that a temporary office within the vicinity of the Assembly Hall, is to be opened by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. Members of the N.U.S.E.C.'s affiliated societies will be particularly welcome, the National Union being a constituent of the International Alliance. During the whole month of September this temporary office will be open at 6 rue de Saussure (first floor) so near the Assembly Hall that it is possible to go to the office for a few minutes during the translation of a speech. As in former years, there will be entrance cards for the Assembly, information on the League of Nations, on the international women's movement, on Geneva; there will be women's papers and the addresses of women who are staying in Geneva, etc. Every day at 4 o'clock there will be tea for visitors to the office, who may also use the bureau for their business appointments. Official or informal receptions and lectures on feminist subjects which touch on the League of Nations will take place two or three times a week. All readers are invited to take advantage of the services offered by the office, and to inform those in charge of their arrival, when a warm welcome will be assured.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN BERMUDA.

The women of Bermuda have for long been endeavouring to persuade the local Legislature to grant them equal franchise rights with men. The National Union and other women's organizations, and friends of the women's movement, are endeavouring to give what assistance is possible to help the Bermuda suffragists, who are represented over here at the moment by Mrs. Morrell and Miss Rees. The National Union hopes to implement a concerted effort in this country in the early autumn. Members of the N.U.S.E.C. were present at a tea party on the Terrace of the House of Commons recently given by Miss Rathbone to meet Mrs. Morrell; and the National Union was also represented at a supper held in her honour by the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club on Wednesday, 29th July.

VACANCIES EXIST for posts of HOUSE MATRON in the Borstal Institutions for young offenders between 16 and 21.

Candidates should be between the ages of 35 and 50 on 1st August, 1931, and must be physically fit. Among the qualifications desired are experience in duties similar to those of a School Matron, and a personal knowledge of the life and interests of working class lads. Previous experience in reformative work is not essential, but House Matrons are expected to co-operate in the difficult task of re-education of the young offender.

Successful candidates will be appointed on a scale of pay 38s. rising by annual increments to 41s. per week with an allowance of 3s. per week whilst serving in a Borstal Institution plus the temporary Cost of Living Bonus as paid to Civil Servants which is at present 20s. 10d. per week on 41s. Free quarters with light, fuel and washing, and an allowance in lieu of uniform are provided. The post is subject to the usual Civil Service superannuation scheme on establishment.

Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Prison Commission, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1, and should be returned to him with copies of testimonials.

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UNFURNISHED ROOMS for Ladies; one or two still available in excellently appointed and well recommended house just opened; best part St. John's Wood; rents 16s., 20s., and 28s.; telephone; nice garden.—Box 1,644, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

LAD BROKE GROVE.—Attractively furnished bed-sittingrooms, with partial board; good cooking; moderate terms; Phone, Park 9829 or write, Box 1,645, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

UNFURNISHED FLAT, Bryanston Street, two good rooms, bath; £104 per annum.—Write, Coulson, 80 Oxford Terrace, W. 2.

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POLISH Lady and Husband (friends of Mrs. Corbett Ashby) would like to stay as paying guest in English family during August or September; moderate terms.—Write Madame Szebogowska, 13 Zorawia, Warsaw, Poland.

PROFESSOR DR. WITKOP and Mrs. Witkop, Freiburg in Breisgau, Germany, would like to offer the hospitality of their home to two young girls, who want to study at the Freiburg University, as paying guests.—All replies to Mrs. Witkop, Freiburg in Breisgau. Highly recommended by Miss Rosa Manus and Mrs. Enthoven, Baarn.

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LADY Companion-Help or Housekeeper (R.C.) wants post at once; would take domestic duties; 7 years last reference.—Box 1,648, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON & NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 27 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. The Office, Library, and Restaurant will be closed from Friday, 31st July, to Monday morning, 31st August.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 9th August, 6.30: Maude Royden, C.H., D.D.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MAKE Jolly Soft Toys.—A cut-out squirrel, with bushy tail, eyes; instructions 2s. 6d., price lists free; easy postal course, 30s.; demonstrations and lessons, 10s. 6d., plus 1½d. mile expenses.—Miss T. Copeland, Hythe, Southampton.

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