

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### The British Acceptance of the Kellogg Note.

The acceptance of the Kellogg Note by Great Britain represents a very definite step forward on the road to peace. As among individuals so among nations war, physical force, is, as a means for settling disputes to give place to law. This pact, which has been set out in the plainest possible terms and has the support of the United States as well as of the great European States (except Russia), will undoubtedly create in every citizen a will to peace. Even though similar pledges have been taken in connection with the Covenant of the League of Nations, not only had the United States remained outside, but the celebrated "gap" was present as a reminder that war was ever possible. By means of this new "psychological" or re-insurance treaty, men's minds will turn more than ever in the direction of that security which alone makes disarmament practicable. Our one concern is the reservation in the British Note providing that our "freedom of action" is not to be "prejudiced with respect to certain regions of which the welfare and integrity constitute a special and vital interest for our peace and safety." We hope for an official explanation of what has been termed this "British Monroe Doctrine," and hope devoutly it will not be used to nullify the terms of the new pact in just these areas of the globe where difficulties may be expected to arise.

#### The Public versus the Police.

The net result of the debate in the House of Commons on Friday was unanimity on the need for reform in police methods. The speaking was not exciting, but for the most part moderate and sensible. One of the best speeches was that of Mr. Hore-Belisha, who considered that the Public versus the Police threatens to be as protracted a suit as that of "Jarndyce v. Jarndyce." The whole matter, in his opinion, could be finally settled by executive action. The Home Secretary reported that he had issued provisional instructions, pending the Royal Commission, relating to police inquiries. One of these required that a "police woman or matron" was to be present whenever it was necessary for "male persons" to put to any woman questions of an intimate character "unless the person making the statement expressly made a request to the contrary." Why not provide female persons to put the questions? As we said last week, the first step is to ensure an adequate number of suitable women on the Royal Commission. The work of the autumn is clearly cut out for women's organizations when once the Commission has been set up.

#### Women Police.

While the Savidge case is focussing an unusual amount of interest on the movement for women police some actual progress is reported. The Middlesex justices have asked the Home Secretary to receive a deputation on the matter of employing women police officers to take the statement of children and young girls in cases of sexual offences. The Poole corporation recently sent an influential deputation to the Dorset Standing Joint Committee asking for the appointment of a policewoman for the Borough of Poole. A policewoman with credentials from the Prime Minister of South Australia is at present in this country inquiring into the movement, and we are informed that in Adelaide, a town of 270,000 inhabitants, there are now eight women police officers.

#### The Miners' Federation and Family Allowances.

It is a notable step in the movement towards Family Allowances that at the recent Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Llandudno a resolution was moved by a Yorkshire delegate and carried, that the Federation should support the principle of Family Allowances, but that any scheme should be a national obligation, and not a charge on industry. This is a happy augury for the adoption of the principle by the Labour party as a whole. The Family Endowment Society has been particularly active in Yorkshire districts and this triumph can be claimed in part at least, to the success of their campaign.

#### Women in the Wesleyan Ministry.

A report prepared by a standing committee on women's work dealing with women and the Ministry was under consideration at the Wesleyan Conference in Liverpool on Monday of this week. The report recommended the admission of women to the regular ministry with general conditions of admission the same as those applicable to men. Dr. Russell Maltby, Ex-President of the Conference, made out a strong case for the admission of women, which was opposed on the grounds that women could follow a parallel ministry of their own. Ultimately a resolution approving the admission of women, subject to further elucidation on certain points, was carried. So far good, and we welcome the open-minded attitude of the leaders of this reform in the Wesleyan Church. But we hope that among the first that require further consideration will be included the clause which requires a woman to resign on marriage. The opposition not unnaturally seized this weapon of attack. The only logical result of such a requirement was, they said, a celibate ministry. "They could not cut off a vocation in the middle, and they had no right to say to a woman that because she married she must go." These arguments are sound enough, but their logic breaks down when they are used against the admission of women at all. The admission of spinsters to the ministry to the exclusion of married women is in our opinion much more objectionable than the proposals now regarded as ridiculous of enfranchising the well-to-do spinster or widow. Is the ministry merely a form of professional employment or is it a high vocation for which a special call must be realized? If the latter, what has sex or marriage to do with it?

#### A Recalcitrant Education Committee.

We are disappointed to learn that in amplification of a recent overriding decision of the Manchester City Council to abandon the Education Committee's cherished policy of dismissing women teachers on marriage, the Education Committee is determined to make that decision as inoperable as possible. At any rate one can only suppose that some such motive has led them, by the casting vote of the Chairman, to prescribe a compulsory leave of absence of seventeen months for married women who commit the indiscretion of having babies. Otherwise

there is no sense in such a decision. If a married woman desires to continue teaching after the birth of her child, presumably she follows the example of many well-to-do unoccupied women, and engages a competent nurse. It can make no difference to the child whether the nurse takes charge at one month, or six, or twelve. If the period selected had required nine months leave after the birth of the child there might be a grain of sense in it, since this is the approved maximum period of breast feeding. But, even so, a bottle a day for the baby makes continued professional life compatible with breast feeding. We hope that once again the Council will intervene for the coercion of its obscurantist Education Committee when its minutes come up for confirmation.

#### Married Women Teachers in Torquay.

A heated debate took place last week at the Torquay Education Committee on the subject of the employment of married women teachers. Apparently there was agreement on the policy of not engaging married women in the future, but a sharp difference of opinion on the continued employment of some married women already in the service of the Committee. Some of these, it was stated, were breadwinners. One speaker declared he would never be party to the employment of a married woman teacher who had a husband able to maintain. The profession of teaching, so far as women are concerned, must according to educationists in Torquay, apparently be regarded as a form of "dole" open only to the husbandless women.

#### The Women of Ceylon.

We understand that the new Constitution which a special Commission has recommended for Ceylon, comes as something of a surprise to Ceylonese political leaders by reason of its unexpectedly generous democratic content. Among its more advanced features is a wide extension of the Franchise, conferring virtually manhood suffrage at 21 years, accompanied by woman suffrage at the age of 30. A satisfactory background for this last reform is the fact that in Ceylon, unlike India, there is no purdah, nor are its women outstandingly more illiterate than its men. In the eighteen thirties a Royal Commission made the striking admission that of all the British colonies, the island of Ceylon appeared to be most ripe for the development of self-government. It is therefore, to say the least of it, high time that steps should be taken to give effect to this measured and well considered conclusion.

#### Women in Local Government.

Youghal is the only Urban District Council in the Irish Free State that has elected a woman (Mrs. P. J. Hurley) member. The Limsfield Parish Council has elected Mrs. A. M. Hull as chairman. She is the first woman to hold the position. A vacancy has occurred on the Preston Town Council, and Mrs. Hubert Lees has accepted an invitation to stand as Liberal. Mrs. A. M. Pimblett is, at present, the only woman member of the Council, on which she has served for the past eight years.

#### Scottish Elections.

The triennial elections for Parish Councils in Scotland will take place in the early part of November, and will be followed by those for County Councils on the 4th of December. The Town Council elections also take place during the first week of November. As in England and Wales a third of the members of Town Councils are elected annually. There are 8,013 members of Scottish Parish Councils, of whom 184—approximately 2.3 per cent—are women. The elections for School Boards were held last March, and of the 1,000 members, 82 are women.

#### Not a Woman Relieving Officer.

The appointment of a relieving officer was recently considered by the Wharfedale Board of Guardians, and Mrs. T. Johnson, of Otley, moved that a woman should be appointed to fill the vacancy. The question had previously been raised by Mrs. Johnson and defeated on the ground that a woman officer could not deal with lunacy cases. Mrs. Johnson maintained that a woman's knowledge, experience, training, and general ability as a woman gave her a superior claim to that of a man in the giving out of relief in kind, and that in several instances a man officer required assistance in dealing with lunatics. On being put to the meeting, the motion was lost by 18 to 12 votes.

#### Women and the British Association.

At the forthcoming summer meeting of the British Association in Glasgow one section at least will meet under the presidency

of a woman. Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan will preside over the Botany Section and read a paper on "Sex and Nutrition in the Fungi". Many women will take part.

#### Compulsory Treatment of Venereal Disease and the B.M.A.

Proposals for compulsory treatment of persons suffering from venereal disease were considered at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Cardiff this week, and a resolution in favour of compulsion was defeated as well as an amendment that compulsory methods might be introduced by local option. We read in the *Times* that a strong appeal for further powers was made with a view to *strengthening the voluntary system* by compulsion. (The italics are ours.)

#### Miss Spooner's Close Finish.

Miss Winifred Spooner, the one woman entrant for the King's Cup Air Race, finished a close third in the great air race completed on Saturday last, with twenty-four competitors. As she was actually leading during the early part of the race, the ultimate result may be regarded by her as something of a disappointment. To the outside observer, however, it appears as an exceedingly creditable performance, and a proof positive that in this new field of endeavour women can hold their own.

#### Lady of the Air.

On 10th July Lady Heath (Mrs. Elliott Lynn) created a new altitude record for light seaplanes, by recording on her sealed altimeter an ascent of 13,400 feet during a flight of an hour and fifty minutes. Lady Heath has on a former occasion expressed a strong personal preference for flying at exalted altitudes, because, she says, there is plenty of time to prepare for a crash in the event of engine trouble. We hope that she may live to scale yet greater heights, without ever having occasion to experience this particular benefit.

#### Queen Elizabeth's Statue.

On Tuesday, 31st July, at 5 p.m., Dame Millicent Fawcett will unveil the repaired Statue of Queen Elizabeth outside St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet Street.

#### Ourselves.

We think our readers will sympathize with a decision of the Board to issue a four page issue for the holiday weeks. This will be an offset to many double issues which have appeared during the last two years of the Equal Franchise campaign. We ask subscribers to please note that on and after 30th July, the office of THE WOMAN'S LEADER at 4 Tufton Street will be closed every day from 1 p.m. until further notice. All personal inquiries will be attended to by the N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1, but letters can be addressed as usual to the office in Tufton Street.

#### Questions in Parliament.

##### HOME OFFICE (APPOINTMENTS).

In answer to a question by Mr. Pethick Lawrence, *Sir W. Joynson-Hicks* said: Since 1st January, 1921, 26 vacancies for established posts in the Home Office with minimum salaries of £300 or more have been filled by transfer from other departments. . . . Three of the vacancies were filled by the appointment of women.

##### STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

In answer to a question by Mr. Day, *Sir W. Joynson-Hicks* stated that he understood that the Chairman (of the above Committee) hopes that the Report will be ready about October.

##### EDUCATION (SCHOOL LEAVING AGE).

*Mr. Johnson* asked the President of the Board of Education how many education authorities in England, Scotland, and Wales have raised the school leaving age to 15?

*Lord E. Percy*: Four local authorities in England and Wales—Carnarvonshire, East Suffolk, Plymouth, and Cornwall—have raised the age of compulsory attendance to 15. As regards Scotland, I must ask the hon. member to address his question to my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Scotland.

*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 LABOUR PARTY'S NEW PROGRAMME IN RELATION TO WOMEN.

There is a lot to be said for written party programmes. They are helpful alike to the rank and file supporter, the critic, the indeterminate elector, and the dogmatic propagandist. On the other hand there is much to be said against them. They fetter the free play of constructive thought within the party, they give precision to the fighting front of internal dissension, and they present intolerable problems of balance to the unfortunate individuals charged with the task of drafting them. But that is no business of ours, and as members of the public we cannot help being grateful to the Labour Party for producing in accordance with an instruction of its National Conference, a complete programme of its future intentions.<sup>1</sup> It is true that in this programme, an essay of some 46 pages, concrete undertakings lurk in intermittent and shy isolation like lilies of the valley among their abundant foliage. But that is understandable when one remembers that the business of government is as much a matter of administrative tendencies as of legislative changes, and statements of general principle are not therefore irrelevant.

We have here a programme directed rather to a nervous non-political public than to the thunder on the left of the Labour Party. And to such a public it presents the coherent and comprehensive declaration of faith of a party which has had some experience of the checks and balances of representative constitutional government, and which intends in the future to accept their implications.

With the soundness or unsoundness of the political tendencies of this document we have no present concern. Our readers will react to them in the light of individual party preference. But with one aspect of it, its bearing on the position of women, we are concerned. And here, we are inspired, it must be confessed, with a certain disquietude. Indeed it falls far short of the I.L.P.'s sectional programme for "Socialism in our Time." Small rhetorical phrases give a clue to its deficiencies. Its opening page demands "stability" for all: "whether they are workers who initiate and organize and plan, or who execute and manipulate and construct; whether they labour in the mine, in the factory, and on the farm, or in the laboratory of the scientist and the office of the administrator." But what of that other class of workers upon whom national survival depends—the women in the home? Is there to be no stability for them? Very little it appears, since family allowances find no part in the programme. This may be, as Miss Wilkinson points out in the *New Leader*, because the National Labour Conference has as yet given no lead on the subject. But this fact, though it may exonerate the programme's draftsman,

### ELLEN TERRY.

Ellen Terry has been withdrawn from active life long enough for a generation of theatregoers to have grown up with no direct apprehension of her greatness. But those whose memories stretch even to the first decade of the twentieth century, who saw her in the later parts created for her by contemporary dramatists, will know well enough why it is that the news of her death at the age of 80 brings to so many people an acute pang of personal loss. Nobody will ever fill the gap that she leaves. She is incomparable and irreplaceable.

It was, of course, in classical rather than in contemporary drama that she touched the zenith of her fame. She is to Shakespeare what Keats is to Nature: "She is a portion of the loveliness which once she made more lovely." It is many years since the ecstatic adoration of London was focussed on the achievements of the great Terry-Irving partnership at the Lyceum, and what those two did for the status of dramatic art and popular appreciation of classic drama has been obscured by later developments. But another generation will have to pass away before the voice of Ellen Terry ceases to vibrate in the merriment of Beatrice, the radiance of her personality to charge Portia's moonlit garden with its own kindly magic.

Of the technical quality of her genius it is not easy to speak. That she stands in the front rank of nineteenth century players is beyond question. She is a compeer of Bernhardt and Duse. But bearing in mind the intellectual versatility of—let us say—Sibyl Thorndike, one can conceive of parts which Ellen Terry

does not justify its policy in the eyes of women who regard this reform as an essential basis of economic stability. One can only hope that the recent lead given by the Miners' Federation will in the near future necessitate a revision of national policy to make good the deficiency. A similar complaint may of course be raised at the omission of any expressed intention to remove, in deference to the overwhelming opinion of Labour women, the Ministry of Health's ban on the communication of birth control information.

The nearest approach to an immediate solution of the problem of maternity is the programme's definite undertaking to extend the benefits of the Health Insurance Act to the economic dependents of the insured worker. Here is a reform whose need is habitually underrated (indeed many people, including the late Lord Chancellor himself, seem to be under the impression that by some means or another every working class mother has a panel doctor) and it is satisfactory to meet it as part and parcel of an official party programme. Less immediate but still valuable minor concessions in the same direction are the somewhat vague proposals affecting the provision of school meals and the approval of an extra school year with maintenance grants. It would, however, be deplorable if such proposals were to stimulate an easy belief in Labour circles that the economic status of the mother can be satisfactorily spoon-fed on these lines without any larger and perhaps more difficult attempt to secure for her a cash benefit in her own right.

Regarding the industrial position of women the programme is ominously silent. Its advocacy of a forward move in Labour legislation suggests that its demand is for a wide regulation of human welfare rather than a side-track along the lines of differential protection for women. But there is no specific condemnation of sex discrimination either in the matter of industrial legislation or of statutory wage determination. It is true that much of our present discontents with the inferior and restricted position of women in industry, rest upon custom and prejudice rather than upon statutory provisions which can be affected by legislation. But the present statement of policy is not confined to legislative proposals, and where so many general principles are stated it is regrettable that this particular one should not have found a place. The programme itself reminds us, in connection with the attitude of the rich to the poor, that "*Custom blinds the eye and deadens the ear.*" We would add the further reminder that custom is apt to exercise a similar untoward effect upon the attitude of men to women, whether the men be trade unionists or the members of Pall Mall clubs.

could not have played. It was of course not only because of her genius that the public idolized her. There was her accessibility, her unconquerable gaiety, her quick sympathy of laughter and tears, her reckless benevolence. All these qualities were added to the artistic quality which enabled her to translate universal and elemental emotions into dynamic beauty, and hand them back across the footlights purified and exalted.

There is always a peculiar sadness in the death of an actor, for unlike the poet and the painter, he leaves nothing behind him but mortal memories. But at least Ellen Terry has left, in addition to memories, an autobiography which will perpetuate for future generations not only a dim reflection of her own personality, but also a valuable picture of artistic life in late Victorian London. And as for the memories—enough said. Those who possess them know well enough what they are like. To those who do not, we offer our sympathy and commiseration.

"Rosemary for remembrance"—she has said.  
So, let us bring it in forlorn pretence,  
Piled high and green in memory's defence  
For all the loveliness her presence shed:  
Quick laughter at the joke of Beatrice wed;  
Sad poetry for Juliet's dire suspense;  
The grace of God in Portia's eloquence;  
And tears because Hermione is dead.

Most kind and lovely lady, you have passed  
Beyond the frontier of our fancy's flight.  
Here in this darkened theatre, night at last  
Shadows the splendour of your day's delight.  
But we who shared that loveliness hold fast  
Eternal beauty—ours in death's despite.

<sup>1</sup> *Labour and the Nation*, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W. 1, price 3d.

## "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT"—BUT HOW?

By DOROTHY WOODMAN.

It is not often that fighters for a great social reform have the opportunity of seeing the results of their work. Such an opportunity was given to the fighters for suffrage on Monday, 2nd July, when they saw the Royal Assent given to the Equal Franchise Bill from behind those bars once erected to restrain their activities.

Outside, thousands of young women were returning home from factory, workshop, school, and office, blissfully or wearily unaware that they now had the rights of citizenship.

I have said "unaware." And they are. But it is as well to consider their history before we deprecate or criticize.

The problems that faced the pioneers were perhaps more obvious, more galling than those disabilities which remain to-day. In an age, giving as it does to democratic theories full assent varying from lip service to a fervent belief, it is unbelievable that the problems which faced the pioneers existed only a quarter of a century ago. It is because they are so unbelievable to-day that the majority of young women take their liberty for granted, with never a thought of the way in which it was won. It is a liberty won by a fight which was at its height when the war came in 1914. It was the war which hastened the victory, because it forced women into positions hitherto considered the prerogative of man.

Henceforth young women stepped into positions where the disabilities were less obvious; indeed only the trained suffragist clearly perceived them. Young women unquestioning flocked into industry and the professions, reaping the harvest which had been sown by the woman's movement whilst they were still at school.

The woman's movement lived on, but on the whole it was out of con act with the younger generations. Of these a few young women joined the political parties; a few remained in the woman's movement and it is they who have won us the vote [political expediency has proved this]; the remainder drifted.

Problems which remain to be solved are far less obvious, but much deeper and more compelling. Equal pay for equal work, the right of a married woman to work, the whole attitude of sex to sex riddled and corrupted as it is by ideas indigenous to an order of society in which property and exclusive possession is the accepted ideal—to mention only a few.

Whether these problems will be solved in the woman's movement or in the political parties is the question which sooner or later must be faced by the woman's movement. Bitter and impassioned battles remain. The armament and the tactics may have to be changed. Is there still a necessity for a woman's movement in the accepted sense of the term?

There are certain disabilities which still face women. But whether they refer to the unequal moral standard or unequal economic treatment, they involve the position of men. It is a great testimony to the woman's movement that we may yet live to see the time when there is no sex differentiation. The younger generations are already more or less free from it to-day. Where there is freedom there will be equality.

Reforms which are or will be found on the programmes of the woman's movement are on the programmes of the political parties. And it will probably be here that men and women will complete the work so successfully started by the woman's movement. The aim of the vote has been the political influence. Political influence will increasingly mean party power. There is probably nothing which could benefit political thought, atmosphere, and outlook more than the joining up of suffrage women in the political parties. There may be subjects on which women of all parties are agreed—humanitarian and health, for example—and on these they can combine. Their influence will be the result of their party work: it will be accentuated by the fact that women in other parties are working for the same object.

There is one other problem which in some respects is the most urgent of one all. It is the problem of showing the young woman those disabilities which still remain and of inspiring her to work for their removal. To do this she will need to analyse and probe the deepest social forces which cause them. It is doubtful whether the woman's movement is the best medium for this work, and if it is, whether it can fulfil this function. The young woman alone can supply the answer, and on the whole it would seem to be "No."

The young woman voter who is keenly interested in political matters usually joins a party in her early twenties. She may leave it later, but usually to transfer her political allegiance.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## THE VICTORY GARDEN PARTY.

The garden party at which the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship celebrated the attainment of Equal Franchise was largely, but not altogether, a domestic affair. Representatives of many Societies affiliated to the National Union from different parts of the country were there. Newport, Mon., sent a party of seventeen; Maidenhead, Reading, and other Societies near London sent large numbers. But there were also present to rejoice with us representatives of sister organizations which had worked for the vote, including the Freedom League, St. Joan's Social and Political Union, the Six Point Group. It was a perfect day—perhaps too hot during the early hours of the afternoon, but there was shade and cool breezes on the river, and it was reported that some guests brought bathing dresses! The large numbers—over four hundred guests—disappeared in little groups in the beautiful grounds, but collected together for the half-hour of brief speeches. Dame Millicent, looking so ridiculously young that it was impossible to believe that she has lived through the whole Parliamentary movement, extending over sixty years, had a rousing reception. Both she and her successor, Miss Rathbone, were presented with beautiful flowers on behalf of Lady Astor and on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. by an "under thirty," Miss Evelyn Martelli. The Freedom League also presented Dame Millicent with a bouquet. Mrs. Wintringham, who received the guests with Miss Rathbone in Lady Astor's absence, gave a message from the absent hostess; Mrs. Strachey spoke of the events of ten years ago; Mrs. Corbett Ashby of the work of the last ten years, and made a brief appeal for financial help. Miss Macadam reported gifts for the Thanksgiving Fund, and read a letter from Mrs. Gandell which accompanied a cheque for £100. Telegrams of congratulation were read from Mrs. Agnes Taylor, the Newport W.C.A., and the Tunbridge Wells S.E.C. Perhaps the real pleasure of the occasion lay in the reunion of workers, some distinguished, some obscure, after many years. One lady, out of the movement since the war, came adorned with the colours she had worn in the past.

Some of the better known suffragists present included Miss Sterling, Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Corbett, Mrs. Auerbach, Miss Leigh Browne, Miss Kilgour, Mrs. Taylor, Miss Catharine Marshall, Bailie Snodgrass, Miss Emily Leaf, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Hartree, Sir Willoughby Dickenson, Dr. Dora Mason, Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Leonard, Dr. Alice Ker.

A message of thanks was sent to the Prime Minister for the new Act and messages were also sent to the leaders of the Liberal and Labour party for their support during the passage of the measure. A vote of thanks to Lord and Lady Astor for the loan of Cliveden was also carried unanimously. It was a memorable occasion and the beauty and peace of Cliveden were in complete accord with the happy and thankful hearts of the guests.

(Continued from previous column.)

The young woman voter who is but mildly interested or indifferent to political matters is not likely to turn to a movement where she is confronted mainly by women with an outlook she has never known. She has never known sex prejudice, she has worked with men all her life; she has never known of the movement which has given her the position she now enjoys; she is unconscious of feminism and its implications. To such young women—and they make the majority of the newly enfranchised voters—it will be a political party with its realism, with its obvious power, which will make the appeal.

If this analysis is correct—and it is based on replies given by a number of the newly enfranchised—it would seem that the political parties have a great responsibility in educating the young woman voter. No one is more able to help in this work than those women who have fought for political liberty during the best years of their life.

This task of educating the young woman voter is an urgent one, and on the whole it seems most likely that political parties will have to do it if only for the reason that the young women of to-day tend to look to parties. This is no reason for concern. It is a matter for congratulation that the woman's movement has made the present position possible by its very success.

The roots have been firmly grounded; in future the branches will have to be thrown out in different directions, otherwise those roots will decay. In other words, now that women have won political equality, they must win complete equality by using the medium of political influence—the vote. This is likely to mean politics in the sense of party politics, either now or in the immediate future.

## THE SOCIAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL.

BY A CORRESPONDENT.

In the amusing account of the Child Welfare Conference by Miss Nina Boyle in last week's issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, the absence of ventilation in that most modern of public halls—the Salle Pleyel is alluded to. There can be no doubt that the so-called "perfect" system of artificial ventilation completely broke down during the grilling days of the Congress, but it was impossible not to admire its fine proportions, the taste and beauty of its decorations, and its marvellous acoustics. It was therefore with a thrill of horror and indeed a sense of personal loss, that we read in our papers last Friday that the great building in which we had met had been destroyed by fire at the cost of at least one life.

For we practically lived in that building for a week. We met old friends; we made new friends; we forged links with fellow workers in other lands. Its halls, alcoves, and passages witnessed many minor ententes cordiales. It is difficult to believe that only charred ruins remain of its splendour and though in the minds of the Parisian it will be recalled as a centre of its musical life, it will live in our memories as the scene of the impressive inauguration of another great international affiliation—that of men and women from over forty nations numbering over four thousand engaged in the manifold forms of social service.

As Miss Boyle says in her article the proceedings at this gathering were in marked contrast to those of the Child Welfare Conference, so far as the attitude towards women is concerned. The chairman of the social work congress was a woman—Dr. Alice Masarykova. Two of the five sections have women chairmen with many women as vice-chairmen (the vice-chairmen formed a sort of executive committee for each section) and many speeches and papers were delivered by women delegates. The congress was divided into five sections: General Organization of Social Work, with Mr. Percy Alden as chairman; Training for Social Work, Dr. Alice Salomon, of Berlin, chairman; Methods of Social Case Work, Mrs. John Glenn, of New York, chairman; Social Work and Industry, M. Albert Thomas, of the International Labour Organization; Social Work and Public Health, Professor Bagge, of Stockholm. It is impossible in a brief summary to give an accurate impression of discussions covering such a wide field. One plenary morning session was devoted to each subject, and in the afternoon the congress split up into sectional meetings each of which was packed to the doors. No resolutions were passed—a wise decision, as adequate discussion was impossible in a congress on such an immense scale.

Those unaccustomed to international conferences made the usual facile criticisms—the impossibility of fruitful discussion between those representing such widely different national requirements and points of view. Those more familiar with them realized that the real value lay in the realization of common efforts, common difficulties, and common aims rather than in exchange of views. One admirable feature seemed to the writer to be that no country appeared unduly to predominate. The nations most largely represented were France, of course, Belgium, Germany, and the United States. But Great Britain sent a large contingent and took its due share in the proceedings. Some countries sending fewer representatives appeared to make up in quality what they lacked in quantity, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary all sending men and women distinguished in the social activities of their countries.

Paris in July calls up other visions to the mind than crowded meetings on social problems and crowds of serious minded workers. But its hospitality was unbounded. Luncheons, dinners, receptions out of doors where people could meet freely followed each other in rapid succession. One of the most delightful of these was given by the Association of French Social Workers, when M. Paul Strauss, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the whole Social Work Fortnight did the company the honour of presiding. The organization of a conference of such proportions deserves the highest praise. Only those who know the unseen as well as the seen difficulties could fully realize the labours of Dr. René Sand, the secretary-general of the League of Red Cross Societies and his able coadjutors.

It was decided to hold a second conference at The Hague in 1932, and Dr. Masarykova was elected as President, so that delegates returned to their respective countries with a new sense of common endeavour in the realm of social progress.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The National Conference on Maternity and Infant Welfare was held under the auspices of the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare in the Guildhall recently. It was attended by a large number of men and women representing Public Health authorities and every kind of institution in very many countries interested in the care of mother and child. Almost all the papers read were directly concerned with the appalling maternal mortality and morbidity in this country, and the official speakers were mainly obstetric specialists. All of them expressed dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs, and all demanded better instruction for the professional attendant of childbirth, though the training of the midwife—who is at least a specialist—was not so roundly abused as that of the general practitioner, who at present is given such hurried and inadequate instruction in this branch of his work.

One of the most effective lay speakers was undoubtedly Mrs. Hood, of the Women's Co-operative Guild, who made a moving appeal for practical reform. Among other things she insisted that the working-class mother must be given help in regulating the size of her family: scientific birth control information must be made available for her at the Public Welfare Centres. The audience was obviously with her in this demand and showed their sympathy also with several other speakers in the debate who put forward the same plea, pointing out the harm that is at present being done by the drugs which are now used as substitutes.

Sir F. Truby King gave some very interesting new figures showing that although the New Zealand infant mortality is the lowest in the world, their neo-natal and maternal mortality is far greater than that of Amsterdam, where, on the contrary, the infant mortality is high. He gave due credit for the saving of mothers and new-born babies to the wonderful Dutch midwifery service, but as other speakers pointed out, it is as usual in the countries where birth control is systematically taught, that the wastage of mothers and new-born babies is eliminated.

An entertaining incident took place on the last day, when the most arbitrary and autocratic chairman that we have ever seen, after having given the names of those members of the audience intending to speak on the subject for debate, "Maternal Mortality, its Causes and Prevention," announced with no previous warning, that he "forbade all mention of birth control and would instantly silence any speaker who referred to it!" One of the intending speakers had a momentary shock, but after a hurried glance at her notes, managed to bring in all her points without mentioning the forbidden word. She suggested that too rapid and frequent child-bearing and the drugs taken by desperate women were not without their effects, and might account for many of the mysterious deaths from septicæmia and hæmorrhage complained of by the medical speakers.

The audience showed quite openly its satisfaction at the discomfiture of the dictatorial chairman, and its agreement with the speaker's implications, especially when she referred to the psychological factor of the lack of the will to live in the overburdened mother.

The usual complaint was made by almost all the speakers, that women could not be persuaded to attend ante-natal clinics in time for real help to be given them and in this connection we were amazed to hear from an indignant woman doctor, that certain big London hospitals refuse to allow women to enter their names on the books before they are seven months pregnant. One hospital had given as its reason for this iniquitous custom, that if they did allow these women to book early their students would have to attend miscarriages! We venture the beliefs that no woman student would wish to deny her services to her sisters in extremity—but perhaps these are the hospitals which do not admit women students?

C. U. F.

## CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR 1926.—(Continued from page 206.)

wrong. There were 482 appeals; in 119 cases the conviction was quashed, and in 162 the sentence was modified, so that in 281 cases out of 482 the appeal may be said to have succeeded. The fact that so many were successful makes it an even greater hardship that the right of appeal is illusory in so many cases.

The statistics as regards offences against children and young persons are very interesting and must be dealt with more fully in a later issue.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

**CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR 1926.**

It is unfortunate that these statistics take so long to prepare that those for each year do not appear until the spring of the second year following. The latest that we now have are therefore for 1926. They contain many features of the greatest interest from which the following have been selected.

What light do these statistics throw on the question of how far capital punishment is a deterrent from the crime of murder? During the year no less than 164 verdicts of murder were returned by coroners' juries. Of the 164 murderers, no less than fifty (ten men and forty women) committed suicide before the inquest was held. Of the remaining 114, fifty-seven were brought to justice, the other half remaining undetected. Of the fifty-seven (thirty-seven men and twenty women), ten were acquitted, twenty-three were declared to be insane, and the remaining twenty-four were sentenced to death. Of these twenty-four, seven had their sentences commuted to penal servitude for life, and one became insane. The remaining sixteen were actually hanged. It will be seen how small is the chance that execution will follow upon murder, and the best authorities tell us that it is certainty of punishment which deters from crime and not the risk.

As regards corporal punishment it is interesting to note that out of 6,350 persons, who were convicted on indictment at Assizes and Quarter Sessions, only fifteen were sentenced to be flogged, fourteen for robbery with violence and one for procurement. It seems a pity that this remnant of the savage punishments of bygone years should not be abolished altogether from our penal code. The offences for which it can be inflicted are very arbitrary and public opinion would not allow them to be extended in the interests of logic. At the Juvenile Courts 335 boys under fourteen were sentenced to be whipped, the great majority of them for simple larceny. It is very satisfactory that the number of boys punished in this way continues to decrease, and it is much to be hoped that nothing more will be heard of the unfortunate proposals of the recent Report on Juvenile Delinquency in connection with this punishment.

For the offence of attempting to commit suicide, thirty-seven persons were convicted at Assizes or Quarter Sessions of whom ten were sent to prison, and 376 at Petty Sessions of whom nineteen were sent to prison. The number imprisoned may not seem large, but the penalty is surely a very unsuitable one and most often cause undeserved suffering.

The number of persons imprisoned in default of paying a fine is very large, and no doubt reflects the general depression in industry. There were 14,910, and of these only 3,730 had been given time in which to pay their fines. It is incredible that more could not have paid if time had been given them and would thus have escaped a punishment which is costly to the State and both harmful and unjust to themselves. The number imprisoned for debt was also large, 10,683. Of these 1,780 were imprisoned for non-payment of rates, 2,346 for a County Court debt, 191 for non-payment of Income Tax, and 6,035 for arrears on Bastardy and Maintenance Orders. These figures would also diminish if unemployment were less rife.

We look to the Prison Report rather than to these Statistics for information concerning prisons, so not much need be said here on that subject. We see that during the year 561 youths and forty girls were admitted to Borstal Institutions. The most usual age for admission was seventeen, and practically all had been previously convicted, 120 having four or more convictions against them before their admission to Borstal. Of the whole number admitted only 25 are described as being "able to read and write well", which makes us realize what a large part a general education ought to play in Borstal training. It is difficult to believe that this can be carried on efficiently while such education is relegated to the evening hours at the close of a hard day's work. The information that we get about the "habitual offenders" at Camp Hill is not very encouraging. There were 176 men in the prison in the course of the year, the great majority (120) under a five years' sentence. One was discharged during the year and thirteen were allowed out on licence. Of these last five were sent back again to the Institution.

It is always interesting to see the number of appeals from Petty Sessions to Quarter Sessions and the results. Much has been said as to the heavy cost of these appeals and the resultant injustice to poor persons who are thereby prevented from appealing but nothing has yet been done to right this

(Continued on page 205.)

**NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**

President: MISS ELKANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: MISS MACADAM.  
Parliamentary Secretary: MRS. HORTON.  
General Secretary: MISS HANCOCK.  
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

**WOMEN MAGISTRATES—SUMMER SCHOOL, ST. HILDA'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, 4th—11th September.**

At our previous schools the courses for women magistrates have been so popular that we believe that many will be glad to know that, if a sufficient number express a desire for them, arrangements this year will be made for discussions to be held, under the chairmanship of Miss Rathbone, specially for women magistrates. The practice classes for speakers also should prove very popular. We hope that all who anticipate attending the School will register as soon as possible, so that final arrangements can be made early in August. Full particulars with regard to the programme, which includes lectures on different aspects of "Problems of Democracy," "The Woman's Movement," and "International Problems," can be obtained on application to Headquarters, together with Registration Forms.

**GARDEN PARTY TO CELEBRATE EQUAL FRANCHISE.**

The garden party to celebrate the achievement of Equal Franchise and to meet Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., held on 18th July, at Cliveden (by kind permission of the Viscountess Astor), was attended by a large and representative gathering of suffragists and new voters from the N.U.S.E.C. and its affiliated Societies, and from other women's organizations. The perfect weather and the delightful surroundings all conspired to make the party worthy of the occasion. The Maidenhead S.E.C. very kindly undertook to arrange the tea, and helpers from that and other Societies took charge of the various stalls, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the N.U.S.E.C. Thanksgiving Fund. A full account of the proceedings is given in another column.

**WOMEN IN THE SERVICE OF HOSPITALS.**

The deputation from the Joint Committee on Women in the Service of Hospitals to the Westminster Hospital is to be received by the Chairman of the School of Medicine Committee on Wednesday afternoon, 25th July. The following are the Societies appointing representatives to take part in the deputation, which will be led by Miss Rathbone: Association of Headmistresses, British Federation of University Women, Conservative Women's Reform Association, London and National Society for Women's Service, N.U.S.E.C., Women's Co-operative Guild, National Council of Women, and the Women's National Liberal Federation. At the meeting of the Joint Committee on Tuesday of last week a letter from Guy's Hospital was read, in answer to ours urging the appointment of women to the Board of Management, stating that the Governors are free to nominate women as Governors, and suggesting that a "reasoned memorandum" on the question might be distributed to each of the Governors, an offer which we naturally propose to accept. Since the Joint Committee was first set up five other societies have appointed representatives to it:—the British Commonwealth League, the League of the Church Militant, Open Door Council, Union of Jewish Women and the Women's International League. The memorandum is now in the hands of the printers. Copies (price 2½d. post free) will be available immediately on application to Headquarters.

**PERSONAL.**

Members will be glad to know that Mrs. Hubback is now able to return home after some treatment in a nursing home. It is difficult to imagine Mrs. Hubback ill, and she characteristically arranged things so as not to miss either the King's Assent or the Victory Garden Party. Mrs. Hubback has a unique record of service both as Parliamentary Secretary, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C. Until this week she has missed only one meeting of the Committee in ten years.

**THANKSGIVING FUND.**

	£	s.	d.
Received up to 6th July	259	18	0
Association of Assistant Mistresses	5	5	0
Atholl, The Duchess of	1	1	0
Atkinson, Miss E. M. L.	1	1	0
Beeton, Mrs.	1	1	0
Birkenhead and District W.C.A.	5	0	0
Bright, Miss M. J.	2	2	0
Brown, Mrs. H. F.	2	2	0

	£	s.	d.
Caton, Miss A. R.	10	0	0
Chick, Miss Mary	1	1	0
Courtauld, Miss S. R.	5	0	0
Crook, Mrs. Hilda	2	2	0
Crosfield, Miss M. C.	1	0	0
Edinburgh S.E.C.	5	0	0
Erleigh, The Viscountess	1	0	0
Evans, Miss A. G.	10	0	0
Farmer, Miss A. K.	5	0	0
Fraser, Miss K. F.	1	1	0
Gandell, Mrs.	100	0	0
Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A.	9	8	0
Goodey, Miss F. E.	10	0	0
Green, Miss B. M.	10	0	0
Hewitt, Mrs.	10	0	0
Hoc, Miss Mary	10	0	0
Holyoake, Mrs. C. J.	2	0	0
Mrs. Hubback	5	0	0
Hughes, Mrs. Alfred	5	0	0
Kensington and Paddington S.E.C.	10	0	0
Lawrence, Miss P.	10	0	0
Liverpool W.C.A. Council	20	0	0
Liverpool W.C.A. Central Group	25	0	0
Liverpool W.C.A. Sefton Park East Branch	2	10	0
Lupton, Mrs.	1	0	0
Marriage, Miss E. T.	10	0	0
Montgomery, Miss E. S.	1	0	0
Park, Mrs. K. M.	2	2	0
Petersfield S.E.C.	10	0	0
Preston W.C.A.	3	3	0
"R. P." Liverpool	1	1	0
Reincke, Mrs.	1	1	0
Robinson, Miss S. M.	1	1	0
Ross, John and Margaret, in memory of. (Redhill and Reigate Suffrage Society)	25	0	0
Shanklin S.E.C.	1	1	0
Teacher, Miss A. McD.	2	2	0
Walrond, Miss F. E.	5	0	0
Wild, Miss Georgiana	1	0	0
Young, Miss J. M.	1	0	0

£556 3 0

We are now able to claim Mrs. Corbett's gift of £50 conditional on our raising £200. Our total Thanksgiving Fund therefore now amounts to £606 3 0

**NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.**

GLASGOW S.E.C. AND W.C.A.

On Friday, 22nd June, a luncheon was held, under the auspices of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship and the Glasgow Women Citizens' Association (amal.), to celebrate the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill. Miss F. H. Melville, J.P., B.D., LL.D., president of the Society, was in the chair, and gave a résumé of the history of the Suffrage Movement from the introduction of the first petition for the enfranchisement of women, introduced in the House of Commons by J. S. Mill in 1867, until the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill, 1928. Miss M. J. Buchanan spoke on the aims of the Suffrage Movement and Miss McPhun on the future of the movement. A resolution expressing appreciation of the work of the pioneers of the movement and thanking the Government for introducing the Bill and passing it through all its stages, was moved by Miss M. E. Stewart, an "under thirty," and seconded by Miss Burnett, the oldest suffragist present. Votes of thanks to the speakers were proposed by Bailie Snodgrass.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**  
**EQUAL PAY AND THE I.L.O.**

MADAM,—I am intensely interested in your correspondents' letters on the International Labour Conference at Geneva.

To Mrs. Abbott, I think your readers will be grateful for her clear first-hand statement regarding the convention on the Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery and the very important principle for equal remuneration for work of equal value—a principle to which the N.U.S.E.C. is known to give whole-hearted support.

It is much to the good that the exact position should receive wide publicity through your publication of her letter, in view of the fact that the actions of the I.L.O. will have wide-world influence upon the position of women in industry. It is vital to the interests of both men and women that the I.L.O. should maintain in practice, as well as in theory, the Seventh Principle of Article 427 of the Treaty of Versailles. But it would appear from the fact that the Convention itself contains no mention of this Principle, and that it has been relegated to a Recommendation, that the actions of the I.L.O. require careful watching on the part of those who advocate Equal Pay.

To me, it is regrettable that Mrs. White should have stigmatized the writer of the article signed X.Y.Z. as "an anonymous coward." There are surely, often, better reasons than cowardice for an anonymous article; and your explanation entirely meets the present case.

Mrs. White asks, somewhat scornfully, "who are 'we'?" If she had paused to consider she would probably have realized that the pronoun "we" was indicative of editorial authorship.

While deploring the tone in which the preamble of Mrs. White's letter is couched, I heartily agree with what she says regarding the necessity to secure Principle 7 unescapably in the first Convention dealing with wage machinery. To this end, I think, all women's societies should set their hand, and speedily confer as to the best method of ensuring this really vital inclusion.

The International Court of Justice is recognized as the body competent to deal with the powers of the I.L.O., and through it a definitely legal pronouncement could be obtained. It is a matter of very grave consideration for those who uphold the standard of Equal Pay to decide whether the opinion of the Court should be asked in regard to this serious contravention of a principle of the Peace Treaties, and if joint action should be taken in order to bring this about—or if any other method would be more efficacious.

The omission of this Principle from the actual Convention may well perpetuate the practice of inequality of remuneration.

The Minerva Club, W.C. 1.

E. ROGERS.

**PAUL PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED**

MADAM,—I am rather alarmed by seeing in your issue of 20th July that Apollo is twice quoted as if he were a person to be relied upon in our cause. But this is very far from being the case. He is far more likely to be sowing tares than to be helping us in any direction. He is sometimes called "Glorious Apollo," but not by those who know him well.

M. G. FAWCETT.

[We offer humble apologies to St. Paul's distinguished colleague. But we offer none to the Sun God, because it was doubtless the fervency of his rays that accounted for our overlooking the absurd slip in our last editorial proof reading.—Ed.]

MADAM,—In my opinion Woman's Suffrage was won—by the law-abiding suffragists—when, immediately on the outbreak of war in 1914, Mrs. Fawcett placed the whole of the resources of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at the service of the British Government, and it was lost to the Militant Suffragettes when, immediately on the outbreak of war, Mrs. Pankhurst announced to her Society, the Women's Social and Political Union, that all its activities would be closed down for the duration of the war, and retired to Paris with her daughter Christabel. As a law-abiding suffragist I have watched the movement closely since 1881. MARY M. ADAMSON.  
Combe Down, Bath.

MADAM,—It seems very much to the point in trying to judge how far the militant campaign assisted the cause of Women's Suffrage to remember that we in England did not get the vote any sooner than many of the Teutonic races on the Continent. Norway was the first European country to give her women the vote. Germany, Holland, Austrian succession States, and England all followed in 1918 or 19. Sweden and Denmark soon after. Yet in 1906 public opinion here was far in advance of that in most of these countries. The second reading of franchise bills in the House of Commons was carried by large majorities. I believe that the really effective pressure on the Liberal government was the determination of a very large number of Liberal women not to work for anyone but a suffragist candidate. They were naturally rather slow to take this step, but once they had taken it, the effect on the Government was unmistakable.

Militancy was the very natural effect on enthusiastic and honest women of the recourse by ministers to mean parliamentary tricks to defeat the majority of their own party, and the majority in the House of Commons. But I don't think it hastened the success of the movement. "What we gained on the swings we lost on the roundabouts." I suspect the whole controversy had a lasting bad effect on the popularity of the Liberal party. MAUD SELBORNE.

**A WOMAN'S DEBATING TEAM.**

MADAM,—I notice in your issue of the 20th inst., that you have announced the interesting fact of a woman's debating team having been chosen to go to the United States in the Autumn. I welcome this new departure as you do. May I, however, draw your attention to the fact that one of the team—Miss Sharp—is wrongly reported as coming from Girton College. Miss Sharp is a student of Bedford College, and has just taken her degree in the University of London. I shall be grateful if you will correct this error in your next number.

MARGARET J. TUKE.

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

## POST VACANT.

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE** has been asked by the Calcutta Vigilance Association to send an experienced worker to Calcutta for three years to concentrate upon the problem of the tolerated brothels and to educate public opinion towards closure. Candidates should write giving full particulars and salary required to Box 1,492, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE**, 35/37 Marsham Street, S.W. 1. Women's Service House will be closed entirely for the whole of August and up to Monday, September 3rd.

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

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## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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