

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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**NOTES AND NEWS.****Equal Franchise at Cardiff.**

We have now received the text of the resolution on Equal Franchise which is to be moved at the forthcoming Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations by Mr. Morgan Morgan (member of the Central Council) as follows: "That in the opinion of this Conference the time has come to fulfil Ministerial pledges to extend the franchise to women on the same terms as men and to give full effect to the principle accepted by Parliament in its legislation for equalizing the sexes in the eyes of the law, and this Conference therefore calls on the Government to introduce and pass without delay a measure conferring the franchise on all women at the age of 21 in accordance with the undertaking so definitely given in the House of Commons by the Home Secretary, with the full concurrence of the Cabinet, and the equally definite promise of the Prime Minister that there should be equal franchise before the next election." We might have drafted it ourselves!

**Equal Franchise—The Prospects.**

An apparently well-informed paragraph in *The Scotsman* states that it has been quietly conveyed to those Unionists who are agitating against an extension of the franchise to women of 21 years of age, that it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill immediately on the commencement of the new Session of Parliament next year. Its passage in the last months of the year will, it is pointed out, be essential if the pledge of the Government is to be fulfilled, that at the next General Election women shall vote on the same terms as men. It further states that to remove misapprehension in the minds of delegates at the Unionist Conference at Cardiff next month, it has also been indicated that there will be no compromise either in the way of making the age 25, which would be a clear breach of the pledge as to equality, or by raising the age of both sexes to that age. The Government believes that this would be an impossible position to maintain, and that he would be a bold man who would stand up at an election and say that he was in favour of taking away the vote from a man of 21. The paragraph proceeds to consider the possibility of a Government decision to leave the matter to a free vote of the House, and rightly, we think, concludes that the opponents of the measure could gain little or nothing by this course, as in any case the Whips would be put on. These warnings, we are told, are thought necessary because those who are opposing the Bill are said to be encouraging the women delegates at the Conference to believe

that the Government would welcome a resolution in favour of the age of 25, which would enable them to effect a compromise. We have the Prime Minister's own word for the impossibility of such a compromise.

**The Accused Person.**

The policeman's lot is not a happy one. He is but a man (all too often not even a woman) and his job is the job of someone super-human. But the responsibilities which are placed upon him or which he assumes are far greater than is necessary for the honour of his office or than are desirable. Major G. Bell Murray and Mr. Francis Champain are to be congratulated on the stand they have made and its successful issue. At the moment their success in refuting accusations made against them on uncorroborated police evidence is having its reaction upon magisterial decisions and several happy defendants are at large who might otherwise be suffering constraint. As women and as citizens we rejoice. In the past an accused person, if a woman, has been condemned times without number on unsupported police evidence, and in spite of the protest of organized women, the public has been "invincibly ignorant" that things were not quite as they should be in this best of worlds. A woman, an alleged "fallen woman" was hardly a person in the eyes of the law or of the public opinion which is its sanction. Things must not be allowed to fall back into the old rut. In future a person accused, be that person man or woman, must not be condemned unless the evidence is more convincing than that of one policeman, or, we would add, policewoman. As our readers know, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene supported by other women's organizations has long been carrying on propaganda on this point. We are glad to see the announcement in this connexion that the Home Secretary on his return from Scotland intends at last to set up the Commission of Inquiry into the working of the Solicitation Laws, promised some months ago. The point of uncorroborated police evidence in this connexion will undoubtedly be dealt with in this inquiry.

**Healing of the Mind.**

A leading article in *The Times* last Friday, dealing with the annual report of the Board of Control which has just been published, comments on the fact that over a year has elapsed since the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders, and that nothing has been done. "It was hailed as a 'milestone of progress'; but though the milestone stands no wayfarer can advance beyond it." It is to be hoped that the report just issued will intensify interest in the subject, and lead to overdue action. It is full of material of great value to the social or psychological researcher, and calls for much more attention in these columns than a passing note. The section which deals with epidemic encephalitis shows how utterly inadequate our present legislation is to cope with a new and baffling disease which brings in its trail such tragic results. Now is the time to bring pressure to bear on the Government with regard to the most urgent matters requiring attention. Women's societies should make themselves familiar with this report and unite in an irresistible demand for the necessary changes in our lunacy and mental deficiency laws.

**Labour Women and Labour Men.**

There is a large diversity of view about birth control, the moralists and the technicians alike are divided into many camps in regard to it. We do not propose to discuss its merits or demerits at the moment. But a situation of immense significance has developed in the matter within the Labour party. Our readers will remember that the Executive has already declared that

"the subject of birth control is in its nature not one which should be made a political party issue, but should remain a matter upon which members of the party should be free to hold and promote their individual convictions." But the women are not prepared to submit to a subject of such vital importance to them being thus shelved, and at their Mayconference they again demanded that the ban placed by the Ministry of Health on the giving of information on birth control at Maternity Centres should be removed, and they urged the Executive "to give full weight to this decision, now declared for the third time" (the italics are ours). This phrase "now declared for the third time" marks a new epoch. The Labour women are beginning to realize their power, and they are resolved to make their own original and characteristic contribution to the content of the party policy. We wish them the very best of luck.

#### Maternal Mortality in India.

A correspondent has sent us some figures bearing on Miss Mayo's startling statement that the deaths of Indian mothers in childbirth has amounted in one generation to 3,000,000, or more than the total number of deaths incurred by all the Allied armies during the whole of the Great War. She points out that this figure was taken from an official publication of the India Office, which also shows that the number of maternal deaths in 1924 was 13,734. The figures given separately for the different provinces and towns show great variation in rate, the highest cited being 124.9 maternal deaths per 1,000 births at Shikarpur (1923). More typical figures are the following:—Bombay Presidency, all towns, 11.4 deaths per 1,000 births; United Provinces, 6.8; Central Provinces, 8.7; Assam, all towns over 10,000, 13.1.

#### An Experiment in Scotland.

The scheme now working in Scotland for providing training for unemployed girls has much to commend it. Under this scheme the girls are placed out as domestic workers in farm houses, and are taught how to milk and to rear poultry. The fact that the girls are said to be happy, and 95 per cent of them successful, may be set against the fact that domestic service as such can easily be overdone as a means of providing against unemployment. A grant has now been made by Sir Robert Horne, M.P., from an emigration fund at his disposal to the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, the promoters of the scheme, in order that girls may be tested as to their suitability for emigration. If the girls receive technical training in agricultural pursuits and do not become household drudges, either here or abroad, the scheme should be of value. We hope to learn more of it.

#### X.Y.Z.

A woman journalist who gave an account of the Temperance Women's conferences in the local paper, never once let the general public into her confidence in regard to what she was writing about. B.N.W.T.A.U. may be blessed letters to the initiated, but to the ordinary outside public (who often need education) they are like an inscription on an ancient Egyptian stone. We have always remembered the excellent advice of Miss Charlotte Yonge given to certain High Church young ladies in the days of the Tractarian movement, "Do not," she said, "speak of going to 'the High', when you mean the High Celebration of Holy Communion." May we all remember this advice. The G.F.S., the Y.W.C.A., the N.C.U.M., the U.C.W., the N.U.S.E.C., the A.S.M.H., the S.C.A.P.A., the A.U.S., the C.F.E., and the rest are all associations of great value, but the alphabet served up topsy turvy stinks in the nostrils of the lay person outside each particular fold. Let us speak in language understood of the people. Do not let us wholly despise the elder who prayed "Give us, O Lord, receptivity, that is to say, O Lord, the power to receive impressions."

#### Problems in the Far East.

The Kensington branch of the Women's International League has announced a course of three lectures to be held at King's College, Campden Hill, on China, India and Russia, on Tuesday, 18th October, 15th November, and 6th December, respectively. It is hoped that a group may be formed for the study of the problems of one or more of these countries. Further particulars may be had from Mrs. Johnson, 22 Westbourne Park Villas, W. 2. The publication of *Mother India* has drawn fresh attention to India and its stupendous social problems, and any light cast on the chaotic situation in China to-day will be welcomed by those who have acquired even to a slight extent, an international outlook. The third lecture on Russia will deal with the position of women under the Soviet Government.

#### An Exhibition Worth Seeing.

Last year visitors to the Handicraft Exhibition of the National Federation of Women's Institutes were almost entirely confined to members of the Institutes or in some way connected with that movement, and all that was heard by the outside world was that it had been well worth seeing. London contains many people who, in spite of their town habits, are keenly interested in handicraft work, and we strongly recommend these people to take the opportunity of visiting the Exhibition of Home Crafts which the National Federation of Women's Institutes is arranging at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington. The Exhibition will be open on 5th, 6th, and 7th October.

#### Mussolinian Philosophy.

The *Daily Dispatch* has recently quoted in all its baldness Signor Mussolini's openly expressed opinion of women. Women are, he considers, "an agreeable and gracious parenthesis in life . . . a delicious pastime, a help to changing the direction of our thoughts." But, he adds, "they ought never to be taken seriously for they never take themselves seriously," and "the more manly and intelligent a man is, the less he needs a woman to be an integral part of himself." Unfortunately unlike women Mussolini must be taken seriously for he always takes himself seriously. And what is worst of all Italy at present takes him seriously. Nor is there anything in the whole of his philosophy or practice to suggest that this attitude to women is not a consistent and integral part of it—with one outstanding exception: it does not seem altogether relevant to his declared intention of securing a rapid and unprecedented increase in the population of Italy for imperial and military reasons. He has, it seems, after all, a non-parenthetical use for women!

#### Glasgow's Youngest Burgess.

On Wednesday last week, the freedom of the city of Glasgow was conferred on the Duchess of York. In a charming little speech, the Duchess expressed the gratitude she felt for a distinction which as a Scotswoman she greatly valued. During her visit to the city she opened the great housing and health exhibition which has been organized by the Corporation of Glasgow.

#### Two Other "Free Women"

Miss Mary Ellen Creighton is the first woman who has received the freedom of the city of Carlisle. Miss Creighton, who is the sister of Bishop Mandell Creighton, belongs to a family who have long distinguished themselves in the service of the city. The Mayor, in presenting the freedom, recalled the fact that Miss Creighton's father, a former mayor, held the view that women's place was in the home. Yet his daughter was the first woman to sit on the Bench of magistrates and to receive the highest honour which the city can bestow in recognition of her public and philanthropic work for its welfare. The same distinction has been conferred by Peterborough on Mrs. Clayton, widow of Bishop Clayton, after social and public work extending over forty years.

#### Equality in Christ's Hospital.

When the boys and girls of Christ's Hospital were recently entertained at the Mansion House after a farewell tribute to the historic old building in the City, which is now almost wholly demolished, they were presented with the customary gifts of money fresh from the Mint. The Lord Mayor proved himself a believer of equality between the sexes when commenting on the fact that the girls received only half-crowns and shillings, while the senior boys received guineas and half-guineas. He said, "I would like to see the same advantages extended to the girls as to the boys. I am consulting the authorities, and I hope in future the girls will have equal rank and equal money."

#### Germany and the Maternity Convention.

The German Parliament has passed the necessary amending legislation to enable the Government to ratify the convention concerning the employment of women before and after childbirth.

#### Attention—The Unknown Quantity.

Readers of this paper are urged to study and carefully preserve the list which appears in this issue of Members of Parliament who so far as is known have not yet signified their adhesion to the Government proposals for Equal Franchise. The reduction of this list is the task which lies before us during the coming months. No Member of Parliament should be able to say in coming debates on the subject that he has received no expressions of support from the women of his constituency.

#### THE TOUGHER SEX.

The Government Actuary's Report on life tables based on the returns of the 1921 Census was published last week. It gives us a significant standard of measurement for the success—or non-success of our twentieth century material civilization. The life of uncivilized man is, Hobbes tells us, "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Well—the life of twentieth century civilized man may be poor, nasty, and brutish too. But we know to our cost, that it is seldom solitary, and now the Government Actuary assures us, on the authority of his decennial life tables, that it is not even short. It is, in fact, growing longer and longer as decade follows decade. And, what is true of civilized man is even more true of civilized woman—since women in every age-group from 1 to 90, can boast a greater expectation of life than men.

The final sum of the matter lies in the fact that in 1921, a male child on entering the world could be assured by statisticians of an expectation of 55.62 years. In 1911, similar calculations allowed him only 51.50. In 1906 he had to be content with a meagre 48.53. A female child in 1921 might expect the fuller measure of 59.58 years as compared with 55.35 in 1911, and 52.38 in 1906. In other words: "the vitality of the nation has been steadily improving." This improvement, it is pointed out, is specially marked in the earliest age-groups. It was the lurking perils of the first year of life which took the really heavy toll of humanity, especially of male humanity during the past generation. It is during the fifteen years from 1906 to 1921 that this toll has been mitigated—and this to the extent of some 40 per cent. "The probability of a child dying in its first year has decreased by about 40 per cent during the 15 years 1906-21," says the Government Actuary.

When we come to look more closely at the mortality rates some significant facts emerge. It is, as we have seen, on the whole safer for those who desire length of life to be born female than male. If they have managed to achieve the safer sex, the best thing they can do is to marry—but not too young. At the earliest ages which could be compared, the lightest mortality rates were those of single women. Naturally, it might be surmised, youthful marriages have their physical dangers. Between 24 and 37 the mortality rates differ almost imperceptibly as between married and single women. It is after the age of 37 that the mortality rates of single women are markedly higher than those of married women. It may be that the reasons for this are physiological, and connected with the superior resisting

powers of a physique which has fulfilled the normal functions of marriage and maternity. It may be, too, that the hard conditions which our social and economic system imposes on the self-supporting woman have something to do with it. A married woman goes through her period of physical and mental strain at an earlier stage. When the rigours of child-bearing are past and the children begin going out to work, her life becomes comparatively "plain sailing." For the spinster, however, there is no mitigation. The conditions of wage-earning become in all probability progressively harder as youth recedes.

But let the married woman take heed. For those who desire longevity, matrimony may be safer than spinsterhood. Widowhood, however, is more dangerous than either. It is among widows that the heaviest rates of female mortality occur. Nor is the cause far to seek. It is, or was until recently, upon widows that our social system imposed the intolerable strain of combined wage-earning and home-making. It has long been a matter of common knowledge that widows and the children of widows were showing in the cold limelight of statistical observation, an inevitable reaction to these hard conditions. The real interest does not lie in the report published last week. It lies undisclosed in the report which will be published in 1931, when Mr. Churchill's scheme, or better still an amended scheme, of widows' pensions will have had time to work out its results in terms of human vitality. Were it not for this new ray of hope, the widows might be tempted to regard with fatalistic equanimity the statistician's assurance that their expectation of life was not very bright. As an inhabitant of Manchester replied, when assured by an open-air speaker that the average expectation of life in his unsalubrious neighbourhood was only 32 years: "A damn sight too long too!"

There is, however, one curious and disquieting fact, lurking among the figures of this report, which it is not easy to account for. This is a short bulge in the mortality rate for single women between the ages of 18 and 27. Here we have, contrary to the main current of improvement already recorded, an appreciable deterioration as compared with 1911. What has been happening to our young women? We know that the conditions of their lives are healthier, that they wear more hygienic clothes, take more exercise, imbibe more air. It may be that the weaklings of earlier age-groups now survive to swell the mortality rates of later years. Frankly, we do not know.

#### THE EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY: SOME ODD JOTTINGS.

By KATHLEEN E. INNES, B.A.

The story of the participation of the United States of America in League activities is already a very important one. Both officially and unofficially their help is continual. This year there is even an American substitute delegate, Colonel MacCormack, in the Assembly. He is with the Persian delegation, as a tribute to the aid he has given Persia in reducing chaotic finances to order. A notable piece of unofficial aid has also signalized this session. The gift by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, jun., of two million dollars for the construction and endowment of a League of Nations Library is typical of the thought and generosity being devoted by Americans to the furtherance of the work. It cannot, as the Council resolution states, "fail to contribute to the efficiency of the work done under its auspices, particularly in the technical fields." It will be extremely useful to the students who come in increasing numbers to Geneva, and it is given unconditionally. Owing to "the magnitude and importance" of the gift, the Council did not accept it itself—but recommended its acceptance to the full Assembly.

The offer from Italy to set up an International Institute of the Educational Cinema in Rome will, if accepted, add another educational centre to those connected with the League but not placed in Geneva. The question of the use and misuse of the cinema has been frequently before the Child Welfare Committee of the League, and the Committee for Intellectual Co-operation has also considered its educational uses. It is obviously a constantly changing and developing instrument the use of which cannot be dealt with once and for all, and a permanent Institute will have a valuable if minor rôle. The educational work of the League, which centres in the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation, has of course very direct bearing on progress towards the abolition of war. As one speaker put it, it is the section of the League which can do most towards moral disarmament, for it influences the "intellectual élite", who are the instructors of

the youth of the world. Systematic international study of the cinema as a factor in that instruction is a step to be welcomed.

Among other minor questions of interest on this year's agenda is that of the adoption of a form of Proportional Representation for the election of the non-permanent members of the Council. The proposal to adopt the system of the single transferable vote in order to ensure "minority representation" in the elections, is being put forward by the Norwegian delegation, and protagonists of the system are in Geneva waiting any opportunity to further its adoption. It would certainly simplify the, on occasions, rather tedious and complicated procedure of the elections of the Council; but the proposal is likely to rouse opposition, as foreshadowed by the proposal in the Sixth Committee by a delegate from Italy, that the Committee before considering the question should "discover whether (it) gave rise to objections of a political kind".

A League Commission has recently been at work in Persia on the problems connected with the substitution of other crops for her vast opium crops. Persia exports her opium widely and the reform she is proposing to carry out under expert guidance is of interest as an example of work undertaken not for her own ends, but in order to come into line with League policy on a question affecting the welfare of numbers in other parts of the world.

Another question, closely allied to the drug problem, at last after various attempts to get the League to take it up, found its way this year on to the Assembly Agenda. It is the question of Alcoholism. One Committee concerned with the social and humanitarian work of the League after another, has found this problem a factor in the evils it was attacking, notably the Health Committee, the Child Welfare Committee, and the Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children and those

(Continued on next page.)

THE MIGRATION OF BRITISH WOMEN.

By DAME MURIEL TALBOT, M.B.E.

Strong as is our love of home and England, we British people have always been a race of explorers, pioneers, seekers of new lands, new homes. And to-day those new homes of our forefathers have become new British countries stretching right across continents and islands and making up the great Commonwealth of Nations we call the British Empire. In all its romantic history both past and present, women as comrades of their husbands and mothers of children have played an all important part. How could it be otherwise, when it is obvious that no country can be built up by men only, still less can it be kept strong and happy without a completed home life as its foundation. Yet still women hold back from going to the younger countries of the Empire where their help is so urgently needed, and prefer to stay in crowded England where they outnumber men by nearly two million.

What makes them hesitate? For three main reasons I believe.

- (1) Ignorance of the whole subject.
- (2) Fear of their friends and relations that they will get stranded in a strange land.
- (3) That they will never see home or family again.

Now it is the purpose of this article to meet each one of these reasons and to see that little or nothing remains of them.

As to the first reason, there is to-day very little excuse for ignorance. The subject of emigration or settlement has been in the forefront of the Imperial Conference, the Colonial Office Conference, and the Imperial Education Conference all held in London within the last twelve months, and all freely reported in the Press. Then there is every kind of office, agency, and voluntary society established to give information. The Home Government has its Oversea Settlement Office<sup>1</sup> for men and women, with competent people who know the Dominions to answer questions and give advice. Canada,<sup>2</sup> Australia,<sup>3</sup> New Zealand<sup>4</sup> and South Africa<sup>5</sup> have the same, and many of them with branch offices in the big provincial cities. The big shipping companies do similar work, while in every Employment Exchange throughout the country, leaflets and information can be obtained. In addition to Government and official machinery there are the voluntary agencies, such as the Salvation Army, the Church of England Council of Empire Settlement, the Methodist Brotherhood, the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf, the Young Men's Christian Association and countless others where application is welcomed and information given.

As regards women and their special needs, I would advise anyone, whether living in London or far from it to write to the Women's Branch, Oversea Settlement Office, Caxton House, 12 Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, and simply state their case and the information they want. They will get immediate attention either by post or (if able to call) by interview at the office. If living far from London, they will probably be told of someone near at hand to whom they can go for advice. In any case they will hear of the opportunities for training, of the conditions for free and assisted passages, of the welfare arrangements during the voyage and on arrival, of the conditions of life and climate in the different Dominions, and of the various agencies through which help can be obtained.

Now from all this it must be obvious that settlement overseas is a far safer and easier adventure than it was for our courageous forefathers.

No one who takes a little trouble to get reliable information in this country and to be put into touch with reliable people overseas need fear that they or their friends will "get stranded". (See Reason No. 2, above.) For example, women and girls who join one of the "S.O.S.B.W." (Women's Branch, Oversea Settlement Department) parties to Canada, have friends going with them from start to finish. The train journey from Euston to Liverpool, the arrangements for getting on board ship and finding the right cabin, the care of the seasick and of the sea-lovers during the voyage, advice about food for the journey, changing of money, landing cards, and the medical examination, all is arranged for by women officers of the "S.O.S.B.W." and by their conductress appointed for the voyage.

Then the arrival—that rather bleak time for the traveller, especially when the ship gets in at 3 a.m.—is made easy as is shown in the latest report received from an "S.O.S.B.W." conductress. "We disembarked all together—the Chief Steward kindly arranging for us to go off the ship first—the party went to the Customs shed where I gave them help in changing money

<sup>1</sup> Caxton House, 12 Tothill Street, S.W. 1.  
<sup>2</sup> The Canadian Building, Trafalgar Square, S.W. 1.  
<sup>3</sup> Australia House, Strand, London, W.C. 2.  
<sup>4</sup> 415 Strand, London, W.C. 2.  
<sup>5</sup> Trafalgar Square, London, W.C. 2.

and sending telegrams and luggage, etc. The children were taken to the Red Cross Nursery where they had food and were taken care of while the mothers checked the luggage. There was time for them all to have a meal and then get on to the trains for their various destinations."

At this point the newcomers are handed over to women officers of the Canadian Government who see them right through to the homes to which they are going, or to the Government Hostels where they can have temporary lodging and to which they can return in between times of employment. The conductress ends this particular report by saying: "Though the weather was not very good, being rough and wet most of the time, they seemed to enjoy the trip, and everything went off smoothly and well."

Then about coming back (Reason No. 3, above). Well, one of the encouraging facts about settlement overseas is that so few who go wish to return *for good*. For a holiday, yes! and this is quite possible after two or three years for those who start a nest egg over there directly they begin to earn money.

Many a girl has come back to see her friends and family, paying her way on the money she has saved. And by coming home, she seems to shed her home-sickness. Anyhow, it is well to remember both that those who go can if they choose save enough money to come back again, and secondly, that the large majority find life overseas brings to them contentment. One final word about preparation for that life. For women, as for men, the most important asset is self-reliance. The women who turn to others to do things for her—to make and mend her clothes, to cook her food, to clean her room, will have an unhappy time overseas. But she can very quickly train herself to do these things and so be ready for independence wherever she may be. Opportunities for training in housewifery are easy to find for those who seek, while lately special arrangements have been made both by the Government and by the Lancashire County Council to provide short Colonial courses for women. For those who have some knowledge of the subject a two days' test examination organized by the "S.O.S.B.W." offers an easy opportunity for girls to prove their capacity and thus qualify for the free and assisted passages. And so it all comes to this:—

Women are wanted and urgently wanted to build up the younger countries of the Empire. In giving themselves to this stimulating task, they will find opportunity for a free and happy life in other England where competition is less fierce and where good work and goodwill are quickly recognized.

THE EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY: SOME ODD JOTTINGS (continued from previous page).

concerned with native welfare; and finally three of the smaller States, Poland, Finland, and Norway, asked that the Assembly take the matter up. There was some doubt as to the appropriate Committee to which to refer it; and after a long debate in the Second Committee on the League's competence to deal with it, the proposal was withdrawn for this year; but the proposers made the proviso that it might be brought up in a new form at next year's Assembly.

Two interesting developments in the relations of Germany with the League have been announced this year. Herr Stresemann stated early in the Assembly that his country had decided to accept the Optional Clause of the Permanent Court, agreeing to submit legal disputes to legal settlement, with those countries also accepting the clause. It is hardly necessary to remind readers that we have not seen our way to accept this clause. Secondly, Germany has now a representative on the Mandates Commission, Dr. Ludwig Kastl, a former Colonial official in German S.W. Africa, whose knowledge and experience will be of value on that expert Committee. Incidentally, a definition of sovereignty in relation to mandated territories drawn up by the Commission, has been accepted without debate by the Council. The sense of opposition between the Council and the Commission roused by last year's differences has happily subsided.

In general there is this year at Geneva something of the atmosphere of hope last felt in 1924. Many valuable pieces of co-operative work are going steadily forward, and the determination to attack and abolish war as an institution between nations has been vigorously reinforced from nearly every quarter. Most of the Governments are more ready to abandon the method than we in England have perhaps yet realized. If our own Government hesitates to take steps in advance of what it believes is the state of public opinion, it lies with the people to remove that doubt.

The writer regrets that in stating that there were no new Women Delegates to the Assembly this year, she overlooked the fact that Finland has sent (for the first time) a Substitute Woman Delegate, Madame Tilma Hainari, to Geneva.

THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY — EQUAL FRANCHISE.

We append a list compiled by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship of Unionist Members of Parliament who, as far as they are aware, have not yet signified their support for Equal Franchise. A small number among them are definitely opposed, and a short list is added of those who while in favour of Equal Franchise only wish to see it if at the age of 25. The National Union feels that whereas the support of all Labour and most Liberal Members of Parliament has been given to Equal Franchise, it is most essential that at this juncture the number of supporters in the party in office should be ascertained precisely, and should have an opportunity of knowing the very warm support given to the Prime Minister's proposals by the women of the various constituencies. For this reason the National Union in its autumn campaign is anxious to approach as many as possible of those Unionist Members whose views as regards franchise are unknown, or who are known to be opposed. Fortunately a very large number of Members of the Party are among the warmest possible friends of the Suffrage proposal. The names of certain members of the Government are included, as although it can, of course, be taken for granted that they will support the Prime Minister, it is important that they also should be made aware of the views of their women constituents. The list has been based on the records of the National Union, together with information received from other organizations, party and non-party, and the perusal of Members' speeches in the Press. We feel it to be essential that the Members whose names appear below should all be approached by their women constituents and others asking for their support for the Prime Minister's proposal to "introduce a Bill during the next Session for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women of 21 years of age and upwards on the same terms as men," in order that they may be aware of the demand for Equal Franchise in their own constituencies. This is equally important whether the Members' views are unknown or if they are known to be opposed. We appeal for the co-operation of all women's organizations and of individual readers to assist the N.U.S.E.C. in reducing this list, either by sending information they may already have with regard to any of the names thereon, or by arranging to approach their Members by deputation or by letter.

Unionist Members of Parliament who have not signified their support or who are opposed:—

- Ainsworth, Major C. . . . . Bury.
- Alexander, Brig.-Gen. Sir W. . . . . Glasgow Central.
- Allen, Lieut.-Col. Sir W. . . . . Armagh.
- Amery, Rt. Hon. L. S. (Govt.) . . . . . Sparkbrook.
- Apsley, Lord . . . . . Southampton.
- Ashley, Lieut.-Col. Rt. Hon. W. (Govt.) . . . . . New Forest and Christchurch.
- Astor, Major . . . . . Dover.
- Balneil, Lord . . . . . Lonsdale.
- Barnston, Major Sir H. (Govt.) . . . . . Edisbury.
- Beckett, Sir G. . . . . Leeds N.
- Bennett, A. J. . . . . Nottingham C.
- Berry, Sir G. . . . . Scottish Universities.
- Bethel, A. . . . . Eccles.
- Betterton, H. B. (Govt.) . . . . . Rushcliffe.
- Bird, E. R. . . . . Skipton.
- Bird, Sir R. . . . . Wolverhampton W.
- Blades, Sir R. . . . . Epsom.
- Blundell, F. N. . . . . Ormskirk.
- Bourne, Capt. R. . . . . Oxford.
- Bowater, Sir V. . . . . City of London.
- Bowyer, Capt. G. (Govt.) . . . . . Buckingham.
- Boyd-Carpenter, Major Sir A. . . . . Coventry.
- Brass, Capt. W. . . . . Clitheroe.
- Brassey, Sir L. . . . . Peterborough.
- Briscoe, Capt. R. . . . . Cambridgeshire.
- Brocklebank, C. E. R. . . . . Nottingham.
- Brown, Lieut.-Col. C. . . . . Hexham.
- Brown, Brig.-Gen. H. C. . . . . Newbury.
- Buckingham, Sir H. . . . . Guildford.
- Bullock, Capt. M. . . . . Waterloo.
- Burgoyne, Lieut.-Col. Sir A. . . . . Aylesbury.
- Burney, Com. C. D. . . . . Uxbridge.
- Butt, Sir A. . . . . Balham and Tooting.
- Cassels, J. D. . . . . Leyton W.
- Cautley, Sir H. . . . . East Grinstead.
- Cecil, Rt. Hon. Lord Hugh . . . . . Oxford University.
- Chadwick, Sir B. (Govt.) . . . . . Wallasey.
- Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. Sir A. (Govt.) . . . . . Birmingham W.
- Chilcott, Lieut.-Com. Sir W. . . . . Walton.
- Christie, J. A. . . . . Norfolk S.
- Churchill, Rt. Hon. W. (Govt.) . . . . . Epping.
- Churchman, Sir A. . . . . Woodbridge.
- Clayton, G. C. . . . . Widnes.
- Cochrane, Com. the Hon. . . . . Fife E.
- Cockrill, Brig.-Gen. Sir G. . . . . Reigate.
- Conway, Sir M. . . . . English Universities.
- Courtauld, Major J. . . . . Chichester.
- Courthope, Lieut.-Col. Sir G. . . . . Rye.

- Craig, Capt. Rt. Hon. C. . . . . Antrim.
- Craig, E. . . . . Crewe.
- Crookshank, Col. C. . . . . Berwick and Haddington.
- Crookshank, Capt. H. . . . . Gainsborough.
- Dalkeith, Earl of . . . . . Roxborough and Selkirk.
- Davidson, Major-Gen. Sir J. . . . . Fareham.
- Davies, Major G. F. . . . . Yeovil.
- Davies, Sir T. . . . . Cirencester and Tewkesbury.
- Dawson, Sir P. . . . . Lewisham W.
- Dean, A. W. . . . . Holland with Boston.
- de Preece, Sir W. . . . . Blackpool.
- Dixon, Capt. Rt. Hon. E. . . . . Belfast E.
- Eden, Capt. R. A. . . . . Warwick and Leamington.
- Edmondson, Major A. J. . . . . Banbury.
- Elliot, Major W. E. (Govt.) . . . . . Kelvingrove.
- Ellis, R. G. . . . . Wakefield.
- Erskine, J. M. M. . . . . St. George's, Westminster.
- Evans, Capt. A. . . . . Cardiff.
- Everard, W. L. . . . . Melton.
- Eyres-Monsell, Com. Rt. Hon. (Govt.) . . . . . Evesham.
- Falle, Major Sir B. . . . . Portsmouth N.
- Falls, Sir C. . . . . Fermanagh and Tyrone.
- Fermoy, Lord . . . . . King's Lynn.
- Fielden, E. B. . . . . Manchester Exchange.
- Fitzroy, Capt. Rt. Hon. E. . . . . Daventry.
- Foxcroft, Capt. C. T. . . . . Bath.
- Gadie, Lieut.-Col. A. . . . . Bradford C.
- Galbraith, J. F. W. . . . . Surrey E.
- Ganzoni, Sir J. . . . . Ipswich.
- Gault, Lieut.-Col. A. . . . . Taunton.
- Gibbs, Lieut.-Col. Rt. Hon. (Govt.) . . . . . Bristol W.
- Gilmour, Sir J. (Govt.) . . . . . Pollok.
- Gower, Sir R. . . . . Hackney C.
- Grant, Sir J. . . . . Derby S.
- Grenfell, E. C. . . . . City of London.
- Gretton, Col. Rt. Hon. J. . . . . Burton.
- Guinness, Rt. Hon. W. (Govt.) . . . . . Bury St. Edmunds.
- Hacking, Capt. D. H. (Govt.) . . . . . Chorley.
- Hall, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. . . . . Dulwich.
- Hall, Vice-Adm. Sir R. . . . . Eastbourne.
- Hall, Capt. W. D. . . . . Brecon and Radnor.
- Hanbury, C. . . . . Dorset N.
- Harland, A. . . . . Ecclesall.
- Harmsworth, Hon. E. . . . . Isle of Thanet.
- Hartington, Marquess of . . . . . Derbyshire, W.
- Harvey, C. M. B. . . . . Kincardine and Western.
- Harvey, G. . . . . Kennington.
- Harvey, Major S. E. . . . . Totnes.
- Haslam, H. . . . . Horncastle.
- Henderson, Capt. R. R. . . . . Henley.
- Henn, Sir S. . . . . Blackburn.
- Hennessey, Major G. (Govt.) . . . . . Winchester.
- Herbert, D. H. . . . . Watford.
- Herbert, Capt. S. . . . . Scarborough and Whitby.
- Hill-Wood, Major Sir S. . . . . High Peak.
- Hogg, Sir D. . . . . St. Marylebone.
- Holland, Lieut.-Gen. Sir A. . . . . Northampton.
- Holt, Capt. H. P. . . . . Upton.
- Homan, C. W. J. . . . . Ashton-under-Lyne.
- Hope, Rt. Hon. J. F. . . . . Sheffield, C.
- Horlick, Lieut.-Col. J. N. . . . . Gloucester.
- Horne, Rt. Hon. Sir R. . . . . Hillhead.
- Howard-Bury, Lieut.-Col. C. K. . . . . Chelmsford.
- Hudson, R. S. . . . . Whitehaven.
- Hume-Williams, Sir E. . . . . Bassetlaw.
- Huntingfield, Lord . . . . . Eye.
- Hurd, P. . . . . Devizes.
- Hutchinson, G. A. C. . . . . Midlothian and Peebles.
- Iliffe, Sir E. . . . . Tamworth.
- Jackson, Sir H. . . . . Wandsworth C.
- James, Lieut.-Col. Hon. C. . . . . Bromley.
- Jones, G. W. H. . . . . Stoke Newington.
- Kenyon-Slaney, Major P. . . . . Tavistock.
- Kindersley, Major G. M. . . . . Hitchin.
- Kinloch-Cooke, Sir C. . . . . Cardiff E.
- Knox, Major-Gen. Sir A. . . . . Wycombe.
- Lamb, J. O. . . . . Stone.
- Lane-Mitchell, Sir W. . . . . Streattham.
- Leigh, Sir J. . . . . Clapham.
- Lindsay, Major H. B. . . . . Partrick.
- Lloyd, C. E. . . . . Dudley.
- Locker-Lampson, G. (Govt.) . . . . . Wood Green.
- Lougher, L. . . . . Cardiff C.
- Lowe, Sir F. . . . . Egbaston.
- Lucas-Tooth, Sir H. . . . . Isle of Ely.
- Luce, Sir R. . . . . Derby.
- MacAndrew, Major C. . . . . Kilmarnock.
- McConnell, T. E. . . . . Belfast N.
- McDonnell, Col. Hon. A. . . . . Dartford.
- McLean, Major A. . . . . Norfolk S.W.
- Macmillan, Capt. H. . . . . Stockton-on-Tees.
- Macnaghten, Hon. Sir M. . . . . Londonderry.
- McNeill, Rt. Hon. R. (Govt.) . . . . . Canterbury.
- Macquisten, F. A. . . . . Argyllshire.
- MacRobert, A. M. (Govt.) . . . . . Renfrew E.
- Makins, Brig.-Gen. E. . . . . Knutsford.
- Manningham-Buller, Lieut.-Col. Sir M. . . . . Kettering.
- Marriott, Sir J. . . . . York.
- Mason, Lieut.-Col. G. K. M. . . . . Croydon N.
- Meller, R. J. . . . . Mitcham.
- Merriman, F. B. . . . . Rusholme.
- Milne, J. S. . . . . Kidderminster.
- Mitchell, W. Foot . . . . . Saffron Walden.
- Mitchell-Thompson, Rt. Hon. Sir W. . . . . Croydon S.

## THE LAW AT WORK.

By C. D. RACKHAM, J.P.

## BORSTAL AND THE POWERS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Among the highly controversial matters which are discussed in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the treatment of young offenders is the proposal that magistrates in petty sessions should have power to sentence a lad or a girl direct to Borstal. Such a proposal is controversial because it gives greatly extended powers to Courts of Summary Jurisdiction beyond any that they already possess. Speaking generally it is true to say that magistrates cannot at present pass a sentence of more than six months' imprisonment for any single offence and as it is proposed that the minimum sentence for Borstal is to be three years it will be seen at once how great is the suggested change. It is, of course, true that magistrates have now the power to send boys and girls under the age of sixteen to a Reformatory or an Industrial School for as long as five years, but such a committal is not comparable with a Borstal sentence. The age of the persons concerned is an important factor. It is a different thing to deprive a man or woman of twenty of freedom than so to deprive a boy or girl of fifteen. The schools, containing as they do many young people who are sent to them on account of their home surrounding rather than through their own fault, are naturally far less penal in character, and the same stigma does not attach to them as to a Borstal Institution.

The Committee in their Report attempt to minimize the severity of the three years Borstal sentence by recommending that the words of the new statute shall be "commitment for training in a Borstal institution" and that the word "detention" shall be no longer used. They also propose that the case of each inmate should be periodically reviewed and there should be power to "licence out" at any time after three months from admission, the normal period of training to be two years. But nothing alters the fact that a Borstal sentence carries with it the possibility of three years loss of freedom, and to the average English lad freedom is what matters most: the loss of it is the severest possible punishment and cannot be disguised by calling it training. The fact that the "gates at Borstal stand open all day long" does not make the loss of real freedom any less. If lads run away they are soon brought back.

To grant to petty sessions the power to inflict this heavy sentence is undesirable on several grounds. The safeguards and the additional consideration now given to each case by the report of the Prison Commissioners and by Quarter Sessions both disappear, and the decision is to be made summarily in a Court where no free legal assistance is available and whose decisions have in many cases to be accepted as final simply because the defendants have not sufficient money to appeal against them. By the present arrangement the great benefit is secured of a second consideration being given to every case: the Report states that "it seems that the Higher Court usually takes the same view as the summary Court." There are certainly cases in which it does not and in which it is right. In these cases a course of action is prevented which might have been both unjust and detrimental to the lad or girl in question.

The reason which the Committee give for their recommendation that magistrates should commit direct to Borstal is that at present offenders committed to Quarter Sessions with a view to a Borstal sentence have to spend the intervening time in prison. This is highly undesirable though it may be pointed out that after they have been actually sentenced to Borstal all lads have now to spend some weeks in a block of Wandsworth Gaol while it is being decided for which Institution they are suitable, so that they are obliged to make acquaintance with prison walls. Surely this disadvantage of awaiting sentence in prison might be got over some other way. When the Observation Centres recommended by the Committee are established they might well be used for this purpose. Or in the meantime some arrangement might be made whereby if the local Quarter Sessions did not take place within two or three weeks the case should go to Sessions elsewhere, and the time of waiting would at least be shortened. It must also be remembered that large numbers of young persons under twenty-one are sent to prison on remand or committed for trial and it is urgently needed that some alternative to prison should be provided for these. Whether this alternative is provided locally or in Central Remand Homes it should be equally available for those who are awaiting sentence at the Sessions. The problem is not one which is easy of solution, but some remedy for the existing evil should be sought which does not bring with it fresh disadvantages and the loss of existing safeguards.

Moles, Rt. Hon. T.	Belfast S.
Moore, Sir N.	Richmond.
Morden, Col. W. Grant	Brentford and Chiswick.
Morrison, H.	Salisbury.
Morrison-Bell, Major Sir C.	Honiton.
Murchison, Sir. K.	Huntingdon.
Nall, Lieut.-Col. Sir J.	Hulme.
Nelson, Sir F.	Stroud.
Neville, R. J.	Norfolk E.
Nicholson, O. W.	Abbey, Westminster.
Nicholson, Col. Rt. Hon.	Petersfield.
Nield, Rt. Hon. Sir H.	Ealing.
Oakley, T.	The Wrekin.
O'Connor, T. J.	Luton.
Oman, Prof. Sir C.	Oxford University
O'Neill, Rt. Hon. Hugh	Antrim.
Ormsby-Gore, Major Hon. W. (Govt.)	Stafford.
Pennefather, Sir J.	Kirkdale.
Penny, F. G.	Kingston-upon-Thames.
Percy, Rt. Hon. Lord E. (Govt.)	Hastings.
Perkins, Col. E. K.	Southampton.
Pilcher, G.	Penryn and Falmouth.
Pilditch, Sir P.	Spelthorne.
Preston, W.	Walsall.
Price, Major C. W.	Pembroke.
Pringle, J. A.	Fermanagh and Tyrone.
Raine, W.	Sunderland.
Reid, Capt. A. S. C.	Warrington.
Reid, D. D.	Down.
Rentoul, G.	Lowestoft.
Rhys, Hon. C. A.	Romford.
Rice, Sir F.	Harwich.
Richardson, Lieut.-Col. Sir P.	Chertsey.
Roberts, E. H. G.	Flint.
Roberts, Sir S.	Hereford.
Robinson, Sir T.	Stretford.
Ropner, Major L.	Sedgefield.
Ruggles-Brise, Major E.	Maldon.
Russell, A. W.	Tynemouth.
Rye, F. G.	Loughborough.
Samuel, A. M. (Govt.)	Farnham.
Samuel, S.	Putney.
Sanders, Lieut.-Col. Sir R.	Wells.
Sassoon, Sir P.	Hythe.
Shaw, Capt. G. R.	Sowerby.
Sheffield, Sir B.	Brigg.
Simms, Dr. J. M.	Down.
Sinclair, Col. T.	Belfast University.
Smith, R. W.	Aberdeen Central.
Smith-Carlington, N. W.	Rutland and Stamford.
Smithers, W.	Chislehurst.
Somerville, A. A.	Windsor.
Spender-Clay, Lieut.-Col. H.	Tonbridge.
Sprot, Sir A.	Lanark N.
Stanley, Lieut.-Col. Hon. G. (Govt.)	Willesden E.
Stanley, Lord	Fylde.
Steel, Major S.	Ashford.
Steel-Maitland, Sir A. (Govt.)	Erdington.
Storry-Deans, R.	Sheffield Park.
Strickland, Sir G.	Lancaster.
Stuart, Hon. James	Moray and Nairn.
Sueter, Rear-Adm. M. F.	Hertford.
Sykes, Major Gen. Sir F.	Hallam.
Templeton, W. P.	Banff.
Thom, Lieut.-Col. J. G.	Dumbarton.
Thompson, F. C. (Govt.)	Aberdeen S.
Titchfield, Marquess of	Newark.
Turton, Sir E.	Thirsk and Malton.
Waddington, R.	Rossendale.
Ward, Lieut.-Col. A. L.	Kingston-upon-Hull, N.W.
Ward, John	Stoke-on-Trent.
Warrender, Sir V.	Grantham.
Watson, Rt. Hon. W. (Govt.)	Carlisle.
Watts, Dt. T.	Withington.
Wells, S. R.	Bedford.
Wheeler, Major Sir G.	Faversham.
Wilson, Major Sir C.	Leeds Central.
Wilson, Lieut.-Col. M. J.	Richmond, Yorks.
Winby, Lieut.-Col. L.	Harborough.
Winterton, Major Rt. Hon. Earl (Govt.)	Horsham and Worthing.
Wolmersley, W. J.	Grimsby.
Wood, B. C.	Bridgewater.
Wood, Sir K. (Govt.)	Woolwich W.
Woodcock, Col. H. V.	Everton.
Wragg, H.	Belper.
Young, Lieut.-Com. Rt. Hon. Sir E.	Hilton Norwich.

The following Members have stated that they are in favour of Equal Franchise at the age of 25:—

Atkinson, C.	Altrincham.
Balfour, G.	Hampstead.
Cayzer, Major Sir H.	Portsmouth S.
Cecil, Rt. Hon. Sir E.	Aston.
Davison, Sir W.	Kensington S.
Hopkinson, Sir A.	English Universities.
Malone, Major P. B.	Tottenham S.
Tasker, Major R.	Islington E.
Shepperson, E. W.	Leominster.
White, Lieut.-Col. Sir G. Dalrymple	Southport.
Wolmer, Viscount (Govt.)	Aldershot.

THE WOMAN WHO STOLE EVERYTHING.<sup>1</sup>

The Mr. Bennett who writes to-day seems a long way away from the Mr. Bennett of *Clayhanger* and the *Old Wives' Tale*. In those remarkable books he contrived to produce a sense of reality that was almost overpowering. The life he described was sordid, and rather dreary; his characters were materialists who missed what seems to some of us to be the things worth living for; but they were real human beings. It was impossible not to be interested in them; following the details of their tedious lives became a kind of passion to some of us. No one could feel any passion about the woman who stole everything, or any of the characters in these tales, except, remembering the others, a passion of regret. They are mere cardboard figures. They represent much the same kind of people as those who appeared in the earlier books—though they are mostly rather vulgarized by riches and change of surroundings. They are still materialists, very cleverly portrayed. But they only represent, they are not the real thing, they are not any real thing. The stories cannot be read without some satisfaction, because they are so very clever; but they do not remain in the mind; and they leave one sighing and wishing that Mr. Bennett had never, in any sense of the words, left his native environment of the Five Towns.

I. B. O'M.

## BOURNEVILLE SUMMER SCHOOL AT GENEVA.

An interesting international conference has been arranged for five years running by the Bourneville Works Men's and Women's Council, and was held in Geneva recently, with Mr. Norman Angell as Director of Studies. Lectures have been given by Mr. Arnold Forster, Sir Arthur Salter, Professor Baker, and others. In addition to the Bourneville Works' delegates, other British representatives of trade councils attended, and also delegates from many other countries from Austria to Japan. The object of the conference is to consider whether the League of Nations is adequately fulfilling its function, considered with special reference to the interests of industrial workers.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## "THE LITTERHOUSE."

MADAM,—

"Nobody knows how bored we are,  
Nobody knows how bored we are,  
Nobody knows how bored we are,  
And nobody seems to care!"

The refrain of this song, so popular with some of our soldiers at the front during the war, sprang to my mind as I read the letter in your last issue from the distinguished lady who assumes a thin disguise under the initials F. de G. M. I (*too*, may I say?) am an equality fan, but is it possible during the winter and as the days lengthen from spring into summer, and again close in during the autumn, always to contemplate without boredom a real equality, etc., from one aspect only, the aspect which presents itself to the single-eyed propagandist? The world is full of a number of things, and in each of these things there is to be found rich material for those who wish to practise as well as to preach equality of citizenship between men and women. "Oh, but there are other societies," it will be exclaimed. Yes, in each backwater there are to be found, as the tide of life flows on, little societies with a decayed subscription list, and a baker's dozen of earnest middle-aged ladies (such as myself) who meet in a dingy back room. A great movement may be born in such a room, but it cannot grow to a strong and vigorous manhood under such conditions. "Ah, yes, but," it will be exclaimed. And here, alas, I must stop, because time and space forbid. There is much to say on both sides, and I could, and I would, say much. One thing I say, which is, that all the same I *do* wish that societies in the N.U.S.E.C. would cause people to cease to litter the land with tins or with pink tiled bungalows.

A. H. W.

<sup>1</sup> *The Woman who Stole Everything*, and Other Stories, by Arnold Bennett. (Cassell, 7s. 6d. net)

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

## EQUAL FRANCHISE CAMPAIGN.

This campaign is now in full swing. Miss Auld is arranging deputations or letters to Unionist Members of Parliament who have not yet shown their support for Equal Franchise in Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. Miss Bury is undertaking the same work in certain of the Scottish constituencies, and the new organizer, Mrs. Cunningham, is making a start in Essex. Miss Pierce on behalf of the Liverpool Women Citizens' Council is arranging for deputations in certain of the Lancashire constituencies. Many of our Societies are also taking active measures to approach their Members of Parliament. In another column we publish a list of those Members of Parliament whose support it is necessary to obtain. We hope that our next list will be considerably shorter.

RECEPTION TO DAME EDITH LYTTLETON AND MRS. MOSS.  
Monday, 10th October, at 4 p.m. at the Caxton Hall.

We urge those who wish to be present at this reception to write as soon as possible for tickets (price 2s. 6d., including tea). This annual reception is perhaps one of the most popular events organized by our Headquarters. Very special interest attaches to it this year owing to the active part played by Dame Edith Lyttleton at the Assembly of the League.

## TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

Our correspondent in "Local Government News" of last week reminded us of the forthcoming City and Borough elections on 1st November. Here again comes a magnificent chance for our Societies both to put forward women candidates and to support suitable women candidates put forward by others. It is essential, moreover, that all candidates should be approached on all or at least some of the points of the questionnaire which we print below. Copies of this questionnaire can be obtained free on application to Headquarters.

1. Will you support the application of the principle of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that a woman shall not be disqualified on account of her sex from any post or office under the Council, including the higher responsible posts—medical, educational and administrative?
  2. Will you oppose the compulsory retirement on marriage of women employees of the Council?
  3. Will you support equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities of training, entry and promotion for all men and women employed by the Council?
  4. Will you, in any scheme for the training or relief of the unemployed include provision for women as well as for men, and will you pay special regard to the claims of those, whether men or women, who have dependents?
  5. Will you urge your Watch Committee, or your Standing Joint Committee for County Police to carry out the recommendations of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Employment of Women Police, 1924, and to appoint Women Police in your area?
  6. Are you in favour of providing equal facilities for girls and boys in general, technical and industrial education and in particular in connection with day trade schools?
  7. Will you endeavour to secure the appointment of an adequate representation of women on all Committees and Sub-Committees of your Council, either as elected or as co-opted members?
- It is suggested that questions should also be put on smoke-abatement and on housing.

## CROSBY HALL.

A CLUB AND HALL OF RESIDENCE now open for  
WOMEN GRADUATES OF ALL NATIONALITIES.  
For further particulars apply to—  
THE WARDEN, CROSBY HALL, CHEYNE WALK, S.W. 3.

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COMING EVENTS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 3. Scottish Summer School at Glenburn Hydropathic, Rothsay.

OCTOBER 10. Caxton Hall. 4 p.m. Reception to Dame Edith Lyttelton, British Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations.

Ashton-under-Lyne W.C.A. OCTOBER 5. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Bebington W.C.A. OCTOBER 4. 7.45 p.m. The Technical Institute, Boundary Road, New Ferry. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Birkenhead W.C.A. OCTOBER 5. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Bolton W.C.A. OCTOBER 6. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Croydon W.C.A. and N.C.W. SEPTEMBER 30. 3 p.m. Church Room, Pollard's Hill, North. Mrs. Hubback. "The Vote: 21 or 25?"

Farnworth W.C.A. OCTOBER 6. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Preston W.C.A. OCTOBER 3. Evening meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

Waterloo W.C.A. OCTOBER 4. Afternoon meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2. 12 noon. Jack Straw's Castle, Hampstead Heath. Equal Franchise Meeting. Speakers: Miss Fedden, Miss Whateley, and Miss Butler Bowdon.

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