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**WOMAN'S LEADER**  
 AND  
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**NOTES AND NEWS**

**The Newcastle East By-Election.**

We are very glad that Mr. Arthur Henderson will be back in his place when the House reassembles. He is one of a group of Parliamentarians, composed primarily of men of all parties, who stood for equality between the sexes even when it was much more unpopular than it is at present. Any attempt at discrimination between Candidates of different parties at an Election is an even more difficult matter than it used to be, now that practically all aspirants for political honours pledge themselves to the principles for which this paper stands. Mr. Arthur Henderson, though he has not been so conspicuously identified with the Woman's Movement as Mr. Philip Snowden, Sir John Simon, and in recent years, Major Hills, has proved himself to be a very steady friend. With the exception of Major Hills the members of this little group have now safely been returned to their places at Westminster, and are once more in a position to help forward our causes from within. We earnestly hope that Major Hills and other loyal friends whom we greatly miss will before long join them.

**Jane Addams and the Peace Prize.**

Professor Graham Wallas is proposing the name of Jane Addams for the Nobel Peace Prize of 1923. Of all people Jane Addams fulfills the qualifications necessary for the prize, since the recipient should have worked "for the cause of fraternity among different peoples, for the suppression or reduction of standing armies, or for the formation or promotion of peace congresses."

**Married Women Teachers and the London County Council.**

At the meeting of the Education Committee of the L.C.C. to be held on 31st January, a Resolution is to be brought forward on behalf of the Chairman, which will have the effect of forcing Women Teachers who marry from this time onwards to resign on marriage. Up to the present, under the Standing Orders of the L.C.C., all married women with the exception of Teachers, School Cleaners, and those who can prove that their husbands are, on account of physical disablement, not able to support them, have to resign on marriage. So far, however, with regard to teachers, the L.C.C. has proved itself to be more enlightened than other Local Education Authorities. However, as this Resolution is being brought forward by the Moderate

party, there is every reason to fear that the position of Women Teachers in London will be seriously prejudiced. An amendment has been put down in the name of the Rev. Stewart Headlam, that the Resolution should be referred back for further consideration, and a second amendment will be brought forward by Miss Katharine Wallas, proposing that if the main resolution is passed it should at least only apply to full-time workers, and not to the many hundreds of women who are employed as half-time teachers, such as visiting Lecturers, and those who are working in the Evening Institutes. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is asking the Education Committee to receive a Deputation of the non-professional Women's Organizations to protest against the resolution, but at the time of writing it is not known whether this Deputation will be received. The London Society for Women's Service are approaching the Education Committee by letter. A number of Deputations are also being arranged by Teachers' Organizations. We appeal to our readers in London to approach their Representatives on the L.C.C. to protest against this infringement of the liberty of the married woman, and this attack on the welfare of the London school child. It is quite clear that not only is it generally acknowledged that married Women Teachers are able to bring to their work special qualifications, but that in these precarious times the best women will no longer be attracted to a profession to which marriage brings no option but resignation.

**A Public Scandal.**

A boy of 14 appeared before Mr. Clarke Hall last week on a charge of larceny, who was unable to read. A schoolmaster said that the boy was intelligent and not considered mentally deficient, but that as he had only been at his school for a year, he knew little of his condition! This statement in itself is scandalous, since a normal boy should learn to read in a year, and certainly a schoolmaster should know something about a pupil who has been for 12 months under his care. Mr. Clarke Hall, after stating that the County Council Medical Inspector was making a special inquiry into the case, said that it was "nothing but a public scandal that a boy of fourteen should be sent out into the world unable to read or write, without any reason being given, either medical or otherwise, to explain why he had not benefited by his education."

**Lady Astor's Proposal Adopted.**

It was decided on Monday by the Education Committee of the L.C.C. to provide centres of "recreational occupation" for unemployed juveniles. Seventy-five per cent. of the cost of the centres will be borne by the Exchequer on condition that the schemes are submitted to the Ministry of Labour before 1st February. The centres will probably be opened in connection with the present voluntary day continuation schools, and provision will have to be made for about 5,000 students. This number will include all those between 16 and 18, who would be required to attend the centres as a condition of receiving unemployment benefit, and a proportion of those between 14 and 16 not in receipt of benefit who might be persuaded to attend. Mrs. Wilton Phipps was vice-chairman of the committee.

**The Central Association for Mental Welfare.**

It is proposed to start a circulating Library for workers engaged in problems relating to Mental Welfare, such as teachers in schools for the Mentally Deficient, Medical Officers, Secretaries of Local Associations, Superintendents of Institutions, Voluntary Visitors, and Students in training. The Library would contain both books and periodicals. The importance of such specialized libraries containing books not easily accessible, is not over

estimated, and we hope the scheme will be a success. All those who are interested should write at once to Miss Evelyn Fox, the Hon. Secretary, at 22 Buckingham Palace Road.

**The Law at Work.**

We are very glad to be in a position to announce that in future a section of this paper, under the direction of Mrs. Rackham, J.P., Miss Margery Fry, J.P., with the assistance of Mrs. Crofts, acting as Honorary Solicitor, will be devoted to questions relating to the Law at Work. It is hoped in this way to provide useful and up-to-date information necessary for women magistrates, social workers and others interested in the administration of justice. The first of this series will appear in our issue of 2nd February.

**Features of Next Week's Issue.**

Next week we publish an article by H. B. Brackenbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., dealing with the problem of the provision of special schools and making practical suggestions for alternative methods of education. For this series of articles on Mental Deficiency we are indebted to the Central Association for Mental Welfare for permission to reprint addresses given at the July Conference on Mental Deficiency. We hope also to return to the problem of Married Women's Work.

**WAGES AND PRICES.**

Our redoubtable contemporary, the *Times*, has in the course of the past ten days been airing the vexed question of prices and their relation to wages. Two leading statisticians, Professor A. L. Bowley and Sir J. C. Stamp, have contributed to the discussion, and editorial comment has not been lacking. Professor Bowley confines himself to an examination of the Labour Ministry's Cost of Living Index Number, which he finds on the whole not lamentably inaccurate. Sir J. C. Stamp and our contemporary's nameless leader-writer, however, attack the problem more adventurously. From the technique of price measurement, they plunge into the ethics and economics of wages—and in so doing they shed upon the subject, we regret to say, "not light, but rather darkness visible!"

Sir J. C. Stamp and the *Times* leader-writer, and behind them the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, apparently believe that the existing practice which prevails in certain industries of varying wage-rates automatically with the variations in the cost of living is uneconomic and inequitable. Sir J. C. Stamp sums up the matter with luminous clarity: "Assume a community of ten thousand workers, producing a million units of commodities 'valued' at £1,000,000. The average real wage is then one hundred units, and the average money wage is £100 to purchase them. Cutting out details, if currency changes bring about £2,000,000 of nominal purchasing power, prices will be doubled, the cost of living index doubled, and on receiving double wages the worker has £200, which buy him 100 units as before. Suppose, however, that the rise of price is due not to currency changes but to a falling-off of production, a re-adjustment of money wages which secures to the worker an exactly similar number of units of real wealth will, in fact, give him a larger share of the total produce—and at someone else's expense. . . . The worker is being led to think that he has a natural, obvious, and indefeasible right to a money wage adjusted to furnish him with his original standard of living. But this is not really his right at all; he has a right to one ten-thousandth part of the total production, which is a vastly different matter"—and any attempt to secure for him more than this share will lead to "disaster and unemployment." As our contemporary puts it, ". . . if one person secures more than his share, another must get less. By adopting as a basis the wages of 1913, and increasing or decreasing the current wage by reference to the cost of living, it is clear that wage earners are each assured the same quantity of commodities as in 1913, no matter whether the total available for distribution is greater or less. Sir J. C. Stamp states that the production of the country is less by 20 to 25 per cent. If that is so, the adoption of a cost of living index number as a standard by which to regulate wages must result in those who come under its application securing more than their share."

Now this amounts to a demand that the wage earners shall take their share in bearing the brunt of any economic hardship which a contraction of production may necessitate. But on examination its disastrous superficiality becomes apparent. In the first place, the word "share," as used by the *Times*, is a question-

begging epithet. It suggests that the distribution of the national income is conducted upon some equitable and coherent principle other than the rough and tumble principle of every man for himself, subject to the laws of supply and demand—which may be, and in many cases are, successfully held at bay by the industrial combine or the trade union. In talking of "shares" in this way our contemporary is treading very dangerous ground, and Sir J. C. Stamp is no more fortunate in his use of the word "right." For by what "right," some of our socialist friends may ask, do the urban landlords of our metropolis or the royalty owners of our coalfields enjoy the very large "share" of the national income which they secure, according to our contemporary's argument, at someone else's expense.

In the second place, behind all this question-begging, lies the false assumption that a cut at the income of the wage earner in receipt of an income based on the cost of living involves no greater economic sacrifice than a proportionate cut at incomes above this bare level. Even though the claim for a wage based on the cost of living should secure for the wage earner an increased proportion of the national income under the operation of rising prices, such a claim in the case of the huge majority of those affected amounts to no more than a demand that the human subsistence needs of the workers should be regarded as a first charge on the output of industry. And since the word "right" has figured in this controversy, we venture to suggest that it might fittingly be applied to the right of every worker to secure the minimum requirements of health and efficiency before anybody else secures a super-taxable income.

But if we are going to introduce this new conception of an economic right into our wage-system we must define it more closely. The right of the wage earner to an invariable subsistence minimum, and his right to something more, are two different rights, and it is with the first only that we are concerned here. Clearly, then, though it involves the right of every wage earner, and of those dependent on him, to reasonable subsistence, it does not necessarily involve the right of every wage earner to receive a family wage if he has no family. Therefore a strict realization of this right would involve not the universal payment of a five-member family wage, but the exact proportionment of wages to family needs by some such method as was suggested by Miss E. F. Rathbone in the pages of the *Times* a few months ago, and which, according to her calculations, would involve a smaller total expenditure on wages than the old unscientific five-member family basis. Now, let it be clearly understood, we do not desire to see any reduction in the total wage bill of this country, nor of the proportion of the national income falling to the wage-earning class. What we most emphatically desire to see is a universal acceptance of reasonable subsistence for the workers and their families as a first charge on industry. Writers to the *Times* may prove up to the hilt that the industry of this country is incapable of bearing a larger wage-bill; but, having done so, they will not have incidentally proved that the industry of this country is incapable of securing a reasonable irreducible minimum of real wealth for its workers.

**BOYS' AND GIRLS' EDUCATION.**

By RETA OLDHAM.

Some two years ago the Board of Education referred to their Consultative Committee the question whether greater differentiation is desirable in the curriculum for boys and girls respectively in Secondary Schools—a question difficult to answer because, as the Committee frankly admit in their able Report just issued, it is doubtful whether "there are clear and ascertained differences between the sexes on which an educational policy may readily be based." "Men and women," say the Committee, "have existed for centuries; but either sex is still a problem to the other. . . . nor is there any third sex to discriminate dispassionately between the two. As psychological study develops, and statistical enquiries and data are multiplied, it may be possible to attain tangible and valid conclusions." But that day is not yet—and the Committee plead that in the meantime it would be fatal to prescribe one curriculum for boys and another for girls. What is needed is a relaxation of requirements and a larger increase of freedom in the choice of subjects for both sexes during the school period. If these be granted there should follow a time of such progressive experiment as will provide naturally and correctly the detailed answer to a problem not yet soluble.

The answer to the question propounded is indecisive—was the enquiry worth the trouble and time expended upon it? Few who read this excellent Report can feel doubtful how to reply, and least of all the Association of Head Mistresses who, year by year, have urged upon the Board of Education and the Universities precisely that need of both sexes for increased freedom in the choice of subjects which is now so warmly recommended by the Consultative Committee. To discover the aptitudes of the children of the nation is one of the most important functions of education, which is, as Ruskin said, not the equaliser but the discernor of men, and to make this discovery, as well as to stimulate interest in our pupils, we need variety of subjects. That so distinguished a body of experts should press not only for this reform, but for the fostering of that aesthetic taste and capacity, hitherto so stunted in most Secondary Schools, which is the best preparation for the right spending of leisure, is to inspire new hope for the future of our Schools.

It is impossible in the space at my disposal to deal with many features of the Report, but specially interesting to women is the frankness with which the Committee recognise the double burden laid on girls by the need of preparing them, in common with boys, to earn their own living and to be useful citizens, but, in addition, to be makers of homes. Some exercise of this double function is often called for even during school life, for in

day schools home demands upon the energies and interests of girls are frequently excessive, and this should be taken into account in any attempt to estimate the relative "educable capacity" of boys and girls. On this subject the Committee say: "Under the same conditions of health, and granted the same freedom from other demands on their time, there is every reason to believe that girls can match the achievements of boys when they enjoy the same training," but proceed to point out that the conditions of health during the school period are not the same and the freedom from other claims much less. They do not, however, make these circumstances a reason for paying special consideration to a "weaker" sex, or for expecting a lower standard of achievement, but only a reason why the pace of education in girls' schools should not be made to keep time with that set in schools for boys, since obviously if it were, girls would be required to do more than boys in order to keep on a level with them. This argument would, I think, be generally supported by women teachers of experience, and forms a reason why, for many girls, a later age for passing examinations and for all girls a shorter period of school hours are desirable.

Very interesting sections of the Report are devoted to the examination of the anatomical, physiological, and psychological differences between boys and girls. Those who in the past, when pronouncing opinions upon the relative mental capacity of the sexes, have laid great stress on the greater average size of the male brain, may be surprised to read that the Committee consider it impossible to infer from that fact that the average male is potentially more intellectual than the average female, and believe that, though there are noticeable divergences in emotional response as indicated by the degree of interest evinced for various studies, there is little difference in intellectual capacity between the sexes. In urging the special need in girls' schools for a less rigid curriculum than usually exists the Committee add that no girl who desires to follow the ordinary boys' curriculum should be debarred from doing so, but that there should be sufficient elasticity in school curricula and in the requirements of the First Examination to meet the needs of many girls who might with advantage take a different course.

Freedom in the choice of particular subjects in order to suit individual power, and a greater freedom of pace in order to suit individual rates of development, are, the Committee conclude, the great need of the schools, and it only remains for the practical teacher to point out that only the abolition of the group system in the First School Examination will enable so great and beneficial a reform to be carried fully into effect.

**THE ROLE OF VISITING JUSTICES AND THE WORK OF MAGISTRATES IN CONNECTION WITH MENTAL DEFECTIVES.<sup>1</sup>**

By Mrs. PATRICK R. GREEN, J.P., Colchester.

There is still much ignorance and misunderstanding as to the scope of Justices' powers and duties both in regard to mentally defective delinquents and to Mental Defectives in general under the 1913 Act, and it is very desirable that the public should be better informed as to a work whose importance is by no means always recognized.

The subject may be considered under two headings:—(1) Hearing Petitions, making Orders; (2) Visitation in certified Institutions.

**1. Hearing Petitions and Making Orders.**

(a) If a defective is to be sent to an Institution by the competent local authority, i.e. the County or County Borough Council acting through its Mental Deficiency Committee—it is necessary to present a petition before the judicial authority, who may be a "Judge of the County Court, a police or stipendiary magistrate, or a specially appointed Justice who is a judicial authority for the purposes of the Lunacy Acts 1890-1911."

In hearing petitions the Justice has a very serious responsibility, and it is essential that he should at any rate have some preliminary knowledge of the requirements for certification as laid down in the Mental Deficiency Act. So many people still regard the Justice as a mere figure-head who simply has to believe what the doctor tells him, or if he takes the trouble to make further inquiries, he is too often looked on as an obstructionist, whereas it is his statutory duty to *satisfy himself*:—(1) As to existence of mental defect. Here *his decision may over-ride the medical*

certificates which accompany all petitions; (2) That the defective is "a subject to be dealt with" under the Act; (3) If satisfied as to the above, and if the parents' consent is withheld, the Justice has to decide if such consent is *unreasonably* withheld, and whether it is in the interest of the defective, and of the community, to send him to an Institution.

The position of the Justice is often one of considerable difficulty, though every facility is provided for summoning medical and other necessary evidence to assist him. What actually constitutes mental defect is a very vexed question, and it is almost impossible to define it really satisfactorily, as so many factors are involved. It may be a case of defect of *intelligence* only—this is easily ascertainable through the Stanford Revision or other Tests, and it is the duty of the Justice to familiarize himself with those tests so that he may know how much value to place on them in practice. It seems a general custom among some experts not to certify unless the result of the intelligence tests brings the subject to a mental age of under ten years, but I feel that no such hard and fast rule should be made. As regards the certification of idiots and imbeciles, not much difficulty presents itself, but as regards feebleness of mind and moral imbecility, factors other than intelligence are called into play—conduct, self-direction, etc., are all in question, and in these cases the Justice should insist on very full records, for on the "facts of life" almost everything hinges. We only want to certify people as defective because the feebleness of their minds is such that they require care and control. In spite of the fact that the Justice has an equal responsibility *re* certification as has the doctor, without the benefit of his

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted, by kind permission of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, from the Report of the Conference on Mental Deficiency, 26th and 27th July, 1922.

specialized experience, I think that if he will take a broad, constructive, and sympathetic view of the Act, his own intelligence and judgment will help him largely in coming to a right decision.

Opposition to petitions is comparatively infrequent—largely, I think, because of the valuable work done in some areas by the Local Voluntary Associations in informing and persuading parents. Opposition is due sometimes to the mental defect of the parents which exists in a great number of instances; sometimes it is due to the desire of the parents for the possible earnings of the defective. But a more important factor in parents' opposition, I think, is the *kind* of accommodation provided, and the *distance* of it from the defective's home.

I must just briefly mention one point which opens a very big question with regard to administration, and that is the duty of the judicial authority to hear petitions presented direct under Section 5 (i) by the parent or guardian on behalf of a defective, whether the case has been to the local authority or not. While fully admitting the advisability of the *Statutory* authority being the chief agent in the presentment of petitions, there may conceivably be cases where that authority has neglected to act, perhaps influenced by the question of maintenance, and in such cases this provision of the Act is a very valuable one.

Justices who deal with cases by petition are generally acting on the principle that "prevention is better than cure". If defectives are not safeguarded early enough, they are, in very many cases, almost sure to come before the Courts sooner or later, and the Bench has to make Orders under Section 8, often after much harm has been done and much misery and anxiety caused to friends and relations. This brings me to:—

(b) The duty of the Justice to the mentally defective delinquent, and perhaps this is the most difficult part of his work. If a person, charged before a Court with any criminal offence punishable, in the case of an adult, with penal servitude or imprisonment and found guilty, appears to the judicial authority to be mentally defective, or if evidence of mental defect is brought forward by the police or other agency, the Justice *may*—not *must*—take steps to have him dealt with under the M.D. Act, either (1) by postponing sentence and directing that a petition be presented by the Statutory Authority to the judicial authority with a view to obtaining an order that he be sent to an Institution or placed under suitable guardianship, or (2) in lieu of passing sentence, himself make any Order which a judicial authority might have made.

In either event the Court has to be satisfied on medical evidence of the existence of mental defect.

The same procedure is followed if children brought before the Court are found liable to be sent to an Industrial School. Such defective children may either be sent to an Institution certified by the Home Office under the Children Act, or the Court may make Orders under Section 8 of the M.D. Act for reception in ordinary Institutions suitable for them.

It will be generally agreed that it is extremely unsatisfactory that it is not absolutely *obligatory* to deal with the defective delinquents under the M.D. Act. Legislation is urgently needed to effect this, and to prevent the punishing as criminals of those who are devoid of such mental qualities as will deter them from yielding to temptation to do some kind of harm to themselves and others. If not afforded protection in suitable Institutions they will later go in and out of prison leaving a trail of misery behind them.

Legislation is also needed to place a *statutory obligation* on all Courts to provide the services of a medical expert to advise Justices, etc., on the mental condition of persons charged with crime. As long ago as 1889 it was recognized that expert advice was necessary, but no provision was made that it should be forthcoming. All that a Home Office Circular of that date can suggest is either that, in the case of trivial offences, the offender should be dismissed, or that, in the case of more serious crime, it may be necessary to commit for trial in order, not that a *mental expert*, but that a *jury* may decide the question of mental condition. Recent events connected with dangerous mentally defective criminals has disclosed the faulty condition of the statute in this regard. Legislation does not now express public opinion on the vital question of the safety of the public. Consequently our methods of carrying the law into effect are bound to result in injustice and dissatisfaction.

It is to be hoped that early steps will be taken to so simplify and modify criminal legislation in regard to defectives as will bring it into line with modern social and economic public feeling.

#### 2. *Visitation.*

The responsibility of visiting Justices is as great, if not greater,

than that of the judicial authority who signs the Order in the first place, if only because the defective once in an Institution, is nearly always lost sight of so far as *public* interest is concerned.

As under the provisions of the Lunacy Act, 1890, so under Section 40 of the M.D. Act, 1913, Justices are appointed to visit certified Institutions for the purpose of examining and considering those detained under Orders or certificates, where such Orders have to be renewed, which is the case (1) at the expiration of the first year, second year, and every five years afterwards, when the Justices make a report and recommendation on which, presumably, the Board of Control acts, i.e. the Board either renews the Order or otherwise; (2) On the defective attaining the age of 21 years, when the Justices have power themselves to order his detention (subject to appeal to the Board of Control) or discharge. When the case is considered, the Justices have before them the defective himself, the Medical Officer of the Institution, and his report. In the interest of the defective, and in that of the community, it is certainly imperative that the Justices should insist on having (1) as complete a record as possible of the defective before admission to the Institution; (2) a detailed report of the means of care and supervision which would be available should he be discharged.

It is essential that these reports should be made by trained and experienced workers, and workers who are entirely unbiassed as regards the responsibility for maintenance. Magnificent work has been done in this respect by the visitors of the Local Voluntary Associations—indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the efforts of these Associations have made the working of the M.D. Act possible, and prevented it being more or less a dead letter, as it might otherwise have become.

With regard to the report from the Medical Officer in the Institution, one cannot but represent the great advantage of the Mental Expert of a properly certified Institution of some size, as compared with the Medical Officer of a small Home or Workhouse approved under Section 37 of the M.D. Act, who has so many duties besides looking after defectives, and whose report in consequence is not of so much value as that of a resident Medical Officer who gives his whole time to the work.

A very important point arises under Section II. If the Justices neither recommend the discharge of the defective nor the renewal of the Order unconditionally, they *may* recommend the renewal of the proviso that the defective should be tried out on *leave of absence*. This is a most valuable provision.

Many defectives, after a year or two in an Institution, lose their immoral proclivity, or their mental balance is improved to an extent which makes it feasible for them to be tried in the world, and the *recommendation* that they should be so tried (without suggesting that the Order should not be renewed) may very properly in certain cases come from the Justices.

Stringent conditions should be imposed to safeguard the moral and general well-being of the defective. If those are not complied with, or if the defective becomes out of control, the leave is cancelled, and the defective returns to the Institution.

If leave is granted for a definite period to start with, it is a function of the Voluntary Association (employed by the Authority) to report. On that report, which should be based on local knowledge, the leave may be extended from time to time on any reasonable conditions. There is nothing in the M.D. Act to stipulate the length of leave, and experience has shown this to be an extraordinarily helpful and important condition. It is found generally that, however anxious relations may be for a defective's discharge, no exception is taken to the substitution of leave of absence. They can easily be made to understand the advantage of the defective being got back *immediately* should he prove too much for them. Where the Order is not renewed and the defective is discharged and becomes later on unmanageable, all the cumbersome machinery of certification must be put into motion again. The advantages of leave of absence *with conditions* apply generally to the higher grade cases, especially the cases where the mental defect is to some extent called into question, for it is only in their relationship with ordinary outside conditions that mental defect is exhibited.

Sometimes it happens through a mistake that a mental defective comes before a judicial authority under the *Lunacy Act*. It is most important that the Justice in this case should refuse to sign the Order under the Lunacy Act, but insist on petition being presented under the M.D. Act. He has no statutory power to do this, but should exercise his moral suasion. The desirability of such a course is obvious, as it cannot be right for mental defectives—especially children and young people—to go to Lunatic Asylums—and it is also bad administratively.

## RUSKIN COLLEGE AND ITS WOMEN STUDENTS.

In October, 1919, Ruskin College, which was founded in Oxford twenty-three years ago as a college for working men, opened its doors to women students, a step which had been contemplated for some years. A certain number of women have always availed themselves of the opportunities provided by the Ruskin College Correspondence Department, and inquiries were often made as to the possibility of admitting women as residential students. The College was obliged to suspend its residential work during the war, but when it re-opened in October, 1919, it was felt that the moment had arrived to open a women's hostel and to introduce co-education. With this end in view a campaign was organized to collect a sum of money sufficient to buy a suitable house. But the response to this financial effort was slow, and long before the money had been collected a house came into the market so eminently well-suited to the purpose that a venture of faith was made and the house secured. Owing mainly to the good will of one or two friends, who believed in the College and its aims, the debt thus incurred has been reduced, but there is still a considerable sum owing on the house itself, plus furniture and repairs.

The Ruskin College Women's Hostel, then, was opened in October, 1919, and was christened Queens' Gardens. It began with seven students, made up as follows:—

National Federation of Women Workers	1
Bournville Works Councils	3
West Riding of Yorkshire County Council	1
Paying own fees	2

In 1920 this number was increased to fourteen, and in October, 1921, nineteen students were in residence. Of these, thirteen were sent by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, of whom all except two were Trade Union organizers or secretaries. The Weavers' Association has for many years provided scholarships for its members for a full two years' course at Ruskin College, and in 1920 one of these scholarships was gained by a woman. In the same way the Potters' Union also granted a scholarship to a woman member of the Union.

The study of Local Government occupies an important place in the Ruskin College curriculum, and Labour men and women who are taking an active share in municipal work find it increasingly necessary to have a real knowledge of the history and working of Local Government. One of the students in residence at Queens' Gardens is a Labour Councillor who is devoting herself to the study of this subject. Her husband is a keen Trade Unionist, and they came together to Ruskin College. She feels that, by supplementing her practical experience as a working woman in her home with an intensive study of municipal problems, her usefulness on the Council will be immensely strengthened. That the members of Local Authorities should possess both practical experience of the life of the workers, and knowledge of the many intricate problems which confront such authorities is of the utmost importance to the well-being of the community, and Ruskin College is endeavouring to supply such knowledge to students who already possess the practical experience.

Ruskin College stands for education in the broad sense of the term, and its curriculum includes Economics, Political Theory, History (general and economic), Literature, Psychology, Co-operation, Trade Unionism (with Trade Union Law), and, as has been said, Local Government. Modern Languages are also taken if students so desire, and French and German have attracted many students. In the last year or two opportunities of foreign travel have been offered to some of them, and parties of students have visited Austria and Germany, and have been able to study, at first hand, the Trade Union and Labour movements of those countries. Ruskin College students were welcomed last summer by some Austrian comrades who placed at their disposal rooms in a hostel, and showed them every kindness. An interesting experiment in internationalism was also made by Ruskin College, in conjunction with the Belgian Labour College at Brussels, in the form of an exchange of students. Two men and one woman student came into residence at Ruskin College for the summer term, and a Ruskin College student went to the Belgian College for a year of three terms in October. Such schemes are still in their infancy, but it is to be hoped that they will develop, for a comprehensive system of the exchange of students would be of immense value in international education. Queens' Gardens has been fortunate in numbering among its

students a Danish High School mistress, a Dutch teacher, and the Belgian student already referred to, who was a keen Trade Unionist and Co-operator.

The educational system adopted at Ruskin College is now entirely co-educational. The women students arrive at the College at 9.30 in the morning, and together with the men attend a lecture given by one of the College staff, followed by a discussion. At 11 o'clock the students divide into a number of small classes at which a paper written by a member of the class is read. Criticism is invited, and difficult points are discussed. Each student also receives private tuition with a tutor each week. The Bodleian Library and the Barnett House Library are used by the students, and the College itself possesses a fairly good library, which is, as far as funds will allow, kept up-to-date. Queens' Gardens also has a small library of its own, which has been built up largely by the women students themselves, with the assistance of one of the tutors, who comes from Newnham College, Cambridge, and is the first woman tutor on the Ruskin College staff. It need hardly be said that presents of books, or gifts of money to add to the Library are always most welcome.

On the social side, too, the men and women students co-operate. Queens' Gardens is represented on all Ruskin College committees. In the winter of 1921 a mixed eight of men and girls appeared on the river—a most novel departure in the history of Oxford sport—and it is hoped that a mixed hockey team will soon be in existence. Ruskin College suffers at present from the impossibility of obtaining its own playing fields, but it is hoped that in time the difficulty will be overcome, and in the meantime the College makes shift with a share in a football ground. Queens' Gardens, which possesses a good garden, has a tennis court, and on summer afternoons and evenings this ground gets plenty of use. The Matron of Queens' Gardens has always a welcome for the men students, who spend much of their recreation time in the garden at Queens' Gardens.

The women in the Trade Union and Labour Movements have had very little opportunity in the past of obtaining higher education, and especially that type of education which aims at fitting them to work in and for their class. The ideal of Ruskin College is so to train its students that they may desire to return to industry and to apply the results of their education to the benefit of their fellow-workers. The present trade depression, the depletion of Trade Union funds through unemployment, and the rapid fall in wages, render it difficult for the Trade Union and Labour Movements to give to Queens' Gardens that practical support which, in other circumstances, would be forthcoming. If, however, it can be helped over the difficult period of the next two or three years, if those who believe in the value of higher education for all young people of ability regardless of sex or class, will see to it that scholarships are forthcoming, it is possible that in the working-class movement Queens' Gardens will provide one more proof of the benefit to the community of clear and trained thinking translated into action.

AVERIL D. SANDERSON FURNISS.

[Owing to pressure on our space Ann Pope's article on Household Administration is unavoidably held over this week.—Ed.]

### OUR NEW PLANS. SOME THINGS THAT WE WANT.

- We want to run this paper on democratic lines.
- We therefore ask your *personal* co-operation.
- We want money to carry on.
- We want new schemes for raising it.
- We want help in securing subscribers and sales at meetings.
- We want suggestions especially for subjects for "Burning Questions."
- We want paragraphs of interest from all over the country.
- We propose, therefore, to offer each week a prize of 5/- for the best paragraph of special up-to-date interest to women, not exceeding 200 words. Such paragraphs should reach the Editor by first post on Monday of each week, beginning Monday, 5th February.
- The real name of the sender must be enclosed for our own information, but if desired a pseudonym may be used for publication.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

### THE NEWCASTLE CAMPAIGN.

We are very glad to welcome Mr. Arthur Henderson back in the House of Commons, and are glad to have played a small part in the recent By-Election Campaign. A Mass Women's Meeting, attended by nearly 2,000 women, was organized on the eve of the Poll by the N.U.S.E.C. Miss Macadam from the Chair explained the policy of the National Union in making known to the Constituency Mr. Henderson's long and distinguished record of service to Women's Causes. She explained that precisely the same policy would be adopted in the case of "tried friends" of other parties. Mr. Henderson, who got a magnificent reception, spoke of his support of equality between the sexes from his first political campaign. Miss Picton-Turbervill gave an eloquent account of the objects on the Programme of the National Union, and the need for men and women pledged to their support in the House of Commons. Dr. Ethel Williams urged the women of Newcastle to support Mr. Henderson.

Those who were present will not soon forget that great audience, mainly composed of working women, many of them bearing the outward marks of unemployment and privation. There was, however, no lack of vitality or enthusiasm. All the speakers' remarks were punctuated with great bursts of applause, and the hearty approval of the East Newcastle women of the reforms for which we stand was indicated by a loud chorus of "that's true," "you're right." In addition to this meeting, N.U. workers took part in open-air meetings and visited women's organizations in the Constituency. N.U. literature was widely distributed and THE WOMAN'S LEADER had a ready sale at the Meeting. We think we can claim that this By-

## OBITUARY.

### MISS CHARLOTTE M. MASON.

By the HON. MRS. E. L. FRANKLIN.

In Charlotte M. Mason there has passed away, at the age of 81, one of the most wonderful, and at the same time lovable, women of our time. It would be difficult, even in a long biography, to convey any sense of what she was. What she taught can be found in her writings:—"Home Education," "School Education," "The Child as a Person," and in the "Teaching Methods of C. M. Mason," etc.,<sup>1</sup> and we understand that she has left the MS. of a new volume prepared in the midst of those busiest last years.

The only child of a Liverpool merchant, she was taught at home and read much. She liked to be read aloud to, and her secretary and friend, who came to her as a young girl and remained until the end, used to read to her for three or four hours daily books of philosophy, travel, theology, biography and novels. She never forgot any book that was read to her, and could quote without reference.

She determined to be free of financial cares, so she wrote articles and delivered lectures in order to buy an annuity, and having done this she devoted herself to her life's work. She founded the Parents' National Educational Union, the Parents' Union Correspondence School, and the House of Education Training College, which she directed and controlled up to the end.

She was that rare combination, an original thinker and philosopher, and a marvellous organizer and business woman. Up to the last four days of her life she attended to her letters and to the enlargement of her house to accommodate the increasing number of students who are anxious to enter the College. She also edited the *Parents' Review* for thirty-three years, and each term (the last included) prepared the programme of work for the Parents' Union School.

Last summer she opened up the College to receive members of the Parents' Union for a Conference, and her gracious hospitality and the joy of her lectures and her presence will abide as a precious memory with all those who were there.

Economically, Miss Mason did much for the position of the teacher in the home schoolroom. Not only was hers the only training college for governesses in homes, but even before the war she was always able to command for them excellent salaries. Her students, even young girls straight from the College, never received less than £70 resident. Now, as always, they never have to look for a post in the labour market; when they leave one post there are three or four others waiting for them with salaries of £120-£200 resident. Their all-round training, their enthusiasm and love of children and power of giving them a "liberal education," make the "Ambleside teacher" greatly sought after, and some of those trained over twenty-eight years ago are still able to obtain excellent positions. Her students are to be found teaching classes in this country and in the dominions, at the head or on the staff of private schools, and holding other important educational posts. One of them is now one of H.M.'s Inspectors—and this without a University degree.

Miss Mason always refused to be bound up in the red tape of departmental supervision. She was determined to be free of inspection and control. Alone she founded the College, and alone she directed her Correspondence School, into which children in home schoolrooms, private schools, and public elementary schools were gradually enrolled in increasing

<sup>1</sup> Obtainable at P.N.E.U. Office, 26 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Election has resulted not only in Mr. Henderson's safe return, but has provided a unique opportunity for active local propaganda on our Programme.

### WHITECHAPEL BY-ELECTION.

It is interesting to turn from the North Country By-Election to the one in East London. All three Candidates have been asked to place Equal Franchise in their Election Address, and steps will be taken to ascertain their views on the other reforms on our Programme. It is also hoped that some meetings for Women Voters may be arranged, and, if possible, a public meeting, to be addressed by the three Candidates.

### THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE RESIGNATION OF MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

The position with regard to the Married Women Teachers and the London County Council is described in Notes and News this week. Members resident in the L.C.C. area are urged immediately to approach their Representatives on the L.C.C. to express the hope that they will vote against the Resolution which demands the Resignation of the Married Women Teachers which will be brought before the Education Committee of the L.C.C. on 31st inst.

Names and addresses of the Members of the L.C.C., and leaflets dealing with the question can be obtained from the London Society for Women's Service, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.—PUBLIC LUNCHEON.

The date of the Public Luncheon to be held during the Council Meetings at the Holborn Restaurant has been changed from Thursday, 8th March, to Friday, 9th March, at 1 o'clock.

numbers. All these children (numbering now about 40,000 odd), in different stations of life, are all mourning her. Wreaths, letters and messages came from children, parents and teachers who had, in some cases, never seen their "head," but to whom her spirit had spread. It is here that she was so unique: she disliked the power of personal influence and until the last few years she was seldom seen, but her teaching, her educational principles, her philosophy of life, inspired her followers.

Her graciousness and courtesy, mingled with her great wisdom and fun, made the atmosphere of her home beautiful in every sense, and even the lowest maid who entered there, and only saw her perhaps when she left to be married, carried the sense of a great privilege with her.

Editor of a magazine, founder and inspirer of a Society necessitating a huge correspondence, Principal of a Training College, Director of a Correspondence School with 40,000 children in it (whose examination papers she looked through and signed twice a year)—she deserves her rest, and we must not wish it otherwise.

She never allowed her educational philosophy to be called by her name, and it is this impersonal teaching which makes the hope of the future. Her Society, her College, her Correspondence School will continue under those whom she has trained and appointed for the posts. In this will be her memorial, and as now, so in the future—the children will "rise up and call her blessed."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### CROSBY HALL AS AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE.

MADAM,—I read with great interest, a few weeks back, the article in your paper about the possible purchase of Crosby Hall as an International Woman's Centre. I think it is an excellent and most interesting proposal. The whole building and its history teem with suggestive thought, it would be a thousand pities if it were not used in some public way.

You do not mention in your article the name of Professor Patrick Geddes, but I think he had a good deal to do with the careful removal of the Hall from its site in the City to the present most appropriate one, where More's country home and garden once were. I remember when Professor Geddes got up that splendid Pageant of London, at S. Kensington in 1913, how he held the preliminary preparation meetings in Crosby Hall, and how he held forth in his own inimitable way to us who were his performers and helpers, on the merits and history of the old place; and how enthusiastic he made us, too, that it should be put to some worthy use. He is far away, working in India now, but I am sure that did he know of the proposed plan for Crosby Hall, he would be ready to give his powerful support. He was a strong advocate of equality of opportunity for women, ages before it was fashionable to be so. Professor Geddes also had a scheme for building appropriately on the plot of land adjacent to the Hall, where the hoarding is still as disfiguring as it was when he preached to us ten years ago.

I, as an old woman who had to fight my way to education after leaving school, alone, unaided by all the help of College and University that modern girls enjoy, would plead that if the Hall is acquired the scheme of its organization may in some way admit the affiliation and co-operation of non-university women. Those women who are determined to bring about international adhesion, are, many of them, not College trained, but trained in the far more difficult School of Life. We should also find generous helpers among American women.

As soon as the scheme is definitely afoot I should be happy to subscribe my mite of £1 1s., and shall be glad to help to induce others to do the same.

ELIZABETH COBB.

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Secretary: ALBAN GORDON, B.Sc., F.C.S.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

*JAN. 20.* Berkhamsted, Progress Hall. 8.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Barbara Wooton.  
*JAN. 20.* Hampstead Public Library. 8 p.m. Speaker: Lady Mary Murray.  
*JAN. 30.* Reading, Large Town Hall. 8 p.m. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq.  
*JAN. 31.* Westminster Central Hall. 8.15 p.m. Speaker: Miss Muriel Currey, O.B.E.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Series of Fortnightly Lectures on Foreign Politics.  
*JAN. 20.* Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn. 6 p.m. "The League of Nations." Speaker: Miss H. C. Hughes, M. A.  
*FEB. 2.* Dinner and Reception at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 7 p.m. To W.L.L. Honorary Officials: Dr. Knight, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Miss A. M. Clark, Mrs. Pierotti. Tickets 3s. 6d. each.

## N.U.S.E.C.

*JAN. 26.* NEWPORT (ESSEX) S.E.C. 2.30 p.m. "Women's Questions and the New Parliament." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

## PLYMOUTH CITIZENS ASSOCIATION.

*JAN. 20.* Free Library Lecture Hall, Tavistock Road. 8 p.m. "Proportional Representation." Speaker: F. Sims, Esq., B.Sc.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

*JAN. 31.* 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1. 8.15 p.m. "An Adventure in Social Service." Speaker: Miss Winefred N. Stark. Chair: Mr. Clarke Hall.

## EDINBURGH W.C.A.

*FEB. 1.* 21 Castle Street. 5 p.m. "Voluntary Methods in the Treatment of Venereal Disease." Speaker: Mrs. J. T. Hunter.

## GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS SOCIETY.

*FEB. 5.* Guildhouse (entrance Berwick Street, Victoria). 3 p.m. Dr. C. S. Saleeby will give a Lantern Lecture on "Sunshine and Health." Admission 1s. and 6d. Members free.

## STANSFELD TRUST.

*FEB. 28.* A Stansfeld Lecture has been arranged by the University of London to be given by Professor Graham Wallas at the London School of Economics on "The Competition of the Sexes for Employment." Chair: Dr. Christine Murray.

## WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

*JAN. 20.* Dewsbury Women's Co-operative Guild. 7.30 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

*JAN. 30.* Armitage Women's Co-operative Guild. 7.30 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

*JAN. 31.* Lavender Hill Co-operative Guild. 3 p.m. "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

Stoke-on-Trent Co-operative Guild. 7.30 p.m. "Women and National Temperance Reform." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

*FEB. 1.* Rochester Co-operative Guild. 7 p.m. "Women and Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

## ETHICAL CHURCH.

*FEB. 4.* Queen's Road, Bayswater. 6.30 p.m. "The New Peace." Speaker: Mrs. Swanwick.

## TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

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## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

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

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## DRESS.

**C**OSTUMES, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings wanted. Specially good prices given.—Helene, 361 New King's Road, Fulham, S.W. 6.

**L**ACE.—All kinds mended, transferred, and cleaned; embroidery undertaken; many testimonials.—Beatrice, Box 1000, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**T**HE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*).

**T**HE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1; Sunday, 28th January, 12 noon, Little Rally, for children of all ages. 3.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmear. 6.30, Dr. Dearmear.

**C**ATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

**L**ONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 5, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.—Secretary, Miss P. Strachley Information Department for advice about Women's Work and Training, by letter or interview.

**F**ORM HAPPY FRIENDSHIPS.—Particulars, write Secretary, U.C.C., 161 Cambridge Street, London, S.W. 1.

**T**HE ROTHERHITHE CHILD. You surely feel you would like to help.—Please write to the Honorary Secretary, Children's Care Committee, Box 967, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford St., W. 1.

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