

THE WOMAN'S YEAR.

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER
 AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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RETROSPECT.

The significant event for which 1929 will stand in the history of feminism when some future recorder (perhaps Mrs. Oliver Strachey herself) embarks upon a later volume of *The Cause*, will be, we surmise, the appointment of the first woman Cabinet Minister. Nor can this event be claimed as the direct fruit of any feminist activity. Self-conscious feminism has had as little to do with it as with the election of the first woman M.P. in 1920. There was a rough and tumble departmental post to be filled—a big, difficult, and thankless post. And Margaret Bondfield, an experienced trade unionist, singularly unsusceptible to gusts of popularity and public execration, was judged to be the *person* for the job. It all happened quite naturally. Quite naturally, when the time came, she stepped into the centre of the political arena, in charge of her own large Parliamentary measure—holding in her hand for one brief ticklish moment the fate of a Government and the destiny of a million unemployed. Almost, at such times, one forgets to be a feminist. But 1929 will be commemorated in history by another event—the passing of Dame Millicent Fawcett. Her last public act was a gesture of greeting to the new Minister of Labour. And those who watched that gesture knew its significance. Because of Dame Millicent, and all that she did and all that she stood for, because of these things in 1929 Margaret Bondfield was the *person* for the job.

But dare we forget to be feminists in 1929, with the vote won, with women playing their parts alongside of men on opposite sides of the Treasury Box? Here and there the perception of some dark current shakes our acquiescence. There was, for instance, in September, Miss Nina Boyle's arresting revelation in our own columns of certain dark Imperial corners, and during the closing weeks of 1929 a small unnoticed discussion in the House of Commons in which two speeches were made by two women M.P.s: Miss Eleanor Rathbone and the Duchess of Atholl—two speeches on one obscure and ill-ventilated subject: the position of native women in British territory overseas. In the precincts of Westminster we may comfortably forget to be feminists. (And Heaven knows, it is a relief from time to time to be able to forget!) But can we forget, as responsible citizens of an Empire under whose flag women are being bought

and sold, mutilated, tortured, enslaved, neglected, and degraded? Prophecy is a dangerous game, but we will venture to play it, on the strength of certain small developments during this year of our review. It is no coincidence that two women M.P.s dragged this unsavoury subject on to the floor of the House. The year 1929 is the year in which the conscience of feminism overflowed into Imperial channels.

Well, at any rate we are so much the better equipped to deal with such matters in that we have at last a Parliament representative of women voters in their due proportion. 1929 has given us our first equal franchise election and our first equal franchise Parliament. There has been no red revolution precipitated by thoughtless and irresponsible flapper votes. There has been no violent reaction of new voters to diehard conservatism. There has been no massing in force of enfranchised women for the collective out-voting of men. German electoral experiments in classified voting seem to suggest a general disinclination on the part of women to support violent extremes of left or right. Here, we have no means of applying the same test; but it seems pretty certain that Communism has reaped no harvest from the newly equalized franchise. Democracy, on the other hand—of which Communism in its modern phase is the philosophic negation—seems to be alive as never before. Whether as a result of the precarious balance of parties, or of the speeding up of legislative activity by a Government hounded on by its own pledges, it is at any rate true that the House of Commons is at present focussing public interest to a peculiar degree: all eyes are upon the House—what is said in the House—done in the House—felt in the House. It is a new inspiration to the woman voter. Since it is by the development of a vigorous, responsible, freely-functioning democracy that all the causes for which she cares stand or fall. Yet there is one feature of the present House of Commons which cannot be altogether satisfying to her sense of political balance. On the significant green benches women M.P.s are terribly few and far between, and on the red benches of the Upper House there are none at all. Here then is one big job for the organized feminists of Great Britain—party or no party. And for this job—and others no less urgent, as will transpire from the pages which follow—

they are keeping their powder dry. It would be a pity (as some of our military fire-eaters pointed out in 1918) to lay down one's weapons at the very moment when they are becoming really efficient!

In the field of international politics we dare to believe that the new weapon has already been used with striking effect as a weapon of peace. To an unprecedented degree in the 1929 General Election, foreign politics counted. The evacuation of the Rhineland, the signing of the Optional Clause, the record of the last Government in relation to naval disarmament, all these matters were discussed on countless platforms, and votes were swayed by them. This was in part due to the activities of the Women's Peace Crusade—the reply of British women's organizations to the splendid and fruitful efforts of the American women in opposition to the U.S.A. cruiser programme. Enfranchised women were, it seemed, pulling together in two hemispheres, and even beginning to pull their weight. The fact that the eleventh meeting of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship fell in 1929 and brought the feminist leaders of forty-three nations together in Berlin should help to universalize that pull and make it an irresistible force. With that hope in mind we greet the New Year with our own version of a fierce old slogan: *Women of the World, unite!*

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

By EVA M. HUBBACK.

It is difficult to see any outstanding characteristic as regards the questions specially affecting women in the 1929 Sessions, except that where the position of women has been considered by Parliament it has mainly been in their capacity as wives, widows, or mothers, the most important exception being the allocation of the share to be taken by women in the administration of relief under the new Local Government Act. Apart from this, the legislation which has reached the Statute Book includes such measures as the *Age of Marriage Act*, the *Widows' Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act*, the *Unemployment Insurance Act*, while both in and out of Parliament there has been an ever-increasing interest in the problems of maternal mortality. We shall have to wait until next year, when the Factories Bill is to be introduced and when presumably the Royal Commission on the Civil Service will have reported, before some of the most vital problems relating to the position of the woman as wage-earner are brought into the limelight.

The opening months of 1929 found us with a dying Conservative Government, and with the main parliamentary interest centred round the *Local Government Act*. The fight put up by the women's organizations to provide that co-opted members, including women, should be added to all committees set up by Local Authorities to take over the functions of Poor Law Guardians, had already been lost. In the opening months of the session another fight was lost—that for the exclusion of grants for the Public Health Services, and especially for the Maternity and Child Welfare Service from the block grant proposed under the Bill. In spite of an almost unanimous opinion on the part of those actively engaged in these services that the substitution of the block for percentage grants would result in an inevitable lack of stimulus, the Government stuck to its guns and the block grant became law.

Since that time Local Authorities have been actively engaged in preparing their schemes for the administrative arrangements they propose to make. Already it has only been too clearly seen that the worst fears with regard to the number of women likely to serve on the new committees have been realized. Over twenty County Councils and thirty Borough Councils have refused to co-opt members, and in other cases the co-option of women has been on a very small scale. In London only two out of the sixteen members co-opted on to the Public Assistance Committee are women. It is noticeable that even the women of the Labour Party—the Party most opposed to co-option on principle—would now wish to see this opposition relaxed so as to allow a greater number of women to be concerned with that work in which they have so well proved their worth.

The only other Act directly affecting women passed before the dissolution of the last Parliament was the *Age of Marriage Act*, promoted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and introduced by Lord Buckmaster in the House of Lords on 12th February. This simple one-clause Act, which proposed to make void marriages of which either party was under the age of 16, passed through a difficult time in the House of Lords on account of the rather factitious objection of certain

members, who urged the setting up of a Select Committee in order to decide whether the word "void" should be changed to "voidable." Fortunately good sense triumphed, and the Bill was carried unamended and in its later stages unopposed through both Houses, thus wiping out a real stain on our Statute Book. That the Act was necessary, not only to give a lead to certain other backward countries but to protect our young people at home, was shown by the fact that in the year 1927 the number of marriages of girls under 16 nearly doubled, reaching a total of about 50.

Before the *General Election* the leaders of all three political parties were approached by deputations organized jointly by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Equal Rights General Election Campaign Committee, on the various points on their programmes. The support given to many of these, including the principle of equal pay for equal work, testamentary provision, the right of married women to retain or change their nationality, was remarkable, though none of the party leaders wished to make the giving of information on methods of birth control a party matter, or replied anything but vaguely to the questions on Family Allowances.

May brought the *General Election* itself, and women candidates, still all too few, came forward in larger numbers than on previous occasions. Out of 69 women candidates, 10 stood for the Unionist Party, 25 for the Liberals, 30 for Labour, one Independent, and 3 Communists. Of these 14 were returned—3 Unionist, 1 Liberal, 9 Labour, and one Independent. The return of Miss Eleanor Rathbone was of particular interest as she was both the first woman ever returned for any British University and the first woman to take her seat as an Independent.

For the first time in our history a woman—Miss Margaret Bondfield—was appointed Minister of Labour and therefore a member of the Cabinet. Miss Susan Lawrence entered the Government as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health. The filling of these posts by women undoubtedly created a new precedent, and in their conduct of the Bills under their charge they received many well-deserved compliments, including one from Major Walter Elliot, that they had established their right to be treated exactly as Ministers of the other sex because of their undoubted ability to "give us a Roland for our Oliver." Miss Susan Lawrence, who had already won her spurs in her tussle with Mr. Neville Chamberlain, then Minister of Health, over the finance of the Local Government Act, came first into the political arena and found herself in her late opponent's shoes when, together with Mr. Greenwood, it became her duty to pilot the *Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act* through the House of Commons. This Act provided pensions for widows between 55 and 70 whose husbands died before 1926, but who were in the same categories as the present insured men. It also increased the age from 14½ to 16 during which the child of a pre-Act widow and its mother could receive pensions, enabled pensioners emigrating to the Empire to continue to receive their pensions and removed several other minor anomalies.

This Act, which reached the Statute Book by December, was rapidly followed by the introduction of the *Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act* in charge of Miss Bondfield. This Act, which increased the benefit for wives of unemployed men by 2s., proposed to bring into insurance as from 1931, children of 15 from the time they entered industry, increased the rates of benefit for young persons under 21, and amended the conditions of "genuinely-seeking work," had to meet exceptionally heavy weather from Members of all parties right through December. Much of the opposition was concentrated on the desire to make the receipt by juveniles of unemployment insurance benefit conditional on attendance at training centres, which to a great extent was met on the Report Stage.

The *Illegitimate Children (Scotland) Bill*, which provided for an increase of alimony at the discretion of the court and gave the expectant mother an opportunity to claim alimony and expenses and for making this claim before the child's birth, was introduced by the Duchess of Atholl and passed its second reading and Committee Stage before Christmas.

Housing was first tackled by the new Parliament in July, when the first instalment of the housing programme was embodied in an Act to maintain the subsidy at its present rate of £7 10s. in urban areas and £11 in rural areas, thus preventing the cut which the Conservative Government had decreed was to take effect in September.

The very widespread interest which had already been aroused during previous years in the problem of *Maternal Mortality* was

marked this year by the publication of several important reports. These included: (1) the Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health which showed that the maternal mortality rate was going up and was in fact the highest in the world in this country; (2) the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives; and (3) the Report on Infant Mortality prepared by Dame Janet Campbell for the League of Nations. All three reports recommended the establishment of a national maternity service which would cover the needs of the mother before, during, and after the birth of the child, to be financed through the National Health Insurance Acts. All three political parties had announced their support of this principle before the Election, and it is hoped that the establishment of such a service will not be too long delayed.

The question of the compulsory appointment of Women Police was brought before the Home Secretary in December by a representative deputation of nationally organized Societies, organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the National Council of Women. The deputation dealt with the universal application of the Police Acts to women, with regulations defining duties and standardizing training, conditions of service, with the appointment of a Woman Assistant Inspector at the Home Office; with the appointment of women in the Police Council; and with the position of women police in the Metropolitan area and in Scotland. The reply of the Home Secretary was so sympathetic that our hopes that something would be done in the near future were very considerably raised.

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

By M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

Watching international events from a feminist point of view, it is as difficult to judge of progress and reaction as it is to gauge quickly in a vast flat bay the flow or ebb of the lazy little waves which make their way so exasperatingly slowly inch by inch up the beach.

Yet 1929 has seen changes in the progress of women which taken together are of great importance. For instance, in Canada,

Canada.—On appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada that women could not be summoned to sit in the Senate was reversed.

The ground given was interesting, namely that though in the early act *person* could only mean *man* owing to the then status of women, this reading of *person* no longer corresponded with modern conditions. We hope this decision will influence other countries with obsolete ideas enshrined in their constitution, as in South Africa.

Bermuda.—A retrograde step was taken by the passing of a consolidating Act which inserts the word "male" as a qualifying word before "voters," but this is direct challenge to the women and clears the situation. A further recognition of a woman as a person comes from *Cuba*, where women now do not lose their nationality on marriage, and from *Jugo Slavia* where a woman on her marriage now has the choice of retaining her nationality.

As a preliminary step to full suffrage, we welcome the grant of municipal suffrage in *Roumania*, where women have obtained suffrage and eligibility for the communes, municipalities, and departments, subject to certain educational and other qualifications, such as being in Government or municipal service, holding war decorations, war widows, etc. The new Chilean Code now before Congress would give the municipal franchise. It had not been actually adopted when the Report reached us in October. We are hoping that both France and Greece will copy the good example set.

Greece.—In January, M. Venizelos promised a deputation of women's societies that he would discuss with his Cabinet the actual grant of the municipal vote. Nothing appears to have happened, however!

France.—Under the aegis of Mme Avril de Ste Croix, women's organizations held a three-day conference—"Les Etats-généraux du féminisme"—which presented a petition to M. Poincaré. He wrote in reply saying that the Government would support the giving of the municipal vote and eligibility to women. Ten days later the Senate extended the term of office of municipal councils from four to six years. Perhaps a coincidence, but it would usefully delay the participation of women, even had the Government taken the first steps to bring in women's municipal franchise which it has not done. At least it did ask Parliament to discuss it, but the Senate refused.

Unfortunately there has been a reactionary step in *Italy*. At the Alliance Congress of 1923, His Excellency Mussolini

promised women the municipal vote, and this was given to a very restricted number of women on the lines of the Roumanian law, but without eligibility. No elections took place, and in the new Electoral Law women were excluded as electors and as candidates. There appears to be no place for women in the public-political life of Italy under the Fascist regime. It must be from the ranks of Fascist women that a movement suited to the new conditions must arise to replace the old suffrage movement.

For a full suffrage victory we must turn to the East, where in *India* the province of Behar adopted woman's suffrage, this being the last remaining British province of India to adopt it. Nothing is said as to eligibility. Our warm congratulations go to the women of *India* on the Child Marriage Protection Bill passed in September, raising the age of marriage to 14 for girls and 18 for boys.

Siam.—Siam had the honour of being the first eastern country to include a woman in the delegation to the League of Nations. Miss Devakul, daughter of the Foreign Minister, acted as secretary to the delegation. We must hope that 1930 will see a woman as delegate. The Assembly was notable, not only for the greater number of woman delegates, Roumania actually included two, Mmes Vacaresco and Cantacuzene, but still more for the wider range of work the women were expected to undertake.

The International Federation of League of Nations Associations has also made use of the services of a distinguished woman, Mme Backer van Bosse in investigations carried out in the questions of minorities.

In the United States as in Great Britain the number of women in Congress and in Parliament is the largest known.

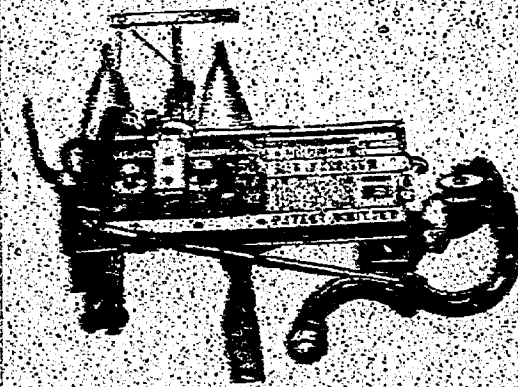
The international record is saddened by the passing of the two great leaders, Dame Millicent Fawcett and Dr. Aletta Jacobs, yet we cannot feel only sad, since they had the joy of welcoming the fruition of their work.

We do send our warmest sympathies and best New Year wishes for success to those wonderful courageous leaders who in south Europe, in Asia, South America, and South Africa have still to spend their energy and powers on the fight for the instrument of the vote which other more fortunate women have already used that instrument for many years for liberty and progress.

The wonderful meetings in Berlin enabled us to realize as never before the amazing advance achieved.

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WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

By BERTHA MASON.

The outstanding event of 1929 has been the passing into law of The Local Government Act, 1929.

Local Government Act (England and Wales).—This Act, which received the Royal Assent on 27th March, has thrown the whole of local government into the melting pot, whether for good or for evil remains yet to be seen.

During the passage of the Measure through Parliament, the attention of women was mainly directed to—(1) The proposal to substitute a Block or general Exchequer grant for the present percentage grants in aid of Health Services (see L.G.A., Part VI, clauses 85-102); (2) The transference of the functions of Boards of Guardians to the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs (see L.G.A., Part I, c. 1).

The danger (1) to the efficiency and expansion of the Health Services through the discontinuance of the percentage grants in aid, and (2) the menace to the position of women Poor Law administrators, coupled with the curtailment of opportunities in the future for women to engage in the work of Public Assistance, if the proposals passed into law, were viewed with serious apprehension by the majority of the organized bodies of women, as well as by a great number of men and women with knowledge and experience of the work of the Health and Poor Law Services.

Representations to this effect were made to the then Minister of Health, and to Members of Parliament, and all possible steps were taken to avert the threatened dangers, but with little success.

Certain valuable concessions were made in Parliament in regard to the Health Services Clauses of the measure, which, in the opinion of those who are most fitted to judge of the needs of these services whether under the control of Local Authorities or Voluntary Associations, go some way to meet the case. The time, however, has not arrived to express any opinion in regard to the effect of the Act on the Health Services.

But in regard to Part I of the measure which emerged from Parliament, practically unchanged, it is not necessary to wait until the Act is actually in operation to note its effect upon

The Position of Women.—The briefest consideration of the provisions of the Act for the constitution of Public Assistance Committees and Guardians Committees, and a casual glance at the schemes of County and County Borough Councils for the discharge of their new Public Assistance functions, show now and without doubt, that the *immediate effect* of the Act when it comes into operation as from 1st April, 1930, will be (1) to displace the 2,300 elected women now rendering voluntary and admittedly valuable service in the field of Public Assistance, the majority of whom cannot, under the provisions of the Act, secure seats either by direct election or by co-option, on the Local Authorities, which will shortly take over the work of 625 Boards of Guardians; (2) To reduce the opportunities now open to women to take their share in the care and relief of the destitute and sick poor.

In view of these facts and of the important changes which will shortly take place, the following tables, which show the position of women in local government in the year under review, demand earnest attention.—

ELECTED WOMEN ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

On Boards of Guardians	2,300
.. County Councils	156
.. County Borough Councils	205
.. Non-County Borough Councils	296
.. Urban District Councils	189
.. Rural District Councils (approximately)	500
.. Metropolitan Borough Councils	180

Local Authorities without Women Members.—Twelve of the 62 County Councils and eight of the 84 County Borough Councils, which in the immediate future will be the authorities for the home and institutional relief of over a million persons, of whom it is estimated about 75 per cent are women and children, have no women members.

The figures given show, if the work of Public Assistance is to be satisfactorily carried on, the numbers of directly elected women on County and County Borough Councils must be greatly increased by the return of suitable women with knowledge and experience of Poor Law Work. No stone should be left unturned, as opportunity arises, to mitigate the loss to the community caused by the displacement of the Women Poor Law Guardians.

132 Non-County Borough Councils out of a total of 308, 584 Urban District Councils out of a total of 785, and approximately

372 Rural District Councils out of a total of 546, are composed entirely of men.

Women Mayors.—The Borough Councils of Chelsea, Here Higham Ferrars, Mansfield, *Sandwich, *Stratford-on-A *Tretford, *Tynemouth, Warwick, Walford, *Welsbpool, *Wrexham elected women as Mayors on 9th November. Total

Women Magistrates.—The number, which steadily increases now stands at over 1,800 for England and Wales.

Scotland.—The Local Government Bill (Scotland), after a

stormy passage through Parliament, passed into law on 29th March. The main principles of the Act are identical, it will be remembered, with the principles of the Local Government Act (England and Wales), but the changes are more drastic and the effects more far-reaching in the case of Scotland.

Under the Scottish Bill elected District Councils take over the functions of Parish Councils, except those pertaining to Poor Law administration. *Ad hoc* Education Authorities are abolished and their functions are transferred to County Councils.

The co-option of women on education committees of County Councils is compulsory. On district committees, co-option is optional. Grants for expenses for loss of time incurred on their ordinary employment while engaged on public duties, as well as travelling and subsistence allowances are made to County Councillors.

County Council Elections (Scotland), took place on 4th December, 23 women nominated, of whom 7 were returned.

Town Council Elections 5th November, 45 women nominated, 12 elected.

*Denotes re-election.

WOMEN IN COMMERCE.

By CAROLINE HASLETT.

There has been so much achievement amongst women in commerce during the last year that it would be impossible in the space allotted to attempt any detailed account.

It would seem that there is practically no department of our commercial life, with the possible exception of the Stock Exchange, where women are not to be found occupying some responsible position. There is no doubt about the fact that many women have the ability to carry on the most important and strenuous executive work in commerce, but from personal observation it would seem that in order to do this continuously over a number of years, such women will need to regard their work as the first consideration and keep themselves physically fit for it.

Most of the more spectacular of women's achievements this year have been in the realm of aviation and motoring. The wonderful feat carried out by Lady Bailey when she went from Cairo to the Cape and back on her own, which ushered in the year, and the endurance tests carried out by the Misses Cordery and other famous women motorists, prove that women can more than hold their own in this sphere of activity. Women, too, are now definitely entering both the flying and the motoring world from the commercial point of view.

The problem of combining marriage with a career has exercised the minds of many well-known people of late. It is interesting, therefore, to find in commerce quite a number of women who are in partnership with their husbands. Mrs. Cowper-Coles, a recently elected member of the Women's Engineering Society, works in active collaboration with her husband in perfecting and putting on the market the results of prolonged metallurgical research. Other women working in a similar capacity are Mrs. Holdsworth, of Halifax, who conducts a Machine Tool business with her husband, and Mrs. Rennie, of Manchester, who is also in the tool business. There are, of course, instances of women solicitors and women builders working in happy co-operation with their husbands.

At the dinner arranged by the Women's Engineering Society at the Lyceum Club last July, when the toast was "to women in other professions" we were interested to learn from Miss Edna Mosley, a typical woman architect of to-day, that while they did not find it too easy to obtain work, there was, however, practically no opposition to them from the men in the profession. Rather unusual professions in which women have made their mark during the year are those of harbour master (Miss Gale), President of Northampton Boot Traders' Association (Miss Slow), Chartered Surveyors (Miss Barclay and Miss Perry), Assistant Examiner to the Estate Duty Office (Miss Hewens), Estate Management (Miss Jeffrey), House Decorators, House Agents, and Quarry Managers. Women continue to make good in connection with accountancy and advertising, industrial welfare, property management, etc.

While the electrical industry is not quick to realize the value of women's services, there is no doubt that with the tremendous advance in the use of electricity in the near future, that many interesting openings will occur. A large number of positions have been filled in the past year but only one is worthy of recording. A large London store for the first time decided to appoint a woman as buyer in their electrical department. The International Conference of Women on Electricity, which was held at the North-East Coast Exhibition in July, showed the enormous advance which women are making in the electrical world in America, which we hope will be an inspiration for our own engineers to follow.

It would be interesting to record here a development which has arisen as a result of requests from a large number of women working in industry and commerce. The need has become apparent with women working in administrative posts on the fringe of industry for some simplified knowledge of engineering. Women factory inspectors, welfare workers, managers of laundries, engineers' secretaries, etc., are feeling that in a world that is becoming more and more controlled by machines, some elementary knowledge of mechanical processes is necessary, in order that they may fully comprehend the work for which they are responsible.

As an experiment, therefore, and largely owing to the inspiration of their President, Lady Moir, the Women's Engineering Society, in co-operation with the Borough Polytechnic, is inaugurating a course of simplified engineering training at the Borough Polytechnic, London, beginning on 7th January, 1930. This is an evening course, and it is hoped that it may supply the knowledge, the lack of which is felt to be a great handicap by many women holding high positions in the industrial and commercial organizations of this country.

WOMEN IN THE AIR.

By MARY BAILEY.¹

On being asked to write on women and flying, I have made enquiries as to the number of women in England who have taken a pilot's licence, and find from the information given me the following results which tend to show that women are certainly taking to the air in very much greater numbers to-day than ever before.

In England in 1911 Mrs. H. B. Hewlett was granted a pilot's licence, the first held by a woman; then Mrs. G. de B. Stocks in the same year, followed by Mrs. W. Buller in 1912. The following list shows the pilots' licences granted to women in England since 1911—

1911	2	1925	1
1912	1	1926	1
1916	1	1927	8
1919	1	1928	9
1920	3	1929	26
1922	1		

If I am to make any remarks on this list I would like at the beginning to say that I don't think I am competent to judge of the actual standard of excellence of the flying of any of these various pilots, and again that there are many on this list that I do not know and have not seen fly at all, so that I can only make mention of a few that I do know, and then it is only my own opinion that I give.

I begin with Mrs. Elliott Lynn, now Lady Heath, who has flown many types of machines and who flew from Pretoria to England in her light aeroplane. She has taken up flying professionally; she took her pilot's certificate in 1925, and has been flying latterly in America. Then follows Miss S. O'Brien, who got her licence in 1926, and who has taken up flying professionally. I took my licence in 1927. Miss Winifred Brown, who got her certificate in 1927, does a lot of flying, and has been helping with aviation propaganda in many parts of England. Miss A. C. Leathart (1927) flies a great deal also, and has started an aviation company at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miss Woodhead won the Yorkshire Club Ladies' Air Race in great style in 1927.

Miss Spooner learnt to fly in 1927, and ever since then seems to have shown capability as a pilot. She has been third in the King's Cup Air Race last year, and fifth in this race this year, flying alone in her machine.

She also went the tour round Europe in the French Challenge de Tourisnie, starting from Paris of this year and arrived at each stopping place either first, second, third, or fourth out of fifty competitors. I don't know if she ever fell below third in

any of them. She has taken up flying professionally, and is now out in Kenya with others flying about spreading the gospel of aviation in those parts of Central East Africa.

Lady Somers took up aviation this last summer, while she was home from Australia, learnt to fly, took her certificate and bought a light aeroplane which she took back with her to Australia.

Miss Slade (1928) flies a good deal, and is Secretary of Heston Air Park, Hounslow.

Necessarily, this is a scant account of a few women fliers here and there. But it may be seen why, when so many are becoming interested in flying and learning to pilot a machine themselves, they must be able to get the necessary training, and also have the chance of taking up aviation as a means of earning a living. The experience necessary for this cannot be learnt in a day, so that I wish there was some category of flying that women pilots could take up professionally if they want to, and which would enable them, as they gained in experience, to take on further work in flying.

Aviation has such a great future that if those who are not of sufficiently high standard of capability were weeded out, there would remain the more capable air pilots for later on, when a very great many will be needed.

[It has always been our policy, in compiling our annual chronicle, boldly to demand contributions from leading protagonists in the spheres under review. But it is a policy which has one drawback. A natural modesty on the part of the writer often leads to what are (from the reader's point of view) regrettable omissions. Here, for instance, we have an admirable review of women's work in aviation in which the very significant exploits of our leading woman aviator are dismissed with the inadequate phrase "I took my licence in 1927."—Ed.]

WOMEN IN LITERATURE.

By MARY AGNES HAMILTON, M.P.

From a literary point of view, 1929 is not, I think, a great year. Its characteristic contribution is the war book—*All Quiet on the Western Front* being not only a best seller, but that rarity, an authentic work of art. To war literature the contribution of women naturally lags behind that of men. When one surveys the general field of fiction, however, a very strong case could be made from the view that a woman, Madame Sigrid Undset, has in the three parts so far available in translation of her great novel, *Olav Andunson's Saga*, made the year's most distinguished contribution. As yet, Sigrid Undset is less read and consequently less appreciated in England than she ought to be; but her fame waits securely for the sanction of time.

In our own fiction no new star has arisen, of either sex. But any survey of the year's novels must give a very high place to Asne Douglas Sedgwick's sensitive study of modern and ancient womanhood in *Dark Hester*; to the fascinating reconstructions of a past epoch represented in *Galaxy*, by Susan Ertz, and *Background for Caroline*, by Helen Ashton—novels oddly alike in substance though delightfully different in treatment; to the psychological insight of *Summer Holiday* by Naomi Royde Smith, and *Petruchio* by G. B. Stern; to the emotional power of *The Fiddler* by Sarah G. Millin and *Cora* by Ruth Sulkow. Opinions as to the success or failure of Rebecca West's *Harriet Hume* vary widely; if, as I opine, a failure, it is certainly a brilliant one. *The Village Doctor*, by Sheila Kaye Smith, is disappointingly thin; on the other hand, *A Virtuous Woman*, by Daphne Muir, which I admire as much as any in this list, has failed to attract the attention it deserves, mainly, I fancy, because of the extreme reticence of its narrative method; behind its quietness I feel immense power, more real power, for example, than in Susan Glaspell's *The Fugitive's Return*, which, like all her books, is amazingly unequal.

In this brief list many novels have been omitted, I know; it is difficult indeed to assess the contribution of women partly because their complete equality in this field is so thoroughly established. If no verse occurs to mind, it is because the year has been singularly barren so far as poetry is concerned. In more "serious" literature women have done notable work in 1929. For instance, there is the admirable selection of *Latin Letters* by Lady Brooke, Virginia Woolf's engaging essay, *A Room of One's Own*, Mrs. Graham Wallas' agreeable excursion into biography, called *Dagnerotypes*, Dr. Stella Churchill's survey of *Public Health Administration*, Miss Mure Mackenzie's scholarly and stimulating *Process of Literature*, and Lady Simon's moving study of *Slavery*.

Ever so many other works of note could be cited, but the few mentioned above at least show that women-writers are more than "pulling their weight."

¹ We warmly congratulate Lady Bailey on her New Year Honour—*Dame of the British Empire*.

WOMEN IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

By VIOLET KELYNACK, M.B., Ch.B.

The year 1929 has witnessed no striking changes in the position of medical women, but the fact that there has been a continuous and steady demand for their services is evidence of their value and status in the community. The end of the long drawn out struggle for public recognition of the principle of equality of both sexes in the medical profession appears to be in sight, for it is but rarely nowadays that any distinction is made between the salaries and conditions of service for appointments which can be held by either men or women. In this respect the Local Authorities have come into line and the chief offenders now are two Government departments, viz. the General Post Office and the Scottish Board of Control, both of which continue to mete out different treatment to their women medical officers, who do exactly the same work as their male colleagues holding similar positions. It is hoped, however, that the Royal Commission on the Civil Service now sitting will take this point among many others into its consideration.

The influence of Dr. Ethel Bentham, J.P., recently elected as a Member of Parliament and the first medical woman to have a seat in the House of Commons, should be of the greatest value when matters affecting directly or indirectly the interests of medical women come up for discussion, as hitherto, although there are various points in which they have been and still are at a disadvantage, they have had no direct voice in Parliament at all.

The Commonwealth of Australia, anxious to organize and develop its Maternity and Child Welfare Services on sound lines, has sought the assistance of the Mother Country, and at the request of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, the Minister of Health has set free for some months Dame Janet Campbell, D.B.E., M.D., its Senior Woman Medical Officer, in order that she might proceed to Australia to give the benefit of her advice and wide experience. Dame Janet left England in July to carry out this important piece of work.

Two hospitals which are entirely staffed by medical women have, during the past year been before the public eye. In the summer, Her Majesty the Queen opened the new extension and out-patient department of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, which for long had been carrying on its work under increasing difficulties as regards accommodation. The new additions, with their up-to-date equipment, will provide facilities for the adequate treatment of the many patients who wish to place themselves under the care of medical women. The Marie Curie Hospital for the investigation and treatment of cancer has this year become an accomplished fact and the house in St. John's Wood, which had been secured, is now occupied. Its accommodation is already proving insufficient to meet the demands and immediate extensions are contemplated. The formal opening is to take place in 1930.

The question of the employment of married medical women continues to crop up from time to time, although the cases of dismissal are now few and far between. One prominent provincial hospital, however, has during the past few months gained notoriety in this respect by requesting the resignation of a member of its honorary staff, a married woman who asked for leave of absence for three months. Ultimately the resolution was withdrawn, but a further one was passed that apart from exceptional circumstances, to be determined by the Board, married women should not be eligible for appointments on the medical staff and that women members of the staff, should upon marriage, resign their appointment. It is strongly felt that marriage should not constitute a bar to the appointment of a woman to any medical post, nor should it be a cause for the termination of her contract, but that her ability to carry out the contract should be the only deciding factor.

In general practice there is undoubtedly a wide scope for medical women, provided a suitable locality is chosen and provided sufficient means are available to enable an adequate appearance to be kept up and to tide over the early years of slow building progress. It is not often that any medical woman, once started under these conditions in general practice, gives it up as unremunerative and hopeless, and if for any reason she decides to fall out of the ranks there are always others ready and eager to step into the vacancy. Many women gain their experience of private practice by preliminary assistantship to others who have established themselves, and it has been of interest to note in this connection the frequency with which medical men have during the past year made application for the services of women either as locum tenentes, assistants or partners. Although recognition of medical women by their male

colleagues has been shown by their election to the Presidency and Secretaryship of branches of the British Medical Association and by their appointment on to the Council and Committees of that and of other professional bodies, and by the conferment upon them the Fellowship and Membership of the Royal College, yet co-education, which is the foundation of professional equality is not yet an accepted principle. The doors of certain London Medical Schools which retrogressed in this respect at the end of 1928, still remain fast closed to medical women, who now must seek an entrance into the Scottish and Provincial Universities unless they are willing to take advantage of the facilities offered by the one London Medical School which deals with women students only, and which had a record entry of 69 at the beginning of the winter session of 1929, or by University College Medical School, which continues to admit a strictly limited number of women students—twelve per year.

The great rush of women, many wholly unsuitable, into the medical profession during the years immediately following the Great War has been stayed, and the unemployment produced as the result of this artificially produced glut is now practically non-existent. Any young woman who has health and strength of mind and body and who realizes the seriousness of the responsibilities she is undertaking and is willing to face up to them and to take her place loyally with her male colleagues, may be sure of finding some niche in which she can honourably, if quietly, carry on her work. Medical work is many-sided and varied, and in the profession there is scope now not only for women to whom general practice appeals, but for those who may wish to specialize in one of its many branches, to devote themselves to research, or to the service of the community either through the channels of the Public Health Services at home or abroad, or of the Missionary Societies in the outlying parts of the British Empire.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

By BEATRICE M. POWELL.

"Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity is a good Catholic slogan. It is the Catholic religion that makes men free, and within the boundaries of the Church, and there only, do equality and fraternity exist." It is a lamentable fact that this great essential truth is often forgotten. This is what I read in a Church of England paper not long ago. The last sentence only expresses the situation at the moment. The others point to an ideal which is yet to materialize.

There seems to be less active opposition than formerly from women themselves to the full admission of women to the ordained ministry of the Church. Women are asking for information. Women's Guilds are requesting that "women in the ministry" shall form the subject-matter of lectures to them. One branch I know of passed a resolution to the effect that sex should no longer be a bar to the ministry of any Church. Women are more inclined to welcome and use the ministry of their fellow women. Men, even clergy, say "it will come in time." All this is to the good—but on the other hand there is a suggestion afoot that laymen should be allowed to help the priest to distribute the Elements to the people—a duty that a deaconess is not permitted to perform, because of her sex. In some churches women and girls have been allowed to take the collection at Matins and Evensong, exactly in the same way as the men and boys do, but only on special occasions. I have heard of one church at least where women act as servers, sing in the choir, and read the lessons. This is exceptional, and while it is true that many more men and women, and even clergy, accept with calmness the idea that the full admission of women to Holy Orders is merely a matter of time and education—they do nothing to further that education or hasten that time. It is now taken as a matter of course that women should address Church Assemblies and Conferences. More women are licensed to speak in church, to take quiet days. More parishes are using the services of women as parish workers, more dioceses are appointing women as Sunday School organizers, and so on; but in spite of this there are not enough women coming forward to be trained for leadership in Church work. Many of us feel that the reason may be that full spiritual equality is not yet accorded to women, and vocation to the ministry is still made a question of sex, and not of spiritual fitness. The group who are preparing a memorandum on this subject to the bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 1930, are going on quietly and thoroughly with their task, and there is nothing more to add to this statement at the moment.

There is, however, a Society in being which all those in sympathy with the principle of the spiritual equality of men and women might like to join, or at any rate to know about. When the Anglican "League of the Church Militant" ceased to function last year, the "Society for the Ministry of Women" rose in its stead. This Society is interdenominational, and came into being because of the conviction which is growing in the minds of men and women—that in the Church of God no distinction should be made between men and women. It presses for the acceptance of this principle, and seeks to educate public opinion, and to draw together for mutual help and greater strength all those calling themselves Christians who are eager to co-operate in bringing about this long-needed reform. A substantial proportion of its Anglican membership once belonged to the late League of the Church Militant. Its Secretary is Miss Ivy Pryke, 1 Catherine Street, London, S.W. 1, who will gladly give any further information.

WOMEN IN THE FREE CHURCHES.

By REV. CONSTANCE M. COLTMAN.

Each year the tide of interest in the ministry of women rises higher. 1929 has witnessed the formation of a new interdenominational Society devoted to the removal of all sex-distinction in the ministry of every branch of the Church of Christ. The President of this new "Society for the Ministry of Women" is Miss A. Maude Royden and its hon. secretary is Miss Ivy Pryke, 1 Catherine Street, S.W. 1. Its membership is open to all persons over 18, calling themselves Christians, and sympathising with its object, who pay an annual subscription of not less than 1s. I hope every reader of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is prepared to spend a shilling annually on the furtherance of the most fundamental issue still facing the Woman's Movement. Then, perhaps, a woman's voice will be heard when next a woman is honoured by a memorial service in the Abbey. The leading Free Church denominations, equally with the Church of England, are represented on the Society's Executive and its membership is growing fast. Already a good many meetings both in London and the provinces, have been arranged under its auspices.

Edinburgh, as well as Westminster Abbey, has recently underlined the need for such a Society. Scottish Church Reunion is now an accomplished fact. The one blot on that great deed was the pusillanimous pronouncement of the Moderator on the question of the recognition of women's services by the Church. That women should serve on certain appropriate standing committees is doubtless "without hurt to honoured features in the life and constitution of the Church"; but, as the Press did not fail to point out, Dr. White is hopelessly behind the times if he fancies that sort of thing will satisfy the claim for full spiritual equality.

Startling by contrast was the bold plea for the Ministry of women, voiced by the Moderator of the United Free (Continuing) Church. Nor did it fall on deaf ears. The Minority Assembly followed up this lead by the revolutionary appointment of a woman as its general secretary and by an overture to Presbyteries to give men and women in full communion equal standing to hold office in the Church. The reverberations of such words and deeds have been felt throughout Scotland. Many Presbyterian women are feeling that this lead from the minority constitutes a reproach and a challenge to the majority. In one particular, a piquant situation may soon develop. The colleges of the United Church are to admit ministerial candidates from the Continuing Church. What is going to happen when one of those candidates is a woman? Let us hope that the right woman will soon present herself.

In Glasgow, the successful ministry of Scotland's first woman minister, Rev. Vera M. M. Findlay, has created lively interest and support far beyond the borders of her own denomination. Since completing her B.D. degree in the spring, Miss Findlay has been in full charge of Partick Congregational Church, and in April she applied for admission to the Scottish Congregational Union. There was some opposition—which greatly helped the cause—for it relied on two main arguments: firstly, that no one wanted women ministers; secondly, that if women ministers were once admitted, there would be such a demand for them, that men, debarred by their natural chivalry from competing with women, would be crowded out of the ministry altogether! The natural result of such mixed thinking was a triumphant

vindication of Miss Findlay's claim and she was admitted with acclamation.

In the autumn, the present writer had the pleasure of speaking, along with Miss Findlay, on the Ministry of Women, at a splendid meeting in Glasgow, organized by the G.S.E.C. and G.W.C.A.; also at another organized by the Falkirk Women Citizens Association. Crowded and sympathetic audiences proved that the field was ripe unto harvest. A magnificent campaign could be carried on in Scotland.

An interesting parallel to the action of the Continuing Church comes from America. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in U.S.A., having recommended the removal from the Form of Government of any form of speech which is inconsistent with the recognition of the complete equality of men and women in the life and work of the Church, has directed that Presbyteries express their approval or disapproval of an overture regarding the election and ordination of women as bishops or pastors and as ruling elders.

Returning to England, the cause of the ministry of women in Wesleyanism has received a check at the last fence. At Conference in July, Dr. Mattby did his best to get the favourable proposals of his committee sent down as provisional legislation for the consideration of the Synods next May. But an amendment to postpone consideration of the matter until after Methodist Union had been effected, was carried by 177 votes to 173. Dr. Ryder Smith retrieved the situation by proposing a further amendment, inviting the other Methodist Churches to join next year in appointing a Joint Committee to consider the whole question of women and the ministry and to report to their conferences in the following year. This was carried by an overwhelming majority, so one can only hope that the Primitives and United Methodists will "ginger up" their Wesleyan brethren.

With regard to the personal doings of women ministers, it may be noted that the annual conference of the Fellowship of Women Ministers was held in London last June.

Miss Findlay has already been mentioned as opening the door of the Scottish Congregational Union to women. At the same date, the first woman minister in South Africa, Rev. (Mrs.) E. W. Mackintosh, M.A., was being ordained at the Central Congregational Church, Johannesburg. Rev. Wilna Constable has accepted the joint pastorate of Auckland Unitarian Church and, with her husband, sailed last May for her pioneer sphere as the first woman minister in New Zealand. Rev. Ethel Kay, of Whitby, has accepted a call to Warwick Unitarian Church in succession to Mrs. Constable. Rev. Rosalind Lee has resigned her Leicester church to become the honorary secretary of the League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women. It is interesting to note that the first president of the recently constituted General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches is a woman, Mrs. Sydney Martineau.

A recently issued pamphlet on "Women Free Church Ministers," by D. M. Northcroft, with preface by A. M. Royden, published by Edgar Dunstan and Co. at 6d. (1d. discount if purchased through women's societies) gives photos and brief biographies of twenty-two women ministers. Anyone interested in the ministry of women would be well advised to procure a copy. It shows that much has been accomplished, but it also brings home how much remains to be done. The most urgent need is that suitable young women, with the right qualities of mind and spirit, should offer themselves as candidates for the ministry. Until they come forward, it is difficult to refute the oft-repeated assertion that it is women themselves who do not want the ministry of women, either to exercise it or to see it exercised by others.

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations

A CONFERENCE

On certain forms of Slavery—Economic, Marital and Domestic—Affecting Women under British administration throughout the Empire will be held in the

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1

on Wednesday Afternoon, 12th February, 1930 . . . 4 to 6 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. OGILVIE GORDON, D.Sc., J.P.

SPEAKERS: THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, D.B.E., M.P.; Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P., M.P.; Miss NINA BOYLE.

Discussion open to Men and Women.

All interested are invited.

WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS.

Contributed by the London and National Society for Women's Service.

There is no cause for despondency over the progress of women in the professions. They are quite definitely making their way, and hopeful signs for the future lie in the fearlessness of the young generation who are coming in to their heritage, and the strength they are gaining from each other by mutual intercourse. Pioneers have opened up the way and a resolute force, conscious of common aims, is following on.

In the political world we have seen the appointment of the first woman Cabinet Minister, while Miss Lawrence, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, has been elected Chairman of the Labour Party. The number of women in Parliament is still very small, but it increases; there are now fourteen women Members.

Five women are sitting on the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, three were appointed on the Royal Commission on Licensing, two on the separate Liquor Commission for Scotland, and one on the Royal Commission to inquire into conditions of labour in India.

In March, Miss Jean Iris Howard was appointed Acting Agent-General in London for Nova Scotia in place of her father. Appointments to the West African Colonial Services (made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies) included a number of women, notably Mrs. J. C. H. Dann, who was appointed Secretary to the Board of Education, Nigeria (Southern Provinces).

In the Civil Service there has been some progress. A woman was successful in the examination for the post of Assistant Examiner in the Patent Office; more women have been appointed as Income Tax Inspectors, and women are now serving as Assistant Income Tax Collectors.

At the beginning of the year the 28 girls who were among the successful candidates in the first examination for the Executive Class held since the war for boys and girls aged 18 to 19, entered upon their new duties; six of them were assigned to the Ministry of Labour, 10 to the Estate Duty Office, six to Customs and Excise, four to Inland Revenue, and two to the Exchequer and Audit Departments. More women were appointed as Executive Officers to the Special Commissioners of Income Tax for the assessment of super-tax and to the Estate Duty Office.

It is interesting to note from the above appointments that, in spite of the fact that women have for so long been popularly supposed to have "no head for figures" the successful women candidates in this Executive Group Examination have been for the most part assigned to work in which ability to deal with figures is essential.

In April four appointments as clerks in the Statistical Branch of the Home Office were filled by women. Miss A. Lawrie, a girl of 23, has been appointed as a lecturer at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square.

In the legal profession women are surely, if slowly, making their way at the Bar. Miss Venetia Stephenson was leading counsel for the defence in a murder case at the Old Bailey last January, and Mr. Justice Humphreys prefaced his summing-up with a tribute to the "learned Counsel for the Defence." Miss M. D. Foster Jeffery, another woman barrister, appeared for the defence in a murder trial at Manchester Assizes in April.

In Education a successful fight was made in Manchester by a number of Councillors on the Education Committee on the question of the appointment of a Deputy Chief Inspector of Education. As a man held the post of Chief Inspector it was generally understood that a woman would be appointed as Deputy Chief Inspector, but the ingenious suggestion was made that the post should be wiped out and the two senior inspectors, a man and a woman with *unequal* salaries, should be appointed instead. It was finally decided that a Deputy Chief Inspector should be appointed at a salary which should be given irrespective of sex.

Professor Winifred Cullis has been elected President of the 18th Annual Conference of Education Associations, which begins on New Year's Day; she has also been appointed Deputy Chairman of Convocation of the University of London. Professor Cullis is the first woman to be appointed to either of these posts.

At Oxford for the third year in succession, the Newdigate Prize has been won by a woman, Miss P. M. Hartnoll, student of St. Hugh's, and Miss Munro has been elected to a Craven Fellowship. At this University also a woman has been elected President of the Junior Scientific Club, receiving 48 votes to the 41 given to her male opponent. Another note of progress was sounded at Oxford when a bequest of £800 to the University for

the purpose of providing a prize to be awarded annually for essay on Church History by a *male* member of the University who was also a member of the Church of England has been refused by Convocation on the score that competition restricted to males was contrary to the policy of the University.

At Cambridge the Allen Scholarship was given to Miss Whitlocke, of Newnham College.

At the meeting of the British Association in Cape Town, nearly forty women read papers in the various sections, conspicuous among them being Miss Caton-Thompson, who described the excavations of the Great Zimbabwe made by an expedition under her leadership last March.

In Art greater recognition has been given this year to the work of women sculptors, a bust by Miss Allan exhibited in this year's Academy having been bought by the Chantry bequest for the Tate Gallery, while Sir Joseph Duveen presented some of Lady Hilton Young's work to the same gallery.

In Literature women are continuing to find a place. The prize of £1,000 offered by Messrs. Jonathan Cape and Messrs. Harper Bros., for the best work submitted to them in a given period, was awarded to a woman journalist, Miss Muriel Harris.

Local Authorities show intermittent signs of an increasing realization that women's work can be useful. More openings have occurred for women house property managers (working on the Octavia Hill System) and the Middlesex County Council have appointed a woman as horticultural instructor.

In business important secretarial posts are usually allotted to men, so it is pleasant to learn that Miss Gladys F. Francis, a Birmingham woman, has been appointed secretary to the National Association of Goldsmiths in London, her competitors for the post being thirty selected men. Previous to this appointment Miss Francis was for thirteen years Secretary of the Birmingham Jewellers' and Silversmiths' Association, and has not only gained an intimate technical knowledge of the trade but has been closely associated with negotiations for promoting trade legislation.

There have also been instances of successful efforts on the part of women to establish themselves in jobs usually regarded as only to be filled by men. Miss Stella Gale (21 years old) having been appointed Harbour Master at Paignton on her qualifications. The persistence of Mrs. Booth, of Worthing, in demanding a hackney carriage licence from the Town Council ultimately met with success. Mrs. Booth was the first woman in the country to take up motor driving as a means of livelihood. A right-minded desire to make herself fit to take a share in responsibilities and dangers connected with her calling was shown by Miss Blanche Tucker (chief cashier in a French restaurant in the White Star Liner *Majestic*), who passed the Board of Trade examination in competency in lifeboat efficiency.

Looking back on 1929 we feel, as we said at the beginning of this article, that there is no cause for despondency; if nothing very startling has happened during the year in any one direction, there have been definite signs of the weakening of opposition and the falling of ancient barriers on the one hand and on the other steady progress everywhere, that sort of progress in fact which is the most healthy sign of growth, i.e. normal development.

WOMEN AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

By CLARA D. RACKHAM, J.P.

The general impression of the past year is one of considerable interest and activity though the actual achievements have been few. A useful measure—the Bastardy (Witness Process) Bill—was introduced by Miss Susan Lawrence last March, and quickly passed into law. It restored to magistrates the power to summon witnesses in affiliation cases—a power which had inadvertently been taken away by the Poor Law Consolidated Act in 1927. A real triumph was Lord Buckmaster's Age of Marriage Bill which became law just before the General Election. It raised the legal age of marriage to 16 for both sexes. A Bill, long awaited and the result of much endeavour—the Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill—passed its second reading in the House of Commons in November, and, it is hoped, will shortly become an Act. It was introduced by Sir John Withers, and will enable magistrates in petty sessions to grant a certificate entitling a poor defendant to the services of a solicitor. Unfortunately the Bill does not include any provision to reduce the very heavy cost of appeals which often puts an appeal out of the reach of a poor prisoner. Before we leave the House of Commons, mention must be made of the Select Committee, consisting of Members

Parliament and including one woman, Dr. Ethel Bentham, which has been appointed to investigate the subject of the abolition of the death penalty.

In considering the Reports of Commissions and Committees, we should not strictly include that on Street Offences as it appeared at the end of 1928. Much discussion upon it has since taken place, and there is great difference of opinion as to the merits of the recommendations. For the most part, those who regard the present solicitation laws as unjust and who pressed for the Committee to be appointed are dissatisfied with the Report. It is to be feared that the dissensions aroused may provide Parliament with an excuse for inaction. This is to be regretted, as some of the proposals, notably the repeal of the special enactments relating to common prostitutes, are of real value.

A Report of great weight and importance was that of the Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure which appeared in March. It is impossible to deal here with the 101 paragraphs in the summary of conclusions and recommendations. Many practical safeguards are proposed against abuses and arbitrary action on the part of the police, especially in regard to the examination of suspects and the taking of voluntary statements. The Commission was quite definite on the subject of women police: "The time is ripe for a substantial increase in the numbers of women police, more particularly in cities for patrol work in uniform."

Another Report which appeared in March was that of the Committee on the Metropolitan Police Courts and Juvenile Courts. It recommended that there should be eight Juvenile Courts in London, with four Presidents chosen from the general body of magistrates; and that the magistrate should sit as at present with two lay justices, one of whom should be a woman. It is understood that steps are already being taken to carry out the recommendations of the Committee, and it is to be hoped that the Juvenile Courts will benefit from the more specialized selection of the magistrates that will preside over them.

An important new venture in the field of probation has been the appearance of a journal entitled *Probation*, published by the National Association of Probation Officers. Two numbers have already appeared. It is to be hoped that this paper will have a wide sale among magistrates and others, and so help in spreading the knowledge of what probation means. What is chiefly needed now is that the standard of the work throughout the country should be brought up to something more nearly approaching that of the best Courts.

An event which may have the most far-reaching results is the opening of the first psychological clinic under the auspices of the Child Guidance Council. The clinic is in North London, and will deal with boys and girls up to the age of 18. It is stated in the memorandum setting forth the methods of the clinic, that "it is desired particularly to point out that questioning and psychiatric examination in the accepted sense of the word will be avoided, the conversation between the psychiatrist and the child being as informal as possible." Cases can be referred to the clinic from any source, and there is no territorial limitation. The clinic will be heartily welcomed by those who feel that a lack of knowledge of the mind and motives of the young offender is a common characteristic of our Juvenile Courts to-day.

The appointment of new women magistrates proceeds slowly. Women have now been appointed to the Commission for every county in England and Wales, but of course a great many of the benches in the Petty Sessional Divisions are still without women. And the same is true of over fifty Borough benches. Women's organizations should continue to press their claim for the appointment of at least one woman on every bench throughout the country.

WOMEN IN THE THEATRE.

By CICELY HAMILTON.

Among the women playwrights whose work has been seen in 1929, a success was scored by Gertrude Jennings whose comedy, *These Pretty Things*, had a satisfactory run. Gertrude Jennings has her own special niche in the English theatre; no one writes humorous dialogue with just the same sense of veracious caricature or sees, just as she does, the humorous drama of the small events of daily life. The play with which Clemence Dane made her name as a dramatist, *A Bill of Divorcement*, was revived in the West End a few months ago, but the regular theatre has, of late, had nothing else from her pen. At one of the experimental theatres, however, there was recently produced her *Gooseberry Fool*, a piece in which she showed herself less serious than is her wont. A hit at the Royalty was G. B. Stern's *The Matriarch*,

a dramatisation by the author herself of her novel, *Tents of Israel*. Much of its long popularity was due to the scope it offered to Mrs. Patrick Campbell in the title part. *The Rising Sun*, which ran for some weeks at the Kingsway, was the work of a Dutch (male) dramatist; but Christopher St. John, who was responsible for the English version, proved, not for the first time, her power of presenting foreign thought and speech in terms of dramatic English.

It may be mentioned here that one of the few newspaper correspondences that roused any interest in the course of the year—the day of real newspaper debate seems over!—was a correspondence centering round the question, "Why can't women write plays?"

As regards acting, this has been a men's year, probably because most of the outstanding plays gave better chances to the actor than the actress. *Journey's End*, the supreme success of the year, has never a woman in its cast; nor is there any woman's part in *Jew Suss* or *The Apple Cart* to compare in importance with the Jew himself, or King Magnus. As mentioned above, *The Matriarch* brought Mrs. Campbell back to London in a character worthy of her art; while, of the younger generation, Angela Baddeley has won general praise for her Lady Teazle. Phyllis Neilson-Terry's West End season was not of long duration, and Sybil Thorndike's reappearance in London, in *Madame Plays Nap*, comes just as this summary goes to press, and therefore too late for more than mention; a fact which is the more regrettable since *Madame Plays Nap* is the work of two women, Brenda Girvin and Monica Cosens. Edith Evans, for the time being, has lapsed from management and shares in the obstinate success of *The Apple Cart*. Women managers, be it noted, are still rare birds; though Lilian Baylis holds steadily on her way, undeterred by the threat of the Old Vic's coming demolition, as a sacrifice to London's improvements. Of this we may be certain; though the "Vic" may go, its activities will continue elsewhere.

[Our contributor does not mention her own delightful musical play "The Fairy Prince," which is at present being produced at the Embassy, close to Swiss Cottage Station. This is in every sense a woman's play; as the music is composed and the orchestra conducted by Kate Coates. It has had an excellent press and our own reviewer, whose article will appear next week, writes enthusiastically about its wit and charm.—E.D.]

WOMEN IN THE HOME.

By H. S. ANTHONY.

Since the great majority of women are occupied in home-making, "the woman in the home," is still the political counterpart of "the man in the street"—intellectually a somewhat mysterious entity, to be courted and feared, especially at election time.

It was therefore significant of the new factor in politics that Mr. Baldwin, in his speech at Drury Lane which opened the Conservative General Election Campaign, referred to the need for further provision of nursery schools. Even if it were only a sop to a large new section of the electorate (the younger mothers), it is a good thing that matters of such importance to the homemaker and the nation should provide planks for party programmes. For our Public Health system still neglects the care of children between infancy and five years of age.

Such questions of maternity and child welfare are supposed to be above party, but there is always danger that where the fighting spirit is absent, the sinews of war may be deficient too. Grave concern has been expressed (notably by the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres) as to the effect of the Local Government Act on the maternity and child welfare services.

It was unfortunate that such a doubtful step had to be taken at a time when the death-rate of mothers and infants at birth remains high and undiminished—of mothers, over 4 deaths per 1,000 live births, of infants stillborn, over 34.

In consequence of the public campaign to improve this state of affairs, a great deal of interest was shown in the Report of the Ministry of Health Committee on the Employment and Training of Midwives, and also in the British Medical Association's scheme for a national maternity service, both of which were published in the early autumn. It now remains to be seen how quickly the financial and administrative difficulties revealed will be allowed to prevent these moderate schemes and recommendations from being put into effect.

With the problem of maternal death is closely associated that of birth control information. In some of the large cities of Germany it has been found that maternal deaths following

abortion exceed those following childbirth. There can be no doubt that our pre-natal loss of life is very great; that much of it is voluntary on the part of the mother, and is most dangerous to her own health. At its Annual Meeting, 1929, the National Council of Women passed for the first time a resolution urging that married women who desired it should be given medical information on birth control at centres under Local Health Authorities.

The necessity of family limitation is felt specially acutely where house-room is short. 1929 has not put an end to the shortage of homes and the overcrowding in many of them. The condition of certain of the London boroughs was vividly presented in the Surveys prepared by Mrs. Barclay and Miss Perry. Mr. E. D. Simon's book on "How to Abolish the Slums" summarized facts, figures, and programmes, and put forward certain concrete proposals. The proposal to subsidize new homes by means of rent-rebates for families with children was of special interest to those women's organizations which support the principle of Family Allowances.

A direct subsidy to homemaking has also been provided for during the year by the Labour Government's Widows' Pensions Act, enlarging the scope of the earlier measure. The maintenance grants promised to needy parents in respect of children remaining at school for the additional year 14-15, are a step in the same direction.

So much, in limited space, for the homemaker as parent. If the tale has been told of subsidy, protection, and care (if inadequate), let us look on another aspect of the picture. The homemaker as consumer, as "the home-market", as expender of the greater part of the national income, has very inadequate defences against the industrial capitalist and the food retailer. During the past year the weakness of the Food Council as a bulwark against "profiteering" has been patent. It has been unable to secure what it stated to be fair prices from either the milk or bread trade, and its revelations of the profits made by butcher's astounded even those who suspected while they suffered.

Among domestic workers themselves there have been some interesting developments. The distress in the mining areas has moved a number of young women to seek domestic service in the south of England (the employing area *par excellence*), and this migration has emphasized the fact that "service" is a skilled occupation. The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment has opened Home Training Centres in the distressed areas, and a residential centre at Leamington.

Most domestic workers, however, are not employer or employed, but owner-homemakers. Among these, in rural districts, the Women's Institutes continue to expand their work, in small towns the Townswomen's Guilds (under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) give promise of a similar focus for homemakers' interests—social, political, educational, professional. A centralized organization, developed during the year on a basis of individual membership, is the Household Service League of the National Council of Women, which plans to hold conferences of employers and employed, with a view to fixing recognized standards of conditions of work.

The field is still a great deal larger than the labourers in it, and as for the social and political harvest—is it not probable that just as the dominant political force in the eighteenth century was the landowner, in the nineteenth the industrialist and trader, so in the twentieth it will be the homemaker?

The past year has witnessed several interesting developments, movement of thought and positive achievements which affect in one way or another the welfare of workers in the domestic industry.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER."

We hope it is not unduly vaunting on our part to believe that the future historian of the woman's movement, not yet born, searching through faded and forgotten files of periodicals and dusty volumes, will find in our own modest file for 1929 material of real utility value. She will read with curiosity our articles before and after the first general election in which women took an equal part with men. The letters to a new voter, the articles on the organization of a non-party campaign, the confessions of faith of newly enfranchised young women of each of the three political parties, perhaps above all Lord Cecil's advice to the voter of 1929, will give her, we believe, insight into twentieth century politics as viewed by her grandmother which endless research into contemporary literature might well fail to give. The thumb-nail sketches of sixty-nine women of such varying

types, from Lord Mayor to domestic servant, will present to vivid historian's imagination a miniature portrait gallery of women of the first half of the twentieth century and the lives they lived, which she will not find easily elsewhere. When she turns to our records of the changes in local government she will marvel at the tolerance of our generation in submitting to imperfect electoral methods which made it so difficult for well-qualified women or for experienced workers of either sex who cared more for their job than for Party to take part in local administration.

Certainly, so far as political events are concerned, the Equal Franchise General Election and the sweeping reforms of the Local Government Act have occupied the greater part of our space. When the election was over we were fortunate enough to secure Cross-Bench, a new Member of Parliament, as successor to Green-Bench, whose Parliamentary sketches were so greatly appreciated. We have not, however, wholly lost Green-Bench as, in spite of many claims on his time, he has promised to contribute occasional articles. Our other regular contributors remain the same, we are glad to be able to state; for our running commentaries on Parliament, Local Government, and the Administration of Justice have always been a special feature of our pages. Among other articles of the year, three by Miss Nina Boyle in September dealing with domestic slavery stand out as a call to enfranchised women, and it will be seen from our advertisement columns that she has not called in vain.

But a year that was full of political change both to the contemporary reader and to the curious historian of the future, held in it for us as for the whole women's movement in this country, an irreparable loss in the death of Dame Millicent Fawcett. Her death brought to a close an association with this paper that extended over twenty years. For even after she ceased to be Chairman of its Board of Directors, she remained to the last its most faithful friend and constant contributor. The news that an article ready for our columns was found on her desk after her death came to the editors, engaged on the sad task of a memorial number, as a personal message of comfort.¹ At a time when India is in the forefront of public interest it is significant of the breadth of Dame Millicent's mind that her last article dealt sympathetically with the aspirations of the women of India. Special numbers with appreciations from those who knew her best appeared at the time of her death and on the occasion of the Westminster Abbey memorial service on 19th November a double number with reproductions of the portrait by Lionel Ellis and of characteristic photographs.

We cannot close our brief annual editorial survey without thanks to the body of regular and occasional contributors who make our task a surprisingly easy one and to whose contributions any success which the paper reaches in the pursuit of its main purpose is due. We thank too our generous guarantors and kind friends who have made our renewed existence possible and easier. But we would once again end on a note of appeal. While gratified that the increase of price has only deprived us of a handful of subscribers it is impossible to be wholly satisfied until our list of regular subscribers is greatly increased. Comparison with the lists of other weekly papers is encouraging to our own amour-propre, if not to our opinion of public intelligence; many especially those which do not make a popular appeal, reach comparatively small circles. The rank and file demand pictures, chatty "pars", sensations, competitions, and stunts of all sorts which we are neither able nor willing to provide. But we refuse to believe that there are not scattered in this country and overseas many women with serious interest in public affairs whom we do not reach at present, and who would welcome an introduction to our columns. Once again we ask our readers to act as our agents in an effort to considerably add to our subscription list during the coming year.

OBITUARY, 1929.

One is tempted at times to believe that blind fate opens one eye for one brief moment, apprehends a significant trend of human destiny, and thereafter gives our affairs a slight twist into harmony with some sense of dramatic fitness. One can conceive of her admonition, after just such a lucid instant, to the most vehement and headlong of her minions:—"Death, be careful and discriminate for once in a way. The final victory of woman's suffrage is staged for 1928. Do not therefore drag veteran suffragists from the theatre before the curtain falls. Postpone that particular harvest until 1929." Can it be in response to some such ordering that our obituary column for 1929 contains so many familiar feminist names?

¹ *A Woman in India*, by Millicent G. Fawcett, 16th August, 1929.

Supreme among them all, the leader and inspiration of their company as they pass to their new adventure, is *Dame Millicent Fawcett* who, with a final gesture of greeting and cheer to the first woman Cabinet Minister, disappeared from amongst us on 18th July. Her going left a strange emptiness. The confined presence and inspiration of *Dame Millicent* were so familiar a feature of the woman's movement that life and activity seemed curiously savourless without her. But that was a transitory feeling. Her physical presence left its empty gap; but with the memory of her courage, her jokes, her common sense, and her unquenchable adventurousness, her inspiration came back to stay with us. The woman's movement, called upon to bear the greatest personal loss of its long history, knew that it had no right whatever to complain. At the age of 82 with all her works fulfilled it was excellent that she should be spared a slow decline of physical and mental force. Thus we remember her to the last as we remember her from the first: wise, witty, and alert.

Holland, too, suffered a comparable loss: for with the death of *Dr. Aletta Jacobs* in September (not very many weeks after her return from the International Women's Congress in Berlin, the Dutch women lost *their* *Dame Millicent*.

To London suffragists, the name of *Mary Lowndes*, who died in March, will remain for ever linked in memory with the rampant days of their campaigning. Stewarding, speaking, organizing, writing, moving hither and thither, always very rapidly and often against hard onslaughts of bronchitis, *Miss Lowndes* was one of the people with whom it was a personal joy to work. But two London workers of an earlier generation were like her, allowed to see the last act of their movement played to a finish. *Mrs. Pennington* died in May, in time to receive an obituary in these columns written by her old friend *Dame Millicent*. And another very old lady, *Mrs. H. B. Taylor*, friend and fellow-worker of *Lydia Becker* and *Josephine Butler*, died in February.

In the branches of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, comparable losses are chronicled. *Mrs. Buchanan* of Glasgow, following the doings of our present generation to the end, died in February at the age of 89. Another *Mrs. Buchanan*, Carlisle's first woman councillor and former president of its suffrage society, died on 5th June. On 1st January Bath lost *Mrs. Blackstone*, former honorary secretary of its suffrage society and god-parent of all good causes. And Liverpool, on 20th January, lost *Mrs. Allan Bright*, who founded its suffrage society and its National Council of Women, and played later a national part in both these organizations.

Outside the immediate ranks of the suffrage movement yet closely associated with its ideals and activities, we chronicled in January the passing of *Dr. Alice Vickery*, who stood boldly for an unpopular cause in 1876 when *Mrs. Bradlaugh* and *Mrs. Besant* stood on trial, and helped afterwards to found the Malthusian League. She lived, however, long enough to see her cause marching irresistibly forward under the light of open discussion and clothed with the mantle of respectability. In February *Mrs. Carmichael Stopes*, a redoubtable suffragist as well as a very eminent Shakespearian scholar, brought her long illness to an end. In March, *Lady Courtney of Penwith* left the international scene which had focussed her hopes and efforts for so long. One wishes that she had been allowed a few more months in which to see the acceptance by Great Britain of the Optional Clause and the allied evacuation of the Rhineland. In April *Mrs. Flora Annie Steel* died in the full vigour of her early 'eighties, leaving behind her an autobiography almost completed, chronicling the fascinating adventure of her life in two hemispheres as Indian educationalist and author. In June the Mothers' Union lost one of the finest and wisest of its leaders: *Mrs. John Clay*.

During the summer two very eminent *Mrs. Greens* departed. *Mrs. J. R. Green*, historian and senator died on 7th June. She was the best kind of patriot. She loved Ireland so greatly, that at the low ebb of its fortune after Easter 1916, she went to live there and devoted herself thenceforth to its turbulent politics. On 13th September Oxford lost its best-loved citizen, *Mrs. T. H. Green*, to whom all Oxfordians turned instinctively for help and sympathy in any humane or progressive cause. The degree which Oxford University conferred upon her after opening its doors to women, was a small fitting tribute to her pioneer work for women's education. Her singular physical beauty in old age was a perfect reflection of her singular beauty of character.

It is a sadder task to chronicle the deaths of women cut off in the middle, or at the outset, of valuable careers. On 16th August *Miss Florence Beaumont* died. She was in the thick of her work for the advancement of women—vital, able, selfless, and indefatigably energetic. At least four active women's

organizations will be the poorer for her sudden withdrawal. It is satisfactory that she should have seen the triumph of equal franchise which had focussed the best of her energies for so long. But she should have lived to see so much more! *Miss Edyth Goodall*, who died in July, had still big parts to play on the stage from which she was so fortuitously withdrawn. She was, if not a great actress, an accomplished and forceful one. And *Mrs. Dighton Pollock* who died on 4th June, left vital work for our overpressed and inarticulate generation of working mothers still undone. She was only 36 years old, and all her works were full of promise.

We choose to think of this fine company crossing the stream by the same boat as *Dame Millicent Fawcett*, and thus enlivened by the spirit of expectant merry adventure with which she will surely greet whatever may befall on the opposite shore.

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COMING EVENTS.

FABIAN SOCIETY WOMEN'S GROUP.

14th January, 8 p.m. Cannon Hall, S.W. 1. Miss Carol Morrison - Property, Income, and Inheritance. Chair: Miss Elizabeth Hakland.

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM.

19th January, 1 p.m. Lhacheon, Finch's, Wardour Street, F. Park, Esq. (member of Royal Commission on Police Powers). "The Police and the Public."

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.
19th January, 8 p.m. Prof. H. A. Smith (High Commissioner). "Canada."

14th January, 7.30-9.30. "India in the Making" (first of series on Tuesday evenings). By Philip Cox, B.A., B.L. Fees for course of 12 lectures 3s.; College entrance fee 2s. 6d.

14th January and subsequent Tuesdays, 2.30-4 p.m. "Child Psychology," course of lectures by Mrs. Susan Isaacs, M.A. (chairman, Education Section, British Psychological Society).

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Barnsley W.C.A.—28th January, 5.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Room. Mrs. E. M. White. "First Things First."

Hagley W.C.A.—15th January, 8 p.m. Ring of Bells. Miss Wa-Russia.

East Grinstead Townswomen's Guild.—9th January, 3 p.m. Arts Hall. Mrs. Ryland. "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

Petersfield W.C.A.—28th January, 7.30 p.m. Tea Shop. Ann General Meeting.

Preston W.C.A.—30th January, 7.30 p.m. Remmon in St. John's Ambulance Hall.

REQUIEM MASS IN MEMORY OF MISS FLORENCE BEAUMONT.

9th January, 11 a.m. At St. Paul's Church, Vicarage Gate, W. All fellow workers in the Woman's Movement invited. No mourning.

WOMEN SANITARY INSPECTORS' AND HEALTH VISITORS' ASSOCIATION.

To 10th January, Winter School, Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

8th January, 7.45 p.m. Bedford College. Debate, "That Sterilization of the Unfit is Unjustifiable." For: Dr. Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., D.P.H. Against: Dr. C. Blacker (Eugenics Society).

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