

## Feminine Views on State Problems.

### A NOTABLE CONFERENCE.

LONDON, February 3.

Prior to the opening of Parliament, the Labour Party is holding its annual conference, and, as Labour has always extended to women full recognition, the Women's Labour League assembled at the same time in Leicester as did their lords and masters!

The Women's Labour League is a somewhat new body. It is, in fact, the creation of Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald (who will be well remembered as visiting New Zealand with her eminent husband) and was definitely formed some few years ago to emphasise, more than the women members of the Independent Labour party could while unorganised, the importance of the work. Also, it set definite aims before the women in the labour party in the work they could properly undertake.

This year, for instance, they have discussed the Peace question, and Restriction of Armaments, the effect of the Osborne Judgment, the proceedings of the Royal Commission on Divorce, the work of Labour Exchanges, the Suffrage adult v. Women's Co-operative Housekeeping and School Clinics.

Under these heads women assembled in their own parlour were able to analyse the present position, and clear the way for decision on a line of action to be taken by the Women's Labour party. For this body is not merely deliberative, but is a fighting organisation, giving much time and energy to helping Labour candidates in obtaining constituencies. Hence their discussion of the Osborne Judgment in all its bearings as to how it would affect their work in keeping up the party's strength in St. Stephen's.

### THE FRANCHISE.

to, enters into this domain of its activities, for it must be decided whether the Women's Labour League should be a whole-hearted supporter of Adult Suffrage for both sexes, or be content with small mercies, and decide momentarily

to give its support to the vote as it is or may be granted to men. On this question Dr. Marion Phillips, an Australian scholar of some eminence, defended the Adult Suffrage resolution in an able speech. She said the discussion on the Conciliation Bill in the House of Commons had convinced her that the old suffrage policy was out of date. When Mr. Lloyd George excused his antagonism to the Bill on the ground that it was undemocratic, it was time the Labour women, at any rate, went a step further in their demands.

Dr. Eicht Bentham, a prominent doctor spoke in the same strain. She said she would have voted for the amendment a year ago, but the course of events had demonstrated the futility of working for anything less than adult suffrage. On the subject of

### CO-OPERATIVE HOUSEKEEPING

a member pointed out how small holders had come to realise the value of co-operative effort in their common needs, and she urged that women in the home should follow their example, citing cases where the experiment had been tried, and attended with great success. A Miss Price suggested that co-operative laundry work would be particularly valuable. A resolution in favour of co-operative housekeeping was adopted.

Sister Kerrison and Dr. Eicht Bentham emphasised the importance of the proper provision for child birth in bringing forward a motion before the Labour Party to introduce a bill providing free meals to expectant mothers and free medical attendance, under the Public Health Authority, of a fully qualified doctor, for all women at the time of child birth. Both related sad incidents of unnecessary suffering and deformity caused by neglect of women at this time. After a moving appeal by another speaker the resolution was passed with unanimity. On the question of

### DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE

Sister Kerrison's words are worth quoting. "We feel very strongly the injustice and inequality from which our own

sex suffers," she said. "The husband can obtain divorce by proving his wife unfaithful, the woman must prove a physical cruelty, however unfaithful her seem to realise that there is a cruelty worse than physical pain. We believe in the sanctity of the marriage state; it is because of that we ask a quality for poor and rich, for woman and man." Besides making this demand for equality, Sister Kerrison's resolution advocated the removal of matrimonial cases from the police court, and the setting up of machinery providing for the payment of maintenance orders through an officer of the court, who should be responsible for its collection in case of default.

The Executive also moved a resolution which was passed unanimously in favour of women sitting on juries.

Other subjects dealt with included school clinics, the State provision of higher education for all classes the erection of public wash-houses, the establishment of municipal lodginghouses for women, national care of the feeble-minded, and the State maintenance of necessitous widows apart from Poor Law relief. And thus ended the most successful conference yet held by the Women's Labour League.

"On every hand," the president said in her opening speech, "women are awakening to their responsibilities and opportunities. From the old and oft-repeated truth that woman's place is the home, women are learning through their work in the League that it is not only desirable but possible for every woman to have a home worthy of the name."

### A MATRIMONIAL SCHOOL.

Is the latest experiment in education, and according to advice from America in the St. Louis district of the United States, at any rate, much of the magic and mystery, and most of the innumerable inconsistencies of love and marriage, will be reduced to cold, logical, Q.E.D. form. After this, there will no longer be any excuse for an amusing marriage—or for a tragic one, for that matter.

The whole thing is being tackled in a most business-like spirit. A matri-

## PILES FOR TEN YEARS.

### OBSTINATE COMPLAINT ENDED BY ZAM-BUK.

Piles, whether blind, bleeding, or itching, quickly yield to the magic powers of Zam-Buk. Mr. John Playe, goods shed foreman, railway station, Wangaratta, Vic., says: "For ten years I was a victim to most obstinate piles. I endured awful pain during this time, and became broken down in health. I tried all the so-called remedies I could get hold of, but did not derive any relief whatever. I was treated by many doctors, but my complaint was of such an obstinate character that I could not get any ease whatever. I read of some striking Zam-Buk cures, which impressed me very much, and I then commenced using Zam-Buk myself. This grand balm had a wonderful soothing effect, eased the pain, and subdued all inflammation. Within one month after commencing to use Zam-Buk I was thoroughly cured of a most troublesome complaint after suffering so many years."

"During my work in the goods sheds I often sustain nasty cuts and bruises, but am pleased to say that I have found Zam-Buk a most reliable healing balm for accidents of this description."

Sold by all chemists and stores.

monial school is being publicly formed, and psychologists, lecturers, scientists, physicians, and ministers have been engaged as a faculty, and will deliver regular weekly lectures to classes of young people who are contemplating, or who have already crossed the Rubicon of matrimony.

"You don't mean to tell me that you're going to wear a mixture of red, brown, and yellow puffs?" "For one evening only," replied the bride. "I had these made from the various locks of hair that my husband had on hand when I married him. The original donors will all be at the ball to-night."

adopted it worked like a charm. No fuss, no waiting, no spilling. No. Believe me, my dear, we are on the eve of a revolution in these matters of housekeeping. People are being driven to restaurants to dine because of the difficulties of dining at home. But when the Associated Housekeepers get to work, when the Domestic Service, Limited, begins its operations in London and the provinces, everyone can enjoy the comforts of home in the bosom of their family for a fixed rate, like water, gas, or electricity. A housekeeper will no more think of cooking the family dinner than of baking her own bread or brewing her own beer. You will, even for breakfast, telephone to the local bureau for what you want, and at the appointed hour the long conveyer containing it is delivered with everything hot and appetizing at your door. The lid of the breakfast cabinet is uncovered, and it is placed directly on to your table. An hour later the van calls, the cover is replaced, and away it goes to the bureau again. The linen and service are your own, are insured, and are never mixed with any others. Every cabinet will be properly labelled, and will be duly dispatched to the washing and cleaning department."

"A wonderful dream, truly," murmured the housewife.

"Yes, but a dream some such genius as Joseph Lyons will realise before we are all very much older. Science can't go on very much longer improving gramophones, cinematographs, and airships, and leave the problem of running a house to look after itself. It'll soon be easier, my dear, to run a house than it is to run a motor-car."

"And what is to become of all the domestic servants?"

"A million or so will fill the places vacated by the Suffragettes, who will be governing the country and fighting in the army. And the other half can emigrate to the colonies, where they are in urgent need of a million women at once as wives and mothers. You can't stop science when once it's started."

"I suppose not. In the meantime I must go and make tea. This is Imogen's afternoon off, and Kathleen is in bed with a sprained ankle, so we are already enjoying the luxury of a 'servantless house.'"



THE SOCIETY PASSPORT.

(Mrs. Asquith says extravagance is a passport into Society.—Daily Paper.)

Footman: "You have the wrong ticket, madam. That one is out of date nowadays."