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# "THE MONOPOLY MENACE"

NEW PAPER by the Rt. Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

As Secretary to the Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Union, Mr. Alexander is in constant touch with attempts to develop monopoly through the legislature. His work in the public interest on this topic, both in the "House" and on the platform, is widely appreciated. He is therefore pre-eminently fitted to write the paper that has now been issued by the Co-operative Union to be read at a series of Trades and Business Conferences. Mr. Alexander's paper is entitled:

"The Monopoly Menace," and the first to deal exclusively with those problems which face the co-operative movement in its capacity of an alternative to capitalism.

**POST-WAR DEVELOPMENTS.**  
The first few pages are devoted to a brief explanation of the economic forces which account for much of the legislation of post-war years. The war accelerated the displacement of labour by machinery. Belligerents were compelled to increase their productive capacity for war purposes. Non-belligerents were unable to satisfy their requirements through ordinary trade channels, and consequently set out to satisfy them themselves. The close of the war found the world's productive capacity greatly increased.

The peace treaties rearranged territories, imposed reparations, restricted purchasing power, and drove nation after nation to follow a course aimed at becoming self-sufficient in production, and to support this with artificial restrictions on trade by means of tariffs and quotas. In fact, generally to pursue a policy which has come to be termed "economic nationalism." There was consequently further dislocation of markets, a breakdown of world exchange, and a huge displacement of labour.

**RESTRICTING SUPPLIES.**  
Under these circumstances rationalisation and restriction were inevitable corollaries of private enterprise. The supply of goods was so great that prices fell to non-profitable levels. Amalgamation, restriction, and price-fixing agreements were the means of restoring equilibrium and of maintaining the profit-making system.

In the succeeding pages the precise forms which agreements and legislation of this character have taken are carefully collected, grouped under the industry to which they belong, and explained in comparative detail. This, the major portion of the pamphlet,

contains a wealth of information which co-operative advocates will be grateful to find in so handy a form.

When presented in this manner the evidence demanding co-operative vigilance and united action is overwhelming. Transport, power, coal, iron and steel, textiles, agriculture, flour and bread receive separate attention, and the tendency towards monopoly control is clear. The conflicting aims of co-operation and capitalism stand out in bold relief, and the increasingly important part played by Parliament becomes self-evident.

**STABILISING PROFIT-MAKING.**  
Governments sympathetic to the interests of private enterprise, acting on the premise that the existing basis of society is permanent, have facilitated and encouraged reorganisation having as its object the stabilisation of profit-making industry. Further legislation of this nature is in course of preparation. Reorganisation on a restrictive basis is passing from production to distribution. "We have a very recent example," writes Mr. Alexander, "in the establishment of a National Council for the Disposition of the Dead by the proposal that a Bill should be submitted to Parliament which would incorporate funeral undertakers as professional persons with strict rules as to their conduct and trade practice." By Bills of this nature a whole trade might be virtually closed to the co-operative movement. In fact, in instances mentioned, this has already happened.

**UNITED CO-OPERATIVE ACTION.**  
It is in the light of this experience that Mr. Alexander makes his plea for united co-operative action. "I think," he writes, "in view of the facts set out in this paper, that our movement can be no doubt that our movement is entering one of the most vital and one of the most dangerous periods in its long history."

"It is essential that the executives on the business side of our organisations, national and local, should make up their minds that the collective security of co-operation cannot be maintained by divided forces. . . . In order to combat successfully the growing tendency of legislation to retard, and, indeed, to limit the expansion of co-operation, it is necessary that the fullest possible information of a trade and technical character should always be available in respect of any case the

movement is submitting to the authorities. . . . Every citizen in the movement should now recognise that the political fight for the next few years will largely range around whether collectivism in industry and commerce is to be based upon ownership by, and service to the common people, or is to be based upon the Corporate State, with an ever-expanding system of incorporated industry for private profit."

It is on a challenging note that the paper concludes.

## HUNGER IN THE SCHOOLS.

### POVERTY IN DISTRESSED AREAS.

HORRIFYING accounts of the effects of poverty and prolonged unemployment on young children in the schools were given at the National Federation of Class Teachers' Conference held at Nottingham on September 26th.

Mrs. G. R. Evans (Rhondda) said that teachers had become so accustomed to the low physical condition of the children in their areas that it no longer seemed strange to them. She described cases, discovered by her in a tour of inspection in Cumberland, of children who were given eggs, but who did not know how to eat them because they had never had them before.

In Burnside, children in certain schools had refused butter, and bananas because they were not used to them and did not know if they would like them. Four millions of the population, Mrs. Evans reminded her audience, did not get enough energy-producing foods. If children were to get the best results from teaching they must be in a suitable physical condition to take advantage of it. She had been appalled at the low physical condition of children in many parts of the country.

### THE UNEMPLOYED HOME: FATHERS WHO HAD NEVER WORKED.

At the same conference, Mr. C. S. Evans, also of Rhondda, described the effects of prolonged unemployment in

his area. He said that in Rhondda unemployment was so rife that many of the children were unable to remember their fathers ever having worked and were quite unable to tell him what their fathers' occupation was. In his class he had never known less than 50 per cent. of the fathers to be unemployed. Only on Fridays did many of the children get any breakfast at all, and that was because their fathers drew the dole on Thursdays.

The retiring president, Mr. H. Colgrave (Manchester), urged that teachers should show more interest in the root causes of poverty. "You can't teach children with empty stomachs," he said.

A resolution was passed expressing grave concern at the plight of the distressed areas and urging immediate assistance from national sources, so that education and other social services would not be further impaired or prevented from expanding from lack of means. The resolution also expressed the opinion that until children were adequately nourished, they could not take full advantage of the education provided.

### THE SCANDAL OF THE LARGE CLASS.

Malnutrition is not the only cause of low standards of education. In the course of a discussion on large classes, it was stated at the conference that 74 per cent. of the classes had over thirty children.

The conference passed a resolution calling on the Board of Education to limit the number on the roll to thirty.

Right Hon.

Hillsborough Parliamentary Division.

# A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

will address a PUBLIC MEETING in the

WYCLIFFE HALL (Channing Street), Langsett Road, at 8 p. m. on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9th,

who will speak on

supported by

## Aid. W. DOBBIE, M.P., "The Situation In Spain."

(Note: Mr. Dobbie was a member of the Committee investigating the position in Spain on behalf of the British Labour Movement.)

## THE PLACE OF BIRTH CONTROL IN MARRIAGE.

A SURVEY OF THE WORK DONE BY THE SHEFFIELD WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINIC.

BY HILDA G. CUNNINGTON.

MARRIAGE is an adventure upon which everyone starts with the highest hopes, but too often it is found that love without sound knowledge of what the relationship implies, leads to mistakes and fears that darken the lives of countless couples.

Taking for granted, for the purpose of this article, that the essence of marriage is deep friendship, and a union of mind and soul, it is the physical aspect with which we are concerned here. This has long been wrapped in secretiveness and mystery. One wonders why, when the results of ignorance are so often misery and suffering.

Physical knowledge includes knowledge of sex, and since this is a natural instinct in all healthy beings, it cannot be ignored.

Combined with love in marriage the sexual function has two distinctly different purposes. One is for the continuation of the race, and the other is for the necessary and physical expression of love, resulting in mutual peace and serenity.

How can these two different purposes be reconciled in the formation of that ideal unit, a happy family? Leading doctors and psychologists think that it can only be done by the application of the modern, humanitarian science of birth control, or contraception.

Two families shall be considered, that have their counterpart in every town.

The Greens married in love without knowledge, and had a small but regular income. A baby came in the first year, and another was born in fourteen months. In ten years there were eight children, with no essential rest or peace for any of the family. The income proved quite insufficient to provide the necessities to which every child has a right. The mother was worn out early in the struggle. The children, constitutionally weak, are dependent on outside care. This, with the best will in the world, cannot remake a frail and under-nourished body.

Considers now the Browns, a family with a similar income. The man and woman here had given frank and open consideration to the problems that were going to face them. They decided that parenthood must be a matter of choice, not chance. They realised, too, that as affection makes an enormous difference to a child, this could not be given when so many infants were dependent on a busy housewife.

What is now the result? This family has the number of children compatible with the father's earnings, and the mother's ability to manage.

This is where I would like to draw your attention to the Sheffield Women's Welfare Clinic, for it is towards the achievement of families such as this that the clinic works.

### SHEFFIELD WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINIC.

It was opened in 1933 when concern was felt that continued unemployment placed great strain on family resources. In Sheffield, moreover, the figures for maternal mortality were abnormally high, while the alarming number of patients admitted to hospitals as a result of attempted abortion showed that many women were taking drastic steps to avoid bringing another child into a home that could not receive it gladly.

Suitable premises were found at Attercliffe Vestry Hall, and here appreciation must be recorded of the consideration shown by the local authority. Subscriptions enabled the necessary equipment to be bought, and a specially-qualified woman doctor and nurse were engaged.

Since then this voluntary clinic has been open each Tuesday (except in August and Bank Holiday weeks) between the hours of 6-30 and 8 p.m., and on the first Tuesday in each month it has been necessary to have an afternoon session as well.

With a band of sympathetic helpers to receive the patients and do the secre-

tarial work, doctor and nurse have examined and advised many hundreds of patients, who come from an increasingly large area, from Barnsley, Doncaster, and country districts. Many are sent by local doctors and the hospitals. We are grateful for this medical co-operation.

Several groups of patients can be mentioned. The first consists of women who, for one or two children who, for economic reasons, must limit their families. The husband is out of work—the house too small (one girl shares her bed with four younger children) or the family is in lodgings.

In the second group are women who have had five to eighteen pregnancies. One of these women, the wife of an habitual drunkard, came to the clinic suffering from abscesses in the head, amongst other things, and had given birth to nine children in twelve years. Most of these had been too weakly to survive the first year.

The third group is made up of women who ask for advice on medical grounds, having disease of the heart, kidneys, &c. Many of them have been told by doctors not to have any more children, but have been left without the necessary instruction. In several cases the husbands are tubercular, or the victims of poison gas and war wounds. There are some cases of husbands with neurasthenia, or subject to fits of insanity.

The fourth group is more cheerful. These patients visited the clinic for advice until they felt the time suitable for them to start a family.

In the fifth group women appear who complain that after several years of married life they have not yet had a child. They wonder if we can do anything for them. Sometimes a different technique has been recommended, and in other cases a slight operation has been advised. We have shared the parents' delight when, later, they have told us that the child they wanted has come.

The words of the patients themselves testify that the hopes of the clinic workers are being justified. "I was always frightened to death, but now my husband thinks it is too good to be true. We have not been so happy for years."

"Since I came to the clinic my life has been quite different."

"I only just came in time. My husband and I were growing further and further apart."

A visitor to the clinic asked about the children whose photographs hung on the wall. She was surprised to learn that the clinic staff believed in children, and averaged two-and-a-half each at that time. Yes indeed, fewer, better babies, in healthier, happier homes, is our ideal.

A consultation fee of one shilling per patient is charged. This source of income by no means meets the expenses of the clinic, and you who must approve of this work are asked to send a subscription, however small, in stamps, postal orders, or cheques, to the honorary treasurer, at "Ashdell Grove," Westbourne-road, Sheffield, 10, in order that this work of the greatest public importance may continue.

Further information and literature may be obtained from the clinic at Attercliffe Vestry Hall. A large public meeting is being held in the City (Memorial) Hall on November 30th, at 7-45 p.m.

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Style, Quality, Comfort,  
WEAR

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Made by Co-operators for Co-operators.  
ASK FOR THEM AT YOUR STORE.

Made by Selector Self-Help Co-operative Shoe Manufacturers Ltd., Gifford Road, Leicester.

THINGS THAT CONCERN US ALL

## FOR YOUR OWN SAKE!

Co-operation is a word much in the minds and mouths of the present generation.

Frequently it misleads and caused misunderstanding. The finest example of genuine co-operation is to be found in the very movement of which you yourself are probably a member. In the Co-operative Movement is practical idealism; here is the very essence of the true meaning of the word. To manufacture goods of honest value, to pay fair wages, to maintain a proper balance of work and hours, to strive for the common weal—these are the objects of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, or C.W.S., as it is called for short.

Your local co-operative society is helping to keep this great organisation going. You, if a member, have capital invested in your local "Stores." Thus you are part of this vast co-operative scheme which exists solely to supply your needs—which can only exist with your practical help.

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The C.W.S. supplies the needs of life to Co-operative Societies for their members

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The talent of artists, the different kinds of programmes from home and abroad, demand a set of the finest quality, selectivity, and tone. Such a set is the new C.W.S. "DEFIANT." Models are supplied for all purposes—battery, mains, or radiograms, each housed in a distinctive cabinet, and the finest value obtainable.

In our newly acquired premises—opposite "The Arcade" in Ecclesall Road—you can see and hear all the latest models of

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## "DEFIANT" RADIO RECEIVERS

"The Set with Dividend"

WHY NOT CALL TO-DAY?

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**SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL  
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.**



MODEL 910. Five-valve (including rectifier) A.G. Main Superheterodyne, with Automatic Volume Control, High-quality cabinet, £11-19-6 work in Walnut finish.

**THE GREATEST ENEMY OF MANKIND.**

Fascism has again been revealed by the Spanish struggle as the greatest enemy of mankind. The rebellion has emphasised once more the grave dangers arising from the spread of Fascist doctrines, and the practice of its dreadful tyranny. It is much more than a reactionary movement in politics. It has destroyed, wherever it has become dominant, all forms of Parliamentary government, democratic party organisations, free elections, and free discussion of public questions. It has asserted the complete dictatorship of capital over the wage-earning class. It has wiped out the independent legally constituted trade unions which were the wage-earners' defence against such dictatorship. It has promoted in many countries social disorder, race persecution, defiance of law, brutal violence at public meetings, incitements to class hatred by corrupt newspapers. By its arrogant and bullying diplomacy, and its contempt for the sanctity of treaties, it has forced the peace-seeking treaty-keeping alliances to defensive military alliances and rapid disarmament. Fascism em-

plloys every agency of propaganda to glorify war. The Fascist ruled peoples are conscript peoples. Against Fascism the democratic nations must at last find democracy must accept the responsibilities and obligations of strengthening this resistance.

**NAZI TERRORISM IN GERMANY. PRISONS OVERCROWDED WITH VICTIMS.**

A special correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" stated on September 16th that a new concentration camp is being built near the old camp at Aranien. The building operations are being strictly guarded by armed S.S. men (Blackshirts). The correspondent added: "The terror is now so severe in Germany that it is no longer possible to speak of the Terrorist 'waves' as hitherto, for there is never any diminution in its intensity. The prisons are overcrowded. In the Meinhof, which is one of the biggest of the Berlin jails, the big majority of the prisoners are political."

**POPULAR CANDIDATE FOR CROOKESMOOR.**

**MR. J. H. PEARCE SELECTED**

The Crookesmoor Ward Labour Party have selected Mr. J. H. Pearce as their standard-bearer in the forthcoming municipal election. There is every sign and every reason to believe that Crookesmoor will return this life-long advocate of co-operation and Labour to the City Council.

Mr. Pearce has been associated with the democratic movements during the whole of his adult life. As far back as 1888 he was assisting Ben Tillett in the fight at East Bradford. He has taken part in every Parliamentary or municipal election in the Labour interest wherever he has been resident at the time. His work in the General Election of 1929, when the late W. Anderson was

**DONCASTER'S NEW SECRETARY.**

**SHEFFIELD MAN'S APPOINTMENT.**



Mr. N. S. Hepworth (Times & Mirror).

a native of Birstall, near Leeds, and started work as a clerk for the Birstall Society in 1908.

He went to the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society in 1914, and after fifteen months joined the Rotherham Flowerer Brigade, with which he served in France for three years.

In March, 1919, Mr. Hepworth was appointed accountant to the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society, and in November, 1932, he became assistant secretary and cashier.

Mr. Hepworth has been a member of the grounds committee of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Athletics Club and the Sheffield and Ecclesall Athletic Association.

**BRITISH LABOUR ESPERANTO ASSOCIATION.**

**CLASSES IN SHEFFIELD.**

UNDER the auspices of the above, classes in Esperanto have been arranged at the Sheffield Esperanto Centre, 17, Howard-street, to commence at 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 1st; there will also be a morning class on Thursdays at 10.30.

Another class is to be held in the Hillsborough Public Library on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m., commencing October 7th. Fees, 3d. per lesson, and 1d. for the unemployed.

Children's classes have also been arranged for Wednesdays in the Banforth-street Baptist Mission Room. Teacher, Mr. Keicher; and Fridays, at 17, Howard-street; teacher, Mrs. W. Daville. Both time classes commence at 7 p.m. Esperanto is described as "the workers' international language." Full information can be obtained from 17, Howard-street.



the candidate for Attercliffe, kept Mr. Pearce busy almost night and day during that campaign. He has consistently spoken on behalf of Co-operative and Labour representatives, convinced of the necessity of working-class representation, both on local and national bodies.

Mr. Pearce joined the trade union movement as soon as he was eligible, and has been a staunch member ever since.

He is a long-standing member of the Brigatide and Carbrook Co-operative Society, his membership dating from 1896. He was one of the founders of the Tinsley Men's Co-operative Guild, and for the last eight years has been the secretary of the Brigatide and Carbrook Society's education committee.

A keen administrator, Mr. Pearce is the type who will attend to the committee work on the City Council with meticulous care, and can be relied upon always to present a forward policy in civic affairs.

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Here is a boot for long and sturdy service. Made specially for the man who is on his feet all day, outdoors, in every kind of weather. A boot for policemen, postmen, tramwaymen, outdoor workmen . . . built like a battleship . . . staunch, yet snug and comfortable, and above all weatherproof. A rain-defying, snow-defying, frost-defying boot that will keep your feet dry and warm throughout the long day. And at a surprisingly low price, too

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**Don't Risk Autumn Chills!**

WEAR **INTEGRITY** BRAND UNDERWEAR AND BE PROTECTED

Made in the Victoria Temperatures Resistant

**CROOKESMOOR WARD LABOUR PARTY**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

at the Crookesmoor Council School

Crookesmoor Road, at 7.45 p.m., on **Friday, October 9th,** to be addressed by the Right Hon.

**A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.,**  
**Mr. A. E. HOBSON, and**  
**Mr. J. H. PEARCE**

(Co-operative and Labour Candidate for Crookesmoor Ward).  
 CHAIRMAN: **Mr. W. SCHOLEY, J.P.**

**All Electors Cordially Invited**



# THREAT OF DEARER FOOD.

## FURTHER MENACE TO NATION'S HEALTH.

If the threatened increases in the prices of essential foodstuffs take effect during the coming winter the consequences to public health will be exceedingly serious. A standard of diet already far too low among the poorer sections of the community will be still further reduced.

Already the increase in the price of flour has meant a halfpenny increase in the price of the quarter loaf, which now costs 8d., or 1d. more than in 1932, and 1d. more than in 1931. Bad crops together with restriction of production have made an acute shortage of potatoes in mid spring almost certain. At Ormskirk, an important potato distributing centre in the North of England, farmers were paying last week 2s. 6d. more a ton for potatoes than in the previous week, and retail prices are expected to rise rapidly between now and Christmas.

The bacon shortage due to limitation of foreign supplies and a falling off in home production, is likely to be so serious that the National Federation of Grocers' Associations sent a deputation to the Food Council on September 27th to discuss the situation. It was pointed out that for many months bacon has been so scarce and dear that thousands of families, particularly in the industrial areas, have been compelled to ration their

supplies almost to vanishing point. The deputation urged the necessity for revising the marketing scheme with regard to bacon and asked that by increasing the total annual supply should be raised to 12,000,000 cwts., as against the total of 10,000,000 cwts. recommended by the Lane-Fox Reorganisation Committee.

The Milk Board and the National Farmers' Union are agitating for a tariff on imported butter and cheese on the grounds that much of this produce is subsidised and is imported down the price realised for English milk some time, and hence dearer. At the same time, that more milk must be sold at these low prices, thus increasing the burden carried by liquid milk. Clearly the proper solution is not to impose a tariff, but to divert a greater proportion of milk to the liquid market by lowering its retail price. Recent investigations show that doctors are seriously concerned by the prevalence of anaemia among mothers in nursing homes, and it is estimated that from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the mothers of the poorer classes suffer from insufficient feeding. A reduction in the price of essential foodstuffs should be an urgent object of national policy.

# CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

## ATTERCLIFFE.

The commencement of the new session was marked by an address to the September meeting by Councillor J. Dimberline, J.P., who dealt with "The Co-operative Party's Progress in the last year." He traced the party's growth from the days of its inception. Mr. Dimberline emphasised the importance of a separate political organisation, having regard to its special character and interests. References were made by the speaker to the difficulties experienced in the earlier days of the party in getting co-operatives to consider co-operation and politics seriously, but the culmination of earnest efforts had resulted in Parliamentary representation; a fact of major importance to the movement, and which must be developed still further.

The principal business of the meeting was the election of a secretary in succession to Mr. Shimmwell, and this resulted in the appointment of Mr. J. S. Wornall, of 474, Finsbury, of Wake-road, to that office. Mr. Wornall is a young man in the employ of the Brightside and Carbrook Society, and a member of the Darnall Men's Guild. He has the knowledge and enthusiasm for co-operative work necessary to make a success of his new task, and he has every good wish in this direction.

An excellent programme is being arranged for the next gathering of members of this section, viz., Wednesday, October 21st, when the committee of Peace and Friendship with the U.S.S.R. is presenting a film display at the Attercliffe Institute.

## BRIGHTSIDE.

The next meeting of the Brightside Divisional Party will be held on Saturday, October 31st, in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute, Hellesborough-road, when Councillor Harry Morris, the Labour candidate for the Brightside Ward, will be the speaker, and will deal with the work of the Sheffield Labour Party. Councillor Harold Wilkinson will also be present in support, and will commence at 7.30 p.m.

## BURNGREAVE.

The Burngreave Women's Section report well-attended meetings, held in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, Wednesday, September 23rd, and Friday, October 2nd. Mr. A. Breech (Brightside) and Carbrook education committee) will be the speaker; 14th, Councillor (Mrs.) Cumming will give her monthly City Council report; 21st, social will be held, and on the 28th Mr. F. Hodgkinson will report on the Grimsby Conference.

The section has suffered a severe loss in the death of Mrs. Pease, one of the oldest and most respected members of the organisation. Mrs. Pease was always a cheerful and willing worker for the cause of Co-operation and Labour.

## HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Section held a very successful dance on September 17th. The first of the weekly meetings was held on Thursday, September 24th, when an interested audience welcomed Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., who spoke on "Co-operative Trade and its Implications." Outlining the national policy of a Ten Year Plan, Alderman Watkins dealt with the part to be played by the two Sheffield societies, and the Brightside and Carbrook Societies in particular. His review of the increased trade, recent and future developments, and his emphasis upon the necessity of increasing the trade per member, indicated the lines upon which the board of management was proceeding.

Programme for October: 1st, Mr. A. E. Butcher will be the speaker; 8th, Councillor H. Sturges will give the City Council report; 15th, election workers' meeting, to be addressed by Mr. W. Berry (candidate for Hillsborough) and Councillor W. Ibbotson (candidate for Outcros); 22nd and 29th will be devoted to the municipal election campaign. The Women's Section meetings commenced on September 24th with a social. The musical programme given by the members, representing the seven ages of women, caused great amusement.

On the 14th, Councillor H. Slack was the speaker; 21st, the usual meeting was given up in favour of the Brightside and Carbrook education committee's propaganda meeting, when Mr. Atcock (C.W.S. Publicity Department) showed a number of interesting talks, films demonstrating the high qualities of C.W.S. productions; afterwards samples of C.W.S. sauce were distributed.

On the 28th, a meeting of the Women's Press cuttings took place. The October meetings will commence with a manumission parade arranged by the drapery industry in favour of the Children's Society, when the mannequins from the city stores will display the latest autumn modes. Admission 3d, including refreshments. On the 12th, Councillor Ibbotson will be the speaker, and the 19th Mr. W. Berry; 26th will be devoted to election work.

## WISEWOOD AND WADSLY.

The Wisewood and Wadslay Section opened their meetings on September 16th with a grand concert and dance. Mr. A. Ballard (party organiser) spoke on "The Consumers' Representation." The "Mirthmakers' Concert Party gave a delightful entertainment.

On September 23rd Mr. Moore gave an interesting address on Spain, and on the 30th Mr. W. Berry gave a lantern lecture entitled "The Birds of England."

On October 24 a debate is to be held between the Hillsborough and Wisewood sections on "Is a United Front Desirable?" On the 14th, the City Council report; 21st, workers' meeting; and 28th, election work.

Meetings held Wednesday, 8 p.m., in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road. Secretary: Mr. W. Stephenson, 42, Finsbury-road.

## NEEPSD.

A report from the Neepsd area shows that the organisation has been kept in working order during the summer period, and is looking forward to the fight next November should the "Progressives" decide to contest the seat. On September 24th, a meeting of the Neepsd area of the City Council report, dealing with estates on licensing, the demolition schemes of slum property, and the rebuilding of the town.

On the 21st a concert was arranged by the secretary and given by Matt and his Rhythm Boys, assisted by Miss Quarmby and her friends. The proceeds are to be used for the old people's Christmas treat. Members will be notified by circular of the next meeting.

The Women's Section meetings have been continued throughout September. Programme for October: 5th, social; 12th, Mrs. F. Ward will give a talk on "The Life of Josephine Butler"; 19th, Councillor R. Fisher will give the City Council report; 26th will be devoted to election work.

## SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held the last of their monthly meetings on September 24th, when the business of the party was reported. The conference delegations were given. The weekly programme commences on October 2nd with a visit drive, at 7.30 p.m., to the "Dangers of the Sea" conference meeting; 9th, Councillor H. Slack will speak; and on the 26th, Councillor Yom Eaton.

Meetings held in the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Institute, Napier street, Mondays, at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mr. Wainwright, 10, Dell Street.

The Women's Section had a good reopening meeting on September 17th, followed by a visit drive on the 24th. They have arranged a special visit from Mrs. Muriel Walbridge Nichol, who will speak on "The Dangers of the Sea" in Europe. Mrs. Nichol will only be in Sheffield for a few days, and is paying just a flying visit to the section, and members are urged to make a special effort to attend. On September 28th the Sheffield and Ecclesall Federation Fly-ers will entertain; 15th, Mrs. Fletcher will speak on "Women's Place in the Co-operative Movement." 22nd, Miss Z. M. Issues will give an address on "The Women of Egypt." There will be no meeting on the 19th.

# THE CONSUMERS' PARTY.

The Co-operative Party was established in 1927. In the House of Commons, as it is present compared, there are nine Co-operative M.P.s.

The Party has for its objects to defend and protect the co-operative movement from the attacks of vested interests in Parliament, and to advocate a general policy of sound reconstruction. Co-operative societies, representing some 5,200,000 individuals, are affiliated to the Party. It is, therefore, the youngest and largest political party in the country.

Private organisations are fully represented in the House of Commons, and in view of the tendency of present legislation to deal with commercial and industrial affairs, it is highly important that the co-operative movement, representing 7,500,000 members of the co-operative consumers' democracy, should have an adequate contingent of Members in Parliament.

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Women and young people who are prepared to work for the public cause, and who are prepared to study the political aspects of co-operation. The Co-operative Commonwealth can only be established by voluntary sacrifice on the part of co-operatives. Yet the rewards are great. Apart from obtaining an insight into the issues of the hour, active work in the Party creates new friendships, new bonds of loyalty, new interests. Be an active member of your political party. Write to the local secretary: Mr. A. Ballard, 17, Bank-street, Sheffield, 1.

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**MARRIAGE OF MR. ALEXANDER'S DAUGHTER.**  
 "A VERY BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY."—Lord Sankey.  
**HILLSBOROUGH MEMBER'S PROUD DAY.**

Five former Cabinet Ministers were at the marriage at Teddington on Saturday, September 26th, of Miss Beatrice Dora Alexander, the only daughter of Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P. for Hillsborough, and Mrs. Alexander, with Mr. W. Bernard Evison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Evison, of Scunthorpe. The ex-Cabinet Ministers were Lord Sankey, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Mr. J. R. Clynes, Mr. H. B. Lees-Smith, and the bride's father. The wedding was at the Baptist

She wore a black silk gown with a biscuit-colour lace top, with wing sleeves, and a black silk coat with black fox fur on the cuffs.

**GRANDPARENTS ATTEND.**  
 Grandparents of the bride were present, Mrs. Chapple, of Bristol, who is ninety years of age, and Mrs. Alexander, who is eighty. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. H. J. Mouley, who in his address remarked that he had not

Mr. Evison is a member of the research staff of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society at Woolwich. Before her marriage Mrs. Evison was a member of the staff of the Milk Marketing Board. The presents received by Mr. and Mrs. Evison number about three hundred. Included among these are a canteen of cutlery from the Hillsborough Women's Section of the Co-operative Party, and a silver cake basket from the



A FAMILY GROUP after the wedding of Miss Beatrice Alexander, daughter of Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P. for the Hillsborough Division of Sheffield, and Mr. W. Evison, of Scunthorpe, in London on Saturday.

Church at Teddington, where Mr. and Mrs. Alexander live, and the church was crowded to witness what Lord Sankey afterwards described as a very beautiful ceremony.

Friends of the two families and Mr. Alexander's political colleagues of Labour and co-operative movements came from all parts of the country, while all day congratulatory telegrams poured in.

**IN PARCHMENT SATIN.**

The bride was attended by six bridesmaids in square blue, The dresses were early Tador in style, with set Juliet caps with flame-coloured flowers matched by the bouquets they carried.

The bridesmaids were Miss Edna Knight, Miss Peggy Bunting, Miss Maureen Stowell, Miss Valda Kelson, friends of the bride, and Misses Margaret and Jean Evison, sisters of the bridegroom.

Dr. Claude Wyckham acted as best man, and there were five groomsmen, Mr. Reg. Knight (Leigh-on-Sea), Mr. Robert MacGill (Bristol), Mr. Eldon Stowell (Teddington), Mr. Peter Gonde (Leicester), and Mr. Pat Joyce (Kettering).

Mrs. Alexander, who was involved in a motoring accident the day she returned from America, was sufficiently recovered to be present, although she had to keep her injured arm in a sling. Mrs. Alexander was warmly congratulated by her friends on her part in taking part in the ceremony.

asked the bride to say the word "obey," as he believed that marriage was a friendship on equal terms.

The service was fully choral, the hymns being "Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer," and "O Perfect Love."

As the bridal procession left the chapel the bride was handed a horse-shoe of heather by little Miss Janet Joyce, of Kettering, while rose petals mingled with the confetti showered upon the newly-married pair.

About three hundred guests attended the reception which followed at York House, at Twickenham, where, after the wedding cake had been cut, Lord Sankey proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom.

**THE "2-30 WINNER."**

The former Lord Chancellor, in a very happy speech, said that in the style of a B.B.C. announcer he ought to call Mr. Evison the "2-30 winner."

The hour mentioned by Lord Sankey was, of course, the hour of the wedding. After the bridesmaids had been toasted, Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., who was Home Secretary in the second Labour Government, proposed the toast of the bride's parents, and Mr. Alexander, replying, expressed his thanks to their friends who had come such long distances to witness the ceremony. He added he was especially pleased to see old colleagues from the Admiralty, and officials from the London School of Economics, for it was at the latter place that the two young people met each other.

Mr. Alexander then toasted the bridegroom's parents, after which Mr. and Mrs. Evison slipped away for their honeymoon, the destination of which has been kept a secret.

**HOME AT BLACKHEATH.**

On their return Mr. and Mrs. Evison will make their home at Blackheath.

Neoground Women's Section. From the staff of the Milk Marketing Board came a kitchen cabinet, while the lucky section sent grape fruit glasses. There were also gifts of silverware from the manager of the board (Mr. Silvey Foster) and from the secretary (Mr. D. P. Oliver).

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**SAFEGUARDING THE "CO-OP." AMENDMENT TO CO-OPERATIVE ACTS.**

DRASTIC amendments to prevent growing abuses of the present Acts relating to Industrial and Provident Societies are expected to be introduced in the next session of Parliament. Such abuses were the subject of sharp comment in the report of the recent Committee on Fixed Trusts, and are being strongly criticised in financial and other circles.

The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts were originally drawn up to meet the special needs of the co-operative movement. But societies may be registered under them for carrying on wholesale or retail business. Recently, dealings in land and property, and under cover of the Acts, a number of property development trusts have sprung up, and, while some are completely reliable, others are extremely dubious.

Membership of an organisation which is the principal safeguard of the public is at present of an organisation being a true co-operative society.

**LOSS TO SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATION.**

**DEATH OF MR. DELHI WHITE**

We regret to report the passing of Mr. Delhi White, in whom the Co-operative and Labour movements in Sheffield have had a consistent and enthusiastic worker.

Sitting as a clerk in the Brightside and Carbrook Society thirty-five years ago, he rose to chief accountant, and recently was promoted to assistant secretary. His popularity amongst the employees and the members generally resulted in his appointment to the management committee, a position he held for twelve years. He worked whole-heartedly for employment, and for the establishment of a superannuation scheme, and has always shown keen business acumen both as a director and an administrative officer of the society. Always cheerful, he will be missed at the city stores office, where he was one of the most popular figures. At the time of his death he was a

**BIG STRIDES IN SHEFFIELD'S MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.**

**COUNCILLOR W. ASBURY ON SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.**

Learning of the claims of the Sheffield Maternal Mortality Committee and the realization that our developments were taking place in Sheffield Health Council, Councillor Asbury (chairman of the Sheffield Co-operative and Labour Council) addressed a vigorous letter to the other enormous cities that have been made and the developments projected. Councillor Asbury writes:—

I understand you have received an invitation to appoint delegates to attend a meeting in the City Hall on October 1st, with the object of making demands on the City Council for certain steps as indicated in the circular letter addressed to you.

There are three outstanding points in this communication which call for your careful consideration.

**1. THE PROMOTERS OF THE METHOD.**

(a) The National Council of Women, although a supposedly non-political organisation, is certainly non-Labour interest in maternity and child welfare has gone so far back that two-and-a-half years ago, when we were taking steps to completely municipalise the service. We decided to dispense with the aid of certain part-time officers, and instead of forcing encouragement we were attacked.

They were responsible for a feeble attempt to provide dinners in the city for expectant mothers, who were called upon to pay 3d. for the food in addition to car and/or bus fares. Needless to state, the experiment was an object failure. They then approached me for permission to obtain the names and addresses of poor women attending the centre, in order to canvass them with a view to furthering a similar experiment in Attercliffe. I refused to parade the poverty of our patients and was subjected to a great deal of abuse.

The Sheffield Labour Women's Advisory Council, whom the promoters of the service invited to the meeting, have appeared under various titles, including Save the Mothers Action Committee, Sheffield Committee of Action, and so on. They have been responsible for deliberate mis-statements, particularly with regard to infant mortality in the city. They alleged that the mortality rate in Attercliffe for 1925 was 107 per 1,000, and in spite of my protest that statement was never withdrawn. As a matter of actual fact, statistics on a year basis were compiled in 1925 for the first time, and the following figures make interesting comparisons:—

Ward	Infant Mortality Rate.
Holland	61 per 1,000
Norton	55 per 1,000
Attercliffe	41 per 1,000

**2. REFERENCES TO THE HIGH RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY, MALNUTRITION, AND SICKNESS EXISTING AMONG MOTHERS IN THE CITY.**

(a) The maternal mortality rate for 1925 was 56 per 1,000 live births, compared to 41.6 for England as a whole. There were thirty-five maternal deaths, of which six were due to abortion, a constant beyond the control of preventive medicine. If abortion deaths are excluded, as they should be for this purpose, the mortality rate is reduced to 27.7 per 1,000 live births. The number of abortions treated in the City General Hospital have increased from six per annum in 1912 to 385 in 1925. In Birmingham, with double our population, there were fifty-five maternal deaths, but only seven were due to abortion.

The acid test of efficient maternity and child welfare work is the infant mortality rate, and the following figures indicate the enormous strides made during the past ten years:—

Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births—	1925	1935
Total deaths under one year (Diarrhoea) .....	85	57
Total deaths under one year .....	188	100

(b) Malnutrition and Sickness. The promoters should be called upon to produce evidence that this exists to any serious extent, and that where such conditions are found cases are not properly dealt with. Out of a total of 2,367 normal cases attending the Central Maternity Centre in 1925, thirty-six were found to be suffering from malnutrition.

**3. IMPLIED SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN THE RESOLUTION THAT NOTHING IS BEING DONE TO DEVELOP THE SERVICE.**

They are well aware of the following facts:—

- (a) That the City Council agreed in March last to the erection of thirty-two additional maternity beds at the City General Hospital.
- (b) That the Jessop Hospital are providing forty-two additional maternity beds.
- (c) That maternity and child welfare clinics are to be erected at Pirth Park and Manor, and that others will be provided.
- (d) That we have a domiciliary mid-

wifery service in existence; 753 cases were dealt with under this scheme in 1928.

Comparisons are drawn between Sheffield, Birmingham, and Leeds. The writer has not visited Leeds, but he has had an opportunity of inspecting the centres at Birmingham, some of which are old villas adapted for this purpose, which is not good enough for Sheffield. Our intention in providing additional maternity and child welfare centres in the suburbs of Sheffield is to provide a complete and full-time service, and avoid such makeshift arrangements, which necessitates patients also attending elsewhere.

It is desirable that the facts should be put on record with regard to the number of maternity beds in the city. They are as follows:—

	No. of Beds, including Ante-Natal
Hospital	70
City General .....	70
Nether Edge (including Shire Hill) .....	52
Jessop (voluntary) .....	43
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>155</b>

In addition, twenty-three beds are provided by Jessop Hospital for purchased separate cases.

The following information may also be of interest:—

Number of confinements of Sheffield residents in 1925 treated for by the City Council and Jessop Hospital.	City Council—
City General Hospital ..	1,027
Nether Edge .....	710
Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme .....	753
Jessop Hospital .....	669
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3,159</b>

One final word. The promoters might be asked, if they are so seriously concerned about the poor, why they have not taken their stand with the working-class movement in denouncing the Unemployment Assistance Regulations and all that has come in their train.

**A NEW CO-OPERATIVE RIVAL.**

An optimistic concern, entitled "The Retailers' Co-operative Association," has, we understand, been formed for the purpose of combating on behalf of the private trader, the steady progress of co-operative trade. The plan centres round the formation, at a short time ago, of the Automatic Savings Association, a company with a nominal capital of £100, with power to issue to members of the Association discount stamp books exchangeable in certain amounts for a National Savings Certificate, and an Accident Insurance policy for one year. The proposal is to distribute the booklets by means of automatic machines in factories, clubs, restaurants, and similar places. The idea seems to be a modern variant of the old trading stamp.

On the face of it, the attempt to counteract co-operative dividend and co-operative collective insurance by less attractive and much less comprehensive discount and insurance schemes seems likely to disappoint the hopes of those retailers who assume that co-operation is only a variant of trade practice. Co-operative dividend, as the consuming public now knows it on a fait, but a reward earned by superior efficiency and organisation plus the elimination of profit on commercial transactions.

**FAWCETT STREET MEN'S GUILD**

Extends a hearty invitation to all men interested in their numbers, by their **EVERY TUESDAY AT 7-30 p.m.** Over the Fawcett Street Branch Co-operative Stores, entrance, 11, Bellefield Street.

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**FINE SPEAKERS.** Enjoyable Speeches and Whist Drives. Roll up and play a man's part in the Men's Guild.

For details or Whist Programme write Secretary, L. Knight, 114, Fawcett Street, Sheffield, 3.



member of the Executive of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, chairman of the Yorkshire Council of that organisation, a member of the National Conciliation Board, and for many years was chairman of the Sheffield branch. In addition, he has served for short terms on the Yorkshire Council for Further Education.

In Mr. White every section of the movement had a friend and enthusiastic advocate. He has appeared on the platform of the Co-operative Party, having a strong faith in the necessity of co-operative political representation. Mr. White was taken ill when on a visit to Scarborough about ten days before his death, when he developed pneumonia, and passed away on Tuesday evening, September 29th, at the age of fifty-one. He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom we extend deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

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**What?**

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**Municipal Sunday, November 1st.**

**MASS MEETING**

in the **CITY HALL, Barker's Pool.**

Speakers: **C. R. ATTLEE, M.P.**

(Parliamentary Leader of the British Labour Party) and

**ALD. E. G. ROWLINSON, J.P.**

(Leader of the Labour Group on the City Council)

Supported by Co-operative and Labour Municipal Candidates.

Items by the Attercliffe Male Voice Choir. Communal singing.

Doors open 7 p.m.

Tickets for Reserved Seats 6d. each, may be obtained from the Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank Street, or the Trades and Labour Council Office, Yorkshire Chambers, Angel Street.

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