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The second letter, with its date, is in conflict with Mr. Rae's statement (*Life*, p. 362) that the Additions to the first and second editions of the *Wealth of Nations* were published in 1783, a year before the third edition. But Mr. Rae quotes no authority for his statement, and it appears to be incorrect. We should require very positive evidence to make us believe that Adam Smith and Strahan and Cadell would publish the Additions before the third edition, embodying them in their proper place, was ready.

"Mr. Spottiswood" is mentioned in a letter of 1777, and Mr. Rae says he was a nephew of Strahan (*Life*, p. 323). "Mr. Kincaid" is doubtless the Edinburgh bookseller whose name appears below that of Millar at the foot of the title page of the first edition of the *Moral Sentiments*.

Twenty-one volumes of *Philosophical Transactions* are mentioned in Bonar's *Catalogue of Adam Smith's Library*, but there is no "Postlethwait," and the only "Anderson" is James Anderson's *Diplomatum et Numismatum Scotiæ Thesaurus*, which was published in Edinburgh in 1759, and therefore is probably not the book referred to. The mention of Anderson and Postlethwayt together as the two last books purchased rather suggests the two bulky works, Adam Anderson's *Deduction of the Origin of Commerce*, and Malachi Postlethwayt's *Universal Dictionary of Trade and Commerce*. Poor Cadell seems to have had a very good excuse for not having procured Morellet's translation in the fact that the work was never published (Rae, *Life*, p. 359).

EDWIN CANNAN

THE CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S WORK AT THE HAGUE.

THE Exhibition for Women's Work which was opened at The Hague on July 9th includes in its programme a series of conferences on many important questions relating to the economic and social condition of women. They began on July 11th, and are to continue until September 15th. Among the subjects on which papers have been, or are to be read, are—the industrial training of women, social work, the training of orphans, social purity, the poor, education, domestic servants, social work in India, hygiene, sick-nursing, industrial schools, &c.

The group of subjects which came under the heading "the industrial training of women," covered in itself a fairly wide range, and included discussions on factory inspection, the condition of shop assistants, rent collecting, women managers in factories, the teaching of the deaf and dumb, commercial training for women, insurance, dentistry, photography, &c. A brief sketch will here be given of some of the economic points raised at this conference on the industrial training of women, which is now concluded. Mej. J. ter Meulen first read a paper on rent collecting and the supervision of workmen's dwellings. She herself has been trained in England by Miss Octavia Hill. She

dwelt on the value of the work as fostering better relations between property owners and tenants, by personally protecting the rights of well-disposed tenants against their ruder neighbours, and against the agents, and also by the great improvement which could thus be made in workmen's property. But the work, to be successful, must proceed on strictly commercial principles. There must be no undue interference, no indiscriminate charity. The worker must be strict and business-like. An essential qualification for undertaking the work is serious study of the practical requirements, administration of the rents, the legal aspect, repairs, &c. The principle from which to proceed must be, she maintained, the existence of definite and mutual obligations between the owner and the tenant. The influence of cleanly dwellings and neat neighbours could hardly be over-rated, but an equally important result was effected in the closer connection between the classes which was brought about through the personal relations of tenant and collector. Such work, in the qualities which it requires, was peculiarly suited to women. The remuneration usually made is 4 per cent. of the rents.

An interesting subject was subsequently introduced by Mej. Spaarnay on women managers in factories and workshops. Her experience was personal. For years she had worked among factory operatives, had taught for six years in a school for factory girls, and for several months had held the position of lady-manager in a factory where eighty girls were employed. Speaking generally, the conditions of the factory workers were such as rendered them unfit to make a comfortable home. As children they were irregular at school, for they had to take charge of the younger children while their mothers were at work. The girl of twelve years enters the factory, and works there for ten to twelve hours a day, under the supervision of a foreman, who in many cases abuses his position. She works side by side with men and boys, coming under the most undesirable influences. Little improvement, Mej. Spaarnay urged, could be effected while the factories remain closed to the supervision of women. Something has already been done by means of schools for factory girls. But the daily intercourse and supervision of an educated woman with the girls during working hours would effect infinitely more. Where the experiment has been tried the difference in the workers merely in neatness and cleanliness has been most marked. But the manageress whose mere presence can effect so much, must, if her influence is to be permanent, be trained for her task. She should be an educated, cultured woman, tactful in her relations with working people, with a practical knowledge of household affairs, and of sanitation. Some knowledge even of the work done in the factory is desirable, in order that she may instruct newcomers, and give decisions in case of disputes. It was on these lines, the speaker maintained, that the greatest improvement in the condition of factory women could be effected. A lively discussion followed. In replying Mej. Spaarnay mentioned that, so far as she knew, no one had as yet

been trained for this work. She considered it important to have worked for a time, varying with the nature of the manufacture, in the factory itself. The position should be one of financial independence. She herself had received a salary of 1,200 florins (£100).

A paper was next read by Dr. Catherine van Tussenbroek, recently appointed Professor of Gynecology at the University of Utrecht, on the want of vital energy in the girls and women of the present day. This, she maintained, had its root in mental and not physical conditions. The remedy was to be sought in the serious training of women for some definite work, which would enable them to attain economic independence.

A short time was devoted to the subject of homework, which was opened by Mej. M. Meyboom. Methods of improving the conditions and productiveness of homeworkers were discussed. It would be seen from examination of the exhibits in this branch of the exhibition how urgently reform was needed. An attempt had been made to bring together in this branch especially that work from other countries, in which the Dutch products were inferior, so that comparison might lead to improvement. This however had been found impossible, and the only foreign exhibits in this division were the woven goods from Sweden, which are placed side by side with Dutch weaving. The extremely low wage which the homemaker is accustomed to receive from the contractor was dwelt upon. In particular the basket-work from Vledder was mentioned as bringing in an especially low wage to the worker. It was desirable, said the speaker, to find some means of bringing the homemaker into more direct relations with the consumer. To this end it had been proposed to open a shop in The Hague for homework, to be run on a co-operative basis. Basket-work, fine lace, knitting, wood-carving, fine needlework, fancy work, &c. could be sent in, and would, if the work were up to a certain standard, be here exposed for sale. The monthly periodical for home industries, which is edited by Heer H. W. Sinderam at Amsterdam, had promised to support the undertaking.

The condition of shop assistants was introduced by Heer S. de Vries in a few brief remarks. He touched on the chief grievances of the shop assistant, and held that reform was most urgently needed in the payment of higher salaries, and the adoption of the living-in system. A radical improvement would be effected if the living-in system, which is practically universal in large foreign towns, were generally adopted. It was desirable that women shop assistants should see the advantages of this system, and insist on it in entering on their engagement. In the discussion which followed much difference of opinion was expressed on this point. The hope of reform lay rather, it was urged, in the formation of a strong trades union, which had hitherto been found impossible.

The discussion on factory inspection was opened by Mr. A. Kerdijk. He surveyed briefly the history of the law for the protection of the

industrial classes, dwelling with emphasis on the impulse given by Mr. S. van Houten's law in 1874, relating to the employment of children. The two most urgent reforms needed at present were the increase of inspectors for the adequate administration of the law, and the appointment of women inspectors for industries in which women are exclusively or predominantly employed. The number of inspectors in Holland, though recently increased to twelve, has not grown in proportion to the growth of the industrial community. There are at present 23,600 factories and workshops liable to inspection. The women inspectors should be organised as a separate department, under the direction of a chief inspector. The arrangements for administration of the Factory Acts in other countries were briefly sketched. With regard to England, the speaker regretted the difference in the examinations of men and women candidates for factory inspectors. It was stated that a course for the training of women factory inspectors would take place this winter in Amsterdam.

Training for religious work, for the education of the deaf and dumb, for women dentists, for horticulture and apiculture, formed the subject of subsequent discussions. The need for further opportunities of training in all these various occupations was urged, Germany being in this respect far ahead.

MARGRIETA VAN DER VEEN

THE WAGES OF LONDON VESTRY EMPLOYEES.

MR. BOOTH's volumes on *Life and Labour in London* contained a section dealing with the wages of Municipal employees in 1895. The movement towards enforcing model conditions of employment on public bodies had then been in progress since 1888, and the results achieved, so far as the portion of labour with which Mr. Booth dealt was concerned, appeared to be considerable. It was, however, evident on glancing through the table of wages which he gave, that great variations existed in the wages paid by different Vestries for the same kind of work, and that, perhaps to a less degree, the difference in hours was also marked. It might naturally have been supposed that, in the years which have passed since 1895, the progression might continue, and that while the foremost Vestries remained stationary, there would be a tendency for the backward ones to bring themselves into line, and approach the average condition as to wages and hours. A return made in the Autumn of 1897, supplemented by information collected since then, offers a means of comparison of the wages paid in 1895 with those which the Vestries now pay. Together with earlier returns, relating to 1886 and 1893, it offers an opportunity to estimate the changes in the rates of wages in those occupations of Vestry employees with which Mr. Booth did not deal.

It must be remembered that employment by public bodies is still, to a large extent, indirect, through the agency of a contractor. There