

man's Outlook
1919-1967:

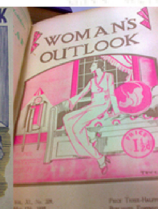
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Recording the gulidwomen's indignation at this act, the Outlook said: "In the interests of humankind, the whole world over, shall we not all raise our voices against any prolongation of this inhuman suffering?"

by Na

singly mo agazine?

alie Bradbu





1 *Woman's Outlook*, 1919-1967

A long-running magazine for co-operative women, published by the Co-operative Press, which mixed the political and the domestic and contained an enticing blend of articles including:

- Tips for wives, housewives, mothers and working women.
- Fashion, patterns and recipes.
- Health and beauty.
- Co-operative propaganda – visits to co-operative factories.
- Fiction and serials on everything from romance to saving money, dealing with jealousy, race relations, remarriage and the 11+.
- Features on women's lives, both at home and abroad.
- Investigative reporting and campaigning.
- Debates on issues of the time and responses to new legislation.
- Dedicated pages for children and teenagers, and sex education.
- Columnists, from a reverend to a gynaecologist and psychologist.
- Competitions, correspondence and pen pals.

As well as taking an often daring political stance on hot topics of the day, and appearing ahead of its time on issues such as abortion, equal pay and divorce law, many of the subjects covered by *Outlook* would not appear out of place in a women's magazine today. Whilst huge social progress has been made, many of the issues affecting the generations of women who read *Outlook* seem surprisingly similar today, from widespread unemployment, lack of meaningful, fairly recompensed work and affordable housing to women's continued under-representation in parliament. Other parallels between today's headlines and the pages of *Outlook* include debates over educational reforms (including the place of subjects such as art and design in the curriculum), immigration, the role of the state in providing services such as health and the need for a National Health Service, the role of fathers in childcare, women behind the veil and even the ongoing saga of whether women should be allowed to be bishops!



The Co-operative Press

2



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WOMAN'S OUTLOOK PRICE 14d. WEEKLY

is the only weekly paper for the working-class housewife which understands her viewpoint and gives her confidence to play her full part in the community.

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news . . views . . activities
and better understanding
of the aims and policy
of the movement . .

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must
read these
regularly

REYNOLDS NEWS	every Sunday
CO-OPERATIVE NEWS	every Saturday
SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR	every Saturday
AGENDA	Quarterly
WOMAN'S OUTLOOK	Fortnightly

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The Co-operative Press Ltd., owned entirely by the Co-operative Movement, is your effective reply to the Capitalist Press.

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TWO PENCE WEEKLY
WOMAN'S OUTLOOK
TWO PENCE FORTNIGHTLY
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ALTERNATE MONTHS
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for the CO-OP and YOU

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OUR CIRCLE *Three-halfpence Monthly*
WOMAN'S OUTLOOK *Twopence Fortnightly*

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WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



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WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



Woman's Outlook



Outlook





3 In the beginning: 'Women's Corner'

In 1882, Alice Acland (1849-1935), a strong believer in education for working class women who saw the opportunities offered by the co-operative movement, wrote a series of articles about women's lives for the *Co-operative News*, the newspaper of the co-operative movement, then under the editorship of Samuel Bamford. At the start of the following year, it was decided that a section of the *News* should be given over to women's issues, with the aim of linking co-operative women across the country together, and so the 'Women's Corner' was born, with Acland as editor.

Acland made a rousing call to women in her first column, looking beyond women's passive status as consumers and suggesting that an independent guild of women should be formed, which would hold recreational and instructional classes:

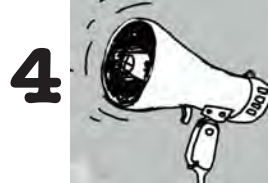
"... why should not we women do more than we do? Why should not we have our meetings, our readings, our discussions? Why should we not have co-operative "mothers' meetings" when we may bring our work and sit together, one of us reading some co-operative book aloud, which may afterwards be discussed? Are we not as important as the men? Are we not more than half the nation? ... Women can do great things. Let us do them."

Co-operative News, 6 January 1883

This prompted other women to get in touch, and in 1883 the Women's Co-operative Guild was formed (today known as the Co-operative Women's Guild), with Acland as the first general secretary.



The Co-operative Women's Guild



The Co-operative Women's Guild was founded in 1883 to educate women in the principles and practices of co-operation and to work for the improvement of the status of women, championing women's rights, campaigning for women's suffrage and demanding other important changes to society such as maternity benefits. In December 1919, *Woman's Outlook* described the Guild as:

"Over 50,000 woman co-operators who have banded themselves into a guild to work through co-operation for the welfare of the people, seeking freedom for their own progress and the equal fellowship of men and women in the home, the store, the workshop, and the state."

Outlook reported on Guild activities such as its annual congress, detailed of Guild campaigns, gave advice such as how to hold and speak at meetings and write up Guild reports and profiled prominent women within the Guild. Throughout the magazine's history, readers debated how much of *Outlook* should be given over the Guild matters. *Outlook* was distributed through Guild branches, and the Guild produced its own bulletin which, from October 1962, merged with *Outlook* and had its own dedicated section in the magazine.





5

The Co-operative Women's Guild: in their own words

"The Co-op was always part of what you were: we were very loyal to the co-operative movement. It meant something to be in the Women's Guild. We were very proud of it. It was our learning group and our university. This was the great thing about the co-operative movement. It widened women's access to society."

"Not only was it social, the meetings were interesting. We were active politically as well as socially. We felt we had a say and we were recognised as not being frivolous."

"You can get votes for women but it doesn't mean you are going to be taken seriously or that businesses are going to put you on their boards. We were interested in the running of the shops and the way the co-operative movement was going. We went to all the meetings of Co-op food stores and we all asked questions. Our questions had them quaking!"

"You didn't go and buy a scone or a cake, you made one and people passed on things. There is nothing wrong with learning to be a good cook and a good manager – it's all a part of a woman's life."

Pat Williams, member of a Co-operative Women's Guild branch in Sale, Cheshire in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and long-term Labour Party member, interviewed October 2012





"You've got to educate women to the fact that they are important and make them aware that they have an important role in the life of society. Anything you can do to enable a woman to move forward, whatever it is, you have done your job."

"When the Guild started, ordinary women had no life as such, outside childbearing. When I left school in 1962 women weren't expected to have a career."

Margaret Tillotson,
President of the
Co-operative
Women's Guild and
member of the
Whitehouse
(Ipswich) branch
since the 1970s,
interviewed
November 2012





7

Key figures: Annie Bamford Tomlinson (1870-1933)

In 1904, Annie Bamford Tomlinson, daughter of famous *Co-operative News* editor Samuel Bamford, became the first professional journalist to edit the women's page in the *Co-operative News*.

As well as editing other co-operative periodicals, and launching the children's journal *Our Circle* in 1907, Bamford Tomlinson became *Woman's Outlook's* first editor in 1919, and continued to edit it until shortly before her death 1933 when Mary Stott took over (subsequent editors included *Outlook* contributor Leonora Crossley, as well as Jean Nicholson).

Bamford Tomlinson was also involved in the Co-operative Women's Guild, and an obituary in *Outlook* described her as having "illimitable energy with a clear, clever brain that followed the development of Guild thought". She "never lost sight of the pure ideals of co-operation ... gave herself completely to work".



Key figures: Mary Stott (1907-2002)

8



"I loved and venerated the women of the co-operative movement, whose courage, persistence and loyalty seemed to me often heroic, for though most of them were under-educated and many were scarcely above the poverty line, they learned to speak in public, to go to on deputations, organise, and preside at great conferences. To me the most remarkable thing about the Women's Co-operative Guild was the training it gave in the art of government, its completely democratic structure."

Mary Stott, *Forgetting's No Excuse*, 1973



Born into a journalistic family in Leicester, Mary Stott started her career in local papers before taking over from Annie Bamford Tomlinson as editor of *Woman's Outlook* in 1933, as well as editing children's journals *Our Circle* and *Sunshine Stories*. In 1945 she moved onto the *Manchester Evening News*, but continued to contribute to *Outlook* and had a second stint editing the magazine in the 1950s after her role at the *MEN* was taken over by a man. Stott was determined to prove that she could cover 'hard news' just as well as men, and did not want to be confined to writing about 'women's issues', but she is best known for her long-running editorship of the *Guardian's* women's page. Frustratingly, Stott's sex held her back in her journalistic career, even within the co-operative movement; she was passed over as editor for the *Reynolds News* because 'she did not wear trousers', a story that recurred throughout her career.



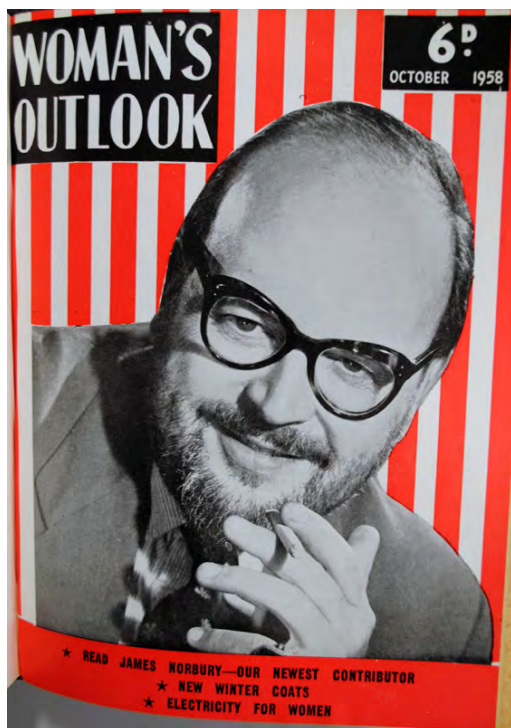


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Celebrity columnists

James Norbury (1904-1972)

In its later decades, James Norbury was given a regular opinion column in *Outlook*. Norbury was a knitting historian, knitwear designer for Patons, knitting teacher, author of books on knitting and even a television star on his own BBC knitting show. In *Outlook*, however, Norbury stayed away from knitting in favour of sharing his thoughts on topical issues and the state of society.



Ursula Bloom (1892-1984)

Prolific novelist Ursula Bloom, who published over 500 books, many of them romantic, contributed fiction to *Outlook* as well as a regular advice column in its later years.

Guest writers

Throughout its lifespan, women from a range of professions and backgrounds shared their stories and experiences in *Outlook*, from women MPs, government ministers and nurses to women in unusual careers (from a woman working in the printing industry to a 'continuity girl'). Occasionally, husbands wrote about their perspectives (for example, 'What it feels like to be childless').



10



Woman's Outlook had a tiny staff, and an equally tiny budget. As Mary Stott explained in her autobiography *Forgetting's No Excuse*:

"There was no money to spend on the publication so we did everything ... we wrote almost every word ourselves, apart from the fiction for Women's Outlook, which we bought in the cheapest syndicated market. In fact, Nora Crossley and I wrote several serial stories ourselves ... I wrote the lives of Pioneer feminists for Woman's Outlook. Rose [Simpson] did some good work in the trade union field. We wrote our cookery from other people's recipes, and pinched our illustrations from other magazines, painting out the bits that didn't fit our purpose. We did all our own make-up, of course, and went in for some stunning fancy work on Woman's Outlook in the way of cut-out pictures and indented type. This meant that we had to measure both words and pictures very accurately for our small page size, and I still find it difficult to be patient with people who, when asked, 'How much have you written?' say, 'Oh about eight paras' or 'About two and a half pages' – about as helpful as saying 'Oh about as long as a piece of string'."

However, despite these limitations Stott learnt a lot about how to produce a magazine, including 'writing simply and unpedantically' and 'about the initiation of and receptivity to ideas which is key to editing'.

Initially published monthly, *Outlook* was published twice-monthly from June 1924 then returned to being a monthly magazine in September 1957.





11

'The other Fleet Street'

Woman's Outlook was just one of a number of co-operative periodicals, with others including *Co-operative Youth* and *Our Circle* (aimed at children and young people) and specialist magazines such as *the Producer* and *Home*. *Outlook* was produced at Long Millgate in Manchester, close to today's 'Printworks' entertainment complex (housed in the former *Daily Mirror* plant). Various other newspapers and magazines were also based in the vicinity, from the *Manchester Guardian* and *Daily Express* to socialist newspaper the *Clarion*, earning Manchester the reputation of 'the Fleet Street of the north'.



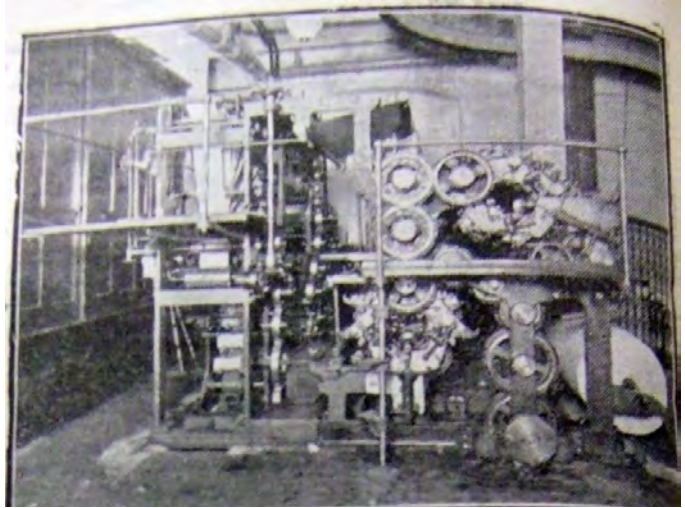
Outlook later moved to Chester Road, Old Trafford (the building, formerly Veno's medicine factory, is now being converted into flats).





Woman's Outlook,
September 1921:

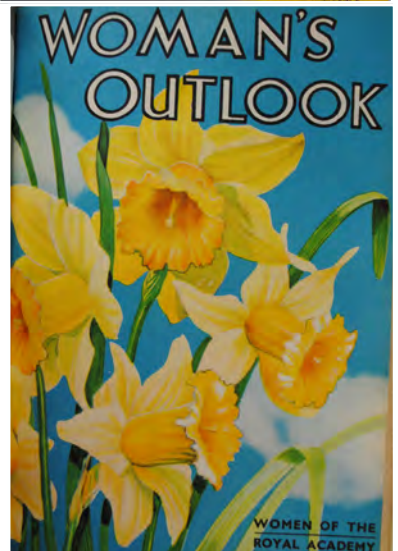
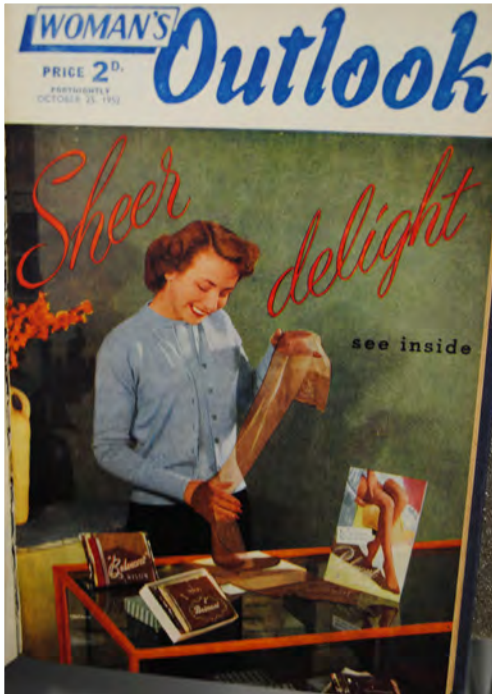
"The present copy comes hot off the new rotary press and has been printed at the rate of 24,000 copies the hour on a beautiful machine of wonderful intricacies, great speed, and accurate alignment – the result of inventive brains, good workmanship, and a definite object to work from."



"The rotary machine at Long Millgate was specially built to print 'Woman's Outlook'. Those who built it, and those who paid for it, by the way, knew what they were aiming at, yet they have triumphantly accomplished their object, as over 55,000 readers can testify."



14





15 What were Woman's Outlook's aims?

Outlook's editors had ambitious aims for the magazine, hoping that eventually there would be a copy in every co-operative home and that it would help co-operative women realise the power they had in numbers, urging them to make a difference. Setting itself up in opposition to existing women's magazines of the time, which were fixated on 'fashions, personal adornments, love-making, signs and portents, and domestic details', *Outlook* saw itself as a companion and guide for women seeking to find their place in society, aiming to both empower them to take an interest in political and social matters and liberate them to play an active part in the world around them. As the first issue, in November 1919, stated: "We hope to assist her in her outlook upon industrial and social questions, and to give her thoughts, through our pages, something of the freedom of a flock of birds...we dream of it as a friend of all, seeking always to help forward to better things — a fuller life, more social opportunities and a wider choice of spheres of civic usefulness for women."

Co-operative activist and writer Catherine Webb offered her support, writing: "I expect it to be a great success. A magazine which deals with women's interests from a woman's standpoint is greatly needed. To do her special work in the world — making home and civic life beautiful, in short — women need tools just as men need tools for their work. A good journal which aids her efficiency is one of the most effective tools imaginable — a real labour-saver, economiser, and comforter. I hope 'Women's Outlook' is going to be that and more."

Readers were urged to increase *Outlook's* distribution, both within and outside of the Co-operative Women's Guild, by buying extra copies for friends and family, and purchasing subscriptions as gifts.





The cover of the first issue of Woman's Outlook, published in November 1919, reproduced the Co-operative Women's Guild logo, which shows a woman with a basket (ie, the woman in her role as a consumer) surveying an industrial scene, as well as the organisation's motto 'Of Whole Heart Cometh Hope'.

WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



Woman's Outlook



Outlook





17

A community of readers

"... the responsibility for our magazine does not only rest upon its editor, but upon all co-operative women all over the United Kingdom. The speciality about it is that the magazine is our own. The way to make it, is first of all to read it; secondly, to make it; thirdly to help the editor with filling it, and to fill it constantly. "Isn't there something in my daily life of experience, of hope, of interest, which, with a little trouble, I may make useful to my fellow-women?" What we need now, in order to make our little magazine even more useful than it has been, is an unflagging fire of question, answer and argument carried on."

Woman's Outlook, January 1926

From the start, *Outlook's* readers were encouraged to play an active role in the creation of the magazine, ensuring its content reflected their lives and interests. Women were invited to write in with recipes, marriage advice and tips for rejuvenating old clothes, give their thoughts on contentious issues of the day – from capital punishment to whether women should go out to work, smoke and smack children – and even send in drawings, poems and articles.

In the days before readers could respond to articles simply by entering their thoughts into a comment box, and writers could be tweeted with feedback on their words, *Outlook* used the post bag to create a community of readers and ensure its content was part of an ongoing conversation between co-operative women.



Reader surveys

18



Readers were invited to write in with what they liked best about *Outlook*, and from time to time surveys were undertaken via Guild branches.

Responses indicate that women were inspired by reading about other co-operative women and what they had achieved, appreciated the practical advice and found editorials informative and useful. However, the magazine was not above criticism!

Please place the figures 1 to 16 against these "Outlook" features to indicate the order of your preference, and HAND TO YOUR BRANCH SECRETARY.

Editorial Chat	Let's Go to the Pictures...
Guildswomen Debate.....	Our Readers' Page
Food Control, Rationing Problems, &c.	Women Workers in War Time
In Your Garden	In the Stores Window
Cookery	Home Dressmaker's Page..
Elizabeth	Fashion
Short Story	Knitting
Serial Story	General Interest Articles...
Name of Guild.....	

"The women who read it are usually those who attend Co-operative Women's Guilds because they seek opportunities to help others and to educate themselves in matters outside the four walls of home. To such women the silly trivia about make-up and hair-dos, which are the chief interest of some magazines, are very irritating. Also, those eternal knitting patterns – surely there are plenty of very good and reliable patterns on sale at the wool counter, without cluttering up the limited pages of 'Woman's Outlook' with wretched bits of knit one, drop one."

Letter from Mrs M Whines, *Woman's Outlook*, 1954





19 Political outlook

“Economic causes are at the heart of modern wars. Production for profit, not production for use, is the basis of the capitalist system, and it is the greed and corruption of the system which drives the masses of the people like sheep to the slaughter at the bidding of their rulers, many of whom are the half-conscious tools of the exploiter and the gambler and the concession hunter.”

Woman's Outlook, December 1919



Outlook's political stance still

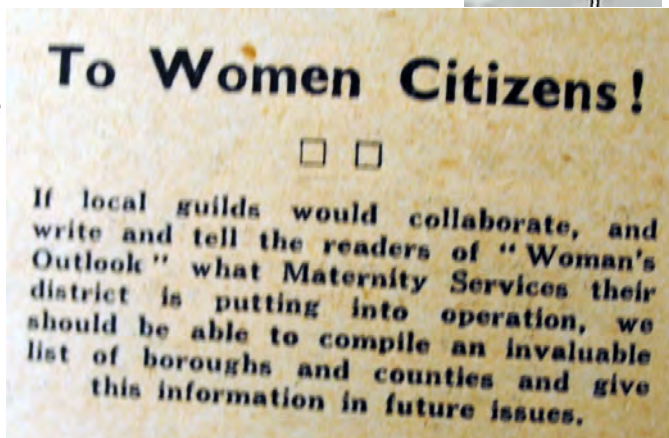
sounds radical today, often stated in strong terms. Early editorials criticised the banking industry, called for the overthrow of capitalism, denounced the exploitation of the many by the few in the name of profit, and called for the world's resources to be shared out more equally through a co-operative system.

The Co-operative Women's Guild, was a strong advocate for peace, and Outlook dedicated an entire issue to the subject in January 1937.





Outlook encouraged its readers to get involved in campaigns, join trade unions and make themselves a nuisance both to co-operative societies and to MPs on issues ranging from maternity provision and education to equal pay, the right for family allowances to be paid to the woman of the family, abortion law and disarmament.



One of *Outlook's* major concerns was maternity: in 1927, it noted that child-bearing should be classed as a dangerous occupation, and that between the ages of 28 and 45 childbearing had a higher rate of death than industrial and other accidents among men. In 1935, *Outlook* took the step of surveying of its readers, asking them to write in saying what maternity services were provided in their area so it could build up a national picture and put pressure on authorities to provide better care for expectant mothers. In October 1921, *Outlook* visited the only birth control clinic in UK in Holloway, London, and identified the need for practical knowledge, help and sympathy: "On the mother rests the responsibility of life and death of her children; on the mother should rest the decision as to whether she wants those children or not ... most of us will agree that at least every mother should have the right to say whether she would like to have children, and how many she thinks she can care for properly." Throughout its history, *Outlook* continued to call for easier access to contraception and champion women's reproductive rights.





21 Parliamentary representation

In 1918, women over the age of 30 with property were given the vote in Britain, although men were still allowed to vote at the lower age of 21.

From its first issue in 1919, *Outlook* demanded voting for women on the same terms as men. In 1920, it interviewed the first female MP, Lady Astor (Conservative), and expressed hope that soon there would be a group of female MPs in Parliament – and maybe even one day a female Prime Minister – to represent women's interests and speak on the subjects of which women had first-hand experience, which it defined as being housing, health, maternity and child welfare, employment of children and girls, education and payment of women. It was especially keen that the voice of the working woman was represented: *"We want working women in Parliament – co-operative women – who are able not only to translate figures into terms of human suffering, but whose experience of life has brought them into actual close contact with the facts demanding legislative form and remedy. We cannot help but feel that the house would listen to such women, even if they spoke without the sparkling eloquence of a Lady Astor or their witty repartee of a Lady Bonham-Carter."*



Now that women were enfranchised, *Outlook* aimed to equip them with the knowledge that they needed to use their vote wisely, and ran articles covering key political issues. In the run up to general elections, it ran series of articles outlining topics on which elections would hinge, and invited ministers to write about their knowledge of that area. Decades before a national referendum on electoral reform, too, *Outlook* discussed the merits of adopting alternative voting systems such as Proportional Representation.







August 17, 1933

THE VEIL IS BANNED

WOMEN IN THE NEW TURKEY HAVE PRIVILEGES WE LACK.

MUSTAFA KEMAL'S REVOLUTION.

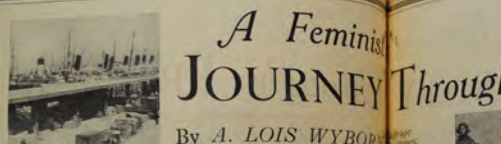
followed by other Modern peoples if they wish to advance along the road of progress

WOMEN IN ITALY

MISS MARIA ALBINI DESCRIBES THEIR ORGANISATIONS

There is no Women's Cooperative Guild in Italy, but there are many similar organizations in the form of the International League of Women's Clubs, the Italian Women's Cultural Alliance, and many others. The Italian Women's Cultural Alliance is a federation of all the various women's organizations, and of independent organizations. It has a central office in Rome, and branches in all the provinces. It is a very active organization, and has many projects for the improvement of the lot of the Italian woman. It has a central office in Rome, and branches in all the provinces. It is a very active organization, and has many projects for the improvement of the lot of the Italian woman.

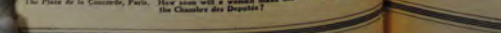
Miss Albin's association with the Italian Women's Cultural Alliance, which she had joined in Milan, started in 1926. "I had a chance to meet the women who were working for the improvement of the lot of the Italian woman."



In Milan's Piazza del Duomo.

WE said good-bye to dear Corsican friends on the quayside of Ajaccio. This is the second city of France, with just under a million inhabitants. Here was movement, energy, and cosmopolitan life. I saw advertised a talk on Women's Home Industries, to take place in the hall of a Socialist Centre. There I was delighted to meet several members of the "French League for Women's Rights." A bright little woman, speaker, an infant headmistress, gave us an excellent resume of the work conditions of Frenchwomen carrying on sewing in the home. Lack of unionism has rendered in very poor standards of pay. It gave a touching and appropriate rendering of Hood's "Song of the Shirt."

An informal, excited discussion took place. The Frenchwoman has chosen of her own free will to marry. In mixed marriages, woman so often comes off second best. The Frenchwoman has chosen of her own free will to marry. In mixed marriages, woman so often comes off second best.



The Place de la Concorde, Paris. How soon will a woman make her way there as a member of the Chamber des Deputes?

The Chinese Woman of To-day.

Vote—No more Foot-Binding.

The women's movement in China. Miss Zung, a representative of the Women's Outlook.



The women's movement in China. Miss Zung, a representative of the Women's Outlook.

There are many women in every country with which the Chinese woman has been able to get into touch.

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WOMAN'S OUTLOOK.

Workers' Living Hours and Low Pay.

Workers' Living Hours and Low Pay.

Workers' Living Hours and Low Pay.

Workers' Living Hours and Low Pay.

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Workers' Living Hours and Low Pay.



25 Celebrating women's achievements

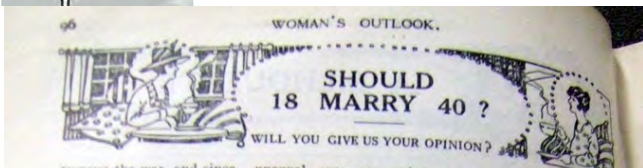
Outlook profiled women's achievements, both at home and abroad, from historical figures such as Joan of Arc, Mary Wollstonecraft and Helen Keller to pioneers such as Margaret Sanger, Marie Curie, Maria Montessori and women who were entering professions traditionally dominated by men (judges, police, councillors, MPs, bishops, Britain's first woman film producer, female mayors, the first woman cabinet minister, the head teacher of London's first comprehensive school, etc). It also introduced readers to key women in the co-operative, trade union and labour movements and profiled women in public life such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Mrs Attlee.



[illegible]



27 Advice



DURING the war, and since, we have read of beautiful girls of eighteen and twenty years of age marrying men of forty and forty-five. This is regretted by many, because it is felt that it was a case of money or position. We have pitied the girls later on when they would only be thirty and the men nearly sixty. It is when the years go by that the ages seem

unequal ages are unhappy. Usually the man of forty or forty-five, the bachelor or widower, has a knack of understanding women's ways, and in practically every case a man of this age chooses a young, fresh, and beautiful girl. Should the man be flattered with worldly goods his pleadings are heard more

her husband's people and his friends. He feels a certain amount of jealousy when he sees her smiling radiant and looking delighted in conversation with younger people, and it is then that the trouble begins. Men at the age of forty to fifty are more prone to jealousy than a younger man, and imagination often carries them away into the wrong direction. He begins to notice that he is watchful, and so she feels unhappy and does not pay the same attention to him as formerly. He wants to stay at home more; he has had his day, and he wants



HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

In human life, there is such a thing as a wife's difficulty with a husband. This special difficulty is a mental illness, which often crops up after, say, fifteen years of married life. It very often appears to be the husband, but is always the wife. The wife finds her husband quite changed from what he was, and the husband finds his wife quite changed from what she was. The fact, however, is simply this: *They are bored with each other—each has advanced in life so to themselves and to each other.* They think they hide it, but they really cannot.

man's is that he does not look at all things.

MARRIAGE OR CAREER?

By EILEEN WINNCROFT



A FEW HINTS TO WOMEN SPEAKERS.

acquired this appearance by real hard training.

"Stand up straight, speak out boldly, and sit down quickly," is really good advice and should be remembered by the woman who rises to her feet to give her opinions. A speaker should learn to stand gracefully, with head up, body held straight, and feet well placed. Too much gesture often spoils an otherwise good speech. In fact, the less gesture used the better, for most of us condemn the woman who waves her arms about as a "ranter."

The voice should be clear and come from the chest, and should lend itself to expression, for often an audience is moved as much by the appeal in the voice of the speaker as by the words themselves.

refuses to show it. Content with something tangible, like comfort and assurance, she thinks there is anything hands-off if you can even touch and feel yourself if it is you are inclined to feel nervous.

Concerning dress for the platform a very great deal might be said. But just a few remarks will have to do. Don't wear a skirt that is shorter in the front than at the back, and if you wear a short skirt don't wear muddy shoes. If you are going to speak even a few moments on a platform, supporting a resolution, dust your shoes over beforehand, for the appearance of a speaker who

article women l and o-day. nether money stay

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now studios for design or ideas in packing. If you are clever with your hands make inquiries about these. Whatever you do don't just rush into the job that sounds the best paid. Girls particularly have to find that the money pull is not the strongest in their lives. Whether your career is part-time or permanent choose something in which you know you can excel. Then you will be happy.

Marriage, of course, is the greatest career of all. But it needs more time and excellence than any other. So when marriage comes train for it and put all your qualities into it. Then you will be happiest of all.





College Courses for Working Women

May 18, 1936

EDUCATION SERIES—XIX.

More Adult Education

The Great Voluntary

January 25, 1936

Education Series—III.



Secondary school education is the ambition of most parents for their children. These boys are having their language lesson by gramophone records.



sample of the N.C.L.C.'s propaganda, whose lively working-class bias is well-known to most of our readers.

AN EXAMINATION OF EXAMINATIONS

Failed To-Day Passed To-morrow!

ONE important aspect of modern education is the examination. Not merely as tests of progress for the teachers' information, or to keep the pupils up to scratch, but as the only methods of entry, almost cases, to the higher types of education, and even to a great many careers, examinations are considered inevitable.

Most parents really do think examinations inevitable, and regard the results as irrefragable evidence of their child's scholarship. The child who fails his scholarship examination cannot be a bright child, they feel.

Is this attitude justified? A little book recently published by Macmillan and Co. Ltd., entitled "An Examination of Examinations" is a startling searchlight on the method of testing knowledge. It is a survey of investigations on the comparison of marks allotted to examination papers by independent examiners, together with a section on "viva voce" (oral) examinations. The chairman of the committee was Sir Philip Hartog and Dr. E. C. Ashmole. The most eminent educationalists of our day, was Sir Michael Sadler, who stated frankly that the question of examinations was troubling the minds of teachers and parents, not only in this country, but in other countries.

Need for Reform.

The committee, while opposing the idea of abolishing examinations root and branch, yet felt strongly the need for readjustment and reform. That such is necessary was made abundantly clear by the investigations, which covered a wide range of examinations—school certificate in history, Latin, French, chemistry, and English; special place examination in arithmetic, English, and English essay; college entrance scholarship essays; university mathematical honours, and history honours; viva voce examination.

Although great variety in marks allotted by examiners in particular cases have been previously noted by private inquirers, no systematic comparison had previously been published of the marks allotted by different examiners (all experienced and qualified for their task) to sets of papers actually written at public examinations.

A similar comparison has been carried out by French and English committees, with similarity and equally startling results.

School Certificate.

It is in the school certificate examination which most secondary school children take

any people, still young, can look upon the education and help they have received through educational channels after due manhood and womanhood have than they look back upon on they received in the State his article will deal briefly with of adult education. First, native College, situated at Holy-Manchester, with its delightful hostel in Kersal.

In session 1933-36 the number of adolescent classes registered with alive Union and the number of its during the same period were 898 classes and 27,785 students. In 1934-35 there were 867 classes and 27,785 students. The number of adult social subjects for the session 1934-35, while the students number 244, while the students number 244, while the students number 244.

The corresponding figures for 1933-34 were 208 classes and 7,606 students. In students is attributed to the society. Classes for women by one were organised under the auspices of the Committee on Technical Education 1934-35, and a total of 1,013 18,720 students for 1935-36. In correspondence classes included 18,720 students for 1935-36. In correspondence classes included 18,720 students for 1935-36. In correspondence classes included 18,720 students for 1935-36.

operative College. narrative syllabus of social, educa-

W.E.A. History.

The Workers' Educational Association, begun in 1903 by Dr. Albert Mannabridge and Dr. J. B. Pease, has been a beacon light in this country to adult working-class students. In 1933 the Co-operative Union and the W.E.A. came to a friendly working agreement, with the result that a successful scheme of grant-earning classes has been organised throughout the country. As many as 160 of these classes were organised specifically for co-operative societies during 1933 and 1934, with 3,338 students. These classes represented 2,172 lectures, and included five years' tutorial, sixteen one-year, 134 terminal courses, two extension courses, and two short courses. These courses do not include the large number of co-operators attending voluntary short courses and single lectures provided for co-operative guilds. To take one district alone, for instance, in North Yorkshire out of W.E.A. returns for 192 classes with approximately 1,600 students, 864 were

WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



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WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



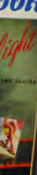
WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK





April 8, 1920.

Recipes for Vegetarians

MEATLESS MEALS

Many of us, when the warmer weather begins to come, like a meatless meal now and again. But for the vegetarian, all days are meatless days, be it winter or summer.

It is probable that the vegetarian housewife is a better and more discriminating cook than all round—we should expect her, for one thing, to have an excellent knowledge of food values; and she certainly ought to be well versed in the art of making the most of her ingredients, giving her dishes an attractive appearance.

The vegetarian knows, and proves by a healthy existence, that meat

WOMAN'S OUTLOOK

Some Made-Over Dishes.

Use Up Cold Meats. :: Homely Puddings.

will be a tasty top crust. It may be brushed over with cold milk just before going into the oven. Potatoes and onions that are intended to be cooked with the pie should be boiled for ten minutes first, otherwise they will take longer to cook than the top crust, and rather spoil the appearance of the pie.

Good Milk Puddings.

Everybody is supposed to know how to make a milk pudding; but very few housewives make one really well. Wash the rice or tapioca and

custard powder into a pint of milk, and add to the cooked rice. Stir in sugar to taste, and leave in a slow oven for an hour. Rice cooked in this way is like thick Devonshire cream, and may be served hot or cold.

Cold Meat Pie.

Make a short pastry, cover bottom of pie-dish with piece of paste rolled out very thinly, cover this with a spare layer of finely-chopped onions, dot over with small pieces of margarine; cover with a layer of cold meat, sliced or minced (cold ham may be mixed with other meat if liked), or a little finely cut-up kidney added. Cover the meat with another layer of thinly-rolled pastry, then add the layer of onions as before; another layer of cold meat, cover with pastry, make a hole in centre of cover, and pour in gravy, or, if not gravy, a cupful of hot water. Put into a quick oven for twenty

Recipe for Mock Crab:
For mince pie or dripping.
Salt, tea, grated
egg. Cut onion
in half and fry in fat.
Pepper, and a little
sauce, add cheese
and stir well. Serve
toast.

soak all night

336

WOMAN'S
OUTLOOK

WAR-TIME CAKES and



AMONG their monthly "fancies" are a problem to nowadays, and so the yet economical recipes should help:—

American War Cake

Three breakfastfuls raisins, one cup sugar, lard or fat, 1 oz. margarine, salt, a little ginger, grate. Put into a saucepan and Boil all together for five minutes.



This Beetle cake will delight the younger members of the family.

WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



WOMAN'S OUTLOOK



Woman's Outlook



Woman's Outlook





31 Health and beauty

WOMAN'S OUTLOOK.

Bedroom Calisthenics.

The following exercises have been arranged for the use of the girl who is occupied in sedentary work. They should be practiced immediately after bathing first thing in the morning, in the bedroom or bathroom, in light clothing, and with the window well opened to let in plenty of fresh air.

Their object is to promote a healthy circulation of the blood in all parts of the body.

4. Arms—Sideways fling.



HEEL AND TOE EXERCISE.

BALANCING EXERCISE.

1. Heels raise.



Be Healthy!

Stop that Ugly Walk.
Looks like a Gorilla.

A better sitting posture. It is chiefly through using that the whole curve.

WOMAN'S OUTLOOK.

For

It will let if you dance in Russia!

"I was must be in fashion!"

Russia

2. Knees bend (bend the knees and lower the body until almost sitting on the heels).



3. Upward raise (raise the arms upward and the index of the arms bend gently going and bringing easily the feet from the length in the length of the toes).

Woman's Outlook, 418, Chester Road, Manchester, 16

Your Beauty Routine

MASSAGE TECHNIQUE

Massage tones the muscles, as learn to use the correct movements. These are always upward and outward. Some facial exercises will fill the mouth with air and letting it go in short puffs as you roll your head choosing an imaginary bar, is a good treatment and is as good as it sounds! Here, in ten sketches, we show the massage technique conceived by MARCELINE SERALT, of Paris.



1. Both hands rest on the middle of the chin and fingers spread as in the picture.



2. Three fingers together rest on the side of the chin, up as far as the ear.



3. Both hands rest on the middle of the chin, with the index fingers and spread in the middle, moving the chin forward, then backward to the best below the ear.



4. Rest the elbow on the side of the head, with the index finger of the hand on the side of the head, with the index finger of the hand on the side of the head, with the index finger of the hand on the side of the head.



5. With both elbows resting on arms, support the head, using the index fingers to effect the face which have an upward pull of the bridge of the nose, following as to stress the face.



6. Rest the elbow on the side of the head, with the index finger of the hand on the side of the head, with the index finger of the hand on the side of the head.



7. Place the tips of both hands flat on the face, starting the nose between them, and moving towards the eyes, as to stress the face.



8. Place both elbows on the side of the head, with the index finger of the hand on the side of the head, with the index finger of the hand on the side of the head.



9. Spread the fingers with the fingertips of both hands, from the eyebrows to the chin.



10. Spread the fingers between the thumb and forefinger, with the index finger, the index finger of the hand on the side of the head.



same would hours. Doreen Pollitt, 16, of Ardwick, enjoys her first aerotone bath. Professor William Oliver, of Edinburgh University, who invented the aerotone bath.





A large yellow, button's pluck in fabric and
hanging in colour, gracefully trimmed with
satin ribbon lower of the same colour.

at the neck. With this was worn a navy blanket coat with a large jade green wrap cape collar. Green stockings and

JUST THE THING.

Navy is the favourite for business wear, and the merit of wearing it not showing the dirt, not brown, jade, and can all be worn by those they suit, and any of these colours suit well with a navy coat. One scheme that I saw was very smart, and yet neat and suitable. - The one-piece dress was of jade gaberdine trimmed with rows of black braid round the hips, and a little white net vest was under

and how
for Party

a blue felt hat with a ribbon finished with an attractive coucure. Some girls who have come from the office who have not time to go home to change before an evening festivity find the love of it is to wear the party overall with an overall or petticoat underneath. A combination of color is overall is buttoned up with large cuffs and a pretty coloured neck. A black patent belt over waist, and a black finish.

March 30, 1933

LEAR
ASTEL
OLOURS

all that I
head?"

A multitude of fashion parades enliven co-operative trade at this period of the year. All shopping centres women's eyes are attracted to the display of materials, and the offering of this and that, a weighing and comparing of prices, and a determination to buy. The spring outfit with its new and different materials, the group of co-operative Wholesales' houses have held all sorts of spring shows, inviting buyers to take a look at the goods. The group of co-operatives are now offered in retail stores all over the country, and from an inspection of the goods on display at the Wholesales' it is not too many a mannequin parades it is not too much to prophesy that co-operative goods can compete favourably with any from private sources. And now to a survey, as always, of the co-operative movement in the various branches of business in at the window.

What this year of 1935

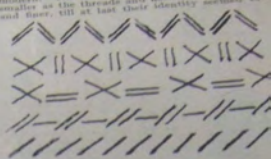
First, no lessening of
silly materials; second,
the lace upon tapes;
and third, the capes
above! hat. Materials
are truly be-
cause Boatie
and ruffled cloth in
the or reasonably
thick materials; an
and a glorious
woman wears
make a weed and
large thick busy: fine
large cloth of satin
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printed linen, ge-
ometric and ribbon;
and a silk
use of metal threads
sweeping materials
were in all kinds of
patterns and de-
signs. Metal lace is a
few wedding dress
and bridesmaids' dresses. A wonderful
example of this was
shown at the C.V.

WOMEN'S OUTLOOK

hairs, with threads of
and strength—golden,
rose pink, rich crim-
son like jewels of the

however, is not really a, as one may say. For ad decorating of the a whole, for health or an and example back hairiness and save common in greater of a climate or content, old ?

OUTLOOK. The stitches becoming smaller and modern. The stitches and needles waxed finer and finer.



side away in the whirling wheels of an industry, when the art of the needle, as a branch of art, became, for the most part, separated from industry. And when, as people lost their skill of hand in this, an arts—their vision, their love and sense of and good workmanship.

Spring Fashions
are Chic and Sophisticated.

"SHOVEL" HATS ALL THE RAGE.

Manchester, where a cream satin wedding gown with long train had for sole embroidery wide bands of silver lace appliqued in shallow chevron design. A bridesmaid's dress consisted of alternate narrow rows of silver and cream lace, and one dainty pink chiffon evening gown had gold threads woven into it in a check design.

Keep in with the Cape!

Wherever one looks one encounters the cape. This is demonstrated continually at parades, in window displays, and on the latest models. Capes of all sizes, full, three-quarter, hip, or shoulder-length. Sometimes they hang freely, sometimes fur weighs them down, and more frequently than not they are detachable, leaving a frock or two-piece costume beneath. I would strongly advise the smart girl to invest in a detachable three-quarter length cape. Fur shoulder capes are luxurious afternoons frocks, and also serve for evening wear.

If one were to ask, "Where is fashion eccentric this year?" the answer would be "In millinery." The bonnet, as an everyday affair, is not successful. It is too cruel for older women, too babyish for younger ones, so it finds its place in crinoline or stifled tulle, in the bride's maid's outfit, where it looks charming and picturesque. The "shovel" hat, however, with a sweep forward over the brows and perpendicular sides tilted over the right eye, is most attractive to both.

WOMEN WORKERS IN WAR TIME

Working Clothes

DRESSING FOR THE

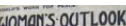
By FRED A WHITTAKER

CLOTHES matter a lot to the woman in war industry—not her leisure-time wardrobe, but the caps, overalls, shoes that she wears at work. There are many industrial processes which call for protective clothing that plays an important part in eliminating accidents. It is not just a matter of keeping tidy and looking nice!

Training efforts teach working women very understandably, and in the light of it is the whole question of supply and maintenance of the necessary equipment ought to be stressed out. Overalls not only cover a lot more of their bodies than company uniforms as well. The same applies to shoes.

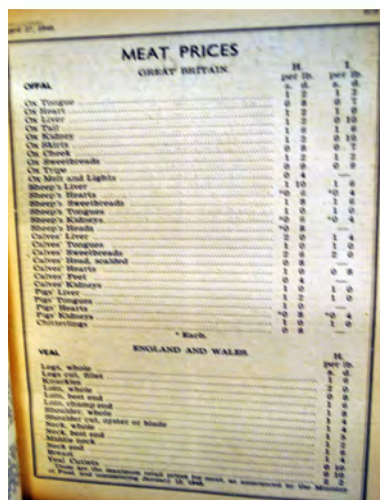
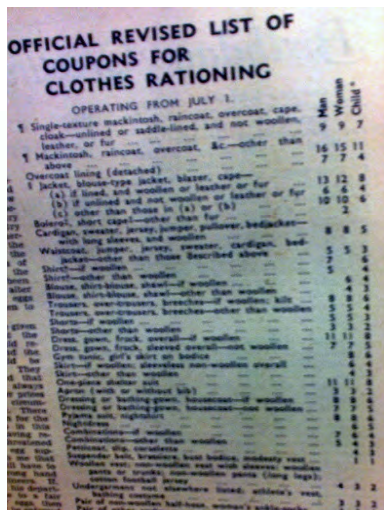


Sylvia Sydney's violet satin gown shows the charming but worldly trend of fashion. (Paramount Photo.)





Outlook maintained a link with the co-operative movement for those whose Co-operative Women's Guild branches were prevented from meeting, as well as providing branches which would meet with interesting discussion points. *Outlook* published important information such as lists of meat prices and rationed items, gave recipe ideas to make rations go further and provided free advice on rent problems. It also ran investigative reports questioning the distribution of rations, and profiled women who were moving into new careers to help the war effort, from bus conductors to ARP wardens and tent makers. *Outlook* gave voice to women in occupied countries and reminded readers that war was affecting women's lives across Europe. New features such as 'Sing song time' were introduced to boost morale. *Outlook* looked ahead to building a fairer Britain after the war had ended, responding to the Beveridge Report and discussing plans for rebuilding Coventry.





new gadgets could make domestic life easier. In the 1950s, when many young people were struggling to save up deposits to buy their own homes, *Outlook* advocated co-operative societies buy empty homes, and sell them back to workers through their wages.





35 Consumer society

The 1950s brought about increased affluence in Britain, leading to improved living standards and the rise of a consumer society. In 1957, Conservative Prime Minister Harold Macmillan proclaimed that Britons 'have never had it so good'.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, *Outlook's* content reflected this new emphasis on consumption, and its pages were increasingly filled with features with names like 'Good buys at the shops – useful new gadgets in the shops', 'What's new in the shops?' and 'Big buy of the month', as well as a 'Consumers' corner'. New ways of shopping became popular, such as shopping by post, and chains such as M&S and Woolworths were on the rise.

However, *Outlook* had to remind women to be loyal to the co-operative movement now that higher disposable income meant they no longer had to rely on the savings offered by the co-operative dividend, and there was increased consumer choice. *Outlook* surveyed readers on the future of the co-operative movement, asking readers what could be done to make stores more attractive – for example brighter shops and lower prices.

HOUSEWIVES CHOICE . . .

A FIRSTA gently coloured anti-rustbrushes

B THE DEFYANT TAYLOR – for simplicity of design

C DEFYDOR – clear glass coffee and tea set in the modern style

D DEFYDOR – light silver-plated kettle – modern style

E DEFYDOR – contemporary table set

F DEFYDOR – the modern table

G DEFYDOR – DEFYDOR – DEFYDOR – DEFYDOR

H DEFYDOR – DEFYDOR – DEFYDOR – DEFYDOR

HOME EQUIPMENT COMPETITION

MEANS AND CONSIDERATIONS

1. There is no entrance fee but competitors may not submit more than one entry.
 2. All details required on the entry form must be written clearly in ink.
 3. Entries must be sent to: The Editor, *Woman's Outlook*, Home Equipment Competition, Progress House, 111, Waterloo Road, Manchester, 16, to be received not later than Wednesday, 30th November, 1960.
 4. The winning entries will be published in the first possible issue after judging by a committee appointed for this purpose, and the details of the competition will be found and binding on all competitors.

ENTRY FORM

Name
 Address
 City
 Postcode
 Phone

Place figure 1 against reference letter for the item you consider the best. 2 against the second best, and so on.

FINAL DATE FOR ENTRIES – WEDNESDAY, 30th NOVEMBER, 1960





As *Outlook* was filled with adverts and promotions for the latest consumer products, there was also a marked rise in articles expressing concern about housewives' mental health. Readers regularly wrote in to express their discontent with modern society, bemoaning a perceived decline in moral standards, the culture of violence in films and the threat of nuclear destruction. Whereas some sections of twenty first century popular culture have embraced the aesthetic of the 1950s and 1960s, reappropriating not just the styles but values such as thrift and make-do, at the time people had begun to wonder if the 1920s and 1930s hadn't been so bad after all, even going so far as to call them the 'good old days'. One letter, from 1959, reflected: *"There was no money to fling around on the many kinds of pleasure that the workers indulge in today as a matter of course ... but we had something that seems infinitely precious, and that was a deep friendship and comradeship born of our common circumstances. We made our own pleasure and entertainment, our creative effort gave us intense and deep satisfaction. How ardently we believed in a socialist Britain."*

An editorial from July 1960, likewise, acknowledged the benefits brought about by shorter working hours, gadgets and medicines which were fast combating previously-incurable diseases, yet recognised the strain brought about by pressure to 'keep up with the Joneses': *"Small, unimportant things gradually build themselves up into overwhelming problems, then comes the first step towards a mental breakdown."*

However, no-one went as far as James Norbury, who asked 'Is our civilisation doomed?', before calling progress a 'monstrous lie' and identifying a 'tele-fridge-vacuum-cleaner-tape recorder-washing machine-motor car infested society' brought about by a 'half-American' lifestyle and obsession with things no-one really needed.





37 Outlook grows up

Outlook had started off depicting young women, yet by the 1950s and 1960s the membership of the Co-operative Women's Guild was ageing and *Outlook's* content accordingly reflected the increasing age of its readership (covers showed older women, and fashion tips focused increasingly on dressing well for your age). Furthermore, *Outlook* reported concerns about problems facing older people, from inadequate pensions to loneliness. It encouraged readers to visit and make time for older people, and listen to their reminiscences.

"It was great, and it did what it needed to do at the time. Things have changed for women and co-operative women have had a lot to do with the change. Today, more women are educated. Women don't have time for things like the Women's Guild now."

Pat Williams, 2012

"The lives of women have changed so much. In the sixties, women didn't have a life outside the home, and it's not that long since women couldn't get a mortgage on their own. Now women do all sorts – they can go to the swimming pool, the cinema, everything ... for the first time you have got a generation of women who have retired and have got a life of their own."

Margaret Tillotson, 2012

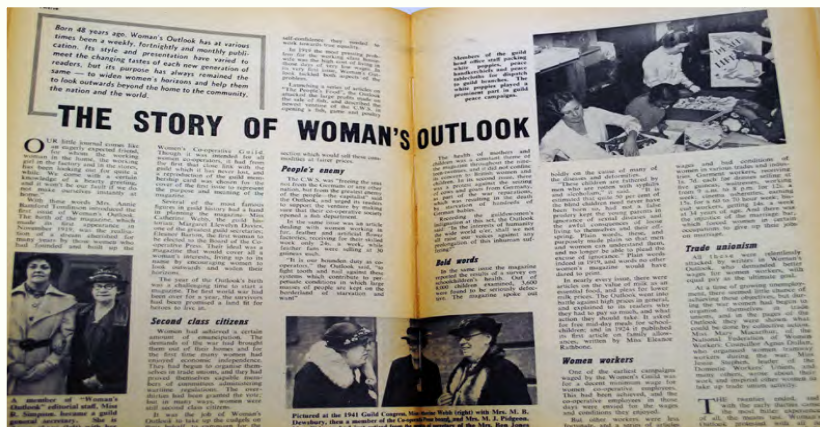




Outlook's final issue was published in June 1967. A decline in advertising (the Co-operative Wholesale Society had cut advertising as part of its economy measures) was blamed for its decline. In its place, it was announced that the *Co-operative News* was to publish a special insert on Guild news and things of interest to women co-operators which would be sent only to Guild branches.

On the cover of the final issue was a selection of images from campaigns *Outlook* had been associated with, from peace demonstrations and consumer education to a lobby against selective employment tax and projects in Zanzibar and Botswana.

The final issue was a celebration of *Outlook's* achievements. It noted: "*Woman's Outlook has never had a large circulation, but it has been a magazine backed by the support of the most active and thinking women in the co-operative and labour movements ... Outlook has outlasted many of the women's magazines that were concerned only with the more trivial aspects of a woman's life.*"





39 Some context

1917 The Co-operative Party is formed, concerned with the trading and commercial problems of the co-operative movement.

1918 A Liberal-Conservative coalition takes power, with David Lloyd George (Liberal) as Prime Minister.

The *Representation of the People Act* gives women over 30 the vote if they are ratepayers or wives of ratepayers.

The first Co-operative MP, Alfred Waterson, is elected in the Kettering seat.

1919 Nancy Astor becomes the first female MP (Conservative).

The *Ministry of Health Act* is created, leading to the establishment of a Ministry of Health dealing with sanitation, health care, disease, maternity and children's welfare.

The first issue of *Woman's Outlook* is published (in November).

1920 The *Unemployment Insurance Act* raises the amount of unemployment assistance available to workers and extends unemployment benefits to manual workers.

Record numbers of babies are born.

1921 Marie Stopes opens the first family planning clinic in the UK in Holloway, London, offering free services to married women.

1922 A Conservative government takes power.

The Irish Free State separates from the UK.

Unemployment reaches two million.

1923 The *Matrimonial Clauses Act* allows women to petition for divorce on the grounds of their husband's adultery.

1924 Ramsay MacDonald becomes the first Labour Prime Minister.

1927 The Co-operative Party forms an agreement with the Labour Party which allows for a limited number of Labour Co-operative candidates, meaning the two parties do not oppose each other.

1928 The *Representation of the People Act* lowers the voting age of women from 30 to 21.

1929 Margaret Bondfield is appointed Minister of Labour, becoming



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1933 The *Children and Young Persons Act* raises the minimum working age to 14.

Nearly three million people are unemployed.

1936 The BBC begins broadcasting from Alexandra Palace.

1937 The *Factories Act* limits the working hours of under-16 year-olds to 44 hours per week.

1938 The *Holidays with Pay Act* enables workers to go on paid leave.

1939 World War II starts (in September).

1940 An all-party coalition is formed.

Food rationing is introduced.

1940-41 The Women's Institute runs a fruit-preserving campaign.

1942 The *Beveridge Report* lays the foundations for the Welfare State, recommending social security, free health care, free education, council housing and full employment.

London Co-operative Society introduces the first self-service co-operative shop.

1944 The *Education Act* announces that the school leaving age is to be raised to 15, introducing a system of secondary modern, technical and grammar schools and the 11+.

1945 World War II ends (in April).

Labour takes power, with Clement Attlee as Prime Minister.

1946 The *National Health Service Act* lays out plans for a comprehensive national health service.

The *National Insurance Act* introduces contributory State pensions for all.

The *New Towns Act* leads to the building of designated new towns to relieve the overcrowding of inner-cities.

The Arts Council of Great Britain is formed.

1947 The post-war baby boom peaks.





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1948 The National Health Service is launched. The *Representation of the People Act* removes multiple voting (establishes one person, one vote) and extends suffrage to local elections.

1949 The first comprehensive school opens.

1950 British troops are sent to the Korean war (ends in 1953).

1951 Wartime Conservative Prime Minister Winston Churchill returns to power.

The Festival of Britain shows off the best of British design and technical innovations at a festival site on the River Thames and travelling exhibitions around the country.

1952 The Great Smog: in December, London experiences several days of smog, mainly caused by coal, resulting in thousands of deaths and widespread illness.

1954 Rationing ends.

1955 Equal pay is introduced in the public sector.

1955 Commercial television is launched.

1956 The *Clean Air Act* is introduced in response to the Great Smog of 1952, setting out measures to control pollution.

Britain becomes embroiled in the Suez crisis, after sending troops to Egypt following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal.

1957 Harold Macmillan declares: "Most of our people have never had it so good."

The Consumers' Association is formed to protect consumers against increasing rogue trading practises (today known as Which?).

The Vietnam War starts (ends in 1975).

1958 Race riots take place in Notting Hill.

1961 Oral contraceptives are allowed to be prescribed on non-medical grounds.

1963 Betty Friedan publishes *the Feminine Mystique*, revealing the unfulfillment, unhappiness and mental health problems experienced by many of America's housewives.

1964 Labour return to power with Harold Wilson as Prime Minister.

1967 *Outlook* ceases publication (in June).

Homosexuality is decriminalised.



The *Abortion Act* legalises abortion (comes into effect in 1968).

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1970 *Equal Pay Act* triggered by Fork workers' strike of 1968 (comes into force in 1975).

2007 The global financial crisis leads to the collapse of financial institutions and the government bail-out of banks.

2010 A Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition is formed, with David Cameron as Prime Minister. Following the General Election, 22 per cent of MPs are women.

Education Secretary Michael Gove announces controversial education reforms, including the introduction of an 'English Baccalaureate' to replace GCSEs.

2011 The UK rejects voting reform to replace first-past-the-post with alternative vote (proportional representation) in a referendum. The coalition government announces plans to reform the NHS, leading to calls of privatisation.

Conservative MP Nadine Dorries attempts to remove rights of independent abortion services to provide counselling to women, and calls for the abortion limit to be lowered from 24 to 20 weeks.

2012 Out of 31 cabinet members only five are women.

The Church of England General Synod votes against the introduction of female bishops.

Newspapers report on London families being forced to live in sheds and garages, as well as the rise of food banks across the country.

2013 UK unemployment is at 2.5million.

Protests take place against planned spending cuts and widespread welfare reforms, many of which will disproportionately affect women. People in the UK are revealed to have the lowest healthy life expectancy in Europe.

The UK's last remaining pre-fab estate, in Catford, London, is to be demolished, after a fight by residents to save their homes.





Useful resources

National Co-operative Archive:

www.archive.coop

Rochdale Pioneers Museum:

www.rochdalepioneersmuseum.coop

Co-operative Women's Guild:

www.cooperativewomensguild.coop

Co-operative Women's Challenge:

www.uk.coop/womenschallenge

Hull History Centre

http://hullhistorycentre.org.uk/discover/hull_history_centre/our_collections/politics/womensguild.aspx

Mary Stott, *Forgetting's No Excuse* (Faber, 1973)

Michael Herbert, *Mary Stott, journalist and editor of the Guardian's women's page 1957-71*: <http://radicalmanchester.wordpress.com/2010/04/09/mary-stott-journalist-and-editor-of-the-guardian%E2%80%99s-women%E2%80%99s-page-1957-71>

Working Class Movement Library

www.wcml.org.uk

The People's Business: 150 years of the Co-operative

www.phm.org.uk/whatson/the-peoples-business-150-years-of-the-co-operative

The Co-operative College:

www.co-op.ac.uk

The Shrieking Violet

www.theshriekingviolet.blogspot.com

