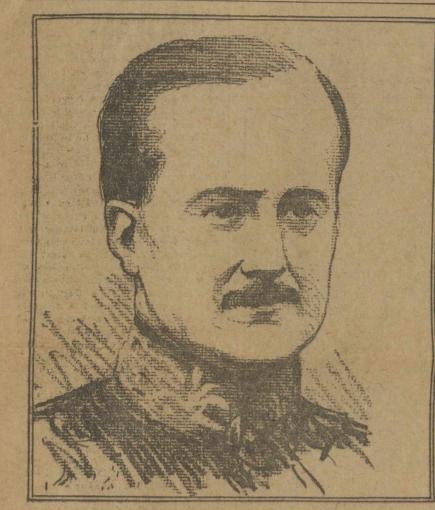
IS A WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE HOME?-A DEBATE



XX

Captain Alfred Duff-Cooper.

By REBECCA WEST.

HEN people say that woman's that men are now doing.

lazy; I would rather resign my will to man all her life, looking after the man past. anybody than use it. and the children ; therefore, all the char-

factor in this change is that men are tics of woman's primitive self. the way they dress. I have often known present environment. vho were so feminine that they wanted to wear a skirt. If you told them that breeches were much more comfortable they would say, "I don't self of man and his modern environment, think it is womanly to wear breeches; because in those past ages man did a lot I am a feminist, I want to wear the of useful work, being a hunter, agriculskirt." But I have never come across turist, &c., and his initiative was cona woman so feminine that she wanted stantly being called on, and his courage what the Oxford trousers are.

Woman Not Fighting Herself.

Rebecca West Says Man Wants to Go Back Home-Wife Should Stay There, Says Alfred Duff-Cooper

THE following excerpts are taken from the debate on the topic, "Is a Woman's Place in the Home?" between Rebecca West, British author, who is well known to audiences in the United States, and Alfred Duff-Cooper, Member of Parliament. The debate was one of a series given recently at the London School of Economics in aid of the King Edward Hospital Fund.

MISS WEST SAYS:

"Man is throwing up his hands in the sphere of politics. He wants to go back to the home, and I think we ought not to oppose him because I feel strongly myself that the ideal person to take on the job of the politician is the married woman who has brought up her family. I think that the married woman who has spent most of her time instructing children in moral behavior would be the ideal politician."

power gives him-is the account of a | I believe that the only reason why the | what is man when he has lost his one plays a greater part in the develman whom nearly all men admire- proposal has been listened to, as it has Napoleon. Of course, we always exalt been listened to, in the House of Comwhat we would like to be ourselves. mons, is that man is throwing up his MAN'S VIEW OF WOMAN When we choose a god we choose one hands in the sphere of politics. He as much like ourselves as possible-or wants to go back to the home, and wen more so! Now there is one man think we ought not to oppose him, bewhom men do really admire, and that is Napoleon, and the cause of their admiration of Napoleon is that he was an ideal person to take on the job of the enormous and extensive failure-a ter- politician is the married woman who rific male jester, who made the most has brought up her family. She may remendous failure ever seen, and who have had a certain amount of training at his death had not only lost every- in her youth in some scientific or prothing, but had also shorn his country fessional occupation, but she is not of power, and had greatly diminished likely to be able to go back to that he vitality of the French people by work at the end of her married life calling for so much of their hest for his because, more than likely, she has got

Winston Churchill's Secret

Who, for instance, is the most invinwill have to go out and do the things cible and popular of our contemporary

politicians-who keeps on being popular place is at home, they really After all, a woman is bound to be a no matter what he does? Mr. Winston mean that the home is a more satisfactory article than a man, Churchill. I think his popularity is due symbol of a state of resigna- because her present self is not at war to the fact that he is so richly a failtion to the male will. Personally, I have with her primitive self. In the ages ure in everything he does; he has that no objection at all to a resignation to when the human race established itself extraordinary power, which counts for the male will, because I am distinctly on the earth woman had to look up to which man has chiefly admired in the

army.

There has been a curious change com- acteristics in woman which were brought thetic to men when they do realize their age. In England politics have had their ing over the human species for some out by looking after men and children failure, and I think that this is what groundwork settled by past ages when time, but it has only become evident were strongly developed in those primi- they are doing. After all, the Great men really were interested in things outin its effects since the war. The main tive ages, and they are the characteris- War was a supreme example of the side the home, but in America they have Today woman's job is still to look Europe, as far as its influences on the sequence is that American politics are and, therefore, women hope to become after men and children, and therefore political ideas of men are concerned, extremely corrupt, and the men who like men. For example, men are becom-ing more like women physically, and in the way they dress. I have often known

Man's War With Himself, going on today between the primitive more absurd.

Women's Part in Politics. In the House of Commons, for instance, Winston Churchill is proposing to give pensions to widows. This is to wear two skirts, which is practically also. But in the modern world most a very good thing, of course, and varimen have for their destiny mechanical ous parties have been asking for it for and machine-like work which does not a long time, but they

call for courage or initiative; therefore, for anything so absurd as that the child-Altogether, I think as we look round man's present-day self is always at war le s woman should get a pension. It is, I think, therefore, that if we really the world, we see that there is a sort with his primitive self and is apt to be I think, scandalous. There is nothing understand now that men want to go faction among unstable and hysterical. ve have noticed, of A very curious proof of how unsuited traordinary waste of public money. If oughly sympathetic with them.

on its reverse side, which man is to the business of supreme con- the money is there to be given away all, men do lose a lot by doing to is the feminist movement, because as trol over the destinies of humanity- it ought to be given to the widows with much. One of the first conseq men take up feminine activities, women which is practically what his political children.

out of touch with the higher intellectual processes during the years when most of her time was spent in conversation with her husband. For, after all, politics do not often demand a very fine technique, and when

they do, the technique is apt to change into intrigue. I think, therefore, that the married woman who has spent most of heretime instructing children in moral behavior would be the ideal politician. Calls Our Politics Corrupt.

In America political parties at pres We ought, therefore, to be sympa- ent are controlled by men of this new failure of men. The whole history of not got that background, and the conthat we get an increasing sense of this the future of America, because when fact as the political proceedings of ex- they have finished their day's work-

On the other hand, there is a great war hausted statesmen become more and being modern men-they want to go home But the modern woman is now taking a real interest in politics, and in about

twenty years' time American politics will largely be in the hands of women and th chanical legislation that men are no imposing on their country.

Bespeaks Sympathy for Man

behind it which can excuse this ex- back to the home we ought to be tho

MR. DUFF-COOPER SAYS: "For most of us the home is the place of real importance.

believe that at present it is a bulwark against influences which threaten society. I believe that the results depend upon he home more than upon anything else to carry us through the dangerous times that lie ahead, and what is the home if is to be deprived of its centre and heart, its dominating nfluence and presiding deity, the mother and the wife?"

opment of the world or in the important work of the world than the other, and

When f consider the purposes, the

I do say that they should be applied to different uses. It may be that the IN SCHEME OF LIFE sphere of their activities occasionally overlaps.

By ALFRED DUFF COOPER. HAVE been studying this sex ques- uses, the work, to which woman should tion for some thirty-five years, be, and in the past has been most usual My first impression was that there by devoted, I find that they are those

was a certain difference between activities which could always be emmen and women. They sounded ployed and demonstrated in the home, erent and they looked different. and that is why I say that woman's m observations and researches I place is in the home. e made since those early impres- Let us consider these purposes: First s, my eyes have been opened and and foremost, we cannot deny it, is the testimony of my early years has production and the education of chilconfirmed-that woman is different dren. That is a province into which men man. As I say, they look differ- have never endeavored or even claimed they sound different, they act dif- to intrude, and I do not think that wo-

and woman are different. a bitter opposition exists, and the beings, and what can be better carried friends. bry is indignantly denied by the ma-ty of the human race. Personally, in the home? There are those who think competing with the home. The weary After all, women need not be ashamed

about saying that all men were . Before they knew where they they were reduced to the position men and women were equal. Then, home-the kitchen. After all, whether own home. The pleasures of the night of real importance. Men have to go to

men and women are different, they ought to be used for differ- importance. ourposes. But in this age of democ-

"Which do you think more to every man that he should have human race which woman is not ade- much better. tter of the two?"

the fact that people refuse satisfactory. There again woman rules can do is the production of scientific vived the storms and buffets of general differences. If I say that fork are different things aded for different purposes, ded for different purposes,

intended for different purposes, civilized country of the world. expect to be met with the crit-To go from the kitchen to higher there is no greater exponent of the suits depend upon the home more than What! do you mean that just spheres, we come to the drawing foom, art of literature in England, or possibly upon anything else to carry us through e this is a knife it can never where entertainment takes place. It is in the world, than one who never left the dangerous times that lie ahead, and of the work of prodding things?" one of the most important attributes of the home for a moment-Miss Austen-woman and one of her most important and who probably spent more long and centre and heart, its deprived of its and woman are different in this tasks to comfort and console weary man weary hours in the home, and in a small ence and presiding delty, the mother e respect, and I do not think that on his return from his day's work on home, than any novelist or artist has and wife?



Rebecca West

and they are shaped differ- men should complain that there is any- behalf of the family. The task of con- ever done. Yet she found in these hum-, and so my whole theory on this thing to belittle them in a function solation and comfort cannot be per- ble surroundings sufficient material to tion is based on the premise that which is, after all, essential to the con- formed in public; it is essentially a produce five complete masterpleces. tinuation of the race. The education of matter which should be restricted to the do not believe that our more traveled might be thought that this was a young children-what can be a nobler home, and when she has comforted him novelists have gained anything from rally received opinion, but it seems application for the activities of human sufficiently she proceeds to entertain her their explorations which has put them on a footing with the stay-at-home

trouble began about 140 that nowadays these things should be man is very apt nowadays to be dragged of the home as the place from which s ago, when there were disturb- done in communal establishments, but out from his comfortable home to a their activities are radiated, because the place of public amusement, to a place most important things, birth and death, of communal refreshment which, in my happen there. humble opinion, is very inferior to the

Jane Austen an Example.

Would Like Men at Home

to the old adage I used to we like it or not, the most spiritually club, where it is impossible to dance work-which is much to be deplored. at my nurse's knee, "One lie leads minded of us have to feed two or three because of the crowd, impossible to eat think it would be much better if men production, it will not continue at all to the old-fashioned pleasures which philosophy of Dr. Johnson, that anybody without the consumption of food. There- were enjoyed quietly and discreetly and I am very sorry, but most men, and many women, must go to work. I think

it would be better for them if they could It may be thought by some that I have stay at home and amuse themselves, After all, it is the sum of little things put the task of the woman too low, but because the majority of the work done when one says that two people which makes up the total of human I am prepared to admit that there are by men leads to no good. fferent, one is immediately met happiness in the long run, and it matters none of the higher functions of the do for their own amusement are very

tter of the two?" two good meals a day properly cooked quately equipped to perform. Perhaps As the home has been in the past our great mainstay and prop, and has sur-

overwork is lack of charm, and I ask,

a in the streets of Paris and men that opinion is restricted. Importance of the Kitchen. To travel to another department of the pleasure which he should enjoy in his

another," and before the French times a day, and as the human race because of the food, and impossible to could stay at home, too. I prefer the w where they were they were saying will not continue for long without re- talk because of the noise, are inferior all men and women were equal.

A Modern Question

fore, I claim that this department of becomingly in the privacy of the home. woman's activities is also of tremendous

PRAISES THE LEAGUE AND ITS 'HUMAN' WOR

R. BUTLER has returned recently from a visit to Geneva, where he had exceptional opportunities for observing the work of the League of Nations. He shows how the United States Government can lend its sympathy to the objects

President Columbia University.

In this particular instance the cooperat- these have come into being for a thou- antine and inspection, can stamp out a affairs are to be managed by a trustee ing units are organized States, but the sand years and more. impulse behind the movement is none

the less human, nor is its aim. international peace and security."

This had been a boasted and eagerly pursued aim of the Government of the events and important changes have hung are made and kept fit for permanent United States from the very beginning of the nation's history. Washington, that in 1919, when the Government of zation is raised in a way that could not Hamilton, Jefferson, the Adamses, Madison, Clay, Webster, Seward, Fish, Blaine, McKinley, Hay, Roosevelt, Root and Taft had each in turn been engaged reservations, it would not actually have This is but one of many illustrations in advancing this noble cause in official capacity. In our State documents and in the correspondence of our public men are to be found illustrations by the hun- this whole subject that have taken place skill and accuracy with which the recspecific support to them.

So far as the United States is concerned that matter is, for the present, a closed issue. But this is equally mys-

Name Mistranslated.

demic in Eastern Europe or in Asia. If the English translator had rendered The subdivision of the Secretariat of the From the very beginning the covenant of the League of Nations, which forms Part I of the Treaty of Versailles, has been gravely misunderstood by a large portion of the population of the United United States. This rendering of the as and when they appear. From Geneva States, and misinterpreted to them. It is expressly set out that the subscribing States agree to the covenant of the League of Nations "in order to promote League of Nations "in order to promote international cooperation and to achieve international peace and security." pestilences. Human lives are saved, huwere in progress.

disease like typhus when it becomes epi-

Time and time again in history great man families are preserved, communities upon a single word, and who dare say residence and the general level of civilithe United States was on the very verge be done save through international coof accepting the covenant of the League operation. of Nations with a few carefully drawn Mandates and Exploiting Weakness.

joined the Associated Nations on the that might be given of this very striking same terms perhaps. aspect of the League's work. It fas-Much of the discussion and debate on cinates the visitor to Geneva to see the

dred of our profound interest in these in the United States have been quite ords are kept, the use of modern matters, and, time and time again, for- below that level of intelligence, com- graphic methods in recording and in matters, and, this which the Congress of the United States have given definite and ple have every right to expect from steps taken to establish, and keep ustheir public servants, more particularly tablished, close and effective contacts

The Cauldron of Party Politics. In the light of these facts Americans portance. Few things could be less in of the League in many lands. It is must not think their neighbors in other the public interest than to turn loose hardly possible to say that the people lands peculiar if they are surprised when upon the discussion of an important and of the United States have no interest they see that an enterprise of this de- carefully worded document a legislator in such work as this.

scription is well and solidly launched who, with the mind of a mere member Another undertaking is that which has and that the Government of the United of the bar rather than that of a true to do with the so-called mandate sys-States has no part in it whatever. There lawyer, proceeds, with all the ferocity of tem, a wholly new and most striking can be no use now in thrashing over a prosecuting attorney, to tear words, departure in international public law. old straw or in trying to affix blame or punctuations, sentences into shreds be- For hundreds of years those stronger responsibility upon this political party fore his astonished and often delighted and more highly developed nations or that, upon this political leader or hearers. This may be magnificent, but which came to have control over less that. The simple fact is that the people it is not public debate. advanced peoples, often in a distant of the United States, in two successive The League of Nations has now been hemisphere and with access to great advanced peoples, often in a distant Presidential elections at which this cause in existence for six years, and the range wealth of natural resources, have dealt

was presented to them as an issue, have voted overwhelmingly against joining Columbia's President Calls It One of the Greatest Public Agencies of All Time the submitted to the Senate for ratification, since few things are more can be commissioner General in and Tells How the American Government Can Aid Its Activities

a closed issue. But this is determined to the European, or the Asiatic, or the South African, who continues to be nonplused when he is informed that or included, as yet, some of the more not included, as yet, some of the more for the south are certainly extraordinary. These have the more that are certainly extraordinary in the more for the south are certainly extraordinary. These have the more for the more that are certainly extraordinary in the more for the south are certainly extraordinary. These have the more for the more that are certainly extraordinary in the more for the south are certainly extraordinary. These have the more for the more for the more south and the there are the the the there are the there are the the there are the the there are the there are the the there are the the there are the there are the there are the there are the t The first sympathy to the objects of the League, which he calls an issue of this stupendous magnitude has fallen into the caudiron of party politics. He rubs his eyes and looks across the Atlantic to see whether the Americans are real people or only a mame. He inquires anxiously what has been expression of national security. become of our established national tra- with resulting sharp limitation of arma- man Empire of its colonies, divided these I PERHAPS the most helpful way to approach the organization and op-erations of the League of Na-tions, established by the Treaty of Versailles, the Assembly of which is now holding its sixth annual session at Geneva, is to look upon it as the latest, the most wide-reaching, and by far the most hepeful of the many endeavors to most hopeful of the many endeavors to and enabled demagogues to stir up, Take for example the field of public nexed by a stronger power on the other. secure human cooperation for the ad- memories of all sorts of leagues of lust health. No one nation, however effec- They are, rather, placed in the position vancement of the highest human ends. and blood and crime and conquest, as tive or meticulous its system of quar- of a minor or a ward in civil law, whose

I he is able and competent to A visitor to Geneva last July might have witnessed the extraordinary spec-tacle of a British Under Secretary for XVIII of the covenant of the League, is not capable of making permanent bserved in connection with the man. Colonial Affairs and at least a dozen system. In the first place, it rep- important British colonial administs a long advance over the old no- trators gathered there to explain to the of simple conquest and exploitation Mandate Commission of the League any e weak by the strong, of those in a points in the administration of their state of civilization by those in a mandates which might seem to require er. In the second place it recognizes information or discussion. Twenty-five fact that nations, like human beings, years ago this would have been un-the been unpass through a period of schooling thinkable. We should have heard every elf-government and that they can sort of outcry against the invasion of or international agreements, and by this and always humanitarian work, and less most from a kindly and well dis- sovereignty involved in calling upon a d schoolmaster. Without going too great civilized power like Great Britain been reached. Every one of these docu- are carried on from time to time. Few h into detail, it may be said that the to tell what it was doing in some distant atory system has been applied to part of the world with some dependent tine, to Syria and Lebanon, to people who had been entrusted to its All treaties that have been made with actually doing, and if the American peolatory system has been applied to part of the world with some dependent inyika, to Togoland and Cameroons, care.

New Guinea and to Marry.

United Photo.

Nicholas Murray Butler.

anda and Urundi, to Southwest Approves of Mandate System. a, to the Pacific Islands, to Ger-

None the less this principle is now be a few such treaties entered into be- part in it. firmly embedded in international public tween the United States and some one law, and the advance which it represents of the pitifully small number of Govis literally stupendous. Honestly and ernments not represented in the League, ntelligently administered, the mandate So important is this single and au- ment will continue to refuse to join the system will make impossible those thou- thoritative depository of all treaties League, even under the reservations of sand and one forms of cruelty, greed that it would be an act of decent cour- 1919, what can that Government do to and exploitation which have too often tesy for the Department of State, of mark its knowledge of the existence of marked what is ironfcally described as its own motion, to register with the one of the greatest public agencies of all the progress of civilization. It is hardly League every treaty to which the Gov- time and its sympathy with the objects possible to say that the people of ernment of the United States may be a of the League? the United States have no interest in party. such work as this.

Our Degree of Cooperation. A third matter of large importance has

to do with the protection of racial and It would be a grave error to suppose ister and assign him to residence at religious minorities in Europe. When that there is no cooperation between the Geneva for the purpose of keeping in the Covenant of the League of Nations United States and the League. To be close touch with the work of the League, was drafted no mention of this topic sure there has been no cooperation on of reporting upon this work from time was made. Treaties subsequently en- the part of the Government, but Ameri- to time to the Department of State and tered into, however, have placed upon cans operating in the field of liberty as of serving as the medium by which the the League responsibility for the protec- distinguished from the field of govern- Department of State could communicate tion of these minorities. The minorities ment have cooperated and are now statedly with the League.

sylvania, Hungary and Poland. It is the work of the League. In some re- all treaties and international agreements plain that the administration of so deli- spects their position is anomalous and entered into by it shall be registered cate a matter as this must be easier exposes them to unfriendly criticism, with the League in practical conformit than so to exercise the power confided but those Americans who have been with the provisions of Article XVIII to the League as to bring down upon it chosen by the Secretariat for their char- heretofore cited. This act would mark the wrath of more nations than one, acter and capacity to do important our Government's formal approval of Where abuses exist they are usually pieces of public work are not so easily the steps taken to put an end to secret due to arbitrary administration by an disturbed.

cerned is quite ready to deal with the such persons working in the various de- tion for all valid treaties matter on the basis of authoritative partments at Geneva that have to do Third, it can and should find ways private representations from Geneva. with public health, with the mandates, and means to strengthen the hands of Any public discussion of such a matter, with the protection of minorities, with those Americans who are from time to however, would be fatal. One may won- problems of transportation and with time selected by the Secretariat of the der whether the protection of minorities matters relating to safety at sea. The League for work upon its various comcan ever be completely effective as librarian of the League is an American missions. There is no reason why what against the wrongheadedness and de- woman, Miss Florence Wilson, and she has, in several cases, been done with termined injustice of a racial or relig- has built up, with most meagre re- all possible secrecy should not be done lous majority. This may be one of the sources, an ideally organized instru- openly and of record.

ment for the use of the Council, the Fourth, it can and should assist the ills that flesh is heir to. The League has disposed once for all Assembly and the Secretariat in the American people to get full, accurate of secret diplomacy with its infinite andling of their various problems. and impartial information regarding the possibilities of evil. For the United She is a contribution to the work of the many sided humane efforts of this ex-States secret diplomacy has always been League of whom the American people traordinary development in human 4simpossible by reason of the constitu- may well be proud. Another American, sociation.

certain than that if ninety-six Senators charge of the financial reconstruction of know of the existence of anything that country. The reputation which he everybody knows it. In many other has already made is an enviable one.

countries no similar provision has pre-vailed, but now, by the terms of Article insist upon telling us that human nature every treaty or international engage- progress away from the criminal folly ment entered into by any member of the and economic suicide of war is the his-League must be forthwith registered tory of the doings day by day of these with the Secretariat, and as soon as companies of devoted, throughly trained possible published by it. Moreover, no and high-minded men who are carrying such treaty or international engagement on the work of the League in various is binding until it has been so registered. parts of the world. It is deplorable that Under it there had been registered up the people of the United States do not time the 1,000 mark has almost certainly of the technical political discussions that ments is public property and may be things could appeal more strongly or inspected and studied by any interested more directly to American public opinthe United States since 1919 are so ple understood what that work was registered, unless perchance there may they would not be content at having no

> What United States Should De. Assuming that the American Govern-

First, it can and should provide for the legation at Berne an additional diplomatic officer with the rank of Min-

diplomacy, as well as to establish one

problem is acute in countries like Tran- easerly cooperating in carrying forward Second, it can and should provide that

individual, and the Government con- There are perhaps in all a score of certain and complete bureau of registra-