

they refuse. Also, he is very much aware that the Western Powers now realise that a revived Germany is an essential prerequisite to a strong and dependable Western Europe. Yet, the Western Powers cannot be unaware that the Bonn Administration may, conceivably, use this advantageous position for blackmail. Herein lies the peril of a policy of appeasement towards

Germany, who have a "historic tendency" to join up opportunely with the Russians. From the annals of history, it is evident that the practice of the balance of power ends in war. There is no valid reason to believe that it can succeed in the second half of the twentieth century, when it repeatedly failed during the past three hundred years.

power of contagious indignation to sweep away rational opposition. It was a marked feminine streak in the character of Hitler, which gave him power of this kind. In Spain we saw La Pasionara, and now Rumania provides us with the astounding Anna.

## Women in Politics

MRS. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, according to a report from America, was chosen one of the five "Women of Achievement of 1949" by the Women's International Exposition in America. It is well-known that several women played a prominent part in the political life of our country both before and after the achievement of independence, but it is sometimes not realised that this is part of a world-wide trend which has grown very marked during the past decade.

On being asked for his opinion on a certain woman preacher, Dr. Johnson is reported to have remarked that the spectacle of a woman doing work which properly belonged to a man was like that of a dog dancing on its hind legs: it doesn't do it well, but we are surprised to see it doing it at all. With all due respect to the redoubtable doctor, it can be asserted that there are certain tasks for which women are well-fitted in political life, and that even in his own time, specially in France, where monarchs were susceptible, they played an important, if a concealed role, in affairs of state.

With the rise of the welfare State, the increased administrative importance of women becomes obvious, and it is in this sphere that many of the leading women politicians of today are operating. Florence Nightingale blazed the way by showing what should have been known before to any member of any family, that women, can be ruthless organisers in the service of their feminine compassion our own Minister of

Health is one of the many who follow in her footsteps. So is Lady Mountbatten. It is a sphere in which an energetic and intelligent woman is, if anything, preferable to a man, except perhaps when the problems with which she has to deal fall within the strictly masculine category. Dr. Edith Sumerskill, Britain's able Parliamentary Secretary for Food, is reported to have provoked much head shaking up and down the land when, in answer to a thirsty Tory questioner, she affirmed that beer was more refreshing in the adulterated state to which it had been reduced by Britain's grain rationing.

Mrs. Pandit's own laurels have been won in the field of diplomacy, and here again one would expect a woman to succeed. Keeping father happy is always a difficult task, and should be excellent training for a profession which calls for tact combined with a certain inflexibility. The famous feminine intuition also should prove useful in piercing the veil of the diplomatic vocabulary. Thus, in addition to Mrs. Pandit, we find an American Ambassador in Luxembourg, and recently saw Madam Kollontay as Soviet Ambassador in Sweden. The latter, perhaps, was an ideal choice, combining, from all accounts, a proved femininity with an intellect as clear as her own famous "glass of water".

But there is another aspect of this rise of women to power—a more sinister aspect. It arises from another typical trend of modern political development—the reliance upon the irrational

### A Central Body for Sugar?

THE DELIBERATIONS at the Sugar Cane Committee's meeting did not throw any new light on the sugar crisis. Neither did they offer a solution for the future. Sardar Datar Singh's speech, read out by the Secretary of the Committee in the absence of the President did not reveal anything we did not know before. The large carryover and the production of the current season, it stated, was expected to be adequate. But "taking advantage of the difficult situation, interested parties had created a scarcity and a scare during the last three months." The Committee recognises the need for reducing the prices of sugar and sugar cane, but this will not be possible in the next season for which Government have already fixed the prices. The only constructive suggestion was that of setting up a single all-India organisation in order to stabilise the industry and to increase production. At present, there are a number of organisations, besides the various Governments concerned, which were dealing with sugar cane and their activities were not properly co-ordinated.

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