

Woman of the Week

—Lady Allan

IN 1952 at the suggestion of Mrs. Cazalet-Keir an Englishwoman residing in Jamaica, Lady Allan, herself a keen gardener, undertook the arranging of a Cottage Garden Competition to be organized by the JSWC. This competition is now held in the parishes of St. Ann, St. Mary, St. James and St. Catherine.

The death of her husband in 1953 was a severe loss but with the characteristic courage and determination she faced up to difficulties.

As a special representative of Jamaica, she attended the Coronation and was presented to the Queen and the Royal Family at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party preceding the ceremony. In 1956, Lady Allan was one of three representatives of Jamaica at the Women's Caribbean Conference held in Trinidad.

● In May 1957 Lady Allan's dream of a permanent headquarters for the Jamaica Federation of Women was realised when she opened the building at 74 Arnold Road, the building "founded upon a woman's determination" in the words of Lady Foot, then president of the organization. Today there hangs in the headquarters two portraits one of the Queen and the other of Lady Allan, a fitting tribute paid to her by the Federation in 1958.

In addition to her work with the Federation and the JSWC, Lady Allan is a member of the Board of Directors of Mico Training College, a member of the Beach Control Authority, Member of the Panel of JPs for the Juveniles Court, as well as being a member of many other committees.

One of Jamaica's outstanding women in the field of public service was this week elected chairman of the Jamaica Federation of Women. She is Lady Allan, widow, foundation member, vice-president and vice-chair-



man of the fifteen year old organization founded by Lady (Molly) Huggins.

Born in Linstead Edris Elaine Trotman, daughter of Robert Henry Trotman and the late Alice Trotman (nee Feurtado), her interest in social activities had an early beginning with her active participation in various organizations in her community. On coming to Kingston she worked for a time with the firm of

Sherlock & Smith and from there went on to Nathan & Co. where she remained for ten years as the supervisor of a department.

Later she joined the staff of the Government Post

Office and became the first telephone operator in the All Island Telecommunications Branch, a position which she occupied for about four years. Her early experience as a store clerk gave her an opportunity to meet and learn how to deal with people of all levels, an experience of which she is justly proud and which has been of great help to her in her chosen field.

● In 1941 she married Harold Allan, then a member of the Legislative Council representing Portland, and later was Minister of Finance for Jamaica. In 1948 her husband was knighted by the late King George VI in recognition of his long years of service to the people of Jamaica and the Commonwealth. During these years Lady Allan's interest in social welfare work had widened and in 1950 she was appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission.

She is also chairman of the Home Economics Committee. She also finds time to carry out the busy task of running the Capitol Theatre in Port Antonio, established in 1919 by her late husband who introduced motion pictures to Portland.

For the future of the JFW, which she firmly believes is serving a good purpose in the communities, Lady Allan has pledged herself to do all in her power to carry out the task which she has undertaken as chairman and which no doubt, she will accomplish with her typical determination of purpose.