

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1928

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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COUNCILLOR ELISABETH LUND, MAYOR OF PUDSEY.

In the geographical area in which Pudsey is situated, an area almost exclusively devoted to manufacture, it is not surprising to find civic office held by those who are themselves interested in or actively engaged in manufacture. Pudsey has recently elected Councillor Mrs. Lund to the dignity of its Mayoralty. Mrs. Lund is the daughter of a Bradford merchant, and twenty-five years ago married a Pudsey manufacturer, remaining in Pudsey after his death. Her whole life has been spent in the world of manufacture and of commerce, near whose centre is the town over whose domestic affairs she now rules. Mrs. Lund has always devoted a full share of her time to the public service, but only joined the Council in August, 1927, an election followed quickly by promotion to the Mayor's Parlour. Her politics are Conservative. That in August, 1927, Pudsey chose Mrs. Lund as the first woman member of its Council, and then so quickly followed this innovation by choosing her for their chief, speaks much for the civic spirit, the efficiency and the dignity of their choice. Mrs. Lund had no easy election to her Councillorship. She stood for her own Ward, that in which she is resident, and had

three other competitors. It was a keen contest, and she pulled off a 67 majority.

Mrs. Lund's year of office is not only the usual year, filled with the usual routine of office, and added to by the accidents of municipal government, but is an outstanding one in the annals of Pudsey. One of its generous Councillors, Councillor Ward, has made it possible for the town to open simultaneously a playground for children, a maternity home, and a new clinic, and also to lay the foundation stone of new public baths. All these are to be added to the town's enterprises in April this year, and one can imagine what the organisation of so large an undertaking must add to the work of the Mayor and her Councillors. Not content with the provision of these modern necessities, Pudsey, to crown them, has received the honour of consent to perform the public ceremony from their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York. In addition to all the civic work involved, the Mayor is to have the further honour of entertaining their Royal Highnesses at luncheon. Certainly this woman Mayor is to have a full year of multifarious and unusually important duties.



(By the courtesy of the *Liverpool Post and Mercury*.)

THE MAYOR OF PUDSEY.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Doctor's Appointment.

Miss I. Mann has been appointed assistant ophthalmic surgeon at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital. Miss Mann is stated to be the first woman who has been given a position on the honorary staff.

Imperial Service Medal for Woman Postal Worker.

Miss Jessie Bond, a counter clerk and telegraphist in the London postal service, has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of her 25 years of service.

Women Parliamentary Candidates.

Miss Margaret Kidd, daughter of the late M.P. for the Division, has been adopted as the Conservative candidate in the West Lothian by-election. Mrs. Zelia K. Hoffman, of Blickling Hall, near Aylesham, has been adopted as the prospective Liberal candidate for North Norfolk.

Woman Official in Boot Trade.

The South Wales and Monmouth Boot Trade Federation has elected its first woman Vice-President. She is Miss Kirkland, of William Kirkland, Ltd., of Swansea, and is a member of the Women's Freedom League.

Guardian Rebukes Chaplain.

When the chaplain, aged 23, to a Board of Guardians said that, in trying to dictate to their chaplain, the members of the Board were behaving like a lot of grandmothers, one of the women Guardians made the spirited reply that such a stripling speaking in such a way merited laying across the knee and spanking.

Equal Pay in the Civil Service.

Red Tape, the Civil Service paper, says that the W.C.O. Committee have decided to press for Equal Pay. A decision to suspend activities pending the introduction of the Equal Franchise Bill can now be set aside and work for Equal Pay revived immediately.

Woman Prizewinner.

A prize offered for the best novel by an undergraduate of Oxford or Cambridge has been won by a woman at Oxford—Miss Du Coudray.

Jewish Women's Franchise.

Owing to the obstructive action by the Die-Hards, the franchise for Jewish women is endangered. Eight members of the United Synagogues Council have sent in their resignations owing to the action of the "antis." We hope their protest will be effective.

WOMEN AND DISTRICT COUNCILS.

Early next month, District Council elections will take place throughout the country, and we very much hope that more women will be elected to them. Last year, we counted 490 Urban District Councils without any woman amongst their members! The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship have issued two admirable leaflets—Reasons why Women are Wanted on Urban District Councils, and Why Women are Wanted on Rural District Councils. All women interested in this matter should send for these leaflets, which can be obtained from this Office at 1d. each, post free.

Special issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XXV. Councillor Mrs. Jenkins, Mayor of Tenby, March 9th, 1928; XXIV. Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Mayor of Lichfield, February 24th, 1928; XXIII. Mrs. John W. Greene, Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds, January 13th, 1928; XXII. Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, November 25th, 1927; XXI. Councillor Miss Hudson, J.P., Mayor of Eastbourne, June 24th, 1927; XX. Councillor Mrs. Coxon, Mayor of King's Lynn, March 26th, 1926; XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, February, 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Neville, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Smee, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maud Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 28th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Willis, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

LITTLE-KNOWN RUSSIAN HEROINES.

On Monday, February 20th, a very interesting lecture was given by Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker on the "Women of Russia," under the auspices of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. Dr. Octavia Lewin lent her charming house in Wimpole Street, and among the audience were such distinguished friends of the women's movement as Sir John Coekburn and Mr. Arnold Lupton. Mr. Prelooker reviewed the history of Russia from legendary times to the present day, emphasising the part played by women in the religious, political and military life of their country. One of the most curious examples he gave was that of Vera Makaveyava, who founded a sect known as the Vitalia, who believed that the Czar and his Government were the incarnation of Antichrist, and that it was a sin to breathe the air they polluted. She set an example to her followers by being buried alive, and no less than 25 of her disciples followed her—and this no longer ago than 1896! Another woman, Loukeria Kalmikoff, became the autocratic head of the strange sect of the Doukhobors, which finally found refuge in Canada from the terrible persecutions which their pacifist tenets brought upon them in Russia. The lecturer then proceeded to tell of Mme. Bochkareva, the founder and commander of the heroic Battalion of Death, which failed in its object of stiffening the resistance of the Russian troops in the Great War, but only after it had left over a hundred of its number dead and wounded on the battlefield. The lecture ended with a reference to Mme. Kolontay, recently Soviet Minister to Norway.

Miss Miriam Prelooker gave a brief recital of Russian songs, and charmed the audience with her clear, pure notes, which admirably brought out the sad simplicity of the rather plaintive airs characteristic of Russian music.

The aim which Mr. Prelooker had in view was to interest the audience not only in Russia, but in the work of the International Alliance, and to widen the circle of readers of its paper, the *International Woman Suffrage News* ("Jus Suffragii"), tickets for the lecture being inclusive of a year's subscription. The result was eminently satisfactory, and it is hoped that further entertainments having a similar object will be organised elsewhere.

THE SIX POINT GROUP

announces a DEBATE on

"Women in the Press"—"That the Influence of the Daily Press is Detrimental to the Position of Women."

Proposer: DR. LETITIA FAIRFIELD.

Opposer: LORD RIDDELL.

Chair: MISS REBECCA WEST.

On TUESDAY, MARCH 27th, at 8 p.m., in the ASSEMBLY HALL, MARY SUMNER HOUSE, TUFTON STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Tickets—3/6 and 2/6 reserved, and 1/- unreserved—from the Secretary, Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Tel.: Victoria 0905.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise Bill.

MR. SNOWDEN (Lab., Colne Valley) asked the Prime Minister if the date has been fixed for the Second Reading of the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill, and what time it is proposed to give for the Second Reading? THE PRIME MINISTER: We propose to give one day, and to take it on Thursday, March 29th.

Vigilance Work (Women Officers).

COL. WOODCOCK (U., Everton) asked the Home Secretary if he is prepared to consider that, instead of increasing the number of women police, he will recommend the employment of women to act as vigilance officers, not wearing police uniform, as a better means to effect the duties required of them? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: I am considering all practicable methods of working, and do not wish to arrive at a final decision without the fullest consideration. COL. WOODCOCK: Has the attention of my right hon. Friend been drawn to the evidence given by the Secretary of the National Vigilance Association to the Committee appointed by himself, in which he said that the work of prevention was carried on far better by women who are not in uniform than by uniformed policemen? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Yes. I have had my attention called to that evidence, and it is being considered along with the other facts accordingly.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

SIR ROBERT THOMAS (Lib., Anglesey) asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the lack of improvement in the maternal mortality rate, he will, with a view to creating a more efficient maternity service, consider the advisability of modifying the present maternity benefit in such a way as to provide medical and nursing services, in addition to a cash payment, and of linking up such services with maternity and child welfare work of local authorities? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): The question of advisability of modifying the present arrangements for maternity benefit under the National Health Insurance scheme in the direction indicated by the hon. Member was raised at a recent meeting of the Approved Societies' Consultative Council, and was referred by them to a special Sub-Committee. As soon as my right hon. Friend receives the Report of the Council on the subject, it will have his most careful consideration.

MAJOR ROPNER (U., Sedgefield) asked the Minister of Health whether he has now received the Reports of the Medical Officers of Health for Houghton-le-Spring and Chester-le-Street; and whether they show that there has been any increase in the infant mortality rate, due to want of proper food and nourishment of mothers and children? SIR K. WOOD: My right hon. Friend has received Reports from the Medical Officers of Health of the districts mentioned. The infant mortality figures for these districts during 1927 have just reached me, and show a small increase in each district, as compared with 1926, though the rates are lower than for the years 1924 and 1925. Only the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Houghton-le-Spring suggests under-nourishment as one of the causes of the increase, and his Report was not written until February 22nd. My right hon. Friend is advised that other medical authorities in Durham attribute the temporary increase in infant mortality in that county during the last few months of 1927 to the exceptional prevalence of bronchitis and pneumonia.

Traffic in Women and Children.

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Great Britain has a representative on the Commission appointed by the League of Nations, known as the League's White Slave Commission, and if any special instructions have been issued? MR. LOCKER-LAMPSON (Under-Secretary, Foreign Office): Great Britain is represented on the Traffic in Women and Children Committee of the League of Nations by Mr. S. W. Harris, of the Home Office. Mr. Harris is fully conversant with this subject, and at present requires no special instructions.

Women (Training Centre, London).

MR. DAY asked the Minister of Labour the number of women who are receiving training in the London area at any of the Centres under the direction of the Ministry; and the amount at the disposal of these Training Centres for this purpose? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: The Central Committee for Women's Training and Employment have at present one Home Training Centre in London—that at Deptford—where there is accommodation for 50 women at a time. No part of the Grant paid to the Central Committee is earmarked for any particular Centre.

HOW TO GET WOMEN INTO PARLIAMENT.

The Women's Freedom League called a Conference on Monday, March 19th, to discuss the best policy to be adopted by organisations of women to increase the number of women Members of Parliament. Mrs. Schofield Coates took the Chair, and dealt well with an energetic discussion. Miss Underwood read letters regretting absence, expressing support, and suggesting plans of action. Miss Reeves then moved that "This Conference presses for the nomination of more women candidates by all political Parties, and pledges its support to all suitable women." Mrs. Flowers seconded; and Miss Whately moved to insert the words, "a fair proportion of whom should be offered constituencies where they have a reasonable chance of success" after "Parties." Miss Boyle seconded, and Mrs. Townsend supported, followed by Dr. Stella Churchill. The amendment was carried *nem. con.* Mrs. Hubback and Mrs. White supported, also Miss Macadam, Miss Griffiths, Miss Elliott, and Miss Underwood. Miss Reeves replied, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

To summarise this most valuable and interesting discussion, it appears there are certain clearly defined differences in the women's movement. There are those who would support no woman candidate unless, to quote one of the speakers, "she stood straight and square for feminist equalitarianism." There are others who would support any woman because she was a woman. Others again urge the holding aloof from existing Parties, possibly ultimately forming a new Party more sympathetic to feminism. Others feel it is hopeless either to try to enter Parliament, or to be of any use when there, unless a member of and supported by a Party. All agree that there should be more women Members, and that finance is one of the principal handicaps at present for a woman candidate.

A second resolution, that "This Conference urges that women be put on to the Selection Committees of the constituencies," was moved by Mrs. Van Gruisen. This led to a long discussion as how best to attain this object. Mrs. White, Lady Currie, Miss Boyle, and Miss Whately spoke and gave valuable suggestions as to methods of procedure. The resolution was carried unanimously.

A third resolution, "That, in order to remedy the disproportion of women in Parliament at the earliest possible moment, active steps be taken by women's societies to ensure that there shall be:—

- (1) A woman candidate at every by-election;
- (2) A specially organised rally on behalf of suitable women candidates at the forthcoming General Election," was moved by Mrs. Billington Greig. Miss Reeves opposed, and Miss Boyle supported. It was decided to make (1) and (2) separate resolutions. Mrs. White spoke against (1) and in favour of (2). Mrs. Greig replied, and (1) was lost, (2) carried *nem. con.* The discussion on the first part of this resolution disclosed that many thought that the putting up of any woman at every by-election where there was not already a woman candidate would, in time, lead to the regarding of a woman candidate as not a serious candidate, and react harmfully upon the genuine woman candidate. All agreed that the second part of the resolution could only be helpful, and no doubt from this Conference will emerge practical steps for its object, for which there was unanimous and hearty support—the increase in the numbers of women Members of Parliament.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd, 1928.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS.

It is said to be the intention of King's College, Charing Cross and Westminster Hospitals to follow other London hospitals in their decision to exclude women medical students, although it is expected that the women at present at those hospitals will be allowed to complete their studies, and that afterwards no more women students will be accepted. There are, at present, about 600 women medical students in London; 300 of them are at the Royal Free Hospital, where the students are exclusively women, and the remaining 300 are scattered in the few mixed medical schools, including University College Hospital (with a maximum of 12), which still remains open to women. Various reasons are given for the exclusion of women from the London medical schools, but the predominant one is the fact that a great many men medical students prefer to have as their co-students all men who can become members of their sports teams and give them a chance of winning various cups and trophies in the world of sport! The hospitals at which they study are, of course, mixed hospitals, supported by voluntary subscriptions from the general public, and the great majority of patients at all of them are women and children. The Governing Boards, however, of all these hospitals are men. This is a most regrettable fact, and we appeal to all men and women subscribers, who certainly have the welfare of these hospitals very near their heart, to alter that arrangement and to challenge the contention of the male medical students that their prowess in the field of sport is of greater value to themselves, to their hospital, and to the community than their own and their hospitals' achievements in the healing of suffering humanity. In the meantime, we are glad to note that the Senate of London University is proposing to secure an inquiry into the position. All the medical schools receive grants from its funds, and one of its statutes provides that no disability shall be imposed on the ground of sex. It is hoped that this inquiry will have the effect of influencing London medical schools to reconsider their decision in regard to the exclusion of women students.

FRENCH WOMEN AND MILITANCY.

In *The Times* of last Saturday, a brief account appeared of action by Frenchwomen in the Senate. While the Senate was discussing the Military Effectives Bill, a group of women, denied expression of opinion as citizens, showered leaflets on the heads of the male assembly. Madame Maria Verone is reported as heading this group, and we welcome the news as showing their realisation that patience carried to excess can be a wrong thing, and that French women suffragists, many of whom, including that brilliant young lawyer, Maria Verone, are known personally to us, are realising that the time for words alone is past, deeds are now right, and a thousand times justified.

Many French women, of all classes, all political views, have worked their lifetimes demanding, asking, requesting, begging for the franchise. They have received jeers, abuse, praise, promises, rebuffs, but never honest or actual support. The baser politicians have betrayed them again and again; again and again they have been sacrificed on the altar of expediency.

Within the last few years, both American and British women have urged French women to more direct and public protest. In America and in Britain,

militancy plays its part in the woman's movement, likened by many to the spearhead of the advancing force.

Militancy takes many forms. In France, it has appeared in the form of a shower of papers by voteless women in the Senate, where only men may sit. A mild action, but, as a portent, immense. Public attention is at once drawn to the women's demand, that demand that has been made with correct courtesy for so many years, and to which public attention has never turned. Attract public attention, cause public thought, create public opinion, and the way to victory lies clear before you. The tricks of politicians and the Party tacticians cannot flourish under the eyes of an enlightened public opinion.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at 144, High Holborn, on Saturday, March 17th, those present being Mrs. Brading (Portsmouth), Miss Alix Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Miss Anna Munro, Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Reeves, Mrs. Stedman, the Hon. Treasurer, and the Secretary. Miss Munro was elected Chairman for the morning session, and Mrs. Schofield Coates for the afternoon session. The Committee sent a message of very warm sympathy to our President in her illness, and expressed the hope that the members would have the pleasure of seeing her at their next meeting on April 27th.

Reports were read, discussed, and passed from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), and the Secretary, and from the political, literature, and VOTE sales departments. Miss M. I. Neal had summarised the Dufferin Report for the Committee, and read a summary of the correspondence received during the month from the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. The Committee asked her to bring the work of this International Alliance before those present at our Annual Conference.

Reports were read, amended, discussed, and passed for our Twenty-first Annual Conference, to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, April 28th. The Committee decided that at 4 o'clock that day there should be a general discussion among members of the League at Caxton Hall on "The Work of the Women's Freedom League when Equal Franchise is Won," and branches are being urged to consider this question before their delegate comes to the Conference, so that there shall be as widely representative views as possible expressed during the discussion.

The Committee sent a resolution to the Prime Minister expressing cordial thanks for the introduction of the Equal Franchise Bill in the House of Commons, and for his promise that the Second Reading shall take place on March 29th. The Committee recorded its great satisfaction that it was a genuinely Equal Franchise Bill, and urged that it should be passed through all its stages into law at as early a date as possible. The Committee decided that members of the League in London should be asked to be present in the House of Commons on the 29th inst. while the Second Reading was being debated, and that all members of the League should be advised to write to their local M.P. urging him to be in his place that day and to vote in favour of the Bill, so that the Second Reading of the Government's Equal Franchise Bill should receive a record majority. The Committee expressed its pleasure that French women suffragists had brought the subject of Votes for Women before the members of the Senate by a shower of leaflets and papers on their heads, and sent its cordial congratulations to Madame Verone and her suffragist friends on their success in this matter.

Mrs. Pierotti drew attention to the fact that we now have a reprint of Mrs. Marion Holmes' cameo sketch of the Life of Josephine Butler, and that this charming little pamphlet can now be obtained from this Office—4d. per copy.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

The Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting on March 14th was memorable as occurring two days after the introduction of our Equal Franchise Bill. Miss Underwood, who presided, claimed the Bill as a triumph for the principle of equality. She gave a summary of its provisions, and pointed out that it assumed a General Election not earlier than May, 1929. She urged that all should write to their Member asking for tickets for the Ladies' Gallery for the Second Reading, and, failing that, to attend in the Lobby. She also announced the election of Mrs. Runciman as Member for St. Ives, and expressed the hope that she would not vacate the seat when the election came, and that St. Ives would ask her to stay. Two new women candidates were welcomed—Miss Kidd, for West Lothian, in the Conservative interest, and Mrs. Hoffmann, for North Norfolk, in the Liberal interest. Miss Underwood alluded to the admission of Frenchwomen to the French Diplomatic Service, and told of a reply given in the House of Commons to a question as to the qualifications required of candidates. The answer gave the following qualifications, all of which, Miss Underwood claimed, were held by women:—Power of observation, good address, readiness to take responsibility, and ability to keep on good terms with all people in all countries.

The next subject with which Miss Underwood dealt was the bad state of affairs in the London Lock Hospital, a hospital for women which has no women on its Board of Management. The Women's Freedom League had written to all concerned, pointing out that the way to solve the existing difficulties lay in appointing women in control. The Ministry of Health

has now appointed a Committee of Inquiry consisting of two men and one woman—Mrs. H. J. Tennant.

Miss Underwood then told that the exclusion of women medical students from hospital schools was increasing. Both the Westminster and the King's College Hospitals had decided to exclude them. She quoted from the *Morning Post* to the effect that the reason for the exclusion was to increase the possibilities of a strong group of men athletes, to carry their hospital to athletic victories. Miss Underwood suggested a withholding of subscriptions from all hospitals supporting such inequalities. She then read the list of successful women candidates to the London County Council—22 in number, also one Alderman.

Dr. Knight gave an interesting account of the continued objection taken to the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, and offered a pamphlet summarising the reasons for its rejection.

Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., recalled her own childhood, when even education was denied to girls in equal measure with boys, and also recalled early suffrage days when opposition was so bitter, and compared the attitude now shown towards the Equal Franchise Bill. She pointed out that now all Parties—Conservatives, Liberals, and Labour—were declaring themselves on the side of the victorious. She counselled her audience to watch carefully the voting lists in the House of Commons at the Second Reading. Nothing is certain, she added, until we have it; many Conservatives are really against Equal Franchise, but will follow the Prime Minister.

Miss Underwood hoped we should soon have Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence again with us. She was now on the way to recovery.

EXPERIMENT OR RETROGRESSION?

When the reports of the Headmasters' Conference appeared with Dr. Norwood's words to the effect that it was neither necessary nor desirable that the schools examinations should be the same for boys as for girls, feminists were roused to great and justifiable indignation. This looked to them like one more unworthy attempt to handicap the woman on her way through the world. Set a lower standard for girls, and the woman will obtain only lower pay, inferior posts. Then came a second shock—we were told we could not in fairness blame the headmasters, as the first suggestion of differentiation had come from the headmistresses. A possible explanation offered in some quarters is that the headmistresses suggested an alteration in, or addition to, the subjects now set, an alteration which they considered would be beneficial to girls, and the headmasters took it as a lowering of the existing standard, some of them expressing the view that, if girls could not undertake the present standard, they must be content with a lower one. It does not appear that the headmistresses' suggestion implied any lowering of standard. The matter of alteration is still under discussion by the Examination Council.

Following on what seemed to be an attack upon their hard-won citadel of equality in educational standards, feminists were confronted by the announcement of an experiment in the form of a public school for girls. The Governing Body has on it four women and seven men, among whom are Dr. Norwood, the reported supporter of different examinations for girls. All the first Press accounts of this new school—Westonbirt—presumably based upon information directly supplied by the Governing Body, made this so-called "experiment" seem much more like a backward step to our grandfathers' ideals of suitable accomplishments for young ladies. Reading the prospectus supplied upon application made fear a certainty. The headmistress appointed to this new school is without academic qualifications of any kind—a fact which seemed to indicate that this new

education for girls was not to include the academic.

The prospectus opens by a fulsome account of the architectural and horticultural beauties of Westonbirt as "To the glories of the House were added the charming and beautiful pleasure grounds. . . . the effects are most gorgeous. . . . one of the glories of Westonbirt. . . . many magnificent hues harmoniously grouped. . . ." Almost at the end a small paragraph says that "Tennis, Cricket, Netball, Lacrosse, and other open-air occupations will be encouraged. . . ." While regretting the omission of hockey, one must hope that the importance of horticultural beauty and healthy games will be reversed, in fact, in the school. The heart of the matter, however, is the paragraph headed "Policy," which runs thus:—

"The policy which the Governors have in view is a course of education which will to some extent break away from the conventional lines of High School teaching. They believe that, excellent as that course has proved, and proves itself to be in many cases, it is, as a matter of fact, and as a result of its history, too closely modelled on the curriculum of boys, and too academic in its outlook. Many women indeed become teachers or follow professions; more marry, and become the mothers of the next generation. It is not unreasonable to suppose that the education of girls should be thought out on first principles and on the basis of their own needs, and that, if so, for the average girl, both the aesthetic and the domestic, practical and outdoor subjects offer a field of training, which has been unduly neglected, through the pressure of languages, mathematics, and science. There is room also in the education of girls for real freedom, initiative, and leadership. Intellectual subjects will be by no means neglected, but they will not overbalance the other sides of the nature of the girls, which require equal development. The Governors hope that there will go forth from this School women well qualified both

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