

THE VOTE,
SEPT. 10, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

THE TERRIFIED ANTI!

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 10, 1920.

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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A FAMOUS HOMEMAKER.

Interview with Miss Alma Tadema.

Women, from time immemorial, have been classified as home-makers, yet now and again the unexpected crops up on the horizon, and a man goes down to posterity either as the originator, or beautifier, of some famous home in history.

Such an one was the great architect-artist, the late Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema, whose house in St. John's Wood some 30-40 years ago was noted throughout Europe, and frequented by every eminent artist, musician, scientist, or writer who visited this country. To-day it stands in the market waiting to be sold, because none of the great ones in authority in this country are sufficiently public-spirited to rescue this wonderful monument of creative art from the hands of the jerry-builder and preserve it for all time as a

Heritage to the Nation.

"The same story is going on to-day all over England," Miss Alma Tadema told our representative. "Everywhere one reads of beautiful old country houses and estates being knocked down to the highest bidder, and passing into hands which are frequently unable to appreciate the value of their new purchase. Loss of income, shortage of domestic service, the general uncertainty of the times in which we are living, are all contributory factors; the "old order" is indeed changing, giving place to one that is entirely new.

"Yet, believe me, the change is not being accomplished without corresponding loss. Loss of old traditions, of dignity and beauty, and of that subtle atmosphere of graceful living which a hasty and materialistic generation, ever on the look-out to secure the flesh-pots of Egypt, will never succeed in grasping.

"People sometimes speak of this house in somewhat flamboyant terms, and allude to the luxury of its interior. But my father was one of the simplest of men. He had no intention of building anything but a

home, a house to be lived in. He was just a craftsman, with an acute sense of the beauty of simplicity, and kept this aspect of true art always before him. He brought up his family in the same atmosphere of simplicity. We are all workers!

"If you know anything of my father's art, you will remember that intimate detail of construction was his chief characteristic. This is shown in all those of his pictures which illustrate various aspects of architecture, usually interiors of houses, and is, of course, always in evidence in this home of ours, which he not only designed himself, but actually built.

"My father collected materials from

All Parts of the World

to beautify his home. We will begin with the front door, which, you will notice, is framed in bronze acanthus leaves cast from a house in Pompeii, and set in a marble wall. This little entrance hall is paved with Persian tiles. In the old days it gave hospitable welcome to hundreds of callers, both strangers and friends. No one was ever refused admittance here in my father's lifetime, who really loved beauty and art. Next comes my father's private library and writing-room. It is designed, as you will see, after the style of a Roman atrium, with its pool in the marble floor, but the fountain is now silent. His books are housed to-day in the South Kensington Museum, but you will realise the enormous size of the great art tomes he collected by the height of the shelves. This long, comfortable, upright desk is where he used to stand and read them. Note the doors here and in the rooms we shall come to later. They are one of the chief features of the home. Each one was made from my father's original designs, and, as you will see, they frequently contain other varieties of woods inlaid in panels or in fancy devices. Every door is different throughout the house.

"And now we reach the studio, where my father held his celebrated Receptions every Tuesday night, and where some of his unfinished pictures still hang upon the easel. This studio has been pronounced by experts as the finest in the world. Let us sit here on this sofa at the far end, so that we get the best light on the interior. The roof is an exact copy of a Byzantine Basilica similar to those you see in many Italian churches. Its ceiling of aluminium contrasts well with the pale green marble walls, and windows of thin onyx. The hanging lamps were copied from Arabian designs, and the circular seat opposite where we are sitting is upholstered in embroidery from Tunis. The floor is of oak, inlaid with other woods. In this alcove used to stand a piano on which Tschaiikovsky, and Boito, and Paderewski have played. One of the doors of this studio opens on to a

Shining Brass Stairway,

another, inlaid with Japanese incidents, moves by means of sliding panels. When some of our Receptions were more overcrowded than usual, we used to slide back these doors, and by so doing gained a picturesque view of the big glass-domed conservatory opposite.

"And now we come to the dining-room, with its quaint inlaid table and oaken dresser built into the wall. The wall covering is of rare Japanese gold paper, unobtainable now, but a fine background for pictures. This little serving-hatch was made to facilitate the passing of dishes at meal times. The cupboards above were specially designed by my father to open from beneath by merely pulling with the fingers. He preferred this method to fixing door handles which are always coming loose. He thought out every detail in this way, and wherever there was any wall space he promptly built a cupboard so there should be no waste.

"And, lastly, I will show you the Dutch room, which was literally translated from Goude in Holland. My father bought an old house belonging to a Dutch merchant, and this room was one of the actual rooms, though, of course, slightly re-arranged as to furniture. The oak panelling, the ancient presses and tables, the stained glass in the windows, all date back to 1620, and even earlier. The iron back of the grate, embellished with doves and olive branches, was cast to commemorate the

Peace of Westphalia.

"My father was indeed happy in his home, and loved every inch of it. It is not given to everyone to carry such a design into execution, and I am happy to think he enjoyed its possession for over a quarter of a century.

"Have we had many to look over the house since it was put upon the market? Hundreds upon hundreds, and as my sister or I insist on taking all callers over the house personally, as we do not feel that otherwise justice will be rendered to my father's work, you can imagine the last few months have been no sinecure. I have frequently shown as many as forty people over in one morning. The Americans are the most appreciative, and we feel if this house fell to the lot of an owner of this nationality it would be in good hands.

"What we hoped, of course, was that it would be bought by the Government and used as a public museum for this part of London. But so long as wars continue, and have to be paid for, civilisation, with its accompanying arts and inventions, must come off second best."

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OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

The hunger-strikers are still in prison. Only their faith in their cause keeps them alive. Suffragists know what this means. Each of us is responsible for what is done by our Government in our name. To allow those who rebel to die in our prisons is the blunder that is worse than a crime. This is not a Party question. The Press of all parties, the King, and nearly all organised bodies in the country have urged the claims of humanity. "Frightfulness" will not frighten Britons, and a Government that cannot govern must resign.

WOMEN INVENTORS.

Women are usually credited (by men!) with congenital incapacity for creative work, either in the arts or in industry, but, according to a New York paper, at least one woman, Miss Margaret Knight, leads the world in the number of her inventions, having 89 to her credit. Moreover, it was a woman, no less a personage than Queen Elizabeth, who originated the first patent system in the world!

According to a recent article in the *Woman Citizen*, women have made inventions in connection with wearing apparel (top of the list), culinary utensils, furniture and furnishings, educational appliances, heating apparatus, building materials, agricultural implements, medical appliances, motors, horse-shoes, plumbing, printing and binding, railway appliances, screen and awnings, sewing and spinning machines, electrical apparatus, toys and games, trunks and bags, washing machines, etc. Many improvements on sewing machines have been made by women. Among women's inventions also are silk, the weaving of gauze fabrics, straw-weaving, the trolley switch, gas masks, and a submarine engine. The first patent ever granted to a woman was granted in 1809 to one Mary Keyes for straw-weaving.

Several names of American women inventors of the present century are quoted in this article. These include Miss Minnie S. Elliott, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who invented a machine for attaching buttons to shoes; Miss May Conner, of Garden Grove, Iowa, who patented a device for stacking hay away in a barn; Miss Ida R. Forbes, of Los Angeles, California, who recently patented an electric water heater; Miss Sarah L. Gossard, the inventor of Gossard's anatomical corsets, the steels of which are so constructed and placed (parallel with the muscles) as to furnish the necessary support to the body without interfering with the blood circulation; Miss Emma C. Barchard, of Chicago, who invented and patented an "oiler for air compressors"; Miss Lizzie H. Dickelmann, President and General Manager of the Dickelmann Manufacturing Metal Grain Bin Co., of Forest, Ohio. To this ingenious woman has been granted about ten different patents for various constructions of grain storage bins, rendered proof against fire, rats, etc. The Dickelmann Grain Bins are used in all the American States, and many are shipped to foreign countries. Miss Mae E. Rhoads, of New York, has built up an important business in the manufacture and sale of "The dress of the hour," a dress permitting entire freedom of movement, but at the same time clinging sufficiently close to the person to avoid being caught by fixtures or machinery, made with very few fastenings, and so as to completely cover the wearer.

Recent patents upon inventions of more than ordinary interest include the names of Mary Jane Reynolds, of St. Joseph, Missouri, hoisting and loading mechanism; Anna E. Gephart, of Mansfield, Ohio, spring motor-driven vehicle; Margaret J. Corcoran, Scranton, Pa., egg washer; Lenora H. Jones, Wichita, Kans., electric push button or push button switch; Vivian V. Clark, Tucson, Ariz., placer mining machine; Ada Cohen, Chelsea, Mass., alarm device for water levels; Sarah J. Dawson, Albany, Mo., rail anchoring device; Emma M. Anderson, Boone, Colo., perspective determining instrument; Marie J. Cornue, Paris, France, mercury vapour lamp.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Famous Abbess.

"St. Marguerite of Canada" is a name expected to be added soon to the list of the saints in honour of the foundress of the Order of the Ladies of the Congregation of Notre Dame, which has 131 religious houses and 41,000 pupils in Canada and the United States. Venerable Marguerite Bourgeoys, as she is known in the history of the Roman Catholic Church, came to Canada with Siere Maisonneuve, founder of the city of Montreal. She was born at Noyes, France, in 1620, and her tercentenary is being held this year. For the greater part of the eighty years of her life she struggled against Indian raids, famine, and pestilence, and established a high standard of education for her fellow colonists. She died in 1700 at the old convent which she founded in St. Didier Street, Montreal.

Summer School for Women Citizens.

At the Summer School organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship now in session at Ruskin College, Oxford, the first of four courses of lectures on "The Economic Position of Women," "Local Government," "The League of Nations," and "Economics of Domestic Life" are being given by Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc., Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C.C., J.P., Miss Helen Ward, LL.A., and Mrs. McKillop, M.A. Nearly 100 students are attending the school, exclusive of Oxford residents, and they include women from all parts of Great Britain, as well as from Sweden, Japan, France, Australia, and America.

An Active Worker.

The death of Miss Gertrude Mather-Jackson removes one of the older Girtonians from our midst. She took the mathematical tripos with honours, although, of course, she was only awarded a certificate as a recognition of her success. Later she settled in Monmouthshire, where she took a great interest in education in the county, and was a member of the governing body of many of the Monmouthshire schools. At the outbreak of war she acted as honorary secretary of the Maindiff Red Cross Hospital, and was a member of the Monmouthshire War Agricultural Committee and the Committee for Women on the Land. She also started a training centre for women land workers.

Heroines of the "Mayflower."

In the tercentenary celebration of the "Mayflower" voyagers, now taking place in this country and across the Atlantic, woman's part in the first firm setting of the corner-stone of America's nationhood has not always been adequately realised. It was a woman who first set foot on the Forefathers' Rock—tradition assigns the distinction to Mary Chilton, who later became the wife of John Winslow. A woman was the first of the Pilgrims to be laid in the little graveyard by the sea, still the holiest spot in New England soil. And a woman was the last survivor of the Pilgrim band.

Lady Chess Champion.

Mrs. R. H. Stevenson, who has just won the title of British Lady Champion for the year, has played in nearly every tournament for this championship since the British Chess Federation first began operations in 1904, and has tied for the championship on two previous occasions. Mrs. Stevenson was formerly Miss A. Lawson, her marriage with Mr. R. H. Stevenson, the popular Kent County Chess Association official, taking place in 1912.

Successful Woman Candidate.

In the recent Examination for higher grade appointments in the Ministry of Labour 500 candidates competed, including a large proportion of women clerks. The first place was taken by a temporary woman clerk, Miss Boret, of Bayswater. She is a Post Office branch officer of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

The Pilgrim Mother.

Amid the Tercentenary Celebrations of this week and last, in Holland, London, Plymouth and Massachusetts, not much has been heard of the gallant women who sailed with husbands and fathers to the New World. We are all the more pleased to see that one important event in the commemoration at Provincetown, the town at the end of Cape Cod, in whose harbour the "Mayflower" cast anchor on November 11th, 1620, was the placing of the statue of the Pilgrim Mother executed by Paul Wayland Bartlett, himself a descendant from "Mayflower" ancestors. The Mother is represented holding a Pilgrim Baby in her lap, while two other children cling to her skirts. The cost of the statue will be defrayed by a popular subscription by the women of America.

More Women Magistrates.

Of 24 new magistrates appointed for Hertfordshire, 16 are women. They include the Countess Verulam, Viscountess Hampden, the Dowager Lady Ebury, Lady Reynolds, the Hon. Dame Bevan, the Hon. Mrs. Maud Glyn, Hon. Mrs. L. A. Smith, and Miss Ann Page Croft. Mrs. Ethel Leach has been appointed the first woman magistrate for Yarmouth. She has been in public life for over 30 years as an educationalist, an advocate of woman franchise, a Poor Law Guardian, etc., and has been interested in numerous reforms. Mrs. E. Cartwright, of New Barnet, is the first woman magistrate sitting for Barnet Petty Sessional Division, and as she is a daughter of Alderman Plank, chairman of Barnet Bench, she will sit on the same bench as her father. Three more women J.P.s have also been appointed in Gateshead: Mrs. Wicks, Miss Temperley and Mrs. Allen.

COAL FIRES AND WOMEN EXPERTS.

Dr. Margaret Fishenden has recently been carrying out certain research work for the Manchester Corporation Air Pollution Advisory Board, in which she has come to a conclusion, no doubt cheering to many, that the open coal fire is not so wasteful and inefficient as it is sometimes painted. The heat generated in a coal fire is either radiated into the room, or carried up the flue, when most of it escapes through the chimney, though a portion is conducted through the walls to the outside, but Miss Fishenden contends that in spite of a certain loss in unburnt products such as ash, soot, or gas, the efficiency may fairly be said to approach 100 per cent. Miss Fishenden believes that the most important field for the saving of coal in domestic grates is the question of draught.

Excessive draught causes anyone sitting near the fire to be cold behind and hot in front, and is wasteful for two reasons—because more actual heat is wasted up the chimney and because, in face of the strong draught, more heat is required to keep anybody in the room sufficiently warm. A fair draught is needed to start a fire, but it should be cut down to a minimum as soon as the fire is burning satisfactorily.

Hence every coal fire should be fitted with an easily adjustable register for regulating the draught. In this way the room will be kept comfortably warm with quite a small consumption of coal, and the coal fire, instead of being relatively inefficient, may be made quite an efficient means of heating a room. The register should be placed about a foot above the opening of the chimney, so that smoke and dust may not be driven into the room when it is closed.

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THE TERRIFIED ANTI!

For two weeks women have had the Presidential vote in the United States. To-day, in this topsy-turvy world they appear to be again without it!

Our readers will remember that after over 50 years of struggle—since in 1869 the women captured their first State of Wyoming—America obtained last month equal suffrage throughout the whole of the States. About a year ago the United States Congress submitted to all the States of the Union the Federal Amendment to the Constitution that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." To effect a change of this description in the Constitution an Amendment has to be ratified by 36 States out of the 48; if three-quarters of the States approve of it the other quarter has to manage to put up with it.

Ratifications proceeded gaily enough till they numbered 35; no State wanted to offend the women if it could help it. Then there was a lull; no State was very anxious to enfranchise the remaining nine million women. Finally, in Tennessee, it passed the Upper House, and on August 18th was also carried by the Lower House of Representatives. The Amendment was speedily incorporated by the Secretary of State as the 19th amendment to the Constitution, and every American woman possessed a vote on the same terms as a man. Arrived at the last ditch, however, the india-rubber Anti, with perseverance worthy of a better cause, showed no disposition to expire, but produced one technical objection after another. Some of them were swept aside, then on August 31st the Tennessee House of Representatives passed a vote to delete from its journal the record of the Amendment of August 18th, suddenly having recollected that a quorum was not present upon that occasion. What appears to have taken place is that 25 anti members, not wishing to be recorded as enemies, crossed the border of the State into Alabama to avoid service with a subpoena compelling their attendance (we have sometimes noticed something of the same sort on this side of the water), but suffragists maintain that in a Federal question a quorum is not necessary.

The question has now been taken to the Supreme Court. The Washington Court of Appeal has refused to facilitate the hearing of the case, so there is a great probability that the legality of Tennessee's second thoughts may not be considered till after the Presidential Election in November.

All this shows how much importance men attach to the women's vote. Women just as thoroughly understand its value, and we offer our American fellow-suffragists warm sympathy and encouragement in this difficult time, at the last struggle for that victory which is now again so unfairly endangered. Their courage, steadfastness and skill will not fail, and we feel confident that justice will triumph, and not only the

17,000,000 women now enfranchised, but the additional 9,000,000 women in question will be in November marching to the poll to decide their country's policy. Some other State may be found to pass the Amendment or the State journal of Tennessee may again be edited.

The methods of American male politicians are devious. Many interests are suspicious of women's wishes—liquor traffic, the militarist party and the trusts, and, probably the greatest fear of all oppresses those senators who, as violent Antis, have a negligible chance of re-election—but the harder the fight to-day the more women will use their vote in November, and the greater the benefit to American politics.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

The political history of all civilised countries has been marked by a determined effort on the part of the people to secure a share in their government. By the Representation of the People Act (1918) practically every man in the British Isles from the age of twenty-one can qualify for a parliamentary vote and the majority of women over thirty can exercise it. The results of the last general election, however, have shown that enfranchisement does not necessarily mean representation. This fact is very largely responsible for the unrest throughout the country, and because important minorities find themselves very inadequately represented in Parliament, we constantly hear sinister threats of direct action, which is the negation of representative government. The Speaker's Conference, which made a brave attempt to bring about genuine electoral reform, unanimously recommended Proportional Representation for the large towns and other densely populated areas; but, unfortunately, the great Reform Bill became law without this safeguard. Under the present system Members can be returned to Parliament in single-member constituencies by what is actually a minority vote; and at the last General Election Labour only secured one representative for every 48,768 votes polled in Great Britain, whereas the Coalition secured one representative for every 13,001 votes polled. This is not fair representation, and it is not surprising that the huge minorities who find their votes to all intents and purposes wasted have become restive. Under Proportional Representation constituencies returning several Members would be created. Large towns and the larger counties would return four or five Members, the number being based on the population. In each of these enlarged constituencies a voter would have a single transferable vote, putting the figure 1 against his or her favourite, and the figures 2, 3, 4, 5, etc., in the order of other preferences. In this way, with enlarged areas, representation would be given to the different groups of citizens in proportion to their strength, and solid bodies of opinion which are gathering force in the country, but which, under the present system, may for years be nothing more than voices crying in the wilderness, would secure expression in Parliament, and would serve to keep Parliament closely in touch with the life and thought of the nation to which it certainly has little claim at present. Throughout their long struggle for enfranchisement, women maintained that their object was not merely to put a X by the name of a candidate for Parliament, but that their desire was to make their vote effective. It is for this reason that the Women's Freedom League are now pressing for Proportional Representation as a necessary measure of electoral reform. We are convinced, too, that under Proportional Representation women have a much better chance than at present of being returned to Parliament. In larger areas a good local public-spirited woman would obtain a fair number of first preferences and a very much greater number of second ones, which, together, would give her a very good chance of success. Parliament should be a reflex of the considered opinions of all groups of citizens, and this would be ensured under Proportional Representation.

CLEARING THE COURTS OF WOMEN.

How will it affect the Woman J.P.?

"All women leave the court!"

Every day of the week this command sounds forth from judicial chairs in every quarter of the land. And at every repetition women are seen hurrying from the courts as if afraid by lingering they would incur forcible expulsion at the hands of some stalwart "man in blue."

It does not appear to be generally known, however, that this ancient custom of excluding women from the courts is still in constant operation. This, alas! is the fact. Indeed, it is somewhat difficult to understand why the custom still holds in this age of sex equality. Though it has existed from time immemorial, it shows no clear symptoms of decline. It is a custom that women have always obeyed, and still are obeying, with a meekness rarely displayed by modern femininity.

True it is that, now and again, some woman has ignored the judicial command and *stayed!* What has happened? Nothing more frightful than some impolite words flung out at her by the judge or magistrate presiding. And this is all that *can* happen. There is no law that excludes a sex from any court of justice.

A court is a public place. It is

Open to the Public:

and, since to be of the public is not a male monopoly, woman is entitled to remain. The highest legal official has not the power to enforce woman's absence. Only in certain rare cases is the court closed, and then it is closed to the public of both sexes. When not thus exceptionally closed, it is open to both men and women over sixteen years of age.

The custom—for it is no more—of excluding women is so deeply rooted that one can easily picture the male magistrate, even when some feminine colleague is next him on the bench, still requesting "all women to leave the court."

What will ensue? Will *she* obey? It is to be hoped not. For, in the particular cases from which women are asked to retire, there is always a woman prisoner or victim. The question for the woman J.P. to decide will be whether she prefers to show *esprit de corps* to her own sex in distress, or to win the approval of her men colleagues on the bench by graceful retirement.

So long as a case is "mixed," so should the judicial bench be "mixed." If women J.P.s are to retire from those cases from which women in the gallery are asked to retire, then the inauguration of the woman Justice will be a

Deliberate Farce.

It is in those cases that she is needed. Yet I doubt if existing magistrates expect her to remain. I have heard whispers that in "objectionable" cases man alone will continue to officiate; but I have heard other whispers to the effect that if men ban mixed benches it is *they* who must do the retiring, not the women.

No doubt there will be a test case or two. Men could not possibly give up, all at once, their cherished custom of clearing the courts of women while allowing mere youths to remain. It is too venerable for that. Moreover, they seem to like it too well to be willing to yield it up without a struggle.

Of course, if they can give sound and sufficient reason why they wish all women, saving the one in the dock or witness-box, to leave the court, then women, being reasonable, will accede to their wish. But I doubt if sound and sufficient reason can be forthcoming. Why do men wish the courts to be confined to their own sex alone on certain occasions? I do not profess to be well up in the intricacies of the masculine mind, but I do know, from personal experience in the courts, that the more the gentler sex is represented, the less is the woman in the case subjected to ugly cross-examination. On the other hand, the cross-examination of the man is more penetrating, and justice in consequence is distributed more fairly.

There appears to be no logical reason why women are asked to leave the courts, when one of their sex is required by law to remain; and yet I doubt if a woman could attend a police-court daily for five or six weeks without being asked—probably on more than one occasion—to leave: so general is the custom!

No one admires a "police-court habit" in either sex whose object is merely sordid curiosity. But here, as in other walks of life, "it is not good for man to be alone."

ELISE GRANGE.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN FOR SEPTEMBER.

Miss Winifred Stephens gives an interesting description of the International Federation of University women, which held its first Conference at Bedford College last July, and at which the women of twelve different nations were assembled, as well as representatives from all our Overseas Dominions and from India. Reports of women's educational progress by University women from many lands formed one of the most interesting and instructive features of the proceedings. France, it appears, has experienced some forty years of women's secondary education. The war enormously broadened the sphere of French women's professional activities. They are now admitted to l'Ecole des Chartes (similar to our Record Office), to the School of Architecture, to the Higher School of Electricity, to certain Mining Schools, and to research laboratories. A great impulse was also given to technical education among French women, which has opened up to them important posts in factories and laboratories. In Belgium, all the four Belgian Universities are now open to women, and a woman has recently been appointed University demonstrator at Ghent. In Spain, as one might expect, the number of women University students is small, only 218 in the eleven Universities, and these only admitted under certain restrictions, but in the ancient University of Prague the women of Czecho-Slovakia have been admitted to all the rights and privileges enjoyed by men. Miss Peto, O.B.E., writes upon Policewomen in general, and the recent Report of the Home Office Committee upon this subject, and compares her duties and pay with those of the man policeman. The latter, as usual, is on a somewhat smaller scale than the men's, in spite of a very strong case put forward for equal pay for both sexes, but in the matter of rent-aid and other allowances, no distinction between the sexes is made. Miss R. Whitaker contributes a graphic description of the adventures of Two Englishwomen in Poland, and Miss D. M. Ford an interesting biography of Anna Howard Shaw, which comes at an opportune moment, although the much hoped for ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment is not yet a *fait accompli*.

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WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.

We are glad to see that women railway clerks, by an agreement signed on September 1st between the Railway Clerks' Association and the Committee of General Managers acting for the Ministry of Transport, are to have improved pay and condition. From August 1st, 1919, there are to be three scales of pay: for routine work a weekly wage rising to 60s. at the age of 31, a second class rising to 70s. after four years' service, and a better paid special class whose rates are to be determined by the responsibility of the duties performed. Arrears for the past year are to be paid, also overtime and Sunday work and a "cost of living" bonus.

A new factory order has just been made by the Home Secretary, under the Police, Factories, &c. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1916, directing employers to provide for their workpeople protective clothing, including boots or clogs, for those working in wet or dusty or garment-destroying processes, separate and suitable cloakrooms for the women and for the men, washing facilities, seats and first-aid appliances, and a warm comfortable canteen with hot water and cooking arrangements. This Order will apply to all textile factories and to print, bleaching, dyeing and rope works.

The Aldershot Council has been asking for the discharge of the women employed by the Navy and Army Canteen Board and their replacement by unemployed ex-Service officers and men, but the Ministry of Labour, supported by the Army Council, replies that it intends to keep the women because in the regimental institutes they have added to the soldiers' comfort.

The Special Committee which has been considering the appointment of ex-Service men to the Civil Service has now reported. It recommends a new "comb-out," all men and women in temporary clerical and superior grade employment to be examined as to their financial position, and those with private means to be discharged. Not many such are expected to be discovered. Certain "pivotal" officers may be retained if they are indispensable and essential in the interests of the public service.

The many men and women who have entered the Government service since the Armistice and are dependent on their earnings are to be replaced by ex-Service substitutes. The cases of all married women will receive particular attention, only great individual hardship or serious loss of efficiency in the Department being valid grounds for avoiding dismissal.

Equality of the sexes is granted (on paper at any rate), and the Committee consider that ex-Service women should be treated on the same footing as ex-Service men, and should have priority over both non-Service men and women.

WOMEN SWIMMERS.

Mrs. Hilda Willing, of Rochester, who recently succeeded in getting to within six miles of the French coast, has succeeded in beating two records—one by staying in the water longer than any other woman swimmer, and the second by swimming across three tides. She had been in the water 10 hours 38 minutes, and had actually swam a distance of 30 miles in trying to make the French coast. Her most striking achievement, however, was the fact that she swam directly across three running tides. This feat has never before been performed by any man or woman, Channel swimmers invariably manœuvring so as to have the tides behind them. Mrs. Willing can now claim the title of the world's lady champion swimmer, the previous record holder being Madame Isaacque, an Austrian lady, who remained in the water for 10 hours 20 minutes. So far only four women have attempted the difficult venture of swimming the Channel. These are Mrs. Willing, Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, who recently swam to within nine miles of the French coast last week; Miss Annette Kellerman, and Miss Lily Smith.

BOOK REVIEW.

A Frenchwoman's views of the Englishwoman's Evolution.

Mme. Villard has given us a book not only interesting to Frenchwomen, but to Englishwomen; it is to be hoped that many of the latter will keep up their French and refresh their minds by reading the book in the original. Mme. Villard's task is difficult, highly complicated, and in places its execution strikes the reviewer as somewhat *décousu*; but the writer is well acquainted with our literature, has a critical faculty of no mean order, and is perfectly capable of pointing out where literature has gone astray in depicting woman and the qualities that are most admirable in her. Long ago Euripides declared that a new valuation of feminine values was necessary; it now proceeds apace, and some of men's most cherished aphorisms on woman cannot now be dished up, even in a third-class revue.

Mme. Villard accepts George Moore's dictum that the novel is contemporary history, a picture of society. She divides her book into three parts: The Years of Servitude, the Liberation of Feminine Energy, and Sentimental Emancipation, or the revolt of woman against the idea that love and marriage are the sole aim and end of her life. At the beginning of the 19th century the new industrial system which was to transform the entire social organism abased the position of woman still further; our author examines the sweating system, the starvation wage, prostitution and abject poverty as they are depicted in our literature. The position of woman in the upper classes, helpless dependance, the mere name of education, tolerance which not infrequently degenerates into contempt, are her lot, unless she marries. False theories, wrong conceptions of life and duty, even when the churches preach them, have their day; we begin to apportion blame differently. Dickens meant us to laugh at the absurd love affairs and elopement of Rachel Wardle in the "Pickwick Papers," and we do so; but there comes a time when we examine the social system that produces and maintains idle, incompetent women who, if they fail to marry, are complete failures in life. From 1850 onwards woman began to burst open the doors of professions and occupations; to inquire why certain differences and privileges exist; to grasp and apply those principles of liberty, equality (of opportunity) and fraternity that the French Revolution proclaimed for one sex only.

Mme. Villard performs a useful and necessary service for all her sex when she examines certain male opinions and dicta on women. She might indeed go further back than the "love, honour and obey" of the prayer-book, but she points out the falsity of Milton's theory, "He for God only, she for God in him"; Byron's conviction that love is for man an episode, but woman's whole life. Masculine admiration for feeble, foolish women is a very old story: Pamela, Amelia Sedley, Mrs. Pendennis, receive their due meed.

On the other hand, women who possess force of character and vigorous individuality are represented unfavourably in literature. There is indeed a pretty close analogy between our modern press which "selects" the news it thinks desirable for the reader to know, and a writer's attitude, even men of literary eminence, to the enfranchisement of women. All this is for the most part *vieux jeu* to feminists. Perhaps some of them are not aware, as the reviewer certainly was not, that the reading public of the day regarded Mrs. Jellyby of Bleak House as a portrait of Harriet Martineau; that Rhoda Gale in Chas. Reade's novel, "An Enemy of Women," stands for Mrs. Garrett Anderson; and that Mrs. Ellis, in her "Englishwomen as Maids, Wives and Mothers," in which she boldly proclaimed feminine inferiority and incapacity, and insisted on wifely submission, was specially permitted to dedicate the volume on "Wives" to Queen Victoria!

C. S. BRENNER.

*La Femme Anglaise au XIX. siècle et son évolution d'après le roman anglais contemporain par Léonie Villard. Paris, 1920; Henri Didier, 5 fr. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Friday, September 24.—Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Reception to members of N.E.C. 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 25.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee. 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday, October 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Vida Goldstein. Subject: "Election Experiences in Australia." 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker will be announced later.

Wednesday, October 20.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Subject: "The League of Nations."

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Lind-af-Hageby. 3 p.m.

Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Monday, September 13.—Middlesbrough. Branch Meeting to arrange Syllabus for coming Session, at 231A, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road. 8 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Bexhill. Business Meeting. 19, Marine Mansions. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. 3.30 p.m.

Saturday, September 18.—Middlesbrough. Garden Party at "Agecroft," Linthorpe. 3 p.m. Mock Election, music, palmistry, refreshments. Speaker: Miss Morton, of the London Proportional Representation Society. Tickets 1s. 3d. each.

Monday, October 4.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Social. Details to be announced later.

Monday, October 11.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, September 23.—Conservative and Unionist Women's Association, Muswell Hill, N. 10. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, on "The Legal Disabilities of Married Women." At 3 p.m.

Monday, November 1.—Bethnal Green Women Citizens' Association, 33, Blythe Street, E. Speaker: Miss Kirby. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." 8 p.m.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE (Incorporated) and the NATIONAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS UNION.

A joint Conference of the Central Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective and the National Special Schools Union will be held at the Church House, Westminster, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 25th, 26th and 27th, 1920. The Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, has promised, subject to his parliamentary engagements permitting, to address the opening session, when Mr. Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P., will be in the chair. Sir William Byrne, Chairman of the Board of Control, will be in the chair, and will address the Conference on the second day, and the Chairman on Saturday morning will be Dr. A. E. Eichholz, Chief Medical Inspector, Board of Education. Detailed information will be available at the end of September from the Hon. Secretary, Central Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

MRS. NEVINSON, J.P.

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested to learn that Mrs. Nevinson has been summoned to take the oath of allegiance as Justice of the Peace at Clerkenwell Sessions House on or after September 14th. She has also been notified that she must pay £2.

VICTIMISATION OF THE WORKERS.

The Women's Freedom League has received a letter from the Minister of Transport in answer to our request for the running of workmen's trains to a later hour (see THE VOTE, page 175), dated August 31st, as follows:—

"I am directed by the Ministry of Transport to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., respecting the times of workmen's trains, and in reply to state that the question is one for the individual railway companies concerned.

"You will probably be aware that by the Electric Railways Act, 1920, the time up to which workmen's tickets shall be issued is fixed at 7.30 a.m.

"I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

W. DUFFIELD."

To which the following reply has been sent:—

"Sir,—We thank you for your letter of the 31st ult., in regard to our suggestion that workmen's trains should be extended to a later hour. We cannot see why this question should necessarily be left to be settled by individual railway companies. May we not suggest that, since the Electric Railways Act, 1920, settles the times up to which workmen's tickets shall be issued, the Minister of Transport shall make himself responsible for a Bill extending the starting time for workmen's trains for all railways—electric and steam—until 8.30 a.m. or 9 a.m.?

"We would urge again that this concession would be of benefit not only to employees whose work does not begin before 9.30 a.m. or 10 a.m., but also to their employers, because their workers would not begin the day's work tired out by starting the day at an unnecessarily early hour.

"We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. KNIGHT.

F. A. UNDERWOOD."

Sir Eric Geddes has replied to this letter, promising the matter his consideration.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,

93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

The Settlement has re-opened for the autumn work, and we shall be glad of any new helpers, either in the restaurant at midday, for play-club, or needlework or writing, or we should welcome a voluntary resident helper. Belated thanks are due to Dr. Knight for cakes; Miss Stutchbury, cakes and pastry; Mr. L. P. Skinner, a hamper of tomatoes; and to Miss Mitchell and Mrs. Preece for helping in other ways at the Reception at the Simple Life Exhibition. We are also grateful to Mrs. Roberts for a parcel of men's clothes; Mrs. Schofield, a length of Pegamoid for a table cover; and Miss Riggall, a subscription for expenses. We were able, with the kind assistance of Miss Riggall, Mr. and Mrs. Delbanco, Miss K. Triplett, and other friends, per Miss Greenville, to send away some children badly needing change into the country. We also desire to thank Miss Moody for apples, blackberries, flowers, and a lovely hammock; Mrs. Lambert and Miss M. Cole, household goods; Miss K. Holmes, jumble goods and flowers; and Mrs. Alvary Gascoigne, for a very welcome box of toys.

We are anxious to hear from a number of ladies who would undertake to help us with a collection we are hoping to make near the end of the month. We have a certain number of promises, but need a great many in order to enable us to collect a good amount, the same being most necessary for the future development of our work.

Miss A. M. COLE, Hon. Sec. and Organiser.

DANCE

The coming Dance at Caxton Hall, on Saturday, October 2nd, has been advertised for so long that we anticipate an overwhelming demand for tickets and would advise members to apply as soon as possible.

Although prizes will be given for the best Fancy Dresses, members and friends are not obliged to appear in costume.

Refreshments will be provided by the Minerva Café.

Tickets (including refreshments) will be 4/- and can be obtained from:—

Miss LILIAN PIEROTTI,
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THE VOTE

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.
Kensington Town Hall, Sunday,
September 12th, Miss Maude Royden, 6.30.
Subject: "The League of Nations."
Dr. Dearmer resumes "Five Quarters"
on September 19th, at 3.15 p.m.

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