

THE VOTE,
DEC. 22, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM WOMEN CANDIDATES.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 22, 1922

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.

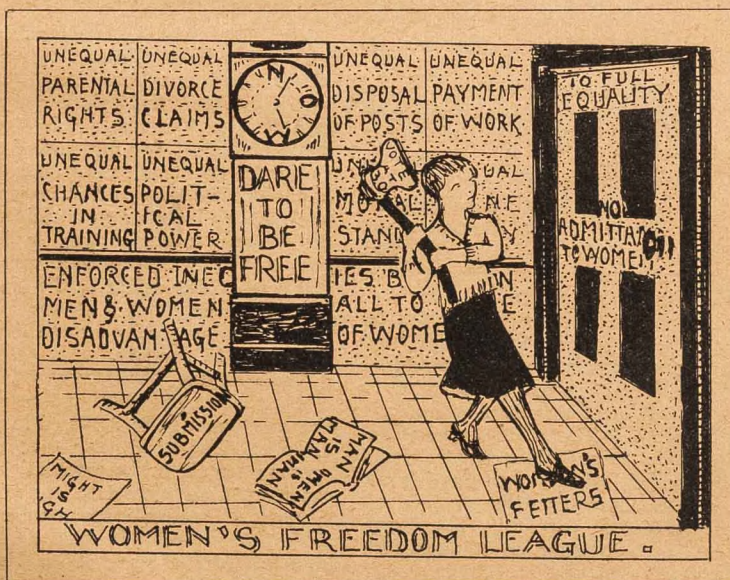
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CHRISTMAS GREETING TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, 1922.

MAY
THIS
BRIGHT
CHRISTMAS
TIME
BRING



YOU
HEALTH,
STRENGTH,
COURAGE,
PEACE
AND
JOY!

Armed with these we shall go forward, in ever-increasing might, and with irresistible determination, to break open the stubborn door of opportunity, which still so firmly bars the way to

WOMEN'S FREEDOM.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women's Franchise.

Mr. FOOT (Bodmin) asked the Prime Minister whether any figures were available showing what addition to the electorate would result from granting the vote to women at the age of 21, instead of 30? Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Home Secretary), who had been asked to reply, said that exact information was not available, but it was estimated that the enfranchisement of women at the age of 21 years, instead of 30, would—if the other conditions and qualifications for women's franchise remained as at present—increase the electorate of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by one million and three-quarters, approximately.

Mr. LUNN (Rothwell) asked the Prime Minister if he was aware that Article 14 of the Irish Free State Constitution Act provided that all citizens of the Free State, without distinction of sex, should have the right to vote for the Free State Parliament at the age of 21; and, in view of the unanimous approval given to such a measure by the House, would the Government introduce a Bill next Session which would concede the same right to all men and women in Great Britain at the age of 21? The PRIME MINISTER replied that he was not prepared to adopt the hon. Member's suggestion.

Proportional Representation.

Mr. FOOT asked the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the fact that so many Members of that House represented only a minority of the electors in their constituencies, he would consider the introduction of such legislative proposals, by way of Proportional Representation or otherwise, as would remedy the existing anomalies? The PRIME MINISTER said that the answer was in the negative.

Unmarried Mothers and their Children.

Mr. WIGNALL (Forest of Dean) asked the Prime Minister whether the Government would grant facilities for the passage of comprehensive legislation for the protection of the unmarried mother and her child, on similar lines to the laws that had been in existence in Norway since 1915? The PRIME MINISTER said he was not at present in a position to make any statement on the subject.

Mr. SNOWDEN (Colne Valley) asked the Prime Minister if he was aware that there had been no revision of the law in England regarding illegitimacy since 1873; that several countries, including Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand, many States of America and Australia, and particularly Norway, had had in existence for some time laws of an ameliorative character regulating the treatment of the unmarried mother and her child; that the neglect and ill-treatment of an unmarried mother and her child tended to increase prostitution, poverty, crime, and disease; and whether, seeing that the number of illegitimate births showed no sign of decreasing, and that the mortality amongst illegitimate was double that of legitimate-born children, he would undertake to introduce a Bill to amend the Bastardy Acts, on the lines of the Norwegian laws? CAPT. BERKELEY (Central Nottingham) asked the Prime Minister if he would consider the introduction of legislation to provide for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock, upon the subsequent marriage of their parents? The PRIME MINISTER replied that he could make no statement on these subjects at present.

Infants (Guardianship).

Mr. BRIANT (N. Lambeth) asked the Prime Minister if he would appoint a Committee to continue the deliberations commenced by the late Government on the subject of equal guardianship of infants, with a view to introducing satisfactory legislation thereon? The PRIME MINISTER replied in the negative, adding that he did not think any useful purpose would be served by appointing such a Committee at the present moment.

Women Police Patrols.

Mrs. WINTRINGHAM (Louth) asked the Home Secretary if he had received a communication from the

Medical Women's Federation, urging, and stating reasons for the continued employment of the Women Police; if he was aware that they had accomplished much in the prevention of crime and disease, and if, in view of the feeling that was developing all over the country of the urgent need of Women Police, he would make a statement on the subject before the House rose? Mr. BRIDGEMAN said he was giving careful consideration to the question, and if he was in a position to make a statement before the House rose, he would be glad to do so.

Next day, Mrs. WINTRINGHAM asked the Home Secretary if he would consider the reinstatement of an adequate number of Women Police, with full powers for the protection of children and young persons in the streets and parks. Mr. BRIDGEMAN replied that provision had been made for the retention of 20 Women Patrols, including the proper proportion of Police officers. He was looking carefully and sympathetically into the conditions of their employment. Mrs. WINTRINGHAM further asked the Home Secretary if he was aware that a deputation on the subject of Women Police had been received by the Lord Provost's Committee of the Edinburgh Town Council on November 29th; that the deputation was representative of the various Co-operative Women's Guilds in Edinburgh and Leith, a number of women's political societies, the Prevention of Cruelty and National Vigilance Societies, medical nursing and child welfare societies, and several girls' organisations; that it was maintained that it was essential that all criminal cases concerning women and children should be investigated by women appointed to the Criminal Investigation Department; and whether, in view of the Prime Minister's recent promise to consider the matter, he could make a statement before the Prorogation of the House on the reinstatement of Women Police? Mr. BRIDGEMAN said he had nothing further at present to add to his previous answer.

Prisons (Woman Inspector).

Mr. BENNETT (Mansfield) asked the Home Secretary why the post of Woman Inspector of His Majesty's Prisons had not been filled; what were the duties attached to it; and if he intended to make a new appointment? Mr. BRIDGEMAN said that that was one of the posts left vacant as a measure of economy. There were at present so many claims on the Exchequer on behalf of the prisons service that he was reluctant to ask for more money in order to fill this vacancy. The duty of the woman inspector was to inspect and report on prisons where women were confined, but the position had been changed first by the appointment of a number of women magistrates to the Visiting Committees of prisons, and secondly by the decrease in the numbers of women in custody.

The next day, Mr. MATHEW (Whitechapel) asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the fact that 11,340 women were received in His Majesty's prisons during the financial year 1921-22, and that the daily average female prison population was 1,388, he would consider, at an early date, the advisability of filling the vacancy of woman inspector caused by the retirement of the late inspector in 1921, as the experience in other branches of the work of his Department had shown clearly that the duties carried out by women inspectors could not be carried out with the same degree of efficiency by male inspectors, however competent? Mr. BRIDGEMAN referred to his previous reply on this subject, and added that the daily average number of female prisoners decreased from 2,685 in 1909-10 to 1,388 in 1921-2, and was now 1,164.

Departmental Committee (Agriculture).

Mrs. WINTRINGHAM (Louth) has been appointed a member of the Departmental Committee to inquire into the methods of selling and distributing agricultural, horticultural, and dairy produce. F. A. U.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Pioneer Worker for Women.

Miss Clementina Black, who died last Tuesday, was one of the pioneers of the Woman's Movement in this country. She inaugurated the famous Suffrage petition of 1906, and was a member of the Executive Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage. She was the moving spirit of the Women's Trade Association formed in the eighteen-eighties, and throughout her life was associated with women's trade union movements.

Pioneer Schoolmistress.

All our members regret the death, at Sheffield, a short time ago, of Miss Isobel Cleghorn, one of the best-known elementary schoolmistresses in the country. She was the first woman President of the National Union of Teachers, being elected at the Aberystwyth Conference some ten years ago. For forty years she was headmistress of a Sheffield school, retiring a few years ago. She served many years on the Board of Guardians.

Helping Land Workers.

Ninety scholarships have been awarded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to the sons and daughters of agricultural workers and others in connection with a scheme announced in July last. Twenty-one are sons or daughters of agricultural workers, whilst 31 are themselves agricultural workers. The remainder are sons or daughters of smallholders, or of other rural workers whose financial circumstances are comparable with those of the agricultural labourer.

Energetic Woman Contractor.

Mrs. Jacob Parkinson, mother of Sir Lindsay Parkinson, ex-M.P. for Blackpool, who died last week, aged 81, was head of the firm of J. Parkinson and Sons, of London, Newcastle, and Blackpool, one of the largest building and contracting concerns in the country. Mrs. Parkinson took an active part in the business, attending at the offices at Blackpool nearly every day, and frequently motoring to London.

German Women on National Councils.

The law regulating State assurance in Germany has given women the right to elect members to the Administrative Councils, but hitherto they have been eligible only for inferior positions. An amendment of the electoral law removes these restrictions. Henceforth, women can be elected on the same conditions as men to all grades, as representatives of employers or employed, or as arbitrators in the negotiations between the two camps.

Javanese Woman Doctor.

Miss M. E. Thomas, a native of Menado (Celebes) has recently qualified as a doctor of medicine. Out of eleven candidates, one woman and five men were admitted. Owing to the intervention of numerous European friends, Miss Thomas was able to commence her medical studies in 1912, at the School for Native Doctors in Welterreden, Batavia, with a view to qualifying in 1922.

American Business Women.

The New York League of Business and Professional Women recently organised a Women's Activities Exhibit at the Hotel Commodore, in New York City, which drew big crowds, and was pronounced so great a success that it is now to be held annually. Everything in the exhibit, from a sample of a home savings department of a savings bank, to a sample of a candy-making school (the only one in the country), was managed entirely by women.

Danish Women and Taxation.

A movement is on foot to tax the incomes of Danish husbands and wives separately, instead of jointly, as at present. A deputation has approached the Folkthing on this matter. At present, default of payment is punished by the suppression of electoral rights, so that a wife could find herself deprived of her vote if her husband omitted to pay.

Women Exhibitors at the Autumn Salon

Women painters, sculptors, decorators, architects, potters, and glass-workers were represented at the Salon this year. Among the exhibits also were some beautiful examples of embroidered velvet and linen, of work in silk and wool, and of painted silks and velvets.

Polish Women's Conference.

Polish women are planning to hold a Conference in Warsaw early next year, for the purpose of organising women's activities. Plans for the Conference, which will be known as the Women's Work Congress, were begun about a year ago by a Committee of 28 women, comprising the most prominent women in Poland, and representing all branches of activity.

Belgium's First Woman Advocate.

A Belgian woman barrister, Mlle. Paule Lamy, appeared for the first time in the Assize Court of Brussels, last month, to defend a hairdresser, accused of having attempted to kill his mistress. The entire Bar attended to see her *début*.

No Women J.P.s. in New Zealand.

New Zealand is not to have women magistrates. The Bill permitting their appointment as Justices of the Peace passed the House of Representatives twice, but has been thrown out by the Legislative Council after a debate that seems curiously out of date.

Woman Skipper.

Mrs. Wenda Helbig is the first woman to possess a navigating certificate on an American ship. She navigated her boat, the *Eclipse*, through typhoons in the Manila waters, and has visited every country in the world.

American Women and Prohibition.

The Federation of Women's Clubs in New York State has unanimously decided to oppose all relaxation of the Prohibition laws. It is maintained that any modification of these laws will lead to the re-establishment of the liquor trade as it was before Prohibition was introduced.

Women Jurors in British Columbia.

Judge Mrs. J. H. McGill, and other prominent Canadian women, have taken a leading part recently in efforts to secure the right for women to sit on juries. Mr. Farris, formerly Attorney General, has moved in the British Columbia Legislature that women be allowed to sit on juries in this Province.

Norwegian Women's Progress.

Dr. Ingeborg Aas and Dr. Jove Mohr have been appointed members of the Commission of Penal Jurisdiction in Norway. Sigfrid Tindset, the Norwegian poetess, has been unanimously proposed for the Poetry prize given by the Norwegian Government.

Afghan Women.

A Woman's University, for the study of medicine, has been begun in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, with 500 women students in attendance. Pashtu, Persian, Urdu, and Russian are also taught in the University.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Richmond.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, unsuccessful Liberal at Richmond at the General Election, has accepted an invitation to contest the seat again.

Belgian Woman Engineer.

Mlle. Marguerite Massart, of Brussels, has obtained an Engineering diploma at Brussels. She is the first Belgian woman to gain this diploma.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 1922.

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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

EQUAL FRANCHISE FIRST!

The first Session of the new Parliament came to an end last Friday, when it was prorogued until Tuesday, February 13th. The sittings of this Session occupied only a little over three weeks, and during that time legislation has been passed to give effect to the Constitution for the Irish Free State (under which our readers will remember that the women in Southern Ireland have the franchise on equal terms with men). Estimates have been passed for the public services, some provision has been made for measures for the relief of unemployment, and the Importation of Animals Bill has been passed, which removes the embargo formerly placed on Canadian cattle. At the opening of Parliament, no measures primarily dealing with women's interests were mentioned in the King's Speech, and during the Session the Government has shown a united front in refusing to have anything to do with such measures. Women, however, have had numerous spokesmen for their cause among Members of the House of Commons. More than fifty questions have been asked about subjects of special concern to members of the Women's Freedom League, and we appreciate the industry and persistence of our friends who have put these questions to the various Ministers. The Government has definitely refused to give us any hope of a measure granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men. This is a question which we consider to be of the most vital importance to women. We cannot hope to secure real equality with men in any direction until women's political inferiority has been removed, and for this reason the chief efforts of the Women's Freedom League will be directed in the next Session of Parliament to the securing of the political enfranchisement of women on equal terms with men. Both the Liberal and the Labour Parties are pledged to work for this reform, and pledges have been received on behalf of it from a great number of supporters of the present Government now in the House of Commons. We look forward, therefore, to a vigorous effort being made in the House of Commons, quite early next Session, to secure this necessary and overdue reform of our Franchise Laws. In the meantime, all our members and readers must discuss this subject of equal franchise for women and men at public meetings, in the Press, and with their local Members of Parliament, on every possible occasion. Mr. Bonar Law said last week, in the House of Commons, that this was a question for the people of Great Britain. It is more particularly a question for the women of Great Britain, all of whom, whatever their age, are as much concerned as the men in the welfare of their country, and should have as much right as the men to choose its Government. The first Session of the new Parliament has not passed without the question of equal franchise being raised on several occasions, and we must see to it that the next Session does not pass without a decisive vote on it being taken in the House. If women will concentrate uncompromisingly on getting an Equal Franchise measure on the Statute Book, the opposition of the Government will soon be worn down. We are convinced that all the other reforms which women desire to see will be enormously hastened if we can first get through the equal enfranchisement of women and men—the most important reform of all, from women's point of view.

REALITY IN PARTY POLITICS.

Labour Members arranged that there should be little tranquillity in the House of Commons during the last few days of its first Session, and Mr. Bonar Law's supporters succeeded in creating an uproar at the Unionist Conference last week, when Lady Astor told them a few home-truths. A resolution had been moved and seconded which advocated methods to counteract and defeat the Socialist programme which had been carried on in recent years. Miss H. Meyrick-Jones made the very sensible suggestion that a campaign of instruction in economics should be started, and that it should include women, whether voters or enfranchised. Lady Astor followed, and pointed out that they must get at the root causes which produced Socialism. The first and foremost thing they had to deal with was that of housing. They had also to see that children had a proper education. Many interruptions greeted these statements, which caused her to exclaim, "Why, you are worse than the Labour Party." Someone told her to "Shut up!" when she naturally inquired, "If you don't shut up, how can you hear what I am talking about?" She then remarked that any woman in the room would understand what she meant when she said that to put a woman over a class of sixty children could only have one result. More interruption followed, but she insisted that it was their business to see that the teachers had a living wage, if they had to live. She said she wanted to get at the root causes of the question. Thousands of boys and girls were being turned out of school at 14 years old, unable to get employment, and unable to continue at school. In five years they would be red-hot Socialists, unless they were dealt with now. Unionists had got to press for secondary schools, and for training centres for these boys and girls, and she believed it would be better for the Government to borrow money, and keep the young people straight, rather than let them go on as at present, with no work, and in danger of becoming morally, physically, and spiritually demoralised. She urged the Unionist Party to face the question, and to bring in something constructive to deal with the housing. We feel sure that all readers of THE VOTE, whatever their views about the merits or demerits of Socialism, or of any of the other political parties, cannot fail to admire Lady Astor's pluck both inside and outside the House of Commons, and her untiring efforts to galvanise those in power into taking action on much-needed reforms. There will be no tranquillity for her Party or for the Government unless they are prepared to tackle in earnest such problems as the housing of the people, safeguarding the interests of the children, and the securing of a just wage for women teachers and women civil servants. Every fight for social improvement that Lady Astor puts up is an incontrovertible argument for more broad-minded women of all political parties in the House of Commons—women who will concern themselves with things that matter to the ordinary people of this country, and who are prepared, through good report and ill report, to stand fast by the faith that is in them.

YOUNG OFFENDERS.

A question was recently asked in the House of Commons in regard to the cases of two youths, both 17 years of age, who, charged before Sutton Coldfield magistrates with a series of petty thefts, pleaded guilty, and received sentences of six months' hard labour, as to whether those lads were likely to come in contact with other prisoners undergoing sentences of hard labour? The Home Secretary said they would be put in a young offenders' class, where they would be treated specially, and, as far as possible, kept away from adult prisoners. He saw no reason for intervention in the cases. Surely six months' hard labour under our present prison system was not the best way of dealing with these lads! In the past our prisons have manufactured hardened convicts out of youthful offenders. On economic grounds alone this is bad policy. It was stated in the House of Commons last week that the average annual cost of a convict to-day is £110 15s. 4d.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM WOMEN CANDIDATES.

Mrs. Buchanan Alderton, J.P., T.C.

My Christmas message to readers of THE VOTE is, that they should not be discouraged because we have still only two women in Parliament. Although 30 women were defeated at the polls last month, it is far from certain that they were defeated mainly on account of their sex. Most of them were used to contest "forlorn hopes," or, at the best, very "slight chances." Let us keep our eyes on the fact that women polled 227,743 votes at this election, as against 47,568 in 1918, and that the road of progress is always uphill. Women have shown that they can stand the strain of a contest as well as men, and take defeat as calmly. It is for us to work with increased enthusiasm to convince the electorate of the need for more women in Parliament.

Commandant M. S. Allen.

I am glad to have this opportunity of offering to readers of THE VOTE my best wishes for a Happy Christmas, and to thank most warmly all members of the Women's Freedom League who did such valuable work for me during the General Election. I hope these members are as conscious as I am of the value of every fresh experience in public work, and of the inspiration one draws from association with others possessed of high ideals and ardent hopes. My Christmas message, therefore, is—Let no sense of limitation keep women from working for equality of opportunity, for, in so working, they arrive, if not immediately at the desired goal, some considerable distance towards it.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

May I wish THE VOTE a holiday at Christmas, and a Happy New Year? It is the season of peace and good will, and, though in our work we sometimes have to bring, not peace, but the sword, in our fight against wrong, yet underlying it all is our heartfelt belief that a better understanding between peoples and classes will lead to peace and good will.

Mrs. D. C. Edmondson.

I have come to the conclusion that this year, of all years, no new Christmas message is either necessary or desirable. Is not the message that THE VOTE wants, and that we all want, that which was sent to this world many centuries ago—"On earth peace, and good will towards men"? Let every one of us women, whether we have votes or not, make a firm resolve that we each of us will do all in our power to help on the fulfilment of that Christmas message.

Mrs. Scott Gatty.

I send hearty greetings for Christmas and the New Year, for your splendid little paper, THE VOTE, has been of great service to me in my recent campaign, showing what valuable work women are doing in every branch of public life. Christmas is a time when our thoughts go back over the events of the past year, and surely "the woman's cause" has reason to rejoice, for, although thirty of the women candidates for Parliament were defeated, yet let us realise how much valuable work as propaganda has been done in those election fights. So with the New Year we will take heart, and ever keep before us the beacon light of the high standard of our calling—the Equality of the Sexes.

Miss Mary P. Grant.

A hard year is nearly over, a year of difficulty to men and women all over the world, and not the least in our own country. Yet one sees signs of progress. The dawn of better trade, based on better international relationships, is breaking. My message is: "Courage! March on! Face to the dawn." May 1923 bring to all the readers of THE VOTE a greater realisation of good than they have ever known.

Lady Lawson.

With best wishes for the vote to THE VOTE.

Mrs. Marjory Pease, J.P.

May I, as one who feels deeply indebted to members of the Women's Freedom League for the generous and

whole-hearted support they gave me as Parliamentary candidate for East Surrey, congratulate the League, and its organ, THE VOTE, upon the splendid record of years of carefully thought out work for women, and progress which they have carried out? Much remains to be done, and all of us who care for the future of civilisation must continue to give of our best for our day and generation, never forgetting what others have done for us, and always remembering "that where the vanguard stands to-day, the rear shall camp to-morrow."

Mrs. C. D. Rackham.

The fifth Christmas since the Armistice finds us with a Europe torn with unrest and rumours of wars, and with Great Britain still reeling from the blows of the Great War, and groaning under unemployment, bad housing, high prices, and low wages. Let us hope that, before another Christmas comes, we may see more of the social and industrial well-being of the community for which the Women's Freedom League stands, and also that not many Christmases will pass before we get also more women in Parliament, and the vote extended to women under 30.

Miss Mary Richardson.

THE VOTE has done its best to slay the Goliath of sex prejudice. The determination of this little David amongst periodicals has been an object lesson. My Christmas and New Year wish concerning it—as concerning all good things—is, that I may be of more use to its usefulness to the cause of women, and those who labour for emancipation from prejudice, greed, and pride.

Mrs. Burnett Smith.

There is no reason at all for discouragement over the results of the General Election. It was not quite a normal election. There was panic in the air, arising out of disturbed social conditions, and the feeling throughout the country that the immediate need was a strong government, prepared to stabilise industry and trade, and secure that peace without which unemployment and all the other kindred evils cannot be grappled with. In spite of the proven worth and work of the two gallant women members already in the House, the electorate were a little afraid of the new force, and decided on a policy of "wait and see." There was no hostility to the women candidates in this, but rather a policy of caution and reserve. We shall overcome all this in time. Meanwhile, the need is for earnest co-operation and work, and, above all, for wise propaganda for educational purposes. We must win the electorate not by too much insistence on women's questions, but by a wise, sane, broad-minded grasp of all the great issues at stake. I am more and more convinced that there is no sex in politics, and that the women candidates will have to fight and win seats as politicians, and not as women. That is the one great truth impressed upon me by my own candidature in Maryhill.

The Lady Terrington.

As a new reader of THE VOTE, I wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I may say I found it a very great help to me in my campaign, although defeated, and shall continue to read it, and would advise all women who study Equality, and women's views generally, to start reading it at once. I wish it every success, and may its sales be double the amount next year!

Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.

I should like to send a word of good wishes to the work that the Women's Freedom League is undertaking next year, and of appreciation of what it has done during the past year. I hope THE VOTE will increase its circulation, and thus be a help to a still larger number of women workers, and those who are interested in the opportunities for women in public life.

PATENT WORK FOR WOMEN.

At a meeting of the Women's Engineering Society on December 5th, Mr. Ewart Andrews, B.Sc., a patent agent, who formerly spent fifteen years in the Patent Office, gave an interesting paper on "Patent Work for Women."

The term, "patent agent," said Mr. Andrews, was misleading; they were not agents, and the American title of patent attorney was a more descriptive one. The patent agent's difficulty in advising inventors who wished to take out patents, was that, if they eulogised the invention too warmly, their clients thought they were after fees; if they did not praise it fairly ardently, they were apt to offend their clients. A middle course was the wiser, but the patent agent's main function was to prepare the specification in the necessary technical engineering and legal terms, and to steer the client through the negotiations with the Patent Office.

The profession of a patent agent was a closed one, but there was nothing to prevent a woman from being placed on the register when she had passed her final. This, however, took time, from three to five years, according to University degrees or otherwise, and according to the years served in articles. There was already one woman who had passed her intermediate examination, and in due course she would become the first woman patent agent in this country. Several women, however, were already in salaried posts as technical assistants to patent agents, and no doubt their number would be increased.

Questioned as to the employment of women in Government posts as patent examiners in the Patent Office itself, Mr. Andrews stated that, since inventions dealt as often as not with feminine belongings, such as hair-pins, etc., personally he thought women were needed, but there was not even a woman clerk or typist in the Patent Office to-day, and although, before the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, women had not been allowed to sit for the entrance examination, the authorities would find it difficult to deny their right to do so, should it be exercised on their behalf. So far there had been no agitation.

Mr. Andrews was careful not to commit himself too far, but it seems clear that this is a new avenue for pressure by the women's organisations. While most patent examiners have engineering qualifications, each sticks to his particular group of subjects, and it does not seem that very high mechanics are necessary for improved dressmaking patterns. Patents deal also with such simple things as corsets, the protected idea being often an improvement, such as a flap beneath the lacing at the back, which keeps the spine warm, instead of leaving it uncovered, as at present. Toys for children are often the subject of patents, and the simpler and less mechanical they are, the more successful they prove. S. W. M.

MOTHER AND BABY.

The Women's Freedom League is joining in the Petition asking for the immediate release of Mrs. Daisy Emily Wright, the poor Shoreditch mother who was sentenced to death last week at the Old Bailey for the murder of her baby, and subsequently reprieved. Copies of the Petition for signatures may be had at our Office.

Our readers will remember that the family have been existing for years in misery and semi-starvation; the husband could not get work, the eldest son was also unemployed, and a daughter of 14 is blind. On November 21 the youngest baby died in Shoreditch Infirmary from "malnutrition," then the mother, in grief and despair, threw her little two-year-old from Tower Bridge, and was jumping after it when the police seized her. Years of struggle and privation cloud the brain, so that to a tender mother a moment's choking in a watery grave seems a more desirable fate for her little two-year-old than wretched, miserable starvation, a little more drawn out, until bare existence will be at last impossible, and the infirmary and pauper burial swallow up the wasted body. Let us remember the years of brave striving, and acknowledge that the crime of murder is ours, and turn our attention, not to punishment, but to helping this one poor woman, and preventing the occurrence of any more such crime. E. KNIGHT.

BOOK REVIEWS.

The Disadvantages of Being a Woman. By Grace Ellison. (A. M. Philpot, Ltd.) 2s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

We do not advise our readers to purchase this book. From beginning to end it is one long grumble about the modern woman's efforts and achievements. Miss Ellison pours scorn upon women's chances of success in the legal and medical professions, in journalism, and in music, art, and literature. She does not think that women in Parliament will do much good, and hints that Lady Astor would be better employed than at present if she would revive the political "Salon," and somehow get women—we presume, women of the select upper classes—to use their influence in foreign politics. She does not explain why women should not interest themselves in home affairs! She scolds us about our work, our ambitions, our general incompetence, our physique, and our dress; indeed, her persistent discouragement made us feel tired out long before we reached the end of her book. She would like to see most of us married, shipped off to the Colonies, hidden behind the veil, or immersed in Church work; and emphatically declares that single women over thirty ought to be specially insured against old age. But we don't like any of her improvised substitutes for a fair field and no favour in regard to our competition with men! Why not let us work out our own salvation? We have no kind of use for Miss Ellison's pessimism, and much prefer to greet the Unknown with a cheer! F. A. U.

My Chinese Marriage. By M. T. F. (John Lane.) 6/- (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is the autobiography of an American college girl, describing the entirely happy results of her subsequent marriage with a Chinese fellow-student. The writer, however, does not pretend to discuss the problem of "mixed" marriages with any degree of profundity, and her story is chiefly valuable for its picturesque descriptions of Chinese life and diplomacy, and the influence of Western modes and ideals upon that Oriental nation. Chan-King Liang, the Chinese husband, however, is represented in a most favourable light—gentle, yet strong-willed, patriotic, yet definitely opposed to the more retrograde customs of his own country, deeply intellectual, and finely sympathetic in temperament. The light-heartedness with which the writer sheds her own country and nationality, and the home ties bound up with these, leaves the reader somewhat breathless, but she proves herself an excellent wife and mother during the all-too-short period of her married life. Arrived in China, the writer notes the important factor in Chinese national life of returned students, who, though wishful to conserve what is best in the civilisation of China, are to-day bringing Western ideas to bear upon the solution of political, sociological, and economic problems. Marked progress amongst Chinese women is also recorded, and an ever-increasing equality with their men folk, whilst a page or two is devoted to Chinese fashions in feminine wear, which, it appears, are far more exacting than either London, New York, or Paris! Not only does each Province in China possess its own distinctive features in women's wear, but, whilst women of the Occident observe four seasonal changes during the year, the fashion devotee of China takes account of eight! One of the most interesting of the many descriptive passages in the book is that which concerns the patriarchal customs and mode of life of the writer's Chinese relatives by marriage. The big, low-roofed, rambling compound behind the high, enveloping wall, housed 30 persons, sons, sons' wives, and children, all ruled and dominated, in a benevolent matriarchate, by Madame Liang, the Chinese mother-in-law. The complicated structure where generations of Liangs had lived and died is described as a series of smaller establishments extending back from the main headquarters, each with its own courtyard, its main hall containing the family altar, daily hidden beneath clouds of incense, its private chambers opening on each side. D. M. N.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

1923.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, January 17th, at 3 p.m., Hampstead Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W. 3.

Tuesday, January 23rd. Social, 7.30 to 10 p.m., at the Isis Club, Rockeslea, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, N.W. 3. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speech, 8 p.m., by Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., on "The Experiences of a Suffrage Speaker." Coffee.

Friday, February 2nd, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, February 2nd, at 8 p.m. Reception to the Hon. Officials of the Women's Freedom League, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Particulars later.

Saturday, February 3rd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, March 9th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, April 27th. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, January 3rd, from 3—6 p.m. Hastings. Whist Drive, at Digswell, Baldsow Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Barlow). Tea 4.30. Tickets 1/6.

Wednesday, January 16th, at 3.15 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting. The Lecture Hall, 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Mrs. Seaton Tiedeman. Subject: "Divorce Law Reform."

Tuesday, January 23rd, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Matthews, B.A. Subject: "Lunacy."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, January 2nd, at 8 p.m. Public Meeting in the Kingsway Hall, convened by the Women's International League (see advertisement on back page).

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Thanks are due to all members and friends who contributed to the success of the social evening on December 12th. The speech, "Women in Parliament," by Mrs. Whetton, came first on the programme. Then refreshments and talk, and afterwards an excellent and varied entertainment. Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Knight delighted the audience with an amusing duologue, "The Brown Paper Parcel." Miss Waterfield, quite a young singer, was very charming, and Mrs. Short and Mrs. Knight sang in their usual pleasing manner. Mr. Holdaway contributed two songs in excellent style, and Mr. A. Williams, a very old favourite, was greatly applauded for two recitations. Master Waterfield played several delightful pianoforte solos. The Public Meeting in January will be on Wednesday, 16th. Mrs. Seaton Tiedeman will speak on "Divorce Law Reform."

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 80, Festing Grove, Southsea.

EDINBURGH.

On Saturday, December 16th, a very pleasant evening was spent by members and friends at 44, George IV. Bridge, at the "At Home." Mr. Charles MacKay and friends very kindly entertained us with "Me and My Diary," a sketch recalling recent literary sensations. Part of the evening was devoted to whist and card games. A collection was taken to cover expenses. (Hon. Sec.) Miss W. M. SPRIGG, 22, Dick Place, Edinburgh.

NEW BRANCHES.

Preparations are being made for the formation of new Branches as follows:—

- (1) Croydon, Sanderstead, Woldingham and district.
- (2) Stroud Green, Hornsey, Finsbury Park, Harringay, Crouch End, Highbury and district.
- (3) Teddington, Richmond, Kingston and district.

Will readers living in any of the above neighbourhoods, interested in the formation of these Branches, kindly communicate at once with (1) The Secretary, Women's Freedom League Office; (2) Miss Jamieson, 3, Oakfield Road, Stroud Green, N.; (3) Miss Underwood, 26, Cedar Road, Teddington, Middlesex?

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Offices of the Women's Freedom League will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Friday night, December 22nd, at 5.30 p.m., and will re-open on Wednesday morning, December 27th, at 9.30 a.m.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Another Woman Candidate?

Owing to the death of Mr. J. N. Bell, M.P. for East Newcastle, there will shortly be a by-election in this constituency, and as we go to press we learn that his widow, Mrs. Harrison Bell, may be put forward as the Labour candidate.

Unemployed Women.

The following letter on the subject of provision for unemployed women has been issued over the signatures of Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P., Lady Astor, M.P., Major J. D. Birchall, M.P., Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., the Bishop of Chelmsford, Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., Bishop Gore, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P., Mr. A. Hayday, M.P., the Bishop of Hereford, the Bishop of Lichfield, Lady Middleton, Lady Portsmouth, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.

It is stated: "There are on the live register (November 20th) 176,000 women seeking employment (this, of course, does not include the many thousands not so registered). A careful examination of the *Labour Gazette* shows that, taken over a period of five weeks, the Labour Exchanges are able to absorb 3,500 women a week. What provisions are made for the remainder? There is the dole and its attendant loss of skill and efficiency in the worker concerned, and there is the training scheme in homecraft and home-making which the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment is carrying out in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour. For this latter purpose the Government have guaranteed a maximum sum of £50,000, contingent on the Central Committee's finding an equivalent sum, the total amount being sufficient to train 5,000 women for three months. What of the remaining 167,000 women—what are the Government proposals? The funds of the Central Committee and the grant of £50,000 are totally inadequate, and enable only the small number mentioned to take advantage of the scheme, but the training centres, the teachers, and the equipment exist, and could cope with far larger numbers if further grants were available. It should be pointed out that women receiving this training and maintenance do not receive the dole, which is a saving on the Unemployment Insurance Fund; 66 per cent. of the trainees entered and remained in domestic service on the completion of their training, and are no longer recipients of unemployment insurance."

Prisoners' Treatment (Attempted Escapes).

Mr. Foot asked the Home Secretary if he was aware that his predecessor promised that the system under which an escaping prisoner might be punished on his recapture by being chained would be reconsidered with a view to its abolition; and if a decision in relation to this system had yet been arrived at? Mr. Bridgeman replied that the matter had received most careful attention. Leg-irons and cross-chains were not now used, and would not be used in ordinary cases of attempted escape, but he would not be justified in withdrawing altogether the Rule which authorised their use, not as a punishment, but as a precaution, in very exceptional cases.

CURRENT EVENTS ABROAD.

Miss V. M. Acheson gave a very interesting bird's-eye view of various foreign events, in the Minerva Café, on Wednesday of last week, with Mrs. Dexter presiding. Miss Acheson showed how almost every country to-day was troubled with the presence of reactionary irregulars in its midst, who were trying to revert to the old order. The number of peace-making attempts, by means of Conferences, which were being, or had been, held in the different countries was a sign of the times. These included the Reparations Conference, a preliminary to the Brussels Conference, which would be held early in the New Year; the Peace Conferences at the Hague, one held early in December by the Women's International League, and the second immediately following, by the Trade Union League, each with the object of revising the Peace Treaties; the Disarmament Conference in Moscow; the Conference of the Allies at Lausanne, etc.

THE ISIS CLUB.

THE ISIS CLUB—run by Feminist, expressly to provide luxurious home for professional women with small incomes; and to give thinking women of all shades of opinion opportunity to meet together as non-resident members. Magnificent reception rooms, silence room, smoking lounge, restaurant, superb dining room, etc. Excellent cuisine, vegetarian dishes, home laundry. Handsome double and single rooms (some unfurnished). Minimum charges. Lectures, social evenings, dancing. Full sized tennis lawn. Telephone: Hampstead 2869, or write Feminist, c/o THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn.

Your Christmas Present

The Christmas present that you are intending to send to the Women's Freedom League. If it has not been got off yet, please send it at once, and ensure happiness for yourself and your Honorary Treasurer.

FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 22
1922.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name

Address

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BUSY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at **MISS TURNER'S, "Sea View,"** Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

MISS NICHOLAS, Ex-transport Driver. R.A.F. Landaulette Car for hire. Tel. Hampstead 8341. Private address: 3, Christchurch Road, Hampstead.

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

CONVINCED Feminist (Practising Midwife) books lecturing engagements.—**GATTY**, 30 Retreat Place, Hackney

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

HOME School on Progressive Thought Lines; Large Garden; Cricket Field; Sea Bathing; Small Classes; Special care given to backward and delicate girls; Coaching for advanced pupils. Principal: **MISS RICHARDSON**, B.A.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Women's International League.

THE MESSENGERS

from the HAGUE CONGRESS
(Dec. 7 to 10, 1922) demanding

A NEW PEACE

will speak in the

Kingsway Hall on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Chair at 8 p.m. **Mrs. H. M. Swanwick.**

Miss Jane Addams (U.S.A.).

Mlle Jeanne Melin

(from the devastated area of the Ardennes).

Miss Catherine Marshall (Great Britain).

ADMISSION FREE. Doors open 7.30 p.m.

TICKETS: Numbered and Reserved Seats, 2/6.
Reserved Seats, 1/6.

From—

- (1) International House, 55 Gower St., W.C. 1.
- (2) The Union of Democratic Control, 2 and 4 Great Smith St., S.W. 1.
- (3) The National Peace Council, 19 Buckingham St., Strand, W.C. 2.

MISCELLANEOUS.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, 2d. Send for one.—**TRIMNELL**, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

FRENCH LADY gives private French lessons in the evening. For particulars apply **MDLLE. SABATIER**, 33, Ardleigh Road, N.1.

WANTED—two unfurnished, light airy rooms, or small flat. Write **DR. ALICE VICKERY**, 47, Rotherwick Road, N.W. 11.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, Dec. 24th, 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. **DR. Percy Dearmer**. 6.30. Carols, Pictures. Short Address: "Children Suffering at Christmas." **Miss Maude Royden**.

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