

THE VOTE,
JULY 6, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

BIRTHDAY PARTY TO-NIGHT!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1923

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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WHEN I AM M.P.

Miss Pallister, who is a prospective Labour candidate for Bournemouth, spent her early years in Social and Religious Work. She then taught in a mining village, and became deeply interested in industrial questions. She served on the Breconshire Education Committee, but finally gave up Educational work in favour of Politics. She was organiser for the Labour Party in Aberavon, when Mr. Ramsay MacDonald accepted candidature, and worked in this capacity until the last General Election. She now acts as National Propagandist for the Independent Labour Party.

If I am returned to Parliament, there are three things I should endeavour to concentrate upon—(1) Security of life, (2) Housing, (3) Education.

(1) The fact that people are insecure means a vast amount of physical and mental strain. A large percentage of people spend their whole lives in fear—fear of sickness, fear of old age, fear of unemployment. These fears need not arise when the Government gives every man and woman the right to demand employment at some useful occupation, together with an adequate pension at a reasonable age. The result of such a plan would mean that the terrific loss to the community caused by periods of unemployment would cease, and the resultant gain would more than meet increased expenditure on sick allowances and pensions. The introduction of proper safety appliances into mines and works would also secure workmen from many avoidable accidents which now occur, and thus lessen the fearful anxiety among the wives of men employed in dangerous or unhealthy occupations.

(2) The housing of the people should be taken out of the hands of gamblers and profiteers, and made a national concern. The small, badly equipped houses now being built are not only uncomfortable but unhealthy, both physically and morally. Nothing can take the place of a real home, where growing children

can live in decency and comfort. Gardens and open spaces are a necessity, and to ensure them I should support every endeavour on the part of the Government to deal with the land question. Land must be used for the good of the nation, if the nation is to rear a healthy race of children. Narrow streets, small gardenless homes, cost the nation millions each year in sanatoria, prisons, and hospitals, which would not be needed if it were not for consumption and disease and crime, engendered by faulty living conditions.

(3) The education of the child is second only in importance to its housing. I should support a generous scheme of free education, with smaller classes and better-equipped schools. Every £1 paid for education is more than repaid by the increased efficiency, health, and happiness of the people of the country. I would support a scheme for maintenance of school children, so that the child of a larger family need not be penalised.

Large sums which are now spent in constant quarrels abroad should be used for the improvement of public services, and I should do my utmost to support the attempts to create friendship and co-operation between the various peoples of the world. The acid test of a Government is not its power to make millionaires, but its power to create happy, healthy, useful citizens.

MINNIE PALLISTER.



MISS MINNIE PALLISTER.

Other issues of this Series in "The Vote":—Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Miss MAY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; COMMANDANT MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; LADY COOPER, March 17, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; LADY CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORENESBITT, August 18, 1922; Miss PICTON-TURBERVILL, Sept. 8, 1922.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Juvenile Centres (Government Grants).

MR. AMMON (Camberwell, N.) asked the Minister of Labour if he was aware that the four juvenile unemployment centres at St. John's Lane, Hoxton, Pastor's College, Southwark, Old Castle Street, Stepney, and Trafalgar Square, Bow, were due to be closed on June 30th; and whether, having regard to the excellent work being done in those centres, he was prepared to announce that they would be continued for a further period. SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that, after careful consideration, the Government had decided that the grant on the 75 per cent. basis for juvenile unemployment centres, which, under existing arrangements, expired on various dates from June 30th to July 21st, should again be made during the winter; the period during which the grant would be payable would run from September 17th next to April 17th, 1924. Notification was being made to the local authorities accordingly. MR. MUIR (Maryhill) inquired if those grants would apply to all juvenile centres? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that the centres which complied with the conditions, and which were approved by the local authorities, would be available for the 75 per cent. grant.

Juvenile Offenders.

MAJOR ATTLEE (Limehouse) asked the Home Secretary what number of boys and girls under 16 years of age had, during the past four years, been sent to prison on remand, and not subsequently received under sentence of imprisonment; and which Courts most frequently adopted that method? MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that during the last four years 175 boys and girls under 16 had been sent to prison on remand who were not subsequently received under sentence of imprisonment. Of that number, 29 came from Bristol, 25 from the Metropolitan district, and 14 from Newcastle. He was glad to say that the figures showed a substantial reduction in the last two years.

Prisoners (Educational Classes)

MR. HILL (Leicester, W.) asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to local education authorities who had organised classes for prisoners in His Majesty's prisons; and, in view of the importance of that work, if he was contemplating making a grant equal to half the cost, to enable education authorities to continue and further extend that work? MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that he was glad to take the opportunity of expressing his high appreciation of the services rendered to the Prison Commissioners by the school teachers and others who had come forward as volunteers to assist in that work. Their help was the more welcome as it had, unfortunately, been found impossible to provide public funds for the purpose.

Married Women Teachers.

COL. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme) asked the President of the Board of Education whether he was aware that a woman, with over 20 years' service and just 2½ years short of her pension, was being discharged by the Staffordshire Education Authority because she was a married woman, and this in spite of the fact that her husband, owing to being gassed in the Minnie pit, was an invalid, unable to work; whether the Board of Education could, by circular or otherwise, check this and similar dismissals of married women teachers, when it was shown that the husband was dependent on the wife, and not the wife on the husband; and whether, in particular, he would obtain a Report as to this special case? MR. WOOD replied that his attention had not previously been drawn to that case. He reminded the hon. and gallant Member that he had no authority to prevent local Education Authorities from exercising their discretion in the matter, but he had no reason to suppose that they did not exercise it with discrimination and humanity. He would, however, draw the attention of the local Education Authority to this particular question.

Secondary Schools.

MR. ROBERT RICHARDSON (Houghton-le-Spring) asked the President of the Board of Education how many secondary schools there were in the country, stating their accommodation, how many places were occupied by fee-paying students, how many by free-placers, how many places were vacant, and the average fee charged for fee-paying pupils? LORD EUSTACE PERCY (for Mr. Wood) replied that the number of grant-earning secondary schools in England and Wales was 1,264. He could not give specific figures for the accommodation, but it had been stretched to the utmost to meet the demands of applicants for admission, and the number of pupils in them in October last was about 364,000. Of those, about 128,000 held free places within the meaning of Article 20 of the Regulations for Secondary Schools, and about 8,000 more, though not holders of free places within the meaning of that Article, paid no fees. The remaining 228,000 were fee-paying pupils. With regard to the fourth part of the question, it might be generally assumed that all the schools were full. He was unable to make an exact statement as to the average fee paid, but in the year 1921-22 it was in the neighbourhood of twelve guineas. There had been some slight increase since that date.

State Scholarships.

MR. EDE (Mitcham) asked the President of the Board of Education if he would give the number of State Scholarships, if any, which had been held over until 1923; if all such scholarships had been awarded; and, if not, when would they be awarded? LORD EUSTACE PERCY replied that nine State Scholarships which were awarded in 1920 or 1921 had, at the request of the scholars concerned, been held over until 1923. There were no others outstanding.

New Houses.

CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Leith) asked the Minister of Health how many houses had been approved by him under the new Bill? LORD EUSTACE PERCY replied that the number of houses approved to date which would rank for assistance under the new Bill was 13,401.

Unemployment (Cabinet Committee).

MR. D. SOMERVILLE (Barrow-in-Furness) asked the Prime Minister whether the Cabinet Committee on Unemployment was still functioning; whether in that case it was making any arrangements for the coming winter; and whether it was open to receive any statistics on the condition of various severely tried towns, if they were forwarded through the accredited Ministerial channels? MR. BALDWIN replied that the answer to the first two parts of the question was in the affirmative. With reference to the last part, the Committee had been collecting a large amount of evidence on the subject, but if his hon. Friend had any suggestions to make, the Ministry of Labour would be glad to receive them for the consideration of the Committee.

Consular Service (Innsbruck).

SIR MARTIN CONWAY (English Universities) asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if it was intended to appoint a Vice-Consul at Innsbruck at an early date? LT.-COL. BUCKLEY (Parliamentary Secretary, Overseas Trade Department) replied that it was not proposed to appoint a British Vice-Consul at Innsbruck for the present. SIR MARTIN CONWAY further inquired if the hon. Gentleman could inform him whether it was true that the old gentlemen at the Foreign Office fainted when it was suggested that they should appoint a lady to that post? LT.-COL. BUCKLEY replied that he did not know that.

Sittings of Parliament.

Last week it was decided that a Select Committee of the House of Commons should be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the desirability of altering the customary period of the Parliamentary Session and the necessary incidental changes. A message to this effect was sent to the Lords.

F. A. U.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD. CAMBRIDGE WOMEN GRADUATES.

Egyptian Women's Progress.

Three Egyptian women attended the Rome Congress, the first time that any Egyptian woman has represented her country at an International Conference of any kind. One of these, Mrs. Sharawi Pasha, founded, and is first President of, the Egyptian Women's Society, which demands equal educational facilities for women as for men; the abolition of the Oriental marriage system; modification of the Moslem law of divorce; the prohibition of marriage for girls under 16 years, and more efficient measures for the repression of the white slave traffic.

American Women Inventors.

The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labour in the United States says, that, during the last ten years, over 5,000 articles have been patented by women. These include kitchen utensils, such as egg-beaters, holders for hot utensils, kettle polishers and scrapers, kitchen cabinets, washing machines, contrivances for making work easier on the land, such as cultivators, seed planters, tractors, and windmills, and personal articles, such as hooks and eyes, tooth brushes, etc. Seventy-one women took out patents for office supplies and equipment, and 81 for improvements to steam and street railways.

Dutch Women Politicians.

Women's victory in Dutch politics is decisive. Not only are there seven women in the Dutch Second Chamber of 100 Members, a greater number in the Provincial Councils, and scores of them in the Municipal Councils of the large cities, but even the smallest villages can boast the acquisition of women candidates for the coming Municipal Council elections.

A Literary Trio.

The twin daughters of Sir Morris Jones, the eminent Welsh *littérateur*, have each been awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts, with honours in Welsh, at the University of Wales. They are Angharad Morris Jones and Gwenllïan Morris Jones, students at University College of North Wales. Their sister, Rhiannon Morris Jones, has also graduated as a Master of Arts.

Woman Suffrage in Italy.

The draft of the Municipal Woman Suffrage Bill in Italy is accompanied by a report stating that the grant is the "first experiment, the results of which may lead to future larger concessions." The Socialists will propose an Amendment to the Bill, by which the vote would not be limited to certain categories, but extended to all women.

German Women Homeworkers.

The German Home Work Law Amendment Bill, which is now in its Committee Stage, is the first serious attempt in that country to get a legal minimum wage for home workers, the majority of whom are women, and very few of whom belong to trade unions. The Bill is expected to meet with considerable opposition from employers.

American Woman's Achievement.

The Mexican Humane Society owes its inception to a courageous American woman, Miss Alva Blaffer, who came to Mexico in 1921 as the delegate of the American Humane Society to a Congress on Child Welfare, called by *El Universal*, Mexico's leading daily. She was assisted in her efforts by some of the leading women and men of the city, and the principal woman's club, "Cosmos."

New Zealand Pioneers.

Canterbury College, Christchurch, New Zealand, which has recently celebrated its Jubilee, is stated to have had the honour of producing the first woman Bachelor of Arts, and the first woman Master of Arts, in the British Empire.

Miss Burstall Resigns.

Great regret is expressed in educational quarters at the announcement of the resignation, at the end of this year, of Miss Sara Anne Burstall, M.A., headmistress of Manchester High School for Girls.

As reported in last week's VOTE, the Oxford and Cambridge Universities Bill is now before Standing Committee B, for its Committee Stage in the Commons. This is practically the only chance we shall have of securing women members of the Oxford and the Cambridge Statutory Commissions, which are to bring the whole University methods up to date, and of obtaining the admission of women to full membership of Cambridge University.

The members of Committee are as follows, and we appeal to all Branches, members, and readers to tackle their own representatives to support the Amendments of the women's friends:—

Col. Nicholson (Petersfield), Chairman; Mr. G. Balfour (Hampstead), Mr. G. Barker (Abertillery), Mr. A. Barnes (East Ham, S.), Mr. Albert Bennett (Mansfield), Mr. J. Brotherton (Gateshead), Mr. G. Buchanan (Gorbals), Mr. S. Burgess (Rochdale), Major Hon. E. Cadogan (Reading), Sir Samuel Chapman (Edinburgh, S.), Mr. R. Clarry (Newport), Mr. G. C. Clayton (Widnes), Mr. C. Duncan (Clay Cross), Col. W. B. Du Pre (Wycombe), Mr. J. Falconer (Forfar), Sir Bertram G. Falle (Portsmouth, N.), Sir Henry Foreman (Hammersmith, N.), Mr. G. J. Furness (Willesden, W.), Rear-Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt (Buckrose), Major Gwilym Lloyd George (Pembroke), Mr. H. Gosling (Whitechapel), Lieut.-Col. Sir Edward Grigg (Oldham), Col. the Hon. H. Guest (Bristol, N.), Mr. A. Harbord (Great Yarmouth), Mr. A. Hayday (Nottingham, W.), Lieut.-Col. F. Hilder (Essex, S.E.), Mr. A. Hopkinson (Mossley), Mr. A. R. Jephcott (Yardley), Mr. Thomas Johnston (Stirling and Clackmannan), Capt. M. S. L. Kennedy (Lonsdale), Sir John Leigh (Clapham), Mr. A. McLaren (Burslem), Capt. A. H. Moreing (Camborne), Mr. R. C. Nesbitt (Chislehurst), Sir Percy Newson (Tamworth), Brigadier-Gen. J. S. Nicholson (Abbey), Mr. Owen Parker (Kettering), Mr. W. G. Perring (Paddington, N.), Mr. W. S. Royce (Holland with Boston), Dr. J. M. Simms (Down), Mr. J. Hope Simpson (Taunton), Mr. A. N. Skelton (Perth), Rear-Admiral M. F. Sueter (Hertford), Major the Marquess of Titchfield (Newark), Mr. W. J. Tout (Oldham), Mr. Graham White (Birkenhead, E.), Sir William Whitla (Belfast University), Major Sir Samuel Hill-Wood (High Peak), Sir George Berry (Scottish Universities), Mr. J. R. M. Butler (Camb. University), Mr. C. P. Buxton (Accrington), Lord Hugh Cecil (Oxford University), Sir Henry Craik (Scottish Universities), Mr. J. C. Ede (Mitcham), Mr. Arthur Greenwood (Nelson and Colne), Mr. John Murray (Leeds, W.), Sir Chas. Oman (Oxford University), Mr. Rawlinson (Camb. University), Sir Sydney Russell-Wells (London University), Mr. Annesley Somerville (Windsor), Mr. Sidney Webb (Seaham), Mrs. Wintringham (Louth), Rt. Hon. E. F. L. Wood (Ripon).

WOMEN ESTABLISHMENT OFFICERS.

The *Daily Telegraph* gives the following list of women establishment officers whose duty is to control the organisation and conditions of employment of the staff of their branch:—The Hon. Maude Lawrence, Director of Women Establishments at the Treasury, £1,200 a year; Miss Lock, Woman Establishment Officer at the Post Office, £800 a year; at the Admiralty, Miss E. Bass, Principal Lady Superintendent, £300-£400 a year; at the Foreign Office, Miss Moore, Chief Woman Officer (Chief Clerk's Department), £300-£400 a year; at the Ministry of Labour, Miss Burnett, Principal Officer, £600-£750; Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Miss Alleyne, Controller of Women Staff, £230-£300; Ministry of Health, Miss Beaver, First-class Clerk, £300-£400; Ministry of Pensions, Miss Curtis, Assistant Principal, £200-£400; Public Trustee, Miss Garner, Chief Superintendent of Women Staff, £350-£450; Inland Revenue, Mrs. E. M. Garner, Principal of Women Staff, £225 (inclusive); and at the Scottish Board of Health, Miss Ritson, member of the Board, who also acts as Establishment Officer, £1,000-£1,200.

THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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EDITORIAL.

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

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

We congratulate Mr. Neville Chamberlain on the admirable survey of the work of the Ministry of Health which he gave to the House of Commons last week. At the outset, he said he was convinced that improvements in the public health were of more importance to the nation than anything else; that every advance in the happiness and contentment of the people, every step in the progress of intellectual development, and every opportunity of taking advantage of improved prosperity or of enduring misfortune depended upon the maintenance of a certain standard of health in the community; and that the material prosperity of the nation was vitally affected by the same question. On the other hand, the existence of sickness and ill-health in the population meant the establishment of great hospitals, infirmaries, and convalescent homes at a huge capital cost and a correspondingly large cost in maintenance. It also meant that a vast army of people had to be maintained while they were unable to work, and in the year 1922 the equivalent of the work of 375,000 people for a whole year was absolutely lost to the community through their ill-health. Mr. Chamberlain stated that infant mortality had steadily declined since 1915, and last year it was 77 per thousand, which meant the death of 60,000 children under one year of age. He attributed this decline very largely to the establishment of the infant welfare centres, of which there were now 1,950 in the country. The maternity mortality did not show any practical decrease, and the mortality rate amongst illegitimate children was twice as high as amongst legitimate children. Mr. Chamberlain said that they wanted more centres, more pre-natal clinics, more free medical attendance and more health visitors, and improved practice in midwifery, to cope with those difficulties, and, even if expansion in that direction meant the spending of more money, he ventured to suggest that the results already achieved proved that such expenditure was well worth while. With regard to diseases among the community, the Minister of Health said that the first in fatal effects were respiratory diseases—pneumonia, bronchitis, etc.—and the very high mortality among them was largely due to the congested conditions and polluted conditions to be found in our large towns. Next to respiratory diseases were those affecting the heart, and diseases of the nervous system; then came tuberculosis, and after that cancer. With regard to venereal disease, Mr. Chamberlain said that the incidence of that disease was fairly rapidly on the decline, and a good deal of that result was attributable to the establishment of a number of free clinics throughout the country. There were 191 now in existence. Referring to voluntary hospitals, the Minister said that most of them had now practically cleared off all the deficits; but he pointed out that more beds were urgently required to accommodate patients who were undergoing operations or some specialised treatment. Every hospital now had a terrible waiting list of people who were in immediate need of treatment, and could not get it because they could not get beds. In conclusion, Mr. Chamberlain stated that the Estimates for his Department had now been reduced in two

years, this year and last year, by nearly £4,750,000. He thought they had now almost got to the end of the reduction. It really would be impossible to make further savings without trenching on services which, in the public interest, ought not to be curtailed.

In the course of the Debate, Lady Astor urged the Minister not to be put off by the people who cry "economy," but to see that all children, under and over one year, who needed pure milk should be supplied with it. She reminded the House of Commons that she had heard a thousand questions asked about beer, but very few about milk. Beer was all very well, but impure beer would only hurt the people who drank it, while impure milk was a national menace, and would hurt our future citizens. Mr. Alexander said it was absolutely essential, if there was to be a larger consumption of efficiently treated milk, that all the milk of this country should be supplied in sealed bottles. Sir Alfred Mond declared that the whole question of the medical treatment of children required co-ordination, and that the present division of the work between the Minister of Health and the Board of Education in regard to the children was not satisfactory. Major Molloy maintained that the whole function of the Ministry was to provide preventive medicine. Housing was preventive medicine; the building of houses, and providing healthy houses for the public was preventive medicine. In the same way, ordinary sanitation was purely and simply preventive medicine. Food inspection, meat inspection, infant welfare, and medical service were all preventive medicine. He also pleaded with the Ministry to give more adequate financial assistance towards the carrying out of cancer research.

In replying for the Ministry, Lord Eustace Percy assured the Members that the Estimate was for a service as efficient and as widespread as they had last year. It was meant to provide for no reduction of service; there was no question of reducing the extent of the efficiency of the public health service.

WOMEN AND HONOURS.

When the King's Birthday List of Honours was published on June 2nd, it was announced that the Prime Minister's section was delayed. This has now been published. It contains two new Peers, five Privy Councillors, ten Baronets, twenty-eight Knights, and a large number of Orders of the British Empire. In all these lists the names of men only appear, with the solitary exception of Lady Barbara Strickland, who has been awarded the D.B.E. "for public services, 1919-1922." When we remember the enormous amount of all kinds of service which has been rendered by public-spirited women throughout so many years, it is astounding that no recognition of it is ever found in the innumerable Honours Lists. We understand that before publication these lists are carefully scrutinised by a Committee of the Privy Council, and this fact is a further argument in support of our contention that women as well as men should be summoned to the Privy Council. More than half of His Majesty's subjects in Great Britain are women, and we once again urge that in this matter of Honours, women expect the State to act impartially in its treatment of men and women. Public honours have too long been the monopoly of men, and it is time that men realised that women have a right to a share of them.

"NO MORE WAR!"

The Women's Freedom League is again taking part in the great world-wide "No More War" demonstration in London and the country. Here, on Saturday, July 28th, there will be four great processions to the great meeting in Hyde Park. The Women's Freedom League is joining the North procession, leaving Regent's Park, York Gate, at 3 p.m. We must have a big detachment, banners and colours, and ask all members and friends to arrange their holidays so as to be present.

THE DOMESTIC SERVANT PROBLEM.

By E. G. KITHER.

So much, wise and unwise, has already been written and said about the domestic servant problem that one hesitates to add another word, unless the experience of eighteen years of work amongst girls, partly spent in running a small training hostel, and about thirty years of solid housekeeping, justifies a few remarks.

Like everything else in the labour market, domestic service is in a transitory stage. It is useless to attempt to close our eyes to the fact, or to dream that we shall ever return to old conditions of fifty years ago, when a good all-round servant was available for a 3s. weekly wage. That was in the days when families were brought up on 15s. per week, and one less to feed, and also to receive pay for herself, was an improvement in her own condition and that of her family.

The misapplication of our educational system is partly to blame for this, and the high premium put upon female labour during the war is also responsible for the present deadlock. An attempt was certainly made by the educational authorities to give classes in housewifery, cookery, etc., to girls, and, although competent certificated mistresses are engaged to teach them, what can this smattering of method do without practice? The writer well remembers a young girl of 15, whom she was endeavouring to train, prattling of "domestic economy." She was allowed to go her own way in the kitchen for three or four days, when she tearfully but cheerfully surrendered to the application of *experientia docet!*

Meanwhile, homes must still be run, and middle-class housewives relieved of the burden of having to do all their own work. We will not dwell upon larger establishments where a staff of competent servants can be kept. There are many girls of quite good family ready to take service in these. Neither will we speak of the household where the servant is always more or less of a drudge. Such mistresses deserve all they get. What one would like to cater for would be the house where

the help was assured of a comfortable home and consideration, and in return would give of her best, *learnt by practical teaching and experience*. For, after all, it is the mistress who many times pays only to teach, and, just in the same way as a good servant can be a friend and comfort to her mistress, so should a good mistress become the true friend of the servant. I know many families where this obtains with the happiest results, and without any undue familiarity as a consequence.

It would be well if training centres could be set up where the proper use of household utensils was taught. How many girls know how to handle a broom properly? Then at the end of three to six months a proper working uniform, and certificate of ability and character, could be given, together with rules of the "college" where applicant was trained, and a fixed rate of remuneration. This, as in the case of nurses, would secure for domestic workers proper hours of rest and time off during the day, and for the mistress greater comfort and efficiency. The status of domestic service would be raised, and in these days of convenient houses and labour-saving appliances, no nice active girl should think it a bugbear.

In America, the "living-out" system is largely in favour. The writer keeps up a correspondence with an old servant who emigrated some years ago, and after a time saved enough from her wages to buy a nice little house, the upkeep of which is maintained by daily housekeeping.

After all, so much depends upon the character and grit of the girl, and the bored or intelligent mistress. One is reminded of the old charwoman who remarked that she could not quite make up her mind which she would rather work for—the lady who understood all about housework but was too proud to admit it, or the lady who knew nothing at all but pretended she did. Why not a school for mistresses as well?

IMPRESSIONS OF THE ROME CONGRESS.

An "At Home," held by kind permission of Dr. Jane Walker, at 122, Harley Street, was given by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on Thursday of last week, at which delegates to the Rome Congress, both British and foreign, gave their various impressions before a number of representatives of women's societies.

Mrs. Rischbieth, J.P. (W. Australia), said that it was only eighteen months since the women of Australia had formed themselves into a Federation, which was now affiliated to the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance. Australian women had been looking forward for a long time to the Rome Congress, feeling how great was the opportunity for linking themselves up with all the other progressive women of the world. Nine delegates had been sent from Australia, each one representing important women's organisations, and these had travelled 12,000 miles to be present at the Rome Congress. The social laws of Australia were abreast of those of many other countries with regard to equality between the sexes. This was probably due to the fact that Australian women were amongst the earliest to be enfranchised. Women delegates, however, were not yet included in the Imperial Congresses.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon said the chief impression she received from the Congress was the wonderfully representative nature of the gathering, with its number of women from all parts of the world—India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Europe, America, etc. Another point was the rapt attention given by the women delegates to the various discussions, which were often complex and difficult. The women from Central Europe, Germany, Roumania, Bulgaria, etc., were

particularly noticeable by their air of pathos and underlying sadness. The galaxy of brains on the platform, and the brilliant women interpreters, especially Frau Schreiber-Krieger (Germany), Donna Lutz (Brazil), and Dr. Ancona (Italy), also deserved mention.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan described the variety of interesting personalities amongst the Rome delegates—Fru Qvam, who helped the Norwegian women to get the vote, and, though 90 years of age, took a nine-day journey to be present at the Rome Congress, Donna Lutz and Dr. Paulina Luisi, two of South America's most brilliant women, and Anna Wicksell, of Sweden. Equally remarkable were the number of women M.P.s from different countries—Annie Furuhjelm, who had stood for seven elections, and served for twelve years, and so had been M.P. longer than any other woman in the world; also Danish, Polish, German, Ukrainian, and Czecho-Slovakian women M.P.s. In Germany there were more women M.P.s in the Municipalities and State Parliaments than in any other country. An interesting feature of the Congress was the number of new societies applying for affiliation. These included India, New Zealand, Jamaica, Egypt, etc. The movement in India had been surprisingly rapid, and also in Japan, since the passing of a law permitting women to attend political meetings, and form political societies. Perhaps the most useful piece of work performed by the Congress was the extraction of a promise from the Italian Premier to give some form of suffrage to the women of Italy. Although Signor Mussolini had only granted municipal suffrage on a very limited basis, this was a great step forward, since it was the first form of suffrage ever offered in any of the Latin countries.

Mrs. Fawcett, who received a great ovation from all present, told the audience that she could remember 56 years ago, when no woman was enfranchised either in the British Empire or any other part of the world. What she had heard that evening of the progress of the woman's movement all over the world seemed almost too good to be true.

FOSTER-MOTHERS IN SCATTERED HOMES.

In the Debate on the Ministry of Health last week in the House of Commons, Mr. Ammon drew the attention of Members to the long hours of work done by foster-mothers in the scattered homes in charge of the Camberwell Board of Guardians. Each mother is given charge of two homes, and has charge of at least 24 children of all ages at all times, day and night. This system was condemned by Miss Walmsley, the Inspector of the Ministry of Health. In her report she says that the hours of the foster-mothers have been increased. They are allowed one day a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and every third Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. There was a danger of the foster-mothers becoming run down in health and irritable with the children if they had no liberty. She also said that in the Girls' and mixed homes there was a considerable proportion of young children under seven, and in some homes children not attending school, and that it was undesirable that children should be left for considerable lengths of time under the care of untrained girls, as they must be when each foster-mother was responsible for 24 children. When this Report was read, the comment of the Chairman of the Guardians upon the above statement was: "This is the usual sort of letter from a maiden lady." We hope this Chairman also remembered that the Government refuses to employ women Inspectors or women Civil Servants after they marry! Further statements in Miss Walmsley's Report were to the effect that these homes were not suitable for making a common dining-room for the two houses, where there was only one mother on duty to serve 24 dinners. If this was left to the elder girls, the little ones might be insufficiently fed. Accidents might easily happen after school hours, and the mother could not be held responsible if she were not in the particular house at the time. Miss Walmsley concluded by saying that she noted that several of the older mothers were feeling the strain of many years' service. If they broke down and applied for pensions, the guardians would spend more than they would save on parting with the relief foster-mothers. We certainly hope that the Ministry of Health will immediately bring pressure to bear upon the Camberwell Board of Guardians to reinstate relief foster-mothers, and not to make a sweated industry of this most important work of foster-mothers.

ASYLUM "INQUIRIES."

The Hull Corporation Asylum Committee have issued their findings in relation to the inquiry into charges made with regard to the administration of their Asylum. The Committee have decided that, "generally speaking," regulations have been properly carried out, and state that nothing reflecting on the general conduct of the nurses had been put before them. This Committee, we believe, was composed solely of men, and, as most of the charges related to the treatment of the women patients in matters of which it was difficult or impossible for men to obtain first-hand information, we consider its findings of very little value. Women members upon the Committee would have added enormously to its authority, and greatly increased public confidence in it. We understand that appeal has been made to the Board of Control to send down an "independent" official to investigate the charges, but, as there are no medical or legal women Lunacy Commissioners, and no women inspectors, this will only be a further instance of a man being forced to do badly what only a woman can do well.

BOOK REVIEW.

When Woman Rules. By a Well-known Member of Parliament. (John Long.) 7s. net. (Can be obtained from this Office).

We mildly wonder who the writer is. Can he be Sir Henry Craik, whose comprehensive lament about woman suffrage, women M.P.s, and the lack of homage shown to them appeared last Monday in *The Times*? Whoever the culprit is, we should like to give him a friendly hint that it is usually better for a cobbler to stick to his last, and that if the author has a fairly safe Parliamentary seat it might be less difficult for him to retain it than to find a comfortable place among popular novelists. What is the story about? The outside cover shows a dejected-looking lady in ermine and coloured garments, who has apparently fallen asleep in the Speaker's Chair. Inside, the author describes curious intrigues among members of the Civil Service. He may know something about the men members, but we ourselves could never imagine women Civil Servants talking in the style which the "well-known Member of Parliament" attributes to them. The story is that the electors were so thoroughly tired of men's muddles in their monopoly of Government that at one General Election they quite unexpectedly returned a majority of women to Parliament, and Mrs. Fairfield, "a white-haired lady of fifty-two," who "had been a masterly organiser and a sane member of many of the less ostentatious social and charitable institutions," was called upon to form a Government. What did she do? Mrs. Fairfield immediately consulted a man about the whole business. The man, of course, had good intentions, gave quantities of strenuous advice, which the dear ladies strove earnestly to carry out in their entirety. The result was unspeakable dullness in the administration until one of its Members got herself mixed up in a scandal, just at the time when she determined to bring in a measure for Divorce Law Reform. The Prime Minister then tendered her resignation, and the Women's Government came to an end! There is a faint love story running through the pages, but it arouses little interest. Our own view is that this book was not worth writing. F. A. U.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party.

JUST IN TIME!

Just in time to send your forgotten contribution to the Birthday Fund, and just in time to remind all the friends you are bringing with you to the Birthday Party.

We have arranged a delightful festivity. Mrs. Despard will hold a Reception from 7.0 p.m. Songs by Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Erskine, Miss Elias. Recitations by Mrs. James, Miss Elias, etc.

Flowers for the flower stall specially welcomed. There will be Eggs, Butter, Jam, Cakes, etc., from Wales, and delightful bags in which to carry them away.

Speaking begins at 8.0 p.m., Mrs. Mustard in the Chair. Five-minute speeches from Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Zangwill, Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Legge. Presentation of the Birthday Fund, and Mrs. Despard's address.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, July 6th, at 7 p.m., Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster.
Saturday, July 7th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Monday, July 9th, at 3 p.m. Fair Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1
Friday, September 21st, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Saturday, September 22nd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, Central Hall, Westminster, Green, White and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3.30, by The Lady Amherst, of Hackney.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, July 12th, at 3 p.m. Bexhill. Garden Meeting at Holmwood, Hastings Road. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "Impressions of the Rome Congress." Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Meads. Hostess, Mrs. Bryan.
Thursday, July 12th, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, at 36, Stanley Street. Tickets 1/6 each.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, July 11th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "How Women are using their opportunities to-day."

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The last public meeting this season was held on Tuesday evening, June 26th, at 7.30, at 2, Kent Road. Every seat was taken when Mrs. Whetton introduced Mrs. Tanner, whose subject was "Galsworthy, Novelist and Feminist." In an eloquent address, Mrs. Tanner pointed out that Galsworthy was a humanitarian. He had a great sympathy and understanding of animals, especially horses and dogs. The speaker said she called him a feminist because of his sympathy for women, and he believed it wise to give women full emancipation. Mrs. Tanner quoted extracts from several of his books to illustrate her contention that Galsworthy was a humorist, though not generally considered so. After questions had been asked, Mrs. Tanner was heartily thanked for her very interesting address.

Gratefully acknowledged for Birthday Fund:—Mrs. Speck, £1; Mrs. Whetton, 10s.; Tea at Mrs. Whetton's, 10s.; Miss Smith Rossie, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Sharpe, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Brading, 1s.; Mrs. Davies, 1s.; Mrs. Slatter, 1s.; Mrs. Ball, 1s.; Mrs. Cory, 1s.; Miss Maynard, 1s.; Mrs. Dober, 1s.; Mrs. Watkins, 1s.; Mrs. Knight, 1s.; Mrs. Binley, 1s.; Mrs. Layton, 1s.
(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

BEXHILL.

On Thursday, July 12th, from 3-6 p.m., a Garden Meeting will be held at Holmwood, Hastings Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Bryan). Miss F. A. Underwood will speak on "My Experiences as a Delegate at the Women's Congress at Rome." Councillor Mrs. Meads will be in the Chair.
(Organiser) Miss WHITE, 8, Holmdale Gardens, Hastings.

WOMEN AND THE MARRIAGE SERVICE.

The League of the Church Militant, in which Miss Maude Royden takes a leading part, is pressing for a change in the Marriage Service when Prayer Book revision is discussed this month in the National Assembly.

Three particular omissions are urged, of which the first is considered of the greatest importance:—

- (1) The promise of obedience by the wife;
- (2) The "giving away" of the bride;
- (3) The prayer "that this woman may be . . . obedient to her husband."

The Rev. F. M. Green, B.D., on behalf of the Church Militant League, states that the "giving away" is an unmeaning survival of Roman civil law which serves no useful purpose. To retain the words, he says, "treats a woman as a chattel handed over from father to husband."

Appeal is made to the National Church Assembly not to banish to the registrar's office those "whose only fault is at the worst that they over-estimate the sacred rights of human personality."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Her Point of View.

The *Evening Standard* is responsible for the following:—Solicitor (to a woman in the Bow County Court): "The defendant is a labourer?" The Woman: "Yes, 44 hours a week; must leave off at twelve o'clock Saturday. Me—seven children, 16 hours a day, 112 hours a week."

Lowestoft Teachers Dispute.

Twelve parents were summoned by the local Education Authority for not sending their children to school in Lowestoft. These children had been attending and receiving instruction at the welfare centres from the teachers who had been dismissed by the Education Authority because they refused to accept a 10 per cent. reduction in salary instead of the 5 per cent. agreed to under the National Agreement. After a hearing lasting three hours, the magistrates, by a majority, decided that the parents had a good excuse for keeping their children from school, and dismissed the cases. The Bench agreed to state a case for the High Court.

Education Scandal.

There are 30,000 "uncertificated" or partly qualified women teachers now employed in our public elementary schools, and 13,000 "supplementary" or more than partially unqualified teachers, and their number is being added to. At the same time, there are several hundreds of fully qualified and trained women teachers, who left college last July, still seeking posts, and some thousands leaving college this July who have not yet secured posts. The Education Authorities did all in their power to induce young people to train as teachers two and three years ago, and now, in the interests of so-called economy, but to the great detriment of the children in our schools and the young people trained and qualified to teach them, they have thrown the latter on the scrap-heap, and are undermining our whole educational system by employing "cheap labour."

House of Commons Ventilation.

We have often complained about the lack of ventilation in the House of Commons, but, as Members seemed so quickly to become reconciled to it, we, not being Members, thought that there was perhaps something sacrosanct about it which the outsider could not understand. However, last week Mr. Becker (the enterprising Member for Richmond) asked the First Commissioner of Works if he proposed to take steps to improve the ventilation in the House of Commons? Sir John Baird said he could do nothing until he had received a report of some experiments which were then being conducted and were very expensive. Mr. Hardie (Springburn) solemnly assured him that the question of the admission of the air was serious, as he had personally explained to him. He spoke as one experienced in air inlets. We thought so.

Prisoners Awaiting Trial.

Capt. Wedgwood Benn asked the Home Secretary in what manner young persons committed for trial at the Assizes in 1921 were dealt with during the interval between their charging and their trials? Mr. Bridgeman replied that some would, no doubt, be admitted to bail during the whole or part of the time that the charge against them was pending, and the rest would be necessarily committed to prison, but he had no figures which he could give. For years it has been impressed upon the Home Office that these young people while awaiting trial certainly ought not to be sent to prison. If bail is impossible, why cannot remand homes be provided for them?

Why not Votes for Domestic Servants?

Lady Emmott made a very sensible contribution to the evidence given at the last meeting of the Domestic Service Inquiry. She said she felt very strongly that a great deal could be done by setting up training centres. She also said: "It has always been a puzzle to me why arrangements have not been made to give domestic servants a vote. It is merely a question, after all, of arranging electoral machinery. Everything that tends to keep a girl in an inferior position should be done away with." We find ourselves in hearty agreement with those sentiments.

Respectable Fulham!

The *Westminster Gazette* reports that Fulham Highways Committee have decided not to allow women police to be employed in the Council's parks and open spaces. During the discussion Councillor Harwood said, "We don't want women police in our parks. Fulham is a respectable place."

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

This Campaign opens on July 19th to August 25th, when meetings will be held on the Pier Head, Rothesay, every evening, also at Largs, Dunoon, and Millport during the day, weather permitting. We are hoping to have a good muster of helpers and workers from the Glasgow and Edinburgh Branches. We have not yet been able to fix up the principal speaker for the Campaign, but shall do so in the course of a few days. Special numbers of "The Vote" will be published, and I shall be glad of offers of help and donations towards the expenses of the Campaign.

(Hon. Organiser) ALIX M. CLARK,
The Hut, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, July 8th. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "Progress in the New Testament."

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WOMAN Teacher leaving Training College middle July seeks Holiday Engagement as Companion or Governess till end third week August. Fond of children. Good refs.—"X.Y.Z.," VOTE Office.

LITERARY SOCIETY having good first-floor front room in Square in Bloomsbury, wishes to sub-let for part time; available daily—morning, possibly some afternoons.—Apply, VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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

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