

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

A PROSPECTIVE WOMAN		THANK YOU FOR NOTHING!
LABOUR CANDIDATE	F. A. Underwood.	WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
IN PARLIAMENT. ... ..	E. K.	PEACE CAMPAIGNS. ... .. F. A. U.
ARMY NURSES ... ..	Beatrice Kent.	WOMEN SCIENTISTS.

## A PROSPECTIVE WOMAN LABOUR CANDIDATE.

### Interview with Mrs. Marjorie Pease.

I found Mrs. Pease, joint hon. secretary with Mr. T. Hamilton Fox to the National Land and Home League, at the League's offices in Queen Anne Chambers. The objects of this League, among which are the provision of small holdings and allotments (including those for ex-Service men and Women Land Workers), better housing, an improved system of rural education, village halls and libraries, and the encouragement of village industries, give the key to Mrs. Pease's chief activities, for she has done as much for rural England as Mrs. Sidney Webb has accomplished in the field of industry.

"What do you think of your chances for the East Surrey Division?" I asked her.

"Well," she replied, "it is always difficult to prophesy, but I am glad to say I have received

#### many promises of support

from men and women of all shades of opinion. I am the adopted prospective candidate of the Labour Party for East Surrey. I shall, I hope, get the majority of the working-class vote, and I know that the women of my district are greatly interested in this contest. The Division itself is of wide extent, and comprises the fifteen parishes of the Godstone rural district, as well as the urban districts of Caterham, Coulsden, Purley and Sanderstead."

For years I had heard of Mrs. Pease's work in and near her home at Limpsfield, and inquired for particulars of her activities.

"For eight years I have been a member of the Godstone Rural District Council and Board of Guardians; I am a manager of a rural school, a member of the District War Pensions Committee, and have recently been co-opted as member of the Small Holdings Committee of the Surrey County Council. I am also a member of the local Food Control Committee and chairman of an Infant Welfare Centre. I was chairman of the Isolation Hospital at Bletchingley, where, in

addition to having 28 beds for civilian patients, we have a military block attached to the hospital with 22 beds. I relinquished this chairmanship after five years because I am convinced that it is not wise to be a chairman too long and that other people should take a share in the work."

From the local offices Mrs. Pease holds, and has held, it is perfectly clear that she has the confidence of local people, and as she is so intimately acquainted with the needs of the people among whom she lives and works they could not possibly have a better representative in our House of Commons.

There was no need to ask Mrs. Pease if she believed in the equality of the sexes. She has for years worked on equal terms with men on so many local governing bodies and in so many causes that it seemed superfluous to question her on this subject. She is one of those rare women who take this equality so completely for granted that all doubt about it is immediately dispelled so far as she is concerned. There was never a time when she was not a-suffragist. She does not mention this subject in her work, yet she is known to have been the cause of the conversion of more than one doughty anti-suffragist among her fellow committee members. One of them, indeed, defied his party whips on the

#### Women's Emancipation Bill

division recently in the House of Commons, so that the genuineness of his conversion is proved.

Mrs. Pease seemed rather surprised that I should ask if she thought that many women ought to stand for Parliament.

"Of course I do," was her reply. "I want to see women everywhere; they are so much needed, and one of my greatest disappointments has been caused by so few women coming forward to do public work on local boards. I have been a speaker and political worker for many years; and I want to get into Parliament to put forward the views I hold so strongly on the matters

in which I am interested and for which I have worked so long. I was nominated as a Labour candidate last November, but withdrew from the contest because I believed that a Coalition Government was necessary until peace was signed. I supported the attitude then taken up by Mr. Clynes, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Barnes. At the next election, however, there will be no withdrawal. The issues are clearly defined."

"What will be your special line in Parliament?" I inquired.

"The housing question interests me more than anything else. For years I have striven to rouse public opinion on this question. Then the health of the country is, in my opinion, a subject of the most vital importance. I want to see our present Poor Law system broken up; and a much better administration of the Education Acts. I also want justice secured for the fighting men and their dependants. I should advocate adequate pensions for soldiers and sailors, and for their widows and orphans; and would do all in my power to make it easy for ex-Service men to settle on the land. I certainly believe that we must have some system of endowment of motherhood which will make it possible for women to bring up their children without monetary anxiety. I have always been keenly interested in social problems, and want to see them solved in the interests of the community."

A keen student of social matters, a careful, impartial investigator of facts, and possessed of a sound, unerring judgment, Mrs. Pease would make a distinguished member of any legislative assembly; and we wholeheartedly offer her very best wishes for her success at the poll at the next election. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Not Even a Mouse.

On August 18th, MR. LLOYD GEORGE attended the House of Commons to deliver his long-expected oration, surely a classic example of how to speak for three hours on end and say nothing at all. As a feat of physical endurance it was admirable: as an exposition of policy it had no result.

No wonder that on the New York Stock Exchange it brought British credit down with a rush.

Now we know that our present Prime Minister and our present Government have neither the wish nor the wisdom nor the courage to save our country from the bankruptcy promised by Mr. Austen Chamberlain. Our only chance of safety is to replace them, to restore Cabinet Government, and an independent responsible House of Commons, purged of its Government army of official supporters, and to choose for Premier not a politician but a statesman.

### Holding up the House.

MR. BONAR LAW reproached Lord Robert Cecil with having last Friday played the contemptible old game (a favourite one of his own) of opposition for its own sake.

LORD ROBERT CECIL indignantly denied the charge. The friends of the Sex Disqualification Bill had approached him and protested in the strongest way, and he took the only means in his power of calling attention to the Government's treatment of the women.

If that wasted time, the Government ought to manage its business better.

[On Friday, when the Government forced upon the House the Welsh Disestablishment Bill in place of the Women's Bill, Lord Hugh and Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Hogge and Captain Ormsby-Gore prevented its progress by filling the fleeting half-hour with a lively series of appeals for information as to what they were discussing, to the Home Secretary, the Prime Minister, and each other.]

### Nine Week's Holiday.

On August 19th the House adjourned till Wednesday, October 22nd, to give Ministers and members "time to think."

E. K.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

We have heard of many housing schemes, but by far the great majority of us have seen no houses being built, nor a single sod cut for the purpose. The *Daily Chronicle* reports that 4,172 new housing schemes have been received by the Ministry of Health, comprising sufficient land for the erection of about 430,000 houses, and that building has been begun by local authorities on 6,500 houses out of the 14,000 for which plans have been approved. It is also reported that the Ministry of Health has "earmarked" 700 large houses in London for conversion into flats. No information is given as to when buildings or "conversions" will be completed, although some of the housing conditions, both in London and the country, are indescribable.

Local authorities are frequently underestimating the needs of their districts. For instance, after some pressure, a certain urban district council was prevailed upon to make provision for fifty houses, whereas in some quarters it was stoutly maintained that at least 500 were necessary. The local Labour Party urged the necessity of taking a census of the houses in the district and the requirements of the inhabitants, and as the Council refused to have anything to do with this proposal the Labour Party is itself taking the census. Forms were printed, which are being left at the various houses asking the occupier to give information as to the number of rooms and families in each house, the number of occupants, the condition of the house, and of the sanitary arrangements, the need or otherwise for repairs, the rent in 1914 and the present rent, whether or not the occupants are looking for other houses, and their requirements. So far, this particular census has revealed the fact that there are cases of fifteen people living in two rooms in the district, and some appalling housing conditions. It has shown also that in numerous instances landlords have raised the rent to an illegal amount and that the unhappy tenants are paying it because of their dread of being turned adrift.

We would suggest that an official census should be taken of the houses, their occupants, and the conditions of these houses in every district in the United Kingdom, and that both local authorities and landlords should be heavily penalised when it is found that they have failed to do their duty in providing decent housing conditions for the people or extracted exorbitant rents from unfortunate tenants.

## VOTES FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

The Joint Committee of Lords and Commons now considering the Government's Indian Reform Bill has, during the past week, heard the evidence of representative non-official Europeans from India and of Christian Hindus.

MR. K. T. PAUL, general secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in India, speaking for the Christian community, thought the time was ripe for the enfranchisement of women. In the interest shown in education, politics, and administration, he did not see any difference between men and women. In the matter of political advancement the education of both sexes should begin at the same time. It would be unwise to place women in a position implying inferiority merely because of their sex.

MR. MAUNG PU, representing the Burma Reform League, supported the enfranchisement of women, and said that Burmese ladies had a high status—perhaps higher than that of their sisters in England—because in Burma they controlled the purse and the family. They voted at local elections, and the retail trade was in their hands.

## A WOMAN CANDIDATE'S VICTORY.

Mrs. Josephine Louise Dicker has been elected to the Holborn Board of Guardians to represent St. Phillip's Ward, Finsbury. Mrs. Dicker secured nearly double the number of votes received by her opponent, Mr. Frederick Charles Vilain.

## ARMY NURSES.

### Their Demobilization, Disablement, and Unemployment.

Who won the war? Sailors, soldiers, doctors, and trained nurses. Could the war have been won without the co-operation of the latter? Emphatically *no*. All will admit that the contribution of knowledge, professional skill, and self-sacrifice of trained nurses was an invaluable asset of victory. Without skilled nursing the men could not have been returned so quickly to the fighting lines.

Recognising this obvious fact, as we must, it is

### A Matter of Painful Surprise

to many there has not been—since the armistice—a better system of organisation, for those women whose work the Prime Minister recently eulogised in the House. With a little foresight on behalf of those responsible, in the early part of the war, the unemployment and distress which now prevails, might—to a large extent—have been avoided. As a preliminary step in that direction they should have been better paid—£1 a week is paltry remuneration for work involving such tremendous physical and mental strain. This was the pay of the majority. It is not possible to save out of mere pocket-money. The rate of pay for Canadian and Australian and New Zealand nurses was very much higher.

The Nurses' Resettlement Committee—to which reference was made in *THE VOTE* last week—came to the rescue at a time when the situation was very critical for the demobilised nurse. Prior to December of last year, when the Committee—working under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour—was established, the treatment she received from her "grateful country" was as follows. On arrival at the point of disembarkation all nurses passed through "dispersal hostels"—at Folkestone and Brockenhurst. They received

### 24 Hours notice of Demobilisation,

railway fare to their homes, and *nothing else!* Many would probably have no homes to go to; most of them would desire to remain in London in order to look for employment. A gratuity was due to them. For the first year of service: staff nurse £20, sister £30, matron £40. For each successive year an additional sum, commencing with £6, with proportionate increase according to rank. This not too generous gratuity would have been most acceptable when *most needed*, namely, at the time of demobilisation; that was precisely the time when it was *not* given! The nurses were callously thrown out of work with empty pockets—no out-of-work donation for *them!* The gratuity was paid when it suited the convenience of the War Office, which was sometimes not for months afterwards!

The Nurses' Resettlement Committee began its useful work by extracting from the War Office an advance of £10 of the gratuity upon demobilisation; its endeavour to get it as a subsidy to the gratuity failed, however. The work of the Committee in finding posts for the nurses has been of inestimable value. The figures up to date are as follows:

### On the Register, 4,009; placed 1,264.

The supply being much greater than the demand, there is still a large number unemployed. The above figures do not by any means represent all the out-of-work and demobilised nurses. Many have applied for work to the Registrar of the National Union of Trained Nurses. Some desiring other forms of work, have sought the help of the London Society for Women's Service. Others, again, have applied to the National League for Physical Education and Improvement for advice as to training in infant welfare work. There are other openings besides for war-weary nurses who desire and require a change of work. The Professional Women's Register—also at 16, Curzon Street—is giving advice as to training in gardening, clerical and secretarial work, hostel leadership, bacteriology, etc., etc.

Training, however, costs money and time, and we do not hear of any generous act on the part of our Government, to do for our demobilised nurses what the Australian Government is doing for theirs. Any nurse who so desires can obtain (1) free training in midwifery, or (2) free training in massage, with 6s. a day during the period of training. We hear that there are at least 80 demobilised nurses who are so seriously disabled by war work that they will not be able to work again. We should much like to know what the War Office intends to do for them. Quite recently the following letter appeared in the *Daily Express*:—

Sir,—I am a nurse of four years' hospital training, not including three and a half years foreign service during the war, having nursed in Egypt and the Persian Gulf. I was demobilised at a week's notice four months ago, and since that time have been looking for work at a salary that would keep me. Imagine offering a trained nurse £30—£35 a year! It is monstrous! I am getting desperate. Will someone please offer me a post with a salary which at least will enable me to get the necessaries of life. My qualifications are medical and surgical and tropical nursing, with a four years' certificate to that effect. —Ex-Army Sister, 4 Chevrons.

This is doubtless typical of many other cases. It is nothing less than a scandal. Is England going to submit to this without a protest?

BEATRICE KENT,  
Press Representative, Trained Nurses  
Protection Committee.

## SIX HUNDRED A YEAR.

The recent protest made by a demobilised officer (who prefers to remain anonymous) at the salary of £600, which Mrs. E. M. Wood is in receipt of as secretary of the London War Pensions Committee, has evoked an indignant outburst from the *Globe*. Mrs. E. M. Wood, as our readers probably know, is the widow of Major Wood, a late officer in the 9th Lancers. She is a woman of much capability and resourcefulness, and has worked at concert pitch all through the war.

So accustomed are we to women earners on a mediocre scale, says the *Globe*, that the average man—and woman even—is apt to question if a woman's work can really be worth all that money. A curious fact concerning the wage-earning capacity of the sexes is that where a man's salary is concerned the value of his work is always taken for granted—it is so much easier for a man to be a slacker and still keep his job. When a woman, however, is earning an appreciable income it is usually conceded in consequence that she must be well worth her salt.

Women, continues the *Globe*, are only just beginning to realise that there is no just reason why they should be deprived of well-paid posts simply because they happen to be women. Why should the unmarried woman wage-earner, if she is capable at her job, not be able to keep her own separate establishment going if she wishes? Viscountess Rhonda has given it as her opinion that, even during the sharpest period of the war there were very few women in the City in receipt of £500 a year, even though so many City men were away at the front. There must be far fewer such women to-day, when City life is resuming its more normal state. Even where women are making large incomes by exploiting fashions in dress or millinery it is usually men who take the plums in the way of directors' fees and dividends.

It would seem, concludes the *Globe*, as if, in spite of all their keener sense for work, women have never developed money-making instincts, and this is hardly to be wondered at, seeing that for centuries they have been the spenders. The women directors of important business concerns may almost be counted on one's fingers, and of the few one meets none owns to very pleasant experiences when she attends board meetings.

## THE VOTE.

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
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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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE,

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.

## THANK YOU FOR NOTHING!

Parliament has adjourned, and will not meet again before October 22nd. The Royal Assent has been given to many Bills of a motley character and hypothetical value, but so far as women's interests are concerned the legislation since the General Election has been entirely barren of good results. The last Parliament conceded the parliamentary vote to women over thirty years of age, and made women eligible to stand as candidates for Parliament. Since then, in spite of all the fine promises of Ministers and candidates at the last election, women have gained nothing in the direction of equality with men in any branch of our national life. On the other hand, the Government, backed by the Labour Party, has passed its Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill, which legalises the pre-war injustices of men Trade Unionists to women by excluding them from various trades and sections of trades in which women had become skilled workers and in which the remuneration was generally considered fairly adequate.

This is not the first time that women have weighed the Government in the balance and found it wanting; nor is it the first time in our island's story that plausible pre-election pledges to women have been deliberately broken. What is new is the apparent want of resentment on the part of women because of this treatment; but this resentment is lurking in the minds of very many women, and the longer they think over the cynical contempt with which their claims have been met by the Government, the fiercer this resentment will become. Women ought to know by heart the lesson learnt in pre-suffrage days that on themselves alone depends the advance of their cause. It is the business of politicians to make fair promises at election time, and we confess that our own politicians are experts in this part of their profession. At the last election women were new electors, and nearly every candidate pledged himself to further their interests, but on August 15th last only 36 members of Parliament were for the women, more than 600 evidently being against them, and the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill went by default. What have women gained from this new Parliament? Nothing—absolutely nothing.

For our part, we are convinced that there will be little progress for the women's cause until women in fair numbers make a determined effort to get into the House of Commons, with sex equality as one of the chief planks in their platform. Not until they see women firmly seated upon the benches in front of them will British members of Parliament understand that women are in earnest when they demand equal opportunities, rewards and responsibilities with men in all branches of our national life.

## WAR TIME EXTRAVAGANCE.

As soon as women began to earn good wages in the earlier days of the war, the Press and public sternly denounced the extravagance of their purchases. It was said that girls who were formerly domestic servants spent their earnings made at munitioning on costly fur coats, silk dresses, elaborate jewellery, and all kinds of finery. There were, of course, men munitioners, and these also were found by our journalists to spend much money on unusual things (for working people); although it was generally implied that their wives had an influence on this expenditure. It was stated that manual workers invested their earnings in pianos, pictures, jewellery, etc. ! This matter of the former extravagance of the working classes is again occupying the columns of our daily Press, who lament that "for these foolish people there was no to-morrow"; and that "the girls were especially thriftless." It seems that the former vendors of these workers' luxuries are receiving their goods back at reduced prices; but that fur coats are now a drug upon the market and have, it is said, the "stigma of munitions"! We are truly a race of snobs! Why should working people be censured more than other classes of the community for spending their money on the things they desire? Have the Government, the people in authority, and the upper classes of society practised scrupulous thrift and economy during the last five years? Do not working people, as well as other folks, know that where they may have squandered a few pounds the Government has wasted thousands upon thousands? The Government should have set an example of thrift to the nation—it will have to do so, and the nation will have to follow this example if our country is not to become bankrupt and lose the prestige which it has held hitherto among the nations of the world. In the meantime, is it not a little shabby to grudge these workers the brief but real pleasure which their personal adornment or purchase of pictures gave them, even though they may now have fallen on lean times?

## "OBEY" AND THE MARRIAGE SERVICE.

The Commission which is now sitting for the revision and enrichment of the Book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America, is to present a report in October before the Church Convention, which will advocate, amongst many other revolutionary changes, the elimination of the fatal "obey"! The discussion of its removal from the English Prayer Book has fluttered the episcopal dovecote more than once, too, over here, and it is not so very long ago that the Bishop of Winchester reminded his brethren in Convocation that here was a problem which would soon have to be solved.

It is evident that the word "obey" in the bride's vow is a comparatively modern interpolation. Originally, no fixed forms were used for the expression of consent, the priest ascertaining as best he could if the parties were willing, and that there were no legal impediments to the contract; and when, at a later date, a special formula was recited, this took the shape of an equally worded vow for both parties. A special form for the bride only appears in the later mediæval, and subsequent *English*, and certain *German*, rites, the introduction of this token of submission being a direct outcome of the avowed tendency of the Reformation to depress the status of womanhood. The actual word "obey" in the bride's vow was inserted in 1549, a period when the Reformation, especially in England, was at its height!

Neither in the Eastern nor Western branches of the Church, nor in any of the Nonconformist services, does the disputed word occur. Equally worded vows are the universal custom in the contract forms of these churches, whilst throughout the East, and in several dioceses of the West, rings (a further symbol of equality between the two sexes) are given and received by both parties.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Training Grants for Women.

Unskilled women and girls who desire to fit themselves as wage-earners, but who have no means of providing the necessary training fees, should apply to the Educated Women's Loan Training Fund, of 23, Berners Street, W., which, for nearly 60 years, has advanced training fees (free of interest), and in some cases maintenance fees as well, together with expert advice, to educated women who agree to repay the grants by instalments and without interest after the training is over and work has been obtained. The list of occupations for which grants were advanced by the Society last year range from accountancy to crèche work, dentistry, dispensing, domestic economy, gardening, hospital nursing, massage and electric treatment, maternity nursing, medicine, children's nurses, sanitary inspectors and welfare workers, secretarial work, and elementary and secondary teachers.

### Women Farmers.

Many women to-day are buying small farms and holdings, and making the land a permanent means of livelihood. Some of these are war widows who have put their small capital into the land, and invested in pigs, poultry, cattle and goats, and many are doing well. Women farmers, on the whole, are confining their efforts chiefly to "side lines" and holdings of a few score of acres, though there are cases where farms are being run by them which include arable as well as pasture land. Farms managed by women are usually to be found in Yorkshire and the West of England. Land work in Lincoln and Norfolk is too heavy for the average woman agriculturist. Co-operative farming amongst women is on the increase. Bachelor girls join together their capital and war experience and pursue a congenial calling and an open-air life. According to the Editor of *Farm and Home*, Irishwomen make the best workers, and Englishwomen next. Curious to relate, Scotswomen seem to have no affinity for the land.

### Government Profiteering.

The following paragraph is from the current number of *Ways and Means*:—

"Everybody is asking how the Profiteering Bill can be applied to the Surplus Property Disposal Board. For instance, on Tuesday at Earl's Court, the Government sold second-hand Windsor chairs, badly damaged, at 9s. apiece. These chairs were probably bought by the Government in the early days of the war at 6s. or 7s. apiece new. At the same sale rolls of second-hand linoleum were planted on to eager householders at 5s. a yard, the very best quality of linoleum before the war being obtainable for 2s. 6d. Will it be competent for the purchasers of these goods to summon the Government auctioneer before the local tribunal and to have an inquiry as to the cost, percentage of profit, and all those other matters which are so dear to the heart of the price-fixing official?"

### A Successful Experiment.

After a course of fruit bottling at one of the Board of Agriculture's centres, a woman, living at Farnham Royal, Bucks, has carried through a most successful canning enterprise by sheer wit and initiative. Having collected a capital of £300, she began work in a converted cowshed. At first she merely preserved the fruit grown on three acres of land, but so brisk was the demand that, in addition to planting two additional acres with fruit, she found it necessary to buy large quantities from elsewhere to keep the depôt fully employed. The original cowshed has now expanded into seven Army huts, and will shortly be increased.

### English and French Laundries.

An Englishman, recently returned from Paris, affirms the superiority of French laundries in comparison with our own. Not only do the charges compare very favourably with those in England, but the work is so much better done as to double the wear of shirts and collars, with, of course, a considerable saving. London laundries, as everybody knows, are not only extortionate, but are using inferior methods and inferior starch, as well as constantly raising the prices. It seems a pity the attention of the House of Commons was not focussed upon these undoubtedly profiteering establishments in addition to the condemnation of food shops.

### Future Status of Health Visitors.

Health visitors are now to receive Government sanction. In future all salaried health visitors working in maternity and child welfare centres, both those connected with the municipalities and voluntary, will receive a course of training, and in time receive certificates. A health visitor, in addition to visiting infants regularly in their homes, is now frequently employed in assisting in the supervision under medical control of the health of children under school age, and investigating the circumstances in cases of still-births.

### Mothers' Shorter Hours & Pensions.

Lord Henry Bentinck is anxious to set up in this country the same system of pensions for mothers that has been so successfully adopted in America. Those who were in favour of the scheme in the States have been surprised to find how quickly the reform affected favourably other social problems. Wholly apart from the benefit to the child which came from keeping it at home with its mother, there also followed an abatement of juvenile delinquency, of waywardness among young girls, and of irresponsibility and drunkenness among mothers in the poorer districts. Lord Bentinck is also in favour of laws which will ensure shorter hours for mothers.

### Babies Only.

A municipal hospital for babies only, partly assisted by private funds, has been started in the borough of Fulham. The weekly fee is 5s., but where parents find payment impossible the baby is admitted free. Twenty-four tiny patients are accommodated in the two white-tiled wards. They occupy iron cots, except in cases where the age of the inmates is measured in weeks only, when snow-white bassinets are used instead. The staff at present consists of a matron, five nurses, and a lady residential doctor.

### National Roll of War Service.

The colossal task is being undertaken of compiling a "National Roll of the Great War," to contain names and brief biographies of all who fought or worked for the Empire during the war. Besides sailors, soldiers and airmen, the names are to include nurses, V.A.D. workers, W.A.A.C.'s, W.R.A.F.'s, W.R.N.S.'s, special constables, and munition workers.

### Walthamstow's Approval.

The Walthamstow Council has presented souvenir certificates to women who have acted as tram conductors. The Council was the first municipality to employ women.

### Madame Curie at Warsaw.

Madame Curie, the co-discoverer of radium, has been elected a Professor of Radiology at Warsaw University.

## "CAMPAIGNS OF PEACE."

(Published by the National Council of Public Morals.)

The idea of race regeneration has for years been one of the chief objects of the National Council of Public Morals, and in a preface to this admirable little pamphlet the Bishop of Birmingham emphasises its valuable work throughout the war in preparation for the problems of peace.

"They are the problems of health and morals, which cannot be divorced; of the personal and social relations of the sexes, which have been revolutionised by the war; of the alarming prevalence of the highly infectious, deadly and sterilizing venereal diseases, which threaten to become epidemic now the war is over, and which destroy family life and poison the race; of the

### Persistency of Illegitimacy

which, in spite of all rescue work, does not decrease; and of the housing of the people, thousands of whom live, as Mr. Long says, in pig-styes, which debase the moral conduct and ideals of the rising generations."

The pamphlet, which is a report of the recent work of the Council, is signed by Principal Garvie, Dr. Saleeby, Professor Gollanz, the Rev. F. B. Meyer, and the Rev. James Marchant (the secretary to the Council), and states that experience has taught their workers that the shortest and surest way to combat the manifold diseases of vice is to concentrate effort upon going down to the root causes, and the deputation arranged by the Council must have convinced Mr. Walter Long of this fact, judging from the following extract from his reply to the members of that deputation:

"I hope that the work you have done will help us to arouse our people to realise that if women before childbirth are living in cruel, disgusting conditions, the children can never grow up to be the men and women that we ought to have. And so it is with the infants. If they are nurtured on food which is unfit for them, if they live in a fetid atmosphere and with horrible surroundings, how can we wonder that they grow up to be

### Malformed Men and Women

whose bodies are like their minds, unfortunately, a curse to them, not through any fault of their own, but through our fault for allowing these conditions to continue when we could, if we chose, wake ourselves and arouse our neighbours, and put an end to such conditions?"

The Council strongly urges proper sex instruction to young people by parent, minister, teacher, and doctor, and is of opinion that the medical examination of school children affords an opportunity of giving some printed, if not oral, instruction of this character. It pleads that our young people should not be allowed to discover the way of life by accident, and to pick up the knowledge of its secrets and dangers from the gutter!

As far back as 1896 the Council made a thorough investigation into the age of consent in various European countries and America, and has consistently tried to get it raised. But, in spite of all efforts, "the law officers of the Crown and other lawyers were against it"!

The sections dealing with the declining birth-rate, marriage and parenthood, and the suggested

### Use of the Cinema

as a means to educate young people and public opinion in the relation of health and morality will be of interest to our readers, who will be glad to know that the National Council of Public Morals denounces the foul regulation 40D, and has petitioned the Chancellor of the Exchequer against the joint assessment of the incomes of husband and wife and on behalf of a substantial reduction of income-tax allowed for each child so as to enable parents, without undue anxiety, to face the responsibility involved in each increase of family.

F. A. U.

## MEASURING ENERGY.

The Ministry of Reconstruction has published a pamphlet, price 2d., entitled: *The Uses of Costing*, which applies this little known science to the art of saving unnecessary labour in the home. The pamphlet contends very rightly that a house has more odd jobs, more interruptions, and more incessant cares than any other occupation, and in therefore entitled beyond all other spheres of labour, to the attention of the science of costing.

Measurements of the relative energy expended in two kitchens in preparing that simplest of meals—afternoon tea—is depicted in 2 charts. The first shews the arrangement of a typical English kitchen, where the running up and down to get the tea involved 350 ft. of walking in 35 minutes. After a little study and re-equipment this unnecessary labour was reduced to 50 ft. of walking for the same operation, approximately the best that could be done with that particular kitchen. In Chart 2, shewing a kitchen in a country house designed with the one purpose of reducing the expenditure of energy in the necessary daily housework, the reduction of energy in preparing afternoon tea was found to be considerable—from 350 ft. to 34 ft., or over 90%.

Any means of saving energy in housework, as the pamphlet points out, even though these might not always be measurable in money, would at any rate secure saving in the form of health, happiness, and soothed nerves, none of which are any the less valuable than terms of hard cash.

## WOMEN SCIENTISTS.

A number of women will take part in the proceedings at the annual meeting of the British Association, which, after an interval of two years, is to be held at Bournemouth on September 9th—13th, under the presidency of Sir Charles Parsons. Zoology, botany, and education are the three departments in which women will be most active. In the zoology section, papers will be read by Dr. Marie V. Lebour, and by Miss M. D. Haviland. Botany brings together a small but vigorous body of women workers. Miss E. R. Saunders is the first and only woman member of the Council of the Association. Papers will be read by Miss Pranker and Miss Davey, and an interesting point in connection with this section is that its recorder (who is also the principal secretary) is a woman, Dr. Ethel Thomas. Miss Newbigin, who is officially connected with the Scottish Geographical Society, and is a recognised authority on the Balkans, will submit a paper to the geography section on "Frontiers in the East of Europe," and Miss H. Rodwell Jones, lecturer at the London School of Economics. Dr. Lilian Clarke, an active worker in educational science, will, in conjunction with Mr. C. A. Buckmaster, present a report to the educational section on the "Free-place System." In the anthropology section Miss Czaplicka will contribute some notes on the "Finnic Problem," and in the section of economic science and statistics a report on "The Replacement of Men by Women in Industry" will be submitted by Professor A. W. Kirkcaldy and Miss L. Grier.

## THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

The Church Congress will hold its annual meeting this year at Leicester, from October 14th to 17th inclusive. The Bishop of Peterborough will preside, and the general subject of the Congress will be "The Church in the New Age." The various addresses will include a discussion upon "Sex Relationships," when the Bishop of Birmingham will speak upon "The Birth-Rate," Dr. Letitia Fairfield upon "The Prevention of Disease," and Miss Higson upon "The Single Life." Mrs. Barnett will speak upon "Co-operation with Public Authorities," in the section, Christian Ideals of Citizenship and Service. Canon Streeter, who has collaborated with Miss Picton-Turberville in a book dealing with the position of women in the Church, will speak upon "The Ministry of Women" in conjunction with Miss Eleanor Gregory.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO  
BE FREE

Wednesday, September 3.—Open-air

Meetings, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 4.—Open-air Meet-

ing, Highbury Corner, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10.—Open-air

Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 11.—Open-air

Meeting, Highbury Corner, 8 p.m.

Saturday, September 13.—National Exe-

cutive Committee Meeting, 144, High

Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 28 and 29.

Green, White and Gold Fair, Central

Hall, Westminster.

### Provinces.

September 10.—Ashford: Women's Club Meeting, Guild Room, Co-operative Hall, 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17.—Ashford: Public Meeting, Co-operative Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. Kither.

September 18.—Hastings: Meeting for Working Women, 4 p.m., at Wellington Square Lecture Hall. Speaker—Mrs. Despard. Chair—Mrs. Strickland.

Monday, September 29.—Westcliff: Social, Crowstone Congregational Hall, King's Road, 7.15 p.m. Music and sketches by Mrs. Newberry and friends. Refreshments provided; rs. each.

### Other Societies.

September 11.—7.30 p.m. Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries: Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans on "Growth and Tendency of Women's Movement," at Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.

### Scotland.

#### Clyde Campaign.

This campaign, which throughout has met with very great success, has now closed.

We heartily congratulate the Scottish Council, Miss Anna Munro and her helpers on the results of their work.

### Branch Notes.

#### Ashford.

Many thanks to all those who helped to make the rummage sale a success last Wednesday. Mrs. Huxsteyp willingly gave up her time to marking all the things; Mrs. Bankes kindly undertook to advertise the sale; and Mrs. Kither not only gave a large parcel, but very kindly arranged to have all the things sent to her. Among those who contributed were Mrs. Corlett, Miss Bentley, Mrs. Watts, and Mrs. Andrews. A substantial sum was made, part of which was sent to clear a debt owing to the Women's Freedom League. Thanks are due to those who presided at the stalls.

#### Miss Royden.

Miss A. Maude Royden will preach next Sunday (August 31st) at the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, at 11 a.m. Subject, "Charles Darwin."

### THE DESPARD ARMS.

123 Hampstead Road, N.W.

Good accommodation now ready, under new management. Bed-sitting Rooms, single or double. Write—Mrs. FISHER, Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn, W.C.1.

## OUR TREASURY.

### NATIONAL FUND.

Amount Previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1918, £31,454 1s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged.....	597	10	1			
<b>Special Emergency War Fund—</b>						
"A Friend".....	2	10	0			
W. R. Snow, Esq.,.....	1	0	0			
Mrs. Angold.....	3	0				
				3	13	0
<b>New Brighton Campaign—</b>						
Collections, per Miss Sackur.....	14	1	6			
<b>"Green, White and Gold Fair"—</b>						
Mr. Hopkins.....	1	0	0			
Minerva Café.....	90	0	0			
Miss Doris I. Brookman.....	2	6				
Mrs. Ivy Boulther.....	1	0				
Miss Gladys Stevenson.....	1	0				
Mrs. Vernon.....	1	0				
Sundries.....	18	5	6			
Office Sales.....	9	3				
Collections, per Miss Hambling.....	7	0				
<b>Branches—</b>						
Ashford.....	15	0				
				£726	6	10

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London Provincial and South-Western Bank, Lt d."

## Miss Emily Hunt.

After twelve years of valuable work in the office, our Assistant Secretary, Miss Hunt, has, much to our regret, now left us to take up agricultural work with her husband on a farm in Essex. Besides her office work Miss Hunt was for many years Hon. Treasurer to our Mid-London Branch, and has lately been Hon. Secretary to the London Branches Council. Her loss to the office and to our work in London is a very heavy one. The best wishes of Headquarters however, and her many friends will go with her in this new life.

A Girl Groom is not by any means unknown in these peaceful days and one may be seen busily at work in Lady Beaumont's stables.

## In Memoriam.

It is with very great regret that we learn of the death of Mrs. Davey, a member of our Clapham Branch. Mrs. Davey had been ill for a long time, but we well remember her keen interest in all questions relating to women's questions. We offer our sincere sympathy to her husband and her two daughters in their irreparable loss.

## SPECIAL APPEAL.

Many readers will be seeing the "VOTE" for the first time this week, and will want to know how they can help the Women's Freedom League. Our greatest need at the present moment is for additional organisers, and several good workers are ready to come forward if our friends will send in the necessary funds. Expenses of living and fares are much increased, and contributions are urgently invited, and will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

144, High Holborn. E. KNIGHT,  
London, W.C. 1. Hon. Treas.

FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 29,  
1919.

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TYPEWRITING.—Authors' MSS. Examination Papers, Letters, Circulars, General Copying, Duplicating, etc.—Miss J. Trimmell, 8 Moira Terrace, Cardiff.

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