

THE VOTE,  
DECEMBER 5, 1919.  
ONE PENNY.

LADY ASTOR TAKES HER SEAT!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 5, 1919.

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

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## OUR GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR, 1919.

Our Green, White and Gold Fair on November 28th and 29th, at the Central Hall, Westminster, did not in any way belie its splendid reputation gained from previous years. Thanks to Miss Ibbotson's delightful scheme of decorations, and the combined artistic skill of the stallholders, the hall presented a most attractive appearance to the throng of visitors who began to assemble at an early hour. At 3 p.m. on Friday Mrs. Despard (chair) and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the Indian Poetess and Feminist, who is over in this country to press the claims of her sisters to political enfranchisement, took their stand in a pretty enclosure, roofed with coloured banners, arranged in the centre of the hall.

### OPENING CEREMONIES.

Mrs. Despard referred to the recent decision on the Government of India Bill, by which women were excluded from voting, and pointed out the absurdity of this crippling of the national good when a dual aspect was everywhere the order of Nature, and organised comradeship between men and women was the keynote of life. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, in native costume of grey and gold tissue, roused much amusement by imitating the curt ceremony performed by Englishwomen when opening bazaars in the East. She wished that she, too, might escape as easily, but felt compelled to add a few words on behalf of her countrywomen. The average Englishman's idea of the culture of Indian women was extraordinarily crude. They failed to realise their ancient civilisation, and that Indian women were not only the comrades, but the inspiration, of their men folk. On behalf of her sisters, now pleading for a wider life, Mrs. Naidu paid a warm tribute of gratitude and affection to those Englishwomen who were helping them in their struggle for political equality.

On Saturday, at 3 p.m., Lady Buckmaster opened the proceedings. Mrs. Mustard took the chair, and referred to Lady Astor's recent triumph at Plymouth, which she trusted would be followed by many similar victories all over the country at the next General Election. She also spoke warmly of the good work

Lord Buckmaster had done in the past for the Women's Cause. Lady Buckmaster described the wonderful progress of the Woman's Movement in all parts of the world, and laid special stress on the two great necessities of the day—an equal moral standard for both sexes, and equal pay for men and women for equal work.

### A TOUR OF THE STALLS.

This year we had twenty-three stalls, and each and all had their own special attractions for would-be Christmas purchasers. We only regret that limitations of space prevent us describing each one in detail. The special lingerie at the White Stall, hand embroidered with birds and butterflies, sold out quickly, and that on the first day, to the disappointment of several who came later and would gladly have availed themselves of this unique opportunity. Antiquarians and art lovers lingered long at the Variety Stall (kindly provided by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes), where Dresden and Derby china jostled with Florentine glass work, Limoges enamel, and old Church brasses. Three stalls from Montgomery Boroughs contained a most imposing array. The General Stall, with its warm bed jackets, women's underclothing, etc., was arranged with a pretty decorative background supported by poles, whilst the two Produce Stalls resembled a gigantic Christmas supper party "spread," with their rich cakes, jars of mincemeat and chutney, bottles of preserves, and piles of red-checked apples. Real flannel shirts at pre-war prices, and the daintiest little apricot velvet handkerchief bags, as well as many other attractions, were provided by the Manchester Stall, whilst on the South-Eastern Branches Stall was to be found a very wide selection of interesting purchases, from dainty baby clothes down to home-made goodies. Miss White's Penny Stall did a roaring trade on both days of the Fair. The ever-useful VOTE Stall (in memory of Mrs. Snow, kindly provided by Mr. Snow) contained its usual splendid variety of blouses, underclothing, tea-cloths, etc., at remarkably low prices. Equally attractive were the contents of the stalls provided by other Societies taking



part in the Fair. The Nine Elms Settlement Stall was full of good things—home-made toys equal to anything from Germany, tray cloths and mats made out of dress-makers' remnants, woollen gloves knitted by a great-niece of Mrs. Despard, home-made sweets, mincemeat and chutney.

#### MODEL ELECTION.

A great feature of the Green, White and Gold Fair was the Model Election held on Saturday. Miss Gibson was in the chair, and proved a very strict but very adequate Chairman, ruthlessly keeping each of the seven candidates nominated to her appointed five minutes. From these seven, three candidates were to be elected. Lots were drawn as to the order of speakers.

MRS. KEEVIL RICKFORD (Labour), who spoke first, said that the House of Commons had all the mental ingredients except that which could be contributed by women. The Labour Party, she maintained, was the only party which could bring about what all wanted, the Kingdom of God upon Earth. The only way to broaden the Trade Union outlook on Women in Industry was by putting strong Labour women into Parliament.

COUNCILLOR BEATRICE KENT claimed that the 80,000—100,000 trained nurses in the country should have a representative in the House. This would mean more preventative measures against sickness in the community and better conditions in the nursing profession.

THE HON. MRS. WILLIAM CECIL (Conservative) made an eloquent appeal for the Conservation of the British Constitution. Conservatism does not necessarily mean reaction, for just as a progressive housewife conserves so should a progressive State. She pleaded, too, for a policy of co-operation in Imperial affairs.

MISS MUNRO (Independent) laid emphasis in a stirring speech on the great need for Independent women in the House. Women who would be tied to no party and would not be forced to vote with their party when the division bell rang. The parties had hitherto failed utterly to represent women.

MISS UNDERWOOD (Independent Liberal), in a very comprehensive speech, said that she stood for personal liberty in the fullest degree, free speech, supreme control of affairs by Parliament and not the executive, and the fullest education for the people. Free Trade, she said, would mean cheaper food as well as freedom for the individual. In our industrial policy we wanted the abolition of Trade Union restrictions which hampered trade, and the repeal of the Pre-War Practices Act, which militated against women in industry. She supported the League of Nations as a means of bringing about the peace of the world.

MISS FROUD (Women Teachers) urged that the question of Equal Pay for Equal Work was all-important not only to the teaching profession but to the whole country. The report of the Burnham Committee was an insult to women. The dignity of women must be recognised for the good of the whole community.

MISS NINA BOYLE (Constitutional), in a very direct and telling plea for Constitutionalism, said that the fight for Women's Suffrage was one of the greatest constitutional fights in history. That was why she was now standing as a Constitutional candidate. She had no faith in parties. The Liberals had given us no peace at home and no retrenchment, and Labour stood for direct action.

After each of the speeches five minutes was allowed for heckling the candidate, and the representative of the Proportional Representation Society then explained the method of counting. The results of the poll showed Miss Boyle at the head, Mrs. Keevil Rickford next, and Miss Underwood third. The remaining four candidates on the first count stood as follows: Miss Froud, the Hon. Mrs. William Cecil, Miss Munro (the two last bracketed), and Miss Kent. We congratulate all the

speakers on the very able way in which they dealt with the various subjects in which each was interested.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS.

The musical part of the programme was admirably arranged by Miss Marian Reeves. Children's dancing formed one of the most attractive features on both days; a symbolic dance, "France," a delicious little exhibition by Miss Angela Clark and the Misses Muriel and Buntly Davis; an Irish jig in native costume by the first two members of the trio, and a dainty little ballet dance by Miss Betty Lowe. Miss Marjory Livingston contributed a recitation from the "School for Scandal," and little Miss Ethel Reeves one entitled "Briar Rose." The Misses May Proctor and Queenie Etheridge gave charming duets, and Miss G. Price's delightful whistling solos were much appreciated. A generous sheaf of songs was contributed by Mrs. Corner, Madame Carola, Miss May Proctor, A.R.C.M., Miss Betty Bunch, Miss Queenie Etheridge, A.R.C.M., Miss Ethel Wright, Miss Elsie Langston, Madame G. Barnard, Miss Peggy Hope, Miss Eileen Moyse, Mr. Malcolm de Vere Summers, and Mr. Milsom, whilst the piano accompanists included Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Ethel Wright, Miss Cissie Rosenfeld, Miss R. Van Raalte, and Mr. Powell.

Mdme. Von Ellischer, pianist to the King of the Belgians, accompanied her daughter, Mrs. Loman, whose songs were loudly applauded at the close of the Fair.

Mrs. Thomson Price was unfortunately prevented by illness from giving her famous *Psychic Delineations* as in former years, so her numerous followers divided themselves impartially between Mr. D'Arcy-Denny, the well-known Psycho-Dietist, who gave us all admirable advice and information on our mental capabilities and dietetic requirements, and Madame Luke, who read characters from the hand.

Miss Pierotti (the Old Lady with the Hundred Pockets) moved in and out of the sightseers in her quaint and becoming early Victorian costume, her spreading crinoline with its hidden dips attracting many searchers.

#### THANKS AND APPRECIATION.

The Women's Freedom League expresses its warm appreciation and most grateful thanks to all who worked so hard and untiringly to make the Fair a success. To the stallholders: Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Lloyd (General Stall); Mrs. Holmes and Miss Mustard (White Stall); Miss Raleigh, Mrs. and Miss Presbury and Miss Freda Maunder (Variety Stall); Miss A. Underwood, Miss Marian Reeves and Miss A. C. White (Handkerchief Stall); the Misses Stutchbury and Miss Avila (Toy Stall); Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Earengy, Mrs. and Miss Elias, Mrs. Dixon, the Misses Codd, Miss Felix Jones, and Miss Alice Kirkham (Montgomery Borough Stall); Miss M. I. Neal, Miss Anna Munro, and Miss Sackur (Manchester Stall); Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Kither, Mrs. Taylor Sabin, Mrs. and Miss Perry, Mrs. Brock Lane, and Miss White (South-Eastern Branches Stall); Miss White (Penny Stall); Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Bergman, Miss B. Woods, Councillor Ada Broughton, and Miss Telling (Literature Stall); Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, Mrs. Newsome, Mrs. Northcroft, and Miss Jacob (VOTE Stall); to the Hon. Mrs. Forbes and Mr. Snow, for their generosity in providing stalls, and to the Montgomery Boroughs, Manchester, and South-Eastern Branches; to the artistes and entertainers; to the Fair Committee, and its Secretary, Miss Mustard; to the Minerva Café, and all the Stewards who worked so hard; and to Miss Ibbotson for her trouble in decorating the Hall.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,  
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners a la Carte—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill.

This Bill came again before the House of Commons on November 26th, when the Solicitor-General (Sir Ernest Pollock) urged the House not to insist on its Amendment with which the Upper House had disagreed, to give peeresses the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. The chief reason he advanced was that, after all, there would only be nine peeresses to whom this Amendment would apply, not twenty as was generally supposed, because eleven ladies held their peerages by patent, which gave them no right of place, seat or voice in the House of Lords, and after their decease the peerage could only be held in the male line. He considered also that matters concerning the House of Lords should be left until the reform of this House was being dealt with, and in the meantime begged the House of Commons not to create a disagreement with the Upper House, remembering that the Bill under consideration would give "a very large measure, almost a complete measure, of relief on the question of sex."

Sir Samuel Hoare dissented from this description of the Bill, and regretted that the Lords had thrown out the Commons' Amendment, but with the rest of the House he agreed not to insist on the Amendment referring to peeresses. The House of Commons also agreed with the Lords' Amendments regarding the composition of juries. We may, therefore, hope that the Royal Assent to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill will be given at an early date. Our readers will remember that under this Bill women may exercise any public function and may be appointed to any civil or judicial office including the magistrates' Bench; they may enter or assume any civil profession or vocation, so that as soon as it becomes law women may qualify to practice as solicitors and barristers; and they will also be able to serve on juries.

Women still have to work strenuously for the Parliamentary vote to be given to women under 30 years of age—for the franchise on equal terms with men; and, among other things, for equality with men in our marriage and divorce laws, for the equal rights of women with men in regard to the education and upbringing of their children; for an established equal moral standard for men and women, and the recognised responsibility of the father as well as the mother of the child born out of wedlock; for equality of the sexes in our laws of inheritance; for the restoration of the inalienable right of British women to their own nationality; for the equal right of women to compete on the same terms as men for all posts in the Civil Service; for the establishment of the principle of equal pay for equal work, regardless of the sex of the worker, for all employees under Government and municipalities, and throughout all professions and industry; and last, but not least, equality with men in the industrial world.

### Widows' Income Tax.

On November 27th Sir John Butcher asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that by Section 13 (1) of the Income Tax Act, 1918, an abatement for the purpose of Income Tax is given to a widower who has a female relation resident with him for the purpose of looking after his children, he would consider the advisability of granting a similar abatement to a widow who was earning her livelihood by outside work, and who had a female relative or other person residing with her for the purpose of looking after her children? Mr. Chamberlain referred Sir John to a previous reply given to a similar question earlier in the month—that there could at present be no such abatement for widows (although widowers can claim it), and that the equalisation of the rights of the two sexes, so far as the Income Tax is concerned, must await the Report of the Royal Commission, although it might possibly be dealt with in next year's Finance Bill.

F. A. U.

## CARE OF THE CHILDREN.

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting of the State Children Association in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, December 1st, the Earl of Lytton, who presided, referred to the recent work of the Association. This had been largely in connection with Widows' Pensions. Much propaganda work had been done and resolutions in favour of this reform had been passed by many Metropolitan and Borough Councils, by Infant Welfare Centres, and by Education Authorities. The attitude of the Association towards institution life for children was one of uncompromising hostility.

The Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel declared that the war had had a disturbing effect on juvenile delinquency, which had increased by 40 per cent. This was owing to lack of parental control, to lack of a sufficient number of efficient club workers, and to the prevailing spirit of excitement. Recent research, in contradiction to the teaching of Lombroso, showed that there was no specific criminal type. Lack of stamina, physical or mental, led to crime, and the child delinquent often became the habitual adult criminal. Probation was the best deterrent; short terms of imprisonment the worst. Much good had been done by the Juvenile Organisations Committee, which he had been instrumental in forming whilst Home Secretary.

Mrs. S. A. Barnett, C.B.E., drew a picture of institution life with its constant ringing of bells, its uniforms and its endless area of washable walls. There were still 10,000 children in workhouses, and 30,000 in other institutions. The principle of the segregation of children in "barrack" schools must be wholly dissipated; what was needed were homes and love.

The Rev. Canon Donaldson said we must have historical perspective. It was a far cry to the days when children of eight worked in factories and babies of five in mines. We had progressed far, but not far enough. There were still in our schools 250,000 crippled children, and 1,000,000 whose physique debarred them from profiting by the education offered. A revolution in outlook was needed; we must regard the child, not as a thing to be provided for, but as a person to be loved.

At the close of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Lord Lytton and to all the speakers.

### FREE COOKERY CLASSES.

Free training in cookery is offered to domestic servants by the London County Council. The new course will open at the Westminster Technical Institute, Vincent Square, in January, and the scheme offers an admirable opportunity for mistresses who desire to have their maids trained in high-class cookery. Candidates, who must be between 17 and 35, have to undergo a test in plain cookery; if they pass they will be given a grant of £5 for the 12 weeks during which the course runs. A certificate of proficiency is awarded to those who successfully complete their training.

### SPECIAL APPEAL.

Contributions are specially needed for:—

#### (1) SPECIAL INJUSTICES FUND.

To get Elsie Smith out of Prison, and for immediate action when similar cases occur.

#### (2) GREEN, WHITE, & GOLD FUND.

The only satisfactory way to conduct a money-making enterprise is to have all the expenses covered by donations.

Hall, printing, advertising and postage are each and all heavy items, and I look to all readers of the "Vote," especially those who were not at the "Fair," to send money contributions to swell the proceeds.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.



## THE VOTE.

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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.

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## LADY ASTOR, M.P.

Another milestone has been passed along the high-road to women's complete emancipation, and Lady Astor has been duly introduced to the Speaker by a Prime Minister and an ex-Prime Minister as an accredited Member of the House of Commons. We offer her our warmest congratulations for opening the door through which many women will pass at the next General Election, for we want to see at least a hundred women M.P.'s in the next Parliament. After nearly fifty years of strenuous work for political enfranchisement women within the last two years have secured the Parliamentary vote for women over thirty years of age, seventeen women have stood as candidates for Parliament, and they secured the votes of 58,978 electors, the Countess Markievicz won a seat at the last General Election, but refused to take it, and now Lady Astor's victory has overshadowed all other political events, and we have the supreme satisfaction of knowing that at last a woman has a voice, a seat, and a vote in our House of Representatives. We are glad, too, that on the day on which she first appeared in the House another woman made history by taking her place as an accredited Press representative in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. One after the other the barriers against women's progress are being broken down, and men are acquiescing in the changes with more or less equanimity, although the *Morning Post* seems to be a little regretful that a former "unisexual wilderness" will now be transformed into a "cock-and-hen club!" Mr. Jack Jones, a Labour M.P., while regretting Lady Astor's victory over Labour, generously welcomed her and declared himself to be consoled with the fact that she was a woman of progressive views and instincts, adding that if she lived up to her election speeches she would be an acquisition to the House of Commons. Mr. Clynes expressed similar opinions; General Surtees said it would be useful to have the woman's point of view in all their discussions, while Sir Newton Moore frankly stated that Lady Astor's services would be more effective if she were associated with a small group of women in the House. With this statement we cordially agree, but of course we should prefer this group to be a large one.

Lady Astor has not previously, so far as we know, been a worker in the women's cause; but we cannot refrain from expressing the earnest hope that she will lend all her influence to the struggle which her Indian sisters are making for political equality with men, and that she will in the near future assist British women to secure the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as it is exercised by British men. It is gratifying to most of us to know that her first vote in the House of Commons was cast against the issue of Premium Bonds by the Treasury.

## NO EDUCATION GRANT FOR DEMOBILISED WOMEN.

No one will grudge the £6,000,000 which the Government is granting to assist ex-officers and men of like educational promise whose careers were interrupted by their service to their country during the war; but as many women, especially among the Voluntary Aid Detachments, also had their educational careers interrupted because of the services they rendered to this nation, we should certainly have thought that their claim to such grants would have been equal at any rate to those of men at base camps. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, thought otherwise, and, when pressed by Major Hills on this subject last Monday in the House of Commons, stated that as the cost of the scheme under which the grant was given had already exceeded the original sum agreed upon, he would have strong objection to any fresh liability being undertaken by the Government. The attitude of the Minister of Health to medical women was even worse. Although the post-war education grant is being given to demobilised medical men, Mr. Fisher, in reply to a question by Mr. Devlin, curtly stated that the scheme did not apply to women. It seems to us very curious that at this time of day, after the fulsome adulation poured on the work of women "without whose aid the war could not have been won," by the Prime Minister and so many high persons in authority, that two prominent members of the Government should on the same day in the House of Commons make this differentiation between the sexes in regard to facilities for higher education. Thousands of women willingly interrupted their University and medical training in order to "do their bit" in the war which has just ended. Are their careers, in the eyes of the Government, so much less important than those of the men who also served their country? We should like Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Fisher to explain their reasons for excluding women from this scheme. Perhaps they will do so on the eve of the next General Election?

## The BURNHAM COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We are not surprised that the women teachers are thoroughly dissatisfied with the recent Report issued by the Burnham Committee on Teachers' Salaries. Whatever the original objects of this Committee, it is certain that this Report will only increase the general discontent of women teachers, and will certainly fail to attract efficient young women to this profession. Although the majority of teachers are women, the majority of the Burnham Committee were men, and this sex bias is very evident in its Report. It proposes to pay men teachers £10 a year more than women, and Headmasters of the largest schools £90 more than Headmistresses of the same grade for apparently no other reason than that they are women, so that Headmasters of very small schools will secure salaries nearly equal in amount to those of Headmistresses of the largest schools. The education of the children of this country is a matter of the highest importance to the State, for our future prosperity, and maybe our very existence as a nation depend upon the upbringing and the education of the children now in our schools. It should be the aim of the State to secure for this great task the most efficiently trained men and women, whose efforts should certainly not be spoiled by economic difficulties, nor the dignity of their profession lowered by the differentiation in status and salaries of the men and women who belong to it. We are convinced that this Report will encourage women teachers to work with even greater vigour than they have previously shown for equal pay for equal work, and an equal status for the men and women of the teaching profession.

## WOMEN HOUSE PROPERTY MANAGERS.

### "Echoes of Octavia Hill."

When I sought an interview with Miss Jeffery and her fellow-workers, in her modest office on the Cumberland Market estate, she at once deprecated any mention of herself apart from her work. "It is the work that matters, the motive of it and the ideal in it; all that we do is but a development of what was started many years ago by Octavia Hill."

"Do you follow any special rules such as Miss Hill may have found to be necessary when dealing with slum property, or do you claim the liberty of adapting and altering your methods to circumstances?"

"We do both. Miss Hill would have been the last one to wish that others should follow blindly in her track. It was the spirit more than the form of her work that she desired to have carried on. New conditions would always require new adaptations even where the principles followed are the same."

"I suppose that the work you are doing is of a kind where the personality of the worker counts for a great deal?"

"That is so, but we also lay stress on the necessity for our workers to be thoroughly trained before they undertake any 'responsibility,'" Miss Jeffery answered emphatically.

"And is the training a long one?"

"It would take six months' close work under direction before we should consider anyone was capable of being used or regarded as a 'trained worker,' and about two years' experience as a trained worker before she could fill a post as property-manager."

"And is any remuneration given during the time of training?"

"We find it is sometimes a difficult matter for suitable women to give time and maintain themselves, and therefore a small salary may be allowed. As a trained worker a woman earns a fair salary. The work makes a considerable demand on physical strength, and there can be no rigid time-limit to working hours where old and difficult properties are concerned."

"But as property-managers there will surely be good openings in the future for many duly qualified women?"

"Women property-managers are likely to be in request by public bodies as well as private owners, largely because the modern business world recognises that just as the welfare of the employee is necessary to make a business undertaking prosper, so the welfare of the tenant is bound up with the successful carrying-out of a housing scheme. So much of the talk about housing is concerned only with the house; the human factor is overlooked; whereas property and tenants should be considered together. Much care and discrimination is needed in the selection and placing of tenants, and one of the ways to prevent trouble in the future is to secure efficient management of the property on this principle from the beginning."

"The woman property-manager would have opportunity to combine social work with her other duties, I take it?"

"She has first of all to see that the property is run on sound economic lines, and that justice is done to owner and tenant alike," was the firm reply, but Miss Jeffery allowed that the right of entry into a house gave an opportunity of forming friendships and of exercising influences which were useful to both sides. "Sympathy and tact, and some practical housekeeping experience are very helpful to the worker. We have ample evidence that the visits of our rent-collectors, regularly paid, have an influence in raising the standard of living and in encouraging the tenants to take a pride in their homes."

"And that was the principle on which Miss Octavia Hill started and carried on her work, was it not?"

"Yes. Miss Hill laid great stress upon the power of individual character. She regarded the home as the foundation of our national life. To work for social improvement through the unit of the family was, she was convinced, the wise way."

"And the work that she started from a small beginning has grown tremendously, has it not?"

"It started with the taking over of three houses in Marylebone, in all their state of filth and decay, as you probably know, and the number of houses and flats put under her care grew and grew until in 1912, the year in which she died, she directly controlled from 1,800 to 1,900, exclusive of rooms in tenement dwellings. Of this large number the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were the owners of some 1,600. Since 1912 we have added large numbers of houses and flats, and have more than maintained the average annual addition of Miss Hill's lifetime. The work is represented in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Manchester, and other British towns, and an Octavia Hill Association exists in Philadelphia, U.S.A. From Holland, Italy and Sweden ladies have come to be trained, and officials from other countries consulted Miss Hill regarding plans and lines of work. Here at home we work in connection with many other organisations for social welfare so that our task now is less difficult than it was in pioneer days when many of these societies did not exist."

I warmly thanked Miss Jeffery, on behalf of readers of THE VOTE, for the outline of the work which she had so courteously given to me. She had convinced me that there lay in it a great opportunity for women's social service, although not, perhaps, of a highly remunerative career. The distinguishing feature of the work, to the thoughtful woman, will be the recognition of the social significance of business life, with the responsibilities and the opportunities such a recognition opens out, and the insistence on the necessity for acquiring training and experience before attempting work of this nature.

L. H. YATES.

## CHILDREN'S PENSIONS.

We learn from last week's *Ways and Means* that a Bill is now before the Government of New South Wales, and the object is to help small wage-earners to provide money for children. The Board of Trade of New South Wales has to ascertain the actual cost of maintaining a man and wife and one child, and this is to be the living wage referred to in the Bill. The maintenance of additional children is to be provided by payment from a fund administered by the Government. Employees receiving no more than 5s. above the declared living wage will be paid additional sums in respect of each child by the Board of Trade. A fund for this purpose is created by monthly payments from employers, each firm paying in respect of its average daily number of workers an amount per worker, ascertained by dividing the total cost of maintenance for the children covered by the Act among the total number of employees. Needless to add, a Government statistician is to be appointed to make the necessary investigations and calculations and to arrive at the amounts payable.

D. M. N.

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## IN MEMORIAM: MRS. ANNIE K. ALDERMAN.

It is with very deep regret we learn of the sudden death of Mrs. Alderman, member of the Committee of our Westcliff Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Candidate at the recent Borough Council election, Mrs. Alderman on November 23rd attended the Branch Committee Meeting. She left about 10 p.m. in apparent perfect health, but was found a short time after lying dead in a lonely road within three minutes of her own home. To her daughters and to her son in Mesopotamia we tender sincerest sympathy.

Miss Burnes writes: "She was full of zeal and enthusiasm, broad-minded and good, with a sweet and charming personality. To be with her for a few minutes even was to love her and recognise her power for good. It is a sad and tragic end to all our election work."

Mrs. Newbery, who was with Mrs. Alderman the night before, writes: "We were talking in the car when a man in khaki entered in the condition usually described as Gloriously Drunk. He created a disturbance, and some of the occupants of the car looked greatly shocked. But I was struck by the look on Mrs. Alderman's face, loving, sympathetic and womanly. The man dropped his ticket and vainly tried to pick it up when Mrs. Alderman put hers into his hand, saying, 'Take mine; I am getting out soon.' Then touching his breast she said: 'You have a lot of ribbons there.' 'Yes,' he hiccupped, 'I've been a soldier for 30 years, and served Queen Victoria, etc.' 'Oh,' she said, 'You have been a good soldier. I have a son who is a colonel in the Army and I've not seen him for a long time, but I'm proud of him and I'm proud of you.' Then she gave him her hand and said good-night, and we walked on and parted at the corner of her road for the last time."

## THE DIVIDED FAGGOT.

Miss Abadam, in her address to the Freedom League last Wednesday, strongly urged women to unite amongst themselves in order to present a solid front against the foes of their industrial life. She quoted the story of the Divided Faggot in Æsop's Fables, which, so long as it remained intact, could not be broken by the strongest hand, but, when once impaired, fell into a hundred fragments. Women to-day released from their long war service, were suffering from a curious form of damaged psychology. Men had praised their work so long as this country needed it, but since the fiat had gone forth bidding them now retire, women were obeying it with unexpected humility. The behaviour of the Trades Unions regarding the employment of women had been shameful. There was not one which had not set its face deliberately against extending them industrial freedom. "Womanly avocations" was but a synonym for hard work and no pay. Many people rightly deplored the creation of a sex war, but it was actually here in our midst, and it was futile to refuse to recognise it. The war had been responsible for a million casualties, which meant that a million vacancies existed. Amongst railwaymen alone there were twelve thousand empty places to be filled. Yet women were not to fill them. The fact was that men returning from the war were dissatisfied with their former jobs and were seeking fresh openings. The whole world was playing a gigantic game of "General Post," but no preference was to be shown to women. Bills affecting women were either hung up or badly treated, or made inoperative by some cunning device.

Women, said Miss Abadam, were enfranchised, but they were not emancipated. The mere possession of the vote was not sufficient of itself. What was needed now was for women to awaken from dumb acquiescence in present-day conditions and stand shoulder to shoulder, as in the old Suffrage days. By so doing a great spiritual force would be generated from this fusion of vibration before which male opposition and prejudice would be powerless to stand.

## ELSIE SMITH.

The Women's Freedom League's great petition with 10,000 signatures for the release of Elsie Smith from Holloway has aroused extraordinary interest all over the country. Nobody who set foot in 10, Downing Street last week, or the week before, was in any doubt that public opinion demanded the poor girl's release, and nobody had a word to say against it. Having thoroughly voiced the views of the 10,000 women and men in London, in the country and in distant parts of the world, who had asked the Women's Freedom League to speak for them, we consented on November 26th to hand the petition to the private secretary who delivered it to the Prime Minister, the day's deputation, Miss Janet Gibson and Mrs. Clarendon Hyde, going minutely into all the details of our plea. As it happened a Cabinet Meeting was in progress, and Cabinet Ministers had very appropriately been obliged to walk round our big bundle upon the doorstep. The following letter accompanied the petition:—

The Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George, M.P.,  
10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.

November 26th, 1919.

Sir,—We, the deputation from the Women's Freedom League, beg herewith to submit to your consideration these thousands of signatures to the petition for the release of the W.R.A.F. clerk, Elsie Smith, now undergoing a term of imprisonment in Holloway Gaol, the circumstances of which you are already cognisant with. We would like to direct your attention particularly to the fact that we consider the sentence a gross miscarriage of justice, that there was no premeditation, no attempt to conceal the suffocation of the child, and, further and particularly, we would ask you to remember the state of health in mind and body in which the poor girl was at the time, and notwithstanding this, the doctor was not called to give evidence. We rely with confidence upon your well-known humane feeling to see to it that something is done at once so that Elsie Smith may be immediately released and the miscarriage of justice to some extent righted.

The letter was signed by Dr. Knight, and by the members of the deputation, Mrs. Clarendon Hyde, Miss Janet Gibson, Mrs. Metge, and the Secretary of the League.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

(To the Editor of THE VOTE.)

November 23rd, 1919.

Dear Madam,—I have paid up my membership subscription to the end of 1919, having been a faithful but silent member for about nine years. And now I regret to state that I feel I cannot belong any longer to a fellowship of women who are capable of writing and printing in our organ the miserable, mean-spirited attack on a great-hearted, broad-minded, and one of the greatest thinkers and teachers of our age—our beloved George Eliot. Why not have reprinted the appreciations of great men or women—Thackeray, Dickens, Frederic Harrison, Mathilde Blind, and a host of others?—Yours regretfully,

A. BEATRICE SPENCER.

[We much regret that Miss Spencer should feel THE VOTE has not done justice to the memory of George Eliot. Whatever public opinion may have to say regarding her union with George Lewes, we agree with her in maintaining that George Eliot was one of the greatest and clearest teachers of her day, and that she cannot help but be handed down to posterity as one of the foremost novelists of the Victorian era.—Ed.]

## Women's Freedom League.

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, December 8.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 6 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Health Through Sneezing."

Wednesday, December 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. E. S. P. Haynes. Subject: "The Divorce Law as it Affects Women."

Saturday, December 13.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 a.m.

Saturday, December 13 and Monday, December 15.—Christmas Sale at Minerva Café. Saturday, 3 to 7. Monday, 5 to 8.

Wednesday, December 31.—Golder's Green: Dance. Tickets 3s. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, 59, Ashbourne Avenue, N.W. 4.

## PROVINCES.

Monday, December 8.—Middlesbrough. Social Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, Linthorpe Road, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, December 8.—Middlesbrough. Jumble Sale, All Saints' Schoolroom, at 3 p.m.

Monday, December 8.—Middlesbrough. Branch Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, at 8 p.m.

Monday, December 15.—Middlesbrough. Social Evening, Suffrage Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, 7.30 p.m. Silver collection. Miss W. M. Jones will read a play written by herself entitled, "Gains and Losses."

Monday, December 15.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend-on-Sea, 7.30 p.m.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, December 7.—Public Meeting, Canning Town Public Hall, Barking Road, 11 a.m. Speaker: Miss Glidewell. Subject: "Women's Right to Work."

Tuesday, December 9.—Women's Co-operative Guild, Bloxhall, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton. Speaker: Miss Newsome. Subject: "Women as Magistrates."

Thursday, December 11.—S.W. London Women's Question Group. Meeting at 72, Thurleigh Road, S.W. (by kind permission of Miss Fryer). Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Magistrates." 8 p.m.

## MRS. MEADS' TRIUMPH.

We heartily congratulate Mrs. Meads on her success at last week's bye-election at Bexhill, when she was returned with a majority of over 300 votes, as the town's first woman Councillor. The W.F.L. at Bexhill has worked hard to ensure Mrs. Meads this unqualified success. They called a meeting to meet Mrs. Meads at her house, and there undertook to canvass for her and help in any way possible. Mrs. Meads is one of the best known figures in the public life of Bexhill. She is one of the Bexhill representatives on the East Sussex County Council, and is an active and progressive member of the County Education Committee, as well as a co-opted member of the Borough Education Committee. For the past five years she has served on the Battle Board of Guardians.

## AN APPEAL FOR HELP.

One of our members, Mrs. H. Samuel, 46, Lynette Avenue, Clapham Common, S.W., is standing as a Labour candidate for the South Ward, Clapham (Wandsworth Borough Council) at the next bye-election. She would be most grateful for offers of help in clerical work, canvassing, speaking, etc., and votes from the district.

## MISS MAUDE ROYDEN.

Miss Royden will preach at the City Temple on Sunday, December 7th, at 6.30 p.m. Subject: "Popular Hymns."

## PRIZE COMPETITION.

We offer a copy of Elizabeth Robins' new book, "The Messenger," to any VOTE subscriber who obtains during December six new subscribers to THE VOTE for one year. The names and addresses of new subscribers thus obtained, together with the name and address of the newsagent who receives the order (the paper can also be obtained direct from this office), should be forwarded to the Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Names of successful prize-winners will be published in THE VOTE the first week in January, 1920.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### MANCHESTER.

On Monday, November 24th, our fortnightly Study Circle Meeting was held, when we had a very interesting paper from Dr. Greenwood on the Land Question. Dr. Greenwood's address proved a lesson in elementary economics in which our members were much interested. Our Dance, held in the University Women's Union on Wednesday, November 26th, was a great success, and the evening was a very gay one for everybody. It was very nice and most encouraging to see so many young people with us, and we hope this is the beginning of a real interest in the League. We propose to hold another Dance after Christmas.

During the past few weeks we have gathered together a selection of pretty and useful goods for the Fair, and hope that they will realise as much as possible.

Organiser—MISS SACKER, 149, Plymthorpe Grove, C.-on-M.

### BEXHILL.

We feel very proud of our woman Councillor. Mrs. Meads has been returned with over 400 majority. She is the first woman on the Council, and all members of the W.F.L. will wish to congratulate her on the result of the election.

Our very grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Taylor Sabin for all the kind help she gave in connection with the Bexhill Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair. We also sincerely thank all the members who gave contributions for this stall.

### ASHFORD.

The Women's Club Meeting was combined with the Women's Adult School Meeting this month. We had a fine gathering last Wednesday, when Miss Newsome came down and talked about the need for women magistrates. On Wednesday, December 17th, at 2.30, a Meeting will be held at the Guild Room, when Mrs. Despard will address members and friends of the Women's Club. All particulars to be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Ware, 3, Sturges Place, Beaver.

Mrs. Banks and Mrs. Kither very kindly came up to take charge of this stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair. Many thanks to those Ashford members who gave contributions for the stall.

### HASTINGS.

Mrs. B. Lane represented this Branch at the Fair on Friday and Saturday. Thanks to all those who so kindly contributed to the stall.

S.E. Dist. Organiser—MISS WHITE, Magazine House, Winchelsea.

## PAUPERS AND THE LUNACY ACT.

At a recent meeting of the Hampstead Board of Guardians discussion was principally centred on the report of the Special Committee appointed at the last meeting to investigate the circumstances under which a woman was brought into the mental wards and as to how she came to be certified insane.

According to the present practice in the case of "pauper" patients, the magistrate, to whom the relieving officer applied and to whom the patient was almost always unknown, might call in any doctor empowered to deal with lunacy that he pleased. The doctor also might be quite unknown to the patient, and both doctor and magistrate had the power, after a single visit, to certify the patient insane, and, if so certified, the patient was forthwith (or as soon as a vacancy could be found) removed to an asylum.

The Committee were of opinion that in addition to the outside doctor called in by the magistrate, the medical officer in attendance at the institution should also be requested to certify, as they could see no reason why the certificates of two doctors should not be required in the case of paupers as well as in the case of non-paupers.

Mrs. Nevinson insisted that the doctor at Marylebone who had the patients under observation should be the one to certify, and Councillor P. E. Vizard moved as an addendum: "That the doctor who was called in by the magistrate be requested, before certifying, to confer with the Workhouse Medical Officer or to a doctor who had had the case under observation."

As an amendment to this Miss Brooke Herford moved: "That representation be made to the Hampstead magistrates suggesting that it is desirable to revert to the practice obtaining before the Hampstead poor were removed to Marylebone, of calling on the Workhouse Medical Officer, who has had the case under observation, to advise them in certifying alleged lunatics."

The amendment was carried by eight votes to two, and on the proposition of Councillor Payne, the Clerk (Mr. H. Westbury Preston) was instructed to report the whole matter to the Ministry of Health.



FRIDAY;  
DEC. 5,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### V.C.'s of the Land Army.

Motor-plough women constituted at least a quarter of the 40 or more Land Army girls who received the Distinguished Service Bar from Princess Mary last week. The percentage is very high, as there were only 400 women engaged in tractor ploughing—the work calling for perfect physical fitness and great endurance. The end of last month saw the last of the Women's Land Army. Demobilisation has been gradually going forward ever since the Armistice, but it is expected that many of the women will be encouraged to stay on with the farmers as employees in the ordinary way. It was in March, 1917, that women were first recruited for the land. Altogether, 43,000 applicants were interviewed, and 23,000 selected and placed, whilst 15,000 of the latter received short courses of training. Twelve months ago two decorations of merit were awarded: the first, the Good Service Ribbon, for six months' satisfactory service; the second, the Distinguished Service Bar (popularly known among the girls as the V.C. of the Land Army), for special skill and acts of courage and devotion. Down to the present nearly 8,000 ribbons have been awarded, and 46 Bars.

### Postwomen Demobilised.

More than half the 50,000 temporary women workers employed by the Post Office during the war have now left voluntarily or have been demobilised. The greater proportion of the women have been serving as postwomen or sorters, and many of these will remain until after Christmas. In France, too, there are some hundreds of women telegraphists and telephonists still working amongst the W.A.A.C.'s, but expected home shortly. Londoners will call to mind in this connection the courage displayed by the girls employed at the G.P.O. when bombs fell on the older building during the Saturday daylight raid, and the girls marched steadily to their appointed places.

### Woman Magistrate in New York.

Mrs. Jean Norris has been appointed as the first woman police magistrate of New York City. The appointment is for thirty days, during the illness of Magistrate Brein, and is understood to be an experimental one to determine the fitness of women for judicial office. Mrs. Norris will sit for a week with Magistrate Marsh in the Women's Court so as to gain familiarity with the ordinary routine, after which she will occupy the bench alone in the Women's Court or in the Court of Domestic Relations.

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