

THE VOTE.  
SEPT. 3, 1926.

A STRENGTH OF CHARACTER.

# THE VOTE

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1926

**OBJECT:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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## ANOTHER WOMAN SWIMS THE CHANNEL.

Mrs. Clemington Corson, a 27-year-old swimmer, of Danish birth and American nationality, who is also the mother of two children, is the second woman to conquer the Channel. She made a previous attempt in 1923, but was unsuccessful. Setting off from the beach at Cape Grisnez at 11.32 p.m. on Friday of last week, Mrs. Corson maintained a remarkable pace, and walked up the Shakespeare Beach at Dover at 3 o'clock last Saturday afternoon. She was swimming for 15 hours, 28 minutes, just about an hour longer than Miss Ederle took for her splendid triumph some three weeks ago.

Once during the night she became depressed, and even told her trainer to get the life-belt ready, though not to take her out until she went flat upon the water. The breaking dawn cheered her greatly, however, and she plucked up fresh courage and went to victory. "It was for my children that I did it," she told the daily Press, "and won't they be proud of their mother?"

It was an ideal night for the attempt, the moon shining on the swimmer all through the night hours. Mrs. Corson reckoned she had swum 40 miles in the 15½ hours, for she started in a westerly direction, then cut east, then west again, always across the tide. After five hours' swim she could see Dover Cliffs, and remarked, "That looks good. You won't get me out now." All the nourishment Mrs. Corson took was two packets of chocolate, five lumps of sugar, and three small cakes. She used the trudgeon and crawl stroke all the way at the average rate of 18 strokes to the

minute, never resting for a moment. She has a tremendous kick, each stroke carrying her 25 or 30 feet. When she walked up the Shakespeare Beach at 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, the great crowd which had assembled there shouted themselves hoarse in welcome, and the swimmer was carried shoulder high through the town. The motor boat "Viking," specially chosen by Mrs. Corson because of her own Viking descent, which accompanied her all the way, held her husband, her trainer Killingley, Louis Timson, who is making an attempt himself this week, and numerous friends.

Mrs. Corson started long-distance swimming 12 years ago at the age of 15. She once swam 153 miles, from Albany to New York, doing 12 hours a day for six days. In her 1923 attempt on the Channel she swam towards the French coast and was beaten by about two miles.

Mrs. Corson's two little children, Clem Gade, aged three years and nine months, and his little sister Marjorie Ann, who is two years and one month, are staying

with relatives on a farm on the Rappahannock River, away in the wilds of Virginia, and heard of their mother's success over the farm wireless.

A recent writer in *The Times* points out that at Miss Ederle's first attempt to swim the Channel in 1925 her expenses were paid by small sums contributed by New York's girl swimmers, and suggests that English girl swimmers should form a similar fund, so as to give a real English girl champion a sporting chance of winning the most coveted swimming honour.



MRS. CLEMINGTON CORSON AND CHILDREN.



## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Milton Mount's New Head.

The Board of Management of Milton Mount College have appointed as headmistress, in succession to the late Miss A. A. Woodall, Mrs. Dorothy M. Henman, widow of an officer who fell in the war. Mrs. Henman is the daughter of the late Dr. G. H. Bondfield (a distinguished missionary in China, and latterly organising secretary of the Bible Society), and niece of Miss Margaret Bondfield, the Labour leader. She received her education partly on the Continent and then at Girton. In 1906 she took a first class in mediæval and modern languages, and in 1908 a second class in the English section of the same tripos. Mrs. Henman was headmistress of the Shanghai High School, and later of the Cathedral School for Girls, Shanghai. During the war she was in charge of the social welfare work for thousands of girls employed in munition works.

### Women and Housing.

After a period of organised study of the subject, Malvern Branch of the National Council of Women has promoted a public utility society, and eighteen flats for women workers have now been built, and have proved a social and financial success. At Durham a public utility society has been formed by the branch, which hopes to buy an acre of land and to erect twelve houses upon it, while a similar scheme is in progress at Bromley, Kent. Croydon Branch has formed a housing committee to watch and report on bad housing conditions and to help forward proper sanitary conditions in that locality. The Berkhamsted Branch recently organised a most successful housing exhibition.

### Matron's Appointment.

Miss Elwell, late of the Burnley Health Visiting Staff, has been appointed matron of the West Riding County Mental Hospital, an institution accommodating more than 1,000 patients. At present she is assistant matron and sister tutor in the same hospital. Miss Elwell is a fully trained hospital nurse, and holds the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board and that of the Medico-Psychological Society. She is also an examiner to the candidates entering for the mental examination qualifying for the State register.

### Wheat and Cattle Queen.

Formerly known as the "Cattle Queen," Mrs. Ira Watkins now has the title of "Wheat Queen." Mrs. Watkins for eight years managed her late-husband's large cattle ranch, buying, breeding, feeding, and selling in competition with her men neighbours. Then she heard of the possibilities of South-Western Kansas land, and slowly built up her wheat farm. She now owns 1,950 acres of good Kansas land, which is virtually all given to wheat.

### Italian Women not to Vote?

It is reported from Rome that the Cabinet Council has now decided to abolish local self-government in the remaining municipalities which were not included in the Fascist law abolishing mayors and town councils having under 5,000 inhabitants. It is stated that this law has worked so well that it is now proposed to extend it to all municipalities in Italy, so that there will be no mayoral elections, and women will therefore lose the recently granted municipal vote. The municipalities will be administered by centrally appointed local Governors.

### Women Swimmer's Records.

Miss M. Laverty, Moss Side, Manchester, retained the English women's 440 yards swimming championship at Hull last week. Her time was 6 mins. 10.35 secs. Miss Edith Mayne, Torquay, who set up world records for 880 yards and 1,000 yards recently, was second, and Miss E. M. Taylor, Sunderland, third.

### Belgium Woman Architect.

Mme. Van Celts-Emonts has been admitted to the Central Society of Belgian architects.

### Women Pipers.

Eleven Australian women pipers have arrived in Glasgow from London. They are the first to arrive in Great Britain, and are to take part in the Cowal Games at Dunoon, where they will be entertained by Sir Harry Lauder.

### Women Only!

Mme. Ettrich-Gaillard, the millionaire financier, is a noted feminist, and she has now opened a bank for women only, with head office in Paris, and branches in Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest.

### Woman Churchwarden.

The parishioners of Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey, propose to erect a memorial to Mrs. Bowen Buscarlet, the Lady of the Manor, and for many years one of the Churchwardens at the Parish Church.

### Canadian Nurses.

A permanent monument to the nursing sisterhood of Canada was unveiled in the Parliamentary buildings at Ottawa last week in the presence of nurses from Canada, Great Britain, and the United States.

### Another Working Women's College.

"The Gables," a well-known mansion near Surbiton Railway Station, is to be converted into a college for working women.

### Women on the L.C.C.

There are to-day 21 women out of 144 Aldermen and Councillors, roughly 14 per cent.

### British Women Athletes.

Thirty of the women who have been competing at the Women's Olympic Games at Gothenburg took part in an athletic meeting at the Stockholm Stadium. The British women had many successes.

### Mrs. Corson as Tutor.

Mrs. Corson has taught hundreds of girls to swim. When only seventeen, she was the youngest swimming instructress in Denmark, and was in charge of the Public Swimming Pool at Veile.

## ANOTHER POST FOR WOMEN, BUT AT A LOWER SALARY THAN FOR MEN!

Women are now being allowed, for the first time, to compete for the examination for a post as "Draughtsman in the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty." We are told that, should a woman succeed, this innovation may lead to an alteration in the title of the post; but we see no reason why it should. It is expected that about 200 candidates of both sexes will enter for this examination. The age limits are 18 and 25, and the Civil Service Commissioners state that a high standard of draughtsmanship is required.

The salaries are: First class, WOMEN, starting at £150 (with bonus, £245), increasing by annual increments of £7 10s. to £180 (with bonus, £280). First class, MEN, starting at £175 (with bonus, £279), by £10 to £215 (with bonus, £332). There can be no justification whatever for this differentiation in the initial salaries and increments for men and women. The examination is competitive, and the best candidate—whether man or woman—will presumably secure the post. Women tax-payers, who are not taxed less than men because they are women, have every right to protest against men receiving a higher salary, just because they are men, for work which women are called upon to do equally well for six-sevenths of the sum paid to men.

## LADIES IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, 1763.

By a Correspondent.

Politics at this time were at fever heat, as Sir Robert Walpole's power was tottering under ceaseless attack from the so-called "Patriots." A lady of title, writing to a friend, mentions the following interesting incident:

"There is no news to be sent from here which has been for a fortnight and still continues to be overwhelmed with politics, and which are of so mysterious a nature one ought to have some of the gifts of Lilly or Partridge (scientists) to be able to write about them. I leave all dissertations to those distinguished mortals who are endowed with the talent of divination, though I am at present the only one of my sex who seems to be of that opinion, the ladies having shown their zeal and appetite for knowledge in a most glorious manner.

"In the last warm debate in the House of Lords it was unanimously resolved there should be no crowd of unnecessary auditors, consequently the fair sex were excluded, and the gallery destined to the sole use of the House of Commons.

"Notwithstanding such determination, a tribe of dames resolved to show on this occasion that neither men nor laws could resist them. The heroines were Lady Huntingdon, the Duchess of Queensberry, the Duchess of Ancaster, Lady Westmorland, Lady Cobham, Lady Charlotte Edwin, Lady Archibald Hamilton and her daughter, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Pendaroes, and Lady Francis Saunderson. I am particular in their names, since I look upon them to be the boldest assistors and most resigned sufferers of liberty I ever read of.

"They presented themselves at the door at 9 o'clock in the morning, when Sir William Saunderson respectfully informed them the Chancellor had made an order against their admittance. The Duchess of Queensberry, as head of the squadron, poofed-poofed at the ill-breeding of a mere lawyer, and desired him to let them upstairs.

### WOMEN'S INVENTIONS.

Women will compete with men for the Grey-Wilson Memorial Gold Medal which is being offered this year by the Institute of Patentees for the best invention at the Exhibition to be held at the Central Hall early in October. Already a number of inventions have been received from women. With the exception of an amusement device designed by a Brighton woman, most of the women's inventions range on the domestic and labour-saving side. One woman inventor has come all the way from Canada to exhibit an electrical cooking attachment. This useful device can be attached to an ordinary small heating radiator or fan and used for cooking or boiling a kettle, the heating capacity of the radiator thus being made to serve two purposes. A woman cyclist has submitted an ingenious idea which, when put into effect, enables a bicycle to be pushed up a hill with the minimum of effort. A safety roundabout for children is the invention of a seaside landlady. Another woman has invented unbreakable toilet sets of coloured rubber, whilst a woman engineer has produced a device for improving the joints of scissors. A removable lining for a travelling coat which can be inflated to form a cushion is an ingenious idea of another woman. "Unhookable" curtain hooks and a net for wearing round a hat to prevent mosquito bites, or for use when attending to bees, are the inventions of two women of title.

Inventions from women of all nationalities are annually received by the Institute of Patentees, and so many women submit inventions that the Institute now offers a prize for the best invention by a woman. Last year it was divided between a woman who invented a detachable umbrella cover, and one who had designed an exceedingly useful combination of a writing desk and work table.

"After some modest refusals, he swore 'by G—he would not.' Her Grace, with noble warmth, answered, 'then by G—we will come in, in spite of the Chancellor and the whole House.' This being reported to the Peers, the order was given to starve them out, and doors not to be opened until they had raised the siege.

"These Amazons now showed themselves qualified for the duty, even of foot-soldiers; they stood there until 5 in the afternoon without refreshments, every now and again playing volleys of thumps, kicks, and raps on the door with so much violence that the speakers in the House were scarcely heard.

"When they saw that the Lords were not to be conquered by this, the two Duchesses (very well apprised of the use of stratagems in war) commanded a dead silence of half an hour, and the Chancellor, who thought this a sure proof of their absence (the Commons also being impatient to enter), gave order for the opening of the door, upon which they all rushed in, pushed aside their competitors, and placed themselves in the front rows of the Gallery. They stood there until after 11, when the House rose.

"During the debate they gave applause, and showed marks of dislike, not only by smiles and winks (which have always been allowed in these cases), but by noisy laughs and apparent contempt, which is supposed the true reason why poor Lord Hervey spoke miserably.

"My dear madam, do pardon this long epistle, but it is impossible to cut it short, the subject being copious, and you must admit this action very well worthy of record, and I think not to be paralleled in history.

"I look so little in my own eyes, who was at that time ingloriously sitting over a tea-table, I hardly dare to subscribe myself—

"Yours,  
"\_\_\_\_\_"

Letter from Lady Mary Wortley Montague to Lady Pomfret.

### WOMEN ATHLETES.

At the Women's Olympic Games, held at Gothenburg last week, British women athletes obtained a great triumph, taking first place with a total of 50 points. France came second, with 27 points; Sweden third, with 20 points. These were followed by Czechoslovakia, 19 points; Japan, 15 points; Poland, 7 points; and Latvia, 1 point.

Miss Hitomi (Japan) was the record-breaker in the running long jump—5.50 metres (approximately 18 ft.); Miss Gunn (Britain) was second, 5.44 metres; and Mlle. Smolova (Czechoslovakia) third, 5.28 metres.

The 1,000 metres (1,093 yards) walking contest was won by Miss Crossley (Britain) in 5 min. 10 sec. Mlle. Regel (France) covered the distance in 5 min. 12 sec.

The English team won the relay race, 440 yards, in 49.8 sec., thus beating the previous best record of 51 sec. France was second, 51.2 sec.

The 1,000 metres flat race went to Miss Trickey (Britain), 3 min. 8.8 sec., Mlle. Gentzel (Sweden) being second, 3 min. 9.4 sec., and Mlle. Bellon (France), 3 min. 10.4 sec.

The 60 metre flat race ended excitingly, Mlle. Radideau (France), Miss Haynes, and Miss Thompson (Britain), all 7.8 sec.

Standing board jump: 1. Miss Hitomi (Japan), 2.49 metres; 2. Mlle. Smolova (Czechoslovakia), 2.47 metres.

Throwing the javelin resulted as follows: Adelskoeld (Sweden), 49.15 metres; Miss Fawcett (Britain), 45.41 metres; Haglund (Sweden), 44.06 metres.

The final of the 100 yards hurdles was won by Mlle. Sychrova (Czechoslovakia) in 14.4 sec.; Miss White (Britain) was second, 14.8 sec.; and Miss Hitt (Britain) third, 15 sec.

A happy feature was the friendly intercourse taking place during these Olympic Games. The competitors from the different countries seemed to rejoice in one another's achievements.



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1926.

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

### A STRENGTH OF CHARACTER.

It is refreshing to turn from the carping criticisms of the average male critics of members of our sex to the unstinted praise bestowed on the modern girl by our old friend Edward Carpenter, poet, social reformer, and champion of the women's cause long before it was popular, in pre-suffrage days. Last Sunday he spent his eighty-second birthday at his home at Millthorpe, Guildford, and to a representative of the *Daily News* he declared, "I have always been an optimist. The world is slowly getting better, and the race generally is developing greater liberty in order to express itself more fully." Later he said, "I am filled with admiration at the way in which women are expressing their real selves to-day. The young women are splendid. There may be some excesses here and there, but on the whole it is an excellent movement. I have no objection to their short skirts and Eton-cropped hair. These skirts are far healthier than the long ones which used to sweep up the dust. The women of to-day seem to be developing a greater strength of character."

Could anything be saner or more truly understanding of the young women of the present day? Edward Carpenter, throughout his eighty-two years, has managed to keep both his head and his heart young, and that is a great achievement. We are glad that he has touched on the subject of character, for it is precisely this development of character which has won our own unstinted admiration of the modern young woman. All through the ages men have generally overlooked or undervalued women's strength of character, and it is only lately that this strength of character is being recognised for what it is worth. Yet it has played an exceedingly important part in the evolution of the race. A few weeks ago the Medical Research Council, in its published Report on "Poverty, Nutrition, and Growth—Studies in Child Life in Cities and Rural Districts in Scotland," states that the factor which exercises the greatest influence in the well-being or ill-being of the slum child is not defective food, artificial feeding during infancy, the health of the mother, overcrowding, or the earnings of the father—not any one of these, but the factor of "maternal efficiency"—the character of the mother; and a writer in *The Times* last week concludes an article on "The Good Mother" with the words: "Insufficient importance has certainly been attached to the factor of character, and especially to the character of the mother." This is true of mothers in all grades of society—it is no new element—but the curious thing is that it has for so long passed unrecognised. It is character which is at the root of the many successes which women are gaining in every part of the world. It is in vain that men have tried to impede women's progress by denying them equal opportunities with men, and at the same time urging that women have not sufficient physical or mental strength to carry through the work of the world hitherto monopolised by men. Women are breaking down all the artificial barriers erected by men against them; and the secret of women's power is character. The only difference in this respect between the modern young woman and the woman of previous generations is that the woman of days gone by developed character unconsciously and somewhat surreptitiously, whereas the modern young woman cultivates it consciously and unashamed.

### WOMEN DOCTORS AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS.

Last week a woman member of the Manchester Board of Guardians brought forward a motion calling for the appointment of an equal number of men and women as Assistant Medical Officers for the Guardians' hospitals. She urged that it was not in keeping with the progressive policy of the Board that they should allow a girl to be educated to the door of a hospital and then shut the door in her face, and that women ought to have the same facilities for gaining experience as men. She pointed out that there was no woman on the staff of the Royal Infirmary, although women were accepted there as students. After a debate in which two speakers said that the position was due to the prejudice of medical men against medical women, and others expressed approval of permitting women on the staffs of hospitals under the control of the Guardians, but took objection to the resolution on the ground that it forced the appointment of women, whereas they felt that the various hospital committees should be at liberty to use their discretion in the matter, the motion was put to the meeting, and lost by a large majority. We are convinced that the "discretion" of men members of hospital committees is not going to help very much in the appointment of women to the medical staffs of their hospitals; and that, as there are quite as many women as men patients in such hospitals, and women doctors receive an equal training with men in qualifying for this profession, there should be more effective means for securing the appointment of women to the staffs. It is surely time that women's organisations urged that in all hospitals containing both men and women patients suffering from illness of body and mind, women shall be treated by women doctors, and that in the administration of these institutions and the ultimate control of the patients, women shall have equal authority and responsibility with men. Only in this way are women doctors likely to get fair play in staff appointments in the near future. We also strongly recommend that all women subscribers to hospitals should press for women to be included among the Governors of those hospitals.

### WAS IT JUSTICE?

Under the heading "Angry Mother," the *Daily Mail* reports that last week a woman was charged at Aberystwyth with assaulting a man who was said to be known as "Peeping Tom." The woman said that she had occasion to warn the man because he would not leave her little daughter alone. He sneered at her (the woman), with the result that she "caught him a clout." In reply to the man's solicitor she said, "I tried to mark him, and I am proud of it. I will do it again if he does not leave my little girl alone." She was fined £2 and ordered to pay one guinea advocate's fee. It is always difficult to get an accurate view of cases which are briefly reported in the Press; but while we hold no brief for men or women taking the law into their own hands, we should like to know one or two things in connection with this particular case. Was there a woman on the Bench when it came into Court? And was the mother given any advice as to the course she should have taken to bring a charge against any man who was offensive to her little daughter? Surely the fact that the man was alleged to have been known as a "Peeping Tom" ought to have caused some inquiries to be made by the Court. There are, unfortunately, men at many seaside places who are a serious menace to children, and every effort should be made by the authorities to protect all children from assault or annoyance. We ourselves strongly urge that women police should be on duty in all seaside places for the adequate protection of children. Had there been a policewoman at Aberystwyth to whom an "Angry Mother" could have appealed, we do not think that she would have incurred a fine in this Police Court.

## THE NEW HOP-PICKING BY-LAWS.

By FRANK BRIANT, M.P.

There can be no doubt that the new by-laws, if enforced, will mark a distinct improvement in the conditions of the many thousands of persons who migrate annually to the hop-fields. They cover a wide variety of conditions. Those affecting the lodgings compel the hop grower to give notice three days before any are used. They have also to be clean, dry, and waterproof at all times. The site has to be reasonably free from damp. There is to be an open space of fifteen feet in front of each dwelling, or twenty feet where blocks are face to face. Proper and sufficient means of ventilation and lighting by natural light are to be provided. These rules will greatly improve the comfort and health of the hoppers. It is notorious that the ventilation is often practically nil, and dwellings are often placed in such a situation that they must be of necessity very damp. They have even been erected at the bottom of a slope, which in case of rain means that the floor is soaked with wet.

The second group of rules is also of prime importance, and should prevent the gross scandal of over and indecent crowding. There is to be eighteen feet floor space for each person (two children under twelve to count as one person). Sexes are to be properly divided, and no compartment is to be used for adult persons of both sexes except in the case of the married. As on one farm, previously, a hut 12 by 10 held four families comprising 19 individuals, the necessity of the enforcement of these rules is obvious. Regulations affecting facilities for cooking and drying are also most useful. A cooking place properly covered or sheltered is to be provided for each fifteen persons, and this is also to be used for drying clothes. A good and wholesome water supply must be readily accessible. The straw must be fresh for each person, and must be renewed where necessary. All dwellings must be lime washed, or otherwise treated with disinfectant, not more than two months before occupation. Latrines must be provided for every twenty persons, and separate for the two sexes.

There are other provisions, but I have indicated the most important. Every one who has seen the conditions in some hop-fields will rejoice at the prospect of at least a minimum of decency and comfort. I much regret, however, that a system of licences was not

introduced by which each hop-field must be certified as fit in accordance with the by-laws before the hoppers had arrived. Experience of the past has shown that even the existing health provisions have frequently been ignored. The medical officers have not been to blame in the matter, for even when they have advised prosecutions, owing to the indifference of some of the local authorities in many cases no prosecution has been undertaken. It will certainly be impossible to ensure that they are carried out unless a special staff of inspectors is utilised, and I would suggest that at least two women inspectors should be engaged solely on this work in each district where picking is on a substantial scale.

It should, however, be pointed out that even when the hop growers have done all that can reasonably be expected of them, there remains much which can only be performed by private effort.

One is struck in certain areas by the lack of provision for the shelter and amusement of the children, especially in wet weather. A great deal more could also be done in the way of recreation by the use of halls or marquees for the adults. Cantens at small charges would also be welcomed, for the women are usually engaged in the actual work of picking, and have little time for any cooking till the end of the day.

More hospital accommodation and First Aid centres are necessary. Small accidents are constantly occurring, and wounds are often left uncleansed, to become subsequently septic, owing to the difficulty in reaching a place where First Aid can be obtained.

I am fully aware what splendid work is being accomplished by many societies and individuals. All I am asking is that each centre of hop-picking shall be as adequately provided as is already the case in certain districts.

The actual result of the new effort will be watched with keen interest, and it would be of great advantage if those who can spare the time would pay a personal visit during the season. I hope myself to spend at least a day in certain hop-fields, and hope that the changes will be such as to remove the feelings of disgust and alarm with which I was moved on my visit last year.

## BRISTOL'S UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE

The Annual Report, 1925, of the Bristol Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment has just been issued by H.M. Stationery Office, and can be purchased from Adastral House, Kingsway, London, for the price of 9d. This Committee consisted of the Chairman, Alderman F. Sheppard, O.B.E., J.P.; a Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. W. Cann; eight members representing the Education Committee, seven men and one woman (Mrs. Councillor L. M. Pheysey); four members representing teachers, two men and two women (Miss J. E. Keen and Miss F. A. Pidgeon); six members representing employers, all men; six members representing workers, two of whom were women (Mrs. J. J. Melton and Miss Thrush); three members representing others interested in the welfare of juveniles, two of whom were women (Miss R. Campbell and Miss E. C. Sykes); one man member representing Kingswood Sub-Committee; and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. A. C. Baker. Mr. H. E. Boothroyd (H.M. Inspector of Schools), Mr. S. Owner (H. M. Inspector of Factories), and Mr. R. T. Stoddard (Manager, Bristol Employment Exchange) have attended meetings in an advisory capacity.

In presenting this Report to the Minister of Labour the Committee express serious concern at the long-

continued depression in trade and the consequent deterioration, through lack of suitable employment, of the city's most valuable asset—its young people. Although matters seem slowly to be improving, nevertheless there is still a problem of juvenile unemployment of formidable proportions which shows no immediate prospect of solution. Increased use has been made of the Exchange both by employers and employed; but two disquieting features stand out particularly: (1) The slackness in the skilled trades and the decline of apprenticeship; and (2) the fact that even of those who have been fortunate enough to secure employment, a very large number are worthy of better and more promising posts than those they hold at present. The problem of under-employment and unsuitable employment is also a very serious one, and the Committee state that in the present condition of industry it is extremely difficult to suggest any means of improvement. Whilst the present industrial depression continues the Committee endeavour to induce children to remain at school until work can be found for them. They have taken up the matter of hours and conditions of juvenile labour in cinema theatres and have secured improvements in these matters. They have brought the possibility



of Overseas settlement before unemployed boys and their parents, and have done away with the medical examination fee of 10s. 6d. in regard to necessitous applicants for migration Overseas; but they find that in most cases parents have a natural reluctance to allow their sons to go so far from home, and that the idea of migration is not attractive to a large number of boys or their parents. The Committee take a great interest in the work of its Unemployment Centres, and both the Girls' and the Boys' Centres are very fortunate in their Superintendents. 581 boys were admitted to the Boys' Centre between April 1st and December 31st, 1925, and 621 girls to the Girls' Centre during that period. The curriculum for the Girls' Centre—the Headmistress of which is Mrs. L. M. Glover—is as follows: (1) Cookery and domestic work; (2) handwork (basket, rug, and leather work, etc.); (3) needlework; (4) hygiene; (5) drill; (6) English; (7) singing; (8) household arithmetic. Apart from the usual instruction, (1) an address was given by Miss Margaret Bondfield; (2) forty girls attended the Ministry of Health Exhibition and Lecture; (3) an address on Canada by one of the lecturers who conducts emigration parties; (4) a lecture at the Central Library on "Men of Bristol"; (5) one day in October the girls presented "Zurika," an operetta. Later, an evening performance was given, and made £5 for a Christmas Party on 23rd December. This was thoroughly enjoyed—particularly so was the Fancy Dress Parade.

The Committee works in close co-operation with employers, with schools, and the local education authority. The reports of its industrial supervision and after-care committees are extremely interesting, and the reader of this pamphlet cannot but feel that the young workers of Bristol have exceedingly interested and experienced friends in their local Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment.

#### WHY RAILWAY CARRIAGES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR WOMEN.

The *Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian*, in its issue of August 25th, reports that before Mr. S. Schofield (presiding) and Mr. B. Hind, at Halifax West Riding Court, a married man was charged with behaving in an offensive manner towards a 14-year-old girl, in a railway carriage, on July 26th. He pleaded "not guilty."

Mr. H. E. Daniel, who prosecuted on behalf of the L.M.S. Railway Co., stated that the charge was laid under the Company's by-laws, for which a maximum penalty was fixed at 40s. On the morning of July 26th, at 7.17 a.m., the girl entered an empty third class compartment at Sowerby Bridge Station to go to work at Mytholmroyd. She had seen defendant standing on the platform, and just before the train started he followed her into the compartment and took the seat opposite her. The offences complained about were that he motioned her to sit beside him, and when she refused he sat beside her, asked her age, and touched her clothing, saying, "I shall have to have a night out with you." On reaching Mytholmroyd the girl told her aunt, and subsequently the police were informed. When interviewed that night by Sergt. Townend, defendant said, "I admit leaving my seat and sitting beside her and touching her clothing."

Evidence in support was given by the girl, her aunt, and Sergt. Townend.

Defendant said that the girl encouraged him to ride with her, and said that he only touched her clothing when entreating her not to tell her aunt that he had been speaking to her.

The accused had two previous convictions for larceny, and was fined the maximum penalty of £2 or one month, and £1 8s. 6d. costs.

The Chairman observed that it was a pity if young girls could not travel in railway trains without being annoyed by men like him.

#### WOMEN'S VICTORY IN BOMBAY.

A few weeks ago we reported that the Madras Legislative Council had passed a resolution in favour of admitting women as members of the Legislative Council. A similar resolution has more recently been passed by the Bombay Council. We learn from *New India* that the Visitors' Galleries were filled with ladies when Dr. Paranjpye's resolution for the removal of the sex disqualification for women voters to stand as candidates to the Legislative Council came up for discussion. He said that women would be of more help in the deliberations of the House on subjects like the Children's Act, temperance, and the law of property. Dr. Paranjpye concluded his speech with an appeal to the House to pass the resolution by way of justice and fairness to women. After Messrs. Mansuri and R. G. Pradhan supported, the Hon. Mr. Dehlavi opposed the resolution on national grounds, and remarked that the sphere of activities for woman was her home, and not the arena of practical politics. He warned the House not to imitate Western nations by introducing this kind of reform, as nations which adopted it are now deploring the evil effect of the reform. Mr. Gunjal moved an amendment that only women of 45 years of age be eligible for election.

After some lively speeches from members on the subject, Mr. Gunjal's amendment was thrown out and the House accepted Dr. Paranjpye's resolution, as amended by Mr. Shivdasani, that women voters be nominated to the Legislative Council, amidst great applause.

#### ANOTHER MALE CRITIC!

Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, the famous surgeon, has recently been criticizing both women and Nature. He told a representative of the *Daily Express* that "Women are spoiling themselves by over-education and too much work. . . . Education in a reasonable degree is an excellent thing, but much of it is of the wrong sort. Of what use is it cramming a woman's mind with Latin and Greek? As a rule, it only makes her dull and keeps her indoors when she should be playing games in the open air or taking an interest in men. . . . The trouble is, women are so thorough. Once they have tackled a thing they will not give up until it is finished, and when they have given their heart to anything they give it their energy too. It is bad for them as women, for in time it hardens them and robs them of some of their femininity. It is unfortunate, in a way, that Nature endowed women with greater powers of resistance and endurance than man."

We suppose the gentleman was thinking about the women Channel swimmers. However, his conclusive remark is "A man is different, for he has vices to distract him. Women have no vices, and the tension of work is unrelieved." Yet a little while ago other male critics in the Press were attacking women for their addiction to cocktails and for being unregenerate smokers! Well, well, if it pleases men to talk, let them—women and Nature will go their own way regardless of men's criticisms.

#### FREEDOM OF CITY FOR WOMAN TEACHER.

Peterborough Town Council have unanimously decided to confer upon Miss Margaret Gibson, Principal of Laurel Court School, Minster, in the precincts of Peterborough, the Honorary Freedom of the City on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday on Armistice Day. Miss Gibson has conducted this school for 57 years, and for two years Nurse Edith Cavell was a teacher at the school. Miss Gibson is now blind, but rises at seven o'clock each morning to begin the school. On her eighty-eighth birthday Miss Gibson was presented with a wireless set, and is an enthusiastic listener, the Dean of Peterborough giving permission for the aerial to be affixed to the Cathedral. Mr. Andrew Carnegie was Peterborough's first Honorary Freeman, and Miss Gibson will be its first woman Freeman.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1420.  
Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."  
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Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.  
Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.  
General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

##### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 6th, at 3.30 p.m.

Fair Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, October 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

Public Dinner at Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, to commemorate the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Tickets 8/6 each.

Saturday, October 9th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall.

##### OTHER SOCIETIES.

September 3rd—6th.

Fourth Annual Conference of Women Engineers at Leeds University.

Saturday and Sunday, September 25th and 26th.

National Union of Women Teachers. Week-end Conference at Central Hall, Westminster.

Thursday, September 30th.

British Commonwealth League Conference.

October 5th—8th.

League of the Church Militant Campaign at Southport.

Wednesday, October 13th, at 2.30 p.m.

Women's International League. Conference on Arbitration.

October 19th—22nd.

Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women, in the Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Tuesday, November 16th, at 8 p.m.

Central Hackney Labour Party. Public Meeting at the Brotherhood Church, Southgate Road, N.1. Speaker: Miss Beatrice Pearson.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

##### HASTINGS.

A very successful Garden Party was held at "Rossiana," Pine Avenue, Ore, on Thursday afternoon. We warmly thank our kind host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Prelooker, for all the trouble they took to make their guests enjoy themselves. There were some interesting speeches from those who went on the Peace Pilgrimage. Mrs. Darent Harrison, President of the local branch of the Women's Freedom League, introduced the speakers, Mrs. Strickland, Miss Pearce, Mr. Prelooker, and the Rev. A. E. Mobbs. The Misses Rance were responsible for the arrangements for the tea which was enjoyed by the audience, which consisted of nearly a hundred people. After tea a delightful entertainment was given by the following people: Miss Miriam Prelooker sang two songs charmingly; Miss Norine Prelooker gave two piano solos, which were cleverly played by such a youthful performer; Miss Millicent Reed and Miss Eleanor Mobbs were responsible for some clever recitations; Miss Margery Dunhill gave a clever display of dancing, the latter was accompanied by the Hon. Secretary of the League, Mrs. Porter. We gladly welcome 18 new members who joined us during the afternoon. A collection, amounting to nearly £3, goes towards the expenses of the Hastings contingent of the Peace Pilgrimage. (Organiser) Miss L. M. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens.

##### PORTSMOUTH.

The weather was delightful for the Garden Whist Drive on Wednesday, August 25th, at 14, Festing Grove. The tables were all filled, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Slatter for her generous hospitality. The prizes were given by Mrs. Speck, Mrs. Brading, and Mrs. Whetton.

Gratefully acknowledged for Birthday Fund: Mrs. Dober, 1/6; Mrs. Davies, 1/6.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

#### PUBLIC DINNER TO Mr. & Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

The Women's Freedom League will begin its Autumn Campaign with a Suffrage Dinner to commemorate the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (our President) and to express our gratitude to them for their splendid self-sacrifice, energy, and valour in the fight for the political enfranchisement of women. This dinner will be held at the Holborn Restaurant, Kingsway, W.C.2, Friday, October 8th, at 7.30 p.m., and tickets for it can now be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, Women's Freedom League Office, price 8s. 6d. each, and should be applied for early. We cordially extend an invitation to all old and new friends of the suffrage movement to join us in congratulating these stalwarts of the women's cause.

#### UNSOLICITED "RELIEF."

As the result of having been unwittingly taken to the Poor Law Hospital after a motor accident, a Bristol woman Guardian has had to forfeit her seat. At last week's meeting the Guardians, by an overwhelming majority, passed a resolution calling upon the Ministry of Health to repeal or amend the Local Government Act, 1894, whereby Guardians are disqualified from retaining seats through having received relief. It was explained that the member in question had paid full maintenance fees as a private patient since her admission. The law as it stands at present was characterised as stupid and absurd. Not long ago a member of the Kingston Board of Guardians was similarly served although he paid fully for the treatment he received. The Government was appealed to in vain to alter the present law.

In an interview, Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., told a representative of THE VOTE that although the law was quite right to discourage public servants from using public money, in such cases as that of the Bristol woman guardian it should be distinctly modified, especially nowadays when the streets were so dangerous. Mrs. Nevinson recalled an instance of how once a Member of Parliament met with an accident, and was similarly taken quite unconscious to a Poor Law Hospital, for which he, too, forfeited his seat.

#### HUMANE SLAUGHTERING.

The *Times* reports that the movement to compel the adoption of the "humane-killer" for slaughtering cattle is being forwarded in different parts of the country by the formation of "housewives' humane killing associations," members of which sign cards pledging themselves to buy no flesh of cattle, sheep or pigs that have not been killed in this way. The promoter of these associations is the Rev. S. Claude Tickell, vicar of Luttoncum-Eysey, Cricklade, who, in a letter to *The Times*, states that two important animal protection societies are introducing these pledge cards. He hopes that public opinion will induce local authorities increasingly to adopt Model By-Law 9 B. of the Ministry of Health, which provides for animals to be stunned before slaughtering with a mechanically operated instrument. Up to last March, 106 public bodies had adopted the by-law, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals record the supply of half a million cartridges a year for the "humane-killer" instrument.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT EXHIBITION.

The *Times* reports that an exhibition of methods of smoke abatement, which has been organised by the Smoke Abatement League of Great Britain, will be opened at Birmingham on September 6th. Among the exhibits will be a model industrial boiler-house, in the erection of which 20 of the largest manufacturing firms in the country have co-operated, and demonstrations will be given to show the latest means of preventing waste of fuel in the form of smoke. Lectures will be given on the results of scientific research and invention for securing a cleaner atmosphere in the industrial districts.

#### FOSTERING CITIZENSHIP.

The Sheffield Women Citizens' Association have arranged four meetings during September, to be addressed by local speakers, on Finance, Public Libraries, Public Health, and Education; and on October 28th they will hold a meeting of special interest to women, when Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl will speak on "Women in Public Life."

#### WOMEN AS SCHOOL MANAGERS.

The *Yorkshire Post* reports that Miss Cropper, speaking at a meeting of the Westmorland County Education Committee, made an eloquent plea for the appointment of women as school managers. She said men managers were all right, but it was very hard on a schoolmistress when she had not a woman manager to consult on matters concerning girls. A woman manager was like a sister to a schoolmistress, and this was the more the case in the smaller village schools. The Chairman and other members supported the view, and a resolution was passed calling attention to the eligibility of women as managers, according to the regulations, and to the desirability of their appointment.

#### FEWER OUT-OF-WORKS.

The Ministry of Labour announces that on August 23rd the total number of persons recorded on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,558,000. This was 21,620 less than a week ago, but 215,162 more than a year ago.

The total of 1,558,000 is exclusive of persons who ceased work in the coal-mining industry on account of the dispute.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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## HOTEL.

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## NOTICES.

**INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.**—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 5th. 6.30. Mr. Shoran Singha: "The Three Great Pestilences."

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I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

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