

THE VOTE.
AUG. 28, 1925.

WHERE MEN ARE NOT WANTED!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1925

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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WOMEN AND SCIENCE.

Nineteen women are contributing papers at the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which opened at Southampton on Wednesday of this week, and continues until September 2nd. The favourite subject among women this year appears to be botany and forestry, ten of the papers being in this section. There are three in Economic Science, three in Anthropology, and one each in Mathematics, Agriculture, Psychology, and Zoology.

There is only one woman in charge of a section this year, Miss Lynda Grier, the Head of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; she presides over the Economics Section, and will read a paper on "The Meaning of Wages."

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, whose portrait we reproduce, will open a discussion on "Deviations from the Normal Course of Sexual Reproduction in Plants," and the two principal speakers will be women. One of these is Dr. Margery Knight, of Liverpool University, and the other Miss K. B. Blackburn, of Armstrong College (University of Durham), Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, D.B.E., D.Sc., and Hon. LL.D. of Glasgow, is the widow of Professor D. T. Gwynne-Vaughan, and Head of the Department of Botany of Birkbeck College, London. Educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College and at King's College, London, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan has won distinction all along the line in her special subject, and has held office as demonstrator and lecturer in many places, among them the Royal Holloway College,

and University College, Nottingham. During the Great War she was Chief Controller of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, British Armies in France, and Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force. She has written extensively upon her own subject.

Papers on other botanical subjects will be read by Mrs. N. L. Alcock upon "Successional Diseases

of Willow," and Miss M. J. E. Wilson upon "A Hitherto Unrecorded Disease of Douglas Fir in Britain," both in the subsection of Forestry. Miss A. J. Davey will speak upon "The Seedling Anatomy of Certain Species of Juglans," a genus of the walnut family. The paper by Mrs. Hamshaw Thomas and Mr. Thomas is "On the Ancestry of the Caytoniales," and Miss A. V. Hay and Miss E. D. Brain will contribute addresses upon other botanical topics.

An interesting subject to housewives is Miss A. D. Mackenzie's "Fruit Preservation in Natural Colours," and Miss R. C. Bamber (Mrs. Bisbee) and Miss E. Catherine Herdman, daughter of Professor Sir William Herdman, of Liverpool University, will deal with "A contribution to the Study of the Inheritance of Black and Yellow Coat Colour in Cats."

Miss J. F. Grant speaks about "The Enclosure of Arable Land in Northern Scotland," a topic of controversial interest centuries old; and Miss W. Blackman, in the section of Anthropology has an interesting paper on "The Making of Pottery in Ancient and Modern Egypt."

Miss M. A. Murray contributes a paper upon Stevenage, in Hertfordshire, where recent excavations



Photo by

Topical Press

DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN.

have revealed the bones of animals, the remains of a causeway, and other striking items of scientific value. Miss E. A. Allen, of Australia, is reading an important paper on "Some Results of an Experimental Research into Character and Temperament."

Discussions on the weather will have a prominent place in the programme, and the effect of weather on wireless will also be considered. While the discussions are in progress special weather reports will be received from all parts of the United Kingdom, and special forecasts will come from a temporary organisation set up by the Air Ministry. The principal papers dealing with these problems are contributed by Captain Eckersley, of the British Broadcasting Co., who will lecture on "Some Technical Problems in Broadcasting," and Professor Appleton, who will speak on "The Role of the Atmosphere in Wireless Telegraphy."

Excursions will be made to many places of interest in the neighbourhood, such as the New Forest, the Isle of Wight, Bournemouth, Stonehenge, Winchester, and Lulworth Cove, as well as to the Southampton Docks, to the Cunarder R.M.S. "Aquitania," and to the White Star liner "Majestic." The Home-Grown Timber Yard at Durdley will be seen, also the Hayling Island Mosquito Control Laboratory, which is to be opened officially by Sir Ronald Ross.

There will be several social functions, such as the reception by the Mayor and Corporation of Southampton on the evening of the first day of the Sessions; garden parties at South Stoneham House; at Lymington, given by Sir John Cecil Power; and one by Lord and Lady St. Cyres; and an evening reception at Town Hill Park by Lord and Lady Swaythling's invitation.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women at the Church Congress.

Among women who will take part in the Church Congress at Eastbourne, from October 6-9, is Miss Ruth Rouse, a member of the secretarial staff of the Missionary Council of the Church Assembly, who travelled extensively during her 20 years' work in the World's Student Christian Federation. She will speak on race problems. Miss Faithfull, formerly head of Cheltenham Ladies' College, will give an address on "Discipline in Modern Life," and Commandant Allen, head of the Women's Auxiliary of the Police Force, will speak on the "Humanitarian Work of the League of Nations." In addition, Miss Monica Storrs, a daughter of the Dean of Rochester, will speak on "Our Trusteeship for other Races" from experience she has gained in Palestine.

American Suffrage Celebrations.

The fifth anniversary of the proclamation of ratification of the woman suffrage amendment in the United States is being celebrated this week by women all over America. On August 26th, five years ago, the nineteenth amendment was ratified. In New York City a luncheon will be given by the National League of Women Voters to Mrs. Chapman Catt and Miss Mary Garrett Hay, after which Mrs. Catt will broadcast on the work of women voters for world advancement.

Equal Pay for Equal Work in Ireland.

The Irish Free State is paying unmarried men and women who enter its civil service at the same rate. When the man marries a considerable addition is made to his salary—about 33 per cent.—and for each child a man will receive an additional allowance until the child is 16. Women must resign their position on marriage, but will be presented with substantial bonuses in proportion to their number of years' service.

Australian Woman at Geneva.

Mrs. R. B. Mackinnon, of Sydney, New South Wales, has been appointed substitute delegate in the Australian Delegation to the Assembly at Geneva. Mrs. Mackinnon edits the *Red Cross Record*, of Australia, and is a member of the Senate of the University of New South Wales.

Women Prisoners at Holloway.

Women in Holloway Gaol, are said to work under good conditions, sewing Government mail-bags, or wardresses' dresses, gardening, cooking, laundering and cleaning all together with plenty of light and air. They have recently been permitted to paint the walls of their cells in cream and green. When not at work, the women are allowed to have 6 books at a time out of the prison-library—2 educational, 2 devotional, and 2 fiction.

An Enterprising Woman.

Mrs. Betty Joel, who runs a successful furniture shop in Sloane Street, London, has all her furniture made by hand at workshops in Hayling Island. She has built and furnished a cottage there for herself, and is just opening another shop in the same neighbourhood. Her latest scheme is building wooden bungalows and furnishing them after the manner of Canadian houses.

Honolulu Woman's Preferment.

Mrs. Marion Parrott, a civil service employee in the office of the federal prohibition director in Honolulu, has received a radiogram from Washington appointing her as acting director to succeed Mr. John Wise, resigned. Mrs. Parrott is believed to be the only woman holding a federal prohibition directorship.

Allahabad Women Students.

Allahabad University recently decided to prohibit women students from joining the classes in male students' colleges. A women's meeting of protest has been held, and the attitude of the University has been subjected to some strong criticism in leading Indian papers.

Chinese Women Lawyers.

A number of Chinese women are studying law in this country, one of whom is qualifying so that when she goes back to her home in the big Chinese colony in Malaya, she may be able to act as a sort of "poor man's" lawyer.

A Splendid Record.

Miss Mary H. Livingston, who has recently retired from the Post Office Dept. at Washington, U.S.A., after 47 years of faithful service, has seen 13 Presidents inducted to office, and has served under 22 postmasters-general.

Women's Hockey Successes.

The visiting British Women's Hockey team concluded a wonderfully successful tour of South Africa last week, when they defeated Western Province by six goals to one. They have played 15 games in all, including three test matches, and have won all, scoring a total of 83 goals against 6.

Women and Flying.

Five women have joined the new London Aeroplane Club, which was recently opened at Stag Lane Aerodrome, on the Edgware Tube. One of these is Mrs. Elliott-Lynn, Founder and Vice-President of the Women's Amateur Athletic Association. The Club also has six associate women members.

Woman as Ships' Decorator.

The liner "Ranchi," where Lord and Lady Inchcape entertained a large party of guests during Cowes week, owes its scheme of decoration to Lord Inchcape's daughter, the Hon. Elsie Mackay, who has now acted as decorative expert for six ships.

Bengal Women to Vote.

The Bengal Legislative Council has passed a resolution granting the franchise to women. The women of Madras, Bombay, United Provinces, Assam and Burma are now voters.

Woman Freeman of Torquay.

Mrs. Ellen Rowcroft, of Pilmuir, Torquay, is to be presented with the freedom of the borough, in recognition of her munificence to the town, and particularly her gift of £100,000 for the erection of the new Torbay Hospital.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

It is related of Charles Lamb, around whom so many delightful stories circulate, that he once expressed himself as hating a man whom he had never met.

"But, my dear Charles," his friend remonstrated, "how can you hate him if you don't know him?"

"How could I hate him if I did?" was the engaging reply.

This witty sally contains the very germ of social polity, for it discloses the inevitable incompatibility of knowledge and hatred. This, then, is also the ethical *raison d'être* of the Association for International Understanding.

The Association was founded in August, 1924, primarily for the popular study of international affairs. It was felt that, whereas there were already existing organisations of a learned character for research on foreign affairs and also of a popular character for the promotion of single causes, such as the League of Nations, there was a definite need for one society which would concern itself purely with the dissemination of facts in a palatable form, an organisation which would keep in view the fundamental principles of a general understanding between nations, rather than concern itself with propaganda of any special kind; a practical link between the many forms of international work already in existence.

To achieve its purpose, the work of the Association was divided into three sections—research, hospitality, and education. In the first field of activity, it has issued sixteen numbers of a Bulletin of International News in one year, and also the first of a series of handbooks on important subjects, namely, "Information on the Permanent Court of International Justice," the first comprehensive booklet to appear on the subject in this country. The second number of this series, "Information on the Reduction of Armaments," will be published in September.

All manner of questions on the many-sided problems of internationality are received and answered at the Association's headquarters, and its Bulletin goes to each of the five continents.

On the social side it is the aim of the Association to establish an international club, where those interested in international affairs may meet on friendly and equal terms, and where visitors from abroad may receive useful information, and again, where lectures may be given. This is an altogether new departure, and good progress is being made. The Association has already undertaken arrangements for the hospitality of students from abroad visiting this country.

Educationally, too, this new organisation has not been idle. During the winter months, many speakers were provided by the Association for a number of meetings, chiefly among Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and the great brotherhood of Toc H. A system of prizes has been instituted for school essays on international subjects, while the Association's Bulletin has been found useful in classes on current events as a guide to the important incidents of the week.

Among those who have supported this new venture are the popular writer Colonel John Buchan, Professor Gilbert Murray, Mr. Evelyn Wrench, of the English-Speaking Union and the Overseas League, and the Rev. P. B. Clayton, founder of Toc H. Among prominent women who have given their support are Lady Blomfield and Dame Adelaide Livingstone. These well-known people represent a diversity of interests, but all unite in giving their approval to an organisation which aims at the education of humanity on a non-partisan, non-political platform towards a stabilised condition of peace.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.
 "What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.
 "Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.
 "The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.
 May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR SURVEY.

Following the example of the Ministry of Health and the Mines Department, the Ministry of Labour has issued a report of its work, dealing chiefly with the years 1923 and 1924. A good deal of the ground of the report has already been covered by other publications of the department, but there many sections in which new material is given. The policy covering the control of the admissions of aliens is explained. Last year, we learn, 5,085 aliens sought permits, and 1,210 were refused. Of the 4,875 permits granted 1,230 were for domestic servants and 1,034 for actors, actresses, and variety and concert artists.

An interesting point comes out in the review of the training schemes for unemployed women. The Labour Government withdrew the condition that women attending the "Homecraft" courses must enter resident domestic service, but this withdrawal "has not caused any diminution of the number actually entering domestic service, in areas where the centre was a vocational bias."

The total number of registrations of employed in 1924 in Great Britain, including re-registrations of the same individuals, was 11,262,887, as compared with 8,774,644 in 1923 and 8,819,523 in 1922. In 1911 the figure was 1,965,991 and by 1914 it had risen to 3,305,056. Of the 11,262,887 registrations in 1924, men accounted for 7,526,355, women for 2,823,405 and juveniles for 913,127. The comparative figures for 1923 were 5,811,892 men, 2,137,054 women, and 825,698 juveniles.

The report on the work of the employment exchanges in filling vacancies shows that in 1923, 1,056,970 vacancies were notified and 893,713 filled, while the respective figures in 1924 were 1,345,394 and 1,143,742.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White and Gold Fair will be held this year at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st, and will be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.

Various Stalls are being arranged for both Fancy and Useful Articles, including Toys, Handkerchiefs, Antiques and White Elephants, Sweets, Household Goods, Overalls, Pound, White Stall, and a Shilling Stall. Many gifts are needed for all these Stalls. An excellent programme of Entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Dancing Display by Miss Grace Woollacott's dainty little pupils, also Solo Dancing by little Miss Margery Dunhill (whose dancing was so much admired at the Fair last year). There will be Competitions, Character Readings, Phrenology, and Numerology. Teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served at moderate prices during the evening.

Societies at present taking Stalls are:—

British Commonwealth League.
The Food Education Society.
The International New Thought Alliance.
Needlework and Mending Bureau.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).

All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL OF SPEECH TRAINING.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR WOMEN.

Many women realise to-day that there are great opportunities for those who think logically and speak clearly.

A Class is conducted by Miss LOUIE BAGLEY on Thursday afternoons, at 3 o'clock, at 15, Langham Place, W.1, in which the subjects dealt with include Voice Training, Vocal Expression, Nerve Control, Methods of Preparation and Construction of Speeches, Delivery, Control of an Audience, etc.

FEE for Course of 24 weeks £3 0 0

FEE for Course of 12 weeks £1 12 6

An Evening Class followed by a Debate is held on Mondays at 6.30.

Full particulars free on application to the Director of Education, The Polytechnic, 309, Regent Street, W.1.

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

WOMEN AND EMPIRE MARKETING.

There is much to interest housewives in the recently issued Report of the Imperial Economic Committee (Command Paper 2493, price 9d., from H. M. Stationery Office) which was set up in the spring of this year to consider the possibility of improving the methods of preparing for market and marketing within the United Kingdom the food products of the Overseas parts of the Empire, with a view to increasing the consumption of such products in the United Kingdom.

Leaving entirely out of account any possible political aspect of the case, whether on the side of Free Trade or Preference, there is no question that the more direct encouragement of Empire foodstuffs in this country would mean absolute assurance of clean and unadulterated foods. Inspection of the food sections of the various Pavilions at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley must convince even the most cursory of visitors that the standards of Empire marketing are among the highest in the world, whilst private intercourse with Dominions women has made many of us realise, perhaps not without wincing, that our sisters Overseas have still much to teach us with regard to the care and selection and marketing of foods.

The windows of Dominions food shops, we are told, are always glazed. Individual loaves, in New Zealand at any rate, are invariably wrapped in wax paper, and joints are delivered in a muslin wrapping, whilst milk is conveyed in closely sealed cans. Indeed, it is impossible to sell milk at all unless the yard and cowshed of the dairy is floored with concrete.

The same meticulous care is equally observed in the public inspection of food for export. Meat, for which the Dominions are so justly famous, is examined by veterinary inspectors at the killing, freezing, and exporting stages. All towns over a certain population have municipal abattoirs with at least one inspector in attendance, whilst at the freezing works—there are 43 of these in New Zealand alone—two inspectors are always on duty. During transport the carcasses are wrapped in muslin, and never touched by hand. Whatever fails to come up to the required standard for the English market, whether meat or dairy produce, is sent back from the port to be consumed in the country of its origin. The packing of the dried fruit exhibit in the Australian and South African Pavilions at Wembley alone will do much to allay the fears roused by Dr. Haden Guest's disquieting revelations anent Smyrna products.

It is interesting to note that for some months past a body of women in this country have been putting into practice the principles of Empire food purchasing urged by the Economic Committee. One of the most important features of the work of the women's section at the London Unionist headquarters, ever since the accession of the present Government to power, has been a housewives' campaign to induce women to buy food produced in the British Overseas Dominions. A novel method of furthering this campaign is the issue of boxes of Empire foodstuffs ranging in price from 5s. to 5 guineas. Over three thousand of these boxes have been despatched to inquirers during the last nine months.

WOMEN AND INTESTACY.

The Administration of Estates Act, 1925, which comes into operation next January, marks an important step forward in the emancipation of women in this country. Under the new Act the preference of males over females in the descent of real estate is abolished. That is to say, the age-long reign of primogeniture is abolished, and sons and daughters, males and females, rank equally in the distribution of the real property of an intestate. The widow acquires exactly the same rights in her husband's estate as the husband has in the estate of an intestate wife. The old practice of treating a husband and wife as one person is here definitely abandoned. A father and mother are also placed on an equality in the case where a man dies intestate and without issue in the lifetime of his parents. The progress gained, especially by women, when the new Act comes into operation, may be better gauged by reference to the present and past position of women under intestacy. Under the rule of primogeniture, real property (estates or interests in land amounting to freehold) has invariably passed to the eldest son, or heir-at-law, all younger children of either sex being ignored. Again, if a wife dies without making a will, the husband can claim the whole of her personal estate, passing over any children there may be of the marriage; but if the cases are reversed and the husband dies intestate, the widow is only entitled to one-third, the remainder going to the children. In the case, too, where a person dies intestate and leaves no issue, but has parents still living, the father may take the whole residuary estate; but the mother has no such title. The bearing of the new Act upon the marriage relationship in this country is likely to be immensely far-reaching, and will undoubtedly knock one more nail into the familiar adage that a husband and wife are one person.

WHERE MEN ARE NOT WANTED.

The Department is now busy collecting its staff for administering the new Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act. Of all conceivable jobs, the oversight of widows, children and old people is most essentially a woman's job, and this work we consider should always be carried out by women. The Government, however, does not take this view, and has circularised its male and female post office employees, inviting them to apply for positions under the new Act. Only a few days' notice was given, but this was later on extended in the case of the male members from last Saturday to Monday of this week. The women members, through their organisation, requested the same short extension of time, but were refused; special facilities were therefore accorded to the men. Applications were also invited from outside women.

It seems a scandal that these appointments should be rushed through. Some women were deterred from applying at such short notice; many other suitable women were debarred by the age limit of 35, which seems absurdly low for this kind of work. We protest strongly against appointing men to carry out this Act and deal with the many details of family life with which it will have to reckon, and are of the opinion that a sufficient number of suitable women would have come forward if a little more care and patience had been exercised.

THE SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Annual Assembly of the League meets at Geneva on September 7th. Delegations from about fifty States will attend, and during the month Geneva will be the world centre of international politics. Many interesting personalities will be present, many important subjects discussed, and much important action taken. Among the delegates will be Mr. Chamberlain, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, and the Duchess of Atholl for Britain; M. Painlevé and M. Briand for France; Lord Willingdon and the Maharajah of Patiala for India; the High Commissioners of South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia; Dr. Benes, Dr. Nansen, the Prime Ministers of Belgium and Norway; and the Foreign Ministers of many of the smaller States of Europe.

Of particular interest at each Assembly is the work done by the famous trio of Scandinavian women, Miss Forchammer of Denmark, Mlle. Bonnevie of Norway, and Mme. Bugge-Wicksell of Sweden. These ladies have made a special niche for themselves in the League work by their expert knowledge and their enthusiasm and their energy. Mlle. Vacaresco, the Roumanian poetess, will not be missing from her place; no Assembly could possibly take place without at least one of her brilliant and eloquent speeches. Australia is again showing its broad-mindedness by including Mrs. R. B. Mackinnon among its delegates, and this, with the Duchess of Atholl, brings the total number of women to six. It is a great pity that other nations do not follow the example set, because there can be no two questions on the value of the work already done by women at Geneva.

Space does not permit a full account of the work which will be done. There will be, of course, the outstanding problem of the permanent establishment of peace now that Great Britain has rejected the Protocol. But there will also be a host of questions only slightly less important to social and human progress. The unceasing campaign against the traffic in women and children will be prosecuted with unending vigour, and further steps taken to combat the traffic in dangerous

drugs. Special committees will consider the measures to be taken for the protection of minorities in Europe, for the safeguarding of natives in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, and for the final and ruthless extermination of slavery in every shape and form.

It is on these questions in particular that the advice and assistance of women is so vitally important; indeed, it is not too much to say that the work of the League would not have advanced with anything like its present rapidity had it not been for their assistance.

But it must not be forgotten that, important as these matters are, the main work of the League is, and always must be, the establishment and maintenance of peace. The Covenant was designed to give security to nations which were alarmed for their future, and which were disposed to maintain large armies for their defence. But the Covenant was not sufficient. It did not actually give that security. Ever since, the League has been trying to evolve a method of amplifying or elucidating the Covenant for this purpose. Without security it is impossible to proceed with the disarmament that is so vital to the cause of peace. The Treaty of Mutual Assistance and the Protocol were designed to amplify the Covenant, and neither has met with success. The League must continue the search. Security and the reduction of armaments alone can give peace, and the League must not allow its attention to be distracted from these main issues. And here is another argument for the greater representation of women at the Assembly. For women never forget the horrors and folly of war. They do not let the main point escape. They always keep the real essential purpose of the League before them. Magnificent though the work of the League is against the hundred social and industrial evils of the world, it will all go for nothing if peace is not maintained.

It would be possible to write many pages on the prospects of the Sixth Assembly, but lack of space prevents it; it only remains to wish success to its work.

CHILD WELFARE AT GENEVA.

Amongst the numerous Conferences taking place this month in various parts of the world, none is of more far-reaching consequence to humanity than the First International Congress on Child Welfare, which takes place at the Electoral Palace, Geneva, from Monday to Friday of this week. The Congress is being held under the patronage of the Swiss Federal Government, and with the cordial approval of the English Minister of Health and President of the Board of Education, and is supported by Patronage Committees in eleven countries: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Gt. Britain, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland.

A large variety of topics is being dealt with under three general headings—Hygiene and Medicine, Social Welfare, and Education and Propaganda, the last named being under the Presidency of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, President of the International Council of Women.

The first section (Hygiene and Medicine) will involve a comparison of the measures adopted in different countries to reduce ante-natal, neo-natal, and post-natal mortality; the proper feeding of children, whether infants, children of pre-school age, and school children; Heliotherapy applied to the child; the prevention of crippling in children; and uniformity of statistics in regard to the conditions of mortality mentioned above.

The second section (Social Welfare and Administration) will deal with the standardisation of the

definition of mental deficiency and its different degrees; a comparison of the measures taken in different countries for the assistance of necessitous orphans and deserted children; the protection of children during the transitional period between leaving school and full industrial life; alien children in the country of their residence; the welfare of child emigrants during their journey; and protection of the mother (whether an unmarried mother, widow, or deserted wife) and her child, the legal aspects of paternity being excluded.

The third section (Education and Propaganda) will ventilate such matters as the Education of public opinion in matters relating to Child Welfare; the most effective methods of raising funds for Child Welfare work; organised recreation; the training of Child Welfare Workers, and the Education of children in international goodwill. A number of eminent men and women are reading papers, and taking part in discussions under the various sections, amongst whom may be mentioned: Dr. Cyril Burt (England), Mr. Percy Alden (Gt. Britain), Dr. Nobel (Austria), Mme. Ester St. Aohlberg (Finland), Dr. Gertrude Bäumer (Germany), Viscountess Erleigh (England), Professor Edith Abbott (U.S.A.), Dr. Rollier (Leysin, Switzerland), Miss Ruth Larned (U.S.A.), Professor Angela Borrino (Italy), Mlle. Anna Lindhagen (Sweden), Mme. Duchène (France), Mons. J. Prudhommeaux (Carnegie Foundation), and a host of others.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AND CO-OPERATION.

At Thonon, a charming little town on the French coast of Lake Geneva, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is holding a Summer School till August 28th. The subject for study is Co-operation for economic purposes and in international matters, and it is being treated on the technical side as well as from the larger standpoint of co-operation between nations. A very extensive programme has been arranged, and lecturers from all parts of the world are present.

Edouard Dujardin, of Paris, is dealing with "The Sociological Origins of Co-operation," Michel and Jeanne Alexandre and Claude Gignoux, with "The Co-operative Movement in France." James Warbasse, of New York, is telling the visitors of "Co-operation in the U.S.A., its Possibilities and Limitations," and discussing the Co-operative movement as an agent of International Peace. A very interesting day has been arranged on "Co-operation in the School," and speakers include Charles Baudouin, Alice Descœudres, of Geneva, Madame Birukof, Miss Thomas, of the Fellowship School of Gland, and Madame Poisat, of the Ecole prim. sup. de Thonon, where the sessions are being held.

The lecture on "Co-operation of Races and Nationalities," by Prof. Radl, of Prague, promises to be particularly valuable, and it is hoped that many suggestions for the solution of this problem will be made on Saturday. Wilhelm Friedmann, of Leipzig, is speaking on "Intellectual Co-operation through the Ages," and is following it with talks on "Intellectual Co-operation and Contemporary German Mentality." The Summer School will not have been in vain if it leads to a better understanding of the relations between France and Germany, and inspires members to work for a really peaceful solution to their problems.

Arnold Forster, who needs no introduction to English readers, is speaking on the "Co-operation of Nations," and a Copenhagen visitor, Anderson Nexø, will give two lectures on "Individualism and Solidarity."

The last day of the Conference will be devoted to a study of the Youth Movements of various countries. It is hoped that, in addition to all these lectures, Mr. Elmhurst will speak on "The Co-operation of East and West," and Prof. Paul Langevin on "Scientific Co-operation." Apart from this subject of Co-operation, interesting sessions on modern French and modern English poetry, and on modern French music, are being given. One evening, the choir of the Ecole prim. super. is singing Schumann's "Hymne aux Etrangers."

The beautiful surroundings of the Summer School are not being overlooked, and excursions have been arranged round the Lake, to the Vallée d'Abondance, Mt. Blanc and Chamonix.

The School has been organised by Mme. Jouve, the Secretary of the French Section of the Women's International League.

A correspondent from the Summer School writes:—"So far we have been able to stick to our programme with some minor changes. The chief interest of the gathering lies in the fact that most people here are either teachers or students who have never been in touch with an International Conference before, especially in the case of our French visitors, who mostly have never even heard of the League. Also we have a very keen group from the World League of Youth, among whom there are some most inspiring speakers, and without whose help the company would seem comparatively dead.

"We had a public meeting with Dr. Nitobi from the League of Nations, Mrs. Morgan, Gertrude Baer, and Mme. Jouve in the chair. We also had Dr. Ferriere, from the New Education League, which made our conference on Education particularly interesting."

BOOK REVIEWS.

Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the Year 1924. Price 1s. net. (Can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2.)

This report of Chief Commissioner Horwood is an exceedingly interesting one. The strength of the Uniform Branch of the Force, on 31st December, 1924, was 18,514, while 842 were employed in the Criminal Investigation Department. The establishment of the Women Police in London has been increased during the year to 50, viz.: 2 Inspectors, 5 Sergeants and 43 Constables, and the Commissioner states that this Branch of the Force has discharged its duties faithfully and discreetly; further, that the women are very earnest and zealous and their behaviour is unexceptionable. A slight increase in the number of crimes committed is recorded for 1924. Burglaries and housebreakings show very little variations, there being an increase of 2 burglaries and 20 housebreakings over the figures for 1923; there is an increase in cases of larceny and including embezzlement; a decrease in cases of obtaining goods by false pretences and of receiving stolen property; but a slight general increase in cases involving immorality is noticeable. Indecent assaults on females show an increase of 37, but a decrease of 14 cases is recorded for the offence of defilement of girls under 16 years of age. The total proceedings for simple drunkenness and drunkenness with aggravations amounted to 33,018, an increase of 35 on the figures for 1923. There were 23,512 men and 6,536 women convicted, the total convictions, 30,048, being 24 in excess of the previous year's figures. Included in this total of convictions are 530 cases of persons dealt with for drunkenness at the same time as other distinct offences. An increase is reported in the cases of drunkenness due to the drinking of methylated spirit; 55 males and 87 females, a total of 142 persons as against 100 in 1923, have been convicted. The total number of "known prostitutes" apprehended in 1924 was 1,117; the number convicted of offences actually connected with prostitution was 823, and the number discharged 249. In 1923 only 650 were apprehended, 451 being convicted and 139 discharged. In 1921, however, 2,573 were apprehended, of whom 1,946 were convicted and 551 discharged. The returns showing the number of persons killed and injured in street accidents are not pleasant reading; but it is interesting to note that during the year 66,416 umbrellas and sticks, and 96,898 miscellaneous articles, making a total of 163,314 articles, were found in public carriages and deposited in the Lost Property Office. Of this number, 64,249 have been restored to the owners. F. A. U.

The Circe of the Deserts. By Paule Henry Bordeaux. (Hurst & Blackett.) 12s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The Circe under consideration is that early feminist and remarkable woman, Lady Hester Stanhope, the niece and secretary of William Pitt, when she was the most influential woman in the country, who, after his death in 1810, went out to the East—an unaccustomed journey in those days, especially for women—and finally became a sort of queen among the Druses, in the Lebanon district. The story begins with Lady Hester's departure from England with her little entourage about her, and describes her various adventures in Spain, Greece, and Turkey, until her final arrival in Damascus. We are told of a memorable tête-à-tête supper with a grave Turkish Effendi, when the subject was ostensibly astronomy, but which no doubt afforded a magnificent opportunity, even if an indirect one, of inculcating Western ideas of sex equality; of a meeting with Byron at Athens, who found the lady too autocratic, and fled forthwith; of a shipwreck near Rhodes; of adventures among half-civilised tribes, and always of Lady Hester's imperious and eccentric domination. The story ends somewhat abruptly with the departure to England of her medical adviser, Dr. Meryon. Lady Hester herself remained in Syria until her death. D. M. N.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, September 9th, at 3.30.

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

Friday, October 9th, at 8.15.

London Members' Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Chair: Miss Anna Munro. Speakers: Dr. Knight and Miss Underwood. Subject: "What Headquarters has done since the Conference, April, 1925."

DARE TO BE FREE.

Saturday, October 10th, at 10.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Central Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, December 5th, at 10.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

August 14-28th.

Women's International League. Summer School at Thonon (Haute Savoie), France.

August 24-28th.

First General Congress of the Child, at the Electoral Palace, Geneva.

August 25th—September 8th.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford.

August 26th—September 2nd.

British Association for the Advancement of Science at Southampton. September 19-27th.

National Council of Women at Birmingham.

WOMEN'S DOINGS IN THE DAILY PAPERS.

Welsh Women and Theology.

The *British Weekly* reports that this year, for the first time, a woman student, Miss Suzannah Jane Ellis, B.A., Llanfyllin, of Bangor Congregational College, has gained the B.D. degree of the University of Wales, taking the Old Testament in Hebrew and New Testament in Greek in the subsidiary grade, and Christian Doctrine and the History of the Church in the principal grade. Miss Ellis had previously gained the B.A. degree with second class honours in history. She has been appointed on the staff of the London Missionary College in Papua, New Guinea, where she will commence duties next January. Another promising woman student, who has been accepted as ministerial student by the Welsh Congregationalists, is Miss Gwyneth Evans, B.A., of Bangor University College. Miss Evans has won the B.A. degree with second class honours in English and history, and this year gained her certificate in education, with first classes in theory of education and practical skill.

New Lyceum Club in Melbourne.

The *British Australian* reports the successful opening of the New Lyceum Club in Melbourne, which covers a whole flat in the new premises of the E.S.A. Bank Buildings, at 380, Collins Street, the plan showing commodious accommodation most deftly arranged by Mrs. Phillips, junr., an architect member of the club. The club's history reflects the greatest credit on women's management. It had a comparatively small beginning in Brunton Chambers, at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets in 1912, and, after extending there to the utmost in 1918, had to move to larger premises in the Auditorium Building. There it became so firmly established and acquired such a reputation for comfort that practically every professional woman whose qualifications permit has joined, and it is the greatest boon to University advanced students, women doctors, barristers, journalists, etc., who are engaged in the city. The club has always had an excellent committee, but the real success of the undertaking is due to the splendid management of Miss Florence Byrne. From the catering alone, every year's balance-sheet shows a large profit, and this in no way impairs the efficiency of service, which is beyond praise.

Sheffield's Women Police.

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* reports that the dispute between the City Council and the Watch Committee is to be compromised; two more policewomen are to be appointed, instead of the four originally proposed.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Back to the Land.

DEAR MADAM,—It is both amusing and pathetic to see how illogical so many women are in spite of their high education, particularly women doctors and school teachers, in their efforts to maintain by force their pre-marriage positions after marriage. If these women gave a wider consideration to the subject of work and wages generally, they could hardly fail to see that prejudice against women is really the smallest part of the trouble. The chief cause is the keen competition everywhere among the wage-earners for a livelihood, and it is this unchristian struggle in a civilised and nominally Christian land which brings to the surface all the worst instincts of the human being. There are too many people after a few jobs, because the land of our birth being held in private ownership for sport and speculation we cannot spread out in it and live and work in comfort. We are compelled to emigrate year by year in thousands, and therefore there are fewer and fewer people for the doctors to attend and fewer children for the teachers to educate and less money among the wage-earners to spend. I would say, therefore, let these educated people, instead of fighting the effects, study the cause, and help to right the national wrong by restoring the land to the people through the most effective plan of a tax on Land Values.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) ANNE MCGROUTHER.

CHILD MARRIAGES.

It is a great shock to most women to learn that (in America) the legal marriage age is twelve years for girls and fourteen for boys in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Louisiana, Virginia, Florida, Maryland, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Colorado, Idaho, Maine and Mississippi, and that marriage licenses are still being issued in large numbers to children of twelve, thirteen and fourteen.

According to a report recently published by the Russel Sage Foundation, there are 667,000 married persons in the country who were married at that age. In many States a girl can be legally married when she is too young to become a wage earner. Incidents have occasionally been made public where the truancy law has been applied to a married child, but it has not been known that the evil was of such proportions.

In most of the ninety cities visited by the representative of the Foundation it was found that children under sixteen have little difficulty in obtaining marriage licenses. Many places require only one of the two applicants for a license to apply in person, and in some places neither the bride nor groom has to appear. A parent's affidavit is the only proof of age required in most marriage license offices, yet in most States minors must present documentary proof of age in order to secure working papers, licenses to drive an automobile or permission to travel abroad.

The report urges in its programme for State legislation that the minimum marriageable age for girls should be at least sixteen, that five days' advance notice of intention to marry should be given; proof of age of applicants required, either birth or baptismal certificates or some other form of documentary evidences; that both applicants for marriage licenses should appear in person; that the different State laws should be made harmonious, and that the minimum marriageable age should not be lower than the minimum working age or the compulsory school attendance age.—*Woman Citizen.*

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