

THE VOTE,  
Nov. 9, 1923.  
ONE PENNY.

**CHILD ASSAULT.** By Frank Briant, M.P.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIV. No. 733.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 9, 1923

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

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## OUR WOMEN MAYORS.—VII.

### COUNCILLOR MRS. ALDERTON, J.P., MAYOR OF COLCHESTER.

Mrs. Alderton became a Member of the Colchester Town Council in 1918, and was elected Mayor of the Borough on November 9th, 1923. She is also a J.P., and is a member of the Colchester Education Committee, and the Higher Education Committee for the County of Essex. She is Vice-Chairman of the Women's National Liberal Federation, and was Liberal candidate for South Edinburgh in November, 1922, polling 7,200 votes.

It gives me much pleasure to write a few lines to THE VOTE, on my election as the first woman Mayor of this historic borough. Colchester is the oldest town in England, with a wonderful history dating back to the days of the Romans, and I feel that it is a great honour to have received a unanimous invitation to be its first woman Mayor.

I am not a native of Colchester, but I have lived here since my childhood. I have always taken an active part in the public life of the town, and I was co-opted as the first woman Councillor in 1917. Since then I have successfully fought two Municipal elections, on both occasions securing large majorities.

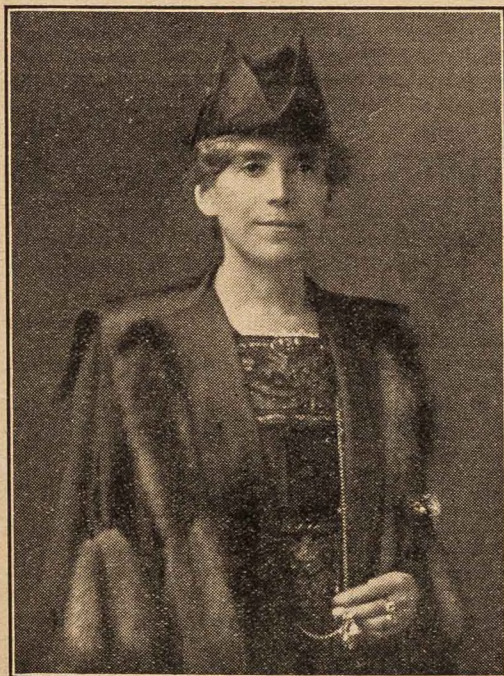
I have for many years advocated the claims of women

to be represented on all local governing bodies, and my experience on the Council has served to strengthen

my conviction of the need of women Councillors.

The Borough Councils have now to deal with such questions as Health, Education, Housing, Infant and Child Welfare; therefore, the presence of women on these Committees of the Council is essential, if the best results are to be obtained.

I shall endeavour to make the year of my Mayoralty a year of service to the town, and I shall do everything in my power to show that a woman can hold the high office of Chief



COUNCILLOR MRS. ALDERTON.

Citizen with dignity and success.

CATHERINE B. ALDERTON, Mayor of Colchester.

Other issues of this series in "The Vote":—VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christiana Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Ochapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

## WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

A meeting to discuss the subject of unemployed women, and what we should ask the Government to do for them, was held at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, on Friday evening of last week.

Miss Anna Munro, who presided, urged the great importance of the evening's discussion, and its close connection with the welfare of the State. It was a terrible position for an adult human being to be unable to find work. To-day there were hundreds of thousands walking the streets, not for months but for years, and with the present state of Europe there was very little prospect of a change. A general impression was abroad that only men were unemployed, but the Women's Freedom League had never forgotten that women also were suffering in the same way. Neither did it subscribe to the point of view that the only possible avenue for women, whether married or single, was domestic service. The League must keep its flag flying, because all sections of the community, women as well as men, were apt to forget these points.

Miss Grinter, President of the N.U.W.T., urged the necessity of making operative the Education Act of 1918, so as to relieve the distress of thousands of teachers who could not find employment. A quarter of a million girls were leaving the elementary schools annually, at 14 years of age, and plunging into the labour market, usually into blind alleys of occupation. At 14 the reason and will power of human beings were not fully developed, and the destiny of these girls was bound to be largely influenced by their surroundings, which usually consisted of cheap literature, music halls, and picture palaces. If the Act of 1918 were in operation, the Local Education authorities would have the power to raise the school-leaving age to 15 and 16, thus keeping the girls from swelling an already overcrowded labour market, and giving employment at once to many of the unemployed teachers. The Day Continuation Schools had done something in this respect, with their uniform curriculum of eight hours per week tuition. These schools, which were no longer in existence, had been partially killed by the opposition of the British Federation of Industry, composed chiefly of manufacturers and capitalists, which asserted that British industry would not be able to stand the strain of sparing these young workers for so many hours a week. We were also told this country could not afford the expense of continuation schools, in spite of the fact that 60 millions had been subscribed for the recent newspaper combine. The establishment of more Nursery Schools would also relieve the present unemployment amongst teachers, as well as being an essential factor in the early training of children in good habits. Such Schools, however, were in abeyance at present. The Education Act of 1918 had made provision for special schools for mentally defective and epileptic children, but these children were not receiving this special training. In many places they were being taught by unqualified persons. Another clause in the Act of 1918 provided for the reduction of large classes, which were a menace to Education, and resulted in loss of initiative on the part of the children, and instruction, rather than education, on the part of the teacher. This clause was also in abeyance for the time being. A recent estimate by the Minister of Education recorded that there were still 33,000 classes containing over 50 children to a class, and 5,000 classes containing over 60 children to a class. Another clause provided for the substitution of unqualified persons by fully trained teachers, but this also was inoperative, and so the Local Education authorities were allowing the unqualified persons to remain. Trained married women teachers were being dismissed in favour of cheaper unqualified persons. When the Act of 1918 was first framed, its framers realised that the then supply of teachers would be inadequate for the developments promised in the Act, and every possible inducement was held out to increase the supply of teachers, including substantial financial help by local authorities and the Government, an improved salary scale, and a non-contributory pension

scale. As a consequence of this pressure, hundreds of girls who left the training colleges in 1922 were still unemployed, and were now being increased by hundreds more who were leaving their colleges this year. There were at least 6,000 teachers to-day out of employment. The full working of the Fisher Act would relieve the unemployment, not only of teachers, but of the girls leaving the schools.

Miss Underwood said the Government had now decided to spend 50 millions for unemployed men, but nothing had been said about unemployed women. Roughly speaking, the proportion of unemployed men and boys to unemployed women and girls was four to one. If the Government were prepared to spend 50 millions, at least 10 millions of this should be allocated to women. It was estimated that there were 229,600 women out of work, and 37,500 girls. These women had less maintenance money, as compared with the men, and they did not come out into the open with bands and collecting boxes, as the men, so that their sufferings were less evident. If women were voters at the same age as men, the Government and individual Members of Parliament would manifest more eagerness to help. The only body which had really tackled the question of unemployed women was the Central Committee for the Training and Employment of Women.

Miss Nansen, who succeeded Miss Lilian Barker, Chief Woman Officer of the Central Committee, then described the work of the Central Committee from its early days in the war, when it was mainly occupied with the relief of professional women whose earning capacity had been affected by conditions arising out of the war, down to the present, when great numbers of industrial women were included in the scheme. Already, 14,000 women had received domestic training in various centres all over the United Kingdom, domestic service being the only occupation where the demand exceeded the supply. Of these, some 70 per cent. had voluntarily entered domestic service. In addition, the Committee had established 24 home-making centres in England and Scotland for women skilled in other industries, but temporarily out of work, and provided 2,500 girls with outfits for domestic service.

The following Resolution, put from the Chair at the close of the meeting, was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting of the Women's Freedom League calls upon the Government to expend the same amount of public money upon providing work for unemployed women, in proportion to their numbers, as for unemployed men; and, as immediate initial steps, at once to make fully operative the Education Act of 1918, and to make an adequate grant to the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment for an extension of its Home Crafts and Home Makers Schemes."

### Eighth Report of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

This is a valuable Report of the work done by the British Branch of the International Abolitionist Association from April 1st, 1922, to March 31st, 1923. During the year, the Association has worked with other societies for an amendment of the Criminal Law. In our view, the Criminal Law still needs further amendment, and the Women's Freedom League will not be content until the age of consent for girls is raised to eighteen years, with a similar protection for boys. We also wish to see repealed the "reasonable cause" plea for a first offence by a man under 23 years of age. Good work has been done by the Association in pressing that the setting up of Ablution Centres by municipal authorities is undesirable from the moral, and of little or no benefit from the medical, point of view; in opposing compulsory notification in regard to venereal diseases; and in the Association's campaign for the repeal of the Solicitation Laws. The Association works steadily for the recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women, and their equal treatment in the case of sex offences.

## THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at the Women's Freedom League offices on Saturday, November 3rd, those present being Miss Berry, Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Holmes, Dr. Knight, Miss Anna Munro, and the Secretary. Miss Munro was voted to the Chair, and the Committee sent unanimous messages of deep sympathy with Miss Alix M. Clark and with Mrs. Pierotti in their illness, and expressed the hope that they would have an early recovery to health and strength. A message of warm congratulation was sent to Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., on her election to the Middlesbrough Town Council. Mrs. Coates secured 1,791 votes, and her opponent 1,530. Letters apologising for their inability to be present at this meeting were received from Mrs. Legge, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Miss Van Raalte, and Mrs. Whetton.

Resolutions urging the British Government in future to send women as fully accredited Government delegates to the League of Nations Assembly, and to the International Labour Conference, and calling for the abolition of all State Regulation of prostitution, were sent for the Agenda of the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to be held in London on Friday, December 7th. A resolution calling upon the Government to expend the same amount of public money upon providing work for unemployed women, in proportion to their numbers, as for unemployed men, and, as immediate initial steps, at once to make fully operative the Education Act of 1918, and to make an adequate grant to the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment for an extension of its Home Crafts and Home Makers' Schemes, was sent for the Agenda of the Consultative Committee, which met last Thursday. The Committee also agreed to support the following resolution, which is to be moved at the meeting organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, November 12th, at 8 p.m.:—"That this meeting of men and women, including representatives of women's organisations, calls upon the National Assembly to revise the Marriage Service of the Established Church of England, in accordance with the principle implicit in the teaching of the Gospels, based on equality of position and obligation between husband and wife."

Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Legge were appointed to represent the Women's Freedom League at a Conference on the Separate Taxation of Married Persons, to be held in London on November 12th. The Committee sent its cordial thanks to Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., and to Dr. Octavia Lewin, for attending the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, held last month in Edinburgh, and for so kindly speaking at meetings arranged by our Scottish Branches during their stay in Scotland.

Excellent reports of work done and arranged for in the near future by our Glasgow, Hampstead, Portsmouth, and Wallasey Branches were considered by the Committee, as well as work in Bournemouth and Teddington. Reports were also considered from our organisers—Miss White, of work in Ashford, Bexhill, Hastings, and Rye—and from Mrs. du Plerigny, of work in Brighton and Birmingham.

With regard to political work, since the last meeting of the Committee, in September, the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Labour had on two separate occasions been reminded of the urgent necessity of providing work for unemployed women, as well as for unemployed men. All the delegates to the Imperial Conference, the Home Secretary, and the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, had been written to, urging the consideration of our views concerning the nationality of married women, and very friendly and sympathetic replies had been received from most of the delegates. A good deal of correspondence was reported with the Ministry of Health, the Hammersmith Board

of Guardians, and various other Boards of Guardians, in regard to the necessity for a full Inquiry to be held into the treatment accorded to the child who died of meningitis in Downs Hospital, Banstead, and the charges made by nurses against Dr. Alix Churchill, the Assistant Medical Officer. Correspondence was also reported with the Home Secretary regarding the recent Peterborough Prison Accommodation scandals. The Committee recommended that questions should be asked on this subject in Parliament.

The Committee decided that the next Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League should be held on Saturday, April 5th; and that the dates of future Executive Committee Meetings should be Saturday, January 19th, Saturday, March 1st, and Friday, April 4th.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

Over one hundred women candidates took part in the recent Town Council Elections, on November 1st, thirty-six of whom stood for re-election. The full results are not yet to hand, but, up to the time of going to press, we learn that the following women have been successful:—

Middlesbrough—Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., and Mrs. Coates Hansen.  
Huddersfield—Mrs. Blamires.  
Chorley—Mrs. B. Gillet.  
Wigan—Mrs. McAvoy.  
St. Helens—Miss Pilkington (re-elected) and Mrs. McCormick.  
Whitehaven—Mrs. Caroline Hilder.  
Birmingham—Mrs. Lloyd Wilson.  
Babbacombe (Torquay)—Mrs. E. F. Wrey,  
Croydon—Mrs. Duncan Harris.  
Hornsey—Mrs. K. H. Ray.  
Liverpool—2 women, including the Lady Mayoress.  
Richmond—1 woman.  
Southampton—2 women.  
Stockport—2 women.  
Leigh (Southend)—Mrs. Hawken.  
We greatly regret that Mrs. Clark (Southchurch) and Mrs. Poole (Portsmouth) failed to secure election. They put up a gallant fight for this first contest, and we hope they will succeed on the next occasion.

## MORE WOMEN BARRISTERS.

Nineteen women were successful in the recent Michaelmas Bar Examinations. Five women were successful in Roman Law: Miss Doris Evans Pickering (Middle Temple), who gained a First Class; Miss Dorothy Scott Stokes (Gray's Inn), who gained a Second Class; and the Misses Constance Colwill (Gray's Inn), Mary Frances Macnaghten (Lincoln's Inn), and Doris Tempest (Middle Temple). Six women were successful in Constitutional Law and Legal History: Baroness Clifton (Lincoln's Inn) and Miss Emily Phipps (Middle Temple), who gained Second Classes, and the Misses Mildred Carrothers and Ida Mary Southwell (Middle Temple), Dorothy Evans (Inner Temple), and Venetia Stephenson (Gray's Inn). Three women were successful in Criminal Law and Procedure: Baroness Clifton and Miss Mildred Carrothers, who gained First Classes, and Miss Marion Billson (Inner Temple). Seven women were successful in Real Property and Conveyancing: Miss Marion Billson and Miss Kathleen Sissmore (Gray's Inn), who gained First Classes, Miss Mildred Carrothers, Miss Dorothy Jeffery, and Miss Jessie Wall (Gray's Inn), who gained Second Classes, and Miss Constance Colwill. Two women were successful in the Final Examination: Miss Kathleen Snell (Lincoln's Inn), who obtained a Certificate of Honour in the First Class, and Miss Edith Morrison (Gray's Inn). This brings the total of women called to the Bar, or qualified for Call, to 29.

## THE VOTE.

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 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1923.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
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 To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
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### EDITORIAL.

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

### PARLIAMENT AND OURSELVES.

Before the next issue of THE VOTE, Parliament will have reassembled. There is little room for optimism either in our relations with foreign powers, or in regard to the increasingly serious problem of unemployment in this country. We are assured on all hands that the Government plans for coping with this problem will hardly touch its fringe. We know for a certainty that the women and girls, who, roughly speaking, number one-fifth of the total number of unemployed persons in this land, are not mentioned in those plans; and we maintain, with fervent conviction, that it would not surpass the wit of politicians to devise schemes of work for unemployed women, if all women at 21 years of age had the Parliamentary vote on equal terms with men; for it is the women between the ages of 21 and 30 who so largely swell the army of unemployed women. It is our clear duty, therefore, to work as we have never worked before for the political enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men. The Women's Freedom League demands the political and economic equality of women and men. It was never more necessary than in this present time of economic distress to press for equal opportunities and equal pay for equal work for men and women. On more than one occasion the House of Commons has overwhelmingly declared itself to be in favour of this equality in the Civil Service; but quite recently the Anderson Report has been issued, coolly pointing out to the Government that, because women are underpaid in other spheres of life, it would be to the Government's advantage, by effecting some economy, if women in the Civil Service were paid even less than they are at present. More recently still, the President of the Board of Education has been suggesting that it might be appropriate if there was an even greater differentiation than now prevails in the salaries of men and women teachers! The Government has already succeeded in vastly increasing unemployment amongst men and women by its refusal to put the 1918 Education Act into operation; and if it cannot think of any other means of saving our country from bankruptcy than that of economising at the expense of its women and children, we can only say that this Government is not worth preserving, and must give place to another set of people who have a better sense of proportion. Meanwhile we are threatened with another General Election in the New Year. Writers in the newspaper Press tell us that the great question before the country will be Tariff Reform or Free Trade, or, as others describe it, Protection or No Protection. These same writers are also expending much ink in telling the community that, because women have a certain kind of mentality, they will all most certainly vote for Protection; others, on the other hand, being equally ill-informed, are busy saying that women, for various reasons, will all most surely vote against Protection. We ourselves are inclined to say, "A plague on both your Houses!" What the Women's Freedom League demands, and is determined to secure, is, first and foremost, political and economic equality with the men of this country. Not until then will they have any real interest in the fiscal problems, the solution of which men now consider as their own monopoly.

### WOMEN WITH FAMILIES TO SUPPORT.

We have heard a good deal about the dismissal of women in this country from their positions as doctors, teachers, etc., because they had husbands who could support them, so that it is interesting to note that the Report issued under the title, "The Share of Wage-Earning Women in Family Support," by the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, finds that "Contributing all earnings to the family fund is a very general practice among wage-earning women." It is also worth recording that this Report concludes thus:—"Although their findings cannot be considered to be final, in all of these reports one conclusion is inescapable. It is that, in general, women are wage-earners not only for their own entire support, but to meet a very definite responsibility as sharers in the support of others, or the maintenance of higher standards of living in their families. The burden of responsibility assumed by women is very different from that of men. It is older people who look to women for assistance and support, and usually there is no alternative for the wage-earning woman who falls heir to responsibilities not of her own choosing. On the other hand, the man is usually responsible for a young and rising generation, whose support he has undertaken deliberately, and whose burden becomes lighter as the years advance. These differences are natural and unavoidable, but they emphasise the necessity for a clearer understanding and a more equitable valuation of the wage-earning woman as an economic factor in the family."

It was found that every one of the married women interviewed by the compilers of this Report contributed all her earnings to her family; but the wages of men and women were not comparable in any way. The Report says that the great discrepancy in their earnings was not due to more irregularity at work on the part of the women than on the part of the men, for very much the same differences were found for men and women who had worked the year through, and that the difference in earnings, therefore, seemed "to be one for which allowance must be made for every type of man and woman. Whether they are old or young, experienced or inexperienced, steady or intermittent workers, the women earn less than the men."

### EMPTY PRISONS BEST!

Happily, Judges and Home Secretaries are acquiring a little wisdom as civilisation advances. Learning that a man who came before him for stealing goods worth half a crown had, as a first offender in 1864, been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for a robbery in a dwelling-house, that in 1870 he had another term of ten years, and in 1882 one of twelve years, Sir David Burnett, at the Mansion House last week, said that no Judge nowadays would give a man seven years for a first offence. By that savage sentence, the defendant, then a young man, had been made a criminal for life, and had spent all his days in prison.

Quite recently, at a meeting of the Magistrates' Association, Sir Robert Wallace, Chairman of the London Sessions, said, "What we aim at, as far as possible, consistently with the safety of the State, is to keep persons out of prison, rather than try to improve them when they have been destroyed by prison life. Out of every 100 persons bound over at the London Sessions, 95 per cent. had never returned to criminal life. During the first year which followed the passing of the Probation Act, crime had, according to official reports, diminished by some 30 per cent."

Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the London Police Court Mission, last week, the Home Secretary said that, whatever difference in opinion there might be in regard to the treatment of hardened criminals, there could be no two opinions as to the desirability of preventing people becoming criminals, and of helping them if they fell. He added that it seemed remarkable, at a time like this, when there was so much unemployment and distress, that our prisons, especially those for women, should be as empty as they were.

## CHILD ASSAULT.

By FRANK BRIANT, M.P.

The published statistics of charges and convictions for assaults on children are a horrible revelation of loathsome crime. It is feared, however, that these but inadequately show the actual number of offences committed. For many reasons, in a large proportion of cases no charge is made. There is the difficulty of identification, the usual absence of witnesses, and also the reluctance of parents even to attempt prosecution, through the fear that this might still further impress the victims' minds with the shocking experiences they have endured.

However wisely the law may be strengthened, the most lamentable feature of the prosecutions is that, in so many cases, the Justices appear but little to appreciate the enormity of the offences. The number of cases of proven guilt in which comparatively light penalties are inflicted is lamentable and deplorable. In a recent case a man of 63, having admitted that he had indecently assaulted a child of eight, was only fined £5. The contrast between this and another case which came before the Bench is remarkable. A young man who pleaded guilty to stealing two fowls for his wife and child was sent to prison for a month. In another case (before different Justices), a man was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for an assault on a child of six. In three more cases of assaults on children of ten, nine, and seven years of age, the penalties were fines of £3, £5, and, in the last case, the man was bound over! Many similar cases could be given, and they are a revelation of how lightly this most abominable crime of which a man can be guilty is regarded by some who are supposed to administer justice. A further indication of the attitude which is adopted towards offences of this character has just been provided me in the case of a charge, against a man, of assault on a little girl of thirteen and a half, who has since given birth to a child. When the police prosecuted, no solicitor or counsel was engaged, and in consequence much important evidence was not properly laid before the Bench. The man was found not guilty. There is

little doubt that a large mass of the general public has little idea of the extent of these horrible crimes, and few care to make the facts known. It was noticeable that, when I had the opportunity of compelling the House of Commons to listen to the facts, no other Members except Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham spoke on the subject, and, had it not been for their splendid courage, nothing more would have been said. Much might be done by protest meetings in the districts where such shamefully inadequate sentences are imposed, so that those responsible might realise that there is a moral indignation at the travesty of justice which is familiar in some courts. Personally, I wish that the initiative in such protests should be made by men, for the honour of my sex. At least the Churches might speak out.

There is possibly much truth in the assertion that many of the crimes are committed by men of abnormal minds. This, however, does not justify the State in allowing these degenerates to be free again to inflict irreparable injury on innocent children. Whether morally guilty or innocent, their freedom is a menace to the world, and I would rather have a homicidal maniac loose with all the risks, than allow these men to have liberty to injure the children who cannot protect themselves. Those who are most acquainted with the facts are naturally unwilling to speak on such a horrible topic; but I believe the time has come when decent-minded people can no longer shut their eyes to the moral crucifixion of little children.

It is disquieting that, with the honourable exception of *The Times*, only papers primarily concerned with the interests of women will speak out on this subject. But why only women's papers? The Press can find room for reports of cases which afford much more food for prurient minds than those affecting children, which can only excite disgust in any but the worst degenerates. Of this I am sure, that even twenty women in the House of Commons would create a more healthy spirit of indignation.

## PRESENT-DAY MARRIAGE.

By E. LOUIE ACRES.

That the modern woman of to-day should concern herself with the word "obey" in the Marriage Service seems to many—especially to non-churchwomen—a sheer waste of time. To those, however, who realise that the attitude of the Church on this matter is reflected in our national life, the matter is urgent. That women of the twentieth century should be called upon to give an unqualified vow of obedience seems to them to be an insult, not only to themselves but to their husbands, for no Christian gentleman would dream of issuing orders to his wife. We are told that it is just those women who refuse to say the word "obey" who are most in need of the discipline which such a vow would bring into their lives. Those who argue this, fail to see that the men of to-day, with a materialistic outlook, are also in need of discipline in order that they shall realise that physical force and domination are things which belong to a passing phase of the world's development.

Other anomalies that call for attention are: the giving away of the bride, which is no doubt a relic of

the days when a woman was handed from the *manus* of her father to that of her husband; the vow of the husband to endow his wife with all his worldly goods, which is not true in theory, or carried out in practice.

In the Anglican Marriage Service the congregation is invited to pray that the wife may be loving, faithful, and amiable to her husband. A similar petition is not offered on behalf of the husband. This, although apparently a small matter, has really a far-reaching effect on the thought of those concerned. It almost seems as though the single standard is in danger here, for there are many to-day who still feel that an act of infidelity may be condoned in a husband, but unreservedly condemned in a wife! We desire to see the single standard upheld by the Church. We feel that the vows should be the same for both man and woman; that the wording of the Marriage Service, where obsolete or crude, should be revised, so that on the occasion of the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony, no word should be heard from priest or the betrothed pair that does not bear God's hall-mark of truth and reality.



FRIDAY,  
NOV. 9,  
1923.

# THE VOTE

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## NOTICES.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 11th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "The Armistice: Past and Future."

## MISCELLANEOUS.

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