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

CHILD ASSAULT. By Frank Briant, M.P.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAG THE ORGAN OF

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FRIDAY, Nov. 9, 1923

my conviction of the need

The Borough Councils have now to deal with such

questions as Health, Edu-

cation, 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

I shall endeayour 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

of women Councillors.

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 wellbeing of the community.

CONTENTS. PRINCIPAL

OUR WOMEN MAYORS.-VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester. WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

PARLIAMENT AND OURSELVES. CHILD ASSAULT. By Frank Briant, M.P. PRESENT-DAY MARRIAGE. By E. Louie Acres. GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR

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 to be represented on all local governing bodies, and THE VOTE, on my election as the first woman Mayor of my experience on the Council has served to strengthen

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. 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

COUNCILLOR MRS. ALDERTON.

occasions securing large majorities.

Citizen with dignity and success.

I have for many years advocated the claims of women

CATHERINE B. ALDERTON, Mayor of Colchester.

obtained.

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 Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922,

UNEMPLOYMENT. WOMEN AND

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 treatment in the case of sex offences,

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

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

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. . , of Guardians, and various other Boards of Guardians,

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 Ted-Reports were also considered from our organisers-Miss White, of work in Ashford, Bexhill, Hastings, and Rye-and from Mrs. du Plergny, 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 to 29.

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-I 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 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,

THE VOTE.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders,

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London." Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

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 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 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 illinformed, 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 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

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.

ASSAULT. CHILD

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.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1923.

However wisely the law may be strenghened, 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 the Bench. The man was found not guilty. There is spirit of indignation.

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 degenesolicitor or counsel was engaged, and in consequence rates. Of this I am sure, that even twenty women in much important evidence was not properly laid before the House of Commons would create a more healthy

PRESENT-DAY MARRIAGE.

By E. LOUIE ACRES.

herself with the word "obey" in the Marriage Service of her father to that of her husband; the vow of the seems to many—especially to non-churchwomen—a husband to endow his wife with all his worldly goods, sheer waste of time. To those, however, who realise which is not true in theory, or carried out in practice. that the attitude of the Church on this matter is reto be an insult, not only to themselves but to their those women who refuse to say the word "obey" who are things which belong to a passing phase of the world's development.

giving away of the bride, which is no doubt a relic of bear God's hall-mark of truth and reality.

That the modern woman of to-day should concern the days when a woman was handed from the manus

In the Anglican Marriage Service the congregation flected in our national life, the matter is urgent. That is invited to pray that the wife may be loving, faithful, women of the twentieth century should be called upon and amiable to her husband. A similar petition is not to give an unqualified vow of obedience seems to them offered on behalf of the husband. This, although apparently a small matter, has really a far-reaching husbands, for no Christian gentleman would dream of effect on the thought of those concerned. It almost issuing orders to his wife. We are told that it is just seems as though the single standard is in danger here, for there are many to-day who still feel that an act of are most in need of the discipline which such a vow infidelity may be condoned in a husband, but unreservwould bring into their lives. Those who argue this, fail edly condemned in a wife! We desire to see the single to see that the men of to-day, with a materialistic standard upheld by the Church. We feel that the vows outlook, are also in need of discipline in order that should be the same for both man and woman; that the they shall realise that physical force and domination 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 Other anomalies that call for attention are: the heard from priest or the betrothed pair that does not

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

held on Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened on Friday, November 23rd, at 3.30 p.m., by The Lady Amherst of Hackney, and on Saturday, November 24th, at 3.30 p.m., by Miss Lilian Barker. The Fair will be open from 3 to 9 p.m. The Chair will be taken on the Friday by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., and on Saturday by Dr.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

The Stalls at present arranged for the League are :-Hampstead Branch.-Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White

Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Vibert, and Mrs. Harvey James.

Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix M. Clark and Members.

Portsmouth Branch.—Household. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs.

South-Eastern Branches.-General Stall, Miss White and

the Misses Stone.

Scotch Branches (Edinburgh and Glasgow).—Woollies.

Miss Murro, Miss Eva Murro, and Miss Steven.

General Stall.—Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Furbank,
and Mrs. Lloyd.

Overalls and Aprons.—Mrs. Mustard, The Misses Underwood, Mrs. Bayne, and Miss Brewer.

Pound Stall.—Miss Merridith and The Misses Stutchbury.

Stationery Stall.—Mrs. Preece, Mrs. Armey, and Miss Thomas. Toy Stall .- Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Shore, Mrs. Mocock, and

Mrs. Sadd Brown.
te Stall.—Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Catmur, and Mrs.
Trafford Williams.

Hygiene Stall.—Dr. Octavia Lewin. Literature Stall.—Miss Telling, Miss Kirby, Miss Branson, and Mrs. Aucott.
"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Evans,
Mrs. Newsome, Miss Reeves, and Mrs. Hanscomb.

PLEASE HELP!

There are now only a few weeks left before the Fair, and there is still much to be done if the 1923 Fair is to be a greater success than previous ones. Members and friends are asked to do their utmost in the short time left, to provide gifts for the various stalls. Those requiring the most help are: Household.—Any article useful in the house will be welcome at this stall, such as pudding cloths, pudding basins (ready for the Christmas puddings), pots, pans, brushes, soap, dusters, teacloths, etc. Many woolly articles are required for the Scotch Stall, namely, jumpers, children's frocks, babies' vests, bed-socks, bed-shoes, etc. Pinafores, overalls, and aprons are much needed, and always sell well. Those who have not time to make any gifts for the Fair are asked to remember the Pound Stall; currants, raisins, sugar, rice, packets of suet, sweets, jam, tea, coffee, etc., are required. Handkerchiefs, antiques, and "white elephants" are much needed at the Hampstead Stall; and, above all, underclothing is required for the White Stall. All sorts of gifts are wanted for the General Stall; and dolls, puzzles, balls, bricks, etc., for the Toy Stall. Gifts of pens, paints, pencils, boxes of paper, postcards, etc., will be very useful, and are much needed at the Stationery Stall.

DOLLS.

Some beautiful Japanese dolls have been artistically dressed by one of our members, living in Yokohama. Members and friends anxious to purchase these charming dolls should write at once to the Hon. Fair Secretary.

PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

Messrs. Weldon and Co., 30-32, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.2, have offered a prize of Two Guineas for the best Camisole made from one of their Patterns, and competitors may use any materials they wish. A label bearing the number of Messrs. Weldon's Pattern, also the name and address of the competitor, must be firmly sewn to the Camisole.

Messrs. Hawes Brothers, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.11, have also offered a prize of

The Annual Green, White, and Gold Fair will be a handsome Leather Handbag (fitted) for the best eld on Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, Jumper in knitting or crochet, made with their artificial The competitors may use any quality of Messrs. Hawes Bros.' artificial silk they like. A label bearing the name and address of the competitor, also the receipted bill of Messrs. Hawes Bros. for the artificial silk, must be firmly sewn to the Jumper.

Both competitions are open to members and nonmembers. The entrance fee for these competitions will be 6d. All Camisoles and Jumpers sent in for competition will be sold afterwards for the good of the cause.

All exhibits for Competitions should be addressed to the Hon. Fair Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, and sent not later than November 15th.

The part of the Hall reserved for the Competitions will be decorated to represent "A Corner of Old Bagdad," with all the magic and wonders of the East. Members and friends must make a special effort to visit this part of the Fair.

The Competitions and Games will be under the direction of Miss Dickeson and Mrs. Whitley, and other members of the Golders Green Branch.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Entertainments will be varied and attractive, and will include Readings by Henrietta Leslie and Mr. F. W. Soutter; Recitations by Miss Bessie Broomhall, Miss Jacob, and Mrs. Harvey James; Songs by Miss Mary Baker, Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Stella Godwin, Miss Freda Thomas, Mr. Frank Legge, Miss Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, and Mr. Frost; Piano Solos by Mrs. Van Raalte, Mrs. Rush and Mr. P. A. Hurren. The Concerts will be given at intervals, and will be under the direction of Mrs. Legge. Character Readings will be given by Mrs. Grace Goodall and Mrs. Spon, and Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons and Mr. S. W.

The Teas, Suppers, and Refreshments will be served at moderate prices, and have been undertaken by Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Pierotti, and the staff of the Minerva Café.

SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency. The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. The League of the Church Militant. The Friends Relief. The Friends of Armenia. The Food Education Society. St. Dunstan's. The Montessori Society. The British Esperanto Association.
The Stonehenge Woollen Industry.
The Nine Elms Settlement. Miss Burwood (Beads).
Madame Buie (Egyptian Industries). Minnie Culverwell (Handicrafts).
Miss Ramsey (Roumanian Goods).
Miss Phyllis Mott (East European Agency). The Misses Shuffrey (Ymagynatyf Pottery).
Miss Nettleton (Association for the Deaf and Dumb).

All communications should be sent to Miss ELIZABETH BERRY (Hon. Fair Sec.), at this Office.

Tickets, including tax, price 2/6 the first day until 5 o'clock; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, price 1/3,

THE VOTE STALL.

PLEASE HELP!

Will every Reader kindly promise a Contribution?

Donations or Saleable Articles of every description will be welcomed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1923.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, November 12th, at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn,

W.C.1.

Monday, November 12th, at 8 p.m.

Teddington. Adult School Hall, Clarence Road.
Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject:
"Training for Citizenship." Chairman: Miss Underwood.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

F. A. Underwood.

Wednesday, November 21st, at 7 p.m. MidLondon Branch. Public Meeting, Minerva
Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, Subject:
"The Present Policy of the Ministry of
Health with regard to Infectious Diseases." Speaker: Miss Loat.

Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th. Central

Hall, Westminster, Green, White, and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3.30, by The Lady Amherst of Hackney, and on Saturday, at 3.30, by Miss Lilian Barker,

Monday, December 10th, at 3 pm. "Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, November 16th, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow. Religious Institute Rooms, Buchanan Street. Speaker: Miss K. B. Cameron, ex-Sec. Scottish Small Holders' Association. Subject Land Ouestion." Friends cordially invited.

PROVINCES.

FROUNGES.

Friday, November 9th, at 7.30 p.m. South Bank. National Union of Teachers (North Cleveland Teachers' Association). Public Meeting. Speaker: Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Wednesday, November 28th, at 8 p.m. Brighton. A meeting will be held in Hove Town Hall (Banqueting Hall). Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Chairman: Miss Hare.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, November 9th, at 3 p.m. Women's Demonstration on Unemployment, under the auspices of the Women's Advisory Committee of the London Labour Party, at King George's Hall (Y.M.C.A.), Tottenham Court Road. Speakers: Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Dr. Marion Phillips, J.P., and Councillor Mrs. Ada Salter, J.P. (Mayor of Bermondsey).

Tuesday, November 20th, at 7.30 p.m. North Ormesby. Parish Church. Women's Fellowship. Speaker: Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Sunday, December 2nd, at 6.30 p.m. Kingston Church of Humanity, Orchard Road. Speaker: Mr. William Platt (author of "The Joy of Education.") Subject: "Simplicity and Sincerity in Music." Chairman: Miss F.A. Underwood.

Annual Conference.

1924.

Saturday, April 5th. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth

BRANCH NOTES.

Mrs. Nevinson gave a capital address on "The Need for more Women Magistrates," at Glyne Hall, last Thursday. Bexhill must wake up and get some women on the Bench as soon as possible. We are arranging a Members' Meeting shortly, to discuss how this is to be done. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Ames and Miss Thornton as new members. HASTINGS.

A successful meeting was held at Glenroyde Hotel on Thursday, War?" Mrs. Nevinson gave an address on "Can Women stop War?" Mrs. Strickland presided. New members were made.

A Committee Meeting will be held shortly to discuss if an Entertainment can be managed before Christmas. Funds are low, and we must have money to carry on our work

nd we must have money to carry on our work.
(Organiser) Miss M. L. White, 8, Holmdale Gardens, Hastings.

A Bazaar, Social, and Whist Drive will be held at the St. Peter's Memorial Hall, Church Street, on Thursday, November 15th, and will be opened at 3 p.m. by Alderman J. W. Lilley, J.P. The Chair will be taken by Sister Hilda. Miss Morton, M.B.E., will speak upon "Proportional Representation: How to make Parliament represent us all." Proceeds in aid of the General and Relief Fund.

Glasgow members and friends might please send their contribu-tions for the Fair to Miss MacDougall, West End College, Peel Street, Partick. Special appeal for woollen goods. Anything

KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, W.C.

A MEETING ORGANISED BY THE SIX POINT GROUP WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, at 8 p.m.,

CHILD ASSAULT.

Speakers—
The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mr. Cecil Chapman, Staff-Captain Gill (Salvation Army), Miss Ada Moore, Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. Chair: The Viscountess Rhondda,
Tickets 5/-, 2/6, 1/-, and a limited number of free tickets to be obtained from the Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Unemployment Totals.

According to *The Times*, the number of persons on October 29th, 1923, recorded on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,256,000. The total included 943,200 men, 41,500 boys, 233,800 women, and 37,500 girls.

Generous Gift for Girls' School.

Mr. T. R. Ferens has increased a gift of £20,000 to the Farrington Girls' School, Chislehurst, by £10,000, in order that an extension scheme may be carried out immediately. The governors have accepted a tender for the erection of an assembly hall, a block of classrooms, and the West House, at a cost of

Matrimonial Causes Act.

The first case under the new Act came before the High Court of Justice last Monday. The President said, "What the new Act has done is, in a multitude of cases, to relieve a wife of what was a just cause of complaint—the cost and trouble of superfluous proceedings. Before the new Act, the wife had to proceed by a double suit. There will be a decree nisi, with costs and custody."

Lady Astor's Act.

Last week the first prosecutions under this Act were taken at Atherstone, when several youths were summoned for representing themselves to be 18 for the purpose of obtaining intoxicants for consumption on licensed premises. Their age was 17, and they admitted telling the landlord falsehoods to get drink. They were each fined 5s., with costs.

Business Woman.

A costumier stated in Westminster County Court last week: "I have no faith in my husband's business capacity, so I never allow him to take any part in my affairs."

TEDDINGTON PUBLIC MEETING.

We hope very shortly to establish our Thames Valley Branch. We hope very shortly to establish our Thames Valley Branch. In the meantime, we cordially invite all members and friends anywhere in or near this district to come and bring their friends to our Public Meeting in the Adult School Hall, Clarence Road, Teddington (a few minutes only from Teddington Station, on the side on which trains come in from Kingston), on Monday, November 12th, at 8 p.m., when Dr. Octavia Lewin will speak on "The Teaching of Citizenship." Teachers (men and women) are asked to come and take part in the discussion following the address, in which Dr. Lewin will discuss "How and why children and young people should be taught to take care of themselves and their own personal health." Anyone willing to distribute or send away handbills of this meeting should at once apply to Miss Underwood, 26, Ccdar Road, Teddington.

APRONS AND OVERALLS STALL.

Mrs. Mustard cordially thanks Mrs. Wales (Margate) for contributions to this stall; Miss Underwood warmly thanks Mr. Bacon for his kind donation, the Misses Stone (Basingstoke) for their delightful parcel of children's garments, and Miss Dora Underwood (Birmingham) for dainty white muslin aprons. Other donations and gifts for this stall will be gratefully acknowledged by any of the stall holders. any of the stall-holders.

MEETING ON CHILD ASSAULT.

The Six Point Group is organising a Public Meeting at Kingsway Hall, W.C., on Wednesday, November 14th, at 8 p.m., to deal with the subject of Child Assault. The speakers will be The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mr. Cecil Chapman, Staff-Captain Gill (Salvation Army), Miss Ada Moore, and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., the Chair being taken by The Viscountess Rhondda. Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s.

RECIPROCAL VOWS IN THE MARRIAGE SERVICE.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is organising a Demonstration on the above subject in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, November 12th, at 8 p.m., the speakers being Lady Selborne, Miss Maude Royden, Lady Barrett, and Canon Hay Aitkin. Admission is free, but reserved seats can be obtained for 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. The meeting is being held at the same time as the National Assembly, in order that the attention of delegates to the Assembly should be called to it. As the Church of England is the National Church in England, it is felt by the promoters of the meeting that the removal from its marriage service of inequalities between the sexes is a reform of considerable interest, not only to members of the Church of England, but also The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is organi only to members of the Church of England, but also

NTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1. Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s.; Irish, Scottish and Foreign Members, 10/6. No Entrance Fee till January 1st, 1924. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary. Tel.; Mayfair 3932.

FRIDAY. NOV. 9. 1923.

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May Whitty, Enriqueta Crichton, Jane
Duff. Special Ballroom classes, Marie
L.rle, Fridays, 8 p.m.

NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES. FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.
Sunday, November 11th. 3.30. Music,
Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30.
Miss Maude Royden. "The Armistice:
Past and Enture." Past and Future

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paid. Apply Box 123.

WIRELESS. B B.C. Set, excellent condition, cost £5 5s., would sell for £3. Owner has two, disposing of one because of tax. Bargain. Box 456, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PERMANENT Hair-Waving Apparatus.
For Home use. Compact and easy to manipulate. Price paid £4 10s. (receipt shown). Used three times with excellent results. Would accept £2 2s. Box 789, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

M ISS NICHOLAS, ex-Transport Driver, R.A.F. Landaulette Car for hire. Tel. Hampstead 8341. Private address: 3, Christchurch Road, Hampstead.

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HRISTMAS in Lakeland.—Mild and beautiful. Rambling, climbing, foxhunting on foot.—Victoria Family Hotel, Buttermere, £3 3s. weekly; £10 monthly. Book early. Cheerful party expected. (No licence).

TWO women require board residence in Chelsea for week or ten days from December 27th. Pirie, 48, Middle Street,

ITERARY Society having good first floor front room in square in Bloomsbury, wishes to sub-let for part time. Available daily—morning, possibly some afternoons. Apply A. B. C., 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FURNISHED Cottage. For Winter, 23/- weekly. Two Ladies only. No children or animals. CLEAVE, Hyde Heath, Amersham (3 miles), Bucks.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12. Cavendish Discourse at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance pro tem. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

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Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name.

Address

I enclose f.

d. as my first Annual Subscription. Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.