

THE VOTE.  
NOVEMBER 23, 1917  
ONE PENNY.

## The Nationality of Married Women.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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

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## 1907-1917.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, November 26.—Drawing Room Meeting at 33, Ardleigh-road, N. (Bus 38 passes the door), by kind permission of Mrs. Stebbing, at 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, on "The Representation of the People Bill."  
Wednesday, November 28.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. J. J. Mallon, on "The State as Merchant," and Miss Boyle. Chairman: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café if required.

Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 2 p.m.—9 p.m. To be opened on first day by Miss Lillah McCarthy—on second day by Miss Eva Moore. Come and buy your Christmas Presents—all kinds of useful and fancy articles. Admission, 1s. before 5 p.m. on Friday, after 5, 6d. Saturday, 6d. all day. Tickets from W.F.L. Office.

Saturday, December 1.—Jumble Sale, The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1, 3-4 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh, on "Are we Civilised? If not, Why not?" Chair: Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café if required.

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, November 26.—Middlesbrough, Business Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28.—Newcastle, Branch Meeting, by kind permission of Mrs. Anderson, at 129, Sandringham-road, South Gosforth, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Ada Broughton. Subject: "The Protective Spirit—Discipline versus Liberty."

Monday, December 3.—Middlesbrough, Meeting at Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Miss C. M. Ellis, on "Women's Wages."

Wednesday, December 5.—Portsmouth, Public Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Rev. G. W. Thompson. Business meeting, 4.15 p.m.

#### We draw special attention to

Wednesday, November 28.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. J. J. Mallon, on "The State as Merchant," and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, November 26.—Home Workers' League, Oxford House, Maple-street, Bethnal Green, 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Sunday, December 16.—Kingston Humanitarian Society, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Miss Dorothy Evans on "The Male State versus Mother-Father Commonwealth."

#### POLITICAL NOTES.

##### The People's Bill.

Sir George Cave received at the Home Office a deputation from the Labour Party, the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, and numerous other women's organisations in support of the amendment to be moved to the Representation of the People Bill extending the Local Government franchise to the wives of men on the Local Government Register. Mr. Adamson, M.P., Chairman of the Labour Party, introduced the deputation on behalf of the Labour Party; Dr. Marion Phillips acted as spokesman for the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, and Mrs. Henry Fawcett (President) for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The Home Secretary, who was accompanied by the President of the Local Government Board and the Secretary for Scotland, after dealing with various

important points raised by the demand for this amendment, said that this was "the most important Reform Bill for generations," and that "the first consideration must be the safety of the Bill." He could not, therefore, promise Government support for the amendment.

##### An Important Decision.

The National Federation of Women Workers (Miss Mary Macarthur, Secretary) has balloted its members on the question of political action, with the following result:—For political representation, 14,171; against political representation, 531; majority for, 13,640. The ballot is the first taken by a purely women's trade union organisation, for the textile unions who have voted on the question hitherto have a mixed membership. Under the constitution of the Labour Party the Federation now secures the right to nominate a *male candidate* for Parliament who will receive the official endorsement of the party.

##### Rebates for Men!

Mr. Bonar Law told a deputation from the Trades Union Congress that he was going to include in his next Budget the £25 rebate for wife, and he would be glad to include adopted children. He was favourably considering also a rebate of £25 on account of children physically or mentally deficient above 16 years of age and other dependent persons. He promised to consider a rebate in regard to a mother or a father whom a workman was keeping, but he could hold out no hope of raising the starting point of exemption from £120 to £160 during the period of the war.

##### Drastic Action

Miss Margaret Ashton (who has sat on the council since 1908) and Mr. R. J. Davies were removed from the Education Committee by the Manchester City Council owing to their pacifist tendencies.

##### Women in Haste.

Mr. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board, received a deputation of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations in support of a Ministry of Health. The Local Government Board, Miss Llewellyn Davies urged, should come forward with an active policy on an agreed Bill, which should give extended powers to local health authorities for maternity and infant welfare work. Milk and dinners for nursing mothers were imperative. It was most important that the new Ministry should have a large staff of women advisers. Mr. Hayes Fisher, in reply, said that the Poor Law was in the melting-pot, and a Parliamentary Committee would shortly report upon its general aspect. A newly-constituted Ministry of Health, if set up now, could do very little in view of the shortage of doctors, midwives, and specialists, but the Ministry ought to be preparing its scheme of action.

##### To Save the Babies.

Mr. Stephen Walsh, in reply to Mr. Anderson, said the President of the Local Government Board was aware of the great demands for the preservation of infant life, and was anxious to introduce legislation with this object in view. He fully appreciated the desirability of co-ordinating the public health services, and would welcome an opportunity of discussing proposals on these lines.

##### Parliamentary Proposals.

It is stated that 300 candidates will be run by the united forces of Labour, of whom 43 will be under the auspices of the Miners' Federation. There is also a talk of 20 medical candidates, to support the policy of a national medical service.

##### Real Freedom!

The local Sinn Feiners, says the Central News Mullingar correspondent, have taken possession of the national school at Castle Pollard as a protest

against the continued employment of a female teacher named Mrs. Ryan, whose pro-Ally sentiments were expressed on the occasion of the drowning of Lord Kitchener by the playing of the Dead March in "Saul" and the "Marseillaise" on the school piano. This demonstration was resented by the Sinn Feiners. The manager of the schools has intervened without success, and the schools remain in the possession of a guard which is relieved at intervals. The pupils are meantime having a holiday.

##### Married Women's Rights.

A memorandum signed by a number of influential men, including fourteen bishops, has been sent to the Home Secretary urging the Government to consent to the amendment to be moved on the Report stage of the Representation of the People Bill for the purpose of enabling a married woman to vote in Local Government elections upon her husband's qualifications as occupier.

##### Representation of the People Bill.

The Report Stage of the Bill began in the House of Commons on November 15, and continues this week. On a division the amendment to retain the ancient privilege of the livery vote in the City of London was lost by 167 to 48 votes. An amendment was moved by Mr. Holt and strongly supported by Mr. Herbert Samuel to bring Oxford and Cambridge into line with regard to the women's University vote. The ancient Universities admit women to the degree examinations, but refuse to give them degrees; this narrow-minded sex prejudice deprives Oxford and Cambridge women graduates of the Parliamentary vote, which graduates of London and other modern universities will enjoy. Mr. Hayes Fisher, though in full sympathy with the amendment, could not accept it, but hoped the two Universities would consent to deal with women in the liberal manner adopted by other universities. He promised to consider whether some other form of words could be used to effect the desired object, and also to communicate with the authorities at Oxford and Cambridge. A long discussion took place on November 15 on the inclusion of women to the Municipal vote on the same terms as the Parliamentary vote, and continues as we go to press.

##### NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, in outlining the policy of his Government before the general election, makes an important statement on the nationality of married women. It is included in his long programme as the third item, which reads as follows:—

"The extension of the franchise to all women, with suitable provision for enabling married women to determine their nationality, and to obtain naturalisation notwithstanding marriage."

An article in the October number of the *International Suffrage News (Jus Suffragii)* drew attention to the claim of the Australian women to certain rights of nationality independently of their husbands which had been in part conceded by the authorities. If Canada definitely brings in legislation giving married women the right to independent naturalisation, it will mean the amendment of the married woman section of the Naturalisation Act of 1914, which was adopted then in Canada in order to bring the Dominion into line with the United Kingdom British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act of the same year.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the proposal of Prime Minister Borden when it is remembered that the Imperial War Conference of the British Empire at its meeting in London this year adopted a resolution on the desirability of having uniform nationality laws throughout the Empire; this promise will be an encouragement to women in other parts of the Empire to urge their respective Governments to bring in uniformity on the lines promised in Canada rather than a uniformity law on the submerging of the nationality of a married woman in that of her husband.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

##### GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

Have you sent your gifts to the Fair and bought your ticket? How many friends are coming with you?

The Fair is drawing very near now, and we are hoping to receive many contributions to the various stalls during the next few days. They should reach us by Wednesday, the 28th, at the latest, and should be addressed to the Fair Secretary, 144, High Holborn.

It would be a help to those who are making the arrangements if friends would apply for their tickets beforehand.

We hope all who are coming in the afternoon will be there in time for the opening ceremony at 2 p.m. to show our appreciation of Miss Lillah McCarthy's and Miss Eva Moore's kindness in coming. Mrs. Despard will be in the chair both days.

It is up to the members now to make the Fair a success. Come early and spend as much as you can, and we are sure you will not regret it.

##### STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

1. *General Stall*.—Useful and fancy articles of every description, Christmas presents, presents for soldiers, sailors and nurses. Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Thomson.
  2. *White Stall*.—Ladies' and children's underclothing, tea-cloths, d'oyleys, household linen. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Triplett, Mrs. Whetton.
  3. *Handkerchief Stall*.—Handkerchiefs of various kinds and articles made of handkerchiefs. Miss Boyle and Mrs. Corner on behalf of the N.E.C.
  4. *Home-made Provisions*.—Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Thompson.
  5. *Toy Stall*.—Dolls, books, and toys of all kinds. Mrs. Lindus, the Misses Stutchbury.
  6. *Montgomery Boroughs Stall*.—General: All kinds of useful articles and Christmas presents. Miss Alix M. Clark and Montgomery Boroughs members.
  7. *Montgomery Boroughs Stall*.—Welsh produce: Cakes, plum puddings, butter, jam, etc. Miss Alix M. Clark and Montgomery Boroughs members.
  8. *Vote Stall* (in memory of Mrs. Snow).—The proceeds of the stall go to the funds of THE VOTE. Mrs. Abbot, Miss A. E. Jacob, Miss A. A. Smith, Mrs. Tritton.
  9. *Literature Stall*.—Literature of the Suffrage Movement, books, Christmas cards, Calendars, etc. Miss Hodge, Miss Telling.
- Stalls have been taken by the following Societies:—The Minerva Dressmaking Department, Nine Elms Settlement, the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, United Suffragists, Independent W.S.P.U., Friends of Armenia.
- Special attractions: Miss Janet Buntin as the Old Lady with a Hundred Pockets, Psychic Delineations by Mrs. Thomson Price, the Violet Clark Quartette, etc.

##### POLITICAL AND MILITANT DEPARTMENT.

We have received prompt and most courteous replies from Major Peel and Mr. Ben Tillett, two of the new Members of Parliament, in answer to our inquiry as to their attitude towards the Bill for the Representation of the People. Both gentlemen will do their utmost to secure the speedy passage of the Bill into law.

Sir Auckland Geddes has not deigned to answer our communication. It is to be noted that he is dependent upon the co-operation of women to make his schemes successful. It is symptomatic of the contempt for those who pay their salaries and secure their positions that distinguishes the officials, "drest in a little brief authority," who are experimentalising, to their own advantage, with our welfare.

Mr. Arthur Henderson has been asked whether he and his party approve of the demand made by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald for fresh Defence of the Realm enactments to "save" soldiers from the dangers that surround them through their own immorality. We have received a courteous acknowledgment of our letter, in Mr. Henderson's temporary absence; and await his further reply.

C. NINA BOYLE.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
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FRIDAY, November 23rd, 1917.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.

### AGENTS.

International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Charing Cross, W.C.; Messrs. Horace Marshall and Co., Temple-avenue, E.C.; City and Suburban Publishing Company, St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; E. Marlborough, Old Bailey, E.C.; A. Ritchie, Pemberton-row, Gough-square, E.C.; Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Orange-street, Haymarket; John Heywood, Manchester. Can be obtained at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son and all newsagents.

## THE PROTECTION AND THE MANUFACTURE OF CRIMINALS.

Inured though we are to police and judicial insolence, there are signs that the votes which we hope shortly to obtain will come none too soon to save the country from the most serious *débâcle* in all matters connected with the administration of justice. There has been a real epidemic recently of abuse of authority in realms where it is most peculiarly odious; and no day passes without some fresh evidence of demoralisation. The introduction and maintenance in our courts of the plea of "the unwritten law" has already resulted in the deliberate murders of four women, and the serious wounding of two more; and of the disgraceful spectacle of British Courts and British law officers shifting the responsibility of trying a crime committed on British soil to a foreign tribunal. The case of the Belgian officer who was inspired by Mr. Malcolm's triumph to follow his example is, it is true, being now tried in England; but the prisoner's counsel has warned the courts that no decision can hold, as he has already been acquitted by a properly constituted Belgian court-martial, and a man cannot be tried twice for the same offence. This, no doubt, is the result which all were aiming at.

Mr. Justice Cluer, in the Shoreditch County Court, shouted down with the utmost insolence a poor woman whom he had ordered out of her home at the bidding of the landlord. He threatened to have her turned out of court for trying to put her case. Mr. Justice Horridge, hearing a case for separation—in which a man had married an elderly woman with £2,000 a year jointure and had got drunk on his wedding night, made her life unendurable, driven her about the house at the point of his sword, and threatened her life over and over again—refused to allow the case to be continued, and ordered the parties to find some agreement, saying he would take the view that this elderly woman had married the man because he was young. He did not allude to the equally obvious fact that the young man had married the elderly woman because she was rich. A bench of magistrates ordered a man, who stabbed his wife dangerously in the back through jealousy, to go back to France; and

another man, who shot his wife and all but killed her, is given the paltry sentence of four months—less than he would get for stealing a Treasury note.

The Women's Freedom League inaugurated a most effective campaign some years ago against the legal and official Protection of Criminals. It is time some such campaign were started afresh. And in addition to the Protection of Criminals we now find a system established of the manufacture of criminals. That is to say, that persons inclined to crime are allowed every loophole for escape, and for renewed attacks on the community; and those who are not definitely criminals are being lured into crime so that they can be severely dealt with.

A carman, of 14 years' good character with a firm that of late had been losing material by theft, was given two sacks too many in his load, without his knowledge. He was approached, having delivered all his other sacks, by a police "trap" agent, who offered to buy these two extra sacks at a fabulous price. The man succumbed to the temptation, and was then prosecuted. The magistrate was informed by the police themselves of the way they had carried out the job; and instead of dismissing the case and ordering the police agents to be prosecuted for inciting to crime and for conspiracy to get a crime committed—both very serious offences—the man was convicted and his career ruined. This is what is known as the *agent provocateur* system, of which this country is supposed to have the utmost horror; and is as far removed from real detective work as cribbing is from really doing an examination paper.

Sir Edward Henry, ever since he came to this country, has been struggling to introduce this vile system of the manufacture of crime by police reptile agents who themselves will be secured against the ordinary operation of the laws against certain forms of crime. He "advised" the British Government in the Transvaal to perpetuate this blot on the South African administration of justice, and now he has secured it here. Time was when no magistrate or judge would have tolerated such a travesty of justice, but these are easier days, and with a complacent Bench, the ramifications of the conspiracy to protect real criminals and manufacture sham ones will be beyond compute. It is for women to pull up our system of "justice" from its degradation and restore it to its once proud position.

C. NINA BOYLE.

## AN OPEN DOOR FOR WOMEN.

Speaking on "The Position of Women under the Laws of England" at a meeting arranged by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene last Friday evening at the Fabian Hall, Mr. Cecil Chapman said that with the granting of the Parliamentary Franchise to women there should be nothing to hinder women from entering every sphere of activity for which they had aptitude. He saw no reason why women should not be judges, and it was almost foolish to say that women should not be magistrates when there were children to be dealt with. Mr. Chapman advocated the alteration of the laws of inheritance, the testamentary laws, and marriage and divorce laws, so as to put men and women on an equal footing in all cases. With regard to illegitimate children, he strongly urged that there should be an equal responsibility on the part of the man and the woman for these children. At present the father's responsibility was limited to 5s. a week! The mother ought to be allowed to choose whether the child should have its father's or her name. At present the death rate among illegitimate children was fifty per cent. more than among other children. To visit the sins of the fathers upon the children in this way was, in Mr. Chapman's opinion, a perversion of justice.

F. A. U.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Correspondents are informed that the Editor cannot accept for publication letters which do not bear the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of bona fides.

### "WHEN WOMEN VOTE."

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I have studied with the deepest care and interest the proposed suggestions for legislation in the article "When Women Vote," in your issue of November 2, and I take it that its publication invites comment from members of the League and readers. The spirit running through the whole of the suggestions is admirable, but I doubt if they are all equally clearly expressed. This, no doubt, is due to considerations of space. Would it be possible for us to have a weekly article expanding each section? I do not want to seem captious, but I cannot, for instance, grasp section 2: "Maintenance and Protection of Public Rights and Liberties. Such rights as are enjoyed without question, not those conferred by statute or granted by privilege." If rights are enjoyed "without question," what is there to trouble about? But I am afraid I cannot recall a solitary constitutional right that has been of late enjoyed "without question." And why, so emphatically, are we not to maintain rights "granted by statute?" That has so often been necessary in the past, and will be probably in the future. If it be not presumptuous I would suggest that Section 1 (Redress of Sex Inequalities) include specifically and not only by implication, "entrance into public office," and I think, even State offices in full—cabinet office, viceregalities, privy councillorships, embassies, jurorships, and exhaust the list in so many words. This would show in all its strength the fields from which women are yet excluded. And, as well as entry, we want some remedy of the numerical disparities too. There is one woman J.P. in the country: just enough to prevent us saying women are excluded! Personally I think it would be wiser not to include the Church in this section. Whatever strong views one may have about the spiritual vocation of women, in this case the law is not the agency for the reform.

The only child-welfare scheme contemplated seems to be for those who are unhappily separated from the mother. The half-timer, for instance is not mentioned, nor yet educational reform as a whole. What is the League's scheme for the child in the poverty-shattered home?

There are other questions I could ask, but I feel certain that a reasonable expansion of the scheme would answer them; so, in hope that we may hear more of this vitally important matter,—I am,

Yours sincerely,

HELENA NORMANTON.

### COMPLETE FOOD CONTROL

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—“More Chains” seems to be the urgent cry of “X. Y. Z.” For what is “Complete Food Control” but a clever contrivance for the further enslavement of women. They are the housekeepers and caterers of the nation and incidentally are the starvers unless there is enough to go round. To give them sole control of food would at least have some show of “justice.” We observe, however, that the male half of the race, sitting at table, is to rule over the food of the female half, which cooks and serves the meal. Women have only to give their support to this oppressive scheme and to its twin brother the “Women Auxiliary Army Corps,” and they will be sure of a recumbent position under the heel of a tyrannous oligarchy for some considerable time. That suffragists should advocate such degradation is indeed amazing. With the Editor's permission I hope to suggest in next week's issue a substitute for food control.—Yours, etc., A. F.

Mrs. Rose James, of Neath, writes to support the footnote to the letter in “Our Open Column” last week on “Woman's Liberty and the Criminal Law Amendment Bill.” She urges strongly that “further legislation should be delayed until women are in a position to have some voice in the making of laws which control and jeopardise their liberties.”

## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### “Not at That Price!”

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested in the following, taken from *The Weekly Dispatch*:—

### “DAMAGED GOODS” ARE GOLDEN.

Much money passed through the box-office of St. Martin's Theatre during the long run of “Damaged Goods.” For several months it played to solid business, and as the expenses of running it were not very heavy it netted a nice sum for the charitable cause in aid of which it was produced in London. It was withdrawn last night.

The following grants have already been made, and further gifts will be announced in due course:—The Women's Training Colony, Cope Hall, Newbury, £3,500; the Women's After-Care Hostel, £1,800; Liverpool Diocesan Association for Preventive and Rescue Work, £500; Southwark Diocesan Association for Preventive and Rescue Work, 125, Kennington-road, S.E., £200. £1,000 was also offered to the London Lock Hospital on condition they appointed a lady member of the medical profession to the board of management. The £1,000 was declined.

£1,000 and a woman doctor on the Board of Management! But the price was too high for the Lock Hospital! Comment is needless.

### HIS Point of View.

#### Women's Fitness for Soldiering.

The *Times* correspondent in New York draws attention to the fact that Dr. Dudley A. Sargent, physical expert at Harvard University, has promulgated a new theory regarding the fitness of women for war. His views are formulated as follows:—

Pound for pound, the average normal woman in good health can endure more pain, discomfort, and fatigue and can expend more muscular energy than the average normal man of similar condition. Woman of necessity comes nearer the primitive type than man. She is biologically more of a barbarian and she has, therefore, more physical endurance. She can undergo many strains that a man cannot. Withstanding cold or thirst or hunger or physical privation of any sort a woman can outlast a man. Nine times out of ten a woman, from the standpoint of physical endurance, should make as good a soldier as a man.

Decidedly we are making progress. We are now quite as fit for war, “pound for pound,” as the average man. We have had no voice in the waging of war, no equal pay for equal work, at times no work at all because the doors were closed against us, therefore, no pay no consideration. But all the same, we have found at least one man, a physical expert too, who sees no reason why women should not fight men's battles, just like the King of Dahomey's bodyguard. But why should we not have the vote first?

## MISS REBECCA WEST ON THE INEQUALITY OF THE SEXES.

The Women's Freedom League was fortunate in having Miss Rebecca West to open a discussion last Sunday at the Minerva Café. Miss Boyle was in the chair. According to Miss West, the real source of sex inequality lies in a deep-seated sex antagonism. Through the ages man's soul has never been at peace. He has always felt that there were forces stronger than himself against which he has had to struggle. To restore his confidence in his strength he has been glad to find someone—woman—weaker than himself, and has done his best to keep her so. In studying the relations between men and women of all times and places we find men doing all in their power to keep women down; the Inquisition persecuted any signs of physical vigour in women; in one savage tribe women are not allowed to eat tiger's flesh lest they should become strong-minded; witches were often women who showed great mental and physical vigour and they were burned. Primitive tribes have customs which shut women out from many of the ceremonies, and even from the events of ordinary life, lest they should gain strength or men catch their weakness. In the present day we find men of science praising those customs which accentuate the difference between the sexes. On the woman's side we find that one section of women is always ready to pander to

the feeling of superiority in men, to pretend to greater weakness and stupidity than is the case. As women have been able to get what they want in this way there is the eternal temptation to act as helpless idiots. Largely through men's mismanagement, through urbanisation, motherhood is a dangerous and harassing occupation. Men have tried in their way to protect children, but have failed. They have failed to realise that the world cannot be governed solely for adults. Women must improve their status, for if they do not want the intellectual life, if they do not want the vote, they are condemning themselves to be the nurses of sick children.

An interesting discussion took place, in which Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Mustard, Miss Read, Miss Low, and others took part. Exception was taken to Miss West's statement that men must always have the upper hand in industry since the path of development led to motherhood for so many women; she explained that she considered women should have access to any work or profession, but that, on the whole, women preferred the duties of motherhood.

### OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

On November 14 Mrs. Mustard gave a very interesting address on "Reconstruction Now." She appealed for attention to the problems arising now and those which would have to be dealt with immediately after the war. To delay would be dangerous. We needed a really representative Government, and we ought to see women in the near future initiating legislation. Mrs. Mustard hoped the Women's Freedom League would not cease to work for votes for women until women had complete equal political power with men. There must be a closer working together of the whole of the people, men and women, in the problems which neither men nor women could solve alone. The land question must come in for immediate consideration, and there should be a freer and fairer distribution of allotments. Women and men must deal with food prices and a more equitable distribution of foodstuffs. What was the good of men discussing the high rate of infant mortality, and blaming mothers for their ignorance in feeding their children, while they allowed milk to be sold at 8d. a quart? Why were women not given an equal control with men on all Food Committees, and in Government departments dealing with food control? Mrs. Mustard said she offered her heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Boyd Dawson for resigning her connection with the Ministry of Food because of the extraordinary discrepancy in the Government's advocacy of food economy and the presence and support of its members at the Lord Mayor's banquet, which was a travesty of all their preaching. Education reforms were being delayed because, it was stated, the country had not enough money to pay for them. Mrs. Mustard declared that Germany will have won the war without a military victory, and we shall stand to be constant losers after the war is over, if we do not give our children better means of education than they have at present. Now is the time to improve facilities for education, and there is great danger to the country in delay.

A discussion followed, in which Mrs. Marion Holmes, Mrs. Metge, Mrs. Connery and others took part. Mrs. Connery also gave an instructive account of the position of woman suffrage in Ireland, and of her recent experiences of "lobbying" in the House of Commons and urging members of all parties to support the Representation of the People Bill. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood.

### Miss Dorothy Evans.

We are very glad to be able to say that Miss Evans is making rapid progress towards recovery.

### News from the North.

#### Middlesbrough.

We express our sympathy with Mrs. Schofield Coates over the accidental omission of her name when nominated by the Middlesbrough Women's Council for a vacancy on the Education Committee of the Middlesbrough Town Council. The Town Clerk accepted full responsibility; he expressed regret to Mrs. Coates and acknowledged at the next meeting of the Council that he had by mistake placed the nomination on the wrong file. It is to be hoped that Mrs. Coates's election to the Education Committee is only postponed for a short time.

Middlesbrough's first communal kitchen promises to be a very great success and, as Mrs. Coates pointed out at the opening ceremony, is intended to save coal, food, and labour, and by organised co-operation to give all comers nourishing meals at very moderate cost. In the child welfare work at Middlesbrough bounties for first year babies were presented by Mrs. Coates.

#### Hartlepool.

Congratulations to Mrs. M. C. Beckett, a member of our West Hartlepool Branch, on her candidature for the West Hartlepool Town Council. With eight candidates for one vacancy, it is not surprising that one of the seven men triumphed, but we hope to see Mrs. Beckett returned at a future election.

The question of the shortage of beer and the consequent restrictions on serving women in public-houses is still occupying considerable space in the local Press. Jarrow is now interesting itself in the question.

### Suffragists Congratulate Miss Roberta MacAdam, M.P.

There was a large gathering to welcome Lieut. Roberta MacAdam, M.P., at the luncheon given in her honour by the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, at the Ashburton Restaurant, Red Lion-square, on November 19. In the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Sheepshanks presided. In a happy little speech she declared that Miss MacAdam's victory not only affected Alberta, but was a symbol of the onward march of women in taking their places in the legislatures of the world. Miss MacAdam said her election, though in no way surprising, took place at the psychological moment; the electors, away from home, appreciated the services of women, and were shrewd enough to realise that women would be more sympathetic than men to the interests of their homes, their wives, and children. She expressed her deep obligation for the help of women, and added: "I ask you all to believe in me, and hope I may be able to live up to all that you expect of me." Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Pethwick Lawrence also welcomed Miss MacAdam, and rejoiced that the long struggle for women's enfranchisement in this country had helped the women's cause the world over.

### Personal.

Readers of THE VOTE will wish *bon voyage* and a prosperous visit to Mrs. Kineton Parkes, who sailed for New Zealand last week to join her son and daughter-in-law at Dunedin. Mrs. Parkes was secretary of the Women's Tax Resistance League, and broke many a lance with the present Prime Minister. At the beginning of the war she was prominently associated with the Women's Emergency Corps and all its energetic national work; and now she is contemplating an extended programme of lecturing, in which the ramifications of the British Suffrage movement will be set forth for the information of our overseas fellow-workers. Mr. Max Parkes, who trained at Lafayette's, is manager of a kodak establishment, and has so far not been called up for military service. His brother, Capt. Gabriel Parkes, has seen distinguished service during the war, having fought at Gallipoli and Suvla Bay, Egypt, and elsewhere.

Mr. Y. Beauland is well known to all Manchester suffragists for his vigorous and unflinching support of the women's cause; and hearty good wishes will accompany him on his forthcoming trip to South Africa. Mr. Beauland has had an unfortunate breakdown in health, and is obliged to seek a warmer and drier climate. The League wishes him health, happiness and prosperity, and trusts that he will find himself as heartily in comradeship with South African suffragists as with those of the Old Country.

### An Excellent Concert in Glasgow.

The Glasgow Branch owes a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Kate Evans for the excellent concert she provided on November 9, with the aid of her professional friends, to swell the funds of the Women's Freedom League. The Central Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, and some people had to stand. The vocalists, Misses Mhairi MacLachlan, Jean A. Stewart, and Messrs. H. Parker and C. M. Gallacher, were all in excellent form, and each had to respond to the audience's hearty demand for "more songs." Miss MacLachlan, the possessor of a rare and sweet coloratura soprano voice, is a true artiste who has charmed many, from the

King to his humblest subject. A fascinating feature of the evening was the dancing of a tiny tot, Miss May Cranston, who, first as a fishwife, and later in a skirt dance, delighted everyone. Miss Madge Niven, in her musical monologues, won well-deserved applause. It is difficult to say whether she was most appreciated in her pathetic or amusing pieces. An outstanding interest in the programme was the violinist, Mr. Wm. C. Hislop, a born interpreter of the finest music. As one listened to him one forgot the war and all that pertains to it. Madame Hislop, the talented pianiste who accompanied all the artistes, played in a most sympathetic and finished manner. Lastly, we had Miss Kate Evans herself, in the character sketches in which she excels. Her new piece, "A Bit of a Mix-up," is witty and racy, and will soon be in as great demand as "How Bridget Flanigan Rushed the House of Commons," or "The Auld Maid's Lament." Miss Evans must be congratulated on the unqualified success of the evening, everything being thought of, from first-class artistes to attractive programmes and smart stewards. The audience thoroughly approved of the entertainment, and the hope was expressed that Miss Evans would give another soon.

Miss Eunice Murray presided. In the course of the programme she made a short speech, in which she appealed for new members and explained what the Women's Freedom League has done, and what it stands for; so, in the midst of fun, the object of our existence was not forgotten, pleasure and good propaganda were combined in an irresistible manner. The Glasgow Branch warmly thanks Miss Kate Evans and her party for the treat they gave. E. G. M.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### Anfield.

The monthly meeting of the Branch was held on November 16; the speaker was Mr. Bernard, a real champion of the woman's cause in Liverpool. The subject of his stirring address was "Our Present Duty." Miss Davey, from the chair, said our watchword should be "Begin Now." An interesting discussion followed, and Mr. Bernard was warmly thanked for his presence and his stimulating words.

#### Croydon Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

Will every member do her utmost to send her contribution of work or gifts for the Fair to the Secretary, by November 28? Articles may be sent to the office during the afternoon, as the last Sewing-meeting before the Fair will take place that day at 3 p.m., at the office, and the soldiers' and sailors' wives' Social will be held at the same hour. Please advertise among your friends the interesting fact that Mrs. Stanbury, of the Women's Municipal Party, will speak on Local Government, at the office, on Wednesday, December 5, at 3 p.m. Local Government should attract all suffragists at the present moment, as it is the time to prepare for all posts that may be open to women, and should be filled by women, whose knowledge and ideas of "Reconstruction" are sound from the suffragist's point of view. It is hoped to arrange a social for a Saturday afternoon in December, the 8th or 15th. Notices will be sent to members as soon as the date is fixed. The first social for the wives of sailors and soldiers was held in November 14; there was a good attendance. Miss Heslop very kindly entertained, giving a number of favourite songs. At the next social Mrs. Arthur Simon has kindly promised to entertain.

#### Herne Hill and Norwood Branch.

A successful Drawing Room Meeting was held at 69, Dane-croft-road, on November 17. Miss Boyle very kindly came and gave a most interesting account of her experiences in Macedonia, to which the audience listened with sympathy and attention, and many questions were asked about Serbia. Mrs. Tanner spoke on the political situation, and pointed out the urgent need for women in the public life of to-day and to-morrow. A collection was taken for the political work of the League.

#### Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On November 13 Miss Ada Broughton was invited to address a public meeting arranged by the Alnwick Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association, on "Woman Suffrage and Temperance." She gave an able survey of the influence of woman in favour of temperance, and showed that to-day in countries where women possess the vote temperance legislation makes great progress. Several gentlemen in the audience took part in the discussion. On November 17, Miss Broughton visited the Tyneside Literary and Social Club and gave a very concise historical survey of the women's struggle for emancipation. A very animated discussion followed. The literature and VOTE sales were good.

#### Middlesbrough Suffrage Club, 231a, Linthorpe-road.

On November 12, Mrs. McBean gave a paper entitled "The Middle Class," which led to considerable discussion as to definitions of the so-called "classes" in society. Quite a number of members took part, and an interesting time was spent. Mrs. Schofield Coates presided.

### Portsmouth.

It has been decided to hold the monthly members' meeting in the afternoon instead of evening during the winter months. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, at the Suffrage Rooms, and will be preceded by a Public Meeting at 3.15 p.m., at which the speaker will be the Rev. G. W. Thompson.

### Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms-lane, S.W. 8.

The Settlement Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair is beginning to look more furnished in our mind's eye, but we want still a great many more gifts for it. The Misses Triplett and Miss Isobel Harvey are warmly thanked for theirs; also Miss Riggall for 10s. towards expenses; Miss Fanny Oliver, 10s.; Mrs. Whetton, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. John Russell, 10s.; Mrs. Burrell, 10s.; Mrs. Thomas, flowers and handkerchiefs; Miss Harvey, herbs. An unfinished portrait of Mrs. Despard will be on show at the Stall, and visitors' criticisms will be welcomed, as the artist, Mr. P. H. Miller, A.R.H.A., has only been able to get two sittings so far, all our busy President could spare. The post of resident helper for the Guest House is still vacant; we are advertising this week, but should much prefer to hear of someone through the League; will all readers of THE VOTE think of us if they meet anyone really fond of children and wanting experience of Settlement life? Salary £26 a year, with board and lodging (vegetarian diet).

### The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1.

Will all friends remember our Jumble Sale on Saturday, December 8, and send us everything they can spare in men's, women's, and children's clothing, also household things, odd lengths of carpet, linoleum, and other useful articles?

### Home Workers' League.

Last Monday afternoon, Miss Nina Boyle gave a delightful address on "Eight Months with the Serbian Soldiers" to members of the Home Workers' League at Oxford House, Bethnal Green. There was an excellent attendance. Future speakers include Mrs. Despard, Miss Violet Markham, and Mr. J. J. Mallon, the latter of whom we shall have the pleasure of welcoming at our own meeting at the Minerva Café next Wednesday afternoon.

THE NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Euston-road, is celebrating its jubilee. The fact should draw public attention to the splendid work done by women doctors during fifty years, in spite of the hardened prejudice and violent opposition faced by the pioneer women medical students. The new hospital—"new" half a century ago—was the first hospital for women to be staffed by women, and it intends to commemorate its fifty years of life by the endowments of beds. This excellent plan will relieve those in authority from a certain amount of financial anxiety and extend its power of service.

WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.—Miss Elizabeth Robins has become President of the Women Writers' Suffrage League, and Miss Peggy Webling chairman of committee. The League has moved to 42, West Cromwell-road, S.W. 5.

### Will You Help our Women's War Club in Southwark?

THEN COME TO THE

## Christmas Sale

to be held by the UNITED SUFFRAGISTS at THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER on SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 8th, the proceeds of which will help us to CARRY ON THE CLUB. L<sup>ADY</sup> COWDRAY has kindly promised to open the Sale at 3 p.m. Admission from 3—6 p.m., 8d. (including tax). After 6 p.m., Free. (Tickets applied for before December 8 will cost the purchaser only 6d., the tax being defrayed by the United Suffragists.)

### THE HIDDEN TRAGEDY.

By MISS EUNICE MURRAY.

EVERYONE interested in the Woman's Movement should read this book, in which the injustice to women of our present unequal laws is set forth in a brightly written story. It can be obtained from the Literature Dept. of the WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Price 2s. Post free 2s. 3d.

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 56.

FRIDAY,  
NOV. 23,  
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# THE VOTE

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