

THE VOTE,
JAN. 26, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

WHERE IS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS?

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 1923

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

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A GREAT PIONEER IN EDUCATION

In common with many hundreds of parents and teachers in all parts of the world, we regret to record the death, at 81, at the "House of Education," Ambleside, on January 16th, of Charlotte Maria Shaw Mason, daughter of a Liverpool merchant, a great educational reformer and champion of "sane" education for the last 60 years. Miss Mason's ideas were those advocated long ago by John Locke, to create interest and hunger for knowledge, to use school life as a deliberate preparation for the future, and to cultivate a natural and keen interest in nature and art. Universal, complete, many-sided education, and duly balanced knowledge she considered a necessity for national sanity, for Reason must have Knowledge upon which to work.

Gradually her ideas were adopted in many elementary, preparatory, and secondary schools, and she was specially interested in home teaching. The "House of Education"—founded by her—has been the only institution offering special professional training to the private governess.

The full results of this long and busy life devoted to educational reform it is impossible to know. In ever-widening circles the true view has spread, and to-day all real educators see children as Miss Mason did in the early years, when she stood almost alone, not as little, unwilling receptacles for information, but growing creatures struggling towards the light, eager to learn, eager to work, and too often starved of the means of doing so.

CHARLOTTE MASON.

AN APPRECIATION: By the HON. MRS. FRANKLIN (Hon. Sec., Parents' National Educational Union).

Charlotte M. Mason's death marks the end of a long life spent in the service of humanity. Up till four days before her death, at the age of 81, she attended to her vast correspondence, and herself superintended alterations of her house to admit the increasing number of students anxious to be trained at the House of Education, Ambleside. She gave her educational philosophy to the world through her books (Home Education Series and various pamphlets*), through the Society she founded in 1883—the Parents' National Educational Union—and through the "Parent's Review," which she started in 1891, and edited until now, all "for the children's sake." She felt only the best was good enough for the children, and so she established in 1891 a training college, where well-bred and educated women could be trained as teachers in home schoolrooms, and, that they might give of their best, she from the first demanded and obtained for them high salaries and good conditions of work (free evenings, school holidays, etc.).

Miss Mason knew that the mind needs knowledge as the body food, and that only knowledge that can be written down on paper has been absorbed, so she established a Correspondence School, the Parents' Union

School, into which were enrolled children working in the home schoolrooms of the rich all over the world, children in schools in mining villages in Yorkshire and Wales, and in farming districts in Gloucestershire. All these children are school-fellows, though they never meet, wearing a school badge and colours, entering into a liberal education of books, art, and music, growing up with the same mental background, and thus through Miss Mason's programme of work, sharing the joy of living, of learning, and of serving, and stimulated all together by the school motto, "I am, I can, I ought, I will." In Miss Mason's pupils and in her trained teachers alike there is absence of self, self-consciousness, self-seeking, because their minds are set on "whatsoever is beautiful and of good repute."

Of no one else but of Charlotte M. Mason, can it be said, I believe, that she inspired love and gratitude among hundreds of parents, teachers, and children who never even saw her. All the letters that came to her in her life, and even more now that she has gone, show that her spirit works on, and that her great work will continue. This woman, who was frail and delicate, built up an organisation with many ramifications, of which, though she was helped for over thirty years by

a devoted friend and Secretary, and during the last 20 years by able Vice-Principals, she was indeed the Head, the Chief, the Directress.

She has left the MS. of a new book, completed in her last year; she had two large gatherings at her house last summer; she signed the examination report of some 3,000 children out of the 40,000 in the Correspondence School, and prepared, in the last months, the January programme of work; she lectured and wrote, and all combined with a graciousness and courtesy and charm that captivated the few who saw her, out of the many who knew and honoured her. Wise and witty, delighting in books (she read or was read to for some hours every day, philosophy, travel, biography, romance), nature, art, and human nature, she was indeed a rare combination of the old-world *grande dame* and the modern woman of affairs.

She was full of the beauty of humility, but, having well-disciplined herself, she expected all to do the same. Her life was so well regulated between work and play, writing and reading, that it reacted on her mind, and, as she poured out new and original thought, she needed no headings in a lecture, no corrections in her writings. She called out the best in old and young, and all did their best because she knew they could.

She never supported "causes," but she lived the greatest of "causes"—the raising up of future citizens of the world, ready to be and do, to help, to serve, and to rejoice. "We live by Admiration, Hope, and Love." So she entered into such a life and helped thousands to set their feet in a wide and spacious land.

*These may be had from the P.N.E.U. Office, 26, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Miss Mason's publications include "Home Education," "School Education," "The Ambleside Geography Book," "Parents and Children," "The Basis of National Strength," and "A Liberal Education for All."

A WOMAN DOCTOR IN FIJI.

We have had further correspondence with the Colonial Office in regard to the expiration of Dr. Mildred Staley's appointment by the Government of Fiji. In a letter from the Under-Secretary of State, we were told that she was engaged for two years only, and that the term of her temporary appointment would expire shortly; that retrenchments in medical and other establishments in Fiji were urgently necessary for financial reasons, and, although the final recommendations had not yet been received, the Secretary of State would not be justified in urging the continuance of any particular appointment against the wishes of the Colonial Government. We drew the attention of the Colonial Office to the facts that the appointment of a woman doctor had been made on the recommendation of Australian women who had investigated the very unsatisfactory conditions of Indian women in Fiji, and that quite recently Indian women had petitioned that they might continue to be allowed to consult a woman doctor; and we also inquired what other medical officers there were in connection with the Colonial Hospital in Fiji. In a later reply from the Colonial Office we were informed that the Duke of Devonshire had not yet been advised of the conclusions which had been reached by the Government of Fiji regarding retrenchments in the Medical Service of the Colony; but it was expected that a report would be received shortly. Further, the Estimates of the Colony for the year 1922 permitted of four medical officers, including the Chief Medical Officer, being stationed in Suva. If economy is absolutely necessary in the Medical Service, why is it inevitable for the one woman doctor to go? Could not the Colony more easily spare one of the three men?

Readers of THE VOTE who live in London are asked to write at once to their respective Members of the London County Council, urging them to oppose the proposal to be brought forward at the Education Committee early next week, the object of which is to secure the resignation, on their marriage, of all women teachers engaged in future under the L.C.C.

TENNESSEE LADY COOK.

We regret to record the death, on January 18th, at the house of her niece, Lady Beecham, at the age of 77, of our old comrade, the Dowager Lady Cook, widow of Sir Francis Cook, one of the pioneers of the women's suffrage movement in America fifty years ago.

One of two beautiful sisters, and born in Ohio, Lady Cook passed a stormy and strenuous youth. She attacked the liquor traffic, political corruption, and fraudulent finance, and was inundated with writs for libel. She studied law, medicine, and finance, equipped and was hon. colonel of a regiment, and at one time edited a weekly newspaper with her sister, which attacked evil livers of all classes with a persistence and success which startled New York. She was elected to Congress, though unable to sit on account of her sex. Mrs. Woodhull Martin, Lady Cook's sister, was officially nominated for the Presidency of the United States 50 years ago, and was supported by 500 delegates, representing 26 States and five territories.

On coming to England, some years ago, Lady Cook took up the cause of women's suffrage, and generously supported the Women's Freedom League, in whose methods and ideals she found common ground.

STUDYING MOONLIGHT.

Miss Elizabeth Sidney Semmens, a former Chemistry Lecturer at Swanley, was told a year or two ago, by Mr. Hayes, gardener of the Horticultural College, Swanley, that his cucumbers grew two or three inches more in moonlight than in the daytime, and that seeds germinated better when the moon was shining.

Since then, Miss Semmens has been experimenting upon the subject at the Liverpool University, and has discovered that it is the polarised moonlight (at certain phases of the moon only) which has this effect, polarised artificial light also having the same power.

Miss Semmens exposed seeds in tanks of water to the direct action of moonlight, and found germination greatly quickened. In the absence of moonlight, she experimented with starch grains exposed to polarised artificial light, which caused them to break down into little masses of dextrin and crystals of sugar.

THE WOMAN JOURNALIST.

The Society of Women Journalists has just issued the January number of the *Woman Journalist*, in a greatly enlarged and improved form. The cover design illustrates Dr. Johnson's house in Gough Square, specially chosen for the occasion because this old building practically witnessed the creation of the woman journalist, the learned Doctor having employed several women to assist him in the compilation of his English Dictionary. A special message from the Queen occupies the frontispiece, and notable features are various "markets" for work. The main object of this publication is to form a link between women writers throughout the Empire.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"English Prisons To-day." Being the Report of the Prison System Enquiry Committee. Edited by Stephen Hobhouse, M.A., and A. Fenner Brockway.

"Penal Discipline." By Dr. Mary Gordon, late H.M. Inspector of Prisons.

"The Woman Doctor and Her Future." By Louisa Martindale, M.D., B.S., J.P.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.

"Michael Field." By Mary Sturgeon.

"The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor." By Dr. Lomax.

Any of these may be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Municipal Wedding!

At a recent wedding at Weymouth, the bride, Mrs. Logan, the widow of a Welsh solicitor, was the first woman member of the Dorset County Council, and was recently appointed an Alderman. She is also a member of the Dorchester Bench. Mr. Robert S. Comben, the bridegroom, is a former Mayor of Weymouth, an Alderman, a Magistrate, and a member of the Dorset County Council. For his war work he was awarded the C.B.E. Both bride and bridegroom were placed on the Commission of the Peace in the same year.

Women Dispensers.

The Birmingham and Midland Women's Hospital recently celebrated its jubilee in connection with dispensing by women, this Hospital having been a pioneer in this matter. Its out-patients' department had a woman dispenser 50 years ago, whilst the present woman dispenser, Miss Blanche Thompson, has occupied her position for 40 years, and instructed other women in the profession to the number of over 100. Most of her students became qualified pharmaceutical chemists, but others became associated with the Apothecaries' Hall.

American Women Voters.

The National League of Women Voters, which has a membership of more than two million women, and headquarters in Washington, D.C., will hold its fourth Annual Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, April 9-14. A Commission has just been founded in Iowa to arrange an appropriate permanent memorial to suffrage pioneers. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, who was a resident of Iowa for many years, and superintendent of schools in an Iowa town, is Honorary President of the League.

Women's Co-operative Leader.

The new President of the Women's Co-operative Guild is Mrs. A. M. Prosser, of Gloucester. A magistrate, and an active leader of the "distaff" side of the Co-operative movement, Mrs. Prosser will succeed Mrs. Dewsbury in the Chair at this year's Guild Congress, to be held at Cardiff somewhere about Whitsuntide.

A Famous Woman Actress.

Miss Kate Santley, who died at Brighton last week, was famous as an actress and singer in the 'seventies and 'eighties. She made her debut in Edinburgh, where she played as Jessica with Charles Kean in *The Merchant of Venice*. After a tour in America, she returned to London in 1872, and began a long and successful career in opera. In 1877 she became lessee of the Royalty Theatre.

Miss Addams and Peace.

A movement is on foot to bring the name of Miss Jane Addams, the well-known American worker for Peace, under the notice of the Committee of the Norwegian Parliament for the Nobel Prize of 1923. No woman has yet received the Nobel Prize, although its instigation was due to a woman—Baroness von Suttner, author of the famous Peace novel, "Lay down your Arms."

Women in Rhodesia.

In Rhodesia, women enjoy a fuller political freedom than in any other district in South Africa. Not only are they enfranchised, but all the professions are open to them on equal terms with men, and it is expected that several women candidates will be returned to the Legislative Council at the next elections.

Women Probation Officers.

We congratulate Gateshead in having just appointed a woman Probation Officer. Every Court should employ a woman in this capacity.

Prospective Women Candidates.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan has been adopted prospective Parliamentary candidate by the North Camberwell Unionist Association. She contested the seat at the General Election. Mrs. Corbett Ashby has also been asked to stand again for Richmond, which she contested at the General Election.

More Women J.P.s.

For the first time in the history of the Alnwick Petty Sessions Court, a woman magistrate was present on the Bench last week—Mrs. Runciman, wife of the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, of Doxford Hall. Mrs. Runciman qualified as a magistrate for the county at the Northumberland Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.

Woman Railroad Official.

Women's Employment reports that Miss Emma Redel has been raised to a high position in a railroad company in America, having been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Board of Directors. She began her connection with the Minneapolis and St. Louis in 1908 as a stenographer.

Woman's Suffrage in Italy.

Signor Mussolini has consented to receive a deputation from the Ninth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which will be held in Rome from May 12th to 19th.

Woman M.O.s. Appointment.

Bermondsey Borough Council have appointed Dr. Mildred A. Thynne, of Hampstead, as Assistant Medical Officer for maternity and child welfare, at a salary of £600 a year. There were 57 applications.

Women Medical Students.

Of the 113 students whose names appear in the last pass list of the First Examination for Medical Degrees of the University of London, no fewer than 30 are women.

A Good Precedent.

Two Policewomen have been sworn in as police constables at Eastbourne, with full powers of arrest.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

ANNOUNCE A SERIES OF FIVE

Fortnightly Lectures

ON

FOREIGN POLITICS

IN THE

MINERVA CAFÉ, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1

In which the following subjects will be discussed:

MONDAY, JANUARY 29th—6 p.m.—"THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS." Speaker: Miss H. C. Hughes, M.A. (from the League of Nations' Union).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH AMERICA." Speaker: Miss R. C. Longland (from the English Speaking Union).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH FRANCE." Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney.

MONDAY, MARCH 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH RUSSIA."

MONDAY, MARCH 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH THE CENTRAL POWERS." (Speakers to be announced later.)

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved Seats 1/- each Lecture, or for the Course, 4/-; from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Reports of the above Lectures will appear in "The Vote," 1d. Weekly.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th, 1923.

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.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS

From the daily Press we learn that, owing to the large number of single female teachers lacking positions throughout the Black Country, many Education Authorities have dispensed with the services of married women teachers, and others have issued notices for them to leave. What is now happening in the Black Country has been taking place, or is actually taking place, in almost every county of England. In our view, this is a direct contravention of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which states definitely and distinctly:—

"A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation" (the italics are in each case ours).

Neither the last Government nor this Government have done anything to safeguard the interests of married women under this Act, and we want to know why public money was wasted in the drafting of this Act, and why the time of the members of the House of Commons and of the House of Lords was wasted in passing it, if, for all intents and purposes, it is to be a dead letter, so far as the interests of married women are concerned? The action now being taken by local authorities to exclude married women from our Council Schools is an unwarrantable interference with the right of the individual. Moreover, are their training and experience to count for nothing? If there are too many teachers available for posts in our schools—there would not be if the Government footed the Fisher Education Act—let the authorities first dismiss all the untrained teachers in our schools, and give their places to the young teachers who have recently left college, and have not yet succeeded in securing posts. The younger members of this profession have nothing whatever to fear from fully trained and experienced married women teachers; but the danger to them and to the community lies in the increasing predilection of the authorities for cheap, untrained teachers.

The teachers employed by the London County Council are at present excepted from a general rule which requires the women employed by the Council to resign their appointments on marriage, but at the end of this month a proposal will be made at the Council's Education Committee to put an end to this exception. If the proposal is carried, all the women teachers engaged in future will be required to resign on marriage. We protest most strongly, in the interests of the children, in the interests of women teachers, and in the interests of education, against this proposal being carried and put into practice. We think it is time that the Government intervened, and prevented local governing authorities from riding rough-shod over Acts already on the Statute Book—even when those Acts are only in the interests of women! In pre-suffrage days we seem to recollect that old Acts of Parliament were frequently dug up to deprive women of citizen rights, and more recently the Courts, after diving into antiquity, have occasionally brought to light Acts which supported and emphasised the dependent and inferior position of women as compared with men in this country; but when, in 1919, women, after a generation of struggle, secured the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, the object of which was to remove the inequalities of the law as between men and women, they have a right to expect that its provisions shall be observed.

FOREIGN POLITICS.

Although British women have only a partial political franchise, those who are entitled to exercise a vote are equally responsible with men electors for the foreign policy of this country. These women voters have lived through the period of the Great War, and they know full well what war means to the individual, the family, and the nation. War is the negation of prosperity, of happiness, and of the amenities of social life. During its progress there is no possibility of freedom, or of the reforms which every good citizen, man and woman, ardently hopes for. War stunts and impoverishes our domestic life, and, because women recognise this, they are overwhelmingly on the side of peace. Women cannot admit that wars are inevitable, and they are keenly desirous of knowing what our relations are with other countries. Since the Armistice, millions of women throughout the world have enthusiastically acclaimed the League of Nations, because they were told, and so many really believed, that the League of Nations would, by delaying the immediate settlement of disputes by arms, and persuading the would-be combatants to consult with the representatives of other nations in regard to the causes of their disputes, put an end to future wars. Are all these hopes now to be dashed to pieces? In the present European crisis—and war seems so much more likely than peace—the average man and the average woman are asking, "Where is the League of Nations? Is it functioning; and, if so, in which direction? Is it impossible for the League of Nations to intervene under present conditions? If so, why?" Men and women who want an answer to these questions, who wish to know if there is any peaceful solution to the problems which are now baffling Europe, are cordially invited to attend the series of lectures on Foreign Politics which are to be held in the Minerva Café on alternate Monday evenings. They will then have an opportunity of discussing these matters with the lecturers. It is fitting that the first of these lectures should be on the League of Nations, and we hope that readers of THE VOTE will show their keen interest in this subject by ensuring that we have a full attendance in the Minerva Café next Monday evening, when the Chair will be taken by Mrs. Mustard. Succeeding lectures will be on "The Relations of this Country with America, France, Central Europe, and with Russia." In deciding to hold this series of lectures, our National Executive Committee was convinced that Foreign Politics would make a very special appeal to women, and we rely upon our readers to confirm that conviction.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The Women's Freedom League, which is first and foremost a suffrage society, has again asked the Prime Minister to receive a deputation of women voters and non-voters, the members of which would ask him to include in the King's Speech a franchise measure granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men, and to secure its passing into law as early as possible next Session. If members of all women's organisations show a united front on this matter, and determine that the measure shall be dealt with next Session, there is every prospect of securing equal franchise with men at an early date. The Liberal and Labour Parties are pledged to work for it, and we have many staunch and tried friends in the Conservative Party.

We urge all our readers to give every possible support to the Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women (organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), which is to take place in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, March 7th, at 8 p.m. It will be remembered that it was decided to hold this Demonstration last November, but the General Election intervened, in which no woman under thirty years of age was allowed to vote, and a great number of women over that age were disfranchised because of technicalities which did not apply in the case of men.

LONDON'S FLOWER GIRLS.

Few hearts could have remained untouched by the moving spectacle of "Fannie's" funeral service at St. Clement Danes Church, last week, or the eloquent tributes paid by most of the London papers to the fragrant selflessness of her daily life. Coming as this did after a protracted series of particularly nauseating crimes in the annals of London, the life and death of this Ludgate Hill flower girl passes like a purifying zephyr, akin to the mingled scents which emanated from her flower basket, over the chequered morality of the City's life.

It is said by those who knew London intimately some thirty or more years back, that fewer flower girls ply their trade nowadays than formerly. Time was when every foot of space at the base of the fountain at Piccadilly Circus was occupied by women in close competition with one another, their baskets of gaily-hued blossoms forming a curiously adequate memorial to the statue of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, himself one of the first to support helpful efforts on behalf of these women. Always a precarious and arduous calling, flower-selling has become still more scantily rewarded since the war. Flowers of all kinds have increased enormously in price, and their sellers have accordingly had to charge for them at rates which are not within the range of everybody. Added to the present difficulties in finding customers, the flower girls must be up at three every morning to get to Covent Garden in time to buy their flowers, and afterwards they must carry the heavy baskets for long distances, and stand on their feet for varying intervals, exposed to all sorts of weather. Most flower women become prematurely aged owing to this constant exposure, and only the most robust attain to any great age.

Fannie was a first-rate exponent of the wonderful sense of comradeship for which London's flower girls are famous. They are a class apart, and will do anything to help one of their fellows who has fallen on evil days. The different stands are often handed down from mother to daughter, and the children start at a very early age. Fanny began when she was only nine

years old. There is an unwritten law as to the various stands, and no one would dream of intruding on another's beat. Various kindly attempts have been made, both publicly and privately, to alleviate the lot of London's flower girls. Survivals of public agencies still remain in Clerkenwell and Hoxton, though these have broadened their basis of later years, and include educational classes equally useful for all girl workers. Many years ago a club-room was established for them near Westbourne Grove, by one Mrs. Franklin Taylor, wife of a well-known musical professor, who tried to induce the flower girls to adopt a uniform dress of grey with crimson facings, which should be proof against bad weather, and yet becoming. This, however, was never achieved with any degree of success, and down to this day the London flower girl still clings tenaciously to her drab shawl and poke bonnet, or straw boater hat.

Queen Alexandra took an interest in the Westbourne Grove venture, when Princess of Wales, and, at a later date, realising that the establishment of "Rose Day" would probably diminish the flower girls' takings, Her Majesty's kindly forethought for many years past has arranged that a special allocation shall be put aside from the proceeds of "Rose Day," to make up these deficiencies.

The leading organisation for the care of London's flower girls of to-day is under the care and sympathy of Mrs. Pennington Bickford, wife of the Rector of St. Clement Danes Church. Ever since her childhood, the flower girls of London have attracted Mrs. Bickford, and from her girlhood onwards she has interested herself in their lot. During the twenty years when her father was Vicar of St. Clement's, Mrs. Bickford started weekly meetings for the flower girls in the parish room, and to-day over a hundred are in regular attendance. It was Fannie who was specially entrusted with the buying of all the flowers and fruit for the decoration of St. Clement's, a special feature of its worship, and a beautiful window at the back of the Church stands as a permanent memorial of the united offerings of London's flower girls.

CROYDON v. MARYLEBONE.

Marylebone Borough Council, by 27 votes to 23, last week rejected a proposal to establish a temporary free library in its palatial Town Hall, at a cost of between £9,000 and £10,000. This particular Council has already achieved some notoriety in the past as being one of the most reactionary, parochial, and unprogressive of all the London boroughs. It can now boast of yet another distinction, that of being unique in the Metropolis in lacking a public library, in spite of the fact that two years or so ago the Council formally adopted the Public Libraries Act.

Marylebone includes St. John's Wood with its literary and artistic associations. It also includes a definite slum neighbourhood bordering closely on Regent's Park, and round about Baker Street, and it is for this particular district that one's sympathies go out. Grown-up people must look after themselves in the matter of study and reading, but no future privileges will ever make up for the slow starvation of mind and soul which each generation of children living under the jurisdiction of the Marylebone Council is condemned to suffer at the most impressionable time of their lives. The divine spark of Imagination, inherent in rich and poor alike, humanity's sole escape from material limitations, must go unstimulated, because of the blind parsimony of an archaic public body.

Compare this state of affairs with the Public Library at Croydon, in Surrey, with its thousands of adult borrowers, its day and evening lectures, fed by the 50-60 social and literary societies of the town, and its magnificent Junior Department, including Library, Lecture Hall, and Reading Room, probably the finest in the London area. This Department, which was opened in the autumn of 1920, owes its success to the initiative and enterprise of Mr. W. G. Berwick Sayers,

the indefatigable Public Librarian, who has also established similar Junior Libraries at South Norwood and Thornton Heath, after a model which he first initiated at Wallasey, in Cheshire.

Four thousand, four hundred children of all classes, and from every kind of school, are registered as borrowers, whilst some 60-100 children each week make use of the unique reference section arranged at one end of the Library, either for home work or private study. The walls of the Reading Room blend with the furniture, the few good pictures on the walls, the plants and flowers, into a special colour scheme, adapted by Mr. Sayers to feed the children's literary and artistic instincts, and to provide a mental atmosphere at once stimulating and disciplinary. Between 40-50 monitors assist the woman Librarian in the necessary clerical work, whilst the hush which hangs over the whole busy scene is instinct with acute mental energy and close concentration of body and mind.

Amongst the ten thousand books in the three libraries, arranged on easily accessible shelves, are many duplicates, to avoid disappointment—55 *Alice in Wonderland*, 28 *Robinson Crusoes*, two dozen *Treasure Islands*, etc., whilst the reference section boasts of many "grown-up" books, as well as the *Children's Encyclopaedia*, a *Popular Science* series, and an excellent Atlas, the best of its kind. Nor is reading the only amusement.

Twice a week a "Story Hour" is given by the woman Librarian, when the children sit in a circle, either on chairs or on the floor, and listen with rapt attention to Greek myths, Kipling recitals, Eastern and Scandinavian legends, or whatever the subject of that particular evening may be. Once a week a special Lecture is delivered, when use is made of the fine screen and lantern kept in the Hall.

A NOTED NORWEGIAN WOMAN.

Among the more prominent figures in the world of science is Fru Kristina Bonnevie, Ph.D. She was born at Trondhjem, in Norway, in 1872, and took her B.Sc. in 1892. Henceforward she devoted herself to the cause of education. Her love for study led her to spend all her spare time in research in the laboratories of the Universities. Being also particularly interested in zoology, she resolved to make use of her vacations to study the fauna of the Norwegian seashore from Kristiania as far as to the Lofotes Isles in the north. The results of her studies and observations were set down with the precision indispensable in careful research work. Making the best of the poor and scattered laboratories in the northern regions where her work carried her, she collected and made careful examinations of many interesting specimens. Often she was obliged to devise primitive temporary laboratories in the cottages of the village bailiffs or fishermen, in order not to lose the rich material which she collected on her maritime excursions.

In 1898 she was awarded a research travelling scholarship, and went to Zurich, Würzburg, and Naples. In 1903 she was appointed Curator in the Zoological Museum at Kristiania, where she gave a series of lectures which caused a great sensation in the scientific world. She obtained her doctorate in 1906, and in 1911 was elected a member of the Scientific Society of Kristiania, where she gave various lectures, one of which was concerned with the pre-natal factors which determine sex in children.

A short time afterwards she was appointed Acting Professor of Zoology in the University of Kristiania, and the appointment was confirmed and made permanent in July, 1912. As delegate from the Norwegian Government, Prof. K. Bonnevie took part in the Zoological Congress in Boston in 1907, and again at Monaco in 1913.

Politics and feminism have also occupied her attention. For several years she was a member of the Municipal Council of Kristiania, where she was elected as a member of the Liberal Party. She represented Norway at the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, held in Stockholm in 1911, and also at the Congress of the International Council of Women, at Kristiania, in 1922. In both these Congresses she took an active part.

Dr. Bonnevie represents Norway in the League of Nations, where she is a member of the Fifth Commission (on the Traffic in Women and Children), and also sits on the Committee for Intellectual Co-operation.

WOMEN AND GEOLOGY.

Dr. Gertrude Elles, M.B.E., has been appointed President of the Geological Section at this year's meeting of the British Association at Liverpool. Dr. Elles is a graduate of Newnham College, Cambridge, and in 1900 was awarded the Lyell Fund grant. In 1919, she received the Murchison gold medal. Primarily a palæontologist, Dr. Elles is regarded as a leading authority on graptolites, a family of extinct zoophytes. She has also written a good deal on the geological features of Bala and other Welsh districts, and, in conjunction with Miss Woods, now Mrs. Shakespeare, furnished a paper to the Survey on this subject.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., is another woman geologist of repute. She has made a special study of the dolomites, and before the war the University of Munich conferred upon her the first degree it had ever accorded to a woman. Dr. Marie Stopes is another highly distinguished woman in this connection, and is lecturer on Palæobotany at University College, London. Her particular work in this field is in coal and fossil plants, and at the invitation of the Imperial University of Tokio, she spent a year and a half in geological exploring in Japan.

In Canada, where the Department of Geology is highly active, much encouragement has been given to women willing to devote themselves to the study of this branch of science.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Woman Doctor and Her Future. By L. Martindale, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), J.P., Hon. Surgeon, New Sussex Hospital for Women and Children, Brighton. (Mills and Boon.) 7s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This very interesting, inspiring, and instructive volume by the President of the London Association, Medical Women's Federation, inscribed to "Paddy, my favourite patient" (seven years old, who believes in women doctors and their efficiency), traces the evolution of the medical woman from antiquity to the pioneers of the last century. Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first in modern times to fight her way through much opposition and prejudice to a medical degree and registration as a practising physician in Great Britain, Dr. Sophia Jex Blake, the splendid leader of the Edinburgh Crusade, and founder of the School of Medicine for Women, and Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, to whose wise statesmanship the good position of the woman doctor is very largely due, who founded the New Hospital, since developed into the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

Agnodice, 300 B.C., deserves honourable mention. A charming Athenian lady of noble birth, she determined to devote her life, or sacrifice it, to prevent the terrible mortality from women's diseases and in child-bearing. Athenian law condemned to death any woman who studied or practised medicine, so this "ancient suffragette" apparelled herself like a man, became a student, qualified, and started to heal the Athenian women. Serious trouble with the authorities followed, but her patients raided the Law Courts, and forced their way before the Judges, threatening to disown their husbands, and to die with her, if Agnodice were executed. Needless to say, the Law was promptly repealed, and replaced by a Women's Medical Disabilities (Removal) Act.

Dr. Garrett Anderson set the pace for the women doctors who came after. She was not one to take a back seat or an inferior position, or to undersell her men colleagues, but always upheld the status and dignity of her profession and of her sex; therefore, equal pay for equal work was established at the outset, and always maintained. No less wise was her decision not to wait until hospitals welcomed women on their staffs, but at once to build women's hospitals, and staff them with women.

Turning to "the Pioneer Women of this Century," Dr. Martindale tells of Dr. Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women's Hospitals, scorned by the British War Office, but gratefully accepted by France, Serbia, and Belgium; of the beautiful, desolate, 13th century Abbaye de Royaumont, once again a hive of busy women, where nearly 11,000 patients were treated, with 7,000 operations, but a mortality of less than 2 per cent.; and of Endell Street, when at last our own War Office had called for Miss Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray.

Women doctors, in their 64 years of registration, have made great progress, in private practice, as consultants, on hospital staffs, and in Government service. The Medical Department of the Health Ministry has a senior and four assistants for maternity and child welfare; women medical officers are also found at the Board of Education (two out of four), the Home Office (two), the General Post Office, many Poor Law Infirmarys, Mental and Fever Hospitals; as assistant Medical Officers of Health and school doctors.

In India, 146 hospitals are staffed entirely by women; and even ten years ago the United States had 14,000 women physicians. Medical women are numerous in France, Russia, Scandinavia, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, and Austria.

A wonderful future awaits the woman doctor: the eradication of infectious diseases, venereal disease, puerperal fever (for the last 30 years some 5,000 women annually, in England and Wales alone, have died from their confinements), the beginnings of diseases, the mind, and social conditions. Free, educated, self-reliant, "we cannot doubt that the woman doctor of the future will give to the scientific world gifts of a value we cannot yet measure, and a service to humanity illimitable in its fearlessness and devotion." E. K.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, January 29th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Committee Meeting, 144 High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, January 29th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Hughes, M.A. Subject: "The League of Nations." Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Reserved Seats 1/- each.

Friday, February 2nd, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, February 2nd, at 8 p.m. Reception to the Hon. Officials of the Women's Freedom League, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. The Reception will be preceded by a Dinner at the Club at 7 p.m. Tickets for Dinner and Reception, 3/6; for Reception only, 1/-.

Saturday, February 3rd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, February 12th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss R. C. Longland (from the English Speaking Union). Subject: "The Relations of this Country with America." Reserved seats, 1/-.

Monday, February 19th, at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, February 26th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with France." Chair: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Reserved seats, 1/-.

Friday, March 9th, from 3.30 p.m. Women's Freedom League Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Lecture by Dr. Lewin in the early evening, "Shut your Mouth and Save your Life."

Friday, March 9th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, April 27th. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Friday, January 26th, at 3 p.m. Ashford. A Meeting of Members and Friends will be held at the Hempsted St. Adult School. Speaker: Dr. Lewin. Subject: "How to prevent Diseases in the Home." Chair: Mrs. Kither.

February (date to be announced later). Hastings. A Public Meeting is being arranged to protest against Capital Punishment. Speaker: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

Wednesday, February 7th, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, Unitarian Schoolroom, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 1/6.

Monday, February 19th, at 7.30 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Model Meeting, Election. Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.

Tuesday, February 27th, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Inspector Stark. Subject: "Women Police."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, February 21st, at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speaker: Miss Mary Richardson. "If I were Prime Minister."

Wednesday, February 28th, at 5 p.m. Stansfeld Lecture at the London School of Economics. Professor Graham Wallas on "The Competition of the Sexes for Employment."

Wednesday, February 28th, at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss C. Nina Boyle "If I were Home Secretary." (2) Miss Acheson "If I were Minister for Foreign Affairs."

Support Your League.

Please remember week by week that we have to pay out money every week or starve, and always send what you can manage whenever you can manage it.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Police Evidence Only Again.

Last week two women were charged with soliciting at the Tower Bridge Police Court. The police swore to the charge, and the women on their oath denied it. No other evidence was offered, and the police asked for a conviction. Mr. Waddy, the magistrate, convicted the women, but complained that it was "most unfortunate" that he should be compelled, year after year, to decide charges on a direct conflict of evidence, without a scrap of independent testimony. We entirely agree as to the unsatisfactory position of the magistrate and of the men and women who are charged with these offences on police evidence only, and in the interests of the administration of British justice we repeat that on every such occasion the person "annoyed" or "molested" should come to the Court to support the charge.

Women Engineers.

Our readers will remember that last October the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights was conferred on the Hon. Lady Parsons, Lady Brassey, Lady Inverclyde, Lady Watts, Lady Abel, Lady Biles, and Lady White. The *Woman Engineer* points out that the freemen and women of the Shipwrights' Company become eligible for the Freedom of the City of London, and that several of these ladies proposed to claim that privilege and to apply for the honour of becoming freewomen of the City of London. They are, however, informed that only unmarried women and widows are eligible to become freewomen of the City of London! We learn that the "freewomen" of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights have no intention of letting the matter rest there. Our best wishes for their success!

"Cuckoo" Parents.

When asked to intervene in a case in which the parents were said to have given away their children, the Enfield magistrate said: "These people seem to be of the cuckoo type. There are, unfortunately, too many cuckoo women." But why single out women? Both parents seemed to be equally responsible in this case. Do no fathers ever desert their wives or the unmarried mothers of their children, and leave the mothers to bring the children up as best they can, without any help? Surely the Enfield magistrate has heard of this type of man?

Unemployed Schools.

The London County Council Education Committee last Monday adopted the proposal that unemployed boys and girls in London, between the ages of 14 and 18, should attend school during their out-of-work period, in order to qualify for unemployment pay. The Ministry of Labour in a letter proposed that 75 per cent. of the cost, estimated at £18,000, should be borne by the Exchequer, and the remainder by the local Education Authority.

Turning the Tables.

At Norwich Police Court, last week, a man was tried by an entirely feminine Bench. The magistrates were Miss Willis and Mrs. Burton-Fanning, and they sentenced the accused to three months for obtaining money by false pretences.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The first Public Meeting this year was held on Wednesday, January 17th, at the Lecture Hall, 2, Kent Road, and was very well attended. Mrs. Seaton Tiedeman, organising secretary of the Divorce Law Reform Union, was the speaker, and in a very eloquent and forcible speech gave unanswerable reasons why our Divorce Laws should be altered. She spoke for an hour, and then answered numerous questions. Mrs. Whetton, from the Chair, heartily thanked Mrs. Tiedeman at the close of the meeting. A Model Election to illustrate Proportional Representation is being arranged for Monday, February 19th, at 7.30 p.m. Particulars later.

HULL.

One of our members in Hull, Mrs. Raney, a Poor Law Guardian, secured the consent of the Board to hold a meeting on the 31st of December, and it is hoped that in future the last Sunday of the year may be known in Hull as "Guardian Sunday." This meeting was held in Thornton Hall, and was well attended, the whole service being carried out by members of the Board. Addresses were given on "The Spirit of the Poor Law Past," and "The Spirit of the Poor Law Present." Mrs. Raney spoke on "The Spirit of the Poor Law Future."

WALLASEY.

A new Branch has been formed in this district with the following officials:—Mrs. Dr. Dobbins (President), Miss Gertrude Leeson (Chairman), Mrs. Graham (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Maud Andain (Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer), of 22, Cromer Drive, who will be glad to supply local residents with information concerning this Branch and its activities.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 28th. 12 noon. Little Rally for Children of all Ages. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Dr. Dearmer.

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