

VOTES AND EDUCATION, LABOUR'S OPPORTUNITY.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1924

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 WELL-KNOWN WOMAN DIRECTOR.

MRS. THOMSON-PRICE.

Readers of THE VOTE, and members of the Women's Freedom League, should be especially interested in the career of Mrs. Thomson-Price, for she joined the League at its inception, seventeen years ago, and was one of its most active members during its early struggles. For some time, too, she acted as Consulting Editor of THE VOTE, and many of our old members will remember the clever cartoons she contributed to its pages in those days. As a journalist and black-and-white artist she was well known, and was probably the first woman artist in London to contribute cartoons to political and other journals.

As a writer, she was attached, for over twenty-eight years, to the editorial staffs of two well-known London papers, while as a specialist in financial matters she has written many authoritative articles for the financial Press.

Mrs. Thomson-Price is a Governor of the Universal Cookery and Food Association, and has been a director of Slaters, Ltd., the big catering and multiple-shop concern, for nearly eight years. She had initiated, at that time, the movement which led to a Committee of Investigation into the affairs of the company, which, in the opinion of herself and other shareholders, called for close examination. The £1 shares then stood, on the Stock Exchange, at the low sum of 5s. 3d., and no dividends were being paid. To-day, the business is not only an increasingly prosperous one, but the shares now stand in the neighbourhood of 21s.-22s.

As a director of S. Hildesheimer & Co., Ltd., the well-known art and colour publishers of London and Manchester, Mrs. Thomson-Price has done good and

enterprising work, and has introduced many novel features into its output. One of the latest and most beautiful publications of this firm is its reproduction of Ralph Peacock's magnificent picture, "Josephine," the little girl behind the oak shutters, which was the picture of the year in the Royal Academy Exhibition in 1923.

Mrs. Thomson-Price has made a special study of company law and procedure, and is well known in the City, at shareholders' meetings, as a keen critic of balance-sheets. She has been the means of causing inquiries to be made into the affairs of various companies, the financial positions of which were in jeopardy, helping to put them on a paying basis.

The shareholders of the Smithfield and Argentine Meat Co., Ltd., had reason to be grateful to her, 18 months ago, when, as mover of a resolution calling for a Committee of Investigation into the affairs of this company, she succeeded in getting the resolution adopted, and not only formed one of the Committee, but was elected as its Chairman, subsequently presenting a report to the adjourned meeting of shareholders, four months later, at the Great Hall, Winchester House, which was adopted by the shareholders,

the result being that the board was practically reformed, and the financial affairs of the company, including the remuneration of the directors, put on a new basis.

Mrs. Thomson-Price holds that there is much to be done, in amending the existing Company Laws, in order to protect the interests of shareholders, and that it is high time this matter was taken in hand in the House of Commons.



MRS. THOMSON-PRICE.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Teachers' Salaries.

SIR ROBERT ASKE (Newcastle-on-Tyne) asked the President of the Board of Education if the Government proposed to establish equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status, and, if so, if that was to be done by raising the salaries of women teachers or by reducing those of men teachers? MR. TREVELYAN replied that the Government adhered to the view that the salaries of teachers in State-aided schools should, if possible, be determined, at all events in the first instance, by arrangement between the teachers and the local education authorities who were responsible for their employment and payment. The existing arrangements were under review by the Burnham Committees, and he did not think it desirable to anticipate the result of their deliberations.

Uncertified Teachers.

SIR ROBERT ASKE asked the President of the Board of Education if the Government intended to make any alteration in the status of those who were at present serving as uncertified teachers, and, if so, what alterations were proposed? MR. TREVELYAN replied that the whole question of the employment of uncertified teachers was under his consideration, but he was not yet in a position to make a statement on the subject.

Consular Service (Women).

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (Kinross and West Perth) asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Overseas Trade Department whether, when the appointment of Vice-Consul was under consideration, if there was no British man resident available with the necessary qualifications, and if the pay was not sufficient to attract anyone from elsewhere to the locality, the claims of resident British women with the necessary qualifications for the post might be considered? MR. PONSONBY (Under-Secretary, Foreign Office), who had been asked to reply, said that the answer was in the negative. Under paragraph (a) of Section 1 of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, power was given to reserve to men any branch of, or post in, the Civil Service in any of His Majesty's Possessions overseas or in any foreign country, and under the Order-in-Council of July 22nd, 1920, the Civil Service Commissioners were empowered to make the necessary Regulations. The Civil Service Commissioners, with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, accordingly gave notice that they made the following Regulations under the above-mentioned Order-in-Council: "(1) (On behalf of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) All posts in the Diplomatic Service and in the Consular Service are reserved to men." MR. PONSONBY added that that notice was published in the *London Gazette* of August 23rd, 1921.

Waitresses' Wages.

MR. DUNCAN (Clay Cross) asked the Home Secretary if he was aware that British women employed at the British Empire Exhibition, serving in restaurants and teashops, were being paid a weekly wage of 15s. for 60 hours' work; and if he would see that the provisions of the Shops Act were enforced in those establishments? MR. DAVIES (Under-Secretary, Home Office) replied that he had no information as to the hours worked or the wages paid in the case of those employees, and he would point out that the enforcement of the Shops Act rested not with the Home Office, but with the local authority.

Home Training Centres.

Replying to a question by MR. D. G. SOMERVILLE (Barrow-in-Furness), MR. SHAW (Minister of Labour) said that the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment informed him that the existing number of home-training centres was 57, with accommodation for 2,530 women and girls. Twelve more were about to open, and a further 13 were under consideration. They provided instruction for unemployed women in domestic and allied subjects. He was informed that those centres were taken advantage of, and he was not aware of any recent objection to that training.

Juvenile Employment Centres.

MR. G. WHITE (Birkenhead, E.) asked the Minister of Labour the average length of attendance of unemployed young persons at juvenile employment centres? MISS BONDFIELD replied that the information asked for was not available; but in the period from September 17th, 1923, to March 31st, 1924, the average weekly attendance was 6,247, and the total number of boys and girls who passed through the centres was 42,369.

Slave Trade (Naval Operations).

MR. J. HARRIS (Hackney, N.) asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty what naval units had been engaged during the last year in the task of liberating slaves on the African, Arabian, and other coasts; how many slave-carrying craft had been captured; and how many slaves had been set free since the beginning of 1922? MR. ALEXANDER replied that two sloops had been stationed in the Red Sea, and two sloops and a special service in the Persian Gulf, during the last year, part of their duties having been the prevention of slave traffic by sea; in addition, four destroyers had been sent to the Red Sea from the Mediterranean station in April last for that purpose; no slave-carrying craft had been captured during the period referred to; 33 slaves had been set free since the beginning of 1922.

Incipient Mental Disorder (Treatment).

MR. COSTELLO (Huntingdon) asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the fact that Borough Councils were at present empowered by the Public Health Act, 1875, to establish and maintain hospitals for any class of illness, he would consider the advisability of allocating to the Health Committees of local authorities grants sufficient for the provision, where desired, of hospitals for uncertifiable cases of nervous breakdown, to promote their restoration to self-supporting life, while avoiding the stigma associated with institutions under the control of the lunacy authorities? MR. WHEATLEY replied that the terms of reference to the Royal Commission would include the question of the best method of providing for the treatment of mental disorder in the incipient stage; and, pending the recommendations of the Commission, he was not prepared to introduce legislation on the subject.

Lunacy Laws (Commission).

MR. COSTELLO asked the Minister of Health if his attention had been called to the remarks of Lord Justice Scrutton in giving judgment in the case of *Harnett v. Bond*, in the Court of Appeal; and whether he was now in a position to give the names of the proposed Royal Commission, and to say when it would begin its sittings? MR. WHEATLEY said that the reply to the first part of the question was "Yes." As to the second part, he was not yet in a position to give the names, but he hoped that the Commission would be appointed within the next few weeks.

Legitimacy Bill.

MR. VIANT (Willesden, W.) asked the Prime Minister if the Government proposed to proceed with the Legitimacy Bill which had come down from another place? MR. CLYNES (Lord Privy Seal) replied that the Government would welcome a Second Reading being given to that Bill; but they regretted that they could not grant it any special facilities.

WOMEN POLICE.

Conference organised by British Overseas Committee and Women's Auxiliary Service.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH, 1924, 3-5 P.M.

In Conference Hall 4 in the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley—Palace of Industry.

Speakers—

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY, DAME HELEN GWYNNE VAUGHAN, COMMANDANT ALLEN.

Chair: LADY NOTT-BOWER.

Tickets 1/- (including Admission to Exhibition), from 144 High Holborn.

LADY ASTOR'S VIEWS.

Last Monday, after a lengthy debate on the Unemployed Insurance Bill, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Shaw) withdrew the proposal to bring boys and girls of 14 years of age into an insurance scheme, on the understanding that the whole question would be considered without prejudice in Committee.

Lady Astor's contribution, in speaking to an amendment to the proposal, was as follows:—"I know how difficult the position of the Minister of Labour is. I know that his heart is paved with good intentions. This is one of the most amazing things that this House has ever seen. Here we have a Labour Government afraid of doing what they know in their hearts they ought to do. I knew perfectly well, when the Labour Government came in, they could not do a quarter of what they promised; but it never occurred to me that they would run away from such a glorious opportunity as this. We have enormous juvenile unemployment. This is the time of all others for the Minister of Education to come before the House and make one of those moving appeals which they make to the constituencies. This is the time to come with a scheme to raise the school age. It would enormously have helped the whole of juvenile unemployment in the country, and also older unemployment. One of the difficulties is taking children into industry between 14 and 16, and then turning them off. It is an iniquitous thing to do, ruinous to the future of industry. This is the moment to make an appeal to the House. If you have any money to spare, give it to the necessitous parents, and encourage them to keep the children at school. I was one who fought hard for juvenile unemployment centres. It is really just a makeshift. What the country needs is to get the whole of the children from 14 to 16, and, if possible, keep them in school. I think the time will come when people will say it is a positive waste of money to turn the children out from 14 to 16. You have got a Labour Government whose heart is aching and bleeding for the children, and yet they dare not raise the school age. Someone said he did not care what the teachers said. I do care what the teachers say. When it comes to a question of the children, go to the experts." (Lt.-Col. Ward interrupted: "I prefer the mothers, any day.") Lady Astor continued: "I speak as an enlightened mother. All of the enlightened mothers want their children to be educated, and they know the tragedy of a child who has got ability to benefit by education and cannot get it. I do beg the Government to live up to some of their promises. I know there are some Members of the Government who believe they can get everything—the Kingdom of Heaven without praying, and the best of this world without paying. I do not ask the Government to go as far as some of their more extreme members, but I do ask them to go as far as enlightened Members of the House of Commons, and certainly as far as the people most interested in children throughout the country."

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

Mrs. Wedgwood Benn entertained at tea, in the Terrace Room of the House of Commons, on May 22nd, a number of women distinguished in politics and the professions, to meet Miss Maude Royden, who afterwards spoke on the subject, "Women in the Church." The guests included Mrs. Alderton (the Mayor of Colchester), Dame Clara Butt, Mrs. Burnett-Smith (Miss Annie S. Swan), Miss Rathbone, J.P., Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Marjorie Pease, J.P., Mrs. Hubback (representing the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), Miss Mayo (representing the Six Point Group), Miss F. A. Underwood (representing the Women's Freedom League), and many others. Almost every religious view, including Roman Catholicism, was represented in the company. Mrs. Benn introduced Miss Royden in a delightful and most happily phrased speech; and Miss Royden, in the course of an eloquent and comprehensive address, made a general plea for the ordination of women to the Ministry of the

Church. During the brief discussion which followed, Mrs. Helena Normanton suggested the value of making a "test case."

The object of the meeting was to bring pioneer and representative women in touch with a movement still struggling strenuously against one of the last of the great artificial barriers of sex disqualification.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Teachers' Pay.

The Lord Mayor of York (Alderman W. Dobbie) presided over a meeting at the York Mansion House recently, in favour of equal pay for women teachers with men. He said he was thoroughly in favour of equality of service and responsibility, and of equality of pay. A resolution was unanimously adopted, on the motion of Miss Agnes Dawson, of the National Union of Women Teachers, protesting against the differentiation in salary and advancement between women and men, and calling on the Government to instruct the Burnham Committee to equalise the scales.

Polish Women Workers.

Mass meetings and street processions were held one Sunday in Warsaw, recently, organised by Polish women workers. Three large halls were filled to overflowing, and so great was the influx of women, that no men except those who were on the speaker's platform could find room. A noted Polish heroine is Marya Paszkowska, whose whole life has been devoted to the cause of Poland's struggles with the oppressor, and to the help of the workers. A Bill has just passed through the Diet for the protection of the work of women and children, a Bill that in a large measure owes its existence to the pleading of the women members.

Women on Trade Boards.

The Trade Boards established in 1920 for the Grocery and Provision Trade in England and Wales and in Scotland have been reconstituted by the Minister of Labour. Sir Cyril Jackson is appointed Chairman, Mr. J. P. Orr the Deputy Chairman, and Mrs. I. Drury the woman appointed member of the Board for England and Wales. Sir Thomas F. Wilson is Chairman, Mr. Alexander Murdoch Deputy Chairman, and Miss Grace Drysdale the woman appointed member of the Scottish Board.

A Woman in Egypt.

Miss W. S. Blackman, who has been living among the peasants of Upper and Middle Egypt for some years past—she is an Oxford University Research student, and head of the Percy Sladen Memorial Fund Anthropological Expedition to Egypt—is to give a lecture, on her experiences, to the Royal Asiatic Society, early in June. Lord Chalmers and the Egyptian Minister, Aziz Pasha Izzet, will both be present.

Lady Warden.

At St. George's (Leicester) vestry meeting recently, the Vicar, Canon Robinson, nominated Miss Pell Smith as his warden for the ensuing year. Canon Robinson pointed out that St. George's had led the way in appointing a woman warden. There was no other woman in such a position in Leicester.

Women and the Church.

Women's ordination to full ministerial privileges was debated at the recent Methodist General Conference in Massachusetts (U.S.A.). The chief exponent was Miss Madeline Southard, a lay delegate from South-West Kansas, who holds a Divinity degree, and who is President of the National Women Preachers' Association in America.

Woman Traveller's Adventures.

Mrs. Charlotte Cameron, the explorer and writer, has recently returned to London from Mexico City, where she was held up for three months, owing to an attempted revolution. On one occasion she had to dash through a party of firing rebels in a motor-car, and the train in which she eventually left for the American frontier was held up for a time by bandits.

THE VOTE.

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

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

EDITORIAL.

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

THE SEX DISQUALIFICATION (REMOVAL) ACT.

We draw the special attention of our readers to the Duchess of Atholl's question, and the Government spokesman's reply to it, which we report fully in our "In Parliament" column. As soon as Command Paper 1244 was issued, which reserved to men all posts in the Diplomatic Service and in the Consular Service, and practically all posts in the Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates, in the Civil Services of His Majesty in India, in the Commercial Diplomatic Service, and the Trade Commissioner Service, we protested that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, was shorn of a great deal of its high-sounding purpose, so far as its usefulness to women was concerned. These Regulations were made under the Order in Council of July 22nd, 1920, and, so far, there is no woman Member of the Privy Council. It is an entirely masculine idea to keep women out of all the above-mentioned Services; and Mr. Ponsonby was very definitely of the opinion that, even if no British man was willing to serve as a Vice-Consul, that position could in no circumstances be filled by a British woman! Yet the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act was "an Act to amend the law with respect to disqualifications on account of sex"! May we remind the Government that Clause I. of this Act says: "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation." No Order in Council has been issued to modify or alter this. Yet, time after time, local governing authorities have with impunity openly defied this provision by dismissing their *women* employees solely on the ground of their marriage, and Government after Government has acquiesced in their defiance of the law. Our contention is that Governments should act impartially as between men and women citizens, and uphold the law equally for men and women alike. Successive Governments' cynical disregard of the defiance of local governing bodies of Clause I. cannot but lower the prestige of the law in the eyes of British women, who naturally want to know why a law which applies only to women's interests need not be carried out, whereas when it applies to men's interests it must be observed to the letter? When women have equal political power with men, they may succeed in getting a satisfactory answer to that question. They will probably then demand a real Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, for we cannot regard the present one as anything but a sham, a delusion, and a snare. It is absurd to imagine that the next generation of women, who will share men's educational advantages, will be content to fill only the lower grades of the Civil Service. Other countries are making use of the abilities of women in their Diplomatic Services, and this country will sooner or later have to come into line with them, and eventually open all posts in the higher Civil Services—at home, abroad, in the Colonies, and in India—on the same terms as men.

WAGES AND TIPPING.

We are in entire agreement with Mr. F. J. Waldo, the City Coroner, when, at an inquest held recently on a waitress who had died of heart disease during the lunch-hour rush in a City restaurant, he said, "It would be better and more English if waitresses were paid a sufficient wage without tips." The manager of the restaurant stated that the wages of the dead girl were 9s. a week—and gratuities. Big catering concerns frequently pay enormous dividends, and they ought to be compelled to pay their employees a fair wage, without expecting their customers to supplement that wage by tipping those who serve them. A Joint Committee has been appointed to investigate wages and conditions paid to employees at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. It appears that a programme and guide seller is paid no wages at all, but has 10d. in the £ commission on sales. To earn 1s., the seller must dispose of 24 guides. A bath-chair attendant not only has no wages, but has to pay 5s. a day for hire of chair. The attendant retains all earnings, but must not charge more than 2s. 6d. an hour. A woman lavatory attendant, working from 9.30 a.m. till 11 p.m., has been paid 15s. a week; waitresses are paid a similar sum, although most of them have some food provided. Out of their earnings these women have to pay their fares to and from Wembley, and this journey frequently adds an hour or two to their day's toil. This exploitation of a rather defenceless class of worker considerably lowers the prestige of those responsible for the management of the Exhibition, and we trust that, as these facts come to their notice, the conditions of the workers at Wembley will be altered. Last Monday, Mr. W. Lunn (Parliamentary Secretary to the Overseas Trade Department) told Mr. Edmund Harvey (Dewsbury), in the House of Commons, that there appeared to be every likelihood of the setting-up of a representative Works Council which would be in a position to investigate all complaints. Lady Astor immediately asked if there would be women on that Council; but Mr. Lunn replied that that had not been considered. In the name of common sense, we ask Mr. Lunn how such a Works Council can be called representative if women are not represented on it? The chief complaints have been regarding the wages paid to *women* at Wembley!

TWO BILLS THROUGH COMMITTEE.

Last Tuesday, Standing Committee "B" of the House of Commons passed the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, to amend the law relating to separation and maintenance orders. Under the Bill, magistrates are empowered to grant an order on application by a married woman, on the ground of cruelty or neglect by a husband, notwithstanding that the cruelty or neglect complained of has not caused her to leave and live separately or apart from him, as required by the existing Act. Under the existing law, an order could be discharged in the case of the wife's adultery. The present Bill gives the magistrates discretion to refuse to discharge the order if, in their opinion, the act of adultery was conducted by the failure of the husband to make the payments required under the order.

The Committee also passed the Legitimacy Bill, to amend the law relating to children born out of wedlock. The chief object of this measure is to provide that, whenever the parents of an illegitimate child or children subsequently marry one another, these children become legitimate. There are a number of provisos, one of which is that the Bill does not enable a legitimated person to take any interest in real or personal property which he would not have taken if the section had not been proposed.

Both Bills were ordered to be reported to the House.

SIXTH ANNUAL I.L.O. CONFERENCE.

By MARJORIE COHEN.

On June 16th, in Geneva, the representatives of Governments, employers, and workers of the Member-States of the International Labour Office will meet for the sixth session.

There is a full agenda for this particularly interesting Conference, but the four chief items for discussion are: (1) Development of facilities for the utilisation of workers' leisure. (2) Equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents. (3) Weekly suspension of work for 24 hours in glass-manufacturing processes where tank furnaces are used. (4) Night work in bakeries.

The first two items clearly affect women workers directly; the last two concern them less closely. It must, however, always be remembered that women's interest in international labour legislation should not be limited to women's work only, or to processes in which women are employed, but it should include a knowledge of industrial laws and conditions generally; for it is fairly obvious that labour conditions under which her menfolk work do, in many cases, influence the lives and welfare of women. Moreover, and of greater importance, remains the fact that it is the force of informed public opinion that makes possible all reforms; and, since this public opinion should embrace the views of women citizens, emphasis is laid on the necessity for women studying each of the leading subjects to be discussed at this Conference, and to determine for themselves the points of most direct concern to them as workers.

The idea that the question of workers' leisure should be considered internationally by the International Labour Organisation at Geneva marks a comparatively new step in the world's industrial history. A moment's thought will show clearly that leisure and hours of work are interdependent, and it has been partly with a view to securing the leisure to which all are entitled that our industrial reformists have fought for the regulation of the length of the working day.

There will, however, be no attempt to secure a Draft Convention, or to insist on any rigid schemes for the conduct of institutions or educational campaigns to enliven or enrich the leisure hours. But it is hoped that the Conference may succeed in getting an interchange of views and experiences, which might result

in a Recommendation containing suggestions for the development of facilities for the utilisation of workers' leisure.

In the Preamble of Part XIII. of the Peace Treaty, the protection of the interests of workers, when employed in countries other than their own, is included as one of the ideals to be worked for by the I.L.O. Also, Article 427 provides that "the standard set by law in each country with regard to the conditions of labour should have due regard to the equitable economic treatment of all workers lawfully resident therein."

At the first International Labour Conference, 1919, a Recommendation was passed concerning the reciprocity of treatment of foreign workers; and in the Draft Convention on Unemployment adopted at the same Conference, provisions were made for the same rates of unemployment insurance benefits to be paid to the foreign worker as to the natives of the country in which he is working.

The Emigration Commission of the I.L.O., set up in 1920, has also passed a resolution concerning equality of treatment for foreign workers in respect of labour and social insurance. But because this subject contains so many different aspects, it has been decided to restrict the proposals at the coming Conference to a Draft Convention, concerning "equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents." There are various systems of compensation for accidents adopted by different countries, and numerous agreements have been concluded between countries in respect of this question.

The proposal, however, for an international agreement was made some time before the war, and the value of securing a Draft Convention for accidents alone increases year by year with the flow of immigrants from country to country, and the registration of new treaties concerning these workers.

In addition to these topics, there will be the usual valuable discussion of the report of the Director of the I.L.O. on the work of the past year.

Women who feel any sense of responsibility in the industrial welfare of world-labour are urged to watch the Press for the account of the proceedings of these countries, and to equip themselves with an informed opinion with which to meet criticisms of these subjects.

MEDICAL WOMEN'S JUBILEE.

The London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, which was founded in 1874, and is keeping its Jubilee in October, began with a roll-call of 14 students, which has since increased to over 500. It was the first institution to provide women with a complete medical education. Five years previously, Miss Jex-Blake, Mrs. Thorne, and five other women had begun studying, under enormous difficulties, for a medical degree at Edinburgh University, their teachers demanding a fancy price for their tuition, their fellow-students stoning them in the streets, and the examiners refusing to admit them to the qualifying examinations. Miss Garrett, meanwhile, afterwards Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, had completed her medical education and been registered on the Diploma of the London Society of Apothecaries. Later, she obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine (not registrable in England) from the University of Paris. She and the seven pioneers from Edinburgh, with the generous assistance of Lord Shaftesbury, Charles Darwin, Huxley, Professor Chambers, and Lady Stanley of Alderley, then inaugurated the School.

At the time of its foundation, no hospital would give the women clinical instruction, and no qualifying body would admit them to examination. Finally, the Royal Free Hospital in Gray's Inn Road, which was not then a teaching hospital, consented to receive the women as students. At first the difficulty as to an examining

body was solved by the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, but in 1877 the University of London threw open all its medical degrees and honours to women. In 1909, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons also opened their doors to women. The work of the pioneers has been more than justified, for during the last 50 years London women have won a higher percentage of academic distinctions than any other medical school. Medical women distinguished themselves greatly during the war, and are doing equally well in the still more difficult post-war period. They are holding public appointments not only in hospitals peculiarly their own, such as the Royal Free Hospital, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, and the South London, but in many other London hospitals, the Cancer Hospital, Bethlem Royal Hospital, the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, and in innumerable institutions throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland. A woman has been appointed honorary surgeon to the Herefordshire General Hospital, and women also hold important appointments under Government, such as Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Medical Officer to Government Departments, and Medical Officer of Health to several cities and boroughs, appointments under various municipal and local authorities, very important positions in the Women's Medical Service for India, and under most of the chief Missionary Societies.

EQUAL FRANCHISE BILL IN COMMITTEE.

The Times reports that, on May 22nd, Standing Committee "A" of the House of Commons, presided over by Sir Cyril Cobb (Fulham), considered Mr. W. M. Adamson's Representation of the People Act Amendment Bill. The principal object of this Bill is to confer on women of the age of 21 and upwards the franchise, both for Parliamentary and Local Government Elections. It also proposes to assimilate the Parliamentary and Local Government franchises by abolishing the occupational qualification and the qualification of women as the wives of Local Government electors, and to place the whole franchise for both sexes (other than University electors) on a similar basis of residence. This Bill further proposes to abolish the statutory right of the Universities to charge fees for registration, and to remove the disqualification in respect of election, membership, or chairmanship imposed by the Local Government Act of 1894, as regards certain Local Authorities and Boards of Guardians.

The proceedings were concerned with an amendment proposed by Mr. A. Somerville (Windsor), providing that the Bill should not affect the rights of any person already a Parliamentary or Local Government elector. A general discussion on the scope of the Bill ensued. Speaking on this amendment, Lord Eustace Percy (Hastings) said that the Bill would enfranchise probably something like 3,000,000 women, and would disfranchise a very large number of men, and a considerable number of women as well. He described the Bill as "a very ingenious dish of scrambled eggs which no one could unscramble except the authors."

Mr. W. M. Adamson (Cannock), who introduced the Bill, reminded the Committee that at the Second Reading a very definite statement was made that the portion dealing with the assimilation of the Local Government and Parliamentary franchises would not be pressed. The most important section of the Bill was that relating to equal franchise. Lord Hugh Cecil (Oxford University) said nothing could be more certain than that, unless this Bill was reduced to the simple proposition that men and women were to have the vote on equal conditions, and all beyond that eliminated, it could not possibly pass into law unless the Government backed it. He therefore thought it only fair that the Government should state its position.

Mr. Arthur Henderson (Home Secretary) said the appeal to the Government to state its position was another way of asking him to give some more pledges. It seemed to him that the discussion, which he welcomed, represented the desire of all sections of the Committee to get down to practical business, at any rate so far as the main part of the Bill was concerned. If the promoters of the Bill were prepared to cut the Bill down to the principle of equal franchise, then he thought there was something to be said for an effort being made in that direction. When, however, he was pressed to give the position of the Government, he had to do so on the Bill as it stood. If there was general agreement as to its scope, then the Government would be prepared to see the Bill through its remaining stages, but at the moment they had to consider the Bill as a whole.

Lord Eustace Percy said that, if they could confine themselves to the question of age, and drop altogether anything to do with the Local Government franchise, or with the abolition of the business premises qualification for Parliamentary franchise, they would be able to reach a conclusion in a reasonable space of time, with a reasonable amount of discussion.

Ultimately, the Committee adjourned for a week, on the understanding that, in the meantime, some understanding will be reached by all Parties with regard to the scope of the Bill.

BEST SEATS FOR THE THEATRES!

We now have a Theatre Ticket Agency; so, when you want to book seats for the theatre, phone Museum 1429, or send to THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Do this, and you will be helping THE VOTE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Bedales. By J. H. Badley. (Methuen.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

"Freedom and Service—the School stands for these ideals," says the Headmaster, and, in his account of his thirty years' work, justifies his claim. Having the same aims, we of the Women's Freedom League can heartily recommend to parents and teachers this account of a great and successful experiment. Mr. Badley's views on co-education, on outdoor activities, on a well-balanced curriculum, on musical training, on service to the community, on how to secure the all-round development of the child, are wise, and have stood the test of years. He largely anticipated, too, the later Montessori and Dalton methods. Hear him on discipline—at Bedales a happy medium between the rigid methods of the past and the modern view of self-government, in which, by the way, the accent is far too often wrongly placed upon the "self":—"Freedom, trust, responsibility, . . . instead of the tempting short cut of enforced obedience, . . . the longer road of the enlisting of the will, . . . slow and disappointing in the earlier stages, it is a living growth that, once started, will continue beyond the present. . . . If by this slower road we can reach in the end a real self-control, and in place of the conformity of habit or indifference keep a freshness of outlook and spontaneity of effort, education is in the truest sense a training for life." F. E. T.

The Call. By Edith Ayrton Zangwill. (Allen and Unwin.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Mrs. Zangwill has written a pleasant little story which takes us back to suffrage days, and it has the usual happy ending of most novels. Ursula, a well-educated girl, living with a pleasure-loving mother, and stepfather, insists on continuing her scientific studies. The top floor of the handsome house in Lowndes Square is given over to her, and there, as her fluffily little mother says, she produces "nasty smells"; she attends lectures and has her successes and failures like every other healthy-minded, twentieth-century girl. Ursula's gradual conversion to the suffrage cause, and her alliance with the militant suffrage movement describe perhaps exactly what did happen to many a worker. A feeling of revulsion was in many cases the prelude to conversion, for had not women a long history of "It is not ladylike" to overcome? In due course, Ursula falls in love with a quite charming man, upsets all his sense of what is right and proper for a woman, by volunteering for the danger zone, and temporarily loses not only her fiancé, but, on suffering imprisonment for the cause, her home.

Mrs. Zangwill dedicates her book to those who fought for the freedom of women, and she leaves us wondering why she chose such a title. "Lest we forget" comes to our mind, but perhaps Mrs. Zangwill wants to make us realise that we still have to urge the rights of women to make their own lives as they will. E. M.

BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

All readers visiting Wembley must make a point of dropping in for a chat at our Suffrage Pavilion, to which a number of visitors came last week. It is in the Eastern Section, near the Exhibition Station within the Exhibition, under the shadow of that prominent landmark, the States Express Cigarette Tower, directly behind Hampden's pretty little house, and Day & Martin, flanked by Spratt's exhibit, and looking on to the Shetland ponies and Pekingese puppies. On Monday next, our members, Mrs. Ewen, Mrs. Delbanco, Miss Wolfe Murray, and Miss Warriner, will be in charge.

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them, mention THE VOTE.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, May 30th, 3 to 5 p.m. Reception to Overseas Suffragists, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speeches, Music. Admission (including tea) 1/-.

Monday, June 2nd, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch. Annual Meeting at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson).

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, June 6th, at 8 p.m. Branch Business Meeting at "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road, Teddington (by kind permission of Mrs. Foster Lumb).

Tuesday, June 24th, 3.30 to 7.30. Mid-London Branch. Pound Tea, at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin). Proceeds for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund.

Monday, June 30th, at 3.30 p.m. "Fair" Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, July 4th, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

Saturday, July 5th, at 10 a.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. National Executive Committee Meeting.

WALES.

Friday, May 30th. Swansea. Jumble Sale

PROVINCES.

Monday, June 2nd, at 7.30 p.m. Middlesbrough. Concert at the Suffrage Café, by Mr. Percy Wearmouth's Party. Tickets 1/- and 6d.

Wednesday, June 18th, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, at 36, Stanley Street (by kind invitation of Mrs. Ball). Tickets, 1/6 each.

Wednesday, July 2nd, at 7 p.m. Middlesbrough. Garden Party at "Agecroft," Linthorpe Road. Tickets 6d.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, June 4th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Michael, P.L.G. Subject: "The Work of the Poor Law Guardian."

BRANCH NOTES.

THAMES VALLEY.

Miss Froud (Secretary, National Union of Women Teachers) was the speaker at our meeting at "Holmwood," Teddington, last Friday evening, her subject being "Equal Pay for Men and Women Teachers of the same Professional Status." Miss Froud said that, at the present time, women teachers who served the same apprenticeship as men teachers, had the same training, came under the same inspectorate, taught the same curriculum in classes of the same size, or had charge of a similar-size school, were only paid four-fifths of the salaries paid to men teachers, simply and solely because they were women. That was an injustice to women; it resulted in the employment of fewer men teachers—the present number of women to men teachers being three to one—and it created an altogether wrong mental atmosphere, the implication being that women were inferior to men. A Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Education had recently reported that the work of women teachers in our schools was at least as good as the men's. "Why, then," asked Miss Froud, "should not women teachers have at least the same salaries as men, especially as, in addition to the subjects taught by men, women teachers teach needlework to the girl pupils, whereas if hand-work is taught to boys, a special master is engaged for it?" Proceeding, the speaker said it was frequently argued that men teachers should be paid at a higher rate than women because they had dependents, the assumption being that women teachers had no dependents. Yet the fact was that most women who worked for their living had at some time of their lives people dependent upon them. Moreover, the higher rate of pay was paid to all men teachers, irrespective of whether they were married or single, or whether they had or had not any dependents. The only just thing was to give the same rate of pay to those who did work of the same value. Miss Froud reminded her audience that, because men teachers had higher pay than women, they also had bigger pensions. A lively discussion followed this address, and the meeting, which was presided over by Miss Double, closed with a very cordial vote of thanks to Miss Froud.

Will members of this Branch kindly note that an important business meeting will be held at "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Foster Lumb), on Friday, June 6th, at 8 p.m.?

(Hon. Sec.) Miss F. BREWER, 15, Fleece Hill, Long Ditton, Surbiton.

BEXHILL.

A very enjoyable concert was held at the Social Centre, Station Road, last Tuesday evening. The Misses Osborne and Miss Deuchars are to be warmly congratulated on their rendering of a trio for piano, violin, and cello. Mrs. Chamberlayne's songs were greatly appreciated; she was accompanied by Miss Osborne. Mr. Pigott's conjuring tricks and phrenology amazed his hearers. We are very grateful to the members of the St. Leonards Repertoire Company for two sketches, which were cleverly acted. The child dancers were held up by the storm, and unable to reach the hall, which was a big disappointment. It was a pity that the thunder chose to help us. Rarely has Bexhill seen such a storm! But we pluckily "carried on," in spite of moments of terror. M. L. WHITE, Glenroyde Hotel, Wellington Square, Hastings.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Queen's College.

MADAM,—I should like much to press upon the attention of your readers the claims of Queen's College, Harley Street, on the support of all who wish to promote the progress of movements for the improvement of the position of women. I do not think that people of the rising generation at all appreciate the difficulties with which the reformers of 1848 had to contend. It was in that famous year of revolutions that Queen's College received its charter. A little-known institution for the training of governesses had preceded it in Harley Street; but my father, Frederick Denison Maurice, in devising a plan of education for the new College, maintained that all women ought to be considered as teachers, and that they needed the highest culture that could be provided for them, and also some of that fellowship with each other which the older Universities of England tried to provide in their colleges. My uncle-in-law, Dr. Plumtre (afterwards Dean of Wells) stood by my father in this work. Trench, afterwards Dean of Westminster, and other distinguished teachers, took classes, and Hullah guided the musical teaching. But a most sneering article in the *Quarterly Review* showed the opinion of some well-known writers on the new attempt. The "Princess" of Tennyson ridiculed, in the same year, the idea of a Women's College; and some of the most distinguished of pupils felt it quite uncomfortable to speak to their friends of the new attempt in which they were taking part. Yet it attracted some of the leading women of the time. Miss Beale, afterwards Head of Cheltenham College; Miss Wedgwood, the author of the "Moral Ideal"; and Miss Frances Martin, the translator of some of M. Guizot's biographies, and afterwards founder of a Working Women's College, were pupils at Queen's College. And when, in 1891, I became a teacher of Modern History at the College, I found the average standard of intellect in the pupils still very high. I remember well one pupil of mine, Miss Helen Prideaux, who combined very keen intelligence with that womanly charm which reactionists of the time supposed to be incompatible with the love of serious study. Though she was one of my best pupils in history, it was rather to physical science that she gave her most sympathetic attention, and she won the highest place in an examination for anatomy in the London University. So, when in 1898 the jubilee of the College was celebrated, a most splendid record was produced of work of various kinds achieved by pupils of the College.

Surely, such a record should entitle the first College for the higher education of women to friendly support, when its steady growth is compelling it to ask for further room for expansion, and therefore to acquire the neighbouring house in addition to its present home.—Yours faithfully, C. E. MAURICE.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

Wednesday Conferences on "The Legal and Economic Status of Women throughout the Empire," in the Wembley Pavilion at 5.30 p.m.; admission free.

June 4th.—Maintenance of Wives and Children. The Law as it is—proposed right to share husband's income. Miss Sybil Campbell, Fru Anna Wicksell (if possible).

June 11th.—The Unmarried Mother and Her Child. Miss Musson (N.C.U.M.C.).

June 18th.—Custody and Guardianship of Legitimate Children. Mrs. Hubback (N.U.S.E.C.).

June 25th.—Nationality of Married Women. Miss Macmillan (N.U.S.E.C.).

July 2nd.—Population (1).—Vital Statistics of the Empire, etc. Mrs. Stocks (N.U.S.E.C.).

July 9th.—Population (2).—Problems of Migration within the Empire. Miss A. C. Franklin (Overseas Settlement for British Women).

July 16th.—Family Allowances (1).—The Case for Family Allowances throughout the Empire. Miss Rathbone, J.P., C.C.

July 23rd.—Family Allowances (2).—Schemes at work on the Continent—France, Germany, etc. Schemes at work in the Empire. Miss Rathbone, J.P., C.C.

July 30th.—Equal Opportunities for Men and Women in Industry and in the Professions. Mrs. White (Federation of Women Civil Servants). Equal Pay for Equal Work. Miss Agnes Dawson.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, June 1st. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Rev. Hudson Shaw. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "The Ethics of Birth Control."

SOUTH COAST.—Lady, on Exhibition route, wishes to exchange her four-room London flat for similar accommodation at any South Coast resort for the months of July and August.—Apply No. 40, *THE VOTE*, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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

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