

THE VOTE,
JAN. 18, 1924.
ONE PENNY.

A MOTHER'S "HARD LABOUR."

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 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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WOMEN IN THE FREE CHURCH MINISTRY.

Interview with the REV. A. E. GARVIE, M.A., D.D.

A Bill now before Parliament, which proposes to amalgamate the two Congregational Theological Colleges, New College and Hackney College, Hampstead, and, among other changes, to admit women theological students on exactly the same terms as men, has roused much interest amongst Feminists, who desire to see the barriers against women entering the Ministry falling in the Churches, as they are already falling in secular life.

It should be understood, however, that women theological students are no new feature of New College, for they have been admitted as students since 1911; but, where finances were in question, the original trust deeds mentioned men students only, and it is now proposed to insert a clause in the new Bill, by means of which women students in the future will be treated in this respect as men are.

Dr. Garvie, the well-known scholar and theologian, is Principal of both Colleges, an ex-Chairman of the Congregational Union, and President-Elect of the National Free Church Council for 1924-25. In a recent interview, which he kindly gave to our representative, the forthcoming Bill, and the present position of women in the Ministry, were courteously explained.

"The only Theological Colleges in the country, so far as I know, which admit women," said Dr. Garvie, "are Mansfield College, Oxford, New College, and the Baptist College at Regent's Park. The Unitarians (not always included among Free Churches) have several women Ministers, and admit women to their College, Manchester, at Oxford. The University of London admits women to the B.D. in Theology. So far, three women have studied at New College, and at present we have three women students working here. One is preparing for the B.D.; another is fitting herself to be assistant to a Pastor; and the third, a married woman, is interested in theology, and is taking a course for private reasons only. None of these women, however, have ordination in view.

"Some very gifted women have passed through my hands. One of those, to whom I gave some tuition

in preparing for B.D. Honours, was the Rev. Constance Coltman, late co-Pastor with her husband, the Rev. Claud Coltman, of Greville Place Church, Maida Vale. Another was Miss Thompson, an exceptionally capable woman and a fine speaker, who once addressed the Congregational Union and the National Free Church Council, and surprised all present by her marked gift of speech. Miss Thompson was not ordained, but acted for a time as pastor of a church at Sunningdale, in Berkshire. She is now the wife of the Rev. C. E. Busby, and has gone out to the Mission Field in China. She probably has a great sphere in front of her as a trainer of native Biblewomen, and, although at present she does not work as co-pastor with her husband, circumstances may eventually bring this about. Another woman student, Miss Collins, is being ordained to the pastorate of North Bow Congregational Church.

"I have also had a woman student, for private tuition, from the Anglican Church, also a very gifted woman, who took First Class Honours in her B.D. degree. Owing to the present rigid attitude of the Anglican Church towards women in the Ministry, however, this student can find very little scope for her powers, and when last I heard of her, she was teaching History of Religions in a working man's college.

"With regard to women Pastors, however, it is still only the 'day of small things,' even in the Free Churches. My own feeling in the matter is that a Divine call can never be withstood, whether in man or woman; 'the tools are for those who can use them.' But, as matters stand at present, and in view of the sex-prejudice which still exists, a woman will need to be exceptional in every way to receive a call to a congregation, without which, in the Baptist, Congregational, and Presbyterian Churches, neither men nor women can be ordained. Though we are able to give a woman the necessary theological training to fit her for the Ministry, we cannot guarantee that she will find a definite sphere of work as pastor of a church.

"For this reason, I am inclined to advise women who feel that they have a vocation for the Ministry, to

begin as Assistants to Pastors, or Superintendents of Central Missions. I have drafted a scheme of training on these lines, and believe this method will provide a sphere of usefulness for women. Already we have several women working as Assistants—one at Penge, another at Poplar, and a third at Crosby, Liverpool. One woman student completed her course at Regent's Park College last year, but I have not yet heard of her settlement."

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc., M.A.

The Women's Freedom League is delighted that this week's list of men and women, who have passed the Final Bar Examinations, includes the name of Miss Chrystal Macmillan, and offers her its warm congratulations and the best of good wishes.

Woman Accountant.

Miss Ethel Watts, B.A., of London, is the first woman to pass the difficult Final Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and to write "A.C.A." after her name. She was the only woman entrant out of 400 candidates. The Institute of Chartered Accountants only opened its doors to women in 1920, when Miss Harris Smith, the well-known pioneer woman accountant, was made a Fellow.

Mr. MacDonald's Woman Secretary.

Miss Rose Rosenberg, well known as Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's private secretary, and his eldest daughter's great friend, has been a suffragist from childhood. During the war, she acted in connection with the National Council for Civil Liberties, as adviser to all sorts of people who had war-time problems. Like her chief, she belongs to the "1917" Club, and is on the Committee.

French Woman in Industry.

A series of lectures on "Women in Industry" has been included in the famous courses of the Collège de France, and will be delivered by Prof. Georges Renard. His purpose will be to lay down the scientific lines on which the desire of women for greater freedom should move in their own interests, and in the interests of general efficiency.

Dutch Women's Peace Society.

The Dutch Society, "Women, what are you doing?" aims to unite all who wish to promote the ideas of co-operation and tolerance as the only solution for a happier mankind. Over 20,000 people are members in Holland alone, whilst abroad, the Society is steadily engaged in spreading its ideals.

Domestic Worker's Club.

As a result of requests from domestic servants themselves and their employers, a club for girls in business or service is to be opened by the Social Institutes Union for Women and Girls, of which Lady Cecilie Goff is President. In addition to a piano, circulating library, indoor games, and illustrated papers, a restaurant will cater for the needs of club members, while tennis courts have been taken for the summer months. The headquarters of the Club is at 4, Portugal Street, Kingsway.

Women Politicians Debate.

A series of political debates on "Labour v. Liberalism" is being arranged in certain large cities of the United States between Frau Adele Schreiber, M.P., of Germany, and Miss Helen Fraser, Liberal candidate for Hamilton, Lanark, at the last General Election. Frau Schreiber will also lecture independently on "Women M.P.s and Germany's Crisis."

Scotswoman Bailie.

Edinburgh Town Council has recently elected a Councillor, Mrs. Millar, to be a senior magistrate, which, in Scotland, involves the title of "Bailie." Mrs. Millar received a training in civic work by acting as hestess to her father, the late Mr. Robert Inches, when he was Lord Provost of the city. Mrs. Millar is a valued member of the Edinburgh Women's Citizens' Association.

Schoolgirl Meteorologists.

The senior girls of the North London Collegiate School have for the last two years been responsible for the taking and keeping of the records of the Camden Town Meteorological Station. This arose when the Government decided to close the station, in the interests of economy, but agreed to continue it if honorary workers could be found.

Miss Maude Royden.

A vacancy has occurred in the electoral area of the Archdeaconry of London by the resignation of Miss Maude Royden. Nomination forms are being sent to the representative electors of this area, and the election will shortly take place.

Women Customs Officers.

The Dominion Government at Ottawa stationed special women Customs officers at border points, to prevent smuggling of American goods during the Christmas season. This action was taken at the request of the Canadian Retail Merchants' Association.

M.P. Prisoners Dine Together.

Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., and many other women, was among those present at last week's Dinner Party in the House of Commons, for Members who had been imprisoned on behalf of causes they represent.

Woman Revenue Collector.

Mrs. Mabel Reinecke, a pioneer woman suffrage worker, and President of the Illinois Democratic Women's Club, has the distinction of being the only woman internal revenue collector in the United States, serving in charge of the Chicago district.

Another Woman Architect.

Miss Vera M. Dallas, of Hampstead, was amongst the successful candidates at the recent Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Business Woman's Appointment.

Miss Helen Varick Boswell, for years prominent in business politics and among women's clubs, has been made vice-president of the New York Locomotive Engineers' Co-operative Trust Company.

Assistant Health Visitor.

Miss Julia Hawson, Harrogate, has been appointed Assistant Health Visitor in the Doncaster Corporation Health Department.

King's Woman Chiropodist.

Amongst the list of Royal Warrant holders in the New Year *London Gazette*, is the name of Miss Kelly, who attends the King as woman chiropodist.

MORE WOMEN BARRISTERS.

Sixteen women were successful in the recent Hilary Bar Examinations. Three women were successful in Roman Law: Miss Gwendolen MacAndrew Fixsen (Inner Temple), and the Misses Mary Christina Shepard, and Muriel Maude Wells (Gray's Inn). Five women were successful in Constitutional Law and Legal History: Miss Ethel Lloyd Lane (Inner Temple), who gained a First Class, and the Misses Constance Colwill, Muriel Maude Wells (both of Gray's Inn), Elisabeth Margaret Crosthwaite (Inner Temple), and Violet Mary Hame (Lincoln's Inn). One woman was successful in Criminal Law and Procedure, the Hon. Ruth Burton Bucksley (Lincoln's Inn). One woman was successful in Real Property and Conveyancing, Miss Elisabeth Margaret Crosthwaite (Inner Temple). Eight women were successful in the Final Examination: Miss Mary Robina Stevens (Gray's Inn), who gained a Certificate of Honour, the Misses Irene Cooper Willis and Edith Mary Price (both of the Inner Temple), Sydney Alice Malone (Gray's Inn), Chrystal Macmillan and Gladys Evelyn Steyn (both of the Middle Temple), Miss Cicely Leadley-Brown (Lincoln's Inn), who gained Second Classes, and Miss Henrietta Mary Lilian Gibbs (Middle Temple). The total number of women called to the Bar, or qualified for Call, is now 37.

MOTHER SENT TO HARD LABOUR.

A case was recently reported in the *Essex Weekly*, in which a farm labourer and his wife, living at Great Dunmow, were charged with neglecting their four children, aged 7, 5, 3, and 1½ years, respectively. Mr. A. E. Floyd, who prosecuted for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, said he thought that some discrimination should be made between the culpability of the two parents. Inspector E. Cullen, N.S.P.C.C., said he had had the case under observation for some time. Defendants had 11 children. He had visited the house on various occasions in November. The kitchen and three bedrooms were indescribably dirty, and the children verminous and wholly neglected. The woman had told him she did not care what became of herself or the children. He had also seen the husband, who said, "I give my wife £1 out of my 30s., to buy food and clothes for the children; I can't do no more. I only go home week-ends." In the Court, the male defendant said he gave his wife 5s. a week, and bought the coal and bread, which altogether came to £1 a week. His wages were 30s. a week, out of which he was left with 3s. a week to keep himself. He had spoken to his wife about the state of the house, and had done his best to make an improvement; but he had no control, as he was only home at week-ends. The female defendant denied that she got any money from her husband, although she said he bought the bread and coal. She could not keep the children properly fed and clothed on the little she got. She had a son working, and living at home, who gave her 14s. a week. If she had more money coming in, she would do better. The Chairman said the Bench had decided to convict in both cases. The husband, to a certain extent, was not responsible, but they could not overlook the fact that he had, as their legal guardian, a great responsibility as regards the children. He would be fined £2. The female defendant had persistently neglected the children. The last time she was before the Court she received a sentence of six weeks, but, as it seemed to have made no impression on her, she would now go to prison for six months, with hard labour.

We recognise that this is a sordid case, and we deplore the suffering caused to the children. These children have a right to be protected from such gross neglect; but we think the case might have been dealt with differently, with advantage to all concerned. We hope that the magistrates made full and careful provision for the children while the mother served her sentence, and the father collected his £2 because he was the legal guardian of the children. We hope, too, that the house will be cleansed and put in order by the authorities by the time the mother returns. We cannot, however, see what good six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, is going to do this woman or her children. Six weeks' imprisonment previously had failed to make any improvement in her case. Had there been women magistrates on the bench, they might have argued to themselves that other methods would have succeeded where this one had failed. The woman was hopelessly depressed, and most probably utterly unable to do anything different from what she did, under the circumstances. What she needed was not six months' hard labour under our depressing prison system, but three or six months in a cheerful convalescent home, where she could regain her spirits and fresh courage and strength to cope with the task of bringing up these young children. She had eleven children, and, as her husband was away all the week, she had not much of his company. We think, too, that it would be an advantage if the officers of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children who visit these homes were women instead of men. Capable trained women inspectors, who understand the workings of a house, and the difficulties and discouragements of a woman who has to deal with it, when short of money, and surrounded by young children, would be infinitely more useful than any man inspector, however admirable in other respects.

WORKLESS WOMEN.

Manchester has been trying to find work for its unemployed women. The Unemployed Special Committee of the Manchester Corporation has approached each Standing Committee of the Corporation, but, with the exception of the Education and Libraries Committees, none of the Standing Committees finds itself able to provide work suitable for the employment of women. The Education Committee is prepared to employ 200 extra women for a period of twelve weeks upon the additional cleaning of schools, and the Libraries Committee is prepared to employ two additional women upon the examination and repair of newspaper files. There are approximately 8,000 wholly unemployed women in Manchester, and the 200 women who are to be employed will be put on cleaning school-rooms on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, for which they will receive 10s. a week. Miss Ellen Wilkinson told the City Council that she was disappointed at such a meagre result, and proposed that the Committee be instructed to consider schemes for providing employment for at least 1,000 women, and to this the Council agreed.

The *Manchester Guardian* reports that the Chairman of the Unemployed Special Committee and the Town Clerk recently interviewed a representative of the Ministry of Labour, with the object of ascertaining if the Ministry, with its wide experience of matters of this character, could suggest any schemes by which the Corporation might assist in the absorption of unemployed women. They were informed in detail of the activities of the Ministry of Labour in connection with the training and subsequent employment of unemployed women in domestic occupations; but the Ministry's officials were unable to suggest any practicable schemes which the Corporation could legally and effectively operate to provide work for further unemployed women. The relief works which a Corporation usually sets up for the partial absorption of workless men are works of a physically exacting kind, such as road-making, and none of them is considered suitable for women. If the municipal authorities set up municipal workrooms for the making of garments by women at present out of work, this would capture part of the trade which commercial firms of garment-makers are doing, and possibly throw their employees out of work. Not long ago, a Local Employment Committee in the North of England considered a scheme whereby machines were to have been fixed, and women set to work at the manufacture of underclothing. This scheme was not put into operation, because it was found that skilled underclothing workers in the neighbourhood were already out of employment, and drawing the dole. Moreover, a Corporation is debarred from entering into specific forms of trading, such as this, without legal authority.

The Ministry of Labour finds the task of temporarily absorbing unemployed women in relief work so difficult that it attempts to evade the problem by trying to get these women out of industry. Hence its overseas settlement scheme, which is said to be increasingly successful in its appeal to unmarried women, and its organisation for the training of young women as domestic servants. Under the second of these schemes, Manchester for some time has had its own training school, under the control of the Education Committee. Here 60 girls are trained every three months; they receive a maintenance grant of £1 a week, and undertake, when trained, to become domestic servants and "live in." The number of girls who apply for training under this scheme is very small indeed, compared with the great number of women who are registered as wholly unemployed in Manchester. We ourselves should like to see a really capable, experienced woman at the Ministry of Labour, with a working committee of women trained and experienced in industrial matters, to consider this problem of unemployed women in industry. We cannot think that the only way to deal with this matter is to secure the withdrawal of women from industry.

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

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 GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

Last Tuesday Parliament reassembled, and the Speech from the Throne represented a curious jumble of past history, present platitudes, and paltry plans for the future. It begins by stating that the King's relations with foreign Powers continue to be friendly, and that the Reparations Commission has set up two Committees to examine the financial position of Germany; that an agreement has been arrived at, between the Powers, in regard to the Tangier zone of Morocco, which provides for the promotion of communications and trade; and that a Bill will be introduced to give effect to the Lausanne Treaty. Liquor smuggling is to be dealt with, and the League of Nations is to be supported. The recent North-West Frontier murders are referred to, and a hope expressed that the murderers will be punished. Proposals to give effect to the conclusions of the recent Imperial Conferences will be submitted. The British Empire Exhibition is welcomed; unemployment is causing the gravest concern, and, as the electorate recently rejected His Majesty's Ministers' proposed solution of this problem, Parliament will be invited to consider an extension and amendment of the Trade Facilities and Export Credit schemes, the proposal of the Imperial Economic Conference for expediting and assisting the execution of certain public enterprises throughout the Empire by the grant of financial aid from public funds, and an extension of the contributions towards the cost of public utility works, whether undertaken by local authorities, or promoted by statutory and private corporations. It is also proposed to build more cruisers; and steps are to be taken to develop the present system of Juvenile Unemployment Centres, and to provide increased facilities for general and technical education. A Conference is to be summoned to find a policy for Agriculture; Bills are to be introduced to improve the position of pre-war pensioners, and to deal with the discouragement of thrift involved in the present means limitation to the grant of Old Age Pensions! The probationary system is to be developed; and Bills are to be introduced to amend and consolidate the Factory and Workshop Acts, to legitimise children born out of wedlock, whose parents have subsequently married, and to amend the law relating to separation and maintenance orders. Promises are made for further housing accommodation, and fiscal matters with Ireland are to be dealt with. The Royal Air Force is to be expanded; and measures are to be brought in dealing with Church Property in Scotland, the improvement of road traffic in London, valuation and rating in England and Wales, rating in Scotland, the improvement of the administration of civil and criminal justice, and the ascertainment of costs and profits in connection with the distribution of milk.

We suppose that the recent General Election taught the King's Ministers something, otherwise we do not know how to account for their changed policy in regard to education economies and Old Age Pensions; but we cannot pretend that we find this extraordinary catalogue of proposed measures particularly attractive. We are, of course, mildly interested in some of them, and no doubt our interest will revive if and when they materialise.

WOMEN AND BETTING.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the question of imposing a tax on betting issued its Report last week. The Committee came to the conclusion that the imposition of a tax on betting was practicable, but the dissolution prevented the members from considering the draft Report of the Chairman, Sir H. S. Cantley, K.C., who put forward proposals for State control, and a scheme of taxes. Mr. Foot, M.P., submitted a minority draft Report against any tax on betting, and suggesting further legislative restrictions. The Committee's Report states that the evidence it obtained establishes the fact that women are betting to a very large and steadily increasing extent; that betting is prevalent in the textile mills, and that female domestic servants bet in large numbers. Bookmakers and their agents have begun a system of canvassing the homes of the artisan classes and inducing women to bet. The Committee's comment is that this is most pernicious, as it can only be done out of the housekeeping money, and probably without the husband's knowledge. We have no wish to underrate the evils of betting, or of its injurious effects upon the homes of the community, but we would point out that the effects of betting are just as pernicious when practised by the working man as by the working woman. The husband probably bets without the knowledge of his wife, and his bets almost certainly will come out of the housekeeping money. It may be argued that the working man often has a margin of pocket-money to spend as he pleases, whereas his wife has no such margin, but is expected to spend every penny she gets on the housekeeping. Unfortunately, this is the position of many wives, and we think that position should be altered. We have no desire to see more women betting, but we think that a wife should have a claim to a fair proportion of her husband's income or earnings, and that that proportion should include a margin for pocket-money for recreation, amusement, or expenditure in any way she pleases, whenever there is a similar margin for the husband. This Select Committee's strictures rather imply that the working-class wife is in the position of an unpaid servant.

THE DANGERS OF IMPURE MILK.

We learn from the *Medical Officer* that, "in whatever part of the country there is carried out a systematised examination of the milk supplies for the presence of tubercle-bacilli, very disquieting results are forthcoming, and we have to face the position that, on a conservative estimate, some 20 to 25 per cent. of the dairy cows in Great Britain are affected with tuberculosis." Further, the *Medical Officer of Health for the City of London*, Dr. W. J. Howarth, said, in a recent report, "To be able to purchase 50 consecutive samples of milk, and find that one in four of these milks is tuberculous, must carry conviction that the present method of eliminating infected milk from the public supply is unsatisfactory." The present price of milk is twice as high as in pre-war days, and we think the public, especially the children of the community, have a right to better protection from the dangers of impure milk than are apparently at present afforded. For many years women have urged the necessity for a pure milk supply. What is the use of building sanatoria for tuberculous patients if the source of much of the trouble passes unnoticed? Children and young people are chiefly affected by an impure supply of milk. Milk is an essential for young children, and large numbers of young people habitually purchase a glass of milk in our cities as part of their daily lunch. The health of these children and young people is one of the nation's greatest assets, and, now that we have eight women in Parliament, we hope that it will not be long before a Pure Milk Bill is introduced into the House, passed into law, and enforced throughout the country.

WOMEN POLICE.

An important Schedule on the present employment of Women Police in Police Forces in London and the Provinces, based on information supplied by the various Chief Constables, has been published by the National Council of Women, and should be in the possession of all interested in this subject. The Schedule, price 2/6, can be obtained at this office.

The question of Women Police will certainly be raised in Parliament very shortly, and the friends of the women police need to be armed with the facts of the present position, in order to work effectively to get them appointed for the work that can only be done by women. The information contained in the Schedule is essential, especially for those working to obtain more women police, proper conditions of service for those now employed, *i.e.*, standardised in accordance with the recommendations of the Home Office Circular of March 17th, 1921, and brought under the provisions of the Police Pensions Act, 1921. The lists of towns that have reduced the numbers or dismissed their police-women, should be noted, and work undertaken to get them reappointed.

Answers to a questionnaire which was sent out last October, by the Women Police and Patrols Sectional Committee of the National Council of Women, were received from the Chief Constables of 31 out of 37 Police Forces employing Women Police at that date. No reply was received from Glasgow (employing ten women not sworn in), Newcastle (employing four not sworn in), Folkestone (employing one not sworn in), Hove (employing two not sworn in), Halifax (employing two not sworn in), and Salisbury (employing one sworn in). We also learn that 15 towns have given up their policewomen, *viz.*, Birkenhead, Plymouth, Essex (County), Portsmouth, Southampton, Ramsgate, Tunbridge Wells, Grantham, Newport, Somerset (County), Brighton, Kingston-on-Hull, Leeds, Ayr, and Dundee, whilst the following Police Forces have reduced their numbers:—Gloucestershire (County), Bristol, Oxfordshire, Birmingham, Sheffield, Metropolitan (London).

Fourteen Police Authorities, it appears, pay their women *below* the scale recommended by the Committee of Enquiry on the Employment of Women on Police duties. These are Carlisle, Bristol, Oxfordshire, Walsall, Shropshire, Sheffield, Birmingham, Durham Co., Gloucester Co., Edinburgh, Liverpool, Colchester, Huddersfield, and Bolton. Twelve towns pay their women on the Report Scale—Cambridge, Nottingham,

Hove, Sunderland, Bootle, Oxford, Eastbourne, Great Yarmouth, Worthing, Oldham, Metropolitan Area, and Stoke-on-Trent. Two Authorities pay *above* the Report Scale—Reading and Norwich—the scale being 60s.-80s. weekly for constables, and 80s.-102s. weekly for sergeants.

Some of the remarks appended to the Reports of the Chief Constables provide interesting reading. Hove Police Authority states: "During the four years Police-women have worked, I find, apart from ordinary duties, they can be employed in many useful ways. Preventive and rescue work amongst young women and girls—their usefulness and value to the community proved." Worthing Police Authority states: "The necessity for policewomen is undoubted. My one policewoman is a boon to thousands of women and children." The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis says: "The women patrols are now sworn in as constables, with the same power of arrest as the male members of the Force. They have performed the difficult duties allotted to them, with keenness and carefulness, and have proved themselves helpful in many directions, but especially in preventing girls and young persons from starting or continuing lives of immorality. The women police have also been employed on duties in connection with the detection of indecency or criminal conduct by males, particularly in relation to children and young persons, when the chances of detection by a male officer might probably have been less, and certain of them have been selected to assist in the delicate work of taking statements in respect of these offences." Northampton Authority states: "I am strongly in favour of the employment of women police, but consider they should be of the educated class." Carlisle says: "After six years' practical experience, I am fully satisfied that the services of policewomen are of the greatest value in a Borough or City Force, and I find my policewomen work most harmoniously with other members of the Force—never had the slightest reason to regret appointing her (them?)." The Chief Constable of Shropshire affirms: "Very useful adjunct from social welfare point of view. Much useful work preventing boys and girls lapsing into crime. If work not done by policewomen, would not be done at all." The Chief Superintendent of Birmingham Police writes that his policewomen are "doing great good—in touch with cases police cannot deal with—doing work quite successfully and tactfully here."

WOMEN AND MANDATED TERRITORIES.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, resolutions were passed urging the Council of the League of Nations to carry out the recommendations of the Fourth Assembly, which requested the Permanent Mandates Commission to give further consideration to the omission in Mandates A and B of any reference to the responsibility of Mandatories regarding the traffic in women and children. The appointment of more women to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League was also pressed. In a letter from M. Rappard, Director of the Mandates Section at the Secretariat of the League of Nations, recently received by Miss D'Alberti, Hon. Secretary of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, it is reported that the Council of the League of Nations, at its meeting on December 13th, 1923, has now taken cognisance of Resolution VI., relating to the Traffic in Women and Children, adopted by the Fourth Assembly on September 15th, 1923, and has requested the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the Mandatory Powers to this resolution, and invite them to make special mention in their annual reports of the measures taken to apply the Convention. It is interesting to note how considerably the Council of the League has changed its attitude on this subject since agitation was first started, a year

ago, by the women's organisations, concerning the omission of the application of the Convention on Traffic in Women and Children in the mandated territories! With regard to the appointment of more women to the Permanent Mandates Commission, M. Rappard points out that the Commission provides only for nine members, but should a resignation from this body take place, the question of the appointment of another woman to the Commission would undoubtedly be considered. At present, Fru Bugge-Wicksell, Swedish substitute delegate in the Assembly of the League, is the only woman member of the Permanent Mandates Commission, and women's organisations in this country feel very strongly that, since Great Britain exercises more power than any other country over the mandated territories, a British woman member should be added to this Commission. Fru Bugge-Wicksell's special work on the Mandates Commission is to watch the interests of women and children in the mandated territories. The question of slavery in the mandated territories has also been before both the Assembly and the Council for some time past, and an Englishwoman, Mrs. Weaver, of the International Labour Office, at Geneva, is closely watching the labour problems of these territories, and will most certainly call the League's attention to all those districts where slavery is known to exist.

A ONE-SIDED OCCUPATION.

The American Home Economics Association, which has recently concluded its sessions at New Orleans, proclaimed with no uncertain voice that home-making was a man's job, as well as a woman's job, and that the boys as well as girls should attend the domestic training courses now being given in the schools. If a man is to dictate what the family eats, he should understand the art of menu-making; if he is to dictate the family expenditure, he should understand budget-making; if he is to dictate how the children are to be brought up, he should understand child-training—was the burden of the speeches, and courses which already were being taught to men were outlined in the discussion. A few weeks ago, a number of women's organisations approached the French Minister of Education, pleading that the curriculum of the schools should be enlarged to include compulsory domestic training for both sexes alike. Even our own country, which has recently issued two entirely one-sided Reports—one, a year ago, on the "Differentiation of the Curriculum for Boys and Girls in Secondary Schools," which deplored the handicap of home duties on girls' studies, but saw no way of escape, and the more recent Report of the Domestic Service Inquiry Commission, which offered compulsory courses in Domestic Science for girls of all classes, as the only solution of the present impasse—has yet produced a London Medical Officer of Health who was sufficiently courageous publicly to draw attention to the evil effects of too many indoor domestic duties upon the health of growing girls. It is an old truism that working with one's hands wakes up one's brain. Is this possibly the reason why the natty-fingered little sister, who struggles manfully with the household chores, is often so superior in mother-wit, and quickness of intuition, to the brother who loafes away his leisure, with so few resources of his own? Even more is it a truism that housework will not perform itself. Someone must be found to do it, and, though many will seek to avoid it, some there will be, undoubtedly, of both sexes who will respond to its varied appeal, and take up one or more of its many branches as the future business of life. Only by doing does latent talent discover itself. Let us throw open, therefore, to both sexes alike, this hitherto one-sided occupation. Make its elementary side compulsory, and its higher branches optional, and the scientific home expert will at last come into his or her own!

MARRIED WOMEN'S NATIONALITY.

The question of married women's nationality was discussed at the recent Imperial Conference, and has again attracted public attention, through the case of a headmistress, a British woman, who has for years had control of a large public elementary school in London. So long ago as 1886, she married an Italian. In 1903, he deserted her, and she has not heard from him since. He is living abroad, and she has no evidence which would enable her to divorce him. This headmistress, after 45 years' service, at the age of 66, is compelled to retire without superannuation, because superannuation cannot be granted to an alien! This is a monstrous injustice to the woman concerned; but it cannot be remedied until our nationality laws are altered. Our view, of course, is that it is absurd to regard a woman as an alien merely because she marries a foreigner, and we claim for a woman the same right to retain or change her nationality as a man now possesses. Until the law is so altered, we think that the least our Government should do is to give effect by immediate legislation to the recommendation of the Imperial Conference that power should be taken to readmit such women to British nationality in cases where the married state, though subsisting in law, has for all practical purposes come to an end.

OUR ADVERTISERS

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

BOOK REVIEWS.

Women House Property Managers. By J. M. Upcott. With Forewords by Lady Astor, M.P., and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. (Published by the *Building News*.) 1/- (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The writer of this excellent little pamphlet has had ten years' practical experience of House Property Management on the lines initiated by Miss Octavia Hill. A short biographical note on Miss Hill's pioneer work in the 'sixties precedes the real business of the pamphlet, which is to describe the actual achievements at the present day of the Society which she founded. In London, partly in association with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, blocks of flats and rows of cottages have been erected in Southwark and Westminster, and associated with old tenements, to form groups under the care of the Women Managers. Of two rebuilding schemes, one, near Waterloo Station, was begun in 1901, and houses 250 families; another, much larger, in Walworth, was begun in 1903, and comprises nearly 800 tenancies. The Lambeth estate, finished in 1904, consists of flats and cottages grouped round a public garden given by the Commissioners, and has been handed over to the London County Council for supervision. In 1921, a complete area of old property, 93 houses, containing over a thousand people, was added to the Lambeth estate. In the Old Kent Road, fresh ground has been broken, with nearly 400 old houses, which have been placed, by the Commissioners, under the Women Managers. Blocks of buildings in Southwark and Islington, though belonging to private owners or companies, are also being managed by women. Outside London, Edinburgh was the first to follow the example of the London workers. To-day, 24 properties have been established out of terrible slum conditions, and classes, libraries, clubs, and county expeditions have been formed as the result of the personal relationship between landlord and tenant. Edinburgh was also the first local authority in the British Isles to employ specially trained women in the management of its houses. Dundee, Manchester, and Birmingham all exhibit samples of Miss Octavia Hill's system, although the work is not nearly so extensive as that in London.

During the war, some of Miss Hill's women were put in charge of various Government housing schemes, and did excellent work; but the necessity of providing employment for discharged soldiers of the officer type checked any further appointments of women. Although their actual work was recognised to be so valuable that no woman manager was dispossessed by a Departmental decision, all the women retired in favour of Service candidates. Quite recently, the Amersham Rural District Council, beginning with a few scattered rural cottages, is testing the value of a woman manager, and this development would seem to offer great promise for the future. D. M. N.

Daily Mail Year Book for 1924. (Associated Newspapers, Ltd.) 1s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is the twenty-fourth year of the annual appearance of the *Daily Mail Year Book*, and is probably the largest useful compendium of information to be obtained at the price. The section marked *Women*, though always a small one, is even smaller than usual, which is a curious phenomenon at this time of day. This includes a paragraph concerning the rules of jury service for women, and a paragraph on women motorists, who, we are told, now number 100,000. Another paragraph, however, on women pioneers, viz., Miss Carrie Morrison, the first British woman solicitor, Miss Aleen Cust, the first woman to be admitted a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and Miss Ivy Williams, the first English woman barrister, clearly belongs to 1922, when these three women achieved their respective goals. Evidently, to the compiler, 1923 was a barren year where "Women Pioneers" are concerned, as no triumphs are recorded during this period. A fourth and last paragraph gives useful information about the qualifications for women electors. Individual women are mentioned in connection with the special interest which has brought them before the public.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

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Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

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

Friday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, January 19th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, January 30th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch Social Gathering, open to non-members, at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., on Proportional Representation.

Chair: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Music. (Refreshments can be obtained at a small charge.) Three minutes from Hampstead Tube Station.

Wednesday, February 6th, at 8 p.m. Public Meeting at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C., to commemorate the anniversary of women's political enfranchisement.

Saturday, April 5th. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, January 26th, at 6 p.m. Glasgow. Whist Drive in the West End College, Peel Street, Partick. Tickets 2/6.

PROVINCES.

Saturday, January 26th, at 6.30 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, Unitarian School Room, High Street. Tickets 1/6 each.

Saturday, February 16th, at 2.30 p.m. Montgomery Boroughs. Monster Rummage Sale, for Head Quarters, Congregational School Room, Newtown.

Wednesday, February 20th, at 8 p.m. Brighton. Public Meeting at Hove Town Hall. Speaker: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament." Chair: Miss Hare.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, January 23rd, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss M. Berry. Subject: "Women in Local Government."

Tuesday, January 29th, at 8 p.m. Kingston-on-Thames. Theosophical Lodge. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "Brotherhood—from a Woman's Point of View."

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,

Chartered and Incorporated Accountants.

I wonder whether you would allow me to draw attention to two points in connection with an extract from the *Daily Mail*, referred to on page 10 of your last number, under the heading of "Women in the Professions."

It runs: "Thirty (women) are qualifying as Chartered Accountants, in addition to several who are preparing for admission to the Incorporated Society of Accountants and Auditors."

The remarks which I would make are—

(1) The correct title of the Society is "The Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors."

(2) The *Daily Mail* gives the impression that, although several women are preparing for admission to the Society, none have yet been admitted. This is not the case. There are at present eight women who have passed the Final Examination, and two of them at least are in practice as Incorporated Accountants.

Since the printing of your last issue, Miss Ethel Watts, B.A., has become the first woman to qualify as a Chartered Accountant by examination, and has the very hearty congratulations of every member of the profession.

Miss Harris Smith, who has the unique (at present) honour of being a woman Fellow of the Institute, qualified—sex excepted—thirty years ago, before the days when examinations were necessary. Having practised for thirty years before recognition by the Institute, she at last became a Chartered Accountant, on the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act.

As considerable confusion still exists in the minds of the public (outside the city itself) as to the various kinds of accountant, it may be mentioned that the Institute (of Chartered Accountants) and the Society (of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors) rank together as the two premier bodies of Accountants in this country—probably in the world!—and are recognised as such in various Acts of Parliament and Government regulations. For example, Public Auditors are appointed by the Treasury only from their ranks, and Inland Revenue officials are empowered to accept as correct accounts signed by a Chartered or Incorporated Accountant.

The fact remains, however, that the name "Chartered Accountant" is much more familiar to the general public than "Incorporated Accountant," and the members of the Society suffer to a certain extent accordingly. Matters have been further complicated in the past by the fact that many people have treated the title "Chartered Accountant" as synonymous with "practising accountant," and many unqualified practitioners have allowed themselves to be described in this way.

M. M. HOMERSHAM, M.A.,
Incorporated Accountant, Public Auditor.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Women M.P.s. Fêted.

We should like once again to express our very cordial appreciation of Lady Astor's delightful hospitality. Last week, she had a very crowded reception at 4, St. James's Square, to the eight women Members of Parliament. Those attending this Reception included members of all women's organisations, social workers, and Members of both Houses of Parliament. Everyone present spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It was a genuine pleasure to meet our women M.P.s, as well as so many other women and men with such varied interests; the gathering itself was a thoroughly democratic one, and no praise can be too high for the gay friendliness and charm of our hostess.

Bradford and Unemployed Women.

Last week, a deputation of three women waited upon the Chairman of the Education Committee, to discuss means of reducing unemployment amongst the women in that city. They asked that the classes arranged by the Education Committee in March, April, and May, 1919, for unemployed girls under 18 years of age should be resumed. They also asked that a class for "home helps" should be restarted. The deputation contended that many mothers of families in Bradford were overworked, and that with the provision of some "home helps," some work might be found for unemployed women, and the attendance of children at school improved. The *Bradford Daily Argus* reports that the Chairman promised to consider the representations made, and to inquire why the classes had been abandoned.

Women Beach Inspectors.

The Dawn, the organ of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia, states that two women have been appointed beach inspectors at Freshwater, Sydney. Their duty will be to report to the police any improper conduct observed on the beach. They have been appointed by the Shire Council, and it is likely that the Councils controlling other beaches will take similar action.

Raise the School Age!

At a Conference on unemployment and maintenance, held last week at Toynbee Hall by the University Labour Federation, Mr. J. J. Mallon said, that in raising the school age, they could look for a large measure of temporary relief. About 600,000 children left school every year, and were turned into industry.

More Education Necessary!

Dr. James Glover is reported to have said, last week, that "a nursery maid can do more harm in ten minutes than a professor can remedy in ten years." This is an argument for the better education of every girl, not for the abolition of the nursery maid.

Seven in One Room!

At a meeting of the Fulham Public Health Committee, held last week, it was reported that a husband and wife and five children had been occupying one room for five years. Several of the family had tuberculosis.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

A members' meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8th, at 20, Highland Road, by kind permission of Mrs. Binley. Future meetings were arranged, which will be announced later. A Whist Drive will be held on Saturday, January 26th, at 6.30 p.m., at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Tickets, 1/6 each, may be obtained from the Secretary, or at the room. It was decided to recommence the fortnightly work parties, which will also be announced in THE VOTE.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

EDINBURGH.

A Branch meeting was held, on the 11th inst., at 44, George IV. Bridge, our President, Miss Jacob, in the Chair. The replies of the local candidates to the Women's Freedom League questionnaire were discussed; most of them endorse our programme, but we shall see if they are prepared to carry it out! We are all delighted with the success of the women candidates at the General Election, and are glad that one, at least, comes from Scotland. We decided to continue our branch meetings on the first Friday of each month, and shall be glad to welcome new members.

(Hon. Sec.) W. M. SPRIGGS, 44, George IV. Bridge.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

A monster Rummage Sale, in aid of Headquarters Fund, will be held in the Congregational Schoolroom, Newtown, on Saturday, February 16th. Doors open at 2.30 p.m. Admission 2d.

MORE VOTES FOR WOMEN!

Wednesday, February 6th, will be the sixth anniversary of the final passage into law of the Representation of the People Bill, which gave the majority of women over thirty years of age in this country the right to exercise a Parliamentary vote; and on that date the Women's Freedom League proposes to hold a public meeting at Essex Hall, at 8 p.m., to commemorate that event, to rejoice that we now have eight women Members of the House of Commons, and at the same time to press for an immediate extension of the franchise to women at the same age, and on the same terms, as men. We must leave no stone unturned to secure equal voting rights for women before the next General Election. Further particulars of this meeting will appear in next week's VOTE. In the meantime, we urge all our readers to reserve this date, and determine, if at all possible, to be present at Essex Hall.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, January 20th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

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