

THE VOTE,
JAN. 13, 1922
ONE PENNY.

PEACE WITH IRELAND.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 1922

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 JOINT MINISTRY.

Interview with REV. C. M. COLTMAN, M.A., B.D.

The Ministry of Women has always received more favourable recognition in the Free Churches than in the Anglican Communion, and practically every branch of Nonconformity can point to one or more pioneer women preachers in its midst. To the Congregational Church, however, falls the honour of having recognized the first fully-ordained woman pastor. She is the Rev. Constance Mary Coltman, M.A., B.D., who, with her husband, the Rev. Claud Coltman, M.A., began their joint ministry at the Greville Place Congregational Church, Maida Vale, London, last New Year's Day.

Mrs. Coltman is a graduate of Somerville Collegè, Oxford, where she qualified for the degree of Master of Arts. She has also followed the full three years' theological course at Mansfield College, Oxford, receiving exactly the same training as the men, and taking the further degree of Bachelor of Divinity. Her husband, it is interesting to note, was a fellow-student at Mansfield. Both have had previous pastoral experience at the Darby St. Mission, Stepney, which is connected with the King's Weigh House (Congregational) Church.

The question of the ordination of women in the Congregational Church first came up about ten years ago, when Miss Hatty Baker, who for many years had been in charge of the Horsted Keynes Congregational Church, applied to the Congregational Union for official recognition. The Union considered the subject in all its bearings, and finally passed a Resolution

that, other things being equal, there was no sex-distinction in spiritual matters. Though Miss Baker's own position remained the same as before, she continued her work, and the question of recognition was dropped for the time being. The heaven was working, however, for, as Mrs. Coltman told our representative, "when my husband and I were first appointed to the East End, some four years ago, I applied to the Congregational Union, not only for recognition, but for full ordination, and my application was granted."

Mrs. Coltman is immensely interested in the prospects of women in the Church. She believes that very many women have a natural vocation to the care of souls, and she and her husband intend to further the Movement in every possible way.

"The recognition of women in the Churches is no longer a problem, but an accomplished fact," said Mrs. Coltman. "In the Free Churches especially, the barriers have practically all fallen. In my own Church full ordination is open to women on identically the same terms as men. In the Baptist Church there are, in theory, no sex differentiations whatsoever. The Presbyterian Church is now debating the matter, and, as the Presbyterian Church of England has already publicly recorded its approval of the appointment of women Deacons and Elders, the higher branches of the Ministry cannot be much longer withheld. The various bodies of the Wesleyan Church are also discussing the question, and of these the Primitive Methodists have already decided favourably. Most of the



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Congregational Theological Colleges now admit women on the same terms as men. Women are training at New College, Hampstead, and at the Baptist College, Regent's Park. The Wesleyan Methodist Colleges, however, have still to admit women."

"All this, of course, compares very favourably with the present position of women in the Anglican Church, but I am convinced the broader movement in the Free Churches will have a natural reaction in that quarter, especially when the problem of Re-union becomes satisfactorily solved.

"The admission of women to Holy Orders," concluded Mrs. Coltman, "is to my mind the culmination of the Woman's Movement. Social and political equality are impossible unless spiritual equality is also accorded. Now that women have so successfully asserted their rights of entry into almost every sphere of human life, the time is ripe for their admission into the fullest service of the Church. Just as Christianity needs the mind of the East as well as of the West for its full interpretation, so it needs woman as well as man for its perfect embodiment. Humanity is not male, neither is it female, but both, and can only be developed to its highest possibilities when primitive and pagan ways of thinking, dark superstitions concerning ceremonial uncleanness of sex, and all such ancient taboos have been swept away in the clearer light of the Incarnation."

Mrs. Coltman wears a purple cassock with her University gown, and a cap, not so much in deference to St. Paul, but, as she confessed to our representative, "one's hair gets so untidy!" The services at Greville Place follow a definite order. Mrs. Coltman preaches at the morning services, and her husband in the evenings. Both, however, take part in each other's services, and share in the administration of the Sacraments. Their intention also is to develop the liturgical side of their services so as to give those fuller opportunities of worship for which congregations to-day are asking.

ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH.

Work of The Women's Freedom League.

The Portsmouth Branch of the Women's Freedom League survived the war with its disastrous results on some organisations, and is perhaps as flourishing as even in the most exciting and enthusiastic suffrage days.

Thanks to Mrs. Whetton, the energetic Secretary, and to the old members of the Women's Freedom League, the branch held together during the dark years 1914-1918, steadily and persistently working for the freedom and equality of women, and never missing an opportunity of pointing out any injustices to women in the legal, social, or industrial world.

A great feature of its work is the monthly Public Meeting held during the autumn and winter. These are greatly appreciated by the public, as is shown by the number of people who attend, and by the appreciative remarks made to the Secretary. The subjects dealt with are up-to-date questions affecting the lives of women and children, and reforms that are needed to make better and happier citizens. Among last year's subjects were lectures on "The League of Nations," "Divorce Law Reform," "Christianity and Divorce," Bernard Shaw's "Getting Married," Psychology, etc. This year there has been a Dramatic Recital, a Health Lecture, an address on "Disarmament and the Washington Conference," and one on Child Slavery in Hong-Kong.

The branch always loyally supports head-quarters, both financially and in personal work. A donation of £5 is invariably sent to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund, and a parcel of goods to the Annual Fair. This year the value of the articles was £7. Any appeal from the Treasurer for help for any special piece of Freedom League work always receives a generous response from

Portsmouth. The members realise that mutual co-operation and help must exist between head-quarters and the branches, and that either would be ineffective without the other.

In addition to the money sent to London, the branch has raised between £30 and £40 for the special object of running a woman candidate for the Town Council. It is hoped that by next November enough money will be in hand to carry out this project, and Mrs. Whetton has been unanimously invited to stand.

August is usually a holiday month for the officials of the Portsmouth Women's Freedom League, but last year proved an exception. The M.P. for Northern Portsmouth, Major Sir Bertram Falle, made the grave mistake of opposing the Guardianship of Infants' Bill, forgetting no doubt that he now had women's as well as men's interests to think of. However, the Women's Freedom League, in conjunction with the local branch of the National Union of Women Teachers, did not forget, and did not intend to let their Hon. Member forget. The Press Secretary of the Women's Freedom League wrote to the local *Evening News*, explaining the Bill. This was followed by a letter from the National Union of Women Teachers, calling the attention of the electorate of the Northern Division to the attitude of their Member towards it. Other letters followed, and the desired result of getting an explanation from Sir Bertram was achieved. The gallant gentleman was evidently much perturbed that the women voters should take an interest in his doings in the House of Commons, and stigmatised their letters as untrue and libellous. In reply to this Hansard was quoted, and the result was silence on the part of Sir Bertram. In addition to Mrs. Whetton's secretarial work, she is also a member of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, and a Director of THE VOTE. The whole of her energies is not confined to the Women's Freedom League, for she is one of the vice-chairmen of the Portsmouth Women Citizens' Association, a member of the Women's Employment Sub-Committee, and a member of the Rota Committee to adjudicate on applications for the out-of-work donation. She is a well-known speaker on women's questions, and is in great request at the Women's Co-operative Guilds in and around Portsmouth, the sisterhoods and women's fellowships. But the Women's Freedom League is her old love and takes first place in her affections as she firmly believes that women must work out their own salvation, and the quickest and surest way to gain equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes is for women to concentrate and combine on the Woman's Movement.

WOMEN-IN-PARLIAMENT FUND.

Contributions to this fund come in rather slowly. Please send your donation and do your bit to help women into Parliament. This is the easiest and cheapest way of getting upon the statute books all the reforms which women specially want, and of realizing our ideal of equality of opportunity, responsibilities and rewards throughout our national life. A General Election will not be long upon its way and this is a great opportunity for us all to strike a definite blow for progress and freedom. Women candidates must be financed by women, as they can seldom afford their own expenses, and it is difficult to run an election under £600. Contributions may be small or large, the latter of course are more effective, and they may be earmarked for a woman of any particular party, or for an independent candidate, or for one individual person.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer,

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Woman Auctioneer.

Miss K. Matthews, daughter of Alderman C. W. Matthews, ex-Mayor of St. Pancras, who has been elected an Associate of the Auctioneers' Institute, is the second woman to be so elected, but the first under the practice qualification. Miss Matthews has been acting as Manageress for a firm of surveyors for a number of years, after a previous extensive experience with a leading firm of auctioneers and estate agents. As the "practice qualification" privilege regarding women auctioneers has since been withdrawn, Miss Matthews' case is unique.

Women Chartered Accountants.

Miss M. E. Moore is the first woman to pass the final examination of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors. She is associated with a firm in the City, but works entirely on her own. Many of the women's societies are on her books. Miss Harris Smith and Mrs. Ayres Purdie are other fully qualified women accountants.

Woman Income Tax Collector.

One of the City Income Tax Collectors, a woman, Miss Bowes, was last week publicly congratulated by the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, on the admirable manner in which she had conducted the cases she had brought before the Court, and the great assistance she had given not only to the magistrates but to the tax-payers.

Women and Homecraft.

Five thousand unemployed women and girls have passed through the Homecraft Centres established during the last two years by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment. At least 50 per cent. of these women from most of the centres entered domestic service on completing their training, and from some centres the percentage was as high as 100.

Chair for Madame Curie?

Madame Curie is a candidate for one of the vacant seats in the French Academy of Medicine, and is supported by a number of distinguished members. Some opposition is expected, although nothing in the constitution of the Academy prevents the election of a woman. The late Queen of Roumania was elected a member of the French Academy of Fine Arts.

Out of Work Actresses.

Miss Adeline Bourne, who presided last Tuesday at the inaugural meeting of a scheme launched by the Actors' Association for the relief of unemployed actors and actresses, said, that although unemployment among chorus girls was reduced during the pantomime season, 50 per cent. of the profession were without engagement. The distress was greatest in the provinces.

Women Tasters.

An important firm in Mincing Lane has employed a woman tea-taster since 1914. During the War a woman wine-taster was employed in London, but she has since retired in favour of an ex-service man.

More Women J.P.'s.

Lady Ludlow, of Luton Hoo, and Mrs. Francis Crawley, of Stockwood Park, Luton, were sworn in as county justices at Bedfordshire Quarter Sessions last week.

OUR ADVERTISERS

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

BOOK REVIEW.

The Fruits of Victory. By Norman Angell (W. Collins & Co.), 8/6. (Can be obtained at this Office).

Mr. Norman Angell has laid us under yet another debt of gratitude. "The great Illusion" was remarkable; the sequel "The Fruits of Victory" is still more so—it is perhaps one of the most damaging indictments that have yet appeared of the principles governing the relations of civilised nations with one another.

The main conclusion which Mr. Angell reaches is that in the international field there has been—and in the main there still is—a deep-rooted instinct of domination which has been sanctioned and strengthened by the old traditions of "patriotism." In the earlier chapters of his book he takes this point up and deals with it forcefully, to show the danger it is to our people, for it appeals to their very sustenance—their daily bread. He examines the present conditions in Europe and shows how much of its population cannot live at a standard necessary for civilisation (leisure, social peace, individual freedom) except by certain co-operative processes which must be carried on largely across frontiers. Our own prosperity depends very largely on the production by other countries of a surplus of food and of raw materials beyond their own requirements. And he urges the important fact that the present position is not really owing to the European War, but to "moral" causes; economic stagnation mainly due to political disruption. He traces a like state within each country; lessened production owing to political unrest which has rendered the indispensable co-operation less effective.

The remedy which is needed is co-operation between nations and individuals, and the recognition—the failure to do so which is one of the great blots on the Treaty of Versailles—of the interdependence of nations and the futility of attempted coercion.

Mr. Angell goes on to trace the difference between the old economy and post-war conditions, and he shows how the old individualist economy was largely destroyed by the State Socialism which was introduced to help us "win the war"—the nation taking over private enterprises and becoming manufacturer and trader to a very large extent. If the economic clauses of the Treaty are enforced we may reasonably expect to see such Socialism a permanent part of our Government. This may or may not be desirable, but so long as it remains it makes the recognition of interdependence even more vital, because in addition to jealousies between the States as we have known them in the past, must be added the commercial rivalries which are inevitable if nations become traders and capitalists.

The question therefore arises, have we the right to starve any nation—any people? And the discussion of such moral questions brings us right up against the question of military predominance, and the futility of mere military force to effect real stable alliances.

Mr. Angell ends this very forceful book on the same note of the need for unity and co-operation. He maintains that the predominant forces of Europe to-day are pushing towards conflict and disunity. We have to try other methods and really discover that force will not work. When we find we cannot coerce a man whose services we need, we offer him inducements, bargain with him, enter into a contract. It is the only way State international co-operation can come. Force as employed by competitive nationalism does not do this. It says "You or Me," not "You and Me." "You and Me" is what Mr. Angell is aiming at. It is a fine ideal and will succeed—must indeed succeed—the moment that the two parties both accept it.—E.M.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1922.

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.

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

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.

PEACE WITH IRELAND.

All lovers of Peace rejoiced to learn that the ratification of the Irish Treaty was carried in the Dail last week by sixty-four votes to fifty-seven. The Articles of Agreement signed by Ministers of the Government and the Irish Delegation had been previously confirmed by both our Houses of Parliament, the majority in the House of Commons for this agreement being 343. The Women's Freedom League has a special interest in this Peace with Ireland Treaty. At our Annual Conference held last April at Caxton Hall, Westminster, when affairs in Ireland were causing hatred and bitterness between the two peoples, our delegates decided that we should organise a Procession through London and a Mass Meeting in Trafalgar Square on behalf of Peace between the two countries. We secured the co-operation of the Peace with Ireland Council and many other organisations, all of whom, on July 2nd, sent contingents to the Procession which formed up on the Embankment and marched along Northumberland Avenue, Pall Mall and Piccadilly to Trafalgar Square. Every pennon and banner carried in that procession bore a motto which had some bearing on Peace, Goodwill and Friendship with Ireland. At Trafalgar Square we had speakers from all political parties, who spoke to huge crowds from three sides of the plinth, and at the end of this Mass Meeting the following resolution was carried unanimously and with acclamation:—

"This Mass Meeting, convened by British women, calls for the immediate cessation of strife and warfare between England and Ireland, the establishment of peace and concord, and an agreed settlement on the only possible basis of friendship and goodwill."

At that meeting both men and women speakers emphasised the fact that there was no quarrel between the women of Great Britain and Ireland, and women of both countries must now feel profound relief that the truce proclaimed last summer has resulted in a Treaty of Peace, which we hope with all our heart will prove to be permanent. We remember with gratitude the part that Irish women played in our joint efforts to secure the enfranchisement of the women of these Islands. We remember, too, that it was an Irish woman who was first elected to the British Parliament, although she did not take her seat in the House of Commons. We have now two women Members in that House; the Dail has several women Members; so also has the Ulster Parliament; and we look forward to the women of these two countries taking an ever-increasing share in their own national affairs as well as securing greater influence in international affairs. Our friendship established in the old suffrage days, our interest in and struggles for a common cause, led to a better understanding, and perhaps to a surer appreciation of each other's characteristics, than the men of these two countries sometimes possessed. With this knowledge the Women's Freedom League hails the Treaty of Peace with enthusiasm. With women in the inner counsels of both these nations, and taking their full share in working out their national ideals, we cannot but have unbounded faith in the destiny of Great Britain and Ireland.

RECOMMENDATION TO HOME SECRETARY.

The question whether the death sentence should be pronounced in the cases of women charged with the murder of their child in certain circumstances was considered last week at the second meeting of the council of the newly-formed Magistrates' Association, under the presidency of Mr. Collingwood Hope, K.C., when it was resolved to send to the Home Secretary a recommendation that "Where a woman is charged with the murder of her infant child, and upon the trial evidence is given that at the time the offence was committed the woman had not fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to the child, the Judge may direct the jury that they may acquit the prisoner on the charge of murder and convict her of manslaughter." In support of the recommendation, which embodies the operative clause of a Bill drafted by the late Lord Alverstone, it was urged that during the seventeen years ended March 31, 1921, sixty women were sentenced to death, of whom only one was executed. As the law now stands Judges were obliged to pass the death sentence, even though they knew there was little likelihood of it being carried out; and juries, aware of this, not infrequently found that the child was still-born when the medical evidence pointed to the contrary. It was also stated that, against the weight of evidence, verdicts of "Not Guilty" were returned by juries. The Women's Freedom League is in firm agreement with this recommendation; but we should add that any jury which had to deal with a case of a woman charged with the murder of her infant child should by law consist of an equal number of women and men, and that in every such case the father of the child must be present in court, and required to prove that he has not evaded his own responsibility for the welfare of the mother and the child. When Edith Roberts was charged at the Leicester Assizes last July with the murder of her newly-born baby, the two women on the jury were challenged and compelled to leave; and no enquiry was made in respect to the father of the child. Women who have special knowledge of this particular case believe that her conviction was a gross miscarriage of justice, and so long as women are charged, tried and condemned under similar distressing circumstances by men only, and the man is allowed to go scot-free without even his name being divulged, the present law is likely to be brought into disrepute.

LUNACY REFORM.

In his book "The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor," Dr. Lomax made some serious charges in regard to the administration and the treatment of patients in asylums; and the Minister of Health has recently appointed a Committee consisting of Sir Cyril Cobb (Chairman), Dr. R. P. Smith, and Dr. Bedford Pierce, with Mr. P. Barter, of the Ministry of Health, as Secretary, to investigate and report upon these charges, and to make recommendations as to any medical or administrative improvements which may be necessary and practicable in respect of the matters referred to by Dr. Lomax. We certainly agree that a Committee should be appointed for this investigation, but we emphatically demand that women should be added to it. Besides the official from the Ministry of Health, it now consists of a barrister, a male physician, and a male Asylum Doctor. We would urge the immediate addition of a woman councillor, a woman physician, and a woman with wide experience in institutional treatment of mental cases. We press this matter, not only in the interests of the thousands of women patients in asylums, but also because the public can have little faith in the appointment of the present hole-and-corner committee; and its usefulness would be immeasurably increased by the addition of such women.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

BY EMILY PHIPPS, B.A.

The assertion that it is not in the public interest that any persons should be denied the opportunity of developing to the fullest extent such powers as they may possess, or of using such powers when they are developed, would, as a general proposition, receive the assent of most people. When, however, we try to put it into practice, we find that we are against the opposition of those who wish to defend vested interests.

On one side the opposition is breaking down; it is generally admitted, except by a few reactionaries who maintain that poor people's children should be sent into the "University of Life" at 14, that lack of money should be no obstacle to education; that it is a loss to the community, as well as to the child, if a fine brain is not given an opportunity of doing the highest work of which it is capable.

But the case for equal opportunities for girls and boys, for women and men, is not by any means so generally recognised as that for poor and rich. We find that girls have not the same opportunities for education as boys; they have far fewer scholarships to the Universities; they are entirely kept out of the Lord Kitchener Scholarships for children of naval and military men; when maintenance grants are given those for boys are often bigger than those for girls; boys have the preference in voluntary Continuation schools and in Unemployment Centres; in the provision of playing fields and in facilities for swimming. The result is that both physically and mentally boys are better developed than girls, and then with curious logic the very people who have prevented the girls from developing turn round and blame them for being less "clever" than their brothers.

When a girl becomes a woman she is just as much hampered. Either by Law, or by rules of certain

societies, or perhaps only by tradition, she is prevented from holding certain positions. The law prevents some women from exercising the Parliamentary Franchise; it used to prevent them all; the rules of certain societies prevented them from becoming members of the University of Cambridge; from learning certain processes in various trades; tradition, and lack of money and time, has largely prevented them from doing service on Town Councils and other public bodies; something has debarred any women from the Diplomatic Service, where surely women could do good work.

On the other hand, we are sometimes told that we have almost a monopoly of the teaching profession, and particularly that we come off well in the matter of Headships. This is a mistake. In 1913 there were in England and Wales 658 Headmasters of Grant-aided Secondary Schools and only 141 Headmistresses; 50 Headmasters of Higher Elementary Schools and 5 Headmistresses. In Elementary Schools we have to remember the Infants' Schools; including these, there should be roughly twice as many Headmistresses as Headmasters, but in 1913 there were 17,863 Headmistresses and 13,896 Headmasters; the proportion that should have been 2:1 was 17:13. Now, in 1922, the proportion is still worse for women, owing to the recent amalgamations of schools.

This state of things is bad for the schools, because the selection is narrowed, many capable women having no chance of obtaining headships; it is bad again because, as capable girls discover that to a great extent teaching is a blind-alley occupation, they will turn to other professions. It is bad morally because when promotion ceases to depend on ability, and becomes merely a prerogative of sex, it will tend to produce arrogance in the favoured ones, and bitterness and hopelessness in those passed over.

WOMEN TEACHERS IN CONFERENCE.

By LILIAN PIEROTTI.

The City of Manchester, traditionally progressive in the history of Education, accorded a splendid and whole-hearted welcome to the National Union of Women Teachers, on the occasion of their Annual Conference last week. The fact that the College of Technology (University of Manchester) was placed at the disposal of the Conference indicates that Education Authorities are realising that this progressive and vigorous body of women is a force with which to reckon.

At the preliminary meeting, the delegates were warmly welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and speeches naturally centred round prevalent rumours of economy in Education as a result of the Geddes' Committee of enquiry. Mr. Spurlay Hey, Director of Education for Manchester, urged women teachers to "bend their energies to the task of seeing that the interests of the child were safe-guarded." Other speeches were made by the Dean of Manchester and the Rev. J. Roberts. Exception was taken to a remark of Colonel Hurst, M.P., that economy might be attained by curtailing efforts to afford education from the Primary school right through to the University, to those who desired to take advantage of such education.

Miss Bale, in her Presidential address, made a strong protest against the cry of "Economy in Education," and condemned the Government for its failure to bring the Education Act of 1918 into force. She claimed that we had now entered an era in which intelligence would play the greatest part in the evolution of nations; the retardation of the Education Act made it difficult to believe that our rulers had realised that vital fact.

With regard to the question of Sex Equality Miss Bale asked "Is it too much to call upon all women, and also upon all men of goodwill, to co-operate with us in bringing about a new conception of national service, in which men and women work side by side with equal rights, equal privileges, and equal opportunities, in

the great work of rebuilding the world?"

A resolution moved by Miss Phipps, and seconded by Miss Hewitt, demanded Equality of Opportunity between the sexes, and deplored the fact that "girls and women are accorded fewer opportunities for development, than boys and men."

In demanding that the Education Act of 1918 should be put into full operation, Miss Agnes Dawson drew attention to the fact that neither the children in the schools, nor the young people who had recently left school, were responsible for the present financial muddle, for which so-called "economy" groups were trying to find a remedy, and it was not just to allow even a small part of the burden to rest upon the children of the nation in order to relieve the responsibilities, direct or indirect, of the present generation of adults.

Many of the resolutions passed centred round the principle of the equality of the sexes, the Extension of the Franchise, Equal Pay, removal of the Income Tax inequalities, and other disabilities of married women, equality of opportunity in all administrative and inspectorial posts, assaults upon children.

Special attention was paid to the question of the nationality of married women, and the Government was urged to introduce legislation allowing a British woman to retain her nationality when married to a non-British subject. Under existing legislation a British woman in the teaching profession, married to an alien, forfeits her right to receive a pension.

Many resolutions were purely educational and demanded better school buildings, improved equipment, smaller classes, continued Education for Elementary School children beyond the present school-leaving age, representation of teachers on Local Education Committees, Conferences between teachers, parents, and representatives of Local Authorities. The Conference closed with an educational meeting on the new system of Individual Teaching.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Pledges.

In discussing the prospects of a General Election next month, the *Times* says that Mr. Chamberlain alone of the Ministers is of the opinion that the Election should be deferred till the Autumn, and proceeds to state that his view is apparently influenced a great deal by the fact that but one item in the Election programme of three years ago remains to be redeemed. That is the reform of the House of Lords. The Government and the *Times* have both evidently forgotten the following item which appeared in the Election Manifesto issued by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law in December, 1918, on the eve of the General Election. "It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women." We cannot imagine that either the Government or the *Times* will claim that this particular pledge has been redeemed.

The Hospital Boycott.

The National Federation of General Workers has issued a statement on the subject of the recent wages dispute with certain hospitals to which they have advised their members not to contribute. In the course of this statement the Secretary says:—"The claim we are making is an exceedingly modest one—viz., that an award which gives men £3 per week, including the value of their food, and women 35s. per week, including the value of their food, should remain intact, and if the hospitals wish to alter it, they should discuss the matters with the unions who were parties to that award." What we should like to know is why there is such disparity in the weekly awards to men and women? Is it because the men employed in hospitals do so much more work than the women employed there?

Married Women Teachers.

The question of the retention of women teachers after marriage came before the Nottingham Education Committee lately, when it was reported that three women teachers who had recently married had formally resigned in accordance with the rule, but had applied to be retained. The Elementary Schools Sub-Committee recommended that their application should be accepted to until July. After considerable discussion the Committee decided to postpone for a month the question of the employment of Married Women Teachers. Mrs. Harper, a member of this Committee, said she would support any motion not to confirm the appointments. In her opinion when a girl got married she ought to have a home and stay there, leaving the work of teaching to be done by those who had to earn their living. Has Mrs. Harper a home? If so, why did she not stay there and leave Education Committee work to other women? Our questions are no more silly nor impertinent than Mrs. Harper's remarks about married women teachers.

Honours for Schoolmistresses?

Last week a prominent local educationist gave a lecture at Twickenham on "The School-boy in History." In a brief discussion following the lecture, the Chairman, Col. J. A. C. Somerville, spoke of the affection which now existed between the boy and the master, a condition but little known in the past. He thought it was a matter for regret that in the New Year Honours no recognition was made of what had been done by Schoolmasters. We should like to know if the gallant gentleman would not agree that it was also a matter for regret that no recognition had been made of the work done by Schoolmistresses, between whom and their pupils there is often a close bond of friendship and affection, and who usually get very much less remuneration for their services than their men colleagues?

Infant Mortality.

Christiania has the lowest death rate of any city in the world for babies aged under one year, according to the latest figures issued by the Registrar General. The rate is 33 per 1,000 births; in Amsterdam it is 42, Stockholm 47, Copenhagen 47—and in London 93.

Unequal Cuts for Men and Women.

Birmingham Municipal clerks are threatened with a reduction in salaries. Bonus payments to men are to be reduced 20 per cent., while women clerks are subject to a 30 per cent. decrease. Thus, if in March the scale becomes operative, a male clerk earning £223 drops £37, and a female clerk or typist receiving £200 is reduced £40 yearly. The differentiation in the treatment of men and women employees by some municipal authorities is becoming intolerable, and it is time that this matter was taken up seriously by women electors and made an issue at all the elections to local governing bodies.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Our Brighton member, Mrs. E. J. Smith, J.P., who recently made a strong protest from the bench against the law which fined a woman for keeping a disorderly house and let the men partners go free, has contributed an article to the *Star*, entitled "Mary Magdalene in 1922." In this article Mrs. Smith emphasizes the need for sex-instruction in the fearful consequences of prostitution, the improvement of economic conditions for working women, new methods of "Rescue" treatment, and the recognition and due punishment of male offenders equally with their women partners.

OUR TREASURY.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR, 1921.

Branches:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Golders Green	4 1 6	
Manchester	5 0 0	
Swansea	9 5 0	
		9 11 6
Councillor Schofield Coates, J.P.,	5 0 0	
Mrs. Sharman	3 3 0	
Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove, Ltd.	2 2 0	
Miss Fryer	1 0 0	
Miss Annie Ball	10 0	
Miss Kate Barton	10 0	
Mrs. Eagle	10 0	
Dr. Alice Hutchison	5 0 0	
Miss A. Sherwood	5 0 0	
Miss E. Gulland	2 6	
Miss G. L. Mann	2 6	
Mrs. Allum	2 0	
		13 12 0
Rent of Stalls:—		
League of the Church Militant	3 0 0	
Catholic Women's Suffrage Society	3 0 0	
The Crusader	3 0 0	
Federation of Women Civil Servants	6 6 0	
Nine Elms Settlement	3 0 0	
Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd.	5 0 0	
London Vegetarian Society	3 0 0	
White Cross League	3 0 0	
Royal Free Hospital	3 0 0	
Friends of Armenia	3 0 0	
Peasant Shop	3 0 0	
Indian Stall	3 0 0	
Miss Basnett and Mrs. Aldridge	3 0 0	
Miss Burwood	3 0 0	
Miss Lennard	3 0 0	
Mrs. Canvin	2 0 0	
		52 6 0
Stall Takings:—		
Montgomery Boroughs	37 16 0	
White	32 2 0	
Hampstead	28 0 3	
Scottish	10 12 4	
Glasgow Branch	5 0 0	
Dundee Branch	1 5 0	
Miss Janet Gibson	1 0 0	
George Kemp, Esq.	1 0 0	
Miss C. Gilmour	10 0	
Miss Spriggs	5 0	
General—(two):—		
Mrs. Tanner	11 2 2	
Mrs. Lloyd	5 3 9	
Stationery	10 0 0	
Children's	5 17 0	
Toy	5 0 0	
South Eastern Branches:—		
General	3 4 1	
Penny	1 15 8	
		159 14 9
Side Shows:—		
Character Reading: (Mrs. Goodall and Mrs. Russell)	4 19 10	
Phrenologist (Mr. Sons)	2 5 0	
Play (Golder's Green Branch)	1 4 6	
Houp-la	16 10	
Lucky Dips (Mrs. Northcroft)	2 2 6	
Cloak Room	1 3 8	
Programmes	7 6	
		12 19 10
Tickets	47 10 6	
Refreshments, per Minerva Café	24 10 4	
Goods sold at office	2 6	
		£320 7 5

In addition to the above the Fair realised:—
Vote Stall (in memory of Mrs. Snow)

To Branch Treasurers:—
Please send me your branch cash statements for 1921, and
Capitation fees for the past year. ... E. KNIGHT.

OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

- "The Work for Women M.Ps.," by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. 3d.
 - "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. 3d.
 - "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-a-Hageby 3d.
 - "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
 - "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
- CAMEO LIFE SKETCHES.**
- "Dr. Elsie Inglis," by Dr. Aimée Gibbs ... 4d.
 - "Josephine Butler," by Marion Holmes ... 3d.
 - "Lydia Becker," " " " " ... 3d.
 - "Frances Mary Buss," " " " " ... 3d.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, January 14, at 4-6 p.m.—
Minerva Club, Tea-Dance. Admission, 1/6.

Monday, January 16, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting,
Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.
Speaker: Miss Ida Hyett. Subject: "How
Prices can be reduced without reducing Wages."
Chair: Mrs. Northcroft.

Tuesday, January 17.—Mid-London Branch
Members' Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, at
6.30 p.m.

Saturday, January 21st, at 4-6 p.m.,
Minerva Club, Tea-Dance, Admission, 1/6.

Monday, January 23, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva
Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speakers: Mrs. E. M. Hubback
and Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Debate on "Family Endow-
ment." Resolution: "That the present system of providing for
families from individual wages is unsatisfactory in its social
results, and wasteful of national resources." Chair: Mrs. Dexter.

Wednesday, January 25, at 3.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva
Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss F. Penrose
Philp (Secretary of "The State Children's Association"). Subject:
"The Young Offender in our Courts, Penal Schools, and Prisons."
Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Saturday, January 28, at 4-6 p.m.—Minerva Club, Tea Dance.
Admission 1/6.

Monday, January 30, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva
Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mr. F. Thoresby,
Subject: "Freedom of Responsibility."

Wednesday, February 1.—"Fair" Committee, at 3 p.m., at
144, High Holborn.

Friday, February 3.—Organisation Committee, at 6 p.m., at
144, High Holborn.

Saturday, February 4, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Com-
mittee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, February 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144,
High Holborn. Speaker: Mr. Edward Cecil (Dramatic Writer,
and Author). Subject: "The Inefficiency of Women."

Saturday, March 18, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Com-
mittee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.—Annual Conference.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, January 12 (Glasgow).—Meeting at 81, Armadale
Street (by kind permission of Mrs. Shennan), to meet Councillor
Schofield Coates, J.P.

Friday, January 13, at 7.30 p.m. (Edinburgh).—Branch
Meeting at 40, Sandwich Place. Speaker: Councillor Schofield
Coates, J.P., of Middlesbrough. Subject: "The Wrecking of
the Women's Bills."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, January 18, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of
Union, Kingsway Hall. Subject: "The Next General Election."
Speaker: Mrs. Flowers.

Friday, January 27.—Stockton, Thornaby and District Women
Citizens' Association. Speaker: Councillor Schofield Coates,
J.P. Subject: "The Washington Conference."

Monday, January 30. Bishop Auckland Branch of B.W.T.A.
Annual Meeting. Speaker: Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates,
J.P. Subject: "National and International Outlook for Women."

Friday, February 10, at 8 p.m.—St Albans Debating Society.
Public Library. Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Debate: "Should
women cease to be employed when married?"

Sunday, March 5, at 11 a.m.—Ethical Church, Queen's Road,
Bayswater, W. Speaker: Mr. Laurence Housman. Subject:
"Living Sacrament." 6.30 p.m., "Departmental Morality."

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The New Year's Eve Party achieved its usual success. A new
departure was the invitation of the girls from the John Pounds
Home. About twenty were present, and by their looks had a
thoroughly good time. Much amusement was caused by a
guessing competition. Mrs. Abbott presented a beautiful doll,
and the person who guessed its name became its proud possessor.
"Clitje" was the name chosen by Mrs. Abbott, and no one

guessed it, so the doll was raffled, and was won by one of the
girls from the Home. Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Newton contributed
to the evening's enjoyment by their singing, while Mrs. Owen was
indefatigable at the piano, and also sang two humorous songs.
Mrs. Speck was untiring as M.C. for the games and dances.
(Hon. Sec.): Mrs. Whetton, 87, Festing Grove, Southsea.

EDINBURGH.

On Friday night Prof. Louise McLroy, M.D. (School of Medi-
cine for Women, University of London), addressed our members
in a joint meeting with the Edinburgh Branch of the Society for
Equal Citizenship, on "The Problem of the Working Mother."
At the outset of her lecture, Professor McLroy made it clear that
she regarded marriage as a private affair between the two indi-
viduals concerned, and that the fact of marrying ought, on no
account, to debar a woman from doing any outside work if she
wished to supplement the earnings of her husband. Professor
McLroy treated the subject mainly from the medical point of view,
emphasizing that in her opinion it was best if the mother could
stay at home and look after her children. But as this was not
always possible in the case of working-class mothers, she held
that pregnancy ought not to be made an excuse for dismissing a
woman. She maintained, however, that a pregnant woman could
not do her work so efficiently as before the time of child-bearing,
and ought not, therefore, to demand the same amount of remun-
eration.
(Hon. Sec.): Mrs. STEWART, 7, Mentone Place, Edinburgh.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

[To the Editor of "The Vote."]

DEAR MADAM.—The appeal of THE VOTE to its readers to do
something on its behalf for the New Year, prompts me to offer a
scheme to assist it. But, being a mere man, I naturally want a lot
of assistance to make my scheme a success. I want one hundred
readers of THE VOTE to pledge themselves to forward their copies
each week to some other person resident in England. Each will
be given a letter on receipt of their pledge, and they will be
expected to confine themselves to names beginning with that letter,
thus allowing about four to each letter. I am convinced that such
a scheme would work wonders in building up the League
numerically and financially, as well as increasing the sale of THE
VOTE. Its attractive and enlightening little articles cannot fail to
attract attention. So I want those hundred pledges as early as
possible to get a move on, and a hundred willing hands answering
the S.O.S.

Yours faithfully,

G. W. GILL.

[We heartily welcome this suggestion from our member, Mr.
Gill, and hope that those of our readers who can follow out his
advice will send us their names and addresses, when we will
gladly allocate them a letter of the alphabet.—Ed.]

"THE VOTE."

We have this week received an encouraging letter of apprecia-
tion from one of our readers, who, to show how much she values
our paper and wishes to help, has obtained three new subscribers
for 1922. If all our readers would do this THE VOTE would
become self-supporting! We have weathered the most difficult
time; the cost of production is gradually diminishing. Now is
the time for readers and members of "The Women's Freedom
League" to do their part to place the paper on a business
footing.

CINEMA PESTS.

Our member, Mrs. Alice Burton, writes urging that more drastic
steps should be taken to protect girls and young children from
the contamination of pests who get into cinema houses. She
gives her own experience in a certain cinema of having "sat behind
a certain man. I had him under observation, and when I dis-
covered he was molesting two girls of about 14 years of age, I
spoke to the manager, also the attendants, and they asked him to
leave the house."

Mrs. Burton thinks this is not enough, and that some punish-
ment was due to this man, who was dangling a cheap pendant and
chain in front of the girls. She calls for greater vigilance on the
part of the management and attendants of cinemas in regards to
these pests; and urges that a part of all cinemas should be
reserved for children under 14 years of age.

SUFFERINGS OF ARMENIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

In order to strengthen the laws of the Government in enforcing
from Turkey guarantees for the safety of Armenian and Greek
women, The Women's Freedom League is supporting a Public
Meeting to be held in King George's Hall (Y.M.C.A.), Tottenham
Court Road, on Wednesday, January 18th, at 3 p.m.

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 13,
1922.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

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MINERVA CLUB, Brunswick Square. Small top room furnished, to let permanently from January 7th.—Apply the Manageress.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, January 15th, 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "To whom do we pray?"

ORGANISER WANTED FOR THREE MONTHS, for Provinces.—Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn.

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