

THE VOTE,
SEPT. 22, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 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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WOMEN AND INTERNATIONAL LIFE.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AT CAMBRIDGE.

The National Council of Women will hold their Annual Conference at Cambridge this year, from September 25-29, our official delegate being Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. Lady Frances Balfour, the President, will deliver her address on September 26, at the Guildhall, and in the evening of that day, Viscountess Astor, M.P., will speak at a Public Meeting, on "Recent Experiments in Social Legislation." An interesting innovation will be Miss Maude Royden's address at a Special Service in Holy Trinity Church on September 26.

"Women and International Life" will be the special keynote of this year's Conference. The subject of Internationalism will be discussed at an afternoon meeting on September 25, when Miss Allan, Principal of Homerton Training College, and Mr. E. C. Carter, B.A. (Y.M.C.A. Foreign Secretary), will speak on the topic of "The Nations and the New Age," and again at a Public Evening Meeting on September 28, at the Guildhall, when Mrs. Corbett Ashby will contribute an address on "The Moral Interdependence of States," and Capt. Colin Coote an address on "The Economic Interdependence of States." Internationalism also forms the text of several of the Resolutions upon the Council's Agenda. One such, proposed by the Executive Committee, urges on Government and Education Authorities the need for an organised system of teaching, which shall enable children to realise the dependence of nations one upon another, and the vital necessity of the maintenance of peaceful relations between nations. Another, proposed by the Emigration and Immigration Sectional Committee, urges the International Labour Office to appoint on any International

Emigration Commission it may set up, some women conversant with the special problems of emigration for women and girls, whilst a third urges active propaganda in the promotion of Peace.

Temperance legislation will be another prominent feature at this year's Conference. At the Public Meeting in the Guildhall, on September 26th, Sir Arthur Newsholme will speak on "Temperance Legislation in the United States of America," whilst a Resolution, proposed by the Temperance Sectional Committee, endorses the Petition to the Government of 115,000 teachers against the sale of alcohol to young persons under the age of 18, and urges the Government to introduce a measure at the earliest possible moment making such sale illegal.

Twenty-two Resolutions in all are down for consideration on the Agenda, and many of these deal with various burning topics of the day, such as Women Police, Exclusion of Women from Cambridge University, Housing, Hours of Work, Guardianship, Maintenance, Custody, and Marriage of Infants Bill, Women in the Civil Service, Widows' Pensions, Women in the Post Office, Day Continuation Schools, and Woman Suffrage. The Women's Freedom League is responsible for three of these Resolutions: one urging that in every case where a mother is charged because of the death of her infant child, the Crown shall subpoena the father to give evidence at the trial, particularly with regard to his fulfilment of paternal responsibilities; the second protesting against the dismissal of women employees of any and every grade on account of their marriage; and the third calling upon the Government to introduce a Bill for the raising of the Age of Consent for girls to 18, with a similar protection for boys.

A PIONEER SCHOOL.

By MARIAN REEVES.

During a recent visit to Switzerland, I was privileged to see at close quarters the pioneer educational work of one courageous woman. This work is in a school which is situated on the Lake of Geneva, midway between Geneva and Lausanne, and is the result of many years of thought and careful study on the part of the Principal, Miss Thomas. Miss Thomas—herself a teacher for many years—realised long ago, like many other educationalists, that the present system is "all wrong" in many respects. For years she dreamed and planned, and built her ideal, and finally, after considerable searching, procured the house in Switzerland which has now become "The Fellowship School," and in which her ideals are being worked out.

The school is international, co-educational, and vegetarian. The children now there are of mixed nationalities—French, German, Swiss, American, and English—and perhaps the first thing that surprises the visitor is the ease with which even the youngest English children speak French, although I was even more amazed at the almost perfect English of one boy who had not known one word of the language when he came to the school nine months before. Co-education is a real thing in this school, and does not merely mean mixed classes. Miss Thomas believes that each child should be taught to be self-sufficient and self-supporting. She also believes that they should understand that all work is honourable, and that there are no such things as menial tasks. Thus, the boys take their turn to help in the kitchen, and mend their own clothes, while the girls join the boys in the carpenter's shop and the printing room. I saw beautifully made little tables, book-shelves, etc., which the girls had made for their own use in the dormitories.

As to the food, well, perhaps in no country so well as in Switzerland could a purely vegetarian diet be given with such complete success. There is a plentiful supply of butter, eggs, milk, cheese, and chocolate, while the school garden is laden with a profusion of fruit of all kinds. The children are allowed to help themselves, and not even the chocolate is kept locked up! Miss Thomas believes in trusting the children, although eating between meals is not encouraged, and the children are on their honour not to do so.

The parents of one family were visiting at the same time as ourselves, and confessed that, although they had very reluctantly consented to even the trial of a "non-flesh" diet for their children, they were converted in spite of themselves, by the splendid health and vitality of the children. The children all swim well, and manage the boat for which the carpenter's shop has built a little landing stage and rollers.

It must not be imagined that ordinary lessons are neglected. Languages, of course, are an important item, while mathematics and ancient history are favourite subjects. Several of the elder children are working for their matriculation.

As for religion, while no theology or dogma is taught, the Bible is read in three languages, a study of comparative religions is made, and the children are encouraged to discuss quite frankly all matters of religion and discipline, and knotty points from the Bible.

Meals are served at a common table, where teachers, pupils, staff, and visitors find many mutual and interesting topics of conversation, although for some the language difficulty looms rather large.

There are no punishments, Miss Thomas believing that it is far better for children to gradually learn to do right for right's sake, and the common good, than for fear of what they may suffer or lose by doing wrong.

Many have talked of improved systems of education; Miss Thomas has gone farther, by putting her theories into practice; and, if one could make a criticism, it would be that the experiment is making too great a demand on the strength and energy of the Principal, who permits herself no relaxation, and is giving all her time and money to the launching of her scheme. Yet, when one remembers the confident look in the eyes of

this idealist who believes thoroughly in her work, and is willing to wait for results, all thought of criticism dies in the heart, and one can only share her confidence that the effort and sacrifice are worth while, and will be fully justified by the results.

In the greyness of the London streets it is pleasant to recall the Fellowship School-house in the lovely garden on the banks of the blue lake, from which the snow-topped peak of Mont Blanc is visible, and to imagine the joys of education under such circumstances.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

The *Times* of last Tuesday had a sympathetic article under the above title. The writer thought there would not be so many women out of work in the coming winter as last winter, but pointed out that the number of women on the books of employment exchanges is far below the number of women actually out of work. Juvenile labour, owing to its cheapness, is one of the chief causes of unemployment amongst older women. Women are for some kinds of factory work too old at 18, and girls leaving school at 14 are taken on instead. Juvenile labour is largely absorbed in the sugar and confectionery trades; and in the tin-box trade young girls of 14 to 16 are now being put in charge of machines formerly run by women. It is pointed out that, at the moment, a number of girls have been taken on at seaside boarding houses, but that their employment will cease at the end of this month or in October. The hopping season also is absorbing for a few weeks a large number of them. Some unemployed women are being trained for domestic service at the new domestic training centres run by the Central Committee, but it has to be recognised that domestic service is a skilled occupation, and that the ordinary unemployed woman trained to factory work would be of little service in a middle-class house. The writer states that there is a large number of women daily offering themselves for unskilled jobs in any capacity, at any wage, at the various industrial centres, owing to the flood of girl workers. Waitresses are a drug on the market; the headquarters of the various teashops have an unending stream of applicants, some trained, some untrained, with the obvious temptation to lower the rates of wages where competition for employment is keen. One of the exchanges recently sent a girl of 23, living alone in a single room, to apply for a post at 10s. a week in a foreign café open to 2 a.m. The only suggested solution of the difficulty is said to be the raising of the school age to 16, thus keeping the young girl under tuition, and affording a chance of employment in the factories to the girls and women who were formerly employed there.

PRACTICAL EQUALITY.

An interesting article appears in *La Française*, the organ of the National Council of French Women, on "The New Woman" in Germany. The writer states that, since the German Republic granted woman suffrage, and affirmed the principle of equal rights for the sexes, the women of Germany have carried on an active campaign to translate this new legislative theory into practice. They are demanding equal-pay for equal work, and a more adequate representation in Parliament and on the Municipal Councils. With regard to family life, they claim that all the questions connected with it should be settled by the husband and wife on a mutual basis. They demand that the mother shall have equal authority with the father over her children. They draw attention to the fact that there are now a great number of women who contribute, by their work, to the upkeep of the family, and that the father can no longer be considered as the only one who provides for it. These women also think that the wife should receive not merely the necessary housekeeping money, but should have a right to a definite share of the husband's income. They further claim that their own family name should be added to that of the husband, and that their children should have both names.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Japanese Women's Progress.

An organised woman suffrage movement is growing up steadily, in spite of the many obstacles that hamper Japanese women in political work. Mrs. C. T. Gauntlett, who was recently in this country, has been lecturing, both in Northern and Southern Japan, to large and attentive audiences of men and women, on suffrage work in the West. The repeal of the law prohibiting women from taking part in political meetings has made the way easier.

Indian Working Women Organised.

The first step towards organising the working women of India was taken at a recent mass meeting in Bombay, under the direction of the leaders of the Trade Union Congress of India, who assert that such organisation is abundantly necessary, owing to the terrible housing conditions, lack of proper facilities for the care and education of children, the low standard of wages, and the general unfavourable conditions of employment.

Woman Cabinet Minister's Salary.

Mrs. Irene Parlyb, Minister without Portfolio in the Cabinet of the Alberta Legislature, has returned her 250 dollars indemnity (about £55) for the special Session of the House last summer. She is the only member of the Cabinet to respond thus to the various resolutions of the local bodies of the United Farmers of Alberta.

Filipino Women.

The women of the Philippines are women of keen intellect, and have the gift of organisation. There are women's clubs for the pursuit of literature, medicine, and sports in every little town in the islands. The women are also clever linguists and keen tennis players.

Obeys and the Marriage Service.

The House of Bishops of the American Episcopal Church has voted by 36 to 27 in favour of removing the word "obey" from the marriage service. If the House of Deputies agrees, the proposal will be submitted to a General Convention to be held in 1925.

Woman Senator Nominated.

Miss Agnes S. Paul, M.A., formerly head-mistress of Clapham High School, has been nominated to fill the vacancy on the Senate of the University of London, created by the death of Sir Albert Kaye Rollit.

Miss Booth's Command.

Miss Evangeline Booth, whose retirement has been announced, has had over 3,000 officers and cadets, and over 1,200 corps and institutions, under her command since her appointment as Commander of the Salvation Army in America. She herself lives in New York.

German Women Voters.

Separate ballot boxes for men and women voters is being proposed in Germany, with a view to finding out how the women of Germany are using their vote. The majority of women voters are strongly against the proposed measure, which they regard as an infringement of the secrecy of the election.

Indian Women Bankers.

Eleven women of Salem, Madras Presidency, clubbed together, two years ago, and started a co-operative bank of their own. To-day the members number 41, with a total number of 110 shares, and a share capital of Rs. 1,100, which may be increased up to Rs. 4,000.

Woman J.P. for Middlesex.

Mrs. Charles Baker, of Danemead, Northolt, a member of the Middlesex County Council, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex. There are now over 600 women J.P.s in England alone.

THIS FREEDOM!

By E. C. DAVIES.

One hears a good deal about "the right to work," in connection with women and the labour market; but ought not the phrase to be widened into "the right to congenial work," particularly where the married woman enters into the question? No one can say that the house-mother of the middle classes lacks work; her trouble is that, day after day, her activities are narrowed down by force of circumstances to the four walls of home, until whatever latent wage-earning talents she may have are buried beyond hope of recall. It is well that the daily routine of the house should be carried on, for a time at least, by the woman who has taken upon her shoulders the duties of matrimony, if only because in this way she is able publicly to announce that she is both able and willing to be wife and mother, caring in every way for husband and children, and taking her place in the social fabric as one partner in the family firm. If she has not learned the arts of home-keeping in her youth, then it is obvious that she must set to work to learn them in the early days of her married life, if that state is to stand the test of years. It is well that all wives should be able to cook and launder, clean house and sew, cope with sickness, be a good buyer and a thrifty housewife. Not only because of the confidence which all knowledge brings, but also because the capable housewife will be well served by others.

But what distresses all far-seeing women is the utter waste which occurs where a highly developed woman must spend the whole of her life in doing routine housework, when her talents might be better employed in other directions. The path of the married woman who desires to expend her energies on any other lines save those of housekeeping is made hard for her by the illogical arguments of those who maintain that, given a husband who "supports" her (odious term!), she has no right to take the bread out of the mouths of other workers who lack that "support," by entering the labour market in no matter what direction.

Now, much of this is pure sophistry. It is certain that no woman can run her house, perform multitudinous duties in that house, and earn money from an outside source with any happy results. But if that woman is not greedy, if she pays some less fortunate woman—probably with more limited capacities—to perform the skilled, yet monotonous, labours of her house, then, provided that the head of the household thoroughly understands her housekeeping business, not only will the home flourish, but she herself, by reason of her wider outlook, and her less restricted outlook, will be a finer partner for her husband, a truer mother to her children. She will be giving employment, not withholding it; and if she exacts a fair and just recompense for her own activities without the home, she cannot be said to damage the woman's labour market one iota. The only woman who is a danger to the working world is the one who undersells her less fortunate sisters, who works for less than the standard wage. No one considers it right for a man to cease working because he has a competence—rather, he is despised as a waster, an idler. Why, then, should the woman with great capacity for enriching the world be condemned in perpetuity to the daily duties of a general utility maid, or a superior charwoman? The wife should, and must, know the duties of housekeeping from A to Z; more, she should be keenly interested in her home. But with even ordinary ability, if she be given the help which will prevent her activities being confined to the routine of domesticity, she may also take part in the art of commerce of the wider world.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1922.

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.

NEED FOR INVESTIGATION.

We are glad to see that *Truth* is discussing Life in Mental Hospitals. More than one hundred thousand patients are in these institutions; and after the publication of Dr. Lomax's book, "The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor," in which he made some very grave charges against their administration, the Minister of Health appointed a Departmental Committee to investigate these charges. This Committee consisted of two distinguished doctors and a barrister, together with a member of the Ministry of Health. At the time we pointed out that the personnel of this Committee, if it was to secure any public confidence, should be increased, and that suitable women ought to be added to its membership, especially since at least half the number of asylum patients are women, and that many women are employed in various capacities in these mental hospitals. The Minister of Health refused to add to the membership of this Committee, with the result that its Report has been received with cold indifference, and people who are really interested in the welfare of these patients are clamouring for the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider the whole subject of Lunacy Reform. We entirely agree with the writer in *Truth*, who says, "Even had the personnel of the Committee been different, the task of exploring all the secrets of all these great establishments, all the daily lives of their inmates, and of overcoming the defensive tactics of the great army of officials put virtually on their trial, is one far beyond the competence of any Departmental Committee." This same writer then proceeds to give what he claims to be "unimpeachable evidence" from four witnesses of what actually goes on in asylums, the witnesses being a former patient and three nurses in a mental hospital. The evidence quoted is of an appalling character. It is inconceivable that the sanitary arrangements for the patients should be so disgusting, and that their weekly bath should lack all decency. We are told, too, that patients are always hungry, that they are given croton oil as a punishment, and that bullying and rough treatment are not rare. It is not to be supposed that these abominations are characteristic of the administration in all our Mental Hospitals, but the fact that such charges are made against the treatment meted out to patients in even one hospital calls for an immediate investigation of the facts. In face of these charges, and of those made by Dr. Lomax, the following statement from the Report of the Departmental Committee on Administration of Public Mental Hospitals is particularly feeble and futile: "We are satisfied that the present provision for the care and treatment of the insane is humane and efficient." Patients who are physically ill in our ordinary hospitals receive and need the utmost skill, kindness, and consideration in the effort to restore them to health; and patients who are mentally ill should certainly receive at least equal skill, kindness, and sympathy. We hope that all women's organisations will press for the immediate appointment of a Royal Commission to make a thorough investigation of the administration in our Mental Hospitals. But we must insist that experienced women as well as men shall be included in the personnel of this Commission, and all the more emphatically because there are at present so many Asylums which have no women on their Visiting Committees.

ANOTHER SAVAGE SENTENCE.

An appeal is being made to the Home Secretary to intervene in the case of a boy who is now only fifteen years of age, but who more than twelve months ago was sentenced at Llandaff Police Court to be sent to a reformatory for four years for stealing apples. The Magistrates' Clerk stated that the boy's home surroundings were bad, but this the neighbours indignantly deny. An order was made against the father of the boy by the Cardiff Petty Sessions for the payment of 7s. 6d. weekly for the boy's maintenance at the reformatory. The father is a working man, and at the present time is awaiting admission to hospital to undergo a serious operation, and cannot afford to meet the order of the Court. At the time of his conviction the boy was earning 25s. a week. Now, although the mother is practically destitute, she is struggling on with a husband who is invalided, and has the extra burden of attempting to pay for her son's maintenance at the reformatory. When we consider what the offence was—stealing apples—the age of the boy, the whole cost to his family for his maintenance at the reformatory, and the four years' imprisonment of the lad in that institution, we can only describe the sentence as a savage one. Such sentences as these—and they are by no means as rare as they ought to be, confirm us in our conviction that children should never be brought to the police courts, or their offences dealt with by magistrates. Four years in a reformatory for such a case as this is not justice, but stupid brutality. The education authorities, and not the authorities at a police court, should have dealt with this boy and any other youthful delinquent of his age. When we think of the effect which four years in a reformatory is likely to have on a child of this age, and the small chance he will have of leading a decent life when the four years are completed, we despair of the mentality of those who can inflict such a sentence. It is assuredly the quickest means to manufacture criminals. Perhaps when the hundredth offence has been committed, a magistrate may be found to give the old offender another chance. But what about the cost to the community?

LOCAL ELECTIONS.

In a very few weeks time we shall have the elections for our local Councils, and we sincerely hope that all women who realise the responsibility of citizenship will do their best to see that suitable women candidates are put forward for this local work. It is essential that women should do their full share towards securing the best health conditions in the district in which they live, the best possible education facilities for the children and young people in their locality, the best moral conditions for the neighbourhood, and the best means of dealing with unemployment. In the past, the majority of men and women have shown a curious indifference to the government of the district in which they live. They have simply not realised that this is a personal matter for every adult. Yet if things go wrong, if money is spent extravagantly, or if abuses occur, their local papers are full of complaints. If people will not take the trouble to see that suitable candidates are put forward locally, or to vote for them when they are put forward, they fully deserve the worst possible local government. We rely upon the civic consciousness of women to dispel the general apathy of the electors, and to make local citizenship a live reality, a thing of which both men and women are justly proud.

ON PUBLIC SPEAKING.

By LUCY D. BELL.

In a play of Mr. Arnold Bennett's now before the public, the Mayor of a provincial town, having invited a noted Society beauty to lay the foundation stone of the new Health Institute, supposes that she, "like all the ladies, will be content to declare this stone to be well and truly laid, and leave the speechifying" to him. The lady (who, by the way, turns out to be no Society beauty, but a clever little typist) tells him that she has thought a good deal about Health Institutes, and has much she would like to say about them. She thereupon opens his eyes to many illuminating truths, and delights the crowd later, not only by her ready wit, but also by the emphasis she lays on the fact that in the interests of health their Town Council leaves much to be desired, and finally succeeds in impressing on them that, the health of the mothers being the chief consideration, they should "put some women on the Town Council."

With the merits of the play we are not concerned at the moment, other than as an admirable example of the present position of women speakers. The Provinces even yet are slow in recovering from the opinion that "women should be seen and not heard in public," though the same women are usually credited with unusual powers of making themselves heard in private. The wording of the play, however, exactly illustrates the necessity, not only of a woman's mind, but of a woman's voice, in the affairs of the day. A community in which only one section is allowed publicly to express its opinion can never be either well nor healthily governed. It is true, there have not been great women orators in the past; it is even possible that there may be none in the future, though this is a debatable point, when one remembers such speakers as Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Besant, and Mrs. Despard, for example. Women have not the force nor the strength of men, but the kingdom of power is not always taken by violence; rather, by tact, persuasiveness, insight, all womanly characteristics; for woman possesses the qualities of her defects. She is supposed to be more nervous than men, and nervousness, or rather a nervous temperament, is the first requisite of a successful speaker; it means sensitiveness, and sensitiveness means insight, and insight sympathy—sympathy which knows as well as feels, and is inspired to express itself in the

best way at the right moment. The wooden-headed, stony-hearted speaker will never do much good in the world.

But nervousness, or rather its outward manifestations, must be severely under control, and these may be treated morally, mentally, and physically; morally, perhaps by a recognition of the fact that the subject is of more importance than the speaker—that one is there, not to achieve fame, not even to avoid failure, but to speak to an audience not so unkindly critical as one might believe; an audience which, while it will neither stand bullying nor appreciate apology, will instantly respond to a speaker who shows not only sense, but goodwill, and—in the old-time sense of the word—neighbourliness.

Mentally, nervousness is best conquered by study, and practice of the art of speaking, such study and practice bringing with it a certain sense of security in putting thoughts into words, also in knowing what may be called the etiquette of speech-making. It is absurd to suppose that anyone can make speeches by the light of nature, and many have been the direful results of speakers who got up "to say a few words," and found them not forthcoming. Physically, also, there are remedies for nervousness, notably that of correct breathing.

Many other necessities are there in the attainment of good public speaking—clear elocution, a sense of the rhythm of words, originality and method in thought, right and convincing presentment of matter: all these, and many others, are worth study, however quick the mind or however successful the imagination; for the fact remains that public speaking is an art, and an art which needs learning. Some few there may be who are born orators, but when we recall the life-long, painstaking work of the classic orators, and their final achievement, we shall be obliged to place public speaking once more among the prime factors of a true education, leading not only to a true perception, but an understandable presentment of whatsoever things are true, just, and lovely, remembering always that "without beauty of expression, truth of thought is unattainable."

KING'S COLLEGE.

(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.)

COURSES IN THEOLOGY FOR WOMEN.

Women are prepared for the following Examinations:—

B.D. London, the Lambeth Diploma in Theology, the University of London Certificate in Religious Knowledge. Day and Evening Classes are arranged. A special reduction in fees is made to Church workers. The lectures are open to members of all denominations.

For particulars as to fees and courses, application should be made to the Tutor to Women Theological Students, Miss Evelyn Hippisley, S.Th., King's College, Strand, W.C. 2.

NEXT TERM BEGINS ON OCTOBER 4TH.

S. T. SHOVELTON, M.A., Secretary.

GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held this year in the Basement Hall at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.

The stalls at present arranged for the League are:—

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Lane, and Miss Vibert.
Mid-London Branch (Half Stall).—Woollies and Children's Clothing.
Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix M. Clark and Members.
Portsmouth Branch.—Household. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner.
South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall and Xmas Tree. Miss White and Members.
Swansea Branch.—General Stall.
Antiques and White Elephants.—Mrs. Haverson, Miss Raleigh.
General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.
Overalls and Aprons.—Mrs. Ammon and the Misses Underwood.
Pound Stall.—Miss Munro.
Remnant Stall.—Mrs. A. A. Thompson and Mrs. Harvey James.
Stationery Stall.
Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight.
Literature Stall.—Miss Telling, Miss E. W. Kirby.
White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.
“Vote” Stall.—Miss Reeves, Mrs. Northcroft, and Mrs. Evans.

The entertainments will be numerous and varied, the following members and friends kindly giving their services:—Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Marianne Elias, Miss Jacob, Miss Newman and Mr. Eric Richmond, Miss Thomas, and Mrs. Van Raalte; also Miss Grace Woollacott's pupils will give a dancing display on Saturday, November 11th. Character readings will be given by Mrs. Grace Goodall and Mrs. Russell; also Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons, who was so much in request last year.

Gifts are greatly needed for all the stalls, and especially for the following:—Overalls and Aprons, Pound Stall, Remnant Stall, Antiques, and White Elephants. Toys of all sorts are wanted for the Toy Stall. The Committee will be glad to receive the names of those who are willing to dress dolls, or make overalls or aprons.

The competitions have been undertaken by Miss Dickeson, and will be amusing, numerous, and varied, and should prove one of the great attractions of the Fair.

Mrs. Legge and Mrs. Hawkins will be in charge of the Information Bureau.

There will be an exhibition of labour-saving appliances, and it is hoped also of lace-making and hand-weaving. The following societies, friends, and firms (for labour-saving appliances) are taking stalls:—

The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement.
The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
The “Crusader.”
The Federation of Women Civil Servants.
The Friends of Armenia.
Miss Basnett.
Miss Burwood.
Messrs. Benefits, Ltd.
Messrs. Beatty Bros., Ltd.
Messrs. Manuel Lloyd and Co.
The Portable Utilities Co., Ltd.
The Staines Kitchen Equipment Co., Ltd.

Tickets, including tax, price 1/3 (9d. after 5 o'clock on the second day), will shortly be on sale at the Offices.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry (Hon. Fair Sec.) at the Office.

BOOK REVIEW.

Woman and Freemasonry. By Dudley Wright. (William Rider and Son.) 6s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Inasmuch as the author of this book is an avowed champion of women's emancipation, it is a little disappointing to find that he has confined himself in this instance to an historical summary of the influence of women in secret societies, rather than offered a reasoned explanation of their exclusion from the ranks of modern Freemasonry. It is true, he makes it abundantly clear that the exclusion of women from orthodox Freemasonry is only of comparatively recent date, *viz.*, in the early years of the 18th century, and quotes the fact that certain old documents refer to the earlier admission of women into membership of Masonic Guilds or Lodges, but, presumably, fealty to the Grand Lodge of England will not permit him to make any definite assertion upon the matter. This omission is the more to be regretted because Mr. Wright's remarks upon the Mysteries of ancient times, in which both sexes took an equal share, and from which modern Freemasonry has evolved, are most illuminating, and would appear to offer abundant scope for an evolutionary survey of secret societies, from the earliest era down to the present day.

France, America, Italy, and of later years the Netherlands, appear to have shown themselves as the most tolerant countries with regard to the recognition of women Freemasons. In France, especially, some twenty or more offshoots of “Adoptive Masonry” admitted women, equally with men, in the 17th and 18th centuries. In the latter century, also, it is interesting to learn that there were four Grand Mistresses of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which was an emanation of early Masonry; and earlier still it is placed on record that Queen Elizabeth (who, by the way, disliked Freemasonry immensely, but forbore to interfere with its practice, when once satisfied that it was not politically subversive) is credited with being the only woman initiated into the Order of Buffaloes!

In modern times the progress of Women Freemasons has been most marked in America. The Order of the Eastern Star is believed to be the fifth largest fraternal organisation, and the largest female order in the world. In 1917 it had nearly 900,000 members, and Mr. Wright records that its membership roll is increasing at the rate of 50,000 a year. It does not, however, claim to be a Masonic Order, although membership is restricted to women whose nearest male relatives or connections are Freemasons of good standing, and to men who are already members of the Masonic Brotherhood. Last year this Society instituted an Order for girls between the ages of 13 and 18, known as Job's Daughters, the headquarters of which are in Canada. District or Provincial Grand Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star are now being established in all quarters of the globe, and it is making great headway in Scotland. England stands practically alone in her aloofness from the Order.

Women Freemasons in England are of comparatively recent date, the oldest Society, *viz.*, the Order of Universal Co-Freemasonry, dating from 1882. Of the two other Societies, “The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Masonry” was founded in 1908, and “The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons,” in 1913. It is stated that this Order is growing by leaps and bounds, and numbers many eminent women among its members, who are scattered in all parts of the world.

The latter part of this book contains much interesting correspondence for and against admitting women to Freemasonry. The most noteworthy contribution is a circular-letter issued in 1920 by the Grand Orient of the Netherlands to all Lodges within the Jurisdiction. It is an admirable exposition of justice and fair play. What is very evident is that much steady spade work still remains to be done, by women as well as men, Freemasonry, like the Church, being probably one of the last strongholds to resist the onward sweep of the Woman's Movement. In both organisations alike, whether voiced in the fulminations of the Golders Green Vatican, or in the edicts of Grand Lodge, a stubborn resistance will undoubtedly be maintained. D. M. N.

Women's Freedom League.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, September 22nd, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Committee, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Saturday, September 23rd, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Monday, September 25th, at 3 p.m.—Hampstead Branch Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W. 3. (By kind permission of Miss Lyndon.)

Wednesday, September 27th, at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: “Travel as an Education.” Chair: Miss Reeves.

Monday, October 2nd, at 3 p.m. at 144, High Holborn, Fair Committee Meeting.

Monday, October 2nd, at 7 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Edward Cecil, who will open a discussion on “That our Public Schools corrode the character, stultify the intelligence, blunt idealism, and turn out their victims unfitted for the battle of life.” Chair: Mrs. Dexter.

Friday, October 6th, 3.30—7.30. Mid-London Branch, Pound Tea, at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). For further particulars, see Branch note.

Wednesday, October 11th, at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Jeffery. Subject: “House Property Managers (Octavia Hill, Pioneer), A New Career for Women.”

Monday, October 16th, at 7 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Edwy G. Clayton. Subject: “Some Literary Bone-Shakers of the Seventeenth Century.”

Friday, October 20th.—Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, at 6.30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th.—“Green, White and Gold Fair,” Central Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 6th, at 7.30 p.m.—Hastings.—A Model Election conducted by Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., will be held at the Chintz Room, Claremont. Candidates drawn from the various political parties will stand for Election. Further particulars later.

Monday, October 9th, at 7.30 p.m.—Bexhill.—A combined Meeting will be held at the Sisterhood. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Chair: Miss Thornton.

Tuesday, October 17th. Ashford. A Meeting will be held at the Women's Adult School. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Chair: Mrs. Banks.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, September 27th, at 8 p.m.—Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Union. Speaker from the Women's Auxiliary Service. Subject: “Women Police.”

OUR WINTER SESSION.

The winter Session of the Women's Freedom League opened with a crowded audience in the Minerva Café last Monday night. The speaker was Miss Lucy D. Bell, well-known as a pioneer in Public Speaking for Women, whose Lecture is published on p. 301, of this week's VOTE. The Chair was taken by Mrs. Northcroft. The weekly meetings are being arranged this winter on alternate Wednesday afternoons, and Monday evenings, thus affording opportunities of attending to both busy and leisured alike. Next week the meeting will be held in the afternoon, in the Minerva Café, Miss Margaret Hodge being the speaker, and her subject, “Travel as an Education.”

Obituary.

Mrs. BEAUMONT THOMAS.

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Beaumont Thomas, one of the kindest of friends, and a frequent supporter of the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Thomas was a keen suffragist, and put up a valiant fight in Battersea against the taxation of women while they had no representation in Parliament. Together with her daughter, Miss Neva Beaumont, she also fought and defeated the local registration officer in the matter of a daughter living in her mother's house. Women owe a very great deal to Mrs. Thomas, and those like her, who throughout a long life never hesitated to expose and oppose cases of special injustice to women. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Miss Beaumont in the loss she has sustained.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A Woman President?

As we go to Press, it is still undecided whether Miss Margaret Bondfield will be elected Chairman of British Trade Unions for the coming year. For the past twenty years it has been the practice of the General Council of Trade Unions to appoint as Chairman for the year the oldest member of the Council who had not held that position, and Miss Bondfield is that person at the moment. It is said that Trade Union leaders are divided over this matter. We trust that Miss Bondfield's claim to this position will be successfully upheld, and that a woman will be the titular head of the British Trade Union movement—the chosen representative of six million people. Under her leadership of these working men and women it ought to be difficult for the Government to continue to exclude women from their schemes for dealing with unemployment. It will be remembered that Miss Elewellyn Davies has already been appointed President of the Co-operative movement.

Women Workers and Education.

In 1919 a Women's Hostel, a residential women's section for working-class women, was established at Oxford on the same lines as Ruskin College. The four girl students who recently went in for the examination in connection with the Oxford Diploma in Economics and Political Science came through with flying colours.

Women Candidates for Newport (Mon.)?

The *Times* correspondent, discussing the bye-election prospects, says that “in the event of Sir Garrod Thomas's refusal to take up the cudgels on behalf of the Government, the name of Lady Rhondda, whose country seat is on the outskirts of the town, has been mentioned. Should she consent to nomination, the question arises whether, as a peeress in her own right, she is qualified for a seat in the House of Commons, ... while the Independent Liberals, who form a considerable section, threaten to break away from the Coalition compact, and even talk of running a candidate. In this connection, Mr. Reginald McKenna and Lady Bonham Carter are suggested as candidates.” We are quite convinced that the time has come for a third woman to be in the House of Commons.

Women and Working Hours.

Speaking last Monday at the Conference of Industrial Welfare Supervisors, Oxford, on the subject of industrial accidents, Dr. H. M. Vernon, investigator for the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, said, that at a fuse factory, where the working day was changed from twelve hours to ten hours, the frequency of accidents to women workers fell to about one-third, whereas for men it was the same. Women were given sal volatile as a restorative twenty-three times more than the men during the twelve-hour day, and only three times more frequently during the ten-hour day.

Free Meals for Children.

The number of free meals provided last year to school children was 8,579,490. It is expected that the medical inspection will reveal the effect upon the children's health of these free meals, as set against the privation due to unemployment.

BRANCH NOTE.

MID-LONDON.

Will all our London members and friends please keep Friday, October 6, open, as we want them all at our POUND TEA. Dr. Octavia Lewin is kindly lending us her house at 25, Wimpole Street, W., and we are hoping to do even better than we did at our Reception to Dr. Knight last year. All the proceeds will be given to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Will everyone please come and “bring a pound and buy a pound.” The pound (or pounds), may be of anything useful, butter, fruit, groceries, household stores of any kind, cake, candies, wool, material or flowers. If anyone will bring a pound (or pounds) which has to be written £ so much the better, it is the most useful kind. There will be short speeches by Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Underwood and others, character reading, also music by Mrs. Cunningham and Miss Thomas. Come yourself and bring a friend to help us start our winter work successfully.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss C. M. SPARKMAN, 10 Winchester St., E. 16.

To Members and Readers.

The Clyde Campaign, with all its success and all its rain and discomfort, is now over, but the expenses have not yet been made up. Please send your contributions to me as speedily as possible, and show your appreciation of the splendid hard work put in by our Speaker and Hon. Organiser, who have so generously given their time and energy for the good of the League and the furtherance of its ideals. Our General Funds, too, are now low, and require the help of all good members without delay.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treas.
144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY,
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1922.

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

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EDUCATIONAL.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, September 24th, 3.15. Welsh Miner's Choir. Silver Collection. 6.30 p.m., Miss A. Maude Royden. "Our Responsibilities in the Near East."

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