

THE VOTE,  
SEPT. 3, 1920.  
ONE PENNY.

SUMMON PARLIAMENT IMMEDIATELY!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 3, 1920.

**OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.**

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## AN ENTERPRISING BUSINESS WOMAN.

*Interview with Mrs. Pamflett.*

The story recently related to our representative, of how an Englishwoman, with the help of her sister, built up a flourishing doll business in London and the provinces, soon after war broke out, is but one more instance of women's aptitude for business, and a happy augury for their future success in trade.

"Very soon after war was declared," said Mrs. Pamflett, as she and our representative sat together in the office of the factory in Tooley Street, "I began to realise how seriously its results would affect women, especially in industry. I there and then made up my mind that I would start some sort of enterprise which would help to give women employment after war was ended.

"I confided my plan to my sister, Mrs. Edwards, and together we pored over the latest Import List, beginning at A and firmly resolving to go straight through the alphabet. When we got to D I had a sudden inspiration. 'Let us make dolls,' I said. 'Every child, especially girls, wants a doll. The demand is assured, and making dolls is a particularly suitable occupation for women.'

"We set to work at once to manufacture a composition which would be unbreakable. I had a knowledge of chemistry, and Mrs. Edwards understood modelling. We made a small unused room in my house into a laboratory, and for six months we worked hard. We had many failures, of course, and sometimes, I will confess, we abandoned our efforts in despair, and turned the lock in the door in mingled disgust and depression!

"But one day

### Success Crowned Our Efforts,

and a doll was finished satisfactorily, and duly dressed. I took this to the Board of Trade, and showed it to one of the Directors. This was just at the time when Germany and Austria had ceased to export toys into this country, and English trade officials were anxiously on

the look out for some other country to take their place. My doll was greatly praised, and I was cordially invited to 'go ahead.'

"So we began—in one room at the top of a house in Milton Street! This was soon outgrown, and we spread from room to room, gradually usurping whole floors, until we reached the ground floor. Then we took these two houses in Tooley Street where we are now sitting, and, as you will see later when I take you over the factory, we have outgrown these premises also, and it will not be long before we have to search for larger quarters.

"This factory, however, does not in the least represent the full extent of our business. A great deal of our work is made separately outside, and sent in here to be finished. We have

### Branches in all the Chief Cities,

including Scotland, where dolls' limbs are made separately and then sent here to be made up. The making of the dolls' clothing, too, forms quite a home industry in itself, and employs numbers of girls and women in the small towns and villages of the provinces, and in cottages along the coast. These last work at the dolls' clothes during the autumn and winter, and then either let their cottages or take in seaside visitors during the spring and summer months.

"We are the largest doll manufacturers in London, and the only firm, I believe, that makes them with the moveable eyes. We have an enormous home trade, and are now beginning to send a great many exports to the Colonies. We employ only girls and women, though we are obliged to have men packers, as this part of the work is too heavy for the women. We like to take the girls straight from school, and then they can work their way up to the top. They stay with us year after year, and out of all those who have come to us during the last five years I have only had to dismiss two. The

work is very suitable for women, and gives opportunity for artistic skill.

"At first the girls were very rough, and their language anything but desirable. But we talked to them quietly, and pointed out that it was just as easy to express oneself without using these embellishments, and gradually the tone changed. We used to hear sudden lulls and loud whispers—'Hush! here come the ladies!' as the girls tried to break themselves of this habit, and now a bad word or a coarse expression is unheard of in the factory. The girls, when fresh from school, begin at 14s. per week, and work their way up, getting increases all the time. In addition, each one shares according to her output, in a quarterly bonus, which we calculate according to the number of dolls turned out, and which runs into a substantial sum. The girls have a fortnight's holiday each year, and a few days over and above the orthodox Bank Holidays. I have been called over the coals because we give this amount of holiday, but we feel we need it, so why should not the girls have it too?"

"We take a real interest in their home lives, in their joys and sorrows, and in their love affairs, and it is quite pathetic how the girls reciprocate in genuine affection and trust. If I or my sister are ever absent through illness the whole factory is intimately concerned. Every Christmas we have a huge tea party with bon-bons, etc., when the forewoman usually makes a short speech, and we are all merry together.

"I am convinced that the war has opened up

#### Enormous Possibilities in Trade

if England will only awake and realise her opportunities. It seems to me that she could capture the whole world if she chose to make the effort. There is a big future, too, for women in industry. They have just as much skill and intelligence as men in this department. The only thing needed is opportunity and fair play. Women, however, should find out what sort of industry suits them best, and stick to that.

"I have great aspirations for the future, fostered to a certain extent by a recent tour in Southern Germany and Bavaria, the great toy districts before the war. It is really pathetic to see the havoc wrought by militarism in these peaceful towns. They have no coal, no materials for continuing their manufactures, the chief livelihood of the district, and scarcely any food. I, personally, suffered very much during my stay from insufficient feeding. Their one cry, especially amongst the Bavarians, is that they never wanted to fight; only to be left alone to live their own lives quietly. They were most kind in showing me over such toy factories as were still left. These were wonderfully self-contained, everything being made on the premises, even to the boxes in which the dolls and toys were packed and exported. In many cases the German factories are built in the open country, where land is cheaper, the houses of the workers being grouped round the factory until in time a whole town grows up. This is the idea I have in mind for our own business as it increases. Not only to run the work on still healthier and happier lines, but to relieve the congestion of overcrowded London and its hive of workers."

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## AMERICAN WOMEN JUDGES.

Miss E. Rodgers, writing in the August number of the *Church Militant*, gives some interesting information on the work of women Judges in the United States.

There is, she writes, only one woman judge of a criminal court in America. This is Judge Jean Norris, appointed last October by the Mayor of New York, and her work lies between the Domestic Relations and the Woman's Court. She sits daily, including Sundays, and deals with the cases of prostitutes, shop-lifters, debauchers and drug addicts. Seattle has two women jurists, both Justices of the Peace, who handle all kinds of civil cases irrespective of sex.

One of these, Judge Beals, was the first woman to receive the B.L. degree of the University of Washington. She specialised in Admiralty law, and was appointed judge to succeed her brother when on active service, and was regularly re-elected the following year. She wrote and presented a Bill, which passed without change, by which small claims can be litigated at a maximum cost of \$1.50. Judge Whitehead started her career as a stenographer, studied law at night school, was employed in the prosecuting Attorney's office, appointed deputy prosecuting attorney—the first woman to hold this office—and in 1914 was elected judge. She has drafted a new Reformatory Bill which will provide Washington with a 200 acre farm where women can be rehabilitated, and also a Bill to provide care and support for children of unwedded mothers. She strongly advocates a psychopathic test for persons accused of crime. Two other women are termed judge by courtesy, as they assist the judges of the Juvenile Courts in Chicago and Bridgeport.

Perhaps the largest opportunity for humanising criminal law has come to Judge Sholtz of the Juvenile Court of Los Angeles. She takes juveniles up to the age of 21 under her care, and does not "try" them for criminal offences, but "hears their troubles," and with the aid of a staff of specialists endeavours to get at the root of the crank in the human machinery and apply a suitable remedy. Nine policewomen work with her, and a policeman is never supposed to arrest a girl. Juvenile Hall, where the cases are heard, is not a terrifying jail, but a place of "spacious hominess" where the children are detained from three to eleven days while under observation. The Superintendent, who also acts as bailiff to the judge, is a young girl, who has taken her University Ph.D. Open windows, fresh air, flowers and attractive colouring are features of this "jail," and the "court" is just a pleasant sitting-room with pictures on the walls, curtained instead of barred windows, and flowers on the table at which the judge, her woman reporter and clerk sit. The girls are given needlework to do while waiting for their hearings. The defective and diseased are properly cared for; children of unfit parents are boarded out or sent to school; parents are given a grant to feed under-nourished children, or they are kept at the Hall on a special diet; there are institutions for those needing discipline. The big boys have male attendants. No uniforms are worn except Boy Scouts' uniforms and girls' sailor suits. The cost of this new scheme has been found to work out at less than that of the old criminal system. Girls of 14-18 are sent to a place with a magic name—El Retiro—in the heart of the beautiful S. Californian scenery, where they can "make good." Each girl has her own small bungalow which she makes her "home," and where she may have her kodak or other hobby. Gardening, farming, outdoor sports and boxing form part of the reconstruction system; the schooling is done by properly graded teachers, and the girls are trained for whatever work they may choose. El Retiro is self-governing, one girl being in charge of the library, another of the laundry, kitchen, etc. The heads receive \$10 a month, and in the summer the girls gather olives. Every girl is encouraged to have a savings account. Results have more than justified this "ideal system of penal reform."

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### A Pioneer in Diplomacy.

England has the honour of possessing one of the few women diplomatists available. This is Miss Gertrude Margaret Lowther Bell, of Yorkshire, who is now stationed at Bagdad, as Assistant Political Officer. Miss Bell has made a name for herself as an authoress and traveller, and is known as an amazingly brilliant woman. Her translation of the poems of the Persian Hafiz is regarded as very good. Her travels included the Canadian Rockies, where the guides still tell of her climbing feats, but Asia Minor was her favourite field, one of her trips being to ride with a very small escort from Aleppo across the Arabian desert, and through the Euphrates valley to Bagdad. She has an intimate knowledge of the racial and political feelings, of the bewilderment of differing people in the lands of Asia just freed from the Turk, and she will doubtless add to British credit by her work among them.

### Mothers' Pensions.

At last the long promised Mothers' Pension Bill has passed the Ontario Legislature, and comes into effect on October 1st. The mothers to be benefited must be either widows, or have a husband in an insane asylum or home for incurables. A woman must have lived in Canada for three years, and in Ontario for two years, to be entitled to the pension. Also she must be a British subject by birth, or by marriage to a British husband. She must be a fit person to have charge of her children, of which she must have two or more under fourteen. Lastly, she must have no adequate means. The amount of the mother's pension is not stated in the Bill, as this will be left to a Board—two members of which are women—to investigate, and fix in each case. One-half of the amount will be drawn from a Government fund, and the other half given by the municipalities where the needy mother resides.

### Matriarchal Relics.

We learn from an American contemporary that remnants of a Matriarchal race, the once powerful Seminole Indians, still exist in the wilder parts of Florida. Amongst this tribe the squaws wield equal powers with the braves and warriors to control the wigwam rights of the camp. The Seminole child belongs entirely to its mother, a man always tracing his descent back through the female side. They do not allow forced marriages, and the young married man comes to live in his bride's village. Women committing crimes are tried and punished by their own sex, and it is a Seminole boast that no woman of their people has ever succumbed to the attentions of the hated white man.

### Looking Backward.

In 1902 New Zealand was the only self-governing country where women could vote; and in just eight others was there an organised Suffrage movement. In 1920 twenty self-governing nations have extended the franchise to women, and it is probable that France, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, with our South Africa, and, we hope, India, will soon be included. Much has happened since those pre-war days when Mr. Asquith, fighting Woman Suffrage in England, said very truthfully—"It would be inconvenient to have women in politics."

### Woman Scientist's Discovery.

A young college graduate of 22, Dr. Irene Diner, of New York city, has made a valuable contribution to industrial chemistry by her discovery of the availability of the microscope in determining the quality of rubber and rubber products. The strength and durability of rubber are determined by the size of the cells that make up its tissue. With the development of the method discovered by Dr. Diner it is expected that the approximate strength of the rubber may be determined.

### Woman's Suffrage in Japan.

The Women's Christian Reform Society is working strenuously in Japan for the cause of Woman Suffrage. The Society has 84 local chapters, and a total membership roll of 3,600, including some of the most influential women of Japan. It was founded some thirty years ago to break the power of the liquor traffic and licensed prostitution. It is felt, however, very strongly, that nothing can be done unless the vote is secured first. The present agitation for universal suffrage for men is felt to be a particularly suitable time for pushing the woman's cause, and a very successful convention of the Society has recently met at Yokohama.

### Turkish Women's Restrictions.

The new "Liberal" Government in Turkey is proposing a new law which will undoubtedly make for the greater restriction of women. They are to be forbidden to enter any trade or profession where they will have to associate with men. They are to stay at home for the most part, and when out of doors are to wear a specified dress. These restrictions come at a time when Turkish women are just beginning to take a share in the great world-wide movement for liberty for their sex, so it will be interesting to watch the forthcoming conflict which must assuredly ensue.

### Bravo Czecho-Slovakia!

The Republic of Czecho-Slovakia is not yet two years old, and here are some of the conditions, already established, under which the wage-earning women of the Republic work: The eight-hour day; compulsory sickness and death insurance, maternity benefits, universal organisation of workers, the women on equal plane with the men.

### American Women Barristers.

Nine women who took the state bar examination at Jefferson City, Missouri, in July, were successful. One woman who took the examination did so to encourage her son, who was also a candidate for the Bar. The mother was successful.

## A FEMINIST WRITER.

George Meredith has been rightly claimed as the first English novelist to conceive of woman as a being who had an individual value apart from her attitude towards the male sex. Meredith launched numerous shafts of deadly irony against the Oriental views of sex which were so largely prominent amongst early Victorians. One of his sayings, at least, has become historic—"Men have rounded Seraglio Point: they have not yet doubled Cape Turk." Clara Middleton, Diana Warwick, and Aminta Ormint are creations of flesh and blood, drawn by a master hand, and each one stamped with her own distinct individuality. Although Meredith was too great an artist ever to sink to the level of mere propaganda, he was among the first to regard seriously woman's claim for freedom. His impatience with male complacency finds expression in the "Ballad of Fair Ladies in Revolt":—

We like your phrase,  
Dominion domestic! and that roar,  
"What seek you?" is of tyrants in all days.  
Sir, get you something of our purity,  
And we will of your strength: we ask no more.

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## THE VOTE.

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### 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.

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## SUMMON PARLIAMENT IMMEDIATELY.

Ministers and Members of Parliament are scattered on their holidays, and Parliament is adjourned until October 19th. In the meantime prices of all commodities are rising, this country is seething with unrest, Ireland, both north and south, is admittedly in a state of anarchy, and our Government, apparently, can make neither peace nor war with Russia. Things in every direction seem to be drifting from bad to worse, and there is no sense of security throughout the length and breadth of the country. We are faced with a miners' strike which threatens to paralyse industry and cause incalculable distress during the winter months, and still there is no visible sign that our holiday-making representatives are taking the slightest interest in the nation's affairs. Women worked hard for many years to secure a vote because they were determined to have a share in the government of their country, and at the last General Election they voted for the men and women whom they thought would best represent their interests in Parliament. Unhappily, no women were then returned; but, surely, the men who were elected and the one woman who has since been elected must realise their responsibility in the present crisis. In spite of the fact that the women of this country are only partially enfranchised, we live under a democratic form of government, and the power of Parliament should be supreme. At the moment, industrial, Irish and international events are being hotly discussed, with more or less bias in a limited Press, the great newspapers usually circulating in some of our big industrial centres not being printed because of the printers' strike. These questions, however, affect the very life of our nation, and should be the immediate and pressing concern of every one of our representatives. Some of the papers are apologetically urging that the Prime Minister should shorten his holidays and return to give his consideration to the causes of our present discontents; but, in our view, the difficulties confronting us are much too serious to be settled by any one man or any set of men, and demand the serious attention of every Member of Parliament. We suggest, therefore, that both Houses be summoned without delay, where all sides of these questions of urgent national importance can be debated in order that the public may know the rights and wrongs of the opposing forces in the present disastrous conflicts. The King's prerogative has been called into question more than once during the past week. In our opinion it is time that the sovereign will of the people was asserted, and that the electors of this country, through their representatives in Parliament, should insist upon the Government securing peace in this country, in Ireland, and abroad. If the Government are too incompetent to satisfy this demand, then the duty of our representatives is to turn them out so that the electors may replace them by others who can. We urge that Parliament should at once be summoned to deal with the nation's critical affairs, both at home and abroad.

## HUNGER STRIKERS.

As we go to press the lives of many hunger-strikers hang in the balance. These hunger-strikers can claim, as women suffragists who formerly went through a similar ordeal claimed, that they are in prison for political offences. They are at variance with the Government just as many women were at variance with the Government six or seven years ago. Whatever other people may think of their cause or their tactics, they at any rate are prepared to die for them. The present Government, now that Members of Parliament are taking their holidays in various parts of this country and in some other countries, are apparently prepared to let these hunger-strikers die, in spite of protests and appeals on behalf of the prisoners from members of all political parties to the heads of the Government and various members of the Royal Family. The Government claim that if they release these prisoners, already at the point of death, administration of the law in Ireland will become impossible. Would the deaths of a few women suffragist hunger-strikers seven years ago have raised the respect of women generally for the administration of the law in this country? If the political offence of a man or woman does not justify the Government in putting that man or woman to death, then, in the opinion of most civilised peoples, it does not justify the Government in allowing death to follow by the torture of starvation; and the only course open to the Government, when men and women charged with political offences show themselves determined to die or to be free, is to release them. The Government are responsible for the life or death of any person whom they hold under lock and key.

## EQUAL ENFRANCHISEMENT.

A proclamation officially announcing the ratification of the Female Suffrage Amendment has been signed by Mr. Colby, the Secretary of State, so that American women throughout the United States will now be able to vote in the forthcoming Presidential Election. We wholeheartedly congratulate our American sisters on having secured equal suffrage with men. Women of the United States, unlike British women, will be able to exercise their vote when they are twenty-one years of age, and will not, like British women, have to wait until they are 30 while their brothers can vote at 21. In this matter of enfranchisement America has done the just and the generous thing; it has not saddled the Constitution with pettifoggery and irritating differentiations in the ages and possessions of men and women voters; and we are glad to think that American revising officers—or under whatever name these officials are known in the States—will not be called upon, as the Willesden revising officer was called upon last week, to decide whether or not an unmarried daughter of over 30 years of age, living in her parents' house and renting an unfurnished room shall or shall not secure a parliamentary or municipal vote, when an unmarried son of 21, no matter what his possessions in his parents' house, is almost invariably placed as a matter of course upon the voting register. American women have won a tremendous victory for the equality of the sexes, and British women must leave no stone unturned until they secure a similar victory for the women of these Islands. The equal enfranchisement of men and women will raise the whole status of women—socially and economically as well as politically. The primary object of the Women's Freedom League is, and has always been, to secure votes for women on the same terms as men; and we call upon all women who see the urgent necessity of the equal enfranchisement of the sexes to support us in our campaign during the coming winter months to make certain that women shall vote on equal terms with men at the General Election.

## WOMEN AND HOUSING PLANS.

### COMMON-SENSE PROTESTS.

The Women's Section of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, which comprises representatives from such organisations as the Rural Housing Association, the Association of Women House Property Managers, the Women's Village Council Federation, etc., etc., have sent a protest to the Ministry of Health criticising their recent publication, "Houses designed by the Ministry of Health in connection with State-aided Housing schemes." The Housing Advisory Council of the Ministry of Health has not been called together since 1919, and the influential women who were formed into an advisory committee at that time to see that the practical demands of working-class women were complied with, are by no means satisfied with the intervening results.

The Report of the Women's Section urges the necessity that all housing plans, before being finally approved, should be submitted for criticism to some committee on which women sit, such, for instance, as the Ministry of Health Housing Advisory Council. It further regrets the fact that in face of the general demand among working women for parlour houses, the non-parlour house is given first place in the Ministry's designs, the superficial area of these being curtailed below that of the earlier standards set by the Ministry of Health.

Attention is drawn in the Report to certain

#### Grave Faults

in the designs themselves, the inadequate size of the scullery in the designs for non-parlour houses, and of the third bedroom in the designs for both parlour and non-parlour houses.

It is pointed out that the sculleries vary in size from 50 to 90 square feet, but only two sculleries in the designs reach the highest figure, and ten out of fifteen designs provide for sculleries which fall below 80 square feet. The shape of the sculleries, too, is not good. They are not square enough, and do not provide sufficient wall space. A scullery, it is pointed out, needs to be large enough to contain, besides a gas stove, a copper and sink, wringer and table, and sufficient wall space for the fixing of a cupboard. In the opinion of the Committee, 96 square feet is the minimum superficial area which will allow of a housewife carrying on her necessary work in any degree of efficiency and comfort.

With regard to the size of the third bedroom, the fundamental idea underlying the demand for a third bedroom is, of course, based on the need for separate sleeping accommodation for the girls and boys of the family. The size of this third bedroom in the Ministerial designs varies from 63-90 square feet, yet in 27 out of 39 plans less than 80 square feet is allowed for this room, which would, therefore, be almost useless. A greater superficial area is therefore urged in the Women's Report, as well as an injunction that the three bedrooms should be more

#### Equal in Size.

The following suggestions are finally submitted in the Report for inclusion in all future Ministerial designs:—

(a) That in non-parlour houses the scullery should be a scullery-kitchen, and should be allowed 96 square feet minimum superficial area.

(b) That the third bedroom in all cases should have a minimum superficial area of 100 square feet.

(c) That chimneys should be planned for on inner walls so as to warm the centre of the house.

(d) That the bathroom be entered from a passage and not from the scullery.

Certain details of inside arrangement are also included. These recommend that: Scullery windows should not be placed directly over sinks, which is the

best position for a plate rack. Windows over sinks are difficult to open, and consequently are not opened. Space for a table near the sink is essential, and also space for a wringer. An airing cupboard should be fixed round a hot-water circulator so as to conserve the heat, as well as for airing purposes. A serving hatch should be provided between living room and scullery, which would ease the work of the housewife enormously. Coal stores should be fitted with outside shoots.

A special recommendation is added that in view of the restricted superficial area available for the non-parlour houses, owing presumably to the high cost of building, paragraph 49, page 9 of the Manual should not invariably govern the planning of the ground floors. This paragraph specifies that: "Projections or detached outbuildings for coals and w.c. should generally be avoided in urban and suburban areas," but the Committee are of opinion that, where the accommodation for the scullery is very cramped, the larder and coal store should be provided for outside the main building, and all available space be utilised for the scullery itself. The proposed projection should be low and not obstruct the light or air. Should this recommendation be approved it could easily be adopted, even with regard to the house plans under discussion, and thereby the convenience and comfort of the sculleries in houses about to be erected would be greatly increased.

D. M. N.

## WOMAN SECRETARY OF STATE.

The New York Democratic State Convention has recently appointed Miss Harriët May Mills, of Syracuse, as Secretary of State. This position is very largely an educative one, from which much accurate information is demanded. According to authorities on civil government, the Secretary of State is the State's chief official. He (or she) is custodian of the great seal and the State archives; has charge of the publication and preservation of the laws; countersigns the Governor's proclamations and commissions; issues certificates of incorporation, etc.

Miss Mills, says the *Woman Citizen*, is a graduate of Cornell University, and by nature, inheritance and habit a great educationalist. Her father was a distinguished Oriental scholar, and the home of her childhood was a well-known centre of the literary world. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Wendell Phillips, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, and other foremost American suffragists of the latter part of the last century were amongst its frequent visitors.

In expressing her willingness to take office, Miss Mills told the *Woman Citizen*: "For any woman to have a place on the party slate is a compliment to the entrance of women into politics that may well mark a new era in American history. We have fought for many years to bring about this event, and the consummation must prove a justification of the principles of equal suffrage. I was glad to assent to the use of my name, not for anything that I hope to get out of the office in profit or prestige, but largely because I want a chance to demonstrate that a woman can do a full day's work in almost any important office to which she is chosen."

## OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

Women and Income Tax. By Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant). 3d.

Women's Right to Work. By L. Lind-af-Hageby. 3d.

Elsie Maud Inglis: A Cameo Life-Sketch. By Dr. Aimée Gibbs. 4d.

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**IN MEMORIAM—MRS. M. W. SEWALL.**

Our American contemporary, the *Suffragist*, records the death of Mrs. May Wright Sewall, which occurred on July 22nd, at Indianapolis, by which the suffrage cause in America has lost one of its most brilliant advocates and faithful leaders. Throughout her long life (she was 76 at her death) Mrs. Sewall was prominent in education and social reform movements. With her husband, Theodore Lovett Sewall, she founded the Girls' Classical School at Indianapolis, and to this school gave unstintingly of her time and energy.

Mrs. Sewall was a staunch ally of every cause which promoted the advancement of women. She early identified herself with the suffrage movement in her own state, and later was prominent in the national movement. For a number of years Mrs. Sewall served as chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Woman Suffrage Association, which association merged with the American Woman Suffrage Association, forming the present National American Woman Suffrage Association. Mrs. Sewall served also on the present body in an official capacity.

A worthy achievement of Mrs. Sewall's was the promotion of the National Council of Women and also of the International Council, which holds its sixth quinquennial meeting at Christiania this month. In both associations she held high offices. As one of the organisers of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and as first vice-president of that organisation, Mrs. Sewall played an important part in the club movement in the United States. She was president of the World's Congress of Representative Women at the World's Fair, and she represented the women of the United States at the Congresses of the Paris Exposition in 1900. She was a director and moving spirit in various educational and university extension movements. She was a member of the American Historical Association, the Association for the Advancement of Women, of Sorosis, and an honorary member of the *Union Internationale des Sciences et des Arts*, at Paris.

**CHEATS and CHEATS.**

A recent issue of the *Woman Teacher* contains the following protest from Miss Helena Normanton concerning the respective honesty of women and men:—

Sir John Knill, dealing with fraudulent railway travellers, suggests that women are the worst cheats. Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., now reading for law, retaliates in a press letter by saying that "much depends on the tests employed." If men are *cleverer* cheats than women, of course, fewer would be detected. But she says, "Suppose that, instead of railway travelling, women chose to make the crime of food and milk adulteration the test of honesty, how would men fare? Can the sex that consistently sands the sugar and waters the milk say very much? And this cheating cuts at the very physical existence of the working-classes and their defenceless children. . . . Of course, the greatest robbery of all is that system of payment which in certain callings underpays a woman just because she is a woman. Why women teachers, civil servants, and so on, do not constantly tender some four-fifths of the price of everything, from railway tickets onwards, is simply inconceivable. They are paid only four-fifths, roughly, of the price of their work." She rightly remarks that "No one form of pilfering exceeds another." However, not so much in defence of what she describes as the "innocent and resourceless Metropolitan Railway Company," Miss Normanton advises women not to think of making a penny on the train or tram fare, but urges them to "have large conceptions of life and proper expenditure. Train hard and work hard to earn a salary big enough to meet all your liabilities handsomely, and leave something over for a rainy day or to help a lame dog over a stile."

**BOOK REVIEWS.**

*Three Days.* By Rose Macaulay. (Constable.) 2s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this office.)

Miss Rose Macaulay has many gifts. She is one of the most distinguished of our younger novelists; she is also a poet. Like all sensitive natures the bitterness of the Great War has eaten into her soul, and she has the gift and relief of expressing, with clear and accurate perception, much that we non-combatants have dumbly felt. Take that fine poem "Picnic," where a party of friends lay in a Surrey wood and heard the great guns of France beating up on the South-East winds.

We did not wince, we did not weep,  
We did not curse or pray;  
We drowsily heard, and someone said,  
"They sound clear to-day."

We did not shake with pity and pain,  
Or sicken and blanch white.  
We said: "If the wind's from over there  
There'll be rain to-night."

Once pity we knew, and rage we knew,  
And pain we knew too well,  
As we stared and peered dizzily  
Through the gates of hell.

But now hell's gates are an old tale;  
Remote the anguish seems;  
The guns are muffled and far away  
Dreams within dreams.

We are shut about by gnawing walls;  
(We have built them lest we run  
Mad from dreaming of naked fear  
And of black things done.)

Which of us did not feel a sickening shame of our callousness, our apathy in the face of the world's agony, recognising at the same time that such was Nature's protection from black madness and lunacy?

Miss Macaulay seems to have worked on the land. She paints no charming Virgilian Georgics or Eclogues, but writes with unvarnished realism on "Spreading Manure," "The Burning of Twitch," and the "Driving of Sheep" till one's back stiffens, one's eyes smart, one's feet ache, in sympathy.

"And . . . counting the sheep . . . we swam . . . into sleep . . .  
And trail along . . . foolish as they."

Many a delicate town-bred girl struggling for the first time with the hard work of an agricultural labourer must have felt as she did.

*The Wooden Pegasus* (Basil Blackwell) (6s. net) is a new collection of verse by Edith Sitwell, editor of "Wheels." Miss Sitwell belongs to the ranks of the new Euphuists, and though her verse may be found hard of comprehension by plain people, it has a musical quality and a certain hard brilliance-peculiar to the writer. She is a pastmistress of fantastic quips, and her metaphors are original and arresting:

Fields as green as spinach,  
Cropped close as Time at Greenwich. . . .  
The sun-light hiccups white as chalk. . . .  
Sands where folks flaunt parrot bright  
With rags and tags of noisy light.

And as we come a-rowing,  
Great rainbows rise and swing  
Like naughty peacocks bowing  
In the garden of the King.

The poem, "The Mother," has great insight and power, but Miss Sitwell is at her best in irony as in "The County Calls."

They came upon us like a train—  
A rush, a scream, then gone again!  
With bodies like a continent,  
Encased in silken seas, they went  
And came and called and took their tea,  
And patronised the Deity,  
Who copies their munificence  
With creditable heart and sense.

\* \* \* \* \*  
I saw the county families  
Advance and sit and take their teas;  
I saw the County gaze askance  
At my thin insignificance:  
Small thoughts like frightened fishes glide  
Beneath their eyes' pale glassy tide:  
They said, "Poor thing! we must be nice!"  
They said, "We know your father!" twice.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

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Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.**

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 24.—Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Reception to members of N.E.C. 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 25.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee. 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday, October 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Vida Goldstein. Subject: "Election Experiences in Australia." 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker will be announced later.

Wednesday, October 20.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker will be announced later.

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Lind-af-Hageby. 3 p.m.

Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

**PROVINCES.**

Monday, September 6.—Hastings. Whist Drive. Metropole Hotel, Robertson Terrace. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Bexhill. Business Meeting. 19, Marine Mansions. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. 3.30 p.m.

Monday, October 4.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Social. Details to be announced later.

Monday, October 11.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.

**SCOTLAND.**

Thursday, September 2.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting, 44, George IV. Bridge. Discussion of winter's work. 7.30 p.m.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

Monday, November 1.—Bethnal Green Women Citizens' Association, 33, Blythe Street, E. Speaker: Miss Kirby. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." 8 p.m.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

**OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

**A.**

We offer a year's subscription to THE VOTE for the best answer on "How I Would Solve the Irish Question."

1.—Articles must be typed or written on one side only of the paper, with THE VOTE coupon attached.

2.—They must not exceed 1,000 words in length.

3.—They must be addressed to The Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C., and must reach this office not later than September 30th, 1920.

**B.**

We offer a prize of a new book to the first reader who obtains six new subscribers to THE VOTE for one year. The names and addresses of six new subscribers thus obtained, together with the annual subscriptions, should be forwarded to the Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. These will be offered a choice of three books from which to select their prize.

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**DANCE**

The coming Dance at Caxton Hall, on Saturday, October 2nd, has been advertised for so long that we anticipate an overwhelming demand for tickets and would advise members to apply as soon as possible.

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES,**  
Kensington Town Hall, Sunday,  
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