THE VOTE, FEB. 2, 1923. ONE PENNY.

THE MUDDLE OF THE SCHOOLS!

THE ORGAN THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Vol. XXIV. No. 693.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2, 1923

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 wellbeing of the community.

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WOMAN OUR PIONEER VETERINARY SURGEON.

Interview with Miss ALEEN CUST, M.R.C.V.S.

"'Custom is the brick wall against which feeble minds come to a standstill, and hinder the progress of the world.' These words of Henry Seton Merriman, in 'Barlasch of the Guard,' have always been one of my mottoes,'' said our Pioneer, who has now, after 25 years of unswerving perseverance, at last cleared the road for women into the profession of Veterinary

Surgery.

All her life this has been Miss Cust's chief desire and object. She was riding almost before she could walk, and has a fellow feeling, for all animals, large and small. Tall, strong, and vigorous herself, and full of energy and enthusiasm, she is also full of the joy of the woman who is doing well the one thing that out of all the world she would choose to do.

Miss Cust matriculated and entered as a student at Principal Williams' New Veterin-ary College, Edinburgh, never doubting that in due course the diploma might be hers. As the first woman student, she cannot speak too highly of the kindness and comradeship she received there, when, a very shy girl, she "scurried every morning through the crowd of

morning through the crowd of young men, into her classes."
During her first year she gained first prize class medals, and the esteem and goodwill of teachers and fellow-students alike. Her professional examination came next, but the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the only body which grants the diplomas entitling veterinary surgeons to be placed upon the official Register, to the consternation of both Miss Cust and her teachers, refused to allow her to sit for the necessary examinarefused to allow her to sit for the necessary examina-

tions, because their Charter "referred to men only," "student" implying "male" student.

The cudgels were strongly but unsuccessfully taken

up on Miss Cust's behalf in the Council by Principal Williams, and an action brought in the Scottish Law Courts. Three K.C.s had given their opinion that the Charter did not shut out women, but the case was

never heard, on grounds of

no-domicile.

Our determined young woman, however, took the view that knowledge and skill might weigh as heavily as red tape. She worked through the four hard years' course at her Edinburgh College, took many class distinctions, and gained extra experience by pupilage in country practices during vacations, and then took up an assistant-ship in Scotland. Later on, Miss Cust decided to set up in Ireland, in the Roscommon and Galway district, where she built up, by hard work, one of the largest and most widespread practices in the country. Irish people know country. Irish people know how to value experience and good work, whether in man or woman, and the Galway County Council (after a nine months' fight with the Board of Agriculture, who objected

because she had no Diploma) appointed her their Veterinary Inspector. This position she held for ten years, 'till, in August, 1914, she was requisitioned to assist in the Remount Department. The next year she drove her car with the Y.M.C.A. in France, and later held a position under the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, in the Laboratory attached to No. 8 Veterinary Hospital.



The passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act again turned Miss Cust's thoughts towards the much-coveted Diploma. Again she applied to the Royal College; this time she found changed conditions. The personnel of the Council was almost entirely different; views of twenty years ago were replaced by the spirit of to-day. Special concessions on account of War Service were granted to Miss Cust, as to other candidates; she sat for the practical examination, and on December 20th, 1922, patience and persistence were rewarded, and the first woman graduate gained the

Miss Cust is the daughter of the late Sir Leopold Cust, and sister of Sir Charles Cust, Equerry to His Majesty the King.

"Veterinary surgery is an excellent profession," says Miss Cust, "for those girls who love animals, and will tackle the hard work which is essential when becoming a first-rate surgeon. It has the great advantage of not yet being overcrowded; pet animals are often unaccustomed to, and nervous of, men, and diseases of poultry, rabbits, and goats are little understood, and a capital opening for the woman Vet., not to speak of the vast unexplored field of research in the Bacteriological Laboratory, where fame awaits the fortunate."

WOMEN AND OUR PENAL SYSTEM.

The Women's Freedom League reiterates its demand for women Governors of women's prisons, or women's sections of prisons, for women Medical Officers in women's prisons, and for more women Police throughout the country. In suffrage days, when our own members found their way into prison cells, we drew attention to the scandal of men constables having sole charge of women prisoners at night-time. Apparently this matter still requires attention. In the National Council of Women's News for January it is stated that the Public Service Committee of this Council received at its last meeting a report from the Women Magistrates Sub-Committee, dealing with the supervision by night of women prisoners. At a popular watering place it appears that women prisoners are kept three days, and the corridor is patrolled at night by a male constable. The following regulation was reported as obtaining for an entire county:—"The Matron takes sole charge of the prisoner between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., but between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. the police officer in charge inspects the cell through the observation panel, or spy-hole, once every two hours. The custom in that county is that, except in big centres, no woman warder or matron is in charge during the hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m." The report also states that at a police station in an important seaport town, the women prisoners are solely in the charge of male policemen, and that a wet canteen is kept open there for the police during the night. It is true that there are much less unsatisfactory conditions in some other parts of the country, but we think that in this year of Grace it should not be possible for women prisoners in cells to be entirely in the charge of male constables, and that it is time that women agitated sufficiently to make it impossible.

SHOULD THE BRITISH TROOPS BE. WITHDRAWN FROM THE RUHR?

The Women's International League invites you to take part

OPEN DEBATE

DENISON HOUSE, VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.1. On FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, at 8 p.m. Openers :- NORMAN ANGELL and CHAS. TREVELYAN, M.P.

Tickets for the Free Seats must be obtained beforehand from International House, 55, Gower Street, W.C. 4. Some Reserved Seats, 1/-

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Women's chances in the Civil Service continue to improve. Just before the war, the Royal Commission on the Civil Service recommended a large addition to the number of women employed in Government Departments, but only in regard to those posts concerned mainly with women and children, where their special qualifications would be of benefit to the State. Since that time there has been definite and decided effort on the part of women and of their friends in Parliament to ecure the opening of all posts in the Civil Service, including the higher ones, to women on the same terms Women have never asked nor desired preferential treatment in the Civil Service, and they resented the recommendation of the National Whitley Council that they should be recruited for Class I., the administrative grade, the class coveted by women who have had education of a university standard, not by open and equal competition as against men, but by means of selection boards. The open competitive examination, to which women will be admitted on equal terms with men, and which will be held in July next for the position of income-tax inspector, is much more to their liking, and apparently heralds the abandonment of the recommendation of the special recruitment of women by selection boards. The Daily Telegraph reports that three women, for the first time in the nistory of the Civil Service, have been, as a result of a recent examination, offered posts in the administrative grade. They are Miss M. Curtis, Miss K. W. Elliott and Mrs. H. M. Lucas. Miss Curtis, who took secondclass Honours at Cambridge, and served at the Ministry of Food until it was closed, will go to the Ministry of Pensions; Miss Elliott, who is a graduate with Honours of London University, will be appointed to the Board of Education, and Mrs. Lucas, who took First Class in Mods. and Greats at Oxford, and has been employed at the Treasury since 1920, has a Treasury appointment. Other important Civil Service appointments held by women of equal status with Class I. are Miss Anderson at the Foreign Office, and Miss Bass as Principal Lady Superintendent at the Admiralty. It is great satisfaction to women generally to know that the activities of the woman Civil Servant of the future will not be limited to duties such as the care of women and children, or those of a clerk or typist, but that she will have the opportunity of becoming an important factor in the administration of the British Empire.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

A deputation representing about a dozen women's organisations was received by the Home Secretary last week to urge legislation by which the subsequent marriage of unmarried parents should legitimise the children; the maximum amount of 10s. weekly payable under an affiliation order should be increased; and that, where collecting officers in courts had not been appointed under the Affiliation Orders Act of 1914, appointments should be made automatically. It is reported that the Home Secretary agreed that the members of the deputation had made out a strong case; but he referred to the technical difficulties involved in the legitimisation proposals. He approved of the principle of increasing the maximum affiliation payment, but considered that it should not be raised unduly. The Home Secretary promised to give information where collecting officers were acting, and that the proper type should be employed.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE DINNER.

All tickets for Friday's Dinner are now sold. Tickets may still be had for Reception at

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

More Women Barristers.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1923.

Five more women have been "called" to the Bar. the Misses Mithan Ardeshir Tata and Mercy Ashworth (Lincoln's Inn), Dr. Josephine Letitia Fairfield, and the Misses Audrey Harverson, Charlotte Young, and Ida Duncan (Middle Temple). Miss Tata, who is a B.A. of Bombay University, and an M.Sc. of London, is the daughter of a Bombay merchant, and the first Indian woman barrister to practise in this country. Dr. Fairfield has been Assistant Medical Officer of the L.C.C. since 1911, and is also Lecturer to the Royal Sanitary Institute and several other organisations. During the war she became Medical Director of the Royal Air Force in the war.

Miss Clough's Resignation.

Miss Clough, Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, has resigned her post as from October, 1923. Miss Clough was elected Principal in 1920, but has during the last thirty-five years held various offices in the college, including those of tutor and Vice-Principal. Her resignation will be regretted by all friends of the higher education of women, and not only at Cambridge. The youngest child of Arthur Hugh Clough, the poet, Miss Blanche Athena Clough, niece of Miss Clough, the founder of the College, was born at Athens in 1861, and educated at Newnham, where so much of her life was to A Canadian Woman Editor. be spent. She was a member of the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities, which reported last year, and in her report called for the admission of women on terms of absolute equality to Cambridge University.

Women China Restorers.

A new school has been opened in London to train women as expert restorers of China by a process of "invisible mending," in place of the usual noticeable rivets. The course of training will last three months. The school is under the superintendence of Mr. Dallas, official china restorer to the South Kensington Museum, in whose family the craft of china restoring may be termed an hereditary one, having descended from refugees at a time. father to son for more than a hundred years.

America's Woman M.P.

Mrs. Nolan, the widow of Mr. John Nolan, who was Republican member for one of the San Francisco districts in the House of Representatives, and a prominent Labour leader, has been elected to fill her late husband's place in the House of Representatives. She will be the only woman member of that body in the next session of Congress. In her electoral contest Mrs. Nolan defeated six men.

Newspaper Shopping.

A special "shopping lady," Miss Ernestine Allen, is employed by the North American, a Philadelphia newspaper, to undertake the shopping of country readers. All requests must describe the size, colour, and price of the article desired, and the name of the store or stores preferred. The money is either sent with the order, or the "shopping lady" will open an account with the usual references.

An International Woman Lawyer.

Mrs. W. B. Wilson holds the distinction of being the first British-born woman to be admitted to the American Bar, the initiation taking place in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn. Mrs. Wilson has had a varied experience as a lawyer, including practice abroad during the war years. Mrs. Wilson was Miss Winifred Wilton, of Winnipeg, and the first woman lawyer of that Canadian city.

Women in the Church.

In his presidential address at the meeting of the Diocesan Conference at Sheffield, last week, the Bishop of Sheffield (Dr. Burrows) referred to the dearth of male candidates for the ministry, and expressed a hope to improve matters by giving the ministry of women a permanent place in the machinery of his diocesé.

Women Librarians.

There are 16 women Chiefs in public libraries in England, and considerably over 1,000 women assistants. In the Library Assistants' Association alone, there are 330 members out of a total membership of 660. The Public Library at Worthing has a woman Chief, with a staff of women assistants.

Woman Barrister's Case.

Mrs. Helena Normanton, the woman barrister who has selected the Divorce Court for her activities, conducted her second case there last week, when she was successful in obtaining for her client a decree nisi from Mr. Justice Horridge. On the last occasion, Mrs. Normanton appeared on behalf of a woman petitioner, but this time her client was a husband. The case was undefended, and occupied the time of the Court only a very few minutes.

Women Solicitors.

At last week's meeting of the Law Society, the President (Mr. A. Copson Peake) announced that a woman solicitor had been admitted a member of the Law Society that day, and that the Council intended admitting women solicitors as members of the Society on the same terms as men.

Miss Cora Hind, agricultural and commercial Editor of the Manitoba Free Press, who was in London during the spring of 1922, joined the staff in 1893. The fiftieth anniversary number of the Free Press contains a high tribute to Miss Hind's work and to her personality Ten women are regularly employed on the editorial staff of this great Canadian newspaper.

Woman Doctor's Charge.

Dr. Mabel Elliott, Director of the American Women's Hospitals, has arranged with the Greek Government to take over the island of Macronissi, thirty miles south of Athens, as a quarantine station capable of handling thirty thousand of the typhus and cholera

Lady Rhondda's New Responsibility.

Viscountess Rhondda was elected a member of the Council of the Institute of Directors at their last Annual General Meeting.

A Woman Numismatist.

Miss Muriel Eleanor Lloyd has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Numismatical Society.

THE

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE ANNOUNCE A SERIES OF

Fortnightly Lectures FOREIGN POLITICS

IN THE

MINERVA CAFÉ, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1

In which the following subjects will be discussed:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH AMERICA." Speaker Miss R. C. Longland (from the English Speaking Union)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH FRANCE." Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney.

MONDAY, MARCH 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH RUSSIA."

MONDAY, MARCH 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH THE CENTRAL POWERS." (Speakers to be announced later.)

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved Seats 1.- each Lecture, or for the Course, 4/-; from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Reports of the above Lectures will appear in "The Vote," 1d. Weekly,

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD, Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 1923.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows :-To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.

To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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

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

THE MUDDLE OF THE SCHOOLS!

Last summer the Women's Freedom League did all

in its power to convince the educational authorities in

London of the urgent need for Day Continuation Schools, but, in spite of all our efforts, and of the efforts of other organisations deeply interested in the care of young people between the ages of 14 and 18, for whom no work could be found, these schools were practically closed down. Several months previously, Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck and others had called the attention of the Government in the House of Commons to the fact that many thousands of boys and girls throughout the country were leaving school at the age of fourteen, that no employment was possible for them, and, as general unemployment was increasing among adults, there was an ever-growing army of young people between the ages of 14 and 18, without work, and with no better place to spend their time and energy than our streets. More recently, Lady Astor called the attention of the Government and of the public to this peril of idle youth, and the Government has now brought forward a belated plan to deal with the matter. A Correspondent in *The Times* rightly describes this scheme as a "rush effort," and points out that, if that part of the Education Act of 1918 had been allowed to come into existence, neither the Government, nor the civic, nor the local education authorities would now be trying to improvise at a moment's notice and under drastic pressure. We should have had in existence the organisation, the trained staffs, the machinery and equipment which, with trifling modifications, could easily have been applied to this purpose. But, as this correspondent states, local authorities are now expected to complete by February 1st their proposals, and to co-operate in finding the personnel, and in creating the means for carrying out the Government's somewhat vague plan. How all this is going to be done satisfactorily, and what it is going to cost the community, no one seems able to say. From the moment of the appearance of the Geddes Report, the Women's Freedom League protested against the cutting down of education. We were convinced that this country could not afford economies in educational facilities; that if our nation was to hold its own with other nations in the troublous times ahead of us, it was essential that our children and young people should have more, not less, education. But, unfortunately, the Ministry of Education was the Cinderella of Government Departments; there was no strong man at its head to stand up against the Government's mad desire to effect economies at the expense of education. The Admiralty and the War Office refused to submit to the Geddes proposals, but the Ministry of Education was pliable; and now, together with the correspondent in The Times, we have the melancholy satisfaction of seeing this Government and the nation trying to achieve, in far more difficult circumstances, and at a much increased cost, by its new proposals to keep unemployed young people between the ages of 14 and 18 at school, results for which we pleaded in vain so long ago. The previous whittling down of education costs, resulting in the present disastrous muddle, does not spell national economy, but is one of the worst examples of an intolerable waste of our national resources.

TOWARDS EQUALITY.

THE VOTE

Senator Salvatore Citello, on behalf of the National Women's Party, last week introduced in the New York State Legislature twenty-five Bills, the object of which is to give to American women every legal right now possessed by their countrymen, and at the same time requiring women to share equally men's responsibili-These Bills make husband and wife equally responsible to support the family, the husband being empowered to sue the wife for non-support of the children. The property of husband and wife owned before marriage will not be liable for the debts of the other after marriage. The husband will not have the sole right to determine the family domicile; he will be deprived of all rights to the services and labour of his wife, so that she may demand wages or salary from her husband for work done in the household. It is proposed also that a married woman may sue or be sued as if she was single, and for civil injuries inflicted by a married woman, damages must be recovered from her alone, the husband not being held responsible. Neither husband nor wife has any right not enjoyed by the other in regard to property; and children born out of wedlock are to be entitled to the same rights as a legitimate child. Further, women are to be allowed to act as jurors everywhere in the State, and all discrimination against their election to public office is to be eliminated. Women in America are having the same kind of struggle as women in this country to secure equal opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities with men throughout all branches of their national life. have one great advantage over us-an equal franchise with men. Their effort to secure equal responsibility for fathers and mothers implies equal rights of guardianship of their children. We have some sympathy with American women's claim that housewives should have remuneration for their work. In this country a married woman has no legal right to any proportion of her husband's salary or income; he is only obliged to provide her with sufficient to keep her off the rates. Yet both the Government and local authorities make a habit of refusing employment to married women who have husbands in a position to support them! sincerely hope that these twenty-five Bills will be more useful in their results to our American sisters than the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill has been to British

HONOURS FOR MEN ONLY?

The Prime Minister has appointed a Committee of Privy Councillors, consisting of Lord Dunedin (Chairman), Lord Mildmay, and Sir Evelyn Cecil, M.P., to review recommendations for political honours before submission to the King. In accordance with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Honours, this Committee will hold office during the continuance of the present Government. Our view is that honours should only be granted for some distinguished achievement, or for honourable public service; but we maintain that both women and men's claims to such honours should be equally considered. At present only men have a say in the bestowal of honours. Hitherto the Government alone has been responsible for the recommendation of those who appear in the Honours Lists. a Committee of Privy Councillors has been called in to assist in this selection. There are, however, no women Privy Councillors. Again and again we have urged that women should also become members of the Privy Council; but this Government seems no more anxious than its predecessors that women should be called to the Privy Council, or that women should have any share in honours bestowed upon the men citizens of this country. When we have more women Members of Parliament, it will be impossible for the Government of the day to overlook women in this manner. Meanwhile, every time an Honours List is published in which only the names of men appear, women who believe in the equality of the sexes consider that such a list is a relic of official antiquated prejudice.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

PUBLIC LECTURE AT MINERVA CAFÉ.

the League of Nations Union.

Knowledge of Foreign Affairs Urgent.

Mrs. Mustard, who presided, urged the necessity for every woman and man to make themselves acquainted with foreign politics, especially at the present moment, when there were so many terrible happenings in our midst. In the old days, women were told they ought not to have the vote, because they knew nothing of Foreign Politics, but the average man knew very little The National Executive of the Women's Freedom League therefore felt that knowledge of foreign affairs was a real responsibility which every citizen should shoulder, and had departed from its usual routine by arranging the series of Lectures, of which that night's Meeting formed the introduction.

come to England for fear of a hostile reception, but who, when she did arrive in this country, received an overwhelming ovation. Simultaneously, a Concert Party known as the English Singers went on a musical tour in Germany, and had a tremendous reception in Berlin. Art knew no national enmities, said Miss Hughes, and it was upon this principle that the League of Nations was founded. Another of its principles was wrapped up in the dictum of Hooker: "Utterly against his will can no man be governed." The League was governed by the consent of its members.

There were two trends of thought which were always entirely inimical to the League of Nations. These were (1) the thoroughgoing cynics, and (2) the thoroughgoing pacifists. As a matter of fact, in the last resource, the League was committed to the use of Force, but it was not to be tried until every other means had been exhausted. It was owing to this Government by Consent that so many accusations were made against it.

The League's Machinery.

The machinery of the League of Nations consisted of the following organisations:-First, the Assembly. For obviously there must be a central body at which all nations can be represented. At present, 52 out of a possible 78 nations were members of the League, and each of these was represented by three Delegates, including a leader. The Assembly, in consequence, was a large and somewhat cumbersome body, though extremely efficient. It met once a year, usually in September, at Geneva.

Secondly, the Council, a smaller body, which meets usually every month, and can be summoned at a few hours' notice. The Council was composed of eleven members, representatives of the four great Powers-Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan—and seven smaller nations. The "Great Four" were permanent members of the Council; the others were chosen by the whole Assembly from time to time. Both the Assembly and the Council were deliberative bodies only.

Thirdly, there was the Secretariat, which was composed of representatives of all the nations in the League, though not in equal numbers. French and English were the two official languages used, and every member of the Secretariat was required to be proficient The average age of its members was well

Fourthly, there were Committees of various kinds, which sat more or less permanently, the members of which investigated various subjects, and later reported on them to the Assembly. The members of these Committees were highly qualified women and men, and the subjects they investigated were usually very technical. Fifthly, there was the International Labour Office, and Chairman.

The first of the series of fortnightly Lectures on the twin body of the Assembly, which had been founded Foreign Politics, arranged by the Women's Freedom
League, was held in the Minerva Café on Monday evento discuss Labour conditions all the world over. It to discuss Labour conditions all the world over. It ing, the speaker being Miss H. C. Hughes, M.A., from consists of a very equable representation of employers and employed, investigates the causes and cure of unemployment, industrial unrest, etc., and makes recommendations from all nations to the Assembly. Germany, though not a member of the League, is a member of the International Labour Union, which may help it eventually to enter the League.

Sixthly, there was the International Law Court, which had recently been set up permanently at the Hague. This Court held great possibilities of very wonderful work in thrashing out the legal or semilegal questions which came up from time to time

amongst the various nations.

The League's Accomplishments. It was not possible to enumerate the actual accomplishments of the League, since its inception three years Miss Hughes prefaced her Lecture by a brief reference to a German singer who had been unwilling to ous, and the League's service was a silent one, but the most outstanding events were as follows :- The League had always devoted a vast amount of work to preventing war, work which was largely negative, and made no noise. It had, however, actually stopped four wars, the dispute between Sweden and Finland over the Aaland Isles; the dispute over the Vilna boundary; the dispute between Germany and Poland over the Upper Silesian question; and war between Serbia and Albania. In the last-mentioned, war had actually broken out, and the Serbs recalled their troops and tendered apologies to the League!

Another of the League's accomplishments was the economic salvation of Austria, and during the last few months prices had begun to lower. It had also months prices had begun to lower. achieved a vast amount of humanitarian work in its struggle against typhus and cholera, sending a large body of doctors to try and stem the ravages of these No other organisation stood between the spread of these epidemics into our own country except the League. There was also Dr. Nansen's wonderful work in the repatriation of prisoners of war. Already 400,000 men of different nationalities had been rescued. The moral protection of women and children had received an immense impetus from the League. Legislation against the Traffic in Women had been so tightened up by the League, that more had been done in this direction during the last two or three years than in twenty years previously. It was significant of the League's influence that, before the Assembly fixed on Geneva for its annual sessions, there were a number of houses of ill-repute in that city, but they had now all been abolished. The League would have accomplished still more, were it not for the reason that it cannot take the initiative in any action, by reason of its constitution. It is not a super-State imposing its will upon other countries, but a body governed by the consent of its members, and it can only give its help when asked to do so by a member nation which has a dispute.

The League's Success.

The success of the League, at present, was in the lan of the gods, and an open question. The responsibility for its future rested with ourselves. Founded upon an ideal, the dynamic power of the League was that "faith which could remove mountains," and the wielding of such faith rested in the hands of every citizen in the

Questions and discussion, mingled with a certain mount of criticism, followed Miss Hughes' address. Points upon the French occupation of the Ruhr, economic coercion of the smaller States, the admission of Germany into the League, the boycott of Russia and Greece, and the Treaty of Versailles were put to the Lecturer, and ably explained by her, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to both speaker

IS A JURY WITHOUT WOMEN VALID?

The Daily Chronicle reports that a plaintiff at Bloomsbury County Court, last week, who lost his case, raised the objection that there were no women on the jury that tried his case. The Registrar explained that it was only by accident that the jurors summoned were men. He did not think that a jury panel was invalid because of women being omitted from it. He did not admit that he was even compelled to summon women on juries. Plaintiff thought it was the intention of the Legislature that there should be women summoned for all juries. He intimated that he should appeal on certain points, and the judge said that the one raised respecting the jury could also be considered on

we agree that the law in regard to the service of women on juries is at present far from satisfactory. We certainly think that the qualifications for women who can be summoned to a jury should be much less restricted than at present is the case. It has been suggested that the wives of men who are now liable to service should also be liable. We have a rooted objection to any rights or responsibilities of a woman being dependent upon those of her husband, and we would gladly see, more especially when women have an equal franchise with men, that enfranchisement should carry with it the obligation of jury service. At the present time, a Judge can use his discretion to exclude Il women from a jury in certain cases; and it has frequently happened that an accused person or his counsel has secured the withdrawal of women from the jury by objecting to them individually. We do not think that a Judge should have such discretion in these cases, and we are emphatically of the opinion that when any woman is objected to by the accused or his counsel—the cases are generally of child assault—her place should always be taken by another woman. We strongly hold that all juries should consist of an equal number of men and women; and whenever a woman or a child is involved in a case to be tried by a jury, we think that a jury which does not consist of an equal number of women and men should be invalid.

OUR ACTIVITIES.

The Women's Freedom League has written to the London County Council, urging that the proposal that all women teachers engaged in future under the London County Council shall be required to resign their posts on marriage, which is to be brought forward at a meeting of the Education Committee this week, shall, in the interests of the children, the women themselves, and of education, be rejected on the grounds that:

(a) it would effect no real economy, for the experience already gained by these women teachers is a great asset in schools:

(b) it would lower the status of women teachers, and make the profession merely a blind-alley occupation

(c) it would be an unwarrantable interference with the rights of the individual to impose restrictions upon the women merely because they marry;

(d) it would be a direct contravention of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, Clause 1 of which reads:—"A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation. (The italics are ours.)

A letter has also been sent to the Prime Minister, signed by the Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of the League, renewing the request of the Women's Freedom League that he should receive a deputation of women voters and non-voters, who would urge him to include an Equal Franchise measure in the King's Speech, and point out to him the reasons why we consider that the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men is a matter of first-class

BOOK REVIEW.

Trades that Transgress. By G. Colmore. (The Theosophical Order of Service.) Price 1s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The Trades enumerated in this comprehensive little pamphlet, by our member, Mrs. Baillie Weaver, include the Fur Trade, Feather Trade, Kid Gloves, Tortoise-shell, and Caged Birds, the Coal Trade (Pit Ponies), Performing Animals, Traffic in Worn-out Horses, and the Meat Trade. Little, if any, of the information in its pages is new to Humanitarians, but the tout ensemble makes very terrible reading, though space forbids reference to more than two or three of the

indicted trades. In the section on The Fur Trade, a description is given of the steel traps with which the majority of fur-bearing animals are caught. "Young trappers are advised to buy good traps, since in the cheaper ones the edges of the jaws are thin, and often sever the leg of their would-be captive in a single stroke"; or "the leg is so deeply cut as to enable the animal to gnaw or twist it off. This is the common mode of escape with many animals." The mink, the marten, the musk-rat, and the bear, we are told, are all caught by means of traps. Poison is another method. The ermine is enticed by means of iron plates or bars smeared with grease, the intense frost causing the animal's tongue nstantly to freeze to the iron. (Four hundred ermine skins are needed to make a single Coronation robe!) Sealskin is obtained by means of butchery on an extensive scale. The skulls of young and old alike are crashed in by means of heavy clubs, even the fœtus of pregnant seals being torn away to make the choicer sorts of sealskin. Llama, Astrachan, and Persian lamb, or caracul, are also products of fœtal skins. Though the various indictments in the section on The Feather Trade are, fortunately, obsolete in this country, now that the passing of the Plumage Bill by the British House of Commons forbids the importation of plumage into the British Isles, with a few unimportant exceptions, commonly considered as "pests," keeping of caged birds still continues. These birds suffer great hardship from insufficient food and water, dirt, inroads by mice, etc., in addition to the sheer misery of captivity after the wide liberty of the sky. The keeper of a bird-shop in Shaftesbury Avenue, charged with cruelty to ten small birds, is quoted by Mrs. Baillie Weaver as pleading in extenuation, that "Every bird in captivity breaks its feathers at the side of the cage." The birdcatcher is also exposed, one of the abominations of the trade being the cruelty inflicted upon the decoy birds. The trade in bird catching is greater than we might suppose. In the villages around Cambridge the boxes of birds caught in one day only were enough to fill a trolley. These birds are packed in small boxes about four feet high, without food or water; on one Saturday morning, fifteen boxes arrived on Cambridge platform from a dealer in Newcastle, for the use of a single bird-catcher. Some travel as far as the United States, and on one voyage 80 per cent. died.

WOMEN'S VOTE AT WHITECHAPEL.

Questionnaires dealing with such questions as Equal Franchise, Equal Pay and equal opportunities as between women and men, the raising of the Age of Consent, and work for unemployed women, have been sent by us to the three candidates at Whitechapel. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has arranged a meeting of women voters, to which all the candidates were invited and were asked to address them on matters of special interest to women. At the General Election there were some 800 wives of business occupiers who were on the register of Whitechapel, but who, having voted at home, were unable to vote in the Whitechapel Division. At this By-election—polling takes place on February 8th—these women are entitled

Women's Freedom League.

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



Friday, February 2nd, at 5 p.m. Organis-tion Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Hollogy W.C.1

Holborn, W.C.1.

BE FREE.

To BE FREE.

BY Saturday, February 3rd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BE FREE.

Saturday, February 3rd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, February 12th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Speaker: Miss R. C. Longland (from the English Speaking Union). Subject: 'The Relations of this Country with America.' Reserved seats, 1/-.

Wednesday, February 14th, at 3.15 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Monday, February 19th, at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch

Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Monday, February 19th, at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch
Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, February 26th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva
Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: The Lady Amherst
of Hackney. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with
France." Chair: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Reserved

seats, 1/Friday, March 9th, from 3.30 p.m. Women's Freedom League
Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr.
Lewin). Lecture by Dr. Lewin in the early evening, "Shut your
Mouth and Save your Life."
Friday, March 9th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee
Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Friday, April 27th. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference,
Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

February (date to be announced later). Hastings. A Public

February (date to be announced later). Hastings. A Public Meeting is being arranged to protest against Capital Punishment. Speaker: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

Wednesday, February 7th, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, Unitarian Schoolroom, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 1/6.

Monday, February 19th, at 7.30 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, Model Election. Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E. Tuesday, February 27th, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Inspector Stark. Subject: "Women Police."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, February 7th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union; Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: G. S. Francis. Subject: "Industrial Disputes and their Prevention."

Wednesday, February 21st, at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss Mary Richardson, "If I were Prime Minister." (2) "If I were Minister of Education," Miss. E. E. Crosby, L.L.A.

Wednesday, February 28th, at 5 p.m. Stansfeld Lecture at the London School of Economics. Professor Graham Wallas on The Competition of the Sexes for Employment."

Wednesday, February 28th, at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss C. Nina Boyle "If I were Home Secretary," (2) Miss Acheson "If I were Minister for Foreign Affairs."

"If I were Minister for Foreign Affairs."

Wednesday, March 7th, at 8 p.m. National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women, Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett. J.P., Miss Daisy Richardson, Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., M.A., C.C. Single Tickets (numbered and reserved) 5/-, 2/6, 1/-.

VOTE CORRECTION.

We apologise for an error in last week's Vote, in the Appreciation of Miss Charlotte Mason, written by the Hon. Mrs. Franklin. The sentence should read as ifollows:—"Miss Mason knew that the mind needs knowledge as the body food, and only knowledge presented in a literary form is absorbed."

BRANCH NOTES.

There was a large attendance of members and friends at the Social Evening given by Mrs. Harverson at the Isis Club, 79, FitzJohn's Avenue, on Tuesday, January 23rd, when Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., was to have spoken on "The Experiences of a Suffrage Speaker." As the motion was son, J.P., was to have spoken on "The Experiences of a Suffrage Speaker." As the meeting was assembling, news was received that Mrs. Nevinson was too unwell to attend. Much regret was felt at the news, and sincere wishes for her speedy recovery were expressed by all present, many of whom had come a long distance in order to hear such a tried and trusted friend of the Suffrage movement speak. The Chair was taken at 8 p.m. by Mrs. Harverson, and Dr. Knight made an able speech on the present work of the League. Five new members joined the Branch. The Branch is much indebted to Mrs. Harverson for her kind hospitality. th. The branch is the hospitality.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. Berry, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

ASHFORD.

A successful meeting was held at the Parish Room, Ashford, on Friday afternoon, when Dr. Octavia Lewin gave a very interesting address on "How to Prevent Disease in the Home." Dr. Lewin's visit was by "special request," and a good many came to hear her. Questions were asked at the close of her speech, and all her. Questions were asked at the close of her speech, and all those present (including ten schoolboys from Dr. Johnson's school) were very delighted at the spirited way in which Dr. Lewin dealt with them. There were a good many requests for the Alphabet which she had read earlier in her speech, and we were told that these could be obtained later from the organiser. Mrs. Kither presided. A very cordial vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Guttridge, and seconded by Dr. Johnson.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

We have received the following letter from a mother whose boy is at a Public School:—

The Public Schools System.

DEAR MADAM, -Could there be a more serious indictment of our DEAR MADAM,—Could there be a more serious indictment of our Public Schools system than that unconsciously given by a callous jury in the verdict of the Blue Coat School suicide case—that "there was no more ragging than the usual amount that went on at a Public School"? Even one of our bishops finds "no cause for a public inquiry"! And this in a country which professes Christianity, whose great Founder said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these little ones, ye have done it unto Me." Is it not time some public inquiry should be made into a system which only obtains in an English Public School—and in the Prussian regiments of the ex-Kaiser? In our Council Schools the children are protected: the "man in the street" has a legal

regiments of the ex-Kaiser? In our Council Schools the children are protected; the "man in the street" has a legal remedy against assault; in a girl's school, two elder girls who kicked a younger one would be instantly expelled. It is only in these institutions, of which we so proudly boast the spirit of "fair play" and "sport," in which a boy is supposed to receive the education of a "gentleman," and where no officer of the S.P.C.C. can penetrate, that this system of legalised bullying is promoted and condoned.

promoted and condoned.

I admit my point of view is feminine; what I see is a sensitive boy sitting on a bench crying; he has been kicked by two older boys ("pushed with their feet," we are hypocritically told); his whole world—his small, cruel world—against him, for, as George Eliot tells us, "the sorrows of childhood are "deep, deep sorrows." His great sin, that he is not good at football! Apparently there are no masters about—no matron to inquire into the state of mind that this child has been brought to.

It is only a special personality of large mind and understanding

ently there are no masters about—no matron to inquire into the state of mind that this child has been brought to.

It is only a special personality of large mind and understanding, and a student of psychology, that is fitted to train children, and yet any young hooligan who attains a certain age and proficiency in games is given unchecked authority, and can kick, bully, and knock about the younger boys at will, who are not supposed either to hit back or "sneak." Does not this system evolve the cad, who goes to our Dependencies abroad, and kicks the natives—causing some of that "unrest" that we all so deplore? Young Tanner will not have died in vain if it causes some inquiry to be made into this system of "ragging" and bullying that exists in our Public Schools. It is in the power of every headmaster of every school to make it a punishable offence for an older boy to strike or kick a younger one. It is in the power of the Government to make it illegal. It can, and should be, stopped. I do not think there is a woman—a mother—who does not ery out with indignation and horror at the state of affairs that drove this boy to suicide.

A MOTHER.

FEMINIST LEAGUE.

RALLY of F.L. Members and Friends the first Wednesday of every Month (except Easter Wednesday), at 8 p.m., at ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (Two Minutes from Hampstead Tube Station)

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Speaker: Miss ABADAM

"WHY THE KABBALAH WAS VEILED AND FREEMASONRY SECRETIVE."

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