

THE VOTE,  
MAR. 20, 1925.

## THE RIGHT TO OPEN COURT.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.  
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1925

**OBJECT:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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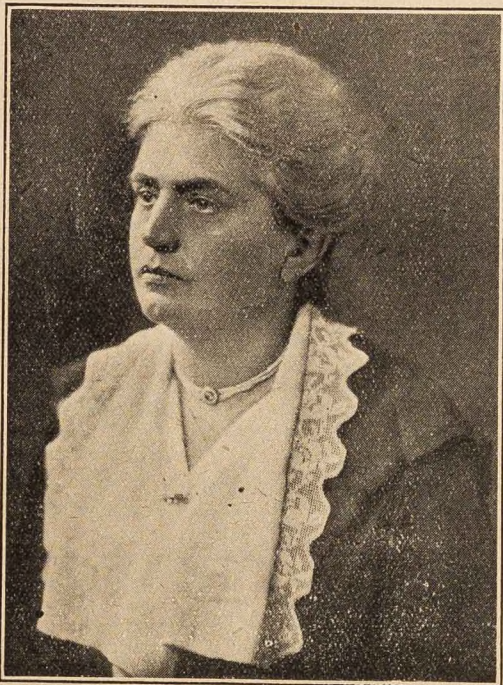
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## MISS RATHBONE IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

We heartily congratulate the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) and allied women's international organisations, on the success of our recent efforts to secure an additional assessor to the newly reconstituted League of Nations Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children. It will be recollected that the League, at its last Assembly, agreed to deal with the International Protection of Children as part of the work of this Advisory Commission, which has been reconstituted for the double purpose. Five new Assessors were appointed, one from each of the following Associations:—the International Association for the Protection of Children, the International League of Red Cross Societies, the International Organisation of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants, and Dr. Bascom Johnson. With the exception of the latter, however, the names of these additional assessors have not yet come to hand. But women's organisations, both national and international, felt very keenly that childhood was connected with many other problems besides health and "welfare," and that an additional assessor, representing the organised women of the world, should be appointed to this Commission. Last week, these organisations learned with unmixed satisfaction that

their request had been acceded to by the Council of the League, when it met on February 17th, and that Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, had been unanimously appointed.



Photograph

Lafayette

MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P.

Miss Rathbone's credentials for this new appointment are well known. She is pre-eminently a child lover, and in her native city of Liverpool has worked for many years on childhood's behalf. A member of a well-known Lancashire family, Miss Rathbone has been connected with the Liverpool City Council for 14 years, and sits upon its Child Welfare and Maternity, Housing, and Hospitals Committees. She was also Chairman for many years of the Juvenile Employment Committee of the Liverpool Employment Exchange, and is a member of the Juvenile Employment Committee of the Education Committee, into which the work of the Labour Exchange Committee is now merged. She is a Justice of the Peace for the County of Lancaster, and from 1914 till now Miss Rathbone has been honorary organising secretary of the

Liverpool Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. Her book on Family Endowment, "The Disinherited Family," a Plea for the Endowment of Motherhood, written last year, is already in its third edition.



## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held, last Saturday, at 144, High Holborn, W.C., the Chair being taken by our President (Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.). Other members present were Miss Alix M. Clark (Hon. Head, Vote Sales Dept.), Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P., Dr. Knight (Hon. Treasurer), Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss Spriggs (Edinburgh), Miss Jessie Stephen, Mrs. Whetton (Hon. Organising Secretary), and the Secretary. Letters and messages of apology for unavoidable absence were received from Mrs. Dexter, Miss Anna Munro, Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), and Mrs. Strickland (Hastings).

Reports were considered and adopted from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, and the Secretary, as well as from the Political and Vote Sales Departments. The Committee expressed its grateful thanks to Dr. Lewin for once again letting us have our Spring Sale at her house the previous day, and to Miss A. M. Pierotti for so kindly and successfully undertaking to organise that sale.

Encouraging reports were received of recent work in our South-Eastern Branches, and in Glasgow; and other reports from Branches showed that members were busy with our Conference Agenda. During the past six weeks, members had represented the Women's Freedom League at meetings of the British Overseas Committee, the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and the National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty; and we had joined in the protest with twenty-three other women's organisations against the recent policy of the London County Council of refusing to employ married women.

The following resolution was unanimously passed in regard to Equal Franchise:—"That the Women's Freedom League expresses its extreme indignation at the attitude taken up by the Government in moving an Amendment which secured the defeat of Mr. Whiteley's Equal Franchise Bill, and reiterates its demand for a Government measure, to be introduced and carried into law at the earliest possible date next Session, which will enfranchise women at the age of twenty-one on a short residential qualification. In the opinion of the Women's Freedom League the proposed Conference is not only unnecessary, but mischievous."

The draft reports of the secretarial and political work of the Women's Freedom League during the year, to be presented at our Annual Conference on April 25th, were passed by the Committee to be sent to the Branches for their consideration.

## THEATRICAL EMPLOYERS REGISTRATION

We warmly congratulate Mrs. Philipson, M.P., for successfully securing the Second Reading of this Bill in the House of Commons. It is generally recognised that she has had most to do with this Bill, although the other Members supporting it are:—Sir Walter de Frece (U., Blackpool), Commander Kenworthy (Lib., Central Hull), Mr. Bowerman (Lab., Deptford), Col. Woodcock (U., Everton), Col. Day (Lab., Central Southwark), Sir Nicholas Grattan Doyle (U., Newcastle, N.), and Mr. Rose (Lab., Aberdeen, N.). The Bill compels all theatrical employers to be registered, and provides for the punishment of any theatrical employer who, among other things, attempts to defraud or to avoid the payment of wages, salary or other fees due to a theatrical performer, or who recurringly fails to pay salaries, wages, remuneration or travelling expenses for which he is liable to theatrical performers.

## WOMAN SCHOOL DENTIST.

Miss McDougall, of Glasgow, has been appointed School Dentist, under the Montgomeryshire Education Authority, at a salary of £400 a year, and is resident at Newtown.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## All-Women Hotel.

The Chatelaine, at Chicago, is the latest built Hotel reserved exclusively for women. With the exception of the night porter the whole staff is feminine, and the furnishing and decoration of the public rooms as well as the bedrooms has been especially designed with a view to appealing to the tastes of women. Hidden in the wardrobe of each bedroom is an electric iron and ironing board, as well as a little electric cooking stove.

## Labour Women's Conference.

The National Conference of Labour Women will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 27th and 28th, in the Town Hall, Birmingham, when the chairman will be Miss E. Wilkinson, M.A., M.P. (chairman of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations), and the agenda will consist of resolutions on health environment in schools, emigration, women and National Health Insurance, housing, education, woman's suffrage, women in industry, etc.

## Woman Prisoner Playwright.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rich, Governor of the Liverpool Gaol, and at one time Governor of the Borstal Institute, where he was beloved by both staff and boys, recently consented to the women inmates of his prison giving a theatrical performance, founded on the story of Cinderella and written by one of the women prisoners. The presentation of the play was also in the hands of the women, with a little help from the staff.

## Woman Doctor and Writer.

Dr. Mary Sturge, whose death at Birmingham is recorded, was originally on the staff of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London, and later practised at Edgbaston, and as a member of the staff of the Women's Hospital, Birmingham. She wrote, in collaboration with Sir Victor Horsley, a work on the effects of alcohol.

## Women and the Hall of Fame.

A committee of prominent stage women has been named to raise funds to place a bust of Charlotte Cushman in the Hall of Fame of New York University. Miss Cushman, elected in 1915, is one of the seven women, and the only representative of the Stage, in the Hall of Fame.

## Norwegian Woman Pioneer.

Representatives of women's organizations in Norway recently gathered together to pay tribute to the memory of the birth, 100 years ago, of Aasta Hansteen, one of the pioneers of the woman's movement in that country, and a personality so original that she has been the model for Norwegian dramatists and sculptors.

## Californian Women Voters.

In the recent American Presidential Elections, 68 per cent. of the million and a quarter voters who went to the polls in California were women. Some 850,000 women voted to 400,000 men. Californian women would like a Woman Governor, as Texas and Wyoming have, and have brought forward the names of 7 members of their sex as tentative candidates.

## French Woman Voters.

The French Chamber has decided, by 410 votes to 148, to discuss a Bill to confer on women of 25 and over, power to vote and eligibility for election in the forthcoming municipal elections, and also in elections for the councils of the arrondissements, and for the general councils. The Bill has very strong support in both the Chamber and the Senate.

## Women Barristers' Progress.

Miss Llewellyn Davies is the first woman barrister to be briefed at the Assizes. She appeared recently at Lewes Assizes as counsel for the prosecution in a case, and was accompanied by two other women barristers, Miss E. B. Ashford, and Miss R. Reuben.

## Jamaica Women Voters.

At the recent General Election in Jamaica, women voted for the first time in the history of the island.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

## Common Seniority Lists (Civil Service).

MR. DALTON (Lab., Peckham) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in what Departments, if any, had the question of common seniority between men and women been under consideration, in accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the Committee, appointed by the Treasury in 1922 to examine and report on the application of the principle of common seniority lists for men and women; and what action the Treasury had taken to bring the recommendations to the notice of Departments? MR. CHURCHILL (Chancellor of the Exchequer) replied that a draft Treasury Circular, bringing to the notice of heads of Departments the Report of the Committee to consider the application to the reorganisation classes of the principle of common seniority lists for men and women, was discussed on the motion of the staff side at the last meeting of the National Whitley Council, and at their request further consideration was postponed until the next meeting, which would be held shortly.

## Widows' Pensions.

MR. NAYLOR (Lab., S.E. Southwark) gave notice that on March 24th he would draw attention to the question of Widows' Pensions, and move a Resolution.

MR. CLUSE (Lab., Islington S.) asked the Minister of Health if he would state the number of widows with dependent children in England, Scotland and Wales, and the number in receipt of Poor Law relief; and if, after making due allowance for war widows in receipt of pension, he could state what was the estimated sum required to pay a pension of 15s. a week to each widow, other than a war widow, and 5s. a week for each child under the age of 16, other than those receiving pension owing to the death of their father from a war disability? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied that according to the last census the number of widows in England and Wales stated to have dependent children was 306,000. There were 301,000 widows in respect of whom no statement was made as to dependent children. The number of widows with dependent children in receipt of Poor Law relief was approximately 55,000. He referred the hon. Member to the Secretary for Scotland for the corresponding figures in that country. Inquiries were being made as to the cost of pensions for widows, but the Minister was not in a position to supply any estimates.

## Unemployment Benefit.

MR. HAYDEN JONES (Lib., Merioneth) asked the Minister of Labour if his attention had been called to the case of a woman in the County of Merioneth, a draper's assistant, aged 28 years, with 12½ years' experience, who had been deprived of unemployment benefit for declining to accept work as a domestic servant; and if, seeing that it was not fair to offer domestic service to a person who had had no experience of the work, and to withhold unemployment benefits where evidence was produced that every effort was being made to secure employment in the trade in which appellant was skilled, he would inquire into the case? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour) said he was informed that the facts were generally as stated in the question. The woman, in accordance with the statutory machinery, appealed to the Court of Referees, and the Court after hearing her statement upheld the disallowance of her claim. The case was, however, being submitted to the umpire by the insurance officer for final and authoritative decision. The matter was therefore still *sub judice*, and he would send the hon. member a copy of the umpire's decision.

## Waitresses.

COLONEL DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Minister of Labour, in view of the public dissatisfaction that was caused last year with regard to the conditions of pay and employment of the waitresses engaged at Wembley, if he was taking steps to prevent a repetition of those conditions? MR. BETTERTON replied that he understood that his hon. Friend the Secretary, Overseas

Trade Department (Mr. A. M. Samuel), had been in communication with the British Empire Exhibition Authorities on the question of conditions of employment at Wembley. He would, however, suggest that, in the first place, the matter was one for discussion between the representatives of employers and workers concerned. MR. MONTAGUE (Lab., Islington, W.) asked if they were to understand that arrangements would be made for the employers and the British Empire Exhibition Authorities to get into consultation? MR. BETTERTON said that any further questions with regard to Wembley should be addressed to the Secretary for the Overseas Department. COM. KENWORTHY (Lib., Central Hull) asked, in view of the heavy guarantee the House had voted since the question was last raised, if the Government were not taking some action to see that good conditions prevailed for those people? MR. MACKINDER (Lab., Shipley) inquired if the hon. Gentleman was aware that respected and respectable firms in the City of London were paying their waitresses 13s. a week, and would he take steps to see that a rate was fixed which was decent? MR. BETTERTON said that he would again suggest that all those supplementary questions should be addressed to the Overseas Trade Department.

## Child Adoption.

SIR G. BUTLER (U., Cambridge University) asked the Home Secretary on what day the Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice Tomlin to inquire into the question of adoption of children; what were the terms of reference; on how many occasions had the Committee sat; how many witnesses had been examined, and if he could give any indication of the date at which it expected to present its report? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS said that the Committee referred to were appointed, on the 4th April last, "to examine the problem of child adoption from the point of view of possible legislation and to report upon the main provision which in their view should be included in any Bill on the subject." The Committee had met on 22 occasions, and had examined 30 witnesses. He understood that the committee would shortly consider the terms of their Report, but he could not say when it would be presented.

## Secondary Schools.

MR. TREVELYAN (Lab., Newcastle Central) asked the President of the Board of Education if he had yet considered the resolution of the Durham County Council, passed a month ago, establishing free secondary education by 1926; and, if he intended to give the necessary sanction of the Board of Education? LORD EUSTACE PERCY replied that the Council's application was received at the Board on the 28th February. He had not yet had time to consider it fully, and he would prefer not to make any statement until he had communicated with the Council. MR. LEES SMITH (Lab., Keighley) (for Mr. Mackinder) asked the President of the Board of Education if Plymouth had resolved to make its Secondary School system entirely free, and by what date it proposed to do so, and if the Board of Education had given the necessary sanction? LORD EUSTACE PERCY said he had received from the Plymouth Authority a proposal to abolish fees, as from the 31st July next, in all the Secondary Schools in their area working under the Secondary School Regulations. He had informed the Authority that he could not give proper consideration to the proposal until he had before him a full programme of the work, in the sphere of elementary as well as higher education, which they proposed to undertake in the next few years, and he had offered to discuss the position with them.

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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 stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### THE RIGHT TO OPEN COURT.

Women have had very serious cause to complain of their exclusion from Courts of Justice when cases concerning assaults on little girls, offences in which women or girls, as well as men, were involved, or, as recently happened, the murder of a child, came before the Court. The Women's Freedom League has maintained for many years, and still maintains, that the right to Open Court is an old-established right of the British people, and that it is both unconstitutional and illegal to exclude women from the Courts. Holding this view strongly, as we do, we were more than usually interested to know what Members of Parliament thought of the right to Open Court, at any rate, so far as men were concerned. Last week, Capt. Arthur Hope (U., Nuneaton) moved a Resolution in the House of Commons urging that legislation should be introduced to enable blackmailing crimes to be tried *in camera*. During the Debate which followed, Sir Gerald Hobler, K.C. (U., Gillingham), said, "It should not be left to the discretion of any of His Majesty's Judges, however great, to decide when a case came on whether it should be heard *in camera* or not. . . . I have a very clear opinion that the best interests of the community will be served by the courage of its citizens, and I think it is very desirable that in our Law Courts all the proceedings should be open." Mr. Rosslyn Mitchell (Lab., Paisley) said, "I think it is very creditable to the wisdom of our ancestors that they laid down and maintained through so many years two great principles: first, the openness of all our Courts; and secondly, the absolute freedom of the Press, subject in the first place, to a power to hear in private that which was obviously contrary to public morals, and, in the second place, to retaining the right of any individual to sue for damages any newspaper which transgressed the law of libel. . . . If I felt that the crime of blackmailing was to be cured or eliminated by a prohibition against holding such trials in public, I should still hesitate to support anything which I considered so fundamentally opposite to our views. I believe, on the contrary, it would have the entirely opposite effect." Mr. Dixey (U., Penrith and Cockermonth) declared he felt bound to oppose the Resolution because it offended, to his mind, against one of the greatest principles of English justice. Mr. Johnston (Lab., Dundee) hoped the Home Secretary would not agree to the holding of trials *in camera*, but would take other steps to preserve public morals, "while at the same time leaving to everyone the knowledge that the Law Courts are open and free." Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, said, "You cannot clear the Court. It is obvious that you must have an open Court in this land. You may prevent, if you like, publication in the newspapers, but you must, at least, have an open Court. . . . I am all for open Courts." Commander Kenworthy (Lib., Central Hull) said, "We all agree with the Home Secretary as to the necessity of having an open Court. The closed Court, as the hon. Member for Dundee remarked, would only lead to suspicion and talk against the sanctity and impartiality of the law, and

also, if it is not going to be universally applied, there would be danger that the mass of the people would consider that there was influence in favour of people who have friends in Court. . . . We admit that the closed Court is objectionable."

The Women's Freedom League would point out that it is extremely objectionable when women are excluded from the Court in cases in which children, girls, or women are involved. No Court can be properly described as "open," under these circumstances, for the majority of the public are excluded. The exclusion of women in such cases does not inspire them with confidence in the kind of justice which is meted out in those Courts. It is not possible for women to have much faith in the impartiality of British justice under such conditions, and we appeal to the Home Secretary, who says he is all in favour of open Courts, to use his influence to see that women have as free an access as men to all Courts of Justice, and if the Court for any reason has to be closed, then in the name of justice, let it be closed to both men and women, and not, as often now happens, only to women.

### WOMEN AND THE FREE CHURCH COUNCIL.

The recent annual meetings of the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches will go down to posterity as the first to be presided over by a woman (Mrs. George Cadbury, J.P.), whilst many other noted women took part in its deliberations. The Women's Auxiliary is a very important branch of the Free Church Council, and has been instrumental in obtaining, among other social services, a home for unmarried mothers, hostels for business girls, holiday retreats, a babies' home, and a home for elderly women with small incomes. The popular City Women's Club, established in the very house once occupied by Oliver Goldsmith, in Wine Office Court, is also due to Free Churchwomen's enterprise. It is interesting to note, however, that this evolution of the women's side of the work of the Free Church Council is really due in the first instance to a man, George Cadbury, who realised many years ago that men's work could not run smoothly unless women were working side by side. Better housing conditions formed the subject of a stirring appeal from Mrs. George Morgan, who urged her hearers not to wait for Government action, but to realise individual responsibility. She compared present-day acquiescence in the scandal of our slums with the energy which had been roused during the war to house adequately the Belgian refugees in this country. Miss Margaret Bondfield delivered a scathing indictment of present-day methods of industry, speaking as she was able to do out of 40 years' inside experience of her subject. She boldly challenged our present industrial system as having got off the rail, and changed the human being into a machine. Unless service to the community was industry's first objective, it could not succeed. All true work was worship, not a mere incentive for money-getting. One of the symptoms that we were on the wrong track industrially was the present widespread unemployment. Women nowadays were largely preponderating in industry, whilst out of 34,480 unemployed girls under 18 years of age, on February 9th, only 11,565 were entitled to unemployment benefits, so that other serious social problems became entangled with unemployment. Miss Bondfield also anathematised the mechanical and deadening tendency of much of our modern industry, and pleaded that education should be on the lines of adaptability to the fitness of the individual, so that human beings should get back to the creative power that was the glory of the Middle Ages. Raising the school age, and a change in the type of education at present provided, were advocated as a means of lessening the acute competition in modern industry.

## NEWS FROM INDIA.

The following items of interest are taken from *Stri Dharma*, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association:—

### Behar's Advance in Feminism.

Miss S. B. Das, a member of the Central Committee of the Women's Indian Association, has been appointed as the first woman honorary magistrate in Behar Province. She is the first Bengal woman to receive this honour. Her younger sister, Miss S. B. Hazra, is the only woman in India who has so far been elected as a member of the Senate of a University. She is a senator of the Patna University, and she practises in the High Court as a Vakil. She has also been elected a member of the Syndicate of the University (Patna), but this honour was first obtained by Mrs. Radhabai, B.A., in her election six months ago for the Syndicate of the University of Madras. A resolution to give women the vote in Behar has been sent forward to the Behar Legislative Council.

### A Woman Chancellor.

The Muslim University of Aligarh enjoys the unique privilege of having a woman as its Chancellor. Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal holds that position, and she presided at the Convocation of the University held last January. Her Highness keeps strict purdah, yet is one of the most enlightened and progressive women in India, and takes a specially keen interest in fostering education in all its stages.

### Muslim Women and Education.

A Muslim lady, Furuq Sultan Muryidzad, stood first in the list in the subject of Persian in the M.A. Degree examination of the Calcutta University. Though brought up in purdah, she has had a brilliant university career, and is well versed in Persian, Arabic, Urdu, French, and English. Her eldest sister, Begum Sultan, stood first in the Preliminary Law examination, and her younger sister, Khamer Sultan, took first class Honours in History, in the B.A. examination. The controversy in Madras about the inclusion of Mohammedan girls in the city's scheme for com-

pulsory primary education has ended in a resolution that the scheme be started without their inclusion, and that it be debated again in two years' time. *Stri Dharma* expresses the hope that long before then public opinion will have insisted that little Mussulman girls shall have the same rights of education as are given to other girls.

### A Bengal Woman's Achievement.

Orthodox Bengal, which means the vast majority of Bengalis, is said not to be well disposed towards the education of women. It is all the more remarkable, therefore, to find that Miss Nirmala Bala Bose, granddaughter of the late Babu Ananda Krishna Deb, stood first in English in order of merit in the M.A. examination of the Calcutta University. That a girl belonging to an orthodox family has won this distinction by private study is noteworthy.

### The Children's Court for Madras.

Much interest is being shown in Madras over the establishment of a Children's Court under the Children's Act. For the past year, all cases of offences by children have been tried by the Chief Presidency Magistrate in a private room, and for the first time a woman magistrate was recently present at one of these trials. It is a strange oversight that the women magistrates, who were appointed in Madras as Honorary Presidency Magistrates, have not got the statutory powers to take part in the trial of children under this Act. This power is given only to salaried Presidency Magistrates, so though Mrs. Stanford was present she could only act in an advisory capacity. *Stri Dharma* says that this lack of power for the women magistrates must be remedied, as it is a grave defect of the Act; but as this Act was drawn up at a time when women magistrates were unthought of, it is not perhaps surprising.

### More Women Magistrates.

Two extra women magistrates were appointed some months ago for the Chingleput Honorary Magistrates' Bench. Apparently, Bengal Province has not yet any women magistrates.

## OUR SPRING SALE.

Although ill-luck seemed to dog its footsteps, the action of the Women's Freedom League in holding its Spring Sale on Friday, the 13th inst., has been entirely justified. Many friends were absent through illness, including Mrs. Schofield Coates, who was to have been the Chairman. Dr. Lewin kindly agreed to take the Chair in her place, and Mrs. Wintringham, who seemed to bring the good luck with her, made a charming and invigorating speech. She referred briefly to the valuable work which the Women's Freedom League was doing in all things which affect women, from reserved carriages on trains to better housing conditions. For three years THE VOTE had been sent to her regularly, and she believed that this paper took the wide—the international—view of politics. Politics are not dirty and dishonest—politicians may be so—but politics are a science and a principle. The Women's Freedom League was standing for politics in the highest sense, and not for politics tied always by Party machinery. There were some things on which all women could unite, and the Women's Freedom League was uniting women on things that really mattered without any motive of Party manoeuvre.

Although Mrs. Wintringham had to hurry away to catch a train, she found time to visit each of the stalls after Dr. Knight informally proposed a brief vote of thanks to her for opening the sale.

During the afternoon, friends of Mrs. Abbott very kindly gave a most enjoyable little concert of songs and recitations, and later, Miss Lettice Newman and Mr. Eric Richmond sang some delightful Negro spirituelles.

At 5 o'clock, Dr. Lewin gave a short lecture on "The two Urgent Needs in Education," in which she stressed the need for educating children in ideals of citizenship and personal hygiene. She spoke of the remarkable improvements which rapidly ensued when children were taught the elements of personal hygiene, which should have been inculcated in them from babyhood.

The stalls were all most attractive, and best thanks are due to the friends who took charge of them—Mrs. Trafford Williams, Mrs. J. R. Knight (White Stall); Mrs. Lindus and her sister (White Elephant Stall); Miss A. M. Chard, Mrs. Elias, Mrs. Bengel (Welsh Produce Stall); Mrs. Potter (Pound Stall); Mrs. Clifford Jones, Mrs. Beardsley (Household Stall); and also to those who sent things for sale, and to those who bought them.

We are, perhaps, most grateful to the friends who worked behind the scenes; to Miss Mary Wall, who gave the whole of her time to reading people's characters "for the Cause"; to Miss Potter, who successfully inveigled people into trying to do the impossible at the competition table; and to Mrs. Hanscomb and her helpers—Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Beville, Mrs. Evans, Miss Underwood, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss White, and the Minerva Club—who worked so hard with the teas.

No account of the Spring Sale would be complete without reference to the great kindness of Dr. Lewin in lending her house, and for all the work which she did in connection with it. A profit of over £50 was made.

A. M. PIEROTTI.



## DOMESTIC RIGHTS IN BRAZIL.

The *Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury* reports that a Bill has been adopted by the Brazilian Congress to standardise conditions of labour in the commercial life of the Republic. Men and women are to receive identical treatment, and there appears to be fear on the part of the Brazilian Government that women working on equal terms with their male colleagues will constitute a danger to the State or to commerce. The Bill lays down that employees are to be engaged on a contract that must stipulate the nature and duration of their employment, and the salary they will be paid. For every year's service completed, employees are entitled to have five days' paid holiday up to a maximum vacation of thirty days.

Each employee is to receive a dividend of at least 10 per cent. of the profits of the undertaking, and this dividend will be awarded in proportion to the wages drawn. Summary dismissal without adequate cause, unless compensation is given by the terms of the Bill, becomes illegal. Any worker dismissed without good reason will be entitled to a minimum indemnity of three months' salary, and to one month's salary, in addition, for each year or fraction of a year of employment. Hours of work are rigidly restricted, and the maximum has been fixed at eight during each day, or forty-eight during the week.

## CHILD ASSAULT.

At a recent meeting of women Liberals, Mrs. Fyfe spoke on the subject of Racial Development, treating it from various angles.

Among other rather startling things, she said that a short time ago a policeman in a Glasgow Court alluded to a little girl of 9 as a "common prostitute." Recalling a case at Plymouth, when a middle-aged man was charged with criminally assaulting a still younger child, she told us that the judge, whilst passing a totally inadequate sentence, remarked that the girl had importuned the man, tempting him, and added that "this was the sort of thing which might happen to any man." Surely a person holding such views, and presumably judging others by himself, is hardly fit to have jurisdiction over his fellow-men!

## SEX EQUALITY IN RUSSIA.

The Commissariat for Justice has recently promulgated a series of new laws governing marriage and general family relations. The mutual obligations of parents to support children, and of children to support parents when the latter are in need, are established in this code. The Russian laws are based on the fullest recognition of the idea of sex equality. It is provided that each partner in a marriage keeps his or her own name, unless the couple announces a preference for a common family name. All property acquired by husband or wife after marriage belongs jointly to the two. Either partner in a marriage can claim support from the other on the ground of need or disability. Father and mother are supposed to have an equal measure of authority over the children.

## In Memoriam.

BISSET SMITH, at 1, Highbury Terrace, N.5, on February 28th, Miss Jane Bisset Smith.

Old members of our Highbury Branch will hear with regret of the death of their colleague, and remember well her keen suffrage enthusiasm and hospitable kindness. Miss Bisset Smith was also a prominent member of the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage; many years of invalid life preceded her death.

BALFOUR, at 39, Hyde Park Gate, S.W. 7, Mrs. Sara Balfour, a fine suffragist, and old and generous supporter of our League.

## A DOMESTIC SCIENCE JUBILEE.

The Edinburgh School of Cookery and Domestic Economy has recently held its Jubilee. Fifty years ago, the science of cookery and domestic economy was still in its infancy, and there was a great lack of knowledge among the general community upon the subject. In 1875, Miss Guthrie Wright, whose name was a household word in the Edinburgh of her day, and whose memory is still revered, having herself felt the want of definite training in cookery and other domestic duties, set about inaugurating cookery classes in Edinburgh. Among the ladies whose interest was of value was Miss Louisa Stevenson, first treasurer, and afterwards chairman of the School. To-day, the administrative and teaching staff of the School numbers over 60. Its students number over 3,000 per annum, and its annual expenditure is about £30,000, the whole enterprise having been launched by the employment of one teacher in a single room hired from the Governors of the Heriot-Watt Trust by the pioneer ladies above referred to. One subject after another has been added until the curriculum now includes laundry work, housewifery, needlework, dressmaking, millinery, and nursing. The increase in the number of students became so great that considerable difficulty was experienced in finding adequate housing accommodation. This problem has so far been solved by acquiring a considerable amount of house property. Students are drawn not only from Edinburgh and many other districts of Scotland, but in large and increasing numbers year by year from England and Ireland. For a number of years the School has been recognised by the Government as a central institution, and it has been greatly indebted to the Scottish Education Department for the interest shown in its development, and for valuable assistance in many directions.

## STILL "ODDITIES" ?

Lest we should be inclined to plume ourselves too greatly upon the progress of the Woman's Movement in our midst, two of our most distinguished public women have recently reminded us in no uncertain tones that men do not yet take women in public life seriously, but merely look upon them as "oddities." One of these complaints, curiously enough, comes from the Duchess of Atholl, who maintained, at a recent public luncheon, that the interests of men and women were identical, but that men had not yet realised this point of view. They still looked upon women in public life, not as the rule but as the exception, and freaks at that. Lady Astor, who also made a similar protest on the same occasion, has, of course, said the same thing many times before, and was no less racy and pungent in her remarks on this last occasion. The presence of so few women Members of Parliament was, she said, a proof that men did not yet look upon women as co-workers in human affairs, whilst men's innate frivolity still inclined them to attach more importance to the way women dressed themselves, than to their personal contribution to public life and service. The Woman's Movement, therefore, still has a serious mission to render. Its direct work of breaking down artificial barriers between the sexes, and in the body politic, and in bringing a full measure of justice to bear in every department of our social life, is immensely important, but who can measure the value of the educative influence which indirectly levels up human values between the sexes, and causes mere sex-differentiation to die and disappear?

## BEST SEATS FOR THE THEATRES!

We now have a Theatre Ticket Agency; so, when you want to book seats for the theatre, phone Museum 1429, or send to THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Do this, and you will be helping THE VOTE.

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## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, March 23rd, at 3.

Hampstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens (by kind permission of Dr. Knight).

Friday, April 24th, at 2.30.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 25th, at 8.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Dinner to Miss Phipps, B.A., Barrister-at-Law. Tickets 3s. 6d. each.

Saturday, April 25th, at 10.

Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

## PROVINCES.

Tuesday, March 24th, at 7.30.

Portsmouth Branch. Public Meeting. Grand Jury Room, Town Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Jason Kerr, J.P. Subject: Food Prices. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Wednesday, March 25th, at 7.30.

Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive and Social at Temperance Institute. Tickets, 9d.

Friday, March 27th, at 3.

Asford Branch. Meeting for members and friends at the Hempsted Street Hall. Subject: "Capital Punishment."

Saturday, March 28th, at 6.30.

Portsmouth Branch. Whist Drive. Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Tickets 1/6 including refreshments.

Thursday, April 2nd, at 3-6.

Portsmouth Branch. Work Party at 25, Shaftesbury Road (by kind invitation of Mrs. Brading).

Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30.

Hastings Branch. Annual Meeting at 44, Warrior Square.

## WALES.

Tuesday, March 24th.

Concert for Inmates, Caerws Poor Law Institute, at Victoria Theatre, Newtown.

Tuesday, March 24th.

London Society for Women's Service, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster, at 5. Speaker: Mrs. Edward Compton. Subject: "The Stage, and its prospects for Girls."

Industrial League and Council, Regent Street Polytechnic, at 6.30. Lecturer: Miss C. Haslett. Subject: "Payment and Incentives Industry."

Wednesday, March 25th.

Women's Electrical Association, Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W. at 3. Lecturer: Miss M. Partridge, B.Sc. Subject: "The All-Electric Home."

Consultative Committee, Council Chamber, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. at 3. Lecturer: Mr. Innes (League of Nations Union). Subject: "How to organise a big Public Meeting."

Women's International League, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C. at 8. Speaker: Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, M.A., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Chair: Miss K. D. Courtney.

Thursday, March 26th.

Alexandra Park Women's Local Government Association Meeting, at Congregational Church Parlour, Alexandra Park Road, N. at 3. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "Penal Reform."

Friday, March 27th.

Fabian Society, at Essex Hall, Strand, at 8. Lecturer: Sir Theodore Chambers, K.B.E. Subject: "Garden Cities and Satellite Towns."

Tuesday, March 31st.

Six Point Group, Century Theatre, Archer Street, W. at 3. Dramatic and Musical Recital by Honry Ainley and Jean Sterling-Mackinley. Tickets 7/6, 5/9, and 3/6, from Organising Secretary, Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.

## MALE TEACHERS FOR BOYS.

Mr. H. D. Clave, B.A., of Birmingham, speaking at a meeting of schoolmasters in Newcastle, last week, said, "The Board of Education seemed inclined to take the view that the decline of male teachers was nothing to be alarmed about, and that the situation could be met adequately by the employment of women, even for boys up to the age of 11 years. That was an idea to which the National Association of Schoolmasters was strongly opposed. They were not, however," he said, "anti-feminist, for they were in favour of equal salaries for men and women."

## BRANCH NOTES.

## GLASGOW.

On Thursday, March 12th, a Branch meeting of the Women's Freedom League took place in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, when the various resolutions to be put before the Annual Conference in London were read and discussed, many amendments being proposed, seconded, and carried. Also, the answers received from the candidates for election on the Glasgow Education Authority to the Women's Freedom League questions concerning equal pay for equal work, and the employment of married women were given, and members promised to support those who had replied satisfactorily. Afterwards, Mrs. Brown, convener of teas for the Whist Drive on March 14th, in the McLellan Galleries, discussed matters relating to refreshments with those ladies who had so kindly promised to help her.

The Whist Drive itself was well attended, although several people who had bought tickets did not come. Those present appeared to find the time pass agreeably, for which the most grateful thanks of the Women's Freedom League are due to Miss McLellan, who made herself responsible for the provision of whist tables, cards, prizes, etc.; to Mrs. Brown, who so ably attended to the important question of refreshments, and to Miss Harvey, Miss Park, Miss Chalmers Smith, Mrs. Keenan, and Mrs. Nicholson, who helped her; to those members who provided the necessary food by means of donations, either in money, or in kind; to Dr. Chalmers Smith, who gave away the prizes; to Miss Jane Thomson and Miss Lambie, who spoke; to Miss McDougall and Miss McDonald, who sent out the notices concerning the Whist Drive; and to all who came, or bought tickets and didn't come. We are glad to report that after all expenses are paid there will be a little profit for the funds of the Glasgow Branch.

Sometime next week, another Branch meeting will be held for the purpose of appointing new office bearers and committee members. This is a very important piece of business, so it is hoped that all members will make a great effort and be present.

(Organiser) LILLIAN LENTON, 11, Lockside St., Crossmyloof.

## MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS.

The Montgomery Boroughs Branch have withdrawn their annual subscription of £2 2s. to the Montgomery County Infirmary on the grounds that there are no women on the Board of Administration.

## HASTINGS.

A members' meeting was held at 1, St. Paul's Place, St. Leonards, by kind permission of Mrs. Darent Harrison last Wednesday. The Resolutions for the Annual Conference were read. Mrs. Prelooker kindly consented to act as our Delegate. The Annual Meeting of members will be held at 44, Warrior Square, St. Leonards, on Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

## CANON OF ST. PAUL'S BELIEVES IN WOMEN PRIESTS.

At the annual meeting of the League of the Church Militant held recently, the Rev. Canon Simpson accepted office as President of the Society.

Canon Simpson spoke of Bishop Hicks, of Lincoln, the first President of the "Church League for Women's Suffrage," as the Society was originally called, and said that he was proud to think that he followed in the steps of that devout and progressive man, whose example was an inspiration to all.

He paid a warm tribute to Miss Royden for the work she was doing in and for the Church. He agreed to the principle of spiritual equality in fact, as well as in theory, and said there was nothing in the teaching of Christ against it; that principle was higher than practice—even that of St. Paul.

He thought the Church would only have a real understanding of personality when we had dealt with and settled that tangled problem of sex equality. The time must come when every office now held by men within the Church would be open to suitable women also.

Miss Pictou Turberville presented the Executive Committee's report on Women's Work in the Home Dioceses, based on replies received from letters sent by the League to the Bishops and the Diocesan Boards of Women's Work. The results were distinctly disappointing, as in some dioceses nothing had been done to carry the Lambeth Conference resolutions into effect, even in the restricted form approved by Convocation.

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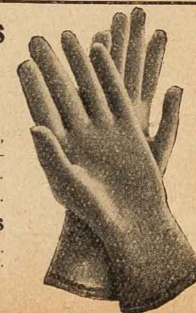
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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, March 22nd. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Bertram Pristman Esq., R.A. 6.30. Evening Service. Miss Maude Roydon: "What then is the Bible?"

## REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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