

THE VOTE.
JUNE 12, 1925.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT—BOTH SIDES OF THE CASE.

DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D., and MISS ISOBEL GODDARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 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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AN AUSTRALIAN WOMAN SUFFRAGIST.

By DORA B. MONTEFIORE.



ROSE SCOTT.

The news from Sydney of the death of my dear friend and fellow-worker, Rose Scott, makes me feel that there are suffragists in England who may care to know more about her contribution to suffrage history than a brief "par." in a newspaper can give of one who was in every sense of the word a pioneer, not only in the Woman's movement, but also in the cause of Peace.

My work with Rose Scott began in Sydney, in 1891, when the

preliminary meetings for forming the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales were held in my house in Darlinghurst Road, Sydney. We began work with a very representative Committee, and it should be observed that we never demanded less than Womanhood Suffrage, though Members of Parliament and candidates, whom we circularised, constantly attempted to trip us up with the offer of fancy franchises for woman. I have before me now one of our circulars addressed to a Parliamentary candidate in June, 1891, and signed by Rose Scott and myself, as its hon. secretaries, in which we ask, "Are you in favour of extending the suffrage to women on the same conditions as those which apply to men?" To which the candidate replies, "Yes, as far as married women are concerned." How alike is the political psychology of Parliamentary candidates and of M.P.s all over the world!

Of all those who started work for Womanhood Suffrage with Rose Scott in 1891, in Sydney, not one was by her side when, after many years, the moment of triumph came, and the women of New South Wales were enfranchised. Some had left the Colony, some were dead, and some had found other work. But Rose Scott had worked steadily and hopefully on, and new endeavour continued to group itself round her. When I was in Sydney in 1911, I found her keen on the Peace question, and saddened because women who now had political opportunity were not sound on the question of anti-militarism. Then later, when in 1923 I spent a year in Sydney, I realised with sorrow she was greatly failing in health, so that when I bid her farewell in October, 1923, I knew that in the near future more than time or tide must divide us. I spent many hours then in her little home in Woolahra, a suburb of Sydney, where I had always known her since her friendship began. It was filled with old books, old furniture, and old memories of her father, of whom she loved to talk.

On September 22nd, 1922, Rose Scott's portrait, subscribed for by friends, was unveiled by Lady Foster, the wife of the Commonwealth Governor; and in the course of Rose Scott's speech, she said, "It has been said by a writer that 'The end of life is a journey among ruins.' Well, my friends, we all have our Gethsemanes, our losses, and our sorrows, and if our hearts embrace all humanity in our own dear country, and in the world, the last few years have brought many ruins. But, in my own case, and I am sure in many others, the beautiful Ivy of Friendship covers many ruins. What affection is there so deep, so lasting, as friendship? Love without wings, it has been called . . . We Australians are a great people for LIBERTY, for Wide Spaces and Deep Silences, and Friendship typifies all these."

I like to think, when memories crowd upon me, that these words of Rose Scott are the message which she left to the men and women of her own time, and in the times to come.

DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY FUND.

DEAR FELLOW-MEMBERS AND "VOTE" READERS,

I am delighted to tell you that our Fourteenth Annual Birthday Party has been arranged to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday evening, July 3rd, at 7 p.m.

Our dear First-President, as you know, now lives in Ireland, but we are proud and glad that she comes home to us every summer to keep her birthday in the midst of the Women's Freedom League.

To our beloved Mrs. Despard countless members of our League owe more than they can express, and to her courage, determination, vision, and ideals is due the distinctive character of the Women's Freedom League.

To-day she is sorrowing under the blow of family bereavement, and every member and friend of the League and all her old comrades will be making a very special effort to be present to greet her with love and sympathy, gratitude and honour. We shall have flowers, music, songs, tea, ices, strawberries, and Welsh produce, the presentation of the Birthday Gift, and Mrs. Despard's Birthday Talk. Come and add your voice to the welcome, and ensure the success of a delightful gathering.

The Birthday Fund, as you know, is presented to Mrs. Despard for the work of the League. It gives her the keenest pleasure, and pays our way through the lean holiday summer months.

Money is especially needed just now, we are just at the end of our bank balance, but our weekly bills must still be met.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Workmen's Tickets (Women).

On May 26th, COL. DAY (Lab., Southwark, Central) asked the Minister of Transport if he would consider the desirability of taking steps, by legislation or otherwise, to secure that young women travelling to the London termini or other stations by workmen's tickets might travel by later trains at the same fares so that they would not have to wait about the streets before they began their work? COL. ASHLEY referred him to the reply given to a similar question asked by Major Salmon (U., Harrow) on February 17th last, which was as follows:—"The question of the times during which workmen's tickets should be in operation on the railways was the subject of reference by the Minister of Transport to the Rates Advisory Committee in 1920, when the Committee, after a full inquiry, reported that each railway company should be left to settle the question for itself provided that it did not fail to offer proper facilities up to a reasonable hour. The Committee considered that one of the chief justifications for the issue of workmen's tickets was that the trains by which they were available were run at hours at which other traffic was relatively light, and they pointed out that an extension of the time within which workmen's tickets were issued in the morning would create a dangerous congestion between 8 and 9 a.m., and while I appreciate the circumstances to which my hon. and gallant Friend draws attention, I regret that I cannot see my way to take action in the direction which he suggests."

British Army (Venereal Diseases).

MR. GREAVES LORD (U., Norwood) asked the Secretary of State for War if, in view of the proved educational value of films dealing with the prevention and danger of venereal disease, he was prepared to take any steps to encourage the display of such films under proper conditions to the British Army, particularly upon foreign stations? CAPT. KING (Financial Secretary, War Office) replied that use had been made of those films for the Army both at home and abroad; but other methods of propaganda were considered more suitable to the special conditions of life in the Army.

Women's Equality is waiting to be won—it seems more and more essential as we go on, the fight too grows more difficult as we advance. We see fewer women in Parliament, so we must prepare the voters NOW for the return of more women at the next election; *who will send the needed money for organisers to do to-day's spadework and secure the splendid harvest?*

Woman's right to work is just now fiercely assailed; married women are barred from entering upon, or are dismissed from, the positions for which their special education and experience have fitted them; in all departments of industry the same attack is proceeding.

Women must organise themselves to obtain Equality.

Our work now is to increase and consolidate our League, to strengthen our branches, and form new ones, thus spreading our ideas in every direction ready for the moment when, a strong, compact body of trained enthusiasts, the present wave of reaction spent, we shall advance to victory.

Your League, with its political experience, is a very efficient conjuror to transmute every shilling you can send into new members and new workers for Women's Progress; your friends will help you if you ask them; no contribution can be too large or too small.

Relying on your best efforts, and looking forward to seeing you at the Festival on July 3rd, with best wishes and many thanks for all your help,

Yours sincerely,

E. KNIGHT,

144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Hon. Treasurer.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK.

This has been a gala week for the Woman's Movement at home and abroad, the chief fixtures having been arranged by the National Council of Women on behalf of those British and Overseas delegates who have recently returned from the Seventh Quinquennial I.C.W. Conference at Washington.

On Monday, by special invitation of Lady Trustram Eve, L.C.C., a Drawing Room Meeting was arranged, in which delegates from Esthonia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Iceland, and South Africa took part. The speakers from these countries each gave a bird's-eye view of the position and progress of women achieved in recent years, whilst Lady Trustram Eve pointed out that there was now practically no isolation among civilised countries; as much transit takes place to-day between country and country as was accomplished between county and county in our grandmother's days. It was this interchange and intimate communication between nations which would finally abolish war, and here women's influence was all important. According to Mme Kallas, wife of the Esthonian Minister to this country, women's education is going ahead in Esthonia. At Dorpat University, which has over 5,000 students, one-third of these are women, the population of the whole country being only a little over a million. Esthonian women have always played an important part in their country's life. The account of the Icelandic delegate, Miss Larusdottir, was still more encouraging. In Iceland, it appears, there is no single office or position for which a woman is not eligible. Even the Church is open, provided women can bring with them the necessary theological qualifications, but no woman has yet done so. The Swiss delegate, however, could not afford to be optimistic, for as she pointed out, although Switzerland was the oldest democracy in Europe, Swiss women were at a complete standstill as regards their political rights.

Two public meetings were arranged, one in conjunction with the Save the Children Fund, when leading members of women's organisations signed the Declaration of Geneva (the Children's Charter) on behalf of their Society, and the other when reports were received from numerous I.C.W. delegates.

There were also numerous social festivities.

WOMEN AND ACHIEVEMENT.

The Women's Engineering Society has made rapid strides, and *The Woman Engineer*, its quarterly periodical, seems to improve with each issue. From the one just to hand we learn, among much other interesting information, that Atalanta, Ltd., has recently taken on a large order for some special stamping work, and are moving into larger premises; that one of the members of the Women's Engineering Society, Mrs. M. Dickinson, M.R.I., a woman scientist, has discovered the means of removing and preventing "scale," or incrustations in boilers, pipes, etc.; that Dr. Margaret Fishenden has recently published another very interesting book, this time on "House-Heating"; that Miss Partridge, B.Sc., is not only busily engaged on drawing up plans for giving to the inhabitants of Thorverton, Devon, electric light at a moderate charge, but that she anticipates shortly installing electric light in four other Devonshire villages; that Miss E. M. Keary, of the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, has an interesting article in the May issue of the "Shipbuilder," entitled "The Steering of Ships," the article containing some very interesting information, and profusely illustrated with excellent diagrams; and further, that the Royal Society has sent an official statement that under the present charter and special statutes of the Society, women are eligible, provided, of course, that their scientific attainments are up to the requisite standard. It will therefore be possible for eminent women scientists to secure the right of placing the letters F.R.S. after their name. In the same number of *The Woman Engineer*, the Editor has an article under the title, "The Woman in

Science, Industry, and Commerce." She begins it by saying, "Not many years ago, such a subject would have evoked not only criticism but ridicule." Which is quite true. It is only since the war that women engineers have made their way in this country, for it was during the war that women had their first real opportunity to take part in this work. The Editor realises, however, that women have had to struggle for their advancement in engineering as well as in other spheres. She says, "The old-time attitude of mind towards them still persisted in certain quarters. Women were still regarded as being of value only as assistants, and in repetition processes, and continued to be called upon to exercise patience, and offer gratitude to man for being given the uninteresting job to do." Readers of THE VOTE will appreciate the substance of this complaint. At the same time, we all receive encouragement from the achievements of the women who have entered this comparatively new sphere of work. We wish them every possible success in their work; and are convinced that this industry will attract more and more women as time goes on. Women have hitherto had so few opportunities of exercising their brains and skill in this particular direction. What may they not do in future? Many years ago, Mr. Cameron Grant said he was convinced that women alone could design and carry out the construction of any ship afloat. Before long, women will be constructing and building bridges, railways, aeroplanes, etc., just as men are; and we rely upon women themselves to establish their value in all this industry, not only as assistants, but as directors-in-chief, equally with men.

WHY RAILWAY CARRIAGES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR WOMEN.

The following, under the heading "Woman's Ordeal in a Train," is taken from the *Northampton Echo*, May 22nd:—

"At Wellingborough Police Court to-day, Charles Vorley, of Rushden, was summoned for improper conduct in a railway carriage of the L.M.S. Railway, at Chelveston, on May 9th. Mr. Humphreys represented the Railway Company, and Mr. J. C. Parker defended.

Elizabeth Jacobs, the wife of a railway employee, said that on the evening of May 9th she joined a train at Thrapston station. When the train stopped at Ringstead, she saw the defendant looking in the window of the compartment in which she was sitting alone. Just as the train was restarting he jumped into the carriage, and soon afterwards began to talk to her, asking where she had been to, and whether she was married. When the train was between Ringstead and Irthlingborough, just after she had been looking out of the window, she turned her head, and found defendant was behaving improperly. When she attempted to reach the communication cord defendant got up, and she told him that if he came a step nearer she would jump out of the train. He begged her not to do so, and said he 'did not mean anything.' When the train was drawing up at Irthlingborough defendant got out quickly, and she jumped out after him, smacked his face, and called for assistance. Then she fainted.

Answering Mr. Parker, witness said defendant did not apologise to her, and say the occurrence was accidental. Ephraim Harold Lawton, a signalman, spoke to seeing the man jump from the train before it stopped, and afterwards running away. P.C.

Lawman, Higham Ferrers, said he saw defendant in that place, and as he appeared to have been running, and was out of breath, he stopped him and questioned him. He denied that he had done anything wrong, and said he would give witness 5s. if he had. Inspector Baxter spoke to questioning Vorley, who, he said, admitted the charge made against him, but added that he did not touch the woman. He said he came over funny just before the incident, adding, 'I am taken so sometimes. I'm a fool.' Later he said he did not know what he had done.

Defendant, who is married, said the occurrence was purely accidental. He was not aware of the condition of his clothing till after the woman complained. As he left the train the woman jumped on him and smacked his face, and that caused him to get away. He made no complaint to the station officials of the woman hitting him. He hurried away because he had promised his wife he would be home early. He was frightened when the woman began to knock the walls of the compartment, but that was not because he had done anything. He had attacks of dizziness sometimes, and he had head trouble through being worried about his father's illness.

Mr. Parker, for the defence, urged that Mrs. Jacobs was mistaken in thinking that the defendant's action was intentional.

After the magistrates had retired, the Chairman (Mr. A. Allebone) said the Bench regarded the offence as a very serious one. The public must be protected, and defendant would be fined £5 or a month's imprisonment. Time was allowed for payment."

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY FUND, 1925.

I enclose £ s. d.

I should like a Collecting Card.

I will bring or send flowers to the Flower Stall, for the Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, July 3rd, at 7 p.m.

Please send me..... tickets, price 1/-, for which I enclose.....

Name.....

Address.....

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.

EDUCATIONISTS AND THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

At the Conference of Head Teachers held last week at Cardiff, a resolution was carried which urged that the effectiveness of the work done by Children's Courts would be increased by a closer co-operation between the officers of those Courts and the teachers, by the appointment of experts to aid the magistrates with specific, and psychological, and medical advice. By invitation, the Stipendiary Magistrate for Rhondda spoke on this question. He said that in his own district, whenever an elementary scholar was charged with an offence, the local Director of Education or the child's head teacher was communicated with, and the magistrate was furnished with the circumstances of the child's home-life, and these were taken into consideration when dealing with the case. The Stipendiary pointed out the urgent need for remand homes to which children could be sent pending the consideration of their case, and said he would be extremely glad if the Glamorgan County Council would appoint an expert psychologist who could be consulted, when desired. Our own view is that, except in very rare cases, child delinquents should not be brought before Courts of Justice, but should be dealt with under the local education authority in conjunction with the head teachers, and the Medical Officers of Health. Throughout their school-life the children come under the jurisdiction of the local education authority, and are regularly inspected by officers of the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health, and these authorities should surely be sufficient to deal with the child if he or she offends in any way, without having recourse to another authority which owes its allegiance to the Home Office.

Another resolution which was carried called for more playing-fields for primary schools. Others dealt with the question of films, and inspectors were called for to supervise cinemas with regard to their suitability for children. It was stated that some films were conceived on atrocious ideas and based on abominable morality, and produced in children the terror of awful fears. Apart from the films themselves, it was urged that children were herded together in uncomfortable seats, in halls that were ill-ventilated or not ventilated, and the regulation that the screen should be a certain distance from the seats was very often ignored, so that the mental, moral, and physical conditions in many cases were bad. When discussing another resolution, which expressed the opinion that a select committee should be appointed by the Government to inquire into the best method of making use of the cinematograph, gramophone, and wireless telephony in our system of education, stress was laid on the desirability of the increased use of wireless in schools, which would afford large numbers of scholars the opportunity of hearing great men of the day, and of being associated with great events otherwise impossible to them.

THE BRITISH TAX ON MARRIAGE.

The question of the inequitable joint assessment of the incomes of husband and wife is again before the public. It crops up with every Budget, and it would be difficult to count the number of Chancellors of the Exchequer to whom the Women's Freedom League has protested on this matter. At every Conference we pass a resolution condemning the present arrangement of lumping the wife's income with that of her husband and assessing the joint amount. But every Chancellor protests that this arrangement cannot be altered because it would mean too great a loss to the Treasury—£20,000,000 the first year, and more in later years, the measure of its injustice to women! Members of the Women's Freedom League will remember that before any women in this country secured the Parliamentary vote, Mr. Wilks, the husband of Dr. Wilks, went to prison because his wife refused to pay this tax, and he supported her in her protest; and at the same time George Bernard Shaw asked the authorities what a man was to do if his wife refused to tell him the amount of her income? Why cannot a husband and wife be each responsible for his and her own income and the tax upon it? Now Dr. Marie Stopes and her husband, Mr. H. V. Roe, are determined to fight this question of assessing a man and his wife for tax on their combined incomes, and we wish them every success in these efforts. Two relatives, or two friends with separate incomes, are able to live in the same house and share their expenses without being taxed on their joint incomes, and we think the present system of taxing the joint incomes of husband and wife is an infringement of the Married Women's Property Act and an unwarranted injustice. It is a tax on marriage, and very often is a special hardship on the married woman. A woman's income, whether earned or unearned, is nearly always stationary; if the income of the husband increases and the two incomes are added together, the tax on her part of the joint income becomes higher; and any rebate is paid to the husband and not to the wife. It will be remembered that Mrs. Ayres Purdie on behalf of the Women's Freedom League gave evidence on this matter before the Royal Commission on Income Tax, in 1920. Mrs. Lilian Knowles, Reader in Economic History, University of London, was the only woman on that Commission, and her Reservation to Part III. of its Report, in which she recommended the Separation of the Incomes of Husband and Wife for Income Tax Purposes, is well worth studying. The final sentence of the last paragraph in her Reservation reads: "I regret that I cannot concur in any recommendation by which the State would make it cheaper for certain persons to live together in irregular unions rather than in the 'honourable estate' of matrimony." Mr. Walker Clark, J.P., another member of this Royal Commission, signed this Reservation with Mrs. Knowles.

BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF HUSBANDS.

The text of the Government Bill on the subject of Married Women's Torts has been issued. It will be introduced in the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor and provides that, except where proceedings have been instituted before May 28th, 1925, a husband shall not be liable to be sued or made a party to any proceedings brought against his wife for torts. We cannot pretend that we are particularly interested in this Bill; nor can we see any pressing need for it. In its excitement over this proposed relief for husbands, the Press describes the married woman as "the pampered darling of the law." Yet she has no legal claim to any portion of her husband's income, salary, or wages; and he may leave her absolutely penniless at his death. Moreover, no matter what qualifications she possesses, the Government refuses to employ a married woman in the Civil Service; and most local governing bodies compel their women employees to resign their posts on marriage. The position is sufficiently intolerable to drive any married woman to mischief.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT—BOTH SIDES OF THE CASE.

By DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D., AND MISS ISOBEL GODDARD.

I have been asked, by your Editor, to give a short statement of the reasons why I oppose "Family Endowment."

In the first place I do so because there is no endowment in the usual acceptance of the term. What is called "endowment" is depriving wage-earners of the power of deciding how they shall use their wages, and allowing someone, not themselves, to distribute them, giving more to one group and less to another, in accordance with this "someone else's" view of what is desirable.

It is probable that this would lead to acute differences of opinion, for English people have a very strong notion that they have a right to manage their own affairs.

It is also probable that if parents are relieved of the legal obligation to support their children, one of the very strongest inducements to submit to the drudgery of daily toil would be withdrawn.

I am not forgetful that many of the amenities of life are already provided at the public expense, e.g., excellent education, hospitals and dispensaries, parks, gardens, and open spaces for recreation. Against such benefits no one raises any objection because they do not undermine parental responsibility. The free gift of these, therefore, places them in a different position from the free gift of the ordinary necessities of life, the cost of which is one of the main responsibilities of parenthood.

The presumption of the law of England is that parents are responsible for supplying their children's daily needs. Remove this responsibility and one great incentive to continuous industry is destroyed.

I have heard advocates of "Family Endowment" talk as if it would be the simplest thing in the world to subtract from the weekly wages of the young unmarried wage-earner 5s. to 10s. weekly in order to bestow a corresponding sum on another man who has a family to support. He may be perfectly willing to give his wages away, but not to surrender them to an outsider. I believe such an attempt would provoke violent opposition, and would be regarded by Labour leaders as a dangerous step towards what they describe as "fodder wages," an attempt to reduce the reward of labour to the lowest possible sum on which soul and body can be kept together. Why did Cobbett talk about the "ever-damned potato," but that he feared this cheapest of all food was one of the weapons in the hands of those who wished to see our working-classes ground down to mere subsistence wages?

If we look back to the 18th and early 19th century, we have abundant evidence of the immense improvement, physical and moral, that has taken place under the existing system of parental responsibility: the expectation of life is longer; the death-rate, especially the infantile death-rate, is greatly lowered; and crime is diminishing. In the early 19th century, agricultural wages in Wilts and Dorset were 7s. a week, and all hands, except stockmen and shepherds, were dismissed after harvest. *Sheep-stealing became almost a necessity, and it was so common that the most savage punishments could not stop it. At Salisbury Assizes there were often as many as 120-170 cases tried, resulting in 20 or 30 death sentences. There is nothing to compare with these horrors now. The improvement in the whole condition of society is almost incalculable. Let us not destroy the fabric of family life by wiping out the responsibility of parents for the maintenance of their children. We have made good progress up to now on the basis of developing individual responsibility. It seems to me that the improvement already achieved proves we are on the right lines, and that it would be wiser to go on in the direction in which we are at present travelling, rather than to upset the whole fabric of domestic life which would be involved by the adoption of "Family Endowment." It is bad economics to burn down your house to roast your pig.

M. G. FAWCETT.

*See W. H. Hudson's "The Shepherd's Life."

It is clearly an anomaly that while insurance provision exists for Old Age, for Widows, for Health, and Unemployment, child-life is as yet unsafeguarded. Provision does not exist for the child during the critical years from birth to 16, except the arbitrary, uncertain, and inadequate patchwork of clinics, maternity benefit, school care-committees, and what not, while the supremely exacting and important work of motherhood is unrecognised as such.

At present, mothers are provided for indirectly on the assumption that, by the interplay of economic forces, a man's wages are sufficient to provide for himself and his family. Sufficiency admittedly is relative, but we think that anyone, and certainly any woman, who has a modicum of knowledge of the struggle of 45 per cent. of the population to-day, realises their insufficiency; and that the standard of life that they maintain is deplorably low. The results of it may be measured any day by an investigation of adolescent health, and the tale of the Juvenile Employment Exchanges.

In general terms, a system of family allowance would mark a definite improvement in the status of women, since not only would her incomparable service to society receive recognition, but it would secure provision during those years which should be a family, as opposed to a wage-earning, career. Too often, to their deprivation, women realise that married life, on the wages paid to men, means dependence and slavery in rearing a family on inadequate incomes, or the partial neglect of the children in order to enter the labour market, and, if possible, supplement the family income. A family allowance would mean that a woman who marries and has children would not give up entirely her independence if she has the allowance paid directly to her, to spend without question on the children and household. She will no longer be dependent for the health and comfort of herself and the children entirely on the state of trade, etc. At least a regular sum will enter the house to her alone, and the worst effects of insecurity on female and child life be mitigated. Too often again, women realise that marriage, and the exacting care of home and children, means an unpaid working day of ceaseless attention of anything from 14-16 hours. This life is maintained meagrely, and with often harassing uncertainty, by supplies over the adequacy or inadequacy, regularity or irregularity, of which she has no control. This well-nigh servile status of motherhood needs must have, if habit had not so apathised many, a deleterious effect during the nervous strain of motherhood, and allows as it undoubtedly does allow, the period of some trial for women and of such vital importance to children, to take place in the worst possible material and spiritual circumstances. Establish the allowance system, and the status of women takes a leap upward. Women will enter marriage with lighter hearts for success than as now with foreboding tempered by their abounding love.

Women, generally rightly, are apt to be sceptical on the subject of statistical valuations and such-like; and in this case the fact that wages are based on the "average" family does not appeal to the woman who is struggling to make it do for a family which is larger, any more than during the war she could have fed her children on an "average" of rations. This statistical figment of a Civil Service brain may be convenient, but it does not fit the facts. We suggest that peace and happiness at home is the fundamental and essential basis for peace and prosperity in Industry and the Nation. More securely and equitably provided homes would lead to a more joyous and natural married and family life than is a man's and woman's experience to-day in eight cases out of ten. This cannot fail to result in a feeling of greater freedom and self-respect, the basis of the best and truest love in family life, and in an increased ability and fitness for work outside the home for the man.

ISOBEL GODDARD.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Inspectors.

After four years of office at Leeds, Miss Hastings, H.M. Inspector of Factories for North Leeds, has been appointed to Dunfermline to take charge of the county of Fife. She will be succeeded by Miss Ewart, who has been an inspector in Leeds before.

Third Australian Woman M.P.

Miss Preston Stanley is the first woman member of Parliament to be returned for New South Wales (Eastern Suburbs), and is the third woman to be elected to the Australian States Parliaments. The first was Mrs. Cowan, O.B.E., J.P. (Western Australia, 1921-24), and the second Miss Mary Alice Holman (Western Australia, 1925), referred to in last week's VOTE.

Woman Councillor for Hull.

Miss Helen Theilmann, who was recently elected a member of Hull City Council, is the second woman to be so elected. She is President of North-West Hull Women's Conservative Association.

A Girton Pioneer.

Miss Louisa Innes Lumsden, one of the new Dames in the recent Birthday Honours, was one of the first three women to sit for the Cambridge Tripos, in 1872. The other two were Miss Woodhead and Miss Rachel Cook. Their triumph is still commemorated in "The Girton Pioneers," the national anthem of Girton.

Woman Artist's Exhibition.

An Australian woman artist, Miss Cumbrac Stewart, who has already built up a European reputation, is now exhibiting her pastels in London. She also has two pastels in this year's Paris Salon, and two in the Royal Academy.

The Bovril Lady!

Miss Gladys Storey, who was known in all the war zones as "the Bovril Lady," and was afterwards awarded the O.B.E. for her war services, was received by Marshal Foch, at the French Embassy, recently, and thanked for the gifts she made to French soldiers during the war.

Women's Inventions.

A number of inventions by women will be shown at the Exhibition of the Institute of Patentees, which opened in the Central Hall, Westminster, this week. One of the most ingenious is a work basket, designed to prevent the chaotic disorder of the ordinary basket. Reels of cotton are neatly mounted on a rod and unrolled as needed.

MINERVA CLUB BRANCH.

WE ARE GOING TO BE

"AT HOME"

on

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 18th,

AT 8.15 P.M.

at

THE MINERVA CLUB,

56, HUNTER STREET, BRUNSWICK SQUARE, W.C.1

Come and Dance with us!

If you don't Dance, there will be Bridge (with prizes), Music, Games, and other attractions.

All your Half-crowns (for tickets including refreshments) will go to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund.

GIRTON'S NEW MISTRESS.

Miss Edith H. Major, who has been appointed Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, in succession to Miss Philpott, O.B.E., has been Headmistress of King Edward's High School for Girls, Birmingham, for the last fifteen years, and is an old Girton student, where she took honours in the Historical Tripos of 1888. She has had a distinguished career as Headmistress of the Putney High School, and, since 1910, of King Edward's High School for Girls, Birmingham, where she has also been a member of the Council of the University, and has taken an active part in the University and civic life.

Miss Major has exceptionally wide interests, and has numbered among her activities the office of President of the Headmistresses' Association, with a long-standing membership of the Executive Committee, and the representation of the Association on the Joint Committee for Examination of the Local Examination Syndicate of the University of Cambridge, membership of the Council of the Hall of Residence for Women in Birmingham University, the presidency of the local branch of the Federation of University Women and also of the National Council of Women, and membership of the Council of the League of Nations Union.

Miss Major is one of the original members of the Historical Association, besides being a Vice-president of the Midland Branch of the Classical Association. Her social work has ranged from making provision for Belgian refugees during the war to the Charity Organisation Society and the Prisoners' Aid Society.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Anna's. By C. Nina Boyle. (Allen & Unwin.) 7s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

Miss Boyle has written us a most thrilling story, in which sea captains, young ne'er-do-wells, evil lawyers, a girl of the period, and the members of an old proud family play their parts with great zest and never allow us to lose our interest in their doings. Among them all, weaving their life-threads more and more intricately, moves the inscrutable Anna, with her strange cold smile and her compelling will. Within her curious house are many secrets hidden, and the picture drawn of the paralysed and half-doting uncle, the terrible drunken billy-goat, and the admiring crowd of sailors, who half guess at their hostess's doings, is exceedingly clever and unusual, and its evil aspect seems heightened by the innocent visits of the village Doctor, and the unsuspecting tourists he brings to admire the old smugglers' hostelry, and its seemingly charming landlady. It would be unfair to betray the intrigue in which Anna and her son are involved, or in any way to foreshadow its result, which leaves the reader guessing almost to the last page. A good study of the family genealogy at the end is worth while, for its makes the somewhat involved relationship of the characters plain. "Anna's" is a "rattling good yarn," and one closes the book feeling, with some relief, that these kind of people are better to read about than to have personal dealing with, for the Le Telleurs cannot have had a very pleasant family circle, while the only thing truly enjoyable at "Anna's" seems to have been the cooking! J. M. T.

The Case Against Capital Punishment. By N. D. Deuchar. (Published by the Letchworth Printers.) Price 3d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This is an excellent pamphlet advocating the abolition of capital punishment, and incidentally contains very good portraits of W. M. Thackeray and John Bright, who also were opponents of the death penalty. It should certainly be read by everyone interested in this subject.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, June 16th, at 5.

Thames Valley Branch. Meeting at Holmwood School, Claremont Road. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Breathing and Children's Health."

Wednesday, June 17th, at 3.

Hampstead Branch. Annual Meeting, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Thursday, June 18th, at 8.15.

Minerva Club Branch. "At Home" at the Minerva Club, 56, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tickets (including refreshments) 2/6.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, June 22nd, at 6.30.

Mid-London Branch. Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, July 2nd, at 7.45.

Thames Valley Branch. Public Meeting at Holmwood School, Claremont Road. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro (President of the Women's Freedom League).

Friday, July 3rd, at 7.

Birthday Party at Caxton Hall.

Saturday, July 4th, at 10.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, June 25th, at 3.

Portsmouth Branch. Garden Whist Drive, at 14, Festing Grove. Tickets 1/6 (indoors if wet).

Monday, June 29th, at 3.30.

Bexhill Branch. Garden Meeting at Holmwood, Hastings Road. Speaker: Mrs. Miles. Subject: "The League of Nations."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, June 15th, at 5.45.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Speaker: Dr. L. Garrett Anderson. Subject: "Six Point Group Committee on Child Assault." Chair: Miss Elizabeth Robins.

Tuesday, June 16th, at 2.30.

Incorporated Municipal Electrical Association. Special Meeting for Women, at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. Papers on "The Education of Young Women in Electric Cooking in Polytechnics and Schools, &c.," by Alderman (Mrs.) Hammer; "Electricity and Health," by Mrs. H. A. Howie; and "Electricity in the House," by Mrs. T. A. Vaughan. Also Short Address on "The Development of Women's Interest in Electricity," by Miss C. Haslett (Director of the Electrical Association for Women).

Tuesday, June 16th, at 5.30.

London Society for Women's Service, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster. Speaker: Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P. Subject: "The Ministry of Labour."

June 17th-19th, at 11-6.

Home Arts and Industries Association Exhibition. Central Hall, Westminster.

June 17th and 18th.

Scottish Women's Rural Institutes. National Conference and Exhibition. Music Hall, George Street, Edinburgh.

Saturday, June 20th, at 3-7.

Albany Institute and Babies' Hospital. Garden Fête in the grounds of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich Park. Admission 2/-, after 5 p.m. 1/- Ticket: from Miss E. Morton (Secretary) Albany Institute, Deptford.

Tuesday, June 23rd, at 2-10.

Six Point Group Fancy Stall, at Garden Fête at Fulham Palace. Tickets 1s. each, from Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Saturday, June 27th, at 3.30-6.30.

Montessori Society. Reception at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, to welcome the President (Dr. Montessori). Tickets 3/6 (Tea inclusive), from 11, Tavistock Square, W.C.

THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN INDIA.

A report of Mrs. Cousins' lecture on the above subject at the Minerva Club last Tuesday will appear in next week's VOTE.

BRANCH NOTES.

THAMES VALLEY.

Members and friends of this Branch are cordially invited by Mrs. Foster Lumb to a meeting to be held at Holmwood School, Claremont Road, Teddington, Tuesday, June 16th, at 5 p.m., when Dr. Octavia Lewin will lecture on "Breathing and Children's Health." Tea at 4 o'clock. Questions and discussion invited.

ASHFORD.

A delightful meeting was held at the Hempstead Street Hall last week, when Dr. Octavia Lewin spoke on "Education from a Medical Woman's point of view." Mrs. Miles presided. Dr. Lewin succeeded in making her hearers understand how important it is to train young minds to learn to be healthy, as well as to teach them everyday school subjects, pointing out that you cannot get the best out of a child if it is neglected in matters relating to health. The speaker was asked a great many questions, which were readily answered.

BEXHILL.

Miss Skinner again kindly acted as hostess at the tea and whist drive which was held at the Albany Hotel last week. We warmly thank all the ladies who helped us, and Mrs. Ringland, who very kindly gave the set of six tea knives in a case. It was decided to keep these for the garden party at Holmwood, when we hope to have a large whist drive after the meeting on June 29th, when Mrs. Miles is speaking on "The League of Nations." The delightful little travelling case for sponge, soap, tooth brush, etc., which was won by a member who generously presented it to the Organiser, was given by Miss Skinner. Mrs. Golding very kindly acted as M.C. We want all possible help for the garden party which Mrs. Bryan is giving on the 29th. Will members please sell as many tickets as possible? Mrs. Miles has kindly promised to recite after tea. (Org.) Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmsdale Gardens, Hastings.

PORTSMOUTH.

The last public meeting of the season was held on Wednesday afternoon, June 3rd, at 2, Kent Road. Miss N. O'Shea gave a most instructive address on "Singapore and the C.D. Acts." Miss O'Shea spoke of the struggle of Josephine Butler and others to get the C.D. Acts repealed in this country. She dealt with the report on the question from Singapore, and said an advisory committee had been set up by the Government of 1923, but had not yet issued a report. Mrs. Poole presided, and heartily thanked the speaker at the close of the meeting. The Garden Whist Drive will be held on Thursday, June 25th. If wet, Mrs. Slatter has kindly promised to have it indoors. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHEATON, 80, Festing Grove, Southsea.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE.

On the afternoon of Monday, June 8th, a meeting for members and friends was held by the kindness of Mrs. Bridge in her garden, at 3 p.m. Despite the great heat there was a good attendance. Dr. Alice Vickery gave an extremely interesting address dealing chiefly with the position of married women under the law, and was pleased to reply to the various questions which were put to her when she finished. Mrs. Smith, J.P., proved a chairman greatly appreciated by the audience. A vote of thanks to Dr. Vickery, Councillor Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Bridge was proposed by the Organiser, and most ably seconded by Miss Turner. During tea, a collection was taken, and six new members were enrolled. Altogether, including membership fees, donations, and collection, the sum of £2 11s. 10½d. was raised. For all this, the sincere thanks of the Women's Freedom League are due to Councillor Mrs. Smith, J.P., Dr. Vickery, Mrs. Bridge, and all who helped in any way whatsoever. During last week three open-air meetings were held on The Level, and others will be conducted in the same place during this week. It is with much pleasure that we are able to announce that on Thursday evening, at 8.15 p.m., the speaker will be Councillor Mrs. Smith, J.P. (Org.) LILIAN LENTON, 13, Victoria Road, Brighton.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR EDITOR,—Your correspondent, Mrs. A. McGrouther, seems quite unaware of the fact that, had it not been for the boycott agitation in 1923, she would now be paying what she is for her sugar and tea, with the cost of taxes added on! I in no wise presumed we could touch the root of our high price troubles by the boycott! It requires much spade-work before you reach the root of anything, more especially this complicated food-question. Producers and consumers are equal victims at the present moment. The boycott-war is against the grasping "go-betweeners" who are draining the life of the country by speculating on the people's food. The only thing that can affect them is a diminished market. This lies in the hands of the women buyers. At one of the public meetings of the Royal Food Commission, one of the Commission asked one of the food representatives, "How long would the price of food continue to soar?" The answer was, "As long as the public will buy." Sufficient, and more than sufficient, evidence that we who boycott are making no mistake!

YOURS, EMILY JUSON KERR.

MARRIAGE.

Howard-Shaw.—On June 2nd, Frances Annabel Howard, of "Imber," Pennsylvania Park, Exeter, and Dr. John Shaw.

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: Miss TURNER.

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1914 FOUR-SEATER Touring Car for Sale. Dynamo lighting in good working order. £30.—MRS. MAHON, 21, Fellows Road, Hampstead.

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FURNISHED COTTAGE, in Suffolk, 21/- weekly. Simply Decorated. Oak beams exposed.—Apply HAYLAND, The Peasant Shop, 41, Devonshire Street, Theobald's Road, W.C.1.

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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, June 14th. 3.30. Music. Lecture: by Sir John Foster Fraser on "Can Journalists be Idealists?" 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

EARN TO MAKE MONEY by growing Angora Rabbit Wool, waiting market. 35/- lb.—LADY RACHEL BYNG, Sandhoe, Angora Farm, Hexham, Northumberland, takes non-resident lady apprentices.—Particulars for stamped addressed envelope.

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