

THE VOTE,
MAY 18, 1923
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN—PARTY AND NON-PARTY

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1923

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES. Interview with Mrs. Watt, M.B.E.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
IN PARLIAMENT. E.K.
WOMEN—PARTY AND NON-PARTY.

WOMEN AND THEIR HOMES. E. A. Browning.
THE WOMEN'S COLLEGES AT OXFORD.
ENGLAND AND AMERICA. A. Maude Royden.
WOMEN ARTISTS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY. E. M. Tait.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

Interview with Mrs. Watt, M.B.E.

No fewer than 3,000 delegates and officials were present at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, which was held at the Queen's Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The Movement now numbers 2,736 Women's Institutes in English and Welsh villages—there is a separate Federation for Scotland—and there are 160,000 women in the membership. The organisation has grown so much that the attendance at the Annual Meeting is now too large for effective discussion, and several motions on the Agenda favour schemes of a more or less indirect representation.

The Movement in this country owes its origin entirely to Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., who for many years was an Institute organiser in Western Canada. Shortly before the Great War broke out, Mrs. Watt crossed the Atlantic and succeeded in interesting Mr. Nugent Harris, Secretary of the Agricultural Organisation Society, who had long been looking for a form of organisation for rural women.

In the autumn of 1915 the first Women's Institutes in England and Wales were opened by Mrs. Watt, under the auspices of the Agricultural Organisation Society. By October, 1917, when there were 137 British Institutes, the Government had realised how valuable their help might be in increasing the supply of food and in preventing waste. At first the Board of Agriculture made yearly grants of money to the National Federation of Women's Institutes, but to-day the Movement has become so strong that it is no longer under Government, but stands on its own feet, with the exception of certain diminishing grants from the Development Commission.

International Women's Institutes.

"The Women's Institute Movement has now spread to the Continent," Mrs. Watt told our representative. "The Belgian Government sent a Commission to Canada to study the working of Canadian Women's Institutes, and then started them in Belgium under the title of 'Cercles des Fermières.' In 1919, the British Government sent me to Belgium to inspect their progress. The Belgian Institutes are noted for the great variety of domestic work and handicrafts they undertake, as well as dairying and gardening. The co-

operative spirit is particularly strong in Belgium, and all the buying and selling in the Institutes is carried out on this principle. The members meet on Sundays, for they work so hard all the week that Sunday is their only holiday. Belgium has now introduced the Movement into France, but French Women's Institutes are still in their infancy, and not yet nationally organised.

"In Switzerland a great deal of agricultural work and domestic science is taught to women in the country districts, but the actual establishment of Women's Institutes is still to come. I expect to spend the whole of next year on the Continent, where I shall hope to further the Movement in every possible way. Part of my time will be spent in Italy, which already has an active organisation on similar lines to the Institute Movement, known as the 'Rural Industries Association.' In that country I shall have the support of Signora Agresti, who holds an important position in the Institute of Agriculture, at Rome. Signora Agresti, if you remember, was the only woman present at the historic Peace Conference at Versailles. By birth she is an American."

Democratic and Co-operative.

Institute ideals are essentially democratic. In the current issue of the Institute's monthly organ, *Home and Country*, which has a paid circulation of 24,000 copies, prominence is given to the fact that Her Majesty the Queen, who is a deeply interested member of a Norfolk Institute, has strongly urged that in the Institutes there should be no patronage, and that the Squire's wife and the working woman should meet on the same footing.

The keynote is Co-operation. The successful jam-maker tells her secret recipe, the best bread-maker demonstrates the reason for the lightness of her loaves, the shoemaker shows how boots and shoes can be mended, the student unfolds and revitalises the forgotten local history of the past. All women of the village, rich and poor, gentle and simple, learned and unlearned, come together with the one idea of helping one another. All pay the same subscription, have the same rights, the same privileges, the same responsibilities. Each contributes what she can to the common store.

Mental stimulation by means of regular meetings is another important feature. Controversial subjects, whether religious or political, are forbidden, but interest in the home leads naturally and inevitably to interest in questions of housing, sanitation, infant welfare, and kindred topics. The members learn to realise their responsibility towards the community in which they live, and, from an interest in their own village and their country, come to see the connection between their affairs and those of the nation at large. Since the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women the mental scope of the Institutes has enormously widened. Indeed, it would be difficult to plan a better training for the exercise of the vote—a training entirely free from all party or sectarian bias, based on the actual experience of home life and home needs, and working outwards through a sense of responsibility educated not to take but to give.

Education and Food Production.

The educational opportunities provided by Women's Institutes are extremely far-reaching. Isolated lectures on local history or architecture, literature or economics, have led to a desire for something more systematic, and already considerable stimulus has been given to rural libraries through the Movement. Last it should be thought that village women do not care for such things, the fact is recorded that an Institute has been so packed for a lecture on Elementary Astronomy that many of the members stood for the whole hour; whilst the subject selected by one group of middle-aged labourers' wives was Mediæval History!

The importance of increasing our food production is realised by everybody, and has never been so pressing as since the war. The Women's Institutes are doing an enormous amount of useful work in this direction. In fact, during the war, the Ministry of Agriculture took over the propaganda, and placed the Women's Institutes under the women's branch of the Food Production Department. This work was officially recognised in 1918 by Lord Ernle, then Mr. Prothero, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries at that time, who publicly stated that, "Of the many new enterprises in rural development which the war has stimulated, there are few, in my opinion, which are so full of promise for the future as the active association of women with agriculture, and the prominent share which they have taken in the food-production campaign." To mention only a few examples of food production, co-operative buying of chicken-meal and potato-sprayers, co-operative marketing of small quantities of fruit and vegetables, and co-operative jam-making, have all proved successful.

Handicrafts an Important Feature.

Handicrafts used in connection with home-life are yet another important feature of the Institute Movement. Members learn to make gloves and baskets, toys and mats. In some cases village industries have been established very successfully, and many a woman has a steady sale for her work. The question of prices is one that is watched carefully by the National Federation, so that there shall be neither profiteering on the one hand nor a new form of sweated home industry on the other.

Craft Schools, where free tuition is given, are organised in various centres, financed by special grants from the National Federation of Women's Institutes. The value of these schools has already been proved at Tunbridge Wells, where glove-making, upholstery, skin-curing, and carpentry were taught in 1920; at Chelmsford, in 1921, where rush work and household jobbing were taught; and at Malvern and Leeds, where basket-making, upholstery, glove-making, and embroidery were taught. The list of handicrafts now being taught in Women's Institutes is a formidable one, and includes weaving, spinning, basket-making and rush-plaiting, raffia, dressmaking and tailoring, leather, bookbinding, upholstery, lacemaking, knitting, crochet, dyeing, pottery, straw-plaiting, plain and decorative needlework, carpentry, skin-curing and mounting, toy-making, glove-making, rug-making, tinkering, cobbling, and chair-caning.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Another Barrier Down.

Mrs. F. G. Bristow (the wife of Mr. F. G. Bristow, barrister) is the first married woman to be admitted to the Freedom of the City of London. The Corporation has decided, in view of the terms of the Sex Disqualifications (Removal) Act, no longer to set up the custom of the City as the only reason for refusing admission to married women. Other married women, including Lady Parsons, are to be admitted immediately.

Woman Stipendiary Magistrate.

The only woman stipendiary magistrate in the world, Miss Jean Norris, of the United States, has taken four months' leave in order to study the administration of justice in various parts of the world. At Cairo she was invited to take her seat on the Bench with two Mohammedan Judges. She also sat on the Bench in Bombay.

American Women Workers.

According to the recent American publication, "Women of 1923," there are now in America 1,728 women lawyers, judges, and magistrates, 1,787 clergy-women, 14,617 artists, 7,219 women physicians, 1,829 women dentists, 1,117 architects, and 41 engineers. No fewer than 8,549,511 women are engaged in work in the United States, and of the total of 678 occupations under review, only 33 do not yet boast of women recruits.

Swedish Women and Pure Food.

A hall-mark of purity and excellence on goods for home consumption is the latest achievement of the Swedish National Housewives' Association. For years Swedish women have been working to secure pure food in their homes, and now the Government testing bureau, as well as the domestic science school at Upsala, have placed themselves at the Association's disposal. Only foods which pass the Government tests will receive the guarantee mark.

Indian Women Lawyers.

Indian women are now eligible to practise as lawyers and barristers in their own country, mainly owing to the efforts of Miss Hazra, B.A., B.L., whose application to practise brought the subject into prominence. Other Indian women now eligible to practise include Miss Cornelia Sorabji, Miss Engineer (Bombay), and Miss Mithan Tata, LL.B.

A Progressive Association.

The present membership of the roll of the Women's Indian Association now numbers 2,375, with 47 Branches and 20 Centres. In addition to much educational work, the Association has agitated continuously for the inclusion of girls in schemes for compulsory elementary education. It also brought its representation to bear on the Government and on members of Select Committees in connection with the prohibition of the labour of women and children in coal mines, and the promotion of women lawyers.

Women Rulers.

Two important countries, Holland and Abyssinia, are ruled by Queens to-day. Queen Wilhelmina ascended the throne of the Netherlands 33 years ago, while Waizeru Zauditu was crowned at Addis Abeba in 1916. She is a daughter of the late King Menelik, is 47 years old, and a member of the Semitic group known as Shoans, from which the ruling class springs. Waizeru Zauditu's empire contains about 8,000,000 persons, and comprises a territory as large as Turkey.

Polish Woman President.

The recent opening of the Silesian Diet was made noteworthy by the appointment of a woman, Madame Omankowska, who was called upon to preside. She is 63 years old, and for 40 years has rendered signal services to the Province of Upper Silesia in the teaching profession.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Petition from ex-Service Women.

MR. TURNER (Batley and Morley) presented a petition signed by ex-Service women, representing about half a million men and women in clerical occupations, begging for the immediate relief of the distress of the recently dismissed temporary women clerks and of other unemployed women.

Unemployed Women.

CAPTAIN WEDGWOOD BENN (Leith) asked for a further statement as to the alleviation of the hardships of unemployed women. SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that there was unemployment benefit for insured women, and the Government were assisting certain training schemes, but he regretted that practical means of assistance were very difficult to find. There were still large numbers of domestic vacancies. In reply to MR. DOYLE (Newcastle, N.), he said there were still classes in domestic training for unemployed women, but vouchsafed no information to CAPTAIN BENN, who inquired what was being done for the large class of women unsuitable by training or experience for domestic service.

MR. DIXON (Belfast, E.) asked why the Government was still paying the dole to young men and women who have been in and are capable of domestic service, when there are employers willing and anxious to give them employment? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW recited the well-known rejoinder, which surely all Members of Parliament should now know by heart, that domestic servants were not insured and not entitled to the dole, and any suitable person refusing a domestic situation was cut off unemployment benefit.

Insured Women.

In answer to MR. WEBB (Seaham), the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour (MR. BETTERTON) said there were in Great Britain 2,575,000 insured women. At April 23rd the books were lodged at Employment Exchanges of 219,817 unemployed women, and of these about 130,000 were receiving unemployment benefit. There were also about 10,000 additional women, not unemployed, but receiving benefit in respect of systematic short time.

Unemployed Teachers.

In answer to MR. GRUNDY (Rother Valley), MR. E. WOOD said that, of students who left the training colleges last summer, 200 men and 427 women were, in February last, still without posts.

Lowestoft Teachers.

In answer to MR. ROBERT MORRISON (Tottenham, N.), MR. WOOD replied that the local Education Authority had during the last two months appointed 112 teachers to the schools in Lowestoft; their qualifications were now being investigated by the Board of Education; appointments did not require confirmation by the Board, but under the Code every school is required to have a sufficient and suitable staff.

Women Clerks in Inland Revenue Department.

In answer to MR. GRUNDY, MAJOR BOYD-CARPENTER stated that, prior to 1920, in the Inland Revenue Department the women temporarily employed reached 200 typists and shorthand-typists, 6,000 clerks below junior administrative rank, and 50 officers of junior administrative rank or above.

Scottish Postwomen.

In answer to MR. WESTWOOD (Peebles and Sothorn), SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS stated that there are in Scotland 475 postwomen, seven of these being full-time officers (three established and four temporary), and the others part time. The three established officers are paid about 52s. a week; the others vary from 9d. to 11d. an hour.

Deaf Children.

Replying to MR. FOOT (Bodmin), MR. WOOD said there were about 6,000 deaf and dumb children, and 1,400 places too few for them in the special schools.

Open-Air Schools.

In answer to MR. FOOT (Bodmin), MR. WOOD stated that 29 local authorities had established 37 day open-air schools, and nine had 13 residential ones. In addition, voluntary managers had established 12 residential ones, a total of 62 open-air schools in England and Wales.

Housing (?) in Swansea and Hull.

In answer to MR. D. WILLIAMS (Swansea, E.), MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the need for houses in Swansea was put by the Council, in 1919, at 6,378. The Council adopted a scheme for 4,475 assisted houses; actually built were 752, and a further 236 had been sanctioned; and in answer to MR. LEACH (Bradford, E.), that the official local estimate in Hull in 1919 was for 7,778 new houses, 614 assisted houses had been built, and a further 124 sanctioned.

Cost of Tuberculosis.

In answer to MR. LEACH, LORD E. PERCY said the gross expenditure of local authorities during the year ending March 31st, 1923, was nearly £3,000,000, exclusive of capital expenditure.

Secondary Schools.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (Sutton) asked the President of the Board of Education for the total number of free places vacant in secondary schools in January last, and the total number of children qualified for such places? MR. E. WOOD said that on October 1st, 1922, the total number of free places under Art. 20 of the Regulations for Secondary Schools in grant-aided secondary schools was 128,194. He regretted he had no figures of the children qualified, but no doubt they exceeded the available free places.

Women Magistrates.

SIR J. CORY (Cardiff, S.) asked the Attorney-General how many women Justices of the Peace have been appointed to date? SIR DOUGLAS MCGAREL HOGG replied that the number of women magistrates appointed to date is 1,934.

Boy Emigrants to Australia.

DR. SALTER (Bermondsey, W.) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he knew there was no adequate system for the visiting of lads emigrated to Australia under Government assistance, and whether he will arrange for a scheme similar to that in Canada? LT.-COL. BUCKLEY, Secretary, Overseas Trade Department, said the whole question would be considered by the delegation from the Oversea Settlement Committee, which has now arrived in Australia, in consultation with the local authorities.

Employed or Unemployed?

MR. GAVAN DUFFY (Whitehaven) asked whether unemployment benefit had been stopped of a newsagent at Millom, the joint earnings of himself and his wife being 10s. 6d. a week from selling 33 dozen copies of local papers; and was promised inquiries.

Bills in the Houses.

The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill was introduced in the Commons by Sir Robert Newman. It does not allow imprisonment to wipe out arrears of maintenance.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Bill has passed through the House of Lords, and is ready for introduction into the Commons, where we trust women will be added to the list of University Commissioners, and a clause inserted admitting Cambridge women graduates to membership of their University. E. K.

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EDITORIAL.

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

WOMEN—PARTY AND NON-PARTY.

Following the Annual Conferences of the Non-Party Women's Political Associations, women of all the Political Parties last week held field days, and it is very satisfactory to note how women in all Parties and out of them, are taking more interest and a more prominent place in Politics, and are making, in many directions, identical demands. In this happy result is the justification, if any were wanted, for the work of non-Party women's societies.

At the 5th Council Meeting of the Women's National Liberal Federation, at Holborn Hall, on May 8th and 9th, Lady Bonham Carter presided over 700 delegates, the Conference being the largest yet held. Resolutions were passed strongly supporting Lady Astor's Bill, Major Entwistle's Matrimonial Causes Bill for Equal Divorce, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, and the Children of Unmarried Parents Bill. Women Police in all our large towns, especially in seaports, and where there are parks and open spaces, were called for by Commandant Allen, to take charge of women in the courts and cells, and deal with children. Many new homes had lately been opened for child victims of assault between the ages of 2½ and 14, and these facts must be faced. The Home Secretary was too much patted on the back for retaining 20 women patrols in the great Metropolitan area, where at least 150 were required. Mrs. Winttingham, M.P., rising amid a great ovation, said that only continued pressure had persuaded the Home Secretary to retain the 20 women. In other towns there were 87 policewomen, 36 of them with the power of arrest. Besides London, Oxford, Cambridge, Colchester, Bootle, Oldham, Great Yarmouth, Norwich, Northampton, Walsall, and Reading had women police with the power of arrest. Policewomen should not have to go to policemen for help, but should have full power and be under the control of their own women officers. Mrs. Alderton, J.P., said women on the Watch Committees of local authorities would get women police. Education "economies" were severely condemned, Miss Violet Markham calling for a real education, the development of the spirit so that the minds of men and women should be thrown open to all the beauty in nature and human nature. Special protests were made on the injustice of excluding young children, blind or deaf and dumb, from schools, below the age of seven. Mrs. Simon, of Manchester, said the children had been made to pay for their fathers' beer. The Council called for a Government measure to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, upon the same terms as men, and urged the adoption of Proportional Representation in Parliamentary elections. On the Housing question, the Council protested against decontrol at present, and urged the Government to assist local authorities, and to conduct an inquiry into the costs of building, and profiteering in materials.

The Annual National Conference of the Women's Labour Party, at York, on May 8th and 9th, included some 600 delegates, and was presided over by Mrs.

Harrison Bell, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations. The problem of the married woman teacher caused much patient discussion, the Conference finally, by an overwhelming majority, condemning the decision of the London County Council to dismiss women teachers on marriage. A certificated teacher with five little children and a delicate husband, related her misery of precarious employment on sufferance, in a school of 160 girls, with two women to handle them. Miss Susan Lawrence said it was part of a conspiracy to cripple education by saving money, the L.C.C. having offered to introduce into the schools 600 untrained 18-year-old, vaccinated "motherly women." All teachers, young and old, would be wanted if all the vacancies were filled. After vigorous speeches from many young delegates, the Labour Party was urged to do everything possible to secure full adult suffrage at 21. This was carried unanimously. Dr. Marion Phillips reported that the committee investigating motherhood and child endowment was still making international inquiries before bringing forward a comprehensive scheme. Mrs. Lowe, J.P., reporting on women magistrates and the penal system, said probation should be used in place of gaol, and prison, when unavoidable, be reformatory instead of demoralising. The abolition of capital punishment was called for, and its substitution by imprisonment with reformatory mental and medical treatment; also an adequate force of women police in all towns; training with maintenance for unemployed persons; increase of school age, and that the Parliamentary Labour Party should press the Minister of Labour for an immediate Government grant of £100,000 for the Central Committee on Women's Training, to maintain and extend their homemakers' centres. Mrs. Adamson (Lincoln) said that the prestige of the party would be greatly enhanced by the addition of working women to their Members of Parliament, who could speak with authority on different questions. She hoped the lack of representation of working men's wives in the House of Commons would be considerably rectified.

On May 11th, a crowded meeting of representatives of the National Unionist Association from all over the country was addressed in Queen's Hall by Mr. Baldwin, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mrs. W. Bridgeman, wife of the Home Secretary, presided. Mr. Baldwin addressed the audience as his peers, the housewife being the family Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer being the housewife of the nation. He explained and defended his Budget proposals in relation to the necessities of life.

THE MUDDLE OF "ECONOMY."

The system of muddle in which both education and the lives of our young boys and girls have been involved lately is still being ardently carried out. Last summer the Day Continuation Schools were wrecked, and their splendid army of teachers disbanded; then last January the Ministry of Labour instituted classes in connection with the Juvenile Employment Centres. There are 89 of these centres in Britain for boys and girls of 14 to 18. Now, "in the interests of national economy," the Ministry of Labour has decided to close all the centres by July 21st, at the latest. It is also said that it is difficult to get the young people to classes during the summer, and, of course, it is easier to close the work than to organise it so as to attract our young people out of the streets for a few hours a day. Numbers in attendance during the week ending May 2nd are given as: Boys 5,956, and girls 2,654. After this confession of failure we are not surprised to learn that the Ministry of Labour will seriously consider reopening these centres in the autumn. We understand the question is to be raised in the House. The Women's Freedom League has watched with indignation and disgust our shameful treatment of our young people so soon to be the responsible citizens of our country, and has persistently demanded, also "in the interests of economy," the enforcement of the Fisher Act of 1918.

WOMEN AND THEIR HOMES.

By E. A. BROWNING (Secretary, Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd.).

Once more the housing problem is in the forefront of the public mind. After the Armistice, in the early days when big talk about "reconstruction" raised hope in the altruistic possibilities of the near future, the general interest in housing reform almost reached a point of enthusiasm, led by the Addison Ministry of Health. With the decline of Mr. Addison, public interest faded out, and the do-nothing policy of his successor landed the housing problem back into the Slough of Despond.

Now, however, that the Government is again prepared to tackle the question with some degree of earnestness, public interest is quick to respond and to discover that, if the early policy (which raised a much-needed standard of working-class housing throughout the country) erred on the side of unwise expenditure, the do-nothing policy is still more extravagant in its results.

It is because the housing problem is so overwhelming, and the solution of it is beset with so many difficulties, that men and women, finding themselves individually unable to help in any practical way, quickly lose interest in it, and turn their attention to questions they can solve with more immediate success. There are, however, offshoots of the main housing problem which it would seem will only be solved by individual or co-operative effort—such as the housing of unmarried working men or working women, the housing of professional single men and women, and probably also of young married people who can only afford moderate rents.

For the purpose of attacking, if only in a small way, the housing difficulties of professional women, Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd., started on its none-too-easy career about three years ago. To-day this Society owns six houses (converted into 40 flats), and at its recently held Annual Meeting had the pleasure of declaring a full share dividend of 6 per cent. for the year 1922. A lack of sufficient capital has made the work slow, and very much limited its extent; but, so hardly was the question of "where to live" pressing on women earning their own living, that every prospective tenant readily agreed to invest sums of from

£50-£300 in the undertaking to help finance their own future homes. These tenant investments provided about one-third the necessary capital.

It used to be casually assumed that only married folk required homes—the unmarried woman's home was a negligible quantity; nor is this opinion confined to the past, for the Public Works Loan Commission still hold the view that the housing of women is not urgent.

As a matter of fact, the home is the most important part of any individual life, and is no less the centre of a single woman's hope and desire than it is that of her married sister.

Roughly speaking, work is undertaken to provide a livelihood—food, clothes, shelter—and unless that shelter is of such a nature that it becomes a "home," it is not worth working for. The home of any man or woman is his kingdom—is the expression of his character—is his opportunity to demonstrate peace, happiness, and usefulness.

The applicants that come to Women's Pioneer Housing all tell the same tale: for many months, if not for years, they have been vainly looking for unfurnished rooms—they have already got their furniture, and they are paying heavily for the storage of it. Many of them are having life made intolerable by landlords who would turn them out for more profitable tenants, but for the Rent Restriction Act; others are finding themselves cramped by the irksome, if necessary, regulations of hostel life (hostels being suited for the young girl); others wander from one set of furnished rooms to another—never settled, never comfortable—the years passing without any home life being achieved.

For 60 or 70 of such women workers Women's Pioneer Housing has provided homes of some degree of comfort, and still the applicants are as numerous as ever, so that more houses are being purchased as fast as fresh capital comes in.

Here, then, is the opportunity for individual men and women—perhaps especially women—to tackle one phase of the housing problem themselves. They can join this Society, invest money in it, and gradually see the big London houses converted from their dreary emptiness to cheerful, useful, happy dwelling-places.

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGES AT OXFORD.

The increasing need for funds for the development of the four women's colleges at Oxford has brought them recently very prominently before the public eye. A sum of at least £185,000, we are told, is an absolute necessity if women are to enter in any large numbers into the fullness of privileges granted to them at Oxford University. This sum is needed not only for building purposes, but also for increased endowments, as, unlike the older foundations, the Women's Colleges have no ancient endowments, and (apart from a few scholarships) no modern endowments of their own. Nor do they receive any help from Imperial or local taxation.

For almost exactly seven hundred years (1167-1865) men alone received their education at Oxford University, although women's munificence was responsible for many of the ancient foundations. Since the time of Queen Philippa, the Queen's Consort of England have been patrons of the Queen's College, which also received generous endowments from Lady Elizabeth Hastings; Devorguila de Baliol was part-foundress of Balliol, as Dorothy Wadham was of Wadham College, whilst the University itself owes much to the liberality of Lady Margaret Beaufort.

Committees to provide instruction for women by University teachers and professors were formed in Oxford in 1865 and 1873; in 1875 the University instituted examinations for women under the direction of the Delegates of Local Examinations; and in 1878 the two first Women's Colleges were founded at Oxford, both on the same day. These were Lady Margaret

Hall, with the great-niece of the poet Wordsworth as its Principal, and Somerville College, under the Principalship of Miss Shaw Lefevre, niece of Lord Eversley, sometime Speaker of the House of Commons.

In 1886 St. Hugh's College was instituted under the Principalship of Miss C. A. E. Moberly, daughter of the great Headmaster of Winchester, who was afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, and seven years later St. Hilda's Hall was founded by Miss Dorothea Beale, of Cheltenham, with which College it is in close connection.

All the Women's Colleges have from the first been organised as far as possible on lines parallel with those of the ancient foundations for men. Their students are admitted only after passing both University and College Entrance Examinations; they keep residence during the University Terms, follow the courses of study prescribed by the University, take its examinations, and play their part in the many-sided life that Oxford affords its students. For thirty-six years, during which the Colleges gradually gained in prestige and security, the women students took the University examinations without receiving the University degrees, though a large percentage obtained high honours in the Final Schools of the University.

During the war the dons and students in residence at the Women's Colleges helped to carry on the work of a University almost emptied of men, whilst Somerville (the only one of the Women's Colleges fitted for the purpose) became a military hospital. Past and present

students alike bore no mean share of war work, from floor-scrubbing in hospitals to relief work in France, Serbia, and Poland, and Intelligence work on the Staff in Mesopotamia. In 1920 the University at one generous stroke admitted women to full membership of their body.

Women now take rank with men as graduates and undergraduates. They are granted admission to the University at a formal Matriculation ceremony. They wear cap and gown to chapel, lectures, and University ceremonies, and when duly qualified they may supplicate for degrees, to which they are admitted by the Vice-Chancellor with all the solemnities of the ancient degree ceremony. There are now over six hundred women living in Oxford as undergraduates, reading for Honours in Classics, Mathematics, History, English, Modern Languages, Theology, Jurisprudence, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, in all the branches of Science that are studied in the University and for Degrees in Medicine. Women graduates are eligible for Professorships, and have already been elected as University Lecturers, Examiners, and Members of Boards of Faculties.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

By A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

The close bonds of common race and common traditions which unite the peoples of England and America should be one of the greatest factors in creating a world-peace. Every race has its contribution to make to the world, but many of us believe that "Anglo-Saxondom" has, at this moment, a peculiarly valuable one. We are profoundly anxious that America and England should give the best service they can give to the world, and we realise that this can only be done if the two countries work together.

Yet most English people who visit America are compelled to realise that this desirable state of things does not produce itself automatically—or even, indeed, easily! Because we speak the same language it does not follow that we always understand one another. It is, on the contrary, quite possible that we may the better misunderstand one another. Nor does it follow that, because we are akin, we shall inevitably be congenial. The experiences of many families suggest that the contrary is likely to be true. I have been impressed by the fact that the relations between America and ourselves are very like family relations. We respect each other; we share the same traditions. We do not always find it easy to "get on."

There is a temperamental sympathy and liking between America and France, and where such a sympathy exists there will always be a great readiness to understand, to make allowances, to think the best. America is practically solid in her (moral) support of French action in the Ruhr.

This temperamental sympathy does not exist between America and England, though it does between America and Ireland, even America and Scotland. Where we are concerned there is not an *instinctive* desire to "think the best." We are respected—above all, for the way in which we have taxed ourselves for the war, and faced the question of our debt to America; except in the South, we are not readily and spontaneously liked.

To face this fact is, for those of us who care for the peace of the world, only to be spurred to a greater effort to understand and to be both reasonable and just. English people should visit America far more than they do. They should go to America in order to understand her, not—as too many of us have done!—solely to give her good advice. She is suspicious of our advice, but she is generous and warm-hearted to her guests, and far more interested in the affairs of the Old World than she was twelve months ago. This is the hour for the English Speaking Union to do its utmost, and to be supported by us all. To-morrow, it may be, it will be the hour of the League of Nations.

WOMEN ARTISTS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Conspicuous among the portraits by women at the Royal Academy are Maud Hall Neale's "Mrs. Alec Rea" (309) and "Mrs. Van Grinsen" (402). The mauve dress and blue delphiniums in the one, and the blue velvet robe and white fox fur in the other, are very well done. "Mrs. Charles Bischoff" (396), by Catherine Oules, is fine and vivacious. Margaret Noble's "Lieut.-Col. L. F. Nalder, C.I.E., C.B.E." (17) is a capital likeness; Catherine Dodgson's excellent and characteristic "Dean of St. Paul's" (142), which, although in profile, has caught the quietly humorous expression characteristic of Dr. Inge, who by no means deserves his *sobriquet* of "the gloomy Dean." In Winifred Fitch's "Piers Legh, Esq." (160) the fine old face and the light are very good; Dorothy Smith's clever study of "An Old Man" (173) and Olive Rigelow's "Girl and Dog" (177) are vivacious and charming, but marred by the artists' huge red signatures. Laura Knight's big portrait, "Daughter of Eve" (651), with the red dress and strong touches of green and orange, is more startling than attractive. Of the three pictures by Mrs. Swinerton, the only woman Associate, "Montagna Mia" (294), the majestic reclining figure of a nude goddess, seen through iridescent mists, is the most important, and the exquisite little "Garden" (478) the best. Lucy Kemp Welch has one characteristic and fine canvas, "The Woodman's Fire" (198); Anna Airy's "Flower Shop" (404) is a conscientious composition, fine colour and grouping, and the light effects admirable. One of the few studies of the nude is Dorothea Landau's small, subdued, and refined "Danæ" (360). Wistful and attractive, with a "Whistler" atmosphere, is Marion Jones' "Qui Bono?" (273), the forlorn, prostrate figure of a little ballerina; Elizabeth Aitken's grey "London River" (457) is full of feeling and atmosphere, as is Mabel Lipscomb's "Valley of the Loire" (269) under a cloudy sky. "Four Courts, Dublin" (46), by Kathleen Fox, is a really fine work, of historic value now that these splendid old buildings have been destroyed, the stormy sky significant and appropriate, and the green copper dome providing the one and most effective touch of definite colour. Perfectly delightful in its imaginative conception and dainty execution is Maud Atkinson's "The Changeling" (397), where the lovely elf-child herself seems the personification of the joyous spirit of spring.

E. M. TAIT.

THE ROME CONGRESS.

The Ninth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance opened at Rome last Monday, with 1,200 Italian women delegates, and 300 other delegates, representing forty countries. The Congress is being held in the Exhibition Palace, which is decorated with the flags of all nations. Signor Mussolini, the Italian Prime Minister, opened the Conference in person, and Senator Cremonesi, temporary High Commissioner of the Government in Rome, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the city. Signor Mussolini, addressing the Congress, said the Fascista Government were glad it was being held in Rome, and explained that woman suffrage was a complex problem, so far as Italy was concerned, but no political party was opposed to it. The Fascista Government were pledged to grant the franchise to certain categories of women, and a beginning would be made with municipal franchise.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, founder of the Alliance, who presided, made a speech, which was much applauded, recapitulating the progress of the feminist movement throughout the world, and describing the aspirations of women. Other British delegates who spoke were Lady Aberdeen, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who is spoken of as successor to Mrs. Catt in the presidency of the Alliance, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon. Mrs. Fawcett's absence was deeply regretted by all.

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



DARE TO BE FREE!

Monday, June 4th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch. Annual Meeting at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3. (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject to be announced later.

Thursday, June 7th, 2 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Garden Fête at "The Hill," Hampstead (kindly lent by Viscount Leverhulme), Women's Freedom League, Green, White and Gold Stall. Tickets: 2.0 p.m., 2/4; 6.0 p.m., 1/3.

Friday, June 8th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, June 8th, at 8.15 p.m. Whist Drive at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Tickets, including refreshments, 3/6.

Saturday, June 9th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, June 25th, at 3 p.m. Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, July 6th, Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

Saturday, July 7th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, May 22nd, at 8 p.m. South-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker to be announced later. Subject: "Birth Control."

Wednesday, May 23rd, at 3.15 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Miss Enid Laphorn. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, May 23rd, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Jewson. Subject: "The Work of Rota Committees."

Sunday, May 27th, at 6.30 p.m. Kingston Church of Humanity, 39, Orchard Street, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Miss Mary Richardson. Subject: "The Use of Beauty to the Mind and Soul."

Wednesday, July 11th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "How Women are using their Opportunities."

BRANCH NOTES.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

The monthly meeting was held in the Suffrage Club Rooms on May 14th, at 2.45 p.m. It was agreed to call a conference of women from local organisations, to press the Government to bring into law equal suffrage for women, as men. The delegate to the Annual Conference (Mrs. Harrison) gave a very interesting report. She was warmly thanked and congratulated by the members present. VOTE SATES.—The following letter was received and read to the meeting:—"Dear Mrs. Wallace and Members,—We wish to thank you for the letter of thanks, and will be pleased to help in distributing THE VOTE, also helping mother to make the sale of THE VOTE a success. We are pleased that the Branch are proud of us, and we will do our best to make it a success.—Yours sincerely, MARY & ALICE CROWTHER."

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. WALLACE.

EDINBURGH.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Miss Alix M. Clark to our Branch meeting on May 10th, and, though the elements raged without, and our numbers were small, we all felt cheered and encouraged by her account of the splendid work which the League is doing in London, and of its progress throughout the country. Our delegate (Miss Manclark) gave a very interesting report of the Conference, and we all wished that we could have been present thereat. Our efforts during the next few weeks will be directed towards securing a bumper collection for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund, and probably a good many of us will find that all roads lead to London before July 6th.

(Hon. Sec.) W. M. SPRIGGS, 22 Dick Place.

GLASGOW.

The last meeting of the season of the Glasgow Branch was held at the Central Halls, 25, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Friday, May 11th, at 8 o'clock. Miss M. S. Thomson presided. Miss McLelland gave a very full and satisfactory report of the Annual Conference. It was unanimously agreed to send a letter to each Member of Parliament in Glasgow re Mr. Foot's Equal Franchise Bill. Miss Steven kindly consented to continue as Hon. Treasurer, which was received with delight. The following members were appointed as Committee:—Misses J. Smith, J. Thomson, Shennan, Baird, Barrowman, Gillies. A very interesting address was given by Miss Alix M. Clark. The members assured Miss Clark they would do all in their power to help in connection with the Green, White, and Gold Stall at the Garden Fête, Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, and also with her Clyde Campaign. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Miss McLelland for her excellent report, and to Miss Clark for her kindness in coming to the meeting and delivering such an interesting address, which was very much appreciated by all present.

(Press Sec.) R. McDougall.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

The Women's Freedom League and VOTE Offices will be closed from Friday afternoon, May 18th, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday morning, May 22nd, 9.30 a.m.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Housewives' Campaign.

Mrs. Juson Kerr's campaign in Deal and the surrounding district, protesting against the present high price of sugar, is spreading far beyond the bounds of the original starting-point. It has now reached Wales and Birmingham, whilst the whole of Thanet is going strong. Letters of sympathy with the movement have been sent by both Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham, wishing the campaign all success. Next week we hope to publish in THE VOTE a special article on the subject, by Mrs. Juson Kerr.

Women's Liberal Executive.

Amongst this year's Executive Committee of the Women's National Liberal Federation, the following names are included:—Lady Simon, Councillor Mrs. Alderton, Mrs. F. D. Acland, Mrs. Walter Runciman, Lady Emmott, Miss Christina Roberts, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Alison Garland, Mrs. Walter Rea, Mrs. C. F. G. Masterman, Miss Agnes Slack, Miss Violet Markham, Lady Currie, the Hon. Mrs. Kenworthy, Mrs. Vivian Phillipps, Mrs. Stewart Brown, Mrs. W. E. Dowson, Mrs. Scott-Gatty.

Parlours and Rabbit Hutches.

In response to severe pressure, our indiarubber Health Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, has advanced in one direction and retreated in another, and agreed to allow local authorities to apply the new £6 grant in aid of housebuilding to houses of a maximum floor space of 950 square feet, instead of 850; but, whilst increasing the maximum, he has reduced the very small minimum floor space permitted to 620 square feet for a house, and 500 square feet for a flat. This means that some people may have a little parlour, but other folks must pack into a smaller compass than the Bill originally ordained.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at 15, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, on May 10th, by the kindness of Lady Courtney, who maintains the great interest which the late Lord Courtney had in Proportional Representation. Major Morrison-Bell, M.P., presided, in the absence of the President (Earl Grey), and, pleading for more support for the movement, said they must "keep on keeping on"; they could and would win, but they had to educate the electorate, because the British people had always been a little suspicious of anything new. As Mr. Robert McDougall, of Manchester, an old friend of the movement, said, the progress of P.R. was comparable to that of a glacier: "Not easy to discern over very short periods, but undoubted and irresistible, all the same."

The adoption of the report was moved in an able speech by Miss Rosamond Smith, L.C.C., who said that the popular belief that if P.R. had been used for the last General Election, the election would have resulted in the perpetuation of a Coalition, had undoubtedly led to a set-back in public opinion. This belief was entirely mistaken. A Coalition created for the purposes of a politician or group of politicians was one thing; a reorganisation of party representation in accordance with the true state of opinion in the country was an entirely different thing. M.P.s were always satisfied with the method of election by which they had been returned. A meeting of defeated candidates would take a very different view of P.R.

This was seconded by Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P. Mr. Foot, in the course of his remarks, said he thought the House of Commons was coming round to the support of P.R. We should be driven to P.R. as the only means of maintaining the authority of the House of Commons. Parliament was now less representative than before the last extension of the franchise, because the changes in the electorate and in the machinery of elections had not been accompanied by any provision for the representation of minorities.

The meeting concluded with a warm vote of thanks to Lady Courtney, who, in reply, speaking of the progress of P.R. since the early days when everyone derided it, said that when Lord Courtney left the Liberal Government because P.R. was not included in the Redistribution Act, Campbell Bannerman said to him, "Leave the Government on a mathematical puzzle! Only you would do that!"

WHIST DRIVE AT MINERVA CLUB.

The Minerva Club has very kindly undertaken to organise a Whist Drive on Friday, June 8th, at 8.15, for the benefit of THE VOTE and the League. Admission 3s. 6d., including refreshments, and whatever the Minerva Club undertakes is always a delightful success. Now is your time to prove your appreciation of both the League and its gallant little organ, by supporting us in great numbers on June 8th. Donations towards the cost of the prizes and refreshments are asked for, especially from those who cannot come themselves.

GARDEN FETE AT HAMPSTEAD.

We expect all members and friends to rally round our Green, White, and Gold Stall in Lord Leverhulme's beautiful garden on Thursday, June 7th. We must make £50 by this little effort. Please send contributions of money and goods, and start selling tickets, which we have ready at the office, to all your acquaintances.

E. KNIGHT.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 20th. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "On being sorry for oneself."

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

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