

THE VOTE,
JULY 7, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

HONOURS FOR WOMEN.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1922

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.

OUR WOMEN MAYORS. Mrs. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.
SECURE YOUR VOTE!

HONOURS FOR WOMEN.
THE CASE FOR WOMEN POLICE.
PRISON REFORM IN AMERICA.
BOOK REVIEW. F.A.U.

OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

II.

MRS. J. M. PHILLIPS, MAYOR OF HONITON, DEVON.

MRS. PHILLIPS became a member of the Honiton Town Council in February, 1920; in November 1920, she was elected Mayor of the Borough, and was re-elected to the same office in November last. She is also a Poor Law Guardian, a Manager of Elementary Schools, and, by virtue of her Mayoralty, occupies a seat on the Magisterial Bench.

I am glad to have a chance of calling attention in the VOTE to what I always insist on, namely, the valuable education to be gained by participation in municipal and local affairs. Miss Helen Fraser, in a former number of THE VOTE, mentioned the importance of the special knowledge which candidates for parliamentary honours should be able to contribute. The places where such knowledge can be gained are the Municipal Council Chamber, the Guardians' Board Room, the Hospital Committee Room, and all the other centres of local activities. And at these places something else is gained which cannot be had from books or pamphlets, and which is just as essential to success as special knowledge—I mean opportunities for the exercise and strengthening of such qualities as readiness, tact, sympathy—qualities which do much to make public work easier, and more pleasant.

It seems hardly worth while at this time to say anything towards dispelling the illusion that men and women cannot co-operate in public work. To take my own case, I was the first, and still am the only, woman councillor in Honiton, and there were some who were rather aghast at such an

innovation, and I can only say that, during all the time I have been associated with the Council, I have never found that sex was an obstacle in the way of

harmonious co-operation. Rather the reverse. Being a woman, I naturally regard certain things from a different angle, but, so far from being a hindrance, I am certain that it conduces to a fuller understanding, and facilitates a solution of difficulties. The importance of examining a question from all points of view is obvious, and my experience has always been that my colleagues readily welcome any assistance which I may be able to give in promoting the well-being of the town in which we live.

I regard the present as a time of great opportunities for women. It is the duty of every man and woman—a duty too often neglected—to take a lively and intelligent interest in public affairs, and I look with confidence to women to help in arousing this interest, and impressing the responsibility which lies upon every citizen to give

of his or her best, intellectually and morally, towards the furtherance of the common good.

J. M. PHILLIPS, Mayor of Honiton, Devon.



WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women in the League of Nations.

The Health Committee of the League of Nations has recommended to the Council of the League the appointment of Dr. Josephine Baker as member of the Health Committee. Dr. Baker, who is Director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene, Department of Health, New York, has accepted the nomination.

Woman P.O. Officer.

Miss R. Loch, O.B.E., Superintendent of the Money Order Department at the G.P.O., is the first woman to be appointed a Post Office Establishment Officer. She will be attached to the Secretariat, where she will have a waiting brief on all questions affecting women, either directly or indirectly. The only other woman Establishment Officer, so far, is the Hon. Maud Lawrence, of the Treasury.

Women Politicians' Headquarters.

The corner-stone of the National Woman's Party headquarters has been laid at Washington, U.S.A., on grounds opposite the Capitol. The building, which will occupy the site of the "Old Capitol," is the gift of Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the president of the Party.

Woman Guardian's Long Service.

Mrs. Morris, a member of the Women's Local Government Society Council since 1906, has retired from the Camberwell Board of Guardians, after a period of twenty years' service. She is, however, standing for re-election to the Camberwell Borough Council in November.

An Example to the Government!

A young woman worker in a Yorkshire mill, Miss Elizabeth Brook, has just returned to Wooldale, near Huddersfield, after a 12 months' foreign tour, which she paid for out of her savings. Although her earnings were only about £2 a week, she saved enough money to visit Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, Egypt, and Italy. She has now restarted work at a mill.

Women Sculptors.

A small committee of architects, sculptors, and others interested in the work of the late Lady Feodora Gleichen have decided to found a memorial to her in the form of studios for women sculptors, who, on completion of their studentship, may enter their profession equipped with the necessary facilities for the execution of large work.

Irish Women Voters.

Two women were returned in the recent Irish elections. They were Mrs. Callaghan and Miss Mary MacSwiney. Women outnumbered the men throughout the day, and it is calculated that in the South Dublin area their votes constituted two-thirds of the aggregate poll. The oldest woman voter was probably Mrs. Bridget Haslam, the well-known Suffragist, now 93 years old, who walked two miles to record her vote.

More Women Parliamentary Candidates

Sub-Inspector Mrs. More Nisbett, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, has been adopted as an Independent Candidate for the West Division of Edinburgh, by the Edinburgh National Union for Equal Citizenship. Mrs. Nisbett is well known both in Edinburgh and Glasgow for her valuable police work amongst women and children. Miss E. Picton-Turbervill also is contesting North Islington as a Labour Candidate. Both these Candidates are members of the Women's Freedom League.

A Precedent in Politics.

Miss Agnes MacPhail, Canada's only woman M.P. in the Federal Parliament, has established what she hopes will be a precedent in Canadian politics. Two years ago, the sessional grant made to Members of Parliament was increased from £550 to £880. Miss MacPhail, who has just concluded her first session in the House, has returned the extra £330, although, with Scotch caution, she first deducted £13 10s. for the income tax payable on that sum. "We should practise economy," she said, "as well as preach it."

Judge Allen's Campaign.

Miss Florence E. Allen, Judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in Cleveland, Ohio, has become an independent candidate for the Ohio Supreme Court bench. Judge Allen was elected to her present office in 1920. She was the first woman on the bench in Ohio.

Votes for Frenchwomen.

There is now before the French Senate a motion which, if carried, will give to women the right to vote on the same conditions as those on which men vote. During the next few days it will be decided whether the question, which has been in suspense for three years, shall be brought up during the present session, and there are indications that this electoral revolution may be accomplished quietly. The Chamber has, by an overwhelming majority, approved of the principle of equality of the sexes.

KING'S COLLEGE

(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON).

COURSES IN THEOLOGY FOR WOMEN.

Women are prepared for the following Examinations:—

B.D. London, the Lambeth Diploma in Theology, the University of London Certificate in Religious Knowledge. Day and Evening Classes are arranged. A special reduction in fees is made to Church workers. The lectures are open to members of all denominations.

For particulars as to fees and courses, application should be made to the Tutor to Women Theological Students, Miss Evelyn Hippisley, S.Th., King's College, Strand, W.C.2.

NEXT TERM BEGINS ON OCTOBER 4TH.

S. T. SHOVELTON, M.A., Secretary.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Peeresses in their Own Right.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to a question by COMMANDER BELLAIRS, said he imagined that the Resolutions for the reform of the Second Chamber would appear on the Order Paper a few days before the Debate in that House. LADY ASTOR asked, when that came about, if Peeresses in their own right would have the same rights as Peers? Hon. Members ejaculated "No, No!" and MR. CHAMBERLAIN replied that he had to say he thought he would be wrong at that moment in foreshadowing any part of the Resolutions.

Juvenile (Training Classes).

LORD HENRY BENTINCK asked the President of the Board of Education whether, in view of the number of juveniles out of employment, he would, in conjunction with the Minister for Labour, institute classes similar to those provided during the period of demobilisation, after the war? MR. FISHER replied, he regretted that, in present financial circumstances, he did not feel justified in asking his right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to agree to the expenditure which the proposal would involve. LORD HENRY BENTINCK then inquired if there was not gross waste in subjecting the juveniles in this country to the demoralisation involved in idleness? *No answer was given.*

Elections (Compulsory Voting).

SIR HARRY BRITAIN asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what European and other countries had adopted the system of making voting at elections compulsory on the part of those who were entitled to that privilege; and whether the system so adopted was working satisfactorily in each country concerned? MR. HARMSWORTH replied, he regretted that he had not sufficiently complete and reliable information to enable him to answer the question. SIR HARRY BRITAIN further asked, as this was a very important question, if it would not be possible to get details from our two nearest neighbours, Holland and Belgium, who had both adopted this system? MR. HARMSWORTH said he had no doubt it would be possible, but he should hesitate to circularise all the self-governing countries; whereupon SIR HARRY BRITAIN reminded him that he had suggested two.

Unemployment (London).

DR. MACNAMARA, replying to MR. GILBERT, said there had been a continuous improvement in employment in the Greater London area during recent months. The percentage of unemployed in insured trades on May 22nd, 1922, in the Greater London area was 10.6, as compared with 12.1 at the end of last January, and 13.2 on May 27th, 1921, when unemployment was at its highest point. On June 19th, 1922, there were on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in this area 156,775 men, 30,007 women, and 11,022 boys and girls, compared with 183,036 men, 81,193 women, and 28,382 boys and girls on May 27th, 1921. MR. HURD received no reply to his question, "In view of the enormous demand for domestic servants, is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied that there are 30,000 unemployed?"

Legitimation by Marriage.

MR. SHORTT, replying to CAPT. BOWYER, said he regretted he was not yet in a position to give a date for the introduction of the Bill dealing with legitimation by subsequent marriage, but he hoped it would not be long delayed.

Women Police Patrols.

MR. SHORTT, replying to MRS. WINTRINGHAM, said that the authorised establishment of Women Patrols was 113; the present strength was 56. MR. SHORTT, replying to LADY ASTOR, said he was not aware that there was any necessity for a further inquiry into the work of the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols.

Special Schools Grant.

MR. L. MALONE asked the President of the Board of Education whether his attention had been drawn to the protest issued by the Local Education Authorities regarding Circular 1,245, announcing the restriction of

the Treasury grant for the coming year towards the education of the blind, deaf, physically defective, and epileptic children to the amount paid in the current year; whether it was the duty of the Education Authorities to make provision for those children; whether he was aware that there were large numbers of defective children for whom no provision had yet been made; and whether, in view of the importance of the matter to the future of the race, he would reconsider his decision to restrict the provision of education for those afflicted children? MR. HERBERT LEWIS replied that it had been found possible to remove in nearly every case the restriction on the number of defective children who might be sent to existing special schools by individual local authorities. A circular on the subject would be issued to authorities during the next few days.

Infants' Department.

MR. PARKINSON asked the President of the Board of Education, last week, the number of infant schools or departments merged for purposes of economy into the senior school, and placed under the headmaster of the senior school; and how many women had in this way lost headships? MR. FISHER replied that during the last six months there had been 37 cases of reorganisation in which an infants' department had been merged in a school of which the head teacher was a man. In 26 of those cases the change had taken place upon the resignation of the head mistress of the infants' school, or her retirement from the profession. In six of the remaining cases the Board were informed that the head mistress would be retained as an assistant mistress.

F. A. U.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, when speaking on the Home Office Vote, last week, in the House of Commons, drew attention to the dearth of factory inspectors. He stated that the need for them had greatly increased since the war, yet the inspectorate had been cut down to such a degree that there were 17 fewer factory inspectors operating now than there were before the war. One hundred and ninety seven factory inspectors were responsible for 282,000 factories—1,500 each—and it was not surprising that accidents had increased, and that, in the words of the Chief Factory Inspector, "as the inspectorate goes down, the cost is counted in terms of arms, legs, and lives." With regard to the dangerous trades, the Home Secretary had cut down his inspectorate from five to three. The Home Office rule was that every factory engaged in a dangerous trade should be visited once in three months; but, owing to the cutting down of the inspectorate, it was quite impossible to inspect those factories more than once a year. The result was that one of the district inspectors said he was employed entirely in attending inquests rather than inspecting factories. He protested against the manner in which the Home Secretary had yielded the interests of women and children to a reactionary stunt.

SECURE YOUR VOTE!

The Autumn Register is now being prepared. The qualifying period is the 6 months ending on June 15th, and the Electors' Lists will be out next week, on July 15th.

In London the Borough Council Elections will be fought on this list next November, and it may also be the basis of the General Election, so

Make sure you are on it!

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 7th, 1922.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

HONOURS FOR WOMEN.

It seems that the recent Birthday Honours List was no more pleasing to the general public than it was to women. Great dissatisfaction also has been expressed in connection with these Honours, both in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons. Members want to know what make the recommendations for Honours, and who scrutinise the qualifications of those recommended for them. Members have been told that Departments send their lists in to the Prime Minister, who makes his selection and passes on his recommendations to the King. The Lords asked some very pertinent questions about two gentlemen who were to become Members of their House, and one of these gentlemen declined, in consequence, to accept the Honour. A good deal has been said by Members of both Houses in regard to the sale of Honours for Party funds. Day after day, questions regarding the distribution of Honours are asked in the House of Commons, and over two hundred Members have signed a memorial for the appointment of a Select, or a Joint, Committee of both Houses, to consider the qualifications of all who are to appear in the Honours Lists. We have every sympathy with those who are demanding the appointment of this Committee. Honours should be given for public and distinguished service, and there should be no possible ground for suspicion that they are at any time for sale. We would also urge that women as well as men should be eligible for these Honours, and that the Committee, if appointed, should judge the qualifications of men and women for these distinctions impartially, and irrespective of the sex of the person whose qualifications are before them. In the last Birthday List, the name appeared of a popular Band conductor on the South Coast. He was given a Knighthood. Doubtless he deserved this Honour, but no one can maintain that Dame Ethel Smyth was less deserving of such an Honour. She, however, is not known as Lady Ethel Smyth. Actors have received knighthoods. Would not Ellen Terry rank with any of them in her work on the stage? Distinguished men physicians and men surgeons have received Honours, but no woman physician or woman surgeon has yet done so. It is the same in other walks of life. Men, apparently, easily acquire Honours, but, so far, Honours have remained practically the monopoly of men. We submit that this monopoly is not at all in keeping with the tendencies of the present age. Women are taking their places with men in nearly every branch of our national life, and they are rendering an enormous amount of public service to the State. The State cannot afford to ignore either women or their work. Women are now citizens, and share with men the responsibility of citizenship, and they claim that they should also share with them the rewards and Honours of citizenship. The discussion on the Distribution of Honours is intimately connected, from women's point of view, with the admission of women to the House of Lords. If this Government fails to satisfy women on both these matters, it is pretty certain that the next Government will have to give them satisfaction. But why should there be delay?

PEERS AND PEERESSES.

The Committee for Privileges have now given their written reasons for reporting by a majority against the petition of Viscountess Rhondda for a writ summoning her, as a peeress in her own right, to sit in the House of Lords. Lord Birkenhead pointed out the significance of the implied distinction in the patent of nobility between the incidents of the dignity conferred in the cases of males and females. Males are given the right to "a seat, place, and voice" in the House of Lords, whereas there is no such right expressed when the patent relates to females. The same form of patent has, apparently, been employed in the cases of all the peeresses in their own right now living, though that does not debar each from petitioning the Committee for Privileges for the issue of a writ of summons. The House of Lords Reform is on the Government's programme this Session, and the rights of women to "a seat, place, and voice" in the Upper House will doubtless be discussed. The question of the form of patents for males and females ought then to be dealt with. There is no logical reason why women, who render so much public service, and who are now electors, and can be elected to the House of Commons, should be excluded from the House of Lords, where their counsel would be as valuable on educational, social, and economic subjects as it is in the Lower House. It would be a graceful act on the part of their Lordships if they recognised this, and themselves resolved to make it easy for women to share their deliberations. May we not hope that the Earl of Balfour, who in his House of Commons days was always a convinced suffragist, will use his great influence with that of our other friends in the Upper House, to persuade its Members to concede to Peeresses in their own right the same privileges which Peers enjoy?

BRUTALITY IN A CONVICT PRISON.

The more we learn of our prison system, the more disgusted we are at its inhuman barbarity, and we are almost inclined to believe that, instead of working for its reform, it would be better to aim at scrapping the whole system. The punishment meted out to a recaptured convict who recently escaped from Parkhurst Prison must surely have been devised in days of primitive savagery. By order of a Director of Convict Prisons, the unfortunate man was put into an iron belt connected by chains weighing about seven pounds, which were fastened round his ankles, and he was condemned to this peculiar kind of torture for six months, "as a precaution against escape." We wonder what the Governor, and his army of warders and prison officials are paid for, if they need this kind of assistance in carrying out their elementary duty? The publicity given to this punishment, and the general indignation aroused by it, drew from the Home Secretary the statement that he was in consultation with the Prison Commissioners as to the immediate removal of the restraint from this convict, and the further declaration that no other prisoner was at the time so restrained. In a subsequent statement in the House of Commons, Mr. Shortt said that the convicts' chains had been removed, and that the question of the abolition of this form of punishment was under consideration. We hope that Members will continue to ask questions in the House until this abolition is an established fact. In the meantime, we would suggest that Members obtain from the Home Secretary a complete and detailed list of all the punishments that can be inflicted by prison authorities. The public, who have to pay for the maintenance of prisoners and the upkeep of our prisons, have a right to know exactly what they are paying for.

THE CASE FOR WOMEN POLICE.

The Government and Mr. Shortt secured a Pyrrhic victory last week, when, on a division on Mrs. Wintringham's motion to reduce by £100 the salary of the Secretary of State, because of his action in regard to Women Police, the motion was defeated by 174 votes to 83. In proposing this motion, Mrs. WINTRINGHAM refuted Mr. Shortt's previous arguments that the work of the Women Police was merely welfare work, and not police work, and that economy would be secured if they were all disbanded. She pointed out that the official instructions received by the Women Police, when they were engaged in the Force, were that they were to deal with women and children who were ill, injured, destitute, homeless, victims of assault, or in danger of drifting to an immoral life. Further, they could be employed in detecting offences of the White Slave Traffic, and other offences under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, in disorderly houses, and in connection with alien cafés, particularly where there were Chinese and black men. They could enter betting and gambling houses, visit night clubs attended by both sexes, carry out the Vagrancy Acts in the matter of fortune telling, detect pickpockets, and assist in criminal investigations with regard to the drug cocaine (they had recently secured six people who had been carrying on traffic in cocaine). Another duty of the Women Police was taking statements in cases of alleged criminal assaults upon children. Women patrols might also assist in conveying women and children to and from hospitals, workhouses, and police stations. They might remove women to remand homes, children to reformatory schools, and inebriates to inebriate homes. They could also keep watch on hospital patients who had attempted suicide. Since the reduction in the number of Women Police, the open spaces and parks had become much more unsafe for children; children going to and from school were very ill-protected, and there had been very serious happenings. The work of the Women Police in regard to women and girls helped to prevent the spread of venereal disease, which was a very costly one to our hospitals. Women Police often saved girls from solicitation, one conviction for which cost the country between £30 and £40. If women patrols had the power of arrest, they might also act as gaolers and matrons, and travel with women prisoners without male escort. That also would be economy, and they might thus relieve the male force and allow them to take other duties in other parts of the Metropolis. MR. RONALD McNEILL seconded the motion, and strongly urged the retention of Women Police. He quoted the Home Office Committee, and especially the evidence of Sergeant Johnson, authorised to speak on behalf of the Joint Central Committee of the Police Federation of England and Wales, and Sir Nevil Macready, in support of Women Police. MR. McNEILL also quoted a statement made by Mr. Simpson, an Assistant Secretary at the Home Office, who, when asked for a definition of the functions of a constable, replied, "His essential function was to help other people to lead a quiet, orderly, and peaceful life." That was precisely the work which Women Police did so ably. SIR JAMES REMNANT said that the Women Police had justified their appointment, and he did not believe it was necessary to do away with them. The nation could easily afford to retain them, if the Home Office had only carried out the large number of recommendations made by the Desborough Committee in 1919, which made for greater and more lasting economy than the present proposals of the Home Secretary. SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND urged that there should be an inquiry into the whole matter of Women Police. He pointed out that Members had been told that male constables attended for the protection of Women Police in parks and open spaces, but he had found from personal experience that that was not the case. He emphasised the importance of women patrols in persuading girls and women to get early treatment in cases of venereal disease. If they were treated early they cost between £2 10s. and £4 10s., but if they were treated late they cost £160 a case. He also urged that great economy would be effected if

Women Police were given the power of arrest. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK said that the Home Secretary, if he had his way, might possibly save £20,000; but what would be the debits on the other side? More girls would go wrong, more little children would be outraged and tampered with by designing scoundrels, more girls would fall a prey to the coloured riff-raff of our docks, and more and more would syphilis ravish our people. Those would be our losses. LADY ASTOR asked the Home Secretary to remember that he was up against the whole moral opinion of the women of the country. This question was a great moral issue. Women Police might not affect the children of Members of the House of Commons, but they did affect the child life of thousands in this country, who were the most unprotected in the whole community. The Home Secretary said he was going to "reduce" the Women Police, and leave four women to look after the whole of London. How could four women deal with all the cases of criminal assault? She urged that he should get more Women Police, and put the whole question of prostitution in their hands; and that he should give them the power of arrest. SIR DONALD MACLEAN said that we were going to lose far more by this so-called saving than if the Force was maintained. If we saved on salaries, we might save about £15,000. But we should lose on our hospitals and prisons, and in the cost of social wreckage which we were now saving by the Women Police Force. It was a question of social salvage. BRIGADIER-GENERAL COCKERILL, in supporting the retention of Women Police, quoted the following extract from a letter written by the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police:—"The policewoman of the future will be a more potent agent for crime prevention, and will do more in one day in that respect than the modern police department in a large city does in a year to-day." MR. NAVLOR said that we could put twenty policewomen into each of the districts of London, and give them work which would keep them busy from one week-end to another. "Talk of economy!" he exclaimed. "If 'my lady' in a hotel in London loses her jewellery, there is no question of economy. Half a dozen detectives are at once put on the track of the robbers, and a search is made all over the country, and in different parts of the world, in order that the property may be recovered. But is material wealth the only property of the nation?" In replying, MR. SHORTT repeated his old arguments—that he had to make economies, and that Women Police did not really do police work. SIR DONALD MACLEAN said that the Home Secretary's reply was an admission of the case for Women Police. But the Government got their majority!

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The Prime Minister has been asked by the following Members of Parliament—Lady Astor, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. J. R. Clynes, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Major J. W. Hills, Sir Evan D. Jones, Sir Donald Maclean, Mr. Ronald McNeill, Mr. Oswald Mosley, Sir Ernest Wild, and Mrs. Wintringham, to receive a deputation organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to present to him memorials signed by over 200 Members of Parliament, and 213 men's and women's organisations, asking him to promote legislation this Session giving the franchise to women on the same terms as men.

It is claimed that the present franchise practically enfranchises only the married woman and the woman householder—the occupied woman (whether in industry or in the professions) is for the most part still without the vote, on account of the fact that the majority of industrial women are under thirty, and a comparatively small number of professional or industrial women have houses or unfurnished rooms of their own. The women who are enfranchised under the existing law have distributed themselves among the various political parties in just the same proportion as the men voters.

PRISON REFORM IN AMERICA.

Mr. Thomas Mott Osborne, the famous American prison reformer, was the principal speaker at a Public Meeting in Caxton Hall, Westminster, on June 30th, convened by the Howard League for Penal Reform, a recent amalgamation of the Penal Reform League and the Howard Association. Dr. Mary Scharlieb presided over a crowded audience.

Mr. Osborne, who is a direct descendant of Lucretia Mott, one of the founders of the Woman's Movement in America, and who has been intimately associated with the cause of Woman Suffrage from his earliest years, explained how the opportunity of reforming New York prisons first came to him, some ten years ago. The American Prison Commission had discovered that institutional treatment was failing in every direction. Mr. Osborne, who had recently retired from a successful manufacturing business, and who had given the subject of prison reform many years' careful thought, was invited to become Chairman of a Commission to inquire into the causes of this failure. Mr. Osborne accordingly began with the prison in Auburn, the city where he lived, an older building, but less famous, than Sing Sing Prison, 30 miles from New York City. He addressed the prisoners in Auburn, and asked them to help him discover the causes of the failure of the present system to reform prison inmates. The prisoners opened out to him, and later Mr. Osborne discovered the underworld had its own religion: "It would not squeal on a pal!" This loyalty he adopted as a basis for future citizenship. After this, Mr. Osborne entered Auburn as a regular inmate, and for a week was subjected to exactly the same treatment as an ordinary criminal. He broke every prison rule it was possible to break, more especially the terrible rule of "silence," which, in those days, was a favourite method of discipline. The experience he gained during that week determined him to fight the whole prison system from that time onwards, as well as bring the facts before the public. The effect of his voluntary incarceration upon the prisoners was equally great. They realised there was at least one man who really cared about them. Jack Murphy, a notorious criminal, suggested to Mr. Osborne he should form a "Good Conduct League" amongst the prisoners, and it was the carrying out of this suggestion which formed the whole groundwork of Mr. Osborne's future success. The inmates of Auburn Prison joined the League *en masse*. A Committee of 49 members was elected, of which Mr. Osborne was appointed Chairman, no warders being admitted. This exclusion of the warders from participation in the League proved the first nail in the coffin of the old prison system. The prisoners introduced their own "honour" system into the League, and a court of trial to deal with infractions of rules, and decide the penalties. Reform after reform was introduced, privileges increased, workshops for training improved and developed, educational classes opened, cinema displays were given, and clothing and food reforms conceded.

After a year at Auburn, Mr. Osborne was asked to become Governor of Sing Sing, where a "Mutual Welfare League" was again introduced amongst the 1,600 prisoners in Sing Sing, on the same lines as at Auburn. After two years at Sing Sing, Mr. Osborne was asked to inspect the naval prison at Portsmouth, where he found 170 prisoners and 180 warders! Six months later he was asked to become Governor of Portsmouth. There he had control of 2,500 prisoners, and again the "League" was introduced, with the same success as in the two former prisons. During the 2½ years Mr. Osborne remained at Portsmouth, he handled over 6,852 prisoners. So successful was his administration of the "League" system that, during the war, when every available man was needed for overseas, Mr. Osborne was left with 2,000 prisoners and no warders at all! Over 2,700 released Naval prisoners fought on the side of America in the war.

BOOK REVIEW.

English Prisons under Local Government. By Sidney and Beatrice Webb, with Preface by Bernard Shaw. (Longmans, Green & Co.) 15/- net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

We look forward to the time when a woman Home Secretary, or a woman Minister of Justice, together with an equal number of women and men Prison Commissioners will be in charge of the prison system in this country. Men alone, whether they were Governors, surgeons, chaplains, or gaolers of prisons, or merely Judges, Prison Commissioners, or Home Secretaries, have been guilty of an incredible amount of brutality and savagery towards unfortunate prisoners, as Mr. and Mrs. Webb's record of prison administration in the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries shows. That men responsible for our prison administration in the twentieth century are not much better than their predecessors is confirmed by the treatment meted out by the Authorities of Parkhurst Prison last week to Arthur Conmy, an escaped convict, who, on his recapture, was put into an iron belt and fetters, connected with 6lb. chains, and in this form of torture, known as the "Scavenger's Daughter," he was to have been left day and night for six months! Could stupidity and cruelty go further? The history of the prisons themselves, from the time when they were little more than insanitary hovels, run for private profit, to the castle-like buildings which we see at the present day up and down the country, is given by the authors in a fascinating narrative; while the attempts at prison reform on the part of John Howard and Elizabeth Fry will claim the attention of every reader interested in penal reform. The arguments for and against the treadmill, the crank, solitary confinement, the separate system, associated labour, the plank bed, and other punishments inflicted on prisoners, are all set forth in this volume. In olden days, male and female prisoners, young and old, convicted and unconvicted, diseased and healthy, were herded together, and confined in places no better than the Black Hole of Calcutta. It was only when they spread disease throughout the land that people began to take an interest in the necessity for more hygienic methods in their accommodation, and it was not until the latter part of the eighteenth century that matrons and wardresses were appointed to look after female prisoners. The whole book, from its very restraint in dealing with the administration in English prisons, is a stinging rebuke to our boasted civilisation. The Preface by Bernard Shaw is a brilliant and convincing indictment of the whole system; and we heartily agree with him when he says that every Judge, Magistrate, and Home Secretary should serve a six months' sentence, *incognito*, so that when he is dealing out and enforcing sentences he should at least know what he is doing. In arguing against the fallacy of punishment as a deterrent, Mr. Shaw sums up by saying that "all the hideous cruelty practised by us for the sake of deterrence is wasted; we are damning our souls at great expense and trouble for nothing." He also argues that "our criminal system is an organised attempt to produce white by two blacks. Common sense should doggedly refuse to believe that evil can be abolished by duplicating it. . . . 'Vengeance is mine,' saith the Lord; and that means that it is not the Lord Chief Justice's." Again, when discussing how types are manufactured, Mr. Shaw says, "What it means is that the criminal type is an artificial type, manufactured in prison by the prison system. It means that the type is not one of the accidents of the system, but must be produced by imprisonment, no matter how normal the victim is at the beginning, or how anxious the authorities are to keep him so. The simple truth is that the typical criminal is a normal man when he first enters prison, and develops the type during his imprisonment." This book, with its preface, should be read by every thinking woman. Our present prison system is the worst relic of barbarism in this country, and women must join with men in insisting that there shall be a thorough reform in every part of the system.

F. A. U.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, July 7th, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144 High Holborn.

Saturday, July 8th, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn.

Monday, September 4, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 8th, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 15th, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, September 16th, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 22nd, at 3.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch "Pound Tea" at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Full particulars later.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, July 13th, at 2.30 p.m.—Hull. Garden Party in the grounds of the Holderness House (kindly lent by the Rt. Hon. T. R. Ferens, J.P.). Admission by programme, 1/-; children, half price.

Friday, July 21st, at 3 p.m.—Bexhill. "National Baby Week." A Fête will be held at Ancaster House (by kind permission of Mrs. Burrows). Dr. Octavia Lewin will speak on "The Importance of Training Children in Nasal Hygiene."

Saturday, July 22nd, at 3 p.m.—Hastings. A Garden Party will be held at Rosiana, Pine Avenue, Ore, nr. Hastings (by kind permission of Mrs. Prelooker). Display of Dancing by Miss Dorothy Cannon's child dancers. Two stalls, fruit and vegetable, strawberries and cream, competitions, etc., will be some of the chief attractions. Speakers: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., and Dr. Octavia Lewin. Tickets, 1/-.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, July 12th, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Speaker: Miss Margaret Ottley. Subject: "The power of Auto-Suggestion."

BRANCH NOTE.

SWANSEA.

A very enjoyable evening was spent on June 29th, when Mr. and Mrs. Dawson entertained members and friends of the Swansea Branch of the Women's Freedom League at a Garden Party at "Cwm Garw." After tea a miscellaneous programme, arranged by Miss Hutton, was given. The President (Mrs. Hutton) took the chair and gave a brief speech, pointing out the necessity for the continued existence of the League. Mrs. J. O. Jones sang very beautifully, and Miss Hutton delighted the guests with her recitations, while two of her pupils, Misses A. Bell and J. McInerney, won much applause by their pretty rhythmic dances, and their presentation of "Puck and the Fairy." Mrs. Rowland Williams spoke on the aims and objects of the League, laying special stress on the need for greater efforts to remove the disabilities and legal inequalities under which women still suffer, and inviting those who were not members to join and help. On behalf of the branch Miss Neal thanked Mr. and Mrs. Dawson for their hospitality, and for the great help that they continue to give the League from year to year. Miss Holmes proposed, and Mrs. Ross seconded, a vote of thanks to the artistes. During the evening a collection was made, and a sale of fruit, cakes, etc., kindly contributed by members, was held in aid of the Birthday Fund, and as both collection and sale brought in a very creditable sum the Committee decided to send £10 to the Birthday Fund. We also had the satisfaction of adding seven new members to our numbers.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS C. W. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: LONDON Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Royal College of Surgeons.

As the result of the Primary Fellowship Examination held from June 6 to 16, for which 169 candidates presented themselves, forty-six were approved, and 123 rejected. Marjorie Elaine Knowles, Leeds, was among the approved.

Women's Successes at Oxford.

The honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon Miss Charlotte Anne Elizabeth Moberly, member of the Council and formerly Principal of St. Hugh's College. Ordinary degrees were conferred on women, as follows:—

B.A. and M.A.—Edith M. A. Tudor, St. Hugh's College; Sophy M. Harrison, Society of Oxford Home Students; Amy F. Clarke, Lady Margaret Hall.

M.A.—Helen J. Pybus, Somerville College; Helen P. Kemp, Lady Margaret Hall.

B. Litt.—Una M. Ellis Fermor, Somerville College.

B.A.—Margery F. Perham and Sophia F. Stallman, St. Hugh's College; Mary C. McLelland, St. Hilda's Hall; Gwendolen O. D. Peterson and Elizabeth A. Weldon, Society of Oxford Home Students.

Proposed Penalties for Non-Voters.

The Times correspondent reports that the Commission on University Suffrage has decided in favour of a law which will make the vote obligatory in all French elections. It recommends the following penalties for abstention: For the first abstention the name, profession, and the address of the offending elector shall be posted on the door of the Town Hall. For the second abstention the name shall be posted again, and a fine of five francs imposed. For the third abstention, the penalty will be posting the name, the five franc fine, and an addition of five per cent. to the non-voter's income tax. On the fourth offence there will follow disfranchisement for five years. Blank papers in the ballot box will be added to the majority vote. There are members in the House of Commons who would like to see penalties imposed upon British non-voters.

Teachers' 5 per cent. Contribution.

The Times Parliamentary correspondent says it is understood that the Government has decided that the Teachers' Contributions of 5 per cent. to their superannuation shall become payable as from July 1st. The Teachers, he says, will not raise any objection to this, but will propose that the Bill should provide for the new arrangement continuing for only two years, in order that it may be reviewed in the light of the findings of the Committee which has been set up to examine the question of percentage grants to local authorities. The Teachers will also ask for a safeguarding provision in respect of Teachers employed by an authority which has not adopted the Burnham scale of Salaries. Miss Frond (National Union Women Teachers) has written to the Times stating that "Members of all organisations of teachers are very definitely opposed to the proposed 5 per cent. levy on salaries as a contribution to the Superannuation Fund, as a referendum would very clearly show. The Teachers, as such, have not been consulted in the matter and have not consented to the imposition of this levy."

"Motherly" Teachers.

Last week the London County Council Education Committee discussed a recommendation by the Elementary Education Sub-Committee that, as an experiment, 100 teachers, with lower qualifications than those of certificated or uncertificated teachers, should be employed to teach children under the compulsory age of six years. Capt. Swann said the opponents of the scheme described the proposed new class of teachers as "merely motherly women." That suggested a slur on the new teacher as "a woman of no importance." Lady St. Helier said the best guide for the little ones was a woman who had a love for little children and knew how to direct their faculties. The recommendation was agreed to on the ground of cheapness. But we thought the object of education committees was to provide education, not cheap "motherliness" for the children.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

DESPARD HOUSE, 2, CURRIE STREET, S.W. 8.

This week we have been revelling in the production of rhubarb jam, and rhubarb cooked in a variety of ways, since a large sack of delicious looking rhubarb was sent from Mr. P. Millar's garden at Moyleen Marlow, by Miss Katherine Holmes, who had helped to beautify the settlement with flowers for Mrs. Despard's Party. We are now collecting for a Jumble Sale to be held before the holidays if we are able to collect a sufficient amount of suitable goods. So far we have to thank Mrs. Vere Smith, Miss Stutchbury, Miss Isobel Harvey, Miss Harvey, The Baroness de Pallandt, Mrs. Bell Lloyd, Miss J. Holford, Mrs. Greenville, Miss E. C. Greenville and friends, Miss A. M. Riggall, Mrs. Riggall and friends, for parcels that will either do for the Jumble Sale, or enable us to turn out more worn garments from our guest house wardrobe, which is being put to very hard use just at present with our unusually large family. Children's boots and stockings are specially needed. For some lovely new overalls and pinafores for said wardrobe we have to thank Miss Forrest. Certain friends, as usual, are offering to send Nine Elms children away for a holiday. Miss Jones and Miss E. C. Greenville have already given a Saturday afternoon party and ramble in Epping Forest to 12 girls. These children will need to be given or lent clothing, so we shall be very grateful for anything that will be useful for children between the ages of seven and eleven.

(Hon. Superintendent) MISS A. M. COLE.

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