

THE VOTE,
SEPT. 14, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

AN INQUIRY NEEDED!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, 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.

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WOMEN IN THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY—

DAME EDITH LYTTELTON, MISS JESSIE WEBB, FRU BUGGE WICKSELL.

Dame Edith Lyttelton.

Dame Edith Lyttelton is the second Englishwoman to sit in the Assembly, her predecessor, Mrs. Coombe Tennant, having attended the Third Assembly in 1922. Dame Lyttelton has always been interested in work on international lines, and helped to found, and was first hon. secretary of, the Victoria League, an international organisation which mainly functions in the British Dominions Overseas, and which has for its object the development of mutual friendliness between Great Britain and her Colonies. Dame Lyttelton has been instrumental in organising a great deal of hospitality to Dominion visitors to Great Britain, ensuring them a cordial welcome, and in starting the Ladies' Empire Club, the membership of which is confined to women of the British Empire.

She also created, and is now Chairman of, the Committee of Common Interests, which works within the English-Speaking Union, and has its headquarters at the London offices of that Association. This Committee has done a great deal of useful work in bringing together various international interests, and securing personal contact between American visitors to this country and English visitors to the United States. The idea of a "Teachers' Exchange" scheme between England and America, which has recently been started in England, also originated with her. By its means educationists from this country and the United States are enabled to exchange visits of a month or longer, for the purpose of seeing one another's countries and getting into personal contact with individuals.

Dame Lyttelton is deeply interested in literature and the Drama, and is a Governor of the "Old Vic." and of the Stratford Memorial Theatre; also a member of the Shakespeare Memorial National Theatre Committee. She has herself produced a good deal of dramatic work, including several short plays, one of which, "Warp and Woof," based on industrial interests, enjoyed an excellent run in London. She has written several magazine articles and essays, but will probably

best be remembered by her very able life of her late husband, the Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P. During the war, Dame Lyttelton, with Lady Lugard, started the War Refugees Committee, and was given the D.B.E. for her services, and also the Belgian Order of Elizabeth. In 1917 she became Deputy Director of the Women's Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, which raised, equipped, and trained the Women's Land Army. She is a J.P. for St. Margaret's Division, City of Westminster.

Dame Lyttelton accompanied Lady Astor in 1922 during her tour through the United States, when the American-born English M.P. spoke boldly on behalf of the League of Nations. She is specially interested in the industrial side of the League's activities, as Labour problems have always absorbed a good deal of her attention. She served on the Cave Committee appointed to inquire into the action of Trade Boards, and is now an appointed member and Vice-Chairman of a Trade Board. In connection with her work on the Assembly, she has been appointed to the Fifth, or Humanitarian, Committee.

Miss Jessie Webb.

Miss Jessie Webb is the second Australian woman to sit in the Assembly, her predecessor, Mrs. Dale, of Sydney, having attended the Third Assembly in 1922. Miss Webb is a well-known educationist in Australia. She is an M.A. of Melbourne University, to which she has been attached as History Lecturer for the last twelve years. She has also acted as President of the Lyceum Club at Melbourne, and as Vice-President of the Victoria branch of the Australian Federation of Women Graduates.

The cable informing her that she had been elected a member of the Australian Delegation to the Fourth Assembly reached her whilst she was on a two years' leave of absence from the University, and in the midst of a tour in Greece, whither she had gone alone after accompanying Dr. Georgina Sweet on an extensive tour in Africa. Dr. Sweet is a noted scientist, and the

only woman Associate-Professor at the University of Melbourne. No woman in Australia has yet been made a full Professor of a University. The African tour, planned by Dr. Sweet partly for scientific purposes, as she is specially interested in economic parasitology, was a very comprehensive one, beginning at the Cape and ending at Cairo, and afforded Miss Webb a valuable opportunity of studying conditions of life in the Kenya Colony, Uganda, and Tanganyika Territory, which is a British Mandate.

Upon reaching Cairo, Dr. Sweet returned to Australia, and Miss Webb went on to Greece and Crete, where she spent several months visiting many of the classical sites, and seeing something of the relics of pre-Greek civilisation, as the results of the most recent excavations. A great part of the tour, especially in Crete, was made on foot, Miss Webb frequently sleeping in the open. Miss Webb found the Greek peasantry extraordinarily hospitable, and especially kind to English travellers. Though the Greek has a name for driving a hard bargain, Miss Webb was never taken advantage of in matters of hiring mules or settling for lodgings. Greek peasant women are still regarded as inferior to their men folk, but they have plenty of character, and work with their men in the open-air in a fairly comradely manner. In Athens, among the more educated women, there is keen political interest, and some demand for the vote.

In accordance with the elastic regulations of the Australian Delegation, Miss Webb, though naturally placed, with the other women members of the Assembly, on the Humanitarian Committee, will also have access to other Committees of the League. She is deeply interested in the work of the Mandates Committee, especially now that she has visited some of those territories during her African tour. Australia is so far away from Europe and the work of the League of Nations, that much ignorance and apathy has to be overcome there. Appointments such as these of Mrs. Dale and Miss Webb cannot, therefore, fail to be of immense use in interesting Australian women in the League, not only on its humanitarian side, but with regard to its other activities.

Fru Bugge Wicksell.

Fru Bugge Wicksell is a Norwegian by birth, but has lived in Sweden ever since her marriage to Professor Karl Wicksell, formerly Professor of Economics at the University of Lund (Sweden). She has been a keen Feminist from her earliest years, and before her marriage was President of the Women's Rights Movement in Norway, which preceded the more modern Suffrage Movement. The Suffrage Movement developed very rapidly in Scandinavia, Finland and Norway being two of the first countries in the world to enfranchise their women. In Sweden the movement was comparatively slow, for Swedish women did not get the vote until 1918, though they early acquired certain property rights, and permission to enter the University. It is an interesting point that Fru Wicksell met her future husband at one of the earliest of the Scandinavian Women's Rights Congresses, at Copenhagen, in 1888.

When the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was formed in Berlin in 1904, Fru Wicksell threw herself enthusiastically into its activities, and during the last twenty years she has attended every one of its biennial Congresses. She acted as a Vice-President of the Alliance for the period of election preceding the Rome Congress in 1923, but has recently resigned this position, owing to the pressure of her work in the League of Nations. The Peace Movement has also absorbed a great deal of Fru Wicksell's energy for many years past, and she has been present at several Peace Conferences.

When the needs of a growing family no longer claimed all her attention, Fru Wicksell, who had always been greatly attracted to legal affairs, studied to become a lawyer, and obtained her degree at Lund University. She has never practised, but has specialised instead in international law, and the knowledge

thus acquired has been invaluable during her work on the Peace Movement. It is a curious coincidence that, before the League of Nations came into existence, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark were already preparing for a similar ideal, and Fru Wicksell assisted at the work of the Swedish Royal Committee appointed for this purpose. When the League forestalled Scandinavia's preparatory plan, Fru Wicksell was immediately elected as an alternate delegate in the Swedish Delegation to the First Assembly, and has attended each succeeding Assembly.

Fru Wicksell is connected with three Committees within the League, and is probably worked harder than any other of the women members of the Assembly. She is the only woman on the First Commission, which deals with legal questions concerning the Covenant, and she spends a large proportion of her time on this Committee. Though she sits as an alternate, she seldom fails to be present at all the meetings of the First Commission. In 1921 she was elected to the Mandates Committee, where she looks after the interests of the women and children in the mandated territories. She is the only woman on this Committee also. In common with the other women members of the Assembly, she sits on the Fifth or Humanitarian Committee.

D. M. N.

AN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL.

The little town of Podebrady, a bathing resort about an hour's journey from Prague, was chosen this year as the meeting-place of the Summer School organised by the Women's International League. Here, from August 16th to 29th, were assembled about 150 men and women of twenty different nationalities, the countries represented being Russia, the Baltic States, Poland, Norway, Finland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Jugo-Slavia, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Great Britain, America, and India.

At the opening meeting, presided over by Madame O. Hanansková (President of the Czechoslovakian section of the Women's International League), after short speeches of welcome from the Mayor and the Director of the Baths Co., the opening address was given by Madame Youve. It had been hoped that M. Benes would have been present, but his absence from Czechoslovakia made this impossible. At the next meeting of the Conference, however, an address from him was read by a Government representative.

The subject chosen for study was "Social Peace," and many most interesting addresses were given. Enjoyable and instructive as the lectures were, the great value of the meeting lay in the informal discussions, the impromptu group meetings, and, above all, in the friendly intercourse. The Youth Movement was largely represented, and helped to create the atmosphere of cheerfulness, optimism, and friendliness which made the fortnight such a happy one. Czechoslovakia welcomed us most hospitably; in Podebrady there were, in our honour, performances of national dances, most beautiful concerts by Czechoslovakian and Ukrainian choirs, and two entertainments organised by the local Sokol. To most of us, however, the outstanding day was that spent in the beautiful city of Prague, where, after an address of welcome at the Town Hall by the Mayor and members of the Municipality, we made a specially conducted tour of the city, and were finally entertained, by invitation of President Masaryk, in the beautiful grounds attached to his residence, the Chateau de Hradcany.

On the last evening an open propagandist meeting was held, and then came the farewell social, when an effort was made to put into words our appreciation of the hard work cheerfully undertaken by the Secretary, Madame Vanková, and all the members of the Executive Committee of the Czechoslovakian Section, in whose hands was the organisation of the local arrangements.

A. BOLTON.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

British Medical Women.

It is stated that forty girl students will begin their training to be women doctors when the London School of Medicine for Women opens next month for the new term. In an article appearing in the current *British Medical Journal*, it is pointed out by the British Medical Association that attempts are continually being made by public authorities to obtain the services of women doctors at lower salaries than those paid to men. "The Association," says the writer, "looks to all medical women to help it in resisting such attacks on the solidarity of the profession," and proceeds to remind readers that the Association has at various times fought for the principle of equal pay for equal work, usually with success, Government departments and local authorities of all kind. Where the authorities concerned have declined to recognise the justice of the claim that equal pay should be given for equal work, the machinery, local and central, of the Association has been put into operation, and as a result the authority has generally seen fit to drop the proposed distinction between men and women practitioners, or give up the attempt to fill the post. We are glad to record the fact that Dr. Stella Churchill, the Assistant Medical Officer at St. Pancras, has now been appointed Medical Officer to the borough.

Women Musicians.

At a women workers' demonstration which took place recently at Plymouth, Mr. J. B. Williams, Chairman of the Trade Union Congress, said that the Musicians' Union, of which he was the Secretary, took the line that a member of an orchestra was entitled to get the minimum wage, regardless of sex. If a woman was a musician, she ought to be paid as one, and not according to sex.

Services Conducted by Women.

The *Church Militant* reports that in Madras there has been for some time a little mission church served by women deacons, chief of whom is a daughter of Mrs. Creighton. The services are conducted by the deaconesses themselves, and the parochial work attracts to its aid helpers from among the leading people in Madras.

Freedom of the City for Lady Parsons

In announcing the fact that the Hon. Lady Parsons, J.P., President of the Women's Engineering Society, has been granted the Freedom of the City of London, the *Woman Engineer* says: "This Freedom was obtained by 'redemption,' i.e., as a 'freewoman' of a City Company, Lady Parsons having already received the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights. A curious and interesting custom which still survives is the presentation with the Freedom of the City of a little red-bound book containing 'Some Rules for the conduct of life, to which are added a few cautions for the use of such Freemen of London as take apprentices.'"

Woman Aviator.

The *Quebec Daily Telegraph* reports that Mrs. Bertha Horschem, professional aviatrix, of Ransom, Kansas, established recently a new altitude record for women by ascending 16,300 feet at St. Louis aviation field. The previous record was 15,700 feet, and was made by Andree Pevore, a French woman flier, in California, last May. Officials at the field announced that the flight was official, being held under regulations of the National Aeronautical Association. Mrs. Horschem was in the air two hours and eight minutes.

University Appointments for Women.

Miss Ethel Mary Elderton has been appointed Assistant Professor of Applied Statistics at University College; and Dr. Lydia Henry, Warden of the Household and Social Science Department of King's College for Women, Campden Hill Road, W.

More Women Justices of the Peace.

Miss Helen Aitchison, Mrs. Mary Laverick, and Mrs. M. Stephenson have been appointed to the magistrates' bench at Wallsend. These new magistrates have all records of useful public and social work in the borough. The Duchess of Sutherland, who was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace for Sutherland in 1920, was for the first time called upon to act at a sitting of the Court at Dornoch last week.

Woman as Miners' Delegate.

Miss Doris Carter is the first woman to be appointed as delegate for the miners at the Trade Union Congress held last week at Plymouth.

Women and Architecture.

Miss Betty Scott, of the Headington School for Girls, Oxford, has been awarded the Public School Entrance Scholarship of the Architectural Association School of Architecture for the present year. The scholarship is worth sixty guineas, and this is the first time it has been won by a girl. Miss Isabel Chambers, who won the first Town Planning Prize, has been awarded the Architectural Association Diploma.

Woman Doctor for Coastguard Stations.

Dr. Blanche E. Epler, of Hatteras, North Carolina, has been appointed by the United States Public Health Service as a contract physician to furnish professional service to several coastguard stations. She will also conduct the test examinations for applicants for coastguard service at the stations under her medical supervision.

A Woman Explorer in Morocco.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes has been received in the secret city of Xauen, which was first entered by the Spaniards, who penetrated to it after several years of fighting in the almost impassable mountainous wild country which surrounds it. Mrs. Forbes was received by the Qadi (or Judge), a venerable old Moor, and sat on cushions while slaves poured orange water over her. As a great honour, a grey-bearded Arab made her some green tea, flavoured with mint, spice, and ambergris.

Girl Footballers visit Spain.

Last week, a team of English girl footballers, representing the Stoke-on-Trent Ladies' Football Club, left Victoria en route for Barcelona to play a team of Frenchwomen as part of a series of sporting events taking place there. The English team won the women's English Cup in 1922. At Birmingham, last year, they played before a crowd of 40,000 people, £2,000 being raised for charity.

Hostess Service in War Department.

According to the *Derby Daily Express*, the United States War Department has appointed a woman as Director of Women's Relations. Her duties are to supervise the "hostess service," advise on living conditions, housing, and general welfare of the women employed by the Army, and also the women of the soldiers' families; and to advise the War Department on relations to women in the outside ordinary world. The hostess service is the peace-time successor of the work that was done for the Army during the war by the Y.W.C.A. and similar agencies. Commanding officers see the value of it, and the soldiers themselves are eager for it, and it is said to have fully justified the foresight of Secretary Baker, when he acted on the conviction that there was a problem in the Army which needed the services of women.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1. Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s.; Irish, Scottish and Foreign Members, 10/6. No Entrance Fee till January 1st, 1924. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders.

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.

JURY SERVICE.

It is interesting to note in the Australian Press that the New South Wales Labour Council has decided to send a deputation to the Minister for Justice, to urge the abolition of the property qualification for jurymen. The Council is of the opinion that any man who is entitled to a vote should be eligible to serve upon a jury, and it intends to urge the Minister to introduce legislation to render this possible. The Council contends that this would ensure all classes of accused persons being heard by a jury of their peers. This is exactly the line which the Women's Freedom League has taken up in regard to women jurors. Two years ago, at our Annual Conference, we passed a resolution, which we reaffirmed at our last Conference, urging that the right to vote should carry with it the liability to jury service for both men and women. At the present time the property qualifications for jury service in this country exclude a very great number of women from the jury panel. Before a woman can get on to this panel, she must be a person between 21 and 60 years of age, who owns property or pays rates; a householder or shopkeeper in the City of London who owns personal estate worth £100; a resident in a county or borough owning £10 a year in real estate or rent charge, or £20 in leaseholds; or a householder in a county or borough assessed to the poor rate at not less than £30 a year in Middlesex and the County of London, or £20 in other counties; or an occupier of a house with not less than fifteen windows. Extremely few women, compared with the number of women voters or men liable to jury service, fulfil any of these qualifications; the ordinary married woman has very little chance of doing so. Then there is a further disability for women in regard to jury service. A judge may make an order that the jury shall be composed of men only, or of women only, and this discretion of the judge has frequently been used in our Courts to exclude women from the jury in "unpleasant" cases. We think that this "discretion" should be taken away from judges, and that men and women, as citizens, should be summoned to jury service on exactly equal terms. We also consider that all juries should be composed of an equal number of men and women, and that, when the accused or the accused's counsel challenges any woman on the jury, her place should invariably be filled by another member of her sex. We realise that, under present conditions, when so few women, compared with men, have the necessary qualifications for jury service, such arrangements are impossible. They are, however, in our view, the only just arrangements, and we therefore urge that legislation should be introduced which would ensure that every man and woman who has the right to vote shall also be liable for jury service. Then all classes and both sexes of accused persons will have the chance of being heard by a jury of their peers, but we make our demand not only in the interests of the accused but more especially for the sake of the women and children against whom offences are so frequently committed.

AN INQUIRY NEEDED.

Last July, at the Downs Hospital, Banstead, a small child died of meningitis, following an operation for ear disease. A day or two later, the Medical Superintendent heard of gossip of alleged ill-treatment, and communicated with the Coroner, and at the subsequent inquest accusations of brutality were made by nurses against the Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Alix Jeanne Churchill, a highly qualified French lady. A verdict of "Natural causes" was returned, but meanwhile Dr. Churchill had, on the advice of her lawyer, sent in her resignation, so the truth of the accusations could not be determined.

Then, on August 2nd, and again on September 8th, Dr. Churchill wrote to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, explaining her reasons for resigning, "out of consideration for the hospital," begging for an Inquiry, and asking leave to withdraw her resignation, so that the facts of the case might be ascertained. The Hammersmith Board of Guardians, who were responsible for the child, also pressed for an Inquiry. The Board rejected by 32 to 5 a proposal for a special Committee, and by 29 to 5 a proposal for a Ministry of Health Inquiry, and decided to refuse both the Hammersmith Guardians and Dr. Churchill.

This serious matter cannot be left in its present unsatisfactory state, and in the interest of Dr. Churchill herself, of the nurses of the Hospital, of all Boards of Guardians and their helpless charges, and of all medical women, we call for a full Inquiry by the Health Ministry.

AN ESKIMO GIRL'S HEROISM.

The *Daily News* publishes, from a cable by Mr. Harold Noice, commander of the Wrangel relief expedition, some facts about the lonely life, on the island, of Ada Blackjack, the Eskimo girl, sole survivor of the 1921 party who were sent by Stefansson to maintain Britain's claim to the island of Wrangel, off the N.E. coast of Siberia. When that party found that they would not have food to last them through the winter, an attempt was made on January 28th to reach Siberia. The girl made new clothing for the men, and did her utmost to send them away as completely equipped as she could. They never returned. One of the party, however, Lorne Knight, who was already developing symptoms of scurvy, had to remain with the girl. At first he was able to get about a bit, but one day, while chopping wood, he fainted, and did not again leave his tent. The girl nursed him till the end, and, knowing that his only hope lay in securing fresh meat for food, she set out to trap foxes, but, as she was not able to go very far from the camp, she caught very few foxes. On June 22nd, Knight died, and Ada was left alone except for a kitten, which had grown into a cat when Noice's expedition reached Wrangel in August, 1923, and took the girl away. After Knight's death she had a hard and lonely time. Her slender store of provisions was almost exhausted, and she had never fired a gun in her life. However, she took down a big rifle, set up a target 40 yards distant, and began daily shooting practice, day by day tramping the hills in search of game. She had adventures with polar bears, and when she had at one time just killed a seal, she was compelled to flee from it immediately and leave it to be eaten by a bear. For many mornings afterwards she saw huge tracks of polar bears that had come up to her tent to sniff around during the night. When Ada was rescued, last August, she had only 12lb. of mouldy bread, which she was saving for next winter, when she knew she would not be able to do much hunting. She was also working upon a net, with which she hoped to catch seals, and had made a small canvas boat to use in near-by waters. It is difficult to exaggerate the courage and endurance of this Eskimo girl, who had been brought up in the town of Nome, and had been familiar with electric lights and the comfort of a modern city.

WOMEN'S WORK—MEN'S ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE.

The Committee on Pay, etc., of State Servants has just issued its Report. The members of this Committee were Sir Alan Garrett Anderson, K.B.E. (Chairman), General The Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, K.C.B., and Sir W. Peter Rylands. The business of this Committee was: "To inquire into the present standard of remuneration and other conditions of employment of the various classes of State servants employed in the Civil Service and in the three Fighting Services, and to make recommendations thereon." There is a great deal in this miniature Geddes Report with which we are in agreement. The urgent need of this country, as of all countries, at the present time is strict economy, and the following conclusion of this Committee deserves consideration:—"We are full of respect for the work of Civil Servants, but in a business which expends £75,000,000 per annum in pay, and where the pay-roll has increased in nine years by £44,000,000, there must be accretions of unnecessary work."

Our first criticism, however, is not with the Report itself, but with the constitution of this Committee. In view of the fact that many thousands of women are employed in the Civil Service, and the further fact that so much space in its Reports is taken up with references to women and their work, we want to know why no women were appointed as members of this Committee? That no woman was appointed to it accounts for the want of knowledge of the work of women Civil Servants, and its general unfairness to them which is displayed throughout the Report, and in our opinion renders it valueless so far as these references to women are concerned. The contention of the Committee throughout the Report is that the pay of a Civil Servant should approximate the pay in other employments, and in regard to the comparative pay of men and women the Report states: "A man of 35 is generally paid more than the woman of 35, and ought, in our opinion, to be paid more; the justification for his higher pay is not, however, that he has more people to keep—the single man is paid as much as the father of a family—but, because in the open competition of private employment he can get more than a woman, he must be paid more in the Civil Service. The private employer pays the man more because he is worth more than the woman." We emphatically deny that this last sentence contains an invariable truth. The private employer frequently pays the man more because it has always been the custom to do so, and, as the opportunities of employment for women are so very few compared with those for men in professions and throughout industry, women have been forced by circumstances only too often to take at a less rate of pay the same work for which men have received a higher rate. The private employer has not been slow to take advantage of this fact. In the medical profession, however, where skill and training are of the highest value, men and women are paid at equal rates, and we believe the same practice will be followed throughout the legal profession. Men and women journalists are paid on equal terms, so are men and women in the textile industry. It is a vicious principle that women employed by the State in the Civil Service should be paid at a lower rate than men just because so many employers have exploited women and compelled them to act as blacklegs in the labour market.

The Committee proceeds to state that there is a danger of translating the principle of "equal pay for equal value" into "equal pay for the same post," which is quite different." It says: "Women are newcomers in office work"—the Secretary of the Federation of Women Civil Servants states that women are being retired on superannuation at the age of 60 from the General Post Office every month!—"and it would be dangerous to dogmatise about so novel an experiment, but we see no reason to suppose that exactly the same divisions of work or the same posts or rules that suit men will suit women; the contrary seems pro-

bable." To this the Federation Secretary replies: "That is at complete variance with the facts. Blocks of work have been done interchangeably by men and women in the Service." The Report continues: "In the early years of her employment it is evident that, for work which requires continuity of service, a young woman gives less value than a young man of equal capacity, and should be paid less. The prospect of marriage reduces the value of her employment to her employer . . . and we consider that the young woman should be recruited for administrative, executive, and clerical grades at a lower rate than the young man." We do not think there is much substance in this statement. In the first place, the work of the young employee of either sex is of a more or less routine character, and is not of very great value. Efficiency is, of course, acquired through experience, but the Committee has much exaggerated the wastage through marriage, and we would point out that the loss of potential efficiency on the part of young women in the Civil Service would be greatly diminished if these women were not all compelled to resign their posts on marriage. We certainly protest against the Committee's next remark: "So far as we are advised, the Civil Service would have no difficulty in recruiting educated women of the type they require at less rates than men, and the pay of women would still be higher than they could normally obtain elsewhere." The Committee is not concerned with the value of the work done, only with the cheapness of those who do it. The State, whose business it is to act impartially as between its men and women citizens, has no right whatever to ask or expect "educated women" to act as blacklegs in its service, and we cannot think that the Committee's advice on this matter will be seriously considered by the Government.

The Report continues: "As the woman grows older, and the risk of marriage decreases, her value in work which requires continuity of service should rise in relation to the value of a man, but, as we have indicated, it is still an experiment to employ women in the superior clerical posts, and, while we have had some valuable evidence on the relative output of work by women and men in railways and banks, and other work above mere routine, we have not found any large employer who considers that in these operations the average woman is worth as much as the average man. It seems to us, therefore, that the relation now existing between the pay of men and women in these grades in their later years of service roughly meets the situation." That is not the view of women Civil Servants, and it was not the view of the House of Commons when it passed a resolution on May 19th, 1920, to the effect that *women should have equal opportunity of employment with men in all branches of the Civil Service in the United Kingdom, and should also receive equal pay*; nor of the House of Commons on August 5th, 1921, when it passed another resolution to the same effect, with the proviso that, "having regard to the present financial position of the country, this House cannot commit itself to the increase in Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women in all cases at the same rate as men, but that the question of remuneration of women as compared with men should be reviewed within a period not exceeding three years." For the credit of the State, and because of the value of the work rendered through so many years by women Civil Servants, we hope that not only all women's organisations but women taxpayers generally will convince the Government that they are prepared to give every support to the demand of women Civil Servants for equal opportunities with men throughout all branches of the Civil Service, the higher as well as the lower, and for equal pay with men. We have no doubt that many economies could be effected, and much money saved, in the Civil Service, without resorting to the underpayment of women as compared with their men colleagues.

F. A. U.

BOOK REVIEW.

Papers on Individual Teaching. Apparatus and Schemes of Work. (National Union of Women Teachers.) 2s. net, or 2s. 3d. post free. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This new book, recently produced by the London unit of the National Union of Women Teachers, is the result of an Exhibition of Apparatus for Individual Work, held early last year. The book is extremely valuable, not only as a record of an inspiring exhibition, but also as a guide in the construction and use of the apparatus. All the schemes of work and the apparatus have been designed to aid the development of the child upon individualistic lines. By such methods each child is enabled to proceed at a pace suited to his or her own requirements. An interesting feature of the book lies in the fact that it is largely the work of teachers, who have themselves been confronted with many difficulties and have been obliged to find a solution of these difficulties.

The "Sellincourt" Reading Scheme is "based on the two obvious characteristics of all young children—the desire to handle any and every object in their environment, and the impulse to imitate sounds, whether human, animal, or mechanical." Consequently, the child is presented with apparatus which it can use from the beginning. The first stage consists simply of matching the letters so that the form becomes familiar. Then the sound is added, and capitals are introduced. Each new stage is introduced by means of cards representing the letter or the sound. A number of schemes for the teaching of arithmetic, together with miscellaneous articles on the keeping of records, and "English Civilisation," are included.

Mrs. O'Brien Harris has contributed a chapter on the organisation of a secondary school on the lines of "Individual Time-Tables." It is impossible to mention any of the schemes in detail here, but the book is one which should prove useful to all connected with Education, from the infants' school to the secondary school. L. L. P.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S AGENDA.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) is being held in Edinburgh from October 16th to the 22nd. Our League will be well represented by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., who is on the Council's Executive, and by our delegate, Dr. Octavia Lewin.

Twenty-one resolutions appear on its Agenda, and some of them are of special interest to readers of THE VOTE. One resolution urges that heavier penalties, without the option of a fine, should be imposed on men convicted of criminal assaults on young girls. Another asks that the Government be called upon to adopt and pass through all its stages into law the Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill. There is a resolution calling the attention of the Board of Education to the large number of children suffering from tubercular glands and other early forms of tuberculosis, and urging upon the Board the importance of encouraging open-air schools for such children; another resolution asks the Government to vote such sums as will enable the Board of Education and Local Education Authorities to provide extended facilities and to pursue a forward policy in regard to the School Medical Service; and yet another asks the Ministry of Health and Local Authorities to give careful consideration to cases of children attending schools who are infected with venereal disease. A resolution dealing with illegitimate children calls the attention of the Government to the urgent need for further recognition of the joint responsibility of the parents, and for improved legislation relating to unmarried mothers and illegitimate children, in order that the disproportionately high death-rate and damage-rate amongst infants born out of wedlock may be speedily reduced. In regard to Affiliation Orders, there is a resolution calling for reciprocal legislation

throughout the Empire, so that an affiliation order granted in one part may be enforced in any other part of the Empire. A resolution also appears on the Agenda urging the Government to give pensions to fatherless legitimate children, to enable the mother to bring them up in the atmosphere of home-life.

Among other resolutions is one regretting the present official policy of extreme economy in the most vital department of Education, and calling the attention of the Departments concerned to the following points:—(a) The need for the development of education for adolescents on diverse lines, both technical and literary; (b) the desirability of a reduction in the size of classes in elementary schools; (c) the inadvisability of reducing the staffs in both elementary and secondary schools; a resolution again urging on the Home Secretary and on the Secretary of Scotland the need for the employment of Women Police in large towns and in seaports; another urging upon the Board of Education the importance of taking immediate steps to deal with the problem of the unemployment of boys and girls between 14 and 18 years of age; and further asking the Board to provide without delay for part-time education to be continued after the school-leaving age; and another supporting Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck's Bill to amend the Education Act, 1921, so that the provisions of the Act relating to the power of making by-laws and granting licences with regard to the employment of children and young persons shall be extended so as to refer to persons under the age of 18.

With reference to Old-Age Pensions, a resolution suggests that the full State pension of 10s. a week be given to all those who by their thrift or assistance from other sources have private means, so that their total income may be not less than 25s. per week; and that consideration be given to the fact that for the year 1922 the average weekly cost of an inmate in a Poor Law Institution was £1 15s. 6½d., an ordinary prisoner £1 12s. 6d., a criminal £2 9s. 7d., but of an old-age pensioner only 9s.

There are also resolutions condemning the policy which confines the bulk of the women in the Post Office to the clerical and lower grades; deploring the failure of the Government in reorganising the Civil Service to carry out the resolution of the House on August 5th, 1921, that women should have equal opportunities with men; pointing out that, in the interests of the welfare of the community, more women should be appointed to posts involving the control of policy; and, lastly, calling upon the Government to provide legislation which shall ensure to women in the Civil Service equality of opportunity, pay, and status with their men colleagues, in accordance with the spirit of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act.

WOMEN'S PHYSICAL FITNESS.

After the melancholy statements in the Press by a well-known doctor and others that men were too old at forty to play games, following upon the collapse of two male Members of Parliament after a walking competition, it was encouraging to read, last week, that Mrs. Potten, aged 60, was a successful competitor in the women's rowing race at the boatmen's carnival at Clacton-on-Sea, and that women riders triumphed in the auto-cycle six-day trial over 800 miles of the most difficult roads and hills in England and Wales. All the five women competitors finished in time, thereby achieving an unprecedented success in an important road trial. Four of the five women riders were awarded the coveted gold medals, competing against 114 men, who included most of the expert riders of the day. The fifth woman competitor, Mrs. M. Jamieson, received a silver medal, the gold medallists being Miss M. Cattle, Mrs. C. Williams, Miss E. Dent, and Mrs. Spokes. We also learn that another woman, Mrs. George Duller, made two new records on Brooklands track—a new woman's record for the hour by covering 90½ miles in the time, and another for the 100 miles, for which her average speed was 90½ miles per hour.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 21st, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, September 21st, at 8 p.m. Rally and Re-Union at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "Holiday Sketches and Reminiscences." Chairman: Dr. Lewin.

Saturday, September 22nd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, September 24th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 1st, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. To discuss work for Autumn and Winter.

Monday, October 1st, at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, October 18th, at 3.30 p.m. "At Home," at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets). Tea 3.30. Mrs. Juson Kerr will speak on the "Tea and Sugar Boycott Scheme," at 4 p.m.

Monday, October 29th, at 7 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Northcroft. Subject: "Women at Work in the League of Nations." Chair, Mrs. Dexter.

Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, Central Hall, Westminster, Green, White and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3.30, by The Lady Amherst of Hackney, and on Saturday, at 3.30, by Miss Lilian Barker.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, October 10th, 3 p.m. Bournemouth. Public Meeting, Freedom Hall. Miss Minnie Pallister and Miss F. A. Underwood.

LONDON WORK.

The Women's Freedom League will begin its autumn work in London with a Social Evening at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C., on Friday, September 21st. Dr. Lewin will take the Chair at 8 o'clock, and there will be speeches of three or five minutes by those present, on "Holiday Sketches and Reminiscences." The order of the speakers will be drawn by lot, and a vote will be taken by ballot at the end of the proceedings as to the best speech of the evening. Admission is free, but a collection (which it is hoped will be a liberal one) will be taken for the funds of the Women's Freedom League. Coffee and biscuits, price 3d., will be served during the evening, and dinner can be obtained at the Club at 7 p.m. at 2s. 6d. Those wishing to have dinner should apply beforehand to Miss Reeves, Minerva Club.

On Thursday, October 18th, we are arranging an "At Home" at the Minerva Club. Tea will be served at 3.30, and at 4 o'clock our old friend Mrs. Juson Kerr, who has so successfully organised the Housewives' Protest against high prices in Kent, will speak on the "Tea and Sugar Boycott Scheme." A discussion will follow. On Monday, October 29th, we shall hold a Public Meeting at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., when Mrs. Northcroft will speak on "Women at Work in the League of Nations." All readers of THE VOTE will be interested to know that Mrs. Northcroft left for Geneva last month, where she intends to remain for the next two weeks, so that she will be prepared to give first-hand information of the work of women at the Assembly of the League of Nations, which meets this week. It is also hoped that her pamphlet on this subject will be on sale at our meeting of October 29th.

In November we hope to arrange another "At Home" at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, to discuss the Report of the Domestic Service Inquiry Committee. Further particulars of this meeting will be given later.

On Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, our Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, to be opened on November 23rd by The Lady Amherst of Hackney, and on the 24th by Miss Lilian Barker, C.B.E., Governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution, Aylesbury. Gifts for any of the stalls at this Fair will be welcomed at our Office by Miss E. Berry, Hon. "Fair" Secretary.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. Head of this Department will be grateful to receive secondhand books in good condition for the Literature Stall at the Fair.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Husbands' Support of Wives?

A woman complained to Mr. Cairns, the magistrate at the Thames Police Court, last week, that her husband failed to give her his earnings. This magistrate's remark was: "It doesn't follow that, because he is married to you, you ought to have all his money. We have many problems to settle in a police-court, and I am thankful one of them is not to decide what a man should allow his wife." At Willesden Police Court, last week, a woman told the magistrate that her husband refused to give her any money weekly, but doled it out a little at a time, so that he could make deductions when she offended him. The magistrate replied that the Court could not interfere in money transactions between husband and wife. Another woman on the same day, at the same police-court, complained that her husband only provided tea and sugar and paid the rent, and expected her to provide everything else. She was granted a summons against her husband for failing to maintain her. Is it not time that a married woman should have a legal claim to a fair proportion of her husband's wages, salary, or income?

Women and House Planning.

A writer in the *Daily Telegraph* states that many local authorities now send the plans of cottages which they are building under their various schemes to the local branch of the Women's Housing and Village Council's Federation, for their approval before the actual work of building is put in progress, and that this action has led in many instances to far-seeing suggestions, which, when carried out, have greatly added to the economical working of the cottages. Obviously, there is none more qualified to express an opinion on the right or wrong arrangement of the rooms, passages, sink, kitchen range, copper, and so forth, than the women who, up to the present, have had to pay in unnecessary labour for the mistakes and indifference of Victorian architects.

Nine Hundred Applications for Forty Flats.

It is stated that for forty flats in the borough of Islington there were recently nearly nine hundred applications.

No Work Problem.

Mr. A. C. Marshall, President of the Welfare Workers' Institute, stated in an address last week at Swanwick that 80,000 boys and girls, eighteen years old, had been unable to obtain situations since they left school four years previously. Why cannot the Government put the 1918 Education Act immediately into operation, and thereby provide work for a great number of fully qualified and trained teachers who are at present unemployed, and also prevent thousands of children from becoming unemployable for the rest of their life?

Teachers' Seaside Camp.

The teachers discharged by the Lowestoft Education Authority, who have been locked out since April 1st, are running, in conjunction with the Welfare Centres, at which 1,400 children are in attendance, a seaside camp at Hopton, between Lowestoft and Yarmouth. One hundred boys are accommodated, and until 3 p.m. the work is educational, after which organised games and sports are held.

Sentence for Criminal Assault in Jersey.

According to the *Evening Standard*, sentence of seven years' penal servitude, to be followed by five years' banishment from the island, was the sentence passed at Jersey on Emile Alexis Doublard for criminal assault on a 20-year-old Portsmouth girl who was on holiday on the island. The trial lasted until close on midnight. Accused tried to prove mistaken identity, but the girl stated that she identified him because he had a deformed thumb. He attacked her at dusk when she was returning to her hotel, and she fought him for two hours before she could escape. The jury returned after four minutes' absence, and the foreman stated that they were divided, whereupon, according to Jersey law, the Chief Magistrate consulted the men individually, who by 24 to 1 returned a verdict of "Guilty."

BRANCH NOTE.

EDINBURGH.

A very enjoyable Social and Branch Meeting was held on the 7th inst. at "Yewlands," Liberton, by kind invitation of Miss Jacob, our President. After a ramble round the delightful old garden, the Branch business was discussed, and when we all had done full justice to Miss Jacob's hospitality, Mrs. Amy Sanderson entertained us with a most interesting account of her visit to Rome as a delegate to the Congress of the International Suffrage Alliance in May. She gave us a vivid word-portrait of Signor Mussolini, who opened the Congress, and who was apparently so much impressed by its size and importance, and by the suffrage procession and deputation organised by the Alliance, that he promised, if he is in power next year, to give the municipal vote to the women of Italy, who at present have no vote of any kind. Even a Dictator is not sure of himself in these days, apparently. The Clyde Campaign has brought us a valuable new member, and we hope that others will join during the winter.

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

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, September 16th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Dr. Dearmer.

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

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