

THE VOTE,
DEC. 28, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 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'S CAREERS.—II. WOMEN PUBLISHERS.

Miss Evelyn Gates, Managing Director of "Women Publishers, Ltd," was educated at Norwich High School, and later at Newnham College, Cambridge, where she was President of the College Debating Society, and the College Suffrage Society. She then studied business methods, publicity, and staff control in one of the largest London stores, and later spent some time as an economic journalist, and lecturer to working women in the Midlands and North. From September, 1921, to February, 1922, she acted as Assistant Editor on the *Industrial Year Book*, published by Philip Gee, and in March, 1922, became Secretary and Assistant Editor to a firm of publishers.

Finally, in February, 1923, Miss Gates decided to adventure on her own account, and, under the business name of "The Economic Press," took offices in the Strand, and began work on the *Woman's Year Book*. She soon found, however, that the possibilities of expansion as a woman publisher were so good, that it was worth while promoting a limited company, and last September, "Women Publishers" was registered as a limited company, with a nominal capital of £10,000. The Board of Directors, as at present constituted, includes, besides Miss Gates, who is acting as Manag-

ing Director, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair (Chairman), the Hon. Mrs. Peel, Mrs. Philip Rea, Miss E. M. L. Scott, M.A., and Miss Barbara Hall. The last three are all Cambridge graduates.

The Secretary of the Company is Miss M. Buckle, B.A., a London graduate; the Solicitor is Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., of Messrs. Crofts, Ingram & Crofts, and the Auditor is Miss F. Harris Smith, F.C.A. The Company is thus composed entirely of women, and all the shareholders are women.

The primary object of "Women Publishers, Ltd.," is to publish books of special interest to women, and they have already made their *début* with the *Woman's Year Book*, three editions of which have already been sold. Press notices have been extraordinarily good, and there is every indication that the book will be welcomed year by year as it makes its appearance.

In the Spring, this will be followed by a further book of reference, *The Woman's 'Who's Who'*, containing short biographical sketches of every woman of some note and



MISS GATES, M.A.

achievement in the Empire.

At the same time, a panel of well-known women is preparing a series of small books dealing, in a practical manner, with the Home, while a leading business

woman is engaged on a book concerning business methods. These will also appear early next year, and will be followed by a variety of books written by women for women. It will thus be seen that "Women Publishers" are not competing with the already existing publishing houses, but are setting out to do work that has hitherto been left undone.

Working parallel with the book-publishing department of "Women Publishers" is a periodical department, hard at work on the finishing touches of a new weekly paper for women—*Everywoman*—to appear early in the New Year. This will be an intelligent, and yet popular, paper, catering for the multifarious interests of the average modern woman, who is perhaps not interested in the political reviews, and yet has a soul above mere household gossip. It will cover feminine matters, events of the week, politics, books, plays, sport, careers, and professions, and will include well-written leading articles, short stories, and verse.

Finally—and this is perhaps a matter of special interest at the present time—a training department has been established for girls leaving school or college. Six pupils are taken at a time, the course occupying six months. During the whole of this period they are actively engaged in one of the various departments, and finally qualify as journalists, sub-editors, reporters, publishers' readers, company secretaries, private secretaries, and advertising managers. This course is already proving of great interest to a number of girls with real literary tastes, who up to the present have had no opportunity of getting the practical experience necessary before any post can be secured.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Domestic Servants from Overseas.

The domestic service problem in England is opening the door to numbers of girls from other countries, many of whom are well educated and skilled in cookery and housecraft, and who come to England primarily to study English. Girls from Scandinavia, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands are now seeking domestic situations over here.

American Women Stockbrokers.

Unlike this country, the New York Stock Exchange admits qualified women on the same terms as men, and two members—Miss Clara Goldhurst and Miss Jean Jack (a Canadian)—are already well known, whilst there are several other American women doing well as "outside" brokers. British Women stockbrokers are admitted to the Stockbrokers' Association, but not to the Stock Exchange.

Women's Hotel in London?

It is not unlikely that a hotel for women only may be established in London, on somewhat similar lines to the Margaret Washington Hotel in New York, which has been a great success right from the opening day, and is always filled with women. The idea of the London hotel was put forward when the International Alliance of Hotel Men met in New York recently.

European Women Publishers.

Brussels has an enterprising firm of women publishers, under the direction of Mlle. d'Angotte, who has published the *Collection du Petit Artiste*, and one or two series for children, a new collection of Belgian poetry, *Symphonie Macabre*, and a number of other works. Fru G. Romelingh, of Groningen, in the Netherlands, is an enterprising Dutch woman publisher.

Pension for Mme. Curie.

Mme. Curie, who, with her husband, just 25 years ago discovered radium, was granted a pension by the French Chamber, last week, of 40,000 francs per annum, "as a token of the nation's gratitude."

Women Mosaic Artists.

Probably the only two professional women mosaic artists in the country, the Misses Dora and Gertrude Martin, are now at work in the Houses of Parliament. Miss Gertrude Martin began her career 21 years ago, when, as a student, she first tried her hand at mosaics in the Holy Souls' Chapel of the Westminster Cathedral. The sisters strongly recommend the use of mosaic in big public buildings, in preference to mural paintings, which wear badly in city atmospheres.

Eastbourne Women Magistrates.

Efforts by the Eastbourne branch of the National Council of Women, extending over several years, to secure the appointment of women magistrates for the borough have at last met with success. Councillor Miss Thornton, Councillor Miss Hudson, and Mrs. Annie Kenyon, have now been appointed Justices of the Peace.

Good Woman Shot.

The best woman revolver shot in England, and probably the best in the world, is Miss Dorothy Pain, a London business girl of 21. She has beaten 11 men in the revolver competitions of the Rifle and Revolver Club. Miss Pain is on the staff of the Sun Fire Insurance Company.

Woman Solicitor's Many Prizes.

Miss Agnes Twiston Hughes, who was reported in last week's VOTE as having been awarded the Clabon prize of the Law Society, is also the winner of the Clement's Inn, the Sheffield, and the John Mackrell Prizes, all the awards of the Law Society.

Bishop's Wife Preaches.

The wife of the recently enthroned Bishop of Essex, Dr. Guy Warman, recently addressed a congregation in Leyton Parish Church. Mrs. Warman did not go into the pulpit, but spoke from the lectern. The service was in connection with the Deanery Mothers' Union.

German Women's Appeal.

The women of Cologne have sent an appeal for help in the present economic situation in the Ruhr to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The appeal is signed by representatives of 104 organisations of German women, representing all classes.

Norfolk Women Agriculturists.

Of the total of 3,063 women agricultural workers in the Norfolk County area, 20 per cent. were returned at the last Census as farmers or their relatives, 13 as gardeners and gardeners' labourers, 41 as agricultural labourers, and 25 as fruit and pea pickers.

Women Engineers' Second Conference

Arrangements are going ahead for the Women Engineers' 1924 Conference at the College of Technology, Manchester. The date of the Conference is fixed for April 25th, when delegates are expected from America and Europe.

Australian Women M.P.s.

A Bill rendering women eligible for membership of the Victorian Parliament has been passed by both the Upper and Lower Houses of Victoria, Australia.

OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

- "The Work for Women M.P.s," by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. ... 3d.
- "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
- "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
- "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
- "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
- "Women Police," a short history from its inception to the present day ... 1d.
- "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by Mrs. D. M. Northcroft ... 6d.
- "The Wrongs of Married Women," by Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A. ... 3d.
- "The New Humanism," by Laurence Housman ... 6d.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

We hope that the new House of Commons will lose no time in dealing with the housing problem of Great Britain. This problem lies at the root of much of our social evil; it is very difficult for the children accustomed to the squalor and the smells of our slums to gain much benefit from the education given in our schools; and the want of decent housing accommodation for so many thousands of our people is making us a C3 nation. Good health is the best basis for good citizenship, but, since good health is impossible under bad housing conditions, citizenship itself is more or less at a discount. We cannot think that this country is so bankrupt in statesmanship that this problem cannot be solved; and we wish that our Members of Parliament would follow the example of Mr. Penny, the Member for Kingston-on-Thames, who last week made a tour of his constituency, to see for himself how the people in the poorer parts of that riverside borough exist. We give a few extracts from the *Surrey Comet*, the Editor of which accompanied him on this tour:—

"In Asylum Road, in one house of four rooms—dark, ill-ventilated, damp, and dilapidated—eleven persons are living. This is a rack-rented row, and 12s. 6d. per week is charged for two wretched rooms upstairs and a stone-floor kitchen. Seven shillings is charged for one room (perhaps ten feet by nine feet), where five persons, including a baby, exist. A house of four tiny "rooms," which might contain anything up to 20 persons, yields a weekly rental of 32s.

"Cambridge Square forms a colony of about 15 small houses, in which parents and children are more or less huddled together—eight in one place, nine in another, four or five in another, three, and probably more, in one bed—at rents varying from 10s. to a few pence lower. Here is a typical place: a small front room, a stone kitchen where wood is chopped for a living, and two low-roofed upper rooms reached by a dilapidated staircase. Eight are living in this house, and sleep in the two upper rooms. The rent is 10s. a week. The ceiling is falling in, the walls are damp, and the woodwork rotten and mouldy. The largest room is about 12 ft. by 10 ft., and the ceilings are so low that Mr. Penny could not straighten

himself under them. Garage accommodation is being built on an extensive scale close by here, and the accommodation for cars looks palatial by comparison."

"In Cambridge Grove Road, one comes upon a motley scene—caravans, roughly built bungalows, and a medley of other dwellings. In one low two-roomed place, for which 10s. a week is charged, a man, his wife, and three children live, and they all sleep together in one wretchedly cramped space. Some of the places in this area are stoutly barricaded, presumably to keep out prying M.P.s and sanitary officials."

"In Mill Place there are cottages which until recently had to depend for their water supply on a well which had been sunk under the living-room of one of the houses. In one instance here, five persons sleep in one bed."

"It is so often raised against these helpless creatures that they fear to complain lest they should be expelled or told to pay more. Many of the most urgent repairs and decorations are done by the tenants themselves, but there are defects which they cannot remedy—which, indeed, the authorities fear to tackle. An experienced workman told us that there was scarcely a sound drain in a certain area where scores of human beings are huddled together."

Scotland also has its housing difficulties. Dr. Chalmers Smith, addressing a women's meeting at Glasgow recently, mentioned a one-apartment house in Cowcaddens occupied by a couple and eight children. The father and four children slept in one bed, the mother and the baby slept in a bed-chair, and the other three on the floor. A dog had to be kept because there were rats. The mother, he said, "was game and plucky, and kept fighting against great odds."

These housing conditions are little short of a national calamity, and it is extraordinary that they should be allowed to continue to exist at this stage of our civilisation. We believe that women of all parties would unite in any effective effort to alter them. We have to remember that, bad as these conditions are for the men, they are even worse for the women and their young children, who have so little opportunity of escaping from them either by day or night.

WELSH WOMEN AND WORLD PEACE.

The women of Wales are proud to recall the fact that, in the quest for world peace, there is a close historical tie between their little Principality and the great country of the United States. In the middle years of the nineteenth century, a Welshman from Tregaron, Henry Richard, in conjunction with an American citizen, Elihu Burritt, of Connecticut, first conceived the idea of organising a series of International Peace Congresses, and a memorable Conference in Brussels, in 1848, attended by 200 delegates from America and Great Britain, was the result of their joint enterprise. To-day, three-quarters of a century later, the women of Wales are seeking the help of the women of America to carry to completion the work begun in 1848 by the pioneers of the movement.

At a well-attended Public Conference, convened by the School of Social Science at Cardiff, and held in Aberystwyth in May, 1923, it was decided, as a first practical step, that the women of Wales should approach the women of America, and tell them frankly of their concern for the future of civilisation. The Memorial, which was then adopted, emphasises three things: (1) the debt which Wales owed to Elihu Burritt, (2) the joy experienced throughout the Principality when the United States decided to enter the Great War, and (3) the conviction that if the vacant chair in the Council of the League of Nations could be filled by America, the world would be saved for evermore from international bloodshed. The matter of the Memorial was taken up in the various localities in Wales by the local branches of the League of Nations Union. In Swansea, the Mayoress called a meeting, inviting to it

women representatives of different organisations. A local Committee was formed, and arrangements made for a house-to-house canvass throughout the whole of the borough, this canvass synchronising with Armistice Week. Ministers, clergy, and teachers in schools were asked to mention the Memorial in the pulpits and in the schools. A similar procedure was followed in other of the Welsh towns and rural districts. At a meeting held at Shrewsbury last November, the organisers stated that over 300 local organisations had been set up, and hundreds of Conferences had been held. The canvass is not yet completed, owing to the intervention of the General Election. The number of individual signatures up to date, though these do not include returns from large centres like Swansea, is 268,163. The form sent in from Criccieth bore, as its first signature, the name of "Margaret Lloyd George"!

Arrangements for presenting the Memorial in America probably early in the New Year are now being discussed, and it has been decided to ask Miss M. F. Rathbone (Chairman of the Executive Committee), Lady David Llewellyn and Mrs. Peter Hughes Griffiths (Hon. Treasurers), Miss Gwen Davies, of Llandinan, and Miss Mary Ellis (H. M. Inspector of Schools), to form the official delegation. The Women of Japan sent a widely signed Petition to the Washington Conference on Naval Disarmament, but it is believed that this is the first occasion on which the women of one country have suggested the organising of a Memorial to the women of another country on a matter which so vitally affects every woman and every home throughout the world.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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EDITORIAL.

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

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

The General Election of November, 1922, and the subsequent summoning of a new Parliament, unfortunately shelved many Bills of importance to women which had previously been before the house. These included the Guardianship of Infants Bill, Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, and Equal Franchise. Much of the work, therefore, had to be done all over again, but there was, nevertheless, cause for rejoicing in the new Parliamentary Session, not only on account of the warm welcome which Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham received from their colleagues, but also in the fact that several notorious enemies to progress, especially progress where women were concerned, were not among the new Members. The month of March proved a fortunate season for carrying out legislation affecting the interests of women and children. On March 3rd, the Bill drafted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to make the grounds for divorce the same for men and women, and introduced by Major Entwistle, passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons with the magnificent majority of 231 to 27, and is now the law of the land. Although some of the speeches on this occasion betrayed the survival in the minds of some die-hards of the view that an equal standard of morality for both sexes was an unattainable ideal, the general line of argument revealed an assumption of purity of life for men equally with women, and an equal reverence for the marriage bond. The large majority obtained on this occasion marks a real advance in public opinion as to the necessity for a single moral standard for both sexes. Another Bill of universal interest, the Intoxicating Liquors Bill (Sale to Persons under 18), popularly known as Lady Astor's Bill, passed its Second Reading by a majority of nearly 300, and has also passed into law. This Bill, which was originally introduced by the Bishop of London into the House of Lords, makes it illegal for a publican to sell any kind of intoxicating drink to young people under 18, for consumption on licensed premises. The need for more drastic legislation in this country, with regard to young people and alcohol, may be more clearly estimated when it is remembered that, until the promotion of Lady Astor's Bill, Great Britain lagged behind practically every other civilised nation in this respect. Another Bill which also became law before the House rose in August, was the Bastardy Bill, which dealt chiefly with the payment of affiliation orders, viz., the payment due to the mother from the father of an illegitimate child.

May was also a notable month for women, this time not so much for national as for international interests. Early in that month, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance held its Ninth Congress, in the Imperial City of Rome, which was attended by representatives from 43 countries. Women came from every corner of the globe—from China, Japan, India, Palestine, Egypt, Newfoundland, New Zealand, North and South America, and from most of the countries of Europe. Among the delegates were women Members of Parliament, doctors of medicine and of science,

lawyers, solicitors, writers, teachers, singers, musicians, and women engaged in trade and commerce. Every creed, every race, every class, and every profession were represented at the Congress. Thirteen of the delegates were official representatives of their respective Governments, and the Secretariat of the League of Nations was represented by Dame Rachel Crowdy. This particular Congress was also a memorable one because it marked the retirement of Mrs. Chapman Catt, who has acted as President of the Alliance since its inception. Englishwomen must be particularly gratified that the reins of office have now fallen to one of their own countrywomen, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, whose charming personality, great linguistic talent, and wide international knowledge, render her specially qualified to assume this important rôle.

In September, the Fourth Assembly of the League of Nations opened at Geneva. Great Britain again sent a woman, this year Dame Edith Lyttelton, J.P., as a substitute delegate in the British Delegation, and Australia sent Miss Jessie Webb, M.A., of Melbourne University. Otherwise the little quota of women in the Assembly remained the same as in previous years, viz., three women from the Scandinavian countries, and one from Roumania. It is much to be regretted that at present only six countries out of the 54 States Members of the League of Nations appear to realise the value of the woman's point of view—in reality, the *mother's* point of view—in the deliberations of this great international Parliament. British women's organisations, including the Women's Freedom League, are also constantly urging the Government to send women as full delegates, both to the Assembly and to the International Labour Conferences, but so far their pressure has been of no avail. The Government has also been asked to appoint a British woman on the Permanent Mandates Committee, since Great Britain controls a greater extent of mandated territory than any other country affiliated to the League. It is gratifying, however, to reflect that women of many different nationalities are now doing excellent work on several of the permanent and temporary Advisory Commissions set up by the League. America, who still remains obdurate as regards official membership, is interesting herself more and more deeply in the humanitarian side of the League's work, and on the Opium Commission, the Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children, the Commission on Deported Women and Children in the Near East, and the Health Commission, American women are carrying out very efficient work.

In November, Mr. Baldwin's decision to go to the country on the issue of Tariff Reform as a speculative remedy for unemployment (which, though slightly easier this year as compared with 1922, still stalks like a black spectre through our midst), threw all the women's societies into a state of frenzied preparation. It was generally felt on all hands that a snap Election such as Mr. Baldwin was precipitating could not but press hardly on the majority of prospective women candidates, seeing that these usually have less money, and enjoy less Party favour than the average man candidate. Thirty-four women, however, came forward, at least half of whom were standing for re-election. The women's societies worked with might and main in the short time allotted them—barely three weeks—and their efforts were more than compensated for by the magnificent results—the triumphant return of the three original women Members, with five more as a reinforcement, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence, Miss Dorothy Jewson, the Duchess of Atholl, and Lady Terrington. The unsuccessful women candidates, in many cases, polled extraordinarily highly. The Parties are now fairly equally represented among the women M.P.s—three Conservatives, three Labour, and two Liberals; but we realise that very much of women's work is non-Party, and we look forward confidently to their united efforts in 1924, and the concentrated influence of the woman's point of view in the forthcoming Parliamentary Session.

NORWEGIAN WOMEN'S TUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN.

By MADAME SIGNE LUND. (a celebrated Norwegian Composer).

Space will not permit me to describe the full extent of the work undertaken by the Norwegian Women's Sanitary Association during the last 27 years.

It provides material for nursing the wounded in case of war, as well as preparations for emergencies of any kind. It trains nurses for the field, and the sick room. It spreads practical knowledge of hygiene. It aims to promote efficient nursing services in town and country; and last, but not least, wages continual warfare against tuberculosis, Norway's national scourge.

In 1900, a law was passed by the *Storting* (Parliament), which compelled every tubercular patient to be taken care of in a hospital. The Association at once came forward, offering its help. The Kristiania branch, being the main one, and counting the largest number of members, naturally became the pioneer, and, in 1903, the first nursing home was ready for occupation. Later on, when the municipality built its own hospital for tubercular patients, the earlier building was converted into a home for children coming from homes where the mother is tubercular.

To the Kristiania branch also belongs the honour of building and maintaining the largest sanatorium. This is situated in the beautiful Grefsen grounds, and has rooms for 120 patients at a time. As many as 400 a year are usually taken care of.

Since 1914, Kristiania has had its milk kitchen and infant clinic, where sickly babies are given sterilised milk, and otherwise cared for. Once a week, every child is examined by a woman doctor, and the mothers are instructed in the care of children. At nine other stations delicate children are provided with a pint of milk a day.

A great boon to needy women, formerly pronounced tubercular, but now in a state of convalescence, is the Home in Kristiania, where as many as 27 guests at a time are received, and given a room, with oatmeal porridge morning and evening, for the nominal sum of five shillings a week.

Great stress is being laid on *preventive* work in this campaign, and to that end the Association is continually inventing new and effective methods, such as public educational work by means of lectures, demonstrations, circulars, and peripatetic nurses. Special attention is given to poor, sickly, and ill-nourished children, who might otherwise fall victims to the malady. The milk stations form part of this work, but the twelve holiday homes, and the open-air schools, are of still greater importance. In 1911, the Kristiania branch purchased a small farm, with forest and garden, and 50 tubercular little girls, chosen by the Health Authority from the Council Schools, were housed there. Since then, three more open-air schools have been opened, the last one having been presented to the Association by the Norwegian painter, Otto Valstad, and his wife. Only boys are accepted here, but near by a new home for girls has recently been inaugurated. All these schools are situated in the country, in healthy, beautiful surroundings. The children are instructed for three hours daily in ordinary school subjects, in the summer in the open-air, and in the winter in large airy rooms. Considerable time is devoted to all kinds of useful housework. A nurse instructs the children in making beds, and in airing and cleaning the rooms, whilst the matron teaches sewing, mending, knitting, washing, mangling, ironing, to lay a table properly, to wash dishes, to bake, and, as far as possible, to do ordinary cooking. The boys also learn to do most of these things, with carpentry in addition. During the summer, every child helps with farming and gardening, and there are also lambs, chickens, and rabbits to be taken care of. In the long winter months there is plenty of fresh air and exercise to be had, both girls and boys competing in skiing, skating, and coasting. The rapid improvement in these children is little less than marvellous.

Another achievement of the Kristiania branch is the building of ten little cottages at Ekeberg, a very healthy part of the city, overlooking the fjord and the islands. Here, ten families threatened with tuberculosis spend the summer, which is often the means of saving their lives. These little houses are built with the money acquired through the sale of the Christmas stamp, and are known as "The Christmas Stamp Cottages." It is hoped that before very long a great many more of these homes may be added to those already in existence.

In addition to these institutions and homes, the Association has 33 large hospitals, sanatoriums, and homes for tubercular patients, all of them up to date and very adequately equipped.

The Association also publishes a monthly magazine, called *The Health of the People*, by means of which definite teaching on hygiene is inculcated.

The President of the Association, Mrs. Fredrikke Quam, wife of the late Norwegian Prime Minister, is now over 80 years of age, but this is no obstacle to her. With her admirable tact, common sense, practical knowledge, and tenacious endurance, she is still the admired and beloved leader. Hers is no easy task, when one remembers that the Association consists of 500 branches, with a total of 75,000 members. Other women who have held, or are holding, leading positions in the Association, include Mrs. Dehli Laurantzon, Vice-President; Mrs. Othilde Uthelm, Secretary; Mrs. Randi Blehr, with whom the idea of the Association originated; Mrs. Margrethe Vullum, the first Vice-President; Mrs. Marie Qvale, President of the first Working Committee; Mrs. Marie Dehli, the first President of the Kristiania branch; Miss Sophie Möller, Director for distribution of material. These are only a few out of the numbers of Norwegian women interested in this work.

The means by which the work of the Association is carried on are many and varied. Chief of these is the Christmas Stamp—something like the Red Cross Stamp—but every year of a different design, often by our first artists. These are sold in millions. Then there is the beautiful little Mayflower Pin. Practically every person in Norway wears one of these on May 1st. And last, but not least, the Christmas Lottery. So far, three million kroner have been raised from these sources.

Last year, the Association was requested to prepare a lecture on its work, for the Exhibition in Rio Janeiro. This was done by Miss Lilly Schwartz, translated into Portuguese, and, with numbers of lantern slides, was delivered by Mrs. Engelhardt. The reward was *Le Grand Prix*.

So far, 700 trained nurses have been sent out to various posts all over Norway. Medical men frequently testify to the value of the Association's work.

The death-rate caused by tuberculosis has decreased 31 per cent. during the last 17 years, and the Association may safely attribute a great part of this result to its own humanitarian work.

The figures mentioned throughout this article may seem very insignificant to English readers, but it must be borne in mind that the population of the whole of Norway is little more than one-fourth of the population of London, whereas the size of Norway is many times the size of England. The distance from the North Cape to Kristiansand (the most southern point of the country) is the same as from that point down to Egypt. Barely 5 per cent. of the soil is fit to cultivate, the rest consisting of thick forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers. Add to this the hard climatic conditions, and the difficulties in communications, and it will be easier to understand what a tremendous work these indefatigable women have accomplished.

WOMEN AS FIRE WARDENS.

A new occupation has been evolved this year for American women, says the *Manchester Guardian*—the post of fire warden. The fire warden has a sort of crow's-nest mounted on a tripod, some 20 or 30 feet high, on the top of a mountain giving a wide range of view. A tower of this kind on Mount Hurricane, in the Adirondacks, gives a view all the way round of 20 or 30 miles of forest-clad hills and mountains. The warden sits in her tower with a telescope, a telephone, and a range-finder fitted to a map. As soon as she detects the slightest curl of smoke, she, or he, has to decide whether or not it is legitimate smoke. It may be a fire in one of the camping grounds, for instance. If she decides that it is a forest fire, she finds the exact spot from which it is issuing, using her map and her range-finder. She then telephones to the nearest station in the vicinity from which measures can be taken, not only to extinguish the fire, but to discover the cause of it, and, where possible, to seize upon the offender, who has perhaps dropped a match or a cigarette end, or who has not properly extinguished his fire.

So much damage has been done in recent years by forest fires, that very stringent means have been adopted over vast spaces to detect offenders. Aeroplanes have been used, but better work seems to be done by the fire wardens, and particularly by the women fire wardens, who are inclined to give too many, rather than too few alarms. This is further developing in the forest population a fire sense, which exists, as a rule, among the real inhabitants of the forests, but which is frequently lacking in outsiders.

OURSELVES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Parliament re-assembles on January 15th, when we expect another King's Speech outlining the Government's policy. In view of this, the Women's Freedom League has written to Mr. Baldwin, asking him, when making a statement of his policy in the King's Speech, to include:—

- (1) A measure for the enfranchisement of women at the same age as men, and enfranchising both men and women on a six months' residential qualification only.
- (2) Provision of relief, training with maintenance, or work, for unemployed women, and that, whatever sum is allocated to unemployment, it should be expended fairly amongst workless men and women in proportion to their numbers.
- (3) A measure giving to mothers and fathers equal rights of guardianship in respect of their children.
- (4) A measure providing pensions for civilian widows with children.

LUNACY REFORM.

"Medicus," writing in one of our contemporaries, draws attention to the fact that Lord Buckmaster's Divorce Law Reform Bill contains one clause—that relating to lunacy—to which exception should be taken. This clause provides that if a husband or wife who has once been certified fails to recover after five years of the treatment to which they are usually subjected, he or she shall be liable to divorce. We do not think that such a clause should become law until the whole question of Lunacy Reform has been dealt with. Until then, such a clause, if it became the law of the land, would be exceedingly dangerous. The Women's Freedom League has urged, and continues to urge, that a Royal Commission should be appointed at the earliest possible date, consisting of an equal number of men and women with similar qualifications, to consider the whole question of Lunacy Reform, overhauling the Lunacy Act itself, and making special investigations into Lunacy Administration throughout Great Britain, and the conditions in our asylums, and, where needed, recommendations for their improvement. Pending the findings of the proposed Commission, we protest against a lunacy clause being inserted in any Bill, or any legislation being carried through, in regard to lunacy.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Dedication. By Henrietta Leslie. (Jonathan Cape.) 7/6. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The character of the hero, Jimmy, is well described when, at their first strange meeting, the heroine says that he seems to be a helper of lame dogs over stiles. An understanding person, as Sarah Atherway divines; indeed it would be easy to quote many charming thoughts of his, such as "The very oddest chances are sometimes wrapped round the biggest purposes. If you ask me, it's God's sense of humour. Perhaps He likes to keep us guessing a bit, or perhaps it's His test of our faith. We ought to keep on believing that He has something good for us up His sleeve." Opposed to this sturdy countryman, with his love of nature and the dumb animals he rears and understands, is shown us the character of Sarah, who, reared in the school of adversity, finds it "jolly difficult to believe in God." She seeks happiness and self-expression in life, and in her desperate attempts at self-fulfilment, destroys Jimmy's happy, well-ordered life, only to realise in the end that she was meant to be "just a woman who can cook, and mend clothes, and have children." The clever contrast shown between the old grey stone farm with the North-Country neighbours, and the hurrying, unreal city life, as well as that drawn between the two chief characters, makes "Dedication" an unusually readable book. The subsidiary characters—Jimmy's neighbours, Sarah's London acquaintances—are also well sketched in. To a thoughtful reader, what make most for delight, however, are the quaint or pathetic sayings by the way—the reflections on the loneliness of London, where millions live together, and yet people are more isolated than buried in the country, miles from anywhere, because "no single soul is ever interested in one"; and the moments when Jimmy is reminded of his dear country life, while struggling to work happily in London, by such a little thing as the neigh of a horse, and the "world of dreams alone can create a refuge for an exiled heart." J. M. T.

A Woman Tenderfoot in Egypt. By Grace Thompson Seton. (John Lane.) 12/6. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

To the Feminist, the chief interest of this work lies in the very able descriptions of the hitherto little-known Woman's Movement in Egypt. The new woman, we are told, crept into Egypt as far back as 1911, when an organisation of women, several hundreds strong, came into existence. A still more progressive step was taken in 1919, when a group of women, under the leadership of Madame Saad Zaghlul Pasha, having suffered much in the present struggle which Egypt is making for greater political freedom, formed themselves into the "Ladies' Delegation for the Independence of Egypt," usually known as the "Ladies' Wafd." Other progressive Egyptian women in Madame Zaghlul Pasha's immediate entourage are also described, and numerous portraits are given of these very able and charming women, the majority of whom now wear up-to-date Paris fashions, and have practically discarded the *habara*, or black silk head-covering, and the *boukra*, or strip of transparent white crepe or chiffon, which covers the lower part of the face, and is held in place by a loop over the ears. It was the "Ladies' Wafd" which helped to originate the boycott on English goods, as a protest against the arrest and banishment of their leaders. Public processions in the streets of Cairo were also inaugurated, one of which consisted of 80 motor-cars full of ladies, and lasted two hours, the parading women visiting the King and every Consul-General, to present each with a written protest. "La Femme Nouvelle," started before the Great War, has established Trade Schools and Dispensaries and various Departments, such as Education, Civics, Hygiene, Sanitation, and Playground. Money has also been subscribed for the establishment of a Social Club House in Cairo, to be modelled on the American plan. D. M. N.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

1924.

Monday, January 14th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting (Members only) at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Friday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, January 19th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, January 30th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch Social Gathering, open to non-members, at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., on Proportional Representation. Chair: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Music. (Refreshments can be obtained at a small charge.) Three minutes from Hampstead Station.

Saturday, April 5th. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

SCOTLAND.

Tuesday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow. Public Meeting at the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street. Speaker: Miss Isabel C. Hamilton, Member of Education Authority of Glasgow, &c. Subject: "Equal Pay." Professional and Business women are cordially invited.

Saturday, January 26th, at 6 p.m. Glasgow. Whist Drive in the West End College, Peel Street, Partick. Tickets 2/6.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, January 29th, at 8 p.m. Kingston-on-Thames, Theological Lodge. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "Brotherhood—from a Woman's Point of View."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Domestic Staff—All Men!

The *Daily Chronicle* reports that a lady residing in Surrey has advertised for an entire "man staff, cook, parlourman, houseman, willing to get 8 o'clock breakfast, and wait on nursery, two babies; nurse kept; ex-Navy preferred; must guarantee not to quarrel!" The lady had 173 replies, and has now apparently been suited. She states that the references some of the men sent were excellent, and that the average wage requested by them was 15s. a week. They have also told her that they are good-tempered; so she considers that she has solved the domestic problem for the time being. We suppose that the "nurse kept" is a woman; but possibly she will be supplanted by a man later on. This all reads like a story, "to be continued in our next," and we look forward to reading further reports of the domestic arrangements of this Surrey household.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Two important child-welfare centres were opened recently, one in Shoreditch by Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, and the other in Liverpool by Miss Haldane, under the scheme of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees. At these centres, mothers may be taught how to bring healthy children into the world, and to keep them healthy during infancy and childhood. Each institution includes a large cosy room, in which mothers and their young children are received. There are also rooms where babies are weighed, play-rooms, and maternity rooms, where advice is given to expectant mothers.

Pensions for Employees' Widows.

Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, of Bourneville, have a scheme for providing pensions for their employees' widows. The fund is to be on a contributory basis, contributions of equal amount to be made by the company and by the employees. The company has agreed to bear the whole cost of the scheme until it is started this month. Under the scheme, in the event of the death of an employee who has attained pension age, his widow will be entitled to a pension equal to one-half of the husband's normal pension. An employee's contribution to the widows' fund will be at the rate of one-third of his normal contributions to the men's pension fund.

New Justices of the Peace—One Woman and Thirteen Men!

The Lord Chancellor has approved of Lady Dorothy Kate Wells and 13 men being added to the Commission of the Peace for Surrey. Lady Wells is the second woman who will sit on the Wimbledon Bench. She makes the eighth woman Justice of the Peace for the whole of Surrey; the number of men Justices for that county must be legion!

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NOTICES.

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