

THE VOTE,
JULY 30, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

UNWRITTEN LICENCE!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1920.

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

ONE OF OUR OWN MAGISTRATES.

Interview with Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P.
CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT. E. Knight.
IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.
THE SUFFRAGE SITUATION IN AMERICA.

INCREASED RAILWAY FARES!

PILGRIM MOTHERS OF THE MAYFLOWER. D.M.N.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
BOOK REVIEWS.

ONE OF OUR OWN MAGISTRATES.

Interview with Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P.

Last week we had the great pleasure of announcing in *THE VOTE* the Lord Chancellor's new list of 234 more women magistrates, amongst whom we proudly recorded the names of four honoured members of the Women's Freedom League. One of these members, Mrs. Nevinson, whose name is already well-known to readers of *THE VOTE*, has since granted our representative an interview concerning the new responsibilities she is about to add to her already numerous public duties.

"You may possibly not be aware that the women, whose names were submitted by the Advisory Committee to the Lord Chancellor, underwent a searching test before their respective merits were favourably considered," said Mrs. Nevinson. "Several months ago I received a document of typewritten questions to which suitable answers had to be returned. These were chiefly connected with my nationality, place of abode, education, special qualifications, experience of public work, social conditions amongst the poor, etc. I found I could answer these quite satisfactorily. I am an L.L.A. of St. Andrew's University. My father, a notable classical scholar, taught me Latin and Greek at the age of seven, and later I was sent to school in Oxford, Paris and Germany. French and

German will doubtless be useful to me in the Courts, as foreigners frequently appear in dock and witness-box, and the women of the Women's Freedom League have no doubt often seen cases held up for want of an interpreter. I was classical mistress at the South Hampstead High School before my marriage. As to my experience of public work, I have been connected with the School Management Committee under the old School Board and the L.C.C. for 25 years in the East End and in Hampstead. For two years after our marriage we lived in Whitechapel, and I worked at various schemes and acted as rent collector and agent for two huge blocks of artizan dwellings, and for the last 16 years I have been a member of the Hampstead Board of Guardians. This experience, you will see, guarantees a pretty extensive acquaintance, not only with public work, but with the conditions under which the poor live. Indeed, I may say, I have been surrounded with the problems of poverty all my life, for my father was Vicar of St. Margaret's, a big poor parish



in Leicester. "In addition to these interests I am heart and soul with the public propaganda of the League of Nations, and whenever time and strength permit, I speak on

this subject. I am grieved to find that even in women's hearts the seeds of war still linger, in spite of the fact that we see the fruits of its devastation on every side at the present day. Until we eradicate militant tendencies in the individual it is impossible to bring about a world peace.

"You might be interested to know, too, that I was one of the pioneers in taking up Massage quite early in this century. This knowledge came in most usefully during the war, when I joined the Almeric Paget Military Massage Corps, and worked in a hospital, as well as took private patients, during 1914 to 1916. I was decorated for this work, but gave it up for health reasons.

"I may as well confess at once that I have never been attracted to purely municipal affairs. Roads and cemeteries and drains don't interest me. I must have human material to deal with, and that is why I have always taken a special interest in my Poor Law Guardian work. I wrote a number of sketches during this time, which appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* and other papers. Two years ago they were collected and published by Messrs. George Allen & Unwin, under the title of 'Workhouse Characters.' This book received universally favourable reviews when it appeared, and is selling steadily. Indeed, I am told, the first edition of 1,000 copies is now nearly exhausted. I also wrote a Play in 1911, called 'In the Workhouse,' which was produced by the Pioneer Players. A certain bad law was illustrated in the Play, which was removed in the following year.

"It is this same human element which I know will particularly attract me when I take my seat on the Bench, and my many years' experience of the environment of the poor will go a long way towards enabling me to understand the human material with which I shall be brought in contact, not merely for punitive purposes, but in order to help and restore it to the best possible uses.

"When do I expect to begin my new duties? According to information recently received from the House of Lords, I do not expect to be sworn in for some weeks, and this ceremony, I understand, will probably take place at Clerkenwell Sessions House. After being sworn in, I understand I shall attend the court on rota once a week, probably on Wednesdays. Some people are under the impression that I shall receive a handsome salary, whereas I need hardly tell you that the functions of a Justice of the Peace, whether exercised by men or women, are entirely honorary.

"Much of my work, too, will be particularly unpleasant, and I am already bracing myself to the effort. The frequenters of the Heath are not always well-behaved; more cases of indecent conduct and indecent assault are probably heard at Hampstead than in any other court in England.

"A curious, and rather amusing little story will convince you on this point. Before enquiring the date of my being sworn in at the House of Lords, I went first to the Hampstead Police Court to obtain information. Only a young policeman was on duty, and he could tell me nothing. 'I am one of the new J.P.s,' I explained. 'Oh! no,' said he, 'we don't have any ladies here.' When I explained to him they were going to have them he actually blushed crimson. 'This will be very awkward for me,' he replied. 'We have such dreadful cases here. I shan't know how to say what it is my duty to say, ma'am, with ladies present. Women are always made to leave the Court before these cases are taken, even the women police.' A very chivalrous gentleman!

"This little anecdote will help you to realise that there will be no child's play in my future magisterial duties, but need for much courage and grit. However, no doubt the spiritual warfare of the old Suffrage days will lend me strength in this direction. Moreover, the Church prays daily for the Magistrates, leaving County and Borough Councillors and Poor Law Guardians (who have great need of the prayers of the faithful) to shift for themselves."

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT.

Joint Committee at Work.

As previously mentioned in THE VOTE the three Bills with this object which have passed the House of Lords—the *Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 1)*, for which the Bishop of London is responsible, a simple Bill raising the age of consent to 18; the *Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2)*, brought in by the Home Office and piloted through the Lords by Lord Sandhurst, which introduces compulsory rescue homes and a general 40D, D.O.R.A.; and the *Sexual Offences Bill* of Lord Beauchamp—have been referred to a joint committee of both Houses. This Committee started work on July 13th, and meets in Committee Room C of the House of Lords, usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 11 a.m. The proceedings are public, and we urge our members to go and hear the evidence given before it. The Committee has now adjourned, but will resume its labours in the autumn. The Chairman is Lord Muir-Mackenzie, and the members Earls Beauchamp, Malmesbury, Pembroke, Onslow and Wemyss, Lady Astor, Sir T. Bramsdon, Major Farquharson, Mr. Maddocks, Colonel Parry, and Mr. Wignall.

On July 20th evidence was given by Miss NEILANS, MR. G. W. JOHNSON, G.M.B., and others, on behalf of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and the next day DR. HELEN WILSON, J.P., gave substantially similar evidence. She considered compulsory detention destructive to any success in dealing with girls in Homes; indeed, many of the best Homes had told her they could not continue their work under such conditions. For many of these girls she thought institutional treatment useless, if not harmful. Help and personal sympathy was what many of the girls needed. There were many people who would be willing to take one or two girls to board with them, if the extra expense were defrayed; as any place approximated to a real home it was successful, as it partook of the nature of an Institution it was a failure. Probation should be very extensively used, and if it could be employed at an early age it was very hopeful.

Dr. Wilson opposed any legislation penalising the communication of venereal disease. Even when it accompanied seduction it was impossible to devise any way in which it could be with fairness and justness punished. Nothing could make promiscuous intercourse safe, and reform should be in the direction of discouraging it altogether. The person who carelessly exposed himself to disease was almost as much to blame as the person who actually communicated the disease.

LORD RIDDELL, on behalf of the Newspaper Conference, representing the London and Provincial Press, opposed a clause in the Sexual Offences Bill enabling a judge to exclude the Public and the Press. This was unnecessary and undesirable, calculated to interfere with the due administration of justice, and extremely dangerous, as it prevented any criticism of the actions of judges, magistrates, counsel and police. The Chairman replied that the Committee would recommend that the Press should be admitted but the Public might be ordered to withdraw, whereupon Lord Riddell cheerfully threw over the rights of the Public, expressed his entire satisfaction with the Committee's decision, many compliments were exchanged, and very few of the Committee seemed to grasp the far-reaching possibilities of the compromise, and that the rights of the Press are only to be respected so long as they accompany and do not usurp the rights of the Public. July 22nd, the concluding day for the present, brought SIR MACKENZIE CHALMERS, a former Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office, who thought that all the provisions were well intended, but most of them would do more harm than good. He did not want to raise the age of consent beyond 16.

E. KNIGHT.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Affiliation Orders.

MR. C. WHITE asked the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR whether the maximum amount of the affiliation order which could be made against the soldier for his illegitimate child, or children, was still the same as when his rate of pay was 7s. a week; and, if so, why? SIR ARCHIBALD WILLIAMSON replied that the amount which could be stopped from the pay of a private soldier for the maintenance of an illegitimate child, which was 4d. a day when his pay was 1s. a day, had now been raised to 1s. a day by the Army and Air Force (Annual) Act. Since the War Office authorities have had considerable experience in spending innumerable millions of the nation's money, will their accountants explain how it is possible for a woman to make adequate provision for a child in these days of high prices on 7s. a week?

Women Turned Out by Trade Unionists.

SIR WILLIAM DAVISON asked the MINISTER OF LABOUR if he could now state whether the 200 skilled women who had been offered employment by Messrs. William Thomas & Sons in connection with the erection of urgently needed wooden houses, but who were prevented from accepting the same by the General Union of Operative-Carpenters and Joiners, were still prevented from earning a living by reason of the action of this trades union? And would he state what steps the Government were taking in the matter, in view of their pledges that men and women should be given equal opportunities? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that he understood that the firm manufactured wooden huts, which could not be supplied in sufficient numbers owing to the shortage of joiners. To meet this difficulty a proposal had been made to the Union that 50 to 60 ex-Service men should be intensively trained for part of the work, and thereafter 200 unskilled men or women could be employed in the erection of the huts. The Union stated that as they were supporting the Government scheme, which provided a period of general training extending over three years, they could not accept the proposal for a partial intensive course. Negotiations were, however, proceeding between the parties, and the Ministry of Labour was taking an active interest in the matter! SIR WILLIAM DAVISON further enquired if it was not a fact that some 200 women for over three years had been engaged in that particular work and were highly skilled upon it, and he wanted to know what was the justification for their being prevented from continuing work in which they had acquired skill, especially as houses were urgently needed? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW professed ignorance as to the correctness or incorrectness of that statement. What we want to know is how any working women can be expected, in their own interests, to support any Government candidate or nominee of any men's Trade Union at any Election? There is apparently a conspiracy between the Government and the men's Trade Unions to oust women from every section of remunerative trades.

Women and Income Tax Anomalies.

MR. KILEY asked the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER whether it was a general rule that the profits of the married woman living with her husband should be assessed and charged in his name unless she made special application in special circumstances; and, if so, why, in the case of married women teachers, temporary civil servants, and others at the present time who had made no special application, their Income Tax was being deducted at the source? MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative, and the Income Tax assessments in the case of the married women were accordingly made in the names of the husbands. But in various classes of cases Income Tax was actually collected by deduction at the source. We would add that there seems to be a little doubt as to the legality of collecting married women's

income tax at the source, and we hope it will not be long before a married woman teacher brings a test case into Court on this question.

Prostitution (Imprisonment).

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the HOME SECRETARY how many women accused of being prostitutes were committed to prison during the year 1918 in default of finding sureties for good behaviour? SIR JOHN BAIRD replied that there were no figures available on this subject. Our readers will agree that if Sir John Baird's statement is correct there must be gross incompetence in the keeping of prison records.

F. A. U.

THE SUFFRAGE SITUATION IN AMERICA.

This month's *Jus Suffragi* contains an inspiring account of the American Suffrage Situation up to date, from the pen of Mrs. Ida Husted Harper. Suffragists in this country do not perhaps realise that when the thirty-sixth ratification of the amendment, which proposed to give women the franchise on the same terms as men, hung in the balance in the Delaware Legislature, it was only defeated by a vote of 10 to 24 on the last day of the session. Every other western and northern State, except Connecticut and Vermont, has ratified, most of them by calling special sessions through the Governor, but in the case of Connecticut and Vermont, the Governors positively refused. The party leaders in both States went to them in person, but both Governors were anti-suffragists, and, moreover, in sympathy with the liquor and other great money interests, and would not be moved. A delegation of 400 women, from practically all the counties of the State, called on the Governor of Vermont, as a proof of local enthusiasm for the cause. They made their visit in winter, arriving at the capital from mountain and valley, through deep snowdrifts, along almost impassable roads, and by belated trains, and marched, four hundred strong, through drenching rain, to the State House. A similar onslaught was made upon the Governor of Connecticut, in his case taking the form of a four days' tour by prominent women of all the principal cities and towns of the State. Both Governors, however, remained obdurate.

Twenty-nine of the thirty-five States which have ratified are Republican, and the majority in both Houses of Congress which submitted the amendment to the Legislatures was Republican. This party, therefore, is, naturally, claiming the credit, but Suffragists are making it clear that they must finish their work, since two Republican Legislatures are still standing like the rock of Gibraltar between women and the suffrage. The Republican party has recently been holding its convention in Chicago to nominate the candidates for President and Vice-President, but women were not convinced that the Republican leaders were doing all in their power to secure the thirty-sixth essential ratification, and spoke of withholding their votes.

The recent decision given by the United States Supreme Court that "ratification of an amendment to the Federal Constitution by a Legislature cannot be submitted to the voters," is a great victory for the women's cause, and a source of general rejoicing. Another victory last month for the Women's Cause was the magnificent decision by the Supreme Court, the highest legal authority, that the Federal Prohibition Amendment, and the so-called Volstead Law for its rigid enforcement, were constitutional in every particular, and that all action by Courts or Legislatures intended to weaken them was null and void.

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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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... Post free, 6/6 per annum.

INCREASED RAILWAY FARES!

As we go to press the public is still awaiting the Government's decision in regard to railway fares. A Petition, more than a mile long, has been secured by the Early Closing Association against any present increase of fares, and we ourselves have sent a protest to the Minister of Transport against these fares being increased now, or at any time, and demanding a reduction at the earliest opportunity. We are more than ever convinced that there is no real necessity for higher fares. During the war our various Government Departments acquired the habit of squandering the nation's money with impunity, and unless the Public insist that there shall be less extravagance in the management of our affairs, the whole country will be involved in ruin. Parliament appears to have no control over the national purse, and women have now a special opportunity, through their new political status, to bring public pressure to bear upon Parliament to secure the restoration of its control over the finance of the country. There are many women's organisations, and the members of every one of them should make it clear to their local Members of Parliament and to the Government that the present colossal extravagance in the management of our public affairs and public services must immediately cease, and that retrenchment in all directions must be enforced with vigour. If the present managers and directors of our railway companies are incapable of using sufficient care initiative and organising ability to make a substantial profit out of the pre-war rates of charges for passengers and goods, then their place should be taken at once by men and women with more business acumen. The public have every right to demand a more efficient, a more comfortable and a cheaper railway service than they now are obliged to tolerate. Owing to the housing muddle—another interesting achievement of this Government—it is impossible for millions of men and women who have to gain their livelihood to live near their work; and now that rents are going up 30 per cent. and 40 per cent., life, with the additional burden of increased railway fares, will become intolerable for the great majority of workers. In our present stage of civilisation it is impossible to live, move and have our being within walking distance of the place in which we sleep; and the least we expect from our Government in this twentieth century—the Prime Minister of which promised us all a New World when the war was over—is to see that travel is easy and not restricted for the fifty million inhabitants of the British Isles. Travel is an essential of modern life, and we agree with the *New Statesman* when it says that "Every restriction on travel is a serious restriction on liberty. Excessive railway fares tend to convert London more and more into a huge internment camp. . . . London is a delightful place so long as it is not a prison, but, when once it becomes a prison, it is merely Pentonville-on-Thames."

WOMEN'S WORK.

"What is women's work?" is as old as the question, "What is truth?" So far as we can remember, no very satisfactory reply has ever been given to the latter; but a pushful young Member of Parliament managed to secure from our Minister of Pensions, who has had a varied if not a very distinguished career in several Departments of State, the statement that women's work was cleaning offices! It is true that other Members of Parliament would like to have probed further into this definition—women's sphere and activities have almost invariably been defined by men—but the Speaker refused to allow a discussion on the matter, and Mr. Macpherson's "cleaning offices" remains recorded in the Parliamentary Debates as the proper range for women's energies. It appears that just over fourteen thousand women are employed on the temporary staff of the Ministry of Pensions, which did not exist before the war because the work of this Ministry is a direct consequence of the war, so that no woman working there can be said to be keeping any ex-Service man out of his former job. It is well known that the women have done excellent work throughout the life of this particular Ministry, and even Mr. Macpherson acknowledged that it was extremely difficult to get rid of competent women who had done good work when the men who could take their places with efficiency were not available; and in reply to a further question as to whether there was any work done by a woman which could not be done by a man, and if men should not have the first claim on his Department, the Minister of Pensions replied that at least five thousand out of the fourteen thousand women were doing women's work, which he later on explained was—cleaning offices. How many more women shall we have to send to Parliament before we hear the last of these imperfections and injustices in the House of Commons?

WOMEN JUDGES WANTED.

In the *Daily Mail* of July 21st we read that James Glass, a stationer, of West Hampstead, sentenced at Marylebone Police Court on May 4th to three months' imprisonment for indecently assaulting Irene Banyard, aged nine years, appealed on July 20th at London Quarter Sessions, and though his appeal was dismissed with costs, the conviction was modified to one of common assault, he being fined £5 and relieved from the painful necessity of a compulsory holiday at his Majesty's expense. And on July 26th we read how a man, convicted of stealing 30s. from his legally separated wife, managed, on appeal, to get rid of his sentence because of his assertion that his wife owed him £5, no proof of this being offered.

But it is not always the judge who is at fault. An Old Bailey jury (of men only), on July 23rd, who had each of them sworn to weigh the evidence put before them well and truly, unanimously gave the flippant verdict that the accused man who bought a revolver and deliberately aimed at and shot his young wife in the eye, thereby killing her, was not guilty of intending her grievous bodily harm. The key to this paradoxical pronouncement is to be found in the hypocrisy and tyranny upon which is reared the chivalrous ideal of woman of the average sentimental British man. If a wife is unfaithful she is an outlaw. In her case killing is no murder, and no blame attaches to the injured husband, who either drops her into the Bosphorus sewn up in a sack, or makes free with her eye for his revolver practice, as the fancy takes him. The British juryman badly needs the sanity of the British jurywoman to stop this orgy of unwritten licence, and vindicate the ancient laws of Britain.

PILGRIM MOTHERS OF THE MAYFLOWER.

A UNIQUE CELEBRATION.

The "Mayflower" celebrations of 1920 have chanted innumerable paucans of praise in honour of the Pilgrim Fathers who crossed the stormy Atlantic three hundred years before. But the Women's Freedom League has had its own ideas as to the best methods of commemoration. It has pointed out to an unappreciative world that the Pilgrim Fathers did not go alone, but were accompanied by the Pilgrim Mothers, who took their full share in the struggle for religious liberty, and in the hardships that awaited the pioneers in the New World.

Accordingly, by kind permission of Lord Leverhulme, who placed his beautiful grounds at the League's disposal, a very successful Garden Fête was held last Thursday at The Hill, North End, Hampstead.

Mrs. Despard opened the Fête at 3 p.m. Messages of regret at inability to attend were read from the Mayoress of Hampstead, Dr. Clifford, Dr. Horton, George Balfour, Esq., M.P. for Hampstead, Sir Harry Johnston, and others. Extracts from a letter from Mrs. Strickland, a member of the Women's Freedom League of many years standing, who had hoped to have been amongst the speakers, were also read: "Until the Women's Freedom League took the question up, the part which the women played in this great adventure has evoked but little enthusiasm. The Pilgrim Fathers themselves seemed to ignore them, since we read no woman's name in the list of the signatories to the Constitution and Covenant which the men drew up in the little cabin of the 'Mayflower' when they first sighted land at Cape Cod. In this covenant they pledged themselves as a community to be 'mutually governed'—but the governing was to be left entirely in the hands of the men! And until quite recently this has been so all the world over. . . . How much we Englishwomen owe to our veterans in the long uphill struggle which they have waged on our behalf!"

Mrs. Despard said the Pilgrim Fathers could not possibly have done all they did if it had not been for the Pilgrim Mothers who sailed with them across those unknown seas. Great things had grown out of that small beginning 300 years ago, but how much greater was "that which might have been"! The great American Continent would probably have been built up on wholly different lines if only the Pilgrim Mothers had received equal educational and political equality with their menfolk. We should certainly have been a little more forward than we were to-day. There would not have been the same mad passion for the acquisition of material wealth, and possibly there would have been no war.

The Rev. Harry Burns, of Boston, U.S.A., explained his special interest in that day's ceremony, since his home was in New England, his pastorate being in Dorchester, U.S.A., and the Plymouth Rock, the huge stone which marked the place where the Pilgrim Fathers landed and the little cemetery where they were afterwards buried being only 60 miles distance from his parish. James Russell Lowell had compared the passage of the Pilgrim Fathers across the Atlantic as equal in importance to the journeying of the Israelites out of Egypt. We were not that day commemorating people only, but rather the ideals for which these stood. This was a man-made world, and the men had little to be proud of in the sum total of their achievements. As the influence of women gradually permeated political life there was hope that their idealism, tenderness and toleration, and all those virtues which united classes and races, would finally conquer the materialism which had prevailed in the past. Men and women were intended to work in unison, so that their points of view might complement one another.

Councillor Margaret Hodge drew attention to the fact that all that had been said of the silence and sufferings endured by the Pilgrim Mothers could be equally applied to all other women in the Colonies overseas. In Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and South

Africa, women had done their full share in building up the Empire. Everywhere, their sufferings had been greater than those of men.

Miss F. A. Underwood emphasised the point that when men went abroad they formed neither laws nor a constitution, but when women joined them these laid down a basis for family life. All down the ages pioneer women had asserted their rights against injustice from those in authority, and the women of to-day were their spiritual descendants. The Pilgrim Mothers opposed injustice with exhilaration, not with gloom, and the women of to-day, all the world over, would follow their example wherever tyranny and injustice were found to exist.

Tea, spread at various tables on the lawn, followed the speeches, after which children's dances, a Model Election—the Model Election attracted a large audience, the candidates being: The Hon. Mrs. William Cecil (Unionist), Mrs. Montefiore (Labour), Miss Alison Garland (Independent Liberal), Mrs. How Martyn (League of Nations), Miss Dorothy Evans (Independent Socialist), Miss Selby (Industrial Women), and Miss Agnes Dawson (Women Teachers). The highest number of votes were gained by: 1, Mrs. How Martyn; 2, Miss Agnes Dawson; 3, Miss Alison Garland; 4, Miss Dorothy Evans—a Concert and various side-shows followed one another in rapid succession until closing time at 7 o'clock.

To Lord Leverhulme the Women's Freedom League gives its best thanks for his generous kindness and hospitality in allowing us the use of his beautiful garden and the help of his staff in the arrangements, and to Mrs. Britter for her untiring interest and assistance in planning and carrying through the Fête. All the details of the Festival were in the capable hands of Miss Elizabeth Berry, and to her hard work and initiative and organising capacity its success is mainly due. To all the many kind friends and members who were with us we offer our most sincere and grateful thanks, firstly, to Mrs. Despard for presiding at the Commemoration; to Councillor Margaret Hodge and Miss F. A. Underwood for their interesting addresses; and especially to Mr. Burns, of Boston, U.S.A. (who at the last moment came as the American representative in the place of President Hough, to tell us what modern Americans think about the Pilgrim Mothers).

Secondly, to Miss Strachan (of the Proportional Representation Society), for counting the votes at the Model Election; and to all the Candidates and the Chairman, Miss Kirby. Thirdly, to Mrs. Clark and all her helpers who worked so hard at the strawberry and cream stall; to Mrs. Elias and her friends who had so many excellent cakes to sell; to Mrs. Lindus for presiding at the Flower Stall; and to Miss Bergman for her work at the Literature Stall. To Mrs. Northcroft, owner of a hundred pockets, which we picked with joy; and to Mrs. Schofield Coates, who lent us the ingenious fortune-telling doll. Cordial thanks are also due to Mrs. Goodall for her untiring efforts in Character Reading, and to Mr. D'Arcy Denny for his clever work in Head Reading.

We gratefully acknowledge the kindness of Miss Reeves in arranging an excellent Concert, and warmly thank the artistes, Mme. Nami, Miss Bunch, and Mr. Keenan, for the trouble they took in carrying out a delightful programme. Many thanks are due to Angela Clark and Buntly Davis for their charming costume dances, and also to Miss Crampton and the little girls she brought with her, who gave some delightful country dances; also to the Misses Coombs and Mitchell and their helpers who took so much trouble in arranging the competitions; and last, but by no means least, to Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Fisher, Miss White and the Minerva Café, who made the arrangements for the tea, and to all our other stewards.

D. M. N.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The Future Generation.

Lady Frances Balfour, when distributing prizes and certificates to pupils of the Burlington School for Girls, Boyne Street, W., last week, said that she did not think any man or woman could stand among young women to-day and not feel how much the new world was resting in their hands. She impressed the fact that every country where women had not been regarded as the most valuable asset had suffered. It was for women in the present day to reconstruct society.

Women Voters.

The second return of Parliamentary Electors under the Franchise Act of 1918 shows a marked increase in the number of women voters, probably due to the number of wives and other women qualified to vote who reached the age-limit of 30 during the year. The increase of women voters in 1919 was 377,337, whereas in the case of men voters it was only 5,924.

A Knotty Problem.

French Senators are confronted with a grave problem affecting the marriage law. An article in the Civil Code stipulates that the husband owes protection to his wife and the wife obedience to her husband. A proposal is now on foot to suppress the word "obedience." The Senators, who are mostly elderly men, are appalled at the responsibility devolving upon them, and have asked for time for reflection. They will therefore spend the Parliamentary recess in making up their minds upon this crucial point.

Women and Political Parties.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the well-known American suffragist leader, is sending out an appeal to American women voters to refuse to support any of the existing parties, but form a party of their own. She disclaims any idea of sex antagonism, but believes that only through the formation of a separate woman's party will the interests of women and children receive proper recognition. She suggests limiting membership of the party to women, but does not propose that the party shall support women candidates only. Like Lady Astor, Mrs. Belmont is a Southerner, being a native of Alabama.

Jewish Women Voters.

The Jewish Women's Equal Rights' Association has branches in Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa, Tiberias, and in many colonies. Jewish women obtained equal suffrage about a year ago. Several women in Jaffa have been elected to the National Assembly. There are also women in the City Council of Haifa, and some of the colonies. Recently a woman has been appointed a member of the Board of Education in Jerusalem. The Arab women, amongst whom so far there has been no movement for political equality with their men, are looking to the Jewish women for inspiration.

Anna Shaw Memorial.

American suffragists are proposing to found two scholarships as a memorial to Dr. Anna Shaw, one to be held at Bryn Mawr College in connection with the study of politics, and the second at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in connection with preventive medicine. Although Anna Howard Shaw, pastor, medical woman and suffragist leader, passed the greater part of her life in the United States, she was descended from an old Scottish family of some repute, and was born in this country.

Women's Work.

King's College Hospital, having decided to admit ladies on the committee of management, has now elected as members of the committee Lady Hambleton, the chairman of the Ladies' Association in connection with the hospital, and the Hon. Mrs. Anthony Henley.

BOOK REVIEWS.

A Scottish Nurse at Work. By Henrietta Tayler. (John Lane.) 5s. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

The only thing that at all puts one off from reading this extremely interesting book is the fact that the writer rather emphasises being "semi-trained." It is not at all noticeable from the varied record of her work; indeed, in one important respect she may be considered to have been remarkably well-trained in that she knew quite well several languages. From first to last there is no hint of self-glorification, not a sign of complaint, but a candid cheerfulness which is most commendable. The narrative is written in a restrained and humorous style which decidedly wins the approval of the reader.

From Scotland she went to Belgium, where she worked for some time under the famous Dr. Depage. After that she was at a Nursing Home for Belgian children at Adinkerke; then, whilst waiting for a chance to go to Italy, she was one of a mixed staff—chiefly English—which took charge of a hospital for *rapatriés* in France. Finally, she reached Florence, and for the remainder of her nursing service she spent the time in Italy. By this time she was pretty well experienced; her powers seemed to have been matured, and she appeared to handle her work with a surer grip. Hungarians, Croats, Germans, Austrians, Bohemians, Boznians, and Poles all came her way; and the extraordinary thing is that she made herself understood by them all. She says: "After a while one of the Austrian prisoners from the neighbouring camp, to whom I taught a little French for daily use, brought me a tattered copy of a quaint little hand-book intended to teach Croats to speak German; but, of course, that gave me no rules of Croatian grammar. At least I made myself understood, and could ask and get answers to all the doctors' usual questions. When I realised that, but for the difference of alphabet, Croatian is very much the same as Serbian, I sent home for a dictionary of that tongue and got on better."

It must not be thought that Miss Tayler's whole equipment was linguistic. She seems to have been a thoroughly capable and level-headed woman who worked under extraordinarily difficult conditions wherever she was wanted most. It does one's heart good to read this record of one more of the war's true heroines.

The Book of Youth. By Margaret Skelton. (Collins.) (Can be obtained at this office.)

This is a remarkable book, and shews signs of much fine detailed workmanship. In the main it is the life story of two remarkable people, Monica Harthen, the only child of dour Jonathan Harthen, of Carlton Hall Farm, and Anthony Ralph, the lame musician, with a few minor characters added as a gradual accretion much as the chorus figures in old Greek plays. Their childhood, spent amongst the fresh air of the Fells, occupies the first part of the book, and is full of pathetic memories, some grave, some gay. After this period their paths separate. Monica passes on to school and college, and takes up secretarial and librarian's work for a living. Anthony studies his beloved art abroad, and becomes famous in the world of music. Midway in the book a strong suffrage element begins to make itself felt, and is closely linked to a department of social work in a slum district known as Denvers Town, which is much frequented by Monica and her friends. By the time Anthony returns from abroad and resumes his old childish relationship with Monica the Suffrage movement is at its height. The men characters, with the exception of Anthony, show up poorly in this book, and serve as excellent foils to the band of public-spirited women who lead the movement, and cheerfully sacrifice themselves for the Cause. But Anthony understands, and inspires them, and Monica's ideals of love and life, held tightly through many years of loneliness and disillusionment, become eventually realised in the playmate of her youth.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, August 4.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 11.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park. 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Monday, September 6.—Hastings. Whist Drive. Metropole Hotel, Robertson Terrace. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Bexhill.

Business Meeting. 19, Marine Mansions. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. 3.30 p.m.

WALES.

From July 29 and throughout August.—Aberystwyth. Meetings at the Bandstand every night. 8 p.m. Subjects: "League of Nations," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Why Women Should Use the Vote," "The Need for Women in Parliament," etc. Speakers: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Chairman: Alix M. Clark.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, July 31.—Public Meeting, convened by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, on "The Need for More Women in Parliament." Picton Hall, Liverpool. 8 p.m. Chair: Miss Leonora de Alberti. Speakers: Miss Annie Christitch, B.A., Joseph Clayton, Esq., Professor Mary Hayden, M.A., and Miss Naney Stewart Parnell.

BRANCH NOTES.

ASHFORD.

A Garden Fête in aid of funds for the Women's Club will be held at Glangariff, Albert Road, Ashford, on Saturday, August 14th, from 4 to 8 p.m. Mrs. Kither has kindly consented to lend her garden. An attractive programme is being arranged, and we hope to get as many friends to come as possible. Mrs. Ware, 3, Sturges Place, Beaver, and Mrs. Goldsmith, 159, Godinton Road, will be glad to receive offers of help for selling tickets, which will be sold at the very small sum of one penny. There will be fruit, vegetable and flower stalls, tea and cakes can be had for a small sum during the afternoon; recitations and a Whist Drive (price 6d.) are other attractive features. Please come, and bring friends!

The hearts of all our members will go out to Mrs. Dell, who has just lost her husband after an operation for appendicitis. This bereavement on top of losing her little girl a few months ago is almost beyond human endurance. But those of us who know and love Mrs. Dell feel sure that she will face the future with characteristic fortitude. We send our love and sympathy to her and to her dear little children.

BEXHILL.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mrs. Tuckwell. She will be sadly missed by our members. A life-long suffragist, she joined the local branch of the Women's Freedom League as soon as it was a going concern. She was always ready to give what help she could to any work for the uplifting of women. We sincerely sympathise with Mrs. Tuckwell's sons and daughters in their sad bereavement.

Organiser—Miss WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.

The Fellowship Services in Kensington Town Hall on Sundays will be suspended until September, Miss Royden resuming the evening (6.30) service on September 5th, and Dr. Deamer the afternoon (3.15) on September 19th. Miss Royden leaves London on August 2nd, for her holiday, and will be glad to be spared all correspondence that is not urgent.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Madam,—On page 134 of July 23rd, under "A Year of Health Efforts" occur the words: "He" (i.e., Dr. Addison) "deprecated controversy in regard to the methods of dealing with this" (i.e., venereal) "disease." It is well known from Dr. Addison's own words, written and spoken, and from the "Interim Report of the Health Commission," that he does not desire his methods to be discussed. Including, as they do, inoculation for many "filth" diseases, the subject not being necessarily a sufferer from the disease, but only possibly and theoretically in danger, including also compulsion for such treatment, Dr. Addison and his followers are definitely opposed to that department of legitimate freedom which implies the right to choose one's own doctor and system of cure. Now, no woman can be free whose body is under State control. Hence it is important that our fellow members should stand firm in this "trench" and make it clear to Dr. Addison that interference with our medical liberties will endanger his place.—Yours, etc.,

K. A. RALEIGH.

THE HAT FETISH AGAIN!

Mrs. How Martyn is in the habit of removing her hat at County Council Committee meetings, and a few days ago another woman member, greatly daring, did the same. The Clerk thereupon called attention to this imitation of "a very bad example" set by Mrs. How Martyn, and asked the Chairman whether he intended taking any steps in the matter. The Chairman's reply was to the effect that he must have notice of such a question, which answer provoked much merriment.

At a meeting of the Middlesex Education Committee a few days before this incident occurred, it was recommended that the maintenance grant to scholarship winners should be lower for girls than for boys, ranging from £1 difference in the case of first year students to £2 in the case of fourth year students. Mrs. How Martyn moved an amendment for equal payment on the ground that it cost just as much to keep a girl as it did a boy, but the amendment was defeated.

MRS. NEVINSON, J.P.

Mrs. M. W. Nevinson cordially thanks all friends (known and unknown) who have written and phoned their congratulations on her appointment as Justice of the Peace. Mrs. Nevinson is just leaving for the Welsh Campaign, and finds it impossible to deal with the correspondence individually.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,
93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

Having successfully boarded out any remaining Guest children, we hope to close the place entirely from July 31st to September 4th, when a new family will be waiting to receive us—but if only the mothers of children coming from school with shabby clothes and boots, especially boots, would think of these children who come so badly clad, and so much more badly shod!

We still very badly need a resident worker—if voluntary so much the better, but we need her very much indeed. Our work threatens to be much heavier in the coming year than in the past, and is getting more than the present staff is able to accomplish. We have to thank Mrs. Delbanco for flowers; also Miss A. Wells; Miss Pinchen for a mechanical toy; and Miss Isobel Harvey, crochet work to sell at the Reception.

Hon. Superintendent—Miss A. M. COLE.

PRESS COMMENTS ON OUR FETE.

The Star.—"The Women's Freedom League remembered that there were Pilgrim Mothers, too, and yesterday they held a Festival to commemorate the brave, but overlooked, women."

Manchester Guardian.—"The Women's Freedom League is making a very firm stand. They are pointing out that the Pilgrim Mothers did not go alone. They were accompanied by the Pilgrim Mothers, the women who took their share in that struggle for religious liberty and in the hardships that awaited the pioneers."

Daily Telegraph.—"A very pleasant and happy function... with tea and entertainments, and marked by an inspiring address by Mrs. Despard, who commemorated the women who shared in the hardships and struggles of the first colonists of New England, and emphasised the fact that British and American women have a common interest in the establishment of goodwill."

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