

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1927

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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XXXII.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MRS. MASSINGHAM, F.Z.S., F.R.H.S., Prospective Labour Candidate for Petersfield (E. Hants).

As I had the good fortune to be brought up by my aunt, the late Miss Clementina Black, I began to be associated with the Women's Movement when a child, and my memory of those happy days is full of the suffrage struggle, street meetings, processions, great mass meetings, election petitions, drawing-room meetings, etc., at which I took a joyful, if very humble part. As well as this, my young mind followed Miss Black in her Socialist activities, and through the gay pattern of my early life grey pictures still stay with me of the home workers in the tailoring trade and sweated workers in the chain-making, box-making, and other industries, which, by accompanying Miss Black on her many investigations, were brought vividly before my mind.

At the same time, the economic struggle was often brought home to me, as none of my family are rich, and many had a hard struggle to make ends meet. When I began to earn my living, these problems became even more real, and on the stage I came up against the haunting fear of unemployment and the hard conditions that govern the mass of less successful workers in that profession. At this point I became a keen trade unionist, and even since my time, by the united action of the trades unions covering this profession, many great improvements have been won.

In 1919, my husband and I had our eyes opened to the fact that, unless the importation of wild birds for millinery was stopped quickly, some of the world's most fair and lovely possessions would pass away for

ever. This involved my working at the House of Commons as a voluntary agent for this Bill for two years, and when the Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act (1921) received the Royal Assent, I resolved I would stand for Parliament. I knew by experience how much more I could have done for this cause as an M.P., and realised that this applied to all the other causes I hoped to serve.

As a woman candidate, I do not stand for a purely feminist outlook, but believe men and women together, equal and different, must face and solve the great complex social and industrial problems of every sort and kind that are before us.

One of the many things I should like to do is to help carry the Socialist message to the "black coat workers." I have seen so much of the hard lives of lower and middle class people occupied as clerks, secretaries, typists, actresses, dancers, musicians, etc., and until we have the united vote of manual and brain workers, we cannot hope to make a better social order. War, which carries with it all the crimes and evils that there are and overthrows all



Photo by]

[Langfier, London, N.W.3.

SPEEDWELL MASSINGHAM.

the progress of ages, is, I think, the greatest problem with which we have to deal, and I am a supporter of practically all the organisations working, from whatever angle, for peace.

I stand for a forward policy to deal with Unemployment, Housing, and Public Health, and a really enlightened education for every child in the land (including the rich), by which I mean a training which will encourage the intellectual, spiritual, gentle and humane outlook on life, and a love and a respect for beauty in all its myriad forms.

There is much else I should like to go into more fully, such as the problem of the Child Delinquent, Prison Reform, the Enforcement of Humane Slaughtering of all animals killed for food, the Prohibition of Blood Sports, and the Preservation of the Wild Life of the World, which is quickly vanishing under the greed of the industrial system and other interests. As a Socialist, I dedicate such powers as I possess to a ceaseless fight against poverty, injustice and cruelty, and to the furtherance of a new social order in which "Life only is held as treasure, and economic forces cease to hold sway over spiritual things."

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

We have received a copy of the Memorandum by the President of the International Council of Women regarding the business transacted by the Executive meeting held at Geneva, June 7th to 17th this year. After expressing gratification that Sir Eric Drummond had received the Executive officially and had requested their co-operation in making known the potentiality of the League of Nations to ensure permanent peace, the President pointed out that such official recognition entailed great responsibility. Numerous open meetings were held, at which distinguished experts were invited to indicate as to how best women could co-operate in the work undertaken by the following: The Commission and Institute for Intellectual Co-operation, the International Labour Office, the League of Nations Public Health Organisation, the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children and the Protection of Children, and the Care of Refugees. The Memorandum covers various activities of the Council, and then gives some details of the Resolutions which the Executive had before it. These dealt with the finance of National and International Councils which show a most satisfactory state, the launching of a weekly news sheet from headquarters, and the preparation of material for periodical broadcasting and the suppression of obscene publications. In connection with this last-named subject, it is interesting to note an article, written by Marcel Prevost in *La Revue de la Femme*, congratulating the International Council of Women upon directing their energies thus. M. Prevost deals in a masterly way with the difficulties of defining undesirable literature and of finding any judges acceptable to a varied public opinion. He is delighted that an international body of such wide influence should turn its attention to solving this problem. Without intending disrespect to either of the parties, we would welcome similar activity and similar congratulations upon the fundamental matter of equal franchise, equal opportunities, and equal status; true co-operation instead of ancillary co-operation. Further resolutions dealt with laws affecting women and children, the traffic in women, public health, education, emigration

and immigration, cinemas, child welfare, and pollution of the seas by waste oil. All these subjects of social welfare were reported on, discussed, and certain lines of action and methods of propaganda decided upon for the future. Suggestions were then taken upon methods of nomination of International Officers for the Council, the installing of a Roll of Honour, and also of a Book of Appreciation, matters which will come before the quinquennial meeting in 1930.

Coming next to the feminist resolutions, which appeared on the Agenda, we have one, "That all National Councils be invited to form committees to study conditions of police service in their own countries and to press for the institution of women police"; another, "That, in countries where there is a society working for woman suffrage or equal citizenship, the member of the Suffrage Committee of the International Council of Women in that country get into touch with that society in order that together they may solve the problems connected with the resolutions 41 and 42 adopted at Washington." "It is recommended that the National Council of Women of each country which has won the suffrage for women be requested to report in some detail the methods which have proved most successful in influencing public opinion and in gaining the vote, and that this information be made accessible to those countries now working for woman suffrage." Again, we have under the heading "Standing Committee on Trades and Professions" the following: "That no action in regard to protective legislation for women's work be taken either by the International Council of Women or by the National Councils without first consulting the working women's organisations concerned," evidently a resolution designed to shelve this subject, and another with a similar shelving effect: "That the National Councils of Women study the problems affecting the employment of married women before the next quinquennial meeting." One finds, however, a more feminist tone in the recommendation of the Executive to the National Councils to "draw the attention of their Governments to the fact that all positions under the League are equally open to men and women, and to urge them to appoint full women delegates to both the League of Nations Assembly and to the International Labour Conference," a recommendation amplified in resolution form to "Although it is expressly stated in Article VII of the Covenant that all positions under the League of Nations are equally open to men and women, yet up to the present only seven countries have included women in their delegations to the Assembly of the League and then only as substitute delegates, the Executive Committee therefore draws the attention of all National Councils to the letter addressed to the Governments in September, 1926, and urges them to press upon their Governments the necessity of including a woman in their delegation to the forthcoming Assembly of the League and also to work for the appointment of women as delegates or advisers to the Conferences of the International Labour Office."

A survey of the whole of this valuable Memorandum indicates that the scope of the objects of both International and National Councils of Women is unlimited; that in the main they tend to cover matters which should concern men as much as they concern women; that the feminist aim is only one of many, and by no means the most important; and that the whole work is undoubtedly of great value in initiating and sustaining a high standard of social reform.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDS, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 13, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN, 1927.

We concluded this year's campaign with a very large and enthusiastic meeting on the Pier Head at Rothesay last Thursday evening, a meeting which lasted nearly two and a half hours, and during the course of which we enrolled new members, sold Women's Freedom League badges as "souvenirs," disposed of what was left of THE VOTE and literature, took a record collection, and answered varying questions.

As usual, these last chiefly dealt with the danger to men from women's entry into the labour market. It is difficult to make them realise the obvious logical fact that if we get equal pay for equal work, there is no danger, unless we are men's superiors, which they emphatically deny. One questioner wanted to know how we could expect the support of men if we only wanted the jobs needing "brain, not brawn," but why couldn't he see that if we were competing on equal terms, we might want these jobs for ever, but we shouldn't get them unless our brains proved of more use than men's? It's curious how men's views on these points differ. One, speaking of a bridge that was to be built, said he did not doubt woman's ability to attend to all the administration, but she couldn't do the manual labour, therefore she couldn't expect equal rights with man; whereas the following day quite a nice youth assured us that woman could not expect these equal rights because, although the war had proved her man's equal where physical work was concerned, she had no administrative ability—"present company excepted, of course."

There is an extraordinary lack of logic shown by the so-called logical sex on the question of equality of pay. We were asked how we could expect equal pay for equal work when every man was a potential husband with a wife and family to support, whereas this could not be said of a woman, but surely it was obvious that, if our pay were less than that of a man, the potential husband might find himself out of employment altogether, having lost his post to someone just as capable as he, but so much cheaper. (Incidentally, it may be remarked that, in places like Rothesay, where the principal industry is letting, it is generally the women who support their husbands and families!)

Another argument brought forward at our last meeting was hardly flattering to the masculine sex. "If women become self-supporting, which they are not at present, won't the marriage rate be lowered?" Teachers were instanced as being so comfortably off that they wouldn't take the trouble to get married. Strange that man's vanity should permit him to admit that in the past women have only married him for what they could get out of him!

There seems to be much concern about the effect women's independence will have on the future generations—numerically.

WHY RAILWAY CARRIAGES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR WOMEN.

The *Northern Daily Telegraph*, of August 3rd, reports that a man, a labourer, of Blackburn, was sent to prison for two months for assaulting a young woman in a railway carriage. In Court, Mr. H. O. Higson, for the railway company, said that on Tuesday evening, July 5th, defendant got into a compartment in which the complainant had travelled with several other ladies from Burnley. When the train left Accrington, the man and the girl were the only two in the carriage, and defendant sat down beside her and said: "Give me a kiss." She at once tried to get to the communication cord, but the accused grabbed both her wrists and held her. When the train stopped at Church, he pushed her to the far side of the carriage and placed himself between her and the window. After the train had moved on she had a terrible struggle, during which her hat was knocked off, her wrist watch broken, and her hair dishevelled. At Rishton she broke loose and got out of the carriage, defendant following her. She struck him and got into another compartment. Seeing

At this last meeting we dealt with many aspects of our movement rather than with any particular point, and the speaker was just remarking that it was absurd to say that "a man must be master in his own house," when a young married couple passed on the outskirts of the crowd. In much agitation, the man urged his companion to "come on," but she refused and winked largely at Mrs. Nye.

One night, when we were speaking of the "Child Outrage" question, and pamphlets on the subject were being sold, Miss Burgess offered copies to two very well-dressed and fine-looking young men, who responded by putting money in the collecting box, but on seeing the title of the pamphlet they "guffawed," and one remarked that they were evidently going to be much amused. It is not probable that they will easily forget the indignation of Miss Burgess, who, being young, has not yet lost the fire and enthusiasm of youth, so expressed herself with much warmth. Amongst other things, she told them that it was a disgrace to all the male sex that we have to talk of such things. And so it is, for, although but few men are themselves guilty of these crimes, all have allowed them to continue.

The desire to confess is strong upon some people. When we were speaking of the unmarried mothers and some man's responsibility, a young ex-soldier on the outskirts of the crowd told Mrs. Nye of a girl who had had a baby, which might have been his, but so also it might have been the child of some of his colleagues. He mentioned how worried they all were, until they learned that, as more than one man was implicated, they were all safe—she of the weaker sex would have to pay all the price alone. He wanted to argue that this was quite fair, that anything else would be "going against nature," but his conscience seemed to be troubling him. "Not a bad youth," Mrs. Nye said.

Well, it is all over now, for this year, at any rate. We hope that during the past month we have given both men and women who needed it a different and higher conception of our sex—have impressed upon them the truth that the time has passed when we will submit to inferiority of status in any way whatsoever, and have made them realise that we refuse any longer to be regarded as the potential playthings or servants of man; that, instead, we assert our right to walk side by side with him, or away from him if we so choose, unhampered by prejudices, admitted as different, perhaps, but as of equal use and equal importance with him in the scheme of things, and demanding every facility to enable us to work with him to make this a better world for coming generations than man can ever achieve alone. LILIAN LENTON.

her condition, a porter spoke to her, but she was too exhausted to give an explanation.

The accused was then spoken to, and he made a ridiculous allegation against the young woman, but when interviewed later by one of the railway company's officers, he said: "I have nothing to say, only it was a mistake. I have had sleepy sickness, and it left me with weak nerves."

Prior to this case, the magistrates had fined this man 40s., or one month, for an offence against an Accrington young woman.

In connection with this first case, Inspector Todd read a report by the prison doctor at Preston, who said the accused had very little after-effects of sleepy sickness now, but to a certain extent he was liable to lose control of himself and to act childishly. "In my opinion," added the doctor, "he is sane and responsible for his actions."

The Mayor (Alderman Wilkinson) said the Bench hoped the prison authorities would keep the man under observation.

THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

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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 stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

NOT PRACTICAL POLITICS!

In the course of a leader on "Two Subjects for Recess," in the *Yorkshire Post* of August 6th, feminists will find food for thought and incentive to action. The foundation of the leader is that now, while Parliament is not sitting, while its Members are in recess, is the time for Ministers and Members to get into closer contact with public opinion in their constituencies. They have now the opportunity of learning how public opinion is thinking, and also, and more valuable, the opportunity of moulding that opinion to their own views.

The *Yorkshire Post* then offers two subjects: one, the Reform of the House of Lords; the other, the Enfranchisement of Women. It says that these "two promised but contested measures have to be introduced and debated." "It is essential that on both these questions public opinion should be solicited and fully informed." Of the two, the *Yorkshire Post* is obviously much more interested in the first—the Reform of the House of Lords. It enters into arguments as to the present powers of Lords and of Commons, how both could be adjusted and better balanced. It says: "No question is more urgent, no question is more vital." And never once in all the arguments is the inclusion or admission of women mentioned, or hinted at, or indicated ever so faintly.

More hopefully, we turn to the arguments used by the *Yorkshire Post* concerning the Enfranchisement of Women. Here it has to include and mention women, although it avoids them as much as possible. It is not against the equalising of franchise between men and women, or, if so, has resigned itself to the inevitable. It says: "All parties have long ago pledged themselves, for good or ill, to equality between the sexes, . . . but there is scope for difference of opinion, . . . the question is still open . . . whether equality of franchise need necessarily be equality at 21 years of age." Here the feminist discovers the red herring. We know that all Parties are pledged to equality between the sexes, but we also know that the Party in power, which is the one with which feminists are wisely, at the moment, concerned, is pledged to secure that equality before the next General Election, in time to ensure that men and women will vote on equal terms at that next General Election. Already the new Session has been postponed till 1928. When Mr. Baldwin was approached, in April, 1927, by representatives of women's organisations, he said he intended to introduce the required Bill in the Autumn Session, although he and Sir William Joynson-Hicks, to whom he turned for confirmation, were of the opinion that introduction in the 1928 Session would give time for his pledge to be fulfilled. We are aware that numbers of the women belonging to Mr. Baldwin's Party are quite pleased with the red herring of "equality at 25," and possibly their influence has affected the political intelligence of the usually reliable *Yorkshire Post*. We cannot agree with the *Yorkshire Post* when it says: "The arguments in favour of a minimum voting age of 25 years . . . are strong." They may have a specious appearance, but as practical politics they are nebulous and cannot

deceive any practical man or woman who has any experience of political matters. No one has made that more clear than did Mr. Baldwin himself in addressing the Conference of Unionist Women in the Albert Hall on May 27th. And yet the *Yorkshire Post* makes this misleading statement: "There is no practical difficulty in taking the opportunity of the conferment of equality of suffrage to women as an opportunity for raising the qualifying age for both sexes."

We remember that, on May 30th, the *Yorkshire Post* had a leader attempting to obscure Mr. Baldwin's clear statement that to raise the age to 25 at present "was not practical politics." Now, on August 6th, it brings out its red herring again, but feminists are weary of this ancient fish, so obviously, so palpably, a fish, and will remain on the true line given them by the Prime Minister when he gave the pledge "for equal rights and at the next election," and when he said that to take away from men of 21 the right to vote, which had been theirs for centuries, was not practical politics.

JUSTICE?

Queer things happen in this country in the course of the administration of Justice. A week or two ago, an old man of 72, charged with breaking and entering a church and stealing eightpence, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. It is true he had been convicted before—several times; in fact, he had spent 20 years in prison, which was certainly no testimonial to the curative effects of prison treatment! But what kind of justice is it that can condemn any man or woman, no matter what their past has been, to five years' imprisonment for stealing eightpence? Can anyone maintain that this punishment fits the crime? To sentence a man because he has been formerly convicted and has paid the penalty for whatever he has done is altogether foreign to our British idea of justice. It offends our sense of justice just as much as assuming a man to be guilty before his guilt has been proved; and it is time that the British Public protested against such arbitrary penalties being inflicted in the name of the law of the land. This unfortunate man's history shows that imprisonment itself is the cause of bringing people back to prison. Instead of inflicting further penalties on a poor old man who has already had 20 years' imprisonment enforced upon him, it surely would be more sensible to think out some change in our prison and social system which would prevent such an appalling waste of human material. Five years for stealing eightpence! Such a travesty of Justice would be ludicrous if its effect on human material were not so brutal and tragic! In contrast to this sentence, a man was sent to prison for six weeks for assaulting his own son, a child aged 1 year and 11 months, who was found to have seven different types of bruises and wounds, including a bruise under the right eye. All the bruises had been caused by a belt or strap; and the child was found in a faint on the floor. Compared with a theft of eightpence, this younger man's crime was colossal. Yet six weeks were meted out to him, and five years to the petty thief! Only last Monday a labourer at Woolwich was summoned for cruelly beating a cat. He was seen to hit it with a broomstick, and when the animal sprang away he hit it again. The cat was found to have its back broken, and it had to be destroyed. That man received three weeks' imprisonment. Can it be pretended that his offence was so immeasurably less than that of the old man who stole eightpence? Quite recently, too, a man was charged at Lambeth Police Court with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting a policewoman. On the way to the police-station the man became violent and kicked her on the leg, and admitted that he might have chucked her under the chin. The man was fined 5s. for the drunkenness and 40s. for the assault. Now if that man had kicked a man police officer, or even knocked off his helmet, is it not more than likely that he would have been fined more than 40s.?

THE MATRIARCHAL THEORY AGAIN.

By DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

Three large volumes on this theory have lately been published by Mr. Robert Briffault, who, in the preface to this monumental work, acknowledges the important help in its compilation which was rendered to him by his daughter. It is a book that all women who are working actively in the woman movement should read, because it sets out scientifically and with very full references the case for that long period in the history of the race when mother-right prevailed, and before the patriarchal period, as we know it, had been evolved. My aim in writing this article is, first, to attempt to get over the material difficulties that women may encounter when asking for the book at their Public Library, and, secondly, to give a necessarily very condensed synopsis of its contents and purpose.

It may not be generally known that, in the case of expensive books (the three volumes of this work cost £3 15s.), the Head Librarian at any Public Library can borrow it from the Central Students' Library at the British Museum. Of course, for those who have a readers' ticket at the British Museum, the work can be studied in the Reading Room; but for those for whom it is more convenient to read in their local Library, application should be made to the Head Librarian to obtain the loan of the work.

Now, as to the interest this book, which Mr. Briffault has named "The Mothers," should awaken in all women, there has never been set out before, at such length and so comprehensively, the story of the supreme influence that women, and motherhood especially, exercised over the social, economic and spiritual life of the race in its earlier stages of development. The author writes: "I had proposed to draw up a list of the forms of the social instincts and to investigate their origin. I had not proceeded far before I discovered to my surprise that the social characters of the human mind are one and all traceable to the operations of instincts that are related to the functions of the female, and not to those of the male." He then sets out to prove this statement, and there is no doubt left, after reading his formidable array of proofs, that whatever discoveries in the future may be made by evolutionists working along similar lines of thought, Mr. Briffault's dis-

(To be continued.)

WOMEN AS "READERS."

Reading novels and poetry all day long sounds an easy way of earning a living—but wait till you try it! When every post brings a big bundle of MSS., dumped with fiendish delight on your desk, and the untouched parcels are accumulating in the safe behind you, you begin to wish that so many of your fellow-creatures were not afflicted with the scribbling mania and that some of them, at least, could write stuff worth reading. And when authors get tired of waiting and write anxious letters inquiring as to the fate of their MSS., and the Chief demands "reports" *instantly*, you probably decide that the life of a publisher's reader is not a happy one.

It's not as if one could just "smell the paper-knife" (metaphorically) and pass on. Each MS. must be read carefully, in case it happens to be that work of genius by a new author which every publisher is hoping will bring him, as well as the writer, fame and fortune. Sometimes, of course, one does discover talent, or what looks like genius, but even then it is not easy to convince other people of its merits, unless the fortunate owner has a big bank balance behind him. Occasionally, one comes across poems which seem to rival those of Keats or Shelley, but, alas, they have to be returned with polite "regrets"—because poetry doesn't pay!

Of course, one soon gets to know the hopeless stuff at a glance, written by people with "bees in their bonnets" of a more or less virulent nature, and one promptly turns it down. Inmates of lunatic asylums seem to be given pencils and paper to keep them quiet,

coveries will have to be reckoned with. Fundamentalists naturally are out of court, but to the evolutionist, who, in his search for truth, goes back to the study of animal groups, it is evident, from the study of McLennan, of Lester Ward, and of Briffault, that "The male has little or no share in the formation or maintenance of the animal family, and, as often as not, is entirely absent from it. If human society developed out of such animal groups, it had its origin in an association which was a manifestation of the female only, and in which all social relations were determined by those instincts and not by those of the male." This is a very weighty pronouncement from the point of view of those of the present generation who are working to establish a gyandrocentric State—that is, a State where the woman shall have equal responsibilities with the man in the administration of the State. Another most interesting theory is put forth by Briffault in the second volume of his work when writing on the subject of how women lost their mother-right and became chattels instead of free women. "When private property has begun to acquire importance and its transmission comes to be a matter of moment, the change from a matriarchal to a patriarchal order generally tends to take place very rapidly. Neither the notion of economic domination through the ownership of private property nor the notion of privileged right or authority is a primitive idea, or has any place in truly primitive forms of society." From the above it will be seen that economics were in the past, as they are now, at the basis of all changes and developments of society, and if women desire now to succeed in their equality campaign, they must not neglect the study of economics as applied to our existing system of society. Everything is at the present time acutely in a state of flux, of rapid disintegration and of a birth of new values, and daily there is less and less room for the parasitic woman which patriarchal society fostered and helped in its useless efflorescence. It is the woman who works, who takes her share in the economic development of life and in the public administration of things, who is going to count, and who will help to pull the cart out of the economic and social rut into which it has slipped.

and sometimes their lucubrations find their way into a publisher's office. Occasionally, the lunatic himself follows in the wake of his MS., and then the "reader" becomes invisible—an anonymous person who cannot possibly be produced!

Besides the actual reading of MSS., there are all sorts of odd jobs to be done which usually fall to the reader's lot. A novel of 100,000 words has to be cut down to half its size—paper and print being important considerations—without the author noticing that anything has been left out—no easy task! Or a volume of sermons has to be prepared for the Press, and the unfortunate "reader" loses all the taste for Church-going she ever possessed. Some publishers charge new authors quite a big fee for "revision," which, of course, goes into their pockets, while the reader does the work. Then there are illegible MSS. to be typed out for the printer—from the voluminous bishop, every line of whose writings has to be "translated," or the gifted man of science who uses a weird combination of shorthand and longhand invented by himself.

Some publishers employ a well-known author as a kind of "expert," to whom important MSS. are submitted for a final opinion, but in most publishing offices there are women working busily behind the scenes, who, because they are women, earn faint praise and little pay. Some day, perhaps, it will be different; meanwhile, it is not difficult to understand why there are so few women publishers. They never get enough money to start in business for themselves! W. M. S.

BOOK REVIEW.

Julia, Daughter of Claudius. The Newdigate Prize Poem, 1927. By Gertrude Eileen Trevelyan, Lady Margaret Hall. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell.) Price 2s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

"On April 18th, 1485, a report circulated in Rome that some Lombard workmen had discovered a Roman sarcophagus while digging on the Appian Way. It was a marble tomb, engraved with the inscription, 'Julia, daughter of Claudius,' and inside the coffer lay the body of a most beautiful girl of 15 years, preserved by precious unguents from corruption and the injury of time. . . . She was instantly removed, so goes the legend, to the Capitol; and then began a procession of pilgrims from all the quarters of Rome to gaze upon this saint of the old Pagan world. . . . At last, Innocent VIII feared lest the orthodox faith should suffer by this new cult of a heathen corpse. Julia was buried secretly and at night by his direction, and naught remained in the Capitol but her empty marble coffin."

This quotation from J. A. Symond's "Renaissance in Italy," Vol. I, precedes and gives the subject of this year's Newdigate prize poem, the first entry by a woman to receive the prize (about 1810 Miss Rachel Burton headed the list, but was refused the prize).

In easy melodious verse, the scene rises before us:

"A deep sky broods
Low over the Campagna."

Then comes the "call of life" from "The old dim Appian Way," crying:

"Awake! For Julia lives. Awake!
For beauty is not dead."

" . . . She lies
Fair with the beauty of a world new-born to joy."
All exquisite and simple things rejoice in her beauty:

"The blinding foam, wind-driven
In showers on lonely headlands."

"Each butterfly among the olive trees
That darts and hovers, little clouds that race
Above the purple Apennines."

"The air waits
And the ilex branches listen."

Then
and
"With shouts they raise her high"

"lay her high upon the Capitol,
Julia, the daughter of a fair, dead world,
And promise of all beauty yet to come."
" . . . Until at length,
With a dim flicker, the last torches dip
Below the hill and Julia is alone."

Then, just before dawn,
"From the northern hills a youth
Draws near the gate of Rome,"

with great joy that he only
"will find her in the dawn alone."
"And lay at her still feet
Roses and jasmine heavy with sweet showers
Of morning dew."

But she has been stolen away, and
"the day is dead
And joy is dead for ever."

At last a voice of comfort speaks:
"Weep not! In one soft noontide shower
There shine all suns that ever set.
Weep not for youth's swift morning hour,
The ripening corn knows no regret."

Then he journeys silently home, to where:—
"On village walls
The vines droop their green tendrils and beyond,
Where olive trees and ilex melt their leaves
In a blue hillside mist, there waits for him
Jacquetta and the humming of the bees."

E. K.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

The following paragraphs are taken from *Stri Dharma*, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association:—

The Social Evil.

Case after case is coming to light of the horrors which are connected with the girls who are trapped into a life of immorality. It is satisfactory to find that, in almost all cases which come before the Courts, those who are responsible for keeping these poor victims under lock and key, for beating them, selling them, robbing them, have been punished, but to our mind far from severely enough. This is the fault of the law rather than of the magistrates. It is not yet realised that a crime against the chastity of a woman or girl is much more serious than a crime against property. Governments must make it illegal for brothels to exist. No licences must be given for such houses, such centres of commercialised vice, and Government itself must provide the funds for rescuing the poor women who, in the years of transition, remain the derelicts of the bad old way. It is satisfactory to hear that Notice has been given for the introduction of a Bill for the Suppression of Brothels in the next Session of the Madras Legislative Council. This Bill has been drafted by the Madras Vigilance Society, and has the support of all the best men and women of Madras, who are eagerly watching its progress into law. Bombay is working hard to effect reforms in its midst, but public opinion seems drugged there.

A Recent Case in Madras.

The Chief Presidency Magistrate delivered judgment on June 9th in the Triplicane brothel case, convicting both the accused. After reviewing the facts of the case, as disclosed by the evidence put in, his Worship found both the accused guilty of the two offences. He also observed that, though the complainant was a prostitute, she was entitled to the protection of the law, and that the evidence amply proved that all exits from the house were locked and that the complainant had had several bruises. The magistrate observed that a more rigorous form of imprisonment could not be imagined, and it was regrettable that these victims were utterly helpless and beyond the reach of public authorities. In the end, his Worship sentenced both the accused to rigorous imprisonment on each of the two counts.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

We have received from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship two admirable pamphlets, each of which can be obtained from our office. The first—"What the Vote has Done"—by Dame Millicent Fawcett, begins by telling us that, before women were enfranchised, it was possible only after years of hard work and persistent effort to get through Parliament changes in the law favourable to the position of women. During the first 18 years of the present century, four such measures were carried, or one in every four and a half years, whereas in the nine years since women have had the vote, the rate has been speeded up in a rather remarkable degree. The rest of this pamphlet is devoted to a list and an explanation of the Acts favourable to the position of women, which have been passed since women in this country secured partial enfranchisement in 1918. Members of the public often inquire what the vote has done for women. This pamphlet, price 2d., supplies the answer.

The second pamphlet—"The Case for Equal Franchise"—by Miss Macadam and Mrs. Hubback, is an admirable presentment of our case, and all speakers and workers in the cause of Equal Franchise will find in it just the facts and figures that they want. The price is only 1d.

HOLIDAYS.

Readers of THE VOTE who are going away for the holidays, and are not postal subscribers, are asked to send a postcard to THE VOTE Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, giving their holiday address, to which THE VOTE can be sent.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 5th, at 3 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, September 15th, at 7.30 p.m.

Highbury Corner. Open-air Meeting.

Speaker: Mrs. Ewen.

Saturday, September 24th, at 3.45 p.m.

Minerva Club and Mid-London Branches.

"At Home" at the Minerva Club. Tea, 4 o'clock. Members and Friends invited.

Songs, Recitations and Games. Further details later.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, October 7th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, October 7th, at 8.30 p.m.

Vote-Sellers' Supper and Autumn Rally. Dr. Knight, Miss Rodgers.

Saturday, October 8th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 p.m.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea and Politics-up-to-date.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 7th.

Rye. Public Meeting at Old Hope Anchor Hotel. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Miss Billhouse.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.

Baxley Heath Congregational Guild Lecture Hall. Debate on "Equal Franchise." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marian Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

BRANCH NOTES.

ASHFORD.

A successful Sale was held at the Hempsted Street Hall last Friday afternoon. Members of the Committee were busy sellers of all saleable things, such as fruit, flowers, sweets, and useful articles. A "Surprise" Stall proved so popular that we are going to carry it out at the Green, White and Gold Fair. We were very pleased to hear that Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Toovey intend to help with the S.F. Branch's Stalls. After a busy Sale we realised nearly £5.

(Organiser) Miss M. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

THE WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The Fifth Annual Conference of the Women's Engineering Society opens on Thursday, September 15th, at Olympia. The programme includes the following:—

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 8 P.M.:—

Address by the President, Mrs. L. A. Willson, M.B.E.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH:—

1 p.m.—Official luncheon at Olympia.

2.45 p.m.—At Olympia, Discussion on "The Relative Importance of Commercial and Technical Engineering under Present-day Conditions." Commercial side, Miss E. M. Kennedy (J. B. Stone & Co., Ltd.); Technical side, Miss Norah M. Jeans (Technical Assistant, Infinitely Variable Gear Syndicate). Chair, Mrs. L. A. Willson.

8 p.m.—Dinner at Lyceum Club to "Women Aviators and Motorists."

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH:—

1.30 p.m.—Lunch at Crosby Hall, followed at

2.15 p.m. by Technical Paper, by Miss Iris Cummins, B.E., B.Sc., on "The Shannon Scheme."

4.30 p.m.—Annual General Meeting (members only).

7.30 p.m.—Visit to the "Old Vic."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

12 Men—only 2 Women J.P.s.

From *The Times* we learn that 6 men and no women have, by fiat of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, been added to the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Middleton, and 6 men and two women—Mrs. Elizabeth Gresswell and Mrs. Catherine Hindley-Smith—for the Borough of Southport. We congratulate our member, Mrs. Gresswell, on this well-deserved honour, and hope in a later issue of THE VOTE to give an account of some of her public work.

Domestic Training for Boys.

We have frequently advocated that boys should share equally with girls in domestic activities on the grounds that such activities are excellent training for boys, helpful to the women in the home, and likely to lead to a better understanding and appreciation on the part of men of women's work in the home. Now we learn from the *Westminster Gazette* that German housewives are claiming that a year's compulsory course of housekeeping for girls over 14 should be balanced by an equivalent training for boys of the same age. The *Westminster Gazette* goes on to say that this logic is hard to resist if both sexes are to be prepared to take an equal share in the homes of the future. Obviously a very one-sided domesticity is being provided for if the teaching of girls only is related to household duties, and it must be confessed that the head of a family can usually find scope for all kinds of practical handiwork at home if he takes his duties seriously. In spite of the family's hilarity when father lays the carpet on the stairs, no English youth is fully aware of the irksome arts and crafts into which marriage will conscript him; but it is this very callow inexperience which lends excitement and adventure to the household handiwork he nonchalantly attempts, and which passes on the laughter to the next generation.

Female Cricketers in 1827.

Last week, *The Times* quoted the following paragraph from its issue of Tuesday, August 14th, 1827: "On Thursday week, a vast concourse of spectators assembled on the Stoney Fields, Halknaker, by invitation of the town crier, to witness a display of the noble game of cricket by 11 married ladies and 11 unmarried, from Goodwood, Bogrove, and Halknaker. After a fine display, the single ladies won, being 45 ahead, having one wicket to go down."

Edinburgh Education Authority.

The Scotsman reports that on the Edinburgh Education Authority, out of a total of 34 members, five are women, and both the Day School and Higher Education Committees are convened by women. Two women medical officers, one woman dentist, and 15 whole-time nurses work for the Authority. Teachers under the Edinburgh Education Authority number 1,306 women and 458 men, spread over the 93 schools. Twenty-eight of these schools have a woman at their head, 65 of the heads being men.

Franchise Reform?

Since women began to ask for equal enfranchisement with men, a great many fancy franchise proposals have been made. Harold Cox, writing in the July number of the *Edinburgh Review*, now suggests another. Apparently he would have everybody pay income tax, and make "the payment of the tax due up-to-date one of the conditions of voting." He contends that the only sound solution of the problem of franchise reform is "to reform the local franchise, as well as the Parliamentary franchise, and, in both cases, to give power to those who pay, not to those who spend." Our unalterable attitude to all such proposals is to refuse consideration to any of them until women are enfranchised on precisely the same terms as men. Then, and then only, will women be free to consider together with men proposals for general franchise reform.

Women and the Ordained Ministry.

In an admirable article on the above subject in the *Sunday School Chronicle*, by Miss Hunter, M.A., General Secretary, Women's Auxiliary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, one of the so-called "practical objections" to the admission of women to the Ministry is thus dealt with: "Women, they say, cannot stand the physical strain of the country travelling, nor is it safe for them to be out in country lanes at night. But the women who want to enter the Ministry are the athletic modern girls who have had good physical training and are accustomed to go about with great freedom. If a district nurse can go in country lanes at night in her work, if a school teacher can travel 34 miles daily by motor-cycle to and from her work, why cannot women do similar things in the service of the Church?"

English Woman Bank Director in Hungary.

Miss Gordon Holmes, the first and only woman bank director in Hungary, recently returned to London from her first Board meeting. Miss Holmes started life as a typist, and then went in for stockbroking. The *Leeds Mercury* tells us that not long ago the managing director of the City Savings Bank Company of Budapest came to England and was anxious that Miss Holmes's firm should interest itself in his company's affairs. A seat on the Budapest Board resulted, and now Miss Holmes has been invited to become a director of a leading wool company in Hungary, which is said to handle 50 per cent. of the wool production of the country.

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 19,
1927.

THE VOTE

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RIVERSIDE Cottage (Furnished) to let for August or September, 3 bedrooms, bath, 3 reception rooms, piano. Garden to river. Hampton Court Rly. Stn 2 mins.; exceptional situation, 3½ gns. per week.—"E.S.," Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1.

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