

THE VOTE,
SEPT. 15, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN'S PAY.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 15, 1922

OBJECT : To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

IV.

COUNCILLOR MISS CLARA WINTERBOTHAM, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham.

Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., is a member | holder of the office of Mayor of the Borough, and that fact alone made it a tremendous responsibility in itself. She felt that the burden placed upon her gave her a double responsibility, for she had not only to justify the appointment of herself personally as being a fit person to fulfil the duties of the office, but she felt that upon her rested the justification of the appointment of a woman to such a post. These were very difficult days, and it would be appreciated by everybody that all over England the responsibilities laid upon Mayors were very great and heavy. There were many questions to be thought out, and she appealed not only for help, but for criticism—fair criticism—and that any mistake of the individual might not be laid to the door of sex, since even



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years to come. There had never before been a woman | men sometimes made mistakes!

WOMEN WORKERS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

The National Joint Council of the Labour Movement has just published an interesting pamphlet entitled, "The Fair Wages Clause," which deserves the attention of all women workers. In 1884 an agitation was started by the London Society of Compositors against Government contracts being given to firms which practically sweated their employees. By 1894 the agitation had so far succeeded that 150 local authorities had adopted a Fair Wages Clause for insertion in their contracts, and the House of Commons had also in 1891 adopted the following resolution:—

"That in the opinion of this House it is the duty of the Government in all Government contracts to make provision against the evils recently disclosed before the Sweating Committee, to insert such conditions as may prevent the abuse arising from sub-letting, and to make every effort to secure the payment of such wages as are generally accepted in each trade for competent workmen."

Needless to say, we are in full sympathy with the spirit of this resolution so far as men workers are concerned, but we do not feel quite so easy in our minds in regard to the position of women workers under such a resolution. In criticising the administration of this Fair Wages Clause, the writers say:—

"The Birmingham Tin Plate, Sheet Metal Workers, and Braziers' Society protested to the Postmaster-General against the employment of women by a firm making postmen's lamps, whereas the custom in the industry was for men alone to be employed on this work. There is, in fact, an agreement, to which employers' and workers' organisations are parties, that women shall not be employed on this work. The Post Office replied in the following words:—'He (the Postmaster-General) does not accept the view of your Society that female labour should not be employed on Government work, and so long as Messrs. — comply with the terms of the Fair Wages Clause, he does not object to the employment by them of women to make postmen's lamps.' It should be strongly urged that violation of normal conditions of employment is a violation of the Fair Wages Clause, whatever the Department may think of the inherent rightness or wrongness of those conditions."

Yet once again, when women workers are at the mercy of Trade Unionists and the Government, they find themselves between the Devil and the Deep Sea. The Birmingham Tin Plate, Sheet Metal Workers, and Braziers' Society do not protest against women being employed for less money than men—we would join in the protest if they did—but against women being employed at all on this work! On the other hand, although we heartily agree in principle with the Postmaster-General's reply, we know only too well how obdurate Government Departments are in their opposition to giving women equal pay with men for equal work. In this pamphlet the following resolution of the Trade Union Congress of August, 1920, is quoted:—

"This Congress declares that the introduction or continuance of female labour on Government or other public work—formerly done by men—at lower rates than those recognised by Trade Unions is a violation of the House of Commons Fair Wages Resolution, and opposed to the spirit of fair contracting; and demands that such firms be struck off the list of Government contractors; and, further, demands that the responsible heads of the various Government Contracting Departments be instructed by Parliament to refuse to consider applications for contracts from any firm which does not comply with these rates and conditions, or debar their workpeople from joining or continuing membership of a Trade Union."

The writers then proceed to say that this proposal is not to prohibit the substitution of women for men, but only the employment of women on such work at rates lower than those of men, and that such a provision is

necessary in the interest of men and women alike. With these sentiments we wholly agree, but we say frankly that we should feel happier about the position of women workers if the membership to all Trade Unions was thrown open equally to men and women; and if these same Trade Unions would boldly demand from the Government and all employers that men and women workers should receive equal rates of pay for similar work.

MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AT GENEVA.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 1922.

The Inaugural Meeting of this Association took place in New York in the autumn of 1919. There were present medical women from fifteen nations, and the meeting, which was called to discuss international problems and subjects connected with health, ended by drawing up a provisional Constitution, which was to be amended or reconstructed at some subsequent session to be held overseas.

This second meeting has just taken place at Geneva, organised by the joint efforts of the officers of the International Association, of which Dr. Christine Murrell was the British representative, and there were present medical women from nineteen different countries. Many of these representatives were sent by their various accredited organisations; Great Britain sent five representatives, the U.S.A. the same, and the other countries more or less in proportion to their numbers. About eighty members in all were present.

The chief business before the meeting was the reconstruction of the Constitution, a very difficult task in view of the many different nations composing the Committee appointed for its consideration. This Committee was presided over by Dr. Jane Walker. The deed was, however, satisfactorily accomplished, and a Revised Constitution was accepted by a unanimous vote of the Committee, and later by the General Meeting, and to be ratified at the next International Medical Women's Association's Conference, to be held in London next year.

Subjects of interest on which only action which is international in character can be effective were discussed. They were, the Treatment and Prevention of Venereal Disease in its relation to the State, the White Slave Traffic, and Cocaine and other Drug Traffic. In relation to this latter subject, a strong resolution was passed requesting the League of Nations to insist on Government control both as to the manufacture and the sale of cocaine.

But important as the meeting was both on its administrative and scientific side, the greatest value of it was the better understanding among the representatives of the various countries. Each day they saw more clearly, realising each other's good points and grasping each other's difficulties and problems in a way which could hardly have been believed possible when they started. All this was helped by various social functions, interspersed with the more serious business of the meetings. The British contingent, for example, gave a tea party to which practically all the members came. Two French representatives, Dr. Thuillier-Landry and Dr. Long-Landry, who have a villa near Geneva, also entertained all the delegates. But the banquet, presided over by Dr. Esther Lovejoy (U.S.A.), at which the nineteen official representatives in turn made a short speech, the British speaker being Dr. Mary Scharlieb, was the crowning point of the union. The President of the Federation of Medical Women in Great Britain, Lady Barrett, and the President of the National Association of Women Physicians of the United States of America, Dr. Grace Kimball, as well as their vigorous and veteran senior physician, Dr. Mesher, also spoke.

Thus ended a really notable Conference, which cannot but be fraught with real good and genuine help to the world at large.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD. Indian Women's Strike.

Rhodesian Women Voters.

Women voters in Rhodesia are taking a great interest in the referendum which is to be submitted in Southern Rhodesia on October 10th, to decide whether the Territory shall become a self-governing Colony or a Province of the Union of South Africa. There are many women voters in Rhodesia, and one woman sits in the present Legislative Council.

American Women and Devastated Areas

A goodwill delegation of women, duly elected from 30 towns in the United States, and representing six million people, are about to start for France to visit the devastated regions, see what France suffered in the war, inform themselves as to her present condition and needs, and, from the data gathered, they are to make reports, which will be read and discussed on their return, with a view to helping the country that helped them at the time of their revolution.

Women Secretaries of Legations.

Miss Stancioff, recently appointed as first Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation in Washington, is not the first woman to receive this diplomatic honour. During the war the British Embassy had a woman Secretary whose name appeared with those of Ambassadors and Ministers. She was Miss Violet Erskine, who afterwards married one of her fellow secretaries at the Embassy. Hitherto Serbia has had Mme. Grouitch, an American, and Rumania has had Princess Bibesco, as heads of their Missions on the feminine side. The wife of the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires is an American.

Woman Allotment Holder.

For the first time in England a woman allotment holder has been awarded the first prize and a special award for the best plot in the section by a committee of men, when all the other competitors were men. For two seasons all the work on this plot has been done by Miss Flora Stanley and Miss Lowndes Yates. These enterprising ladies are going to arrange lectures on the allotments, and large numbers of villagers have promised to attend.

Woman Engineer goes to Sea.

Miss Violet Drummond, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Drummond, of Megginch, Forfarshire, sailed last week as engineer with the Blue Funnel steamer *Anchises* from Glasgow for Australia, with passengers and general cargo. She signed on as tenth engineer, and will take on all the duties of the job, keeping her watch in turn, and will wear the ordinary overalls at work. So far as is known, she is the first woman who has sailed as a marine engineer.

Co-operative Women Abroad.

The Co-operative Women's Movement is growing very much internationally. There are now 50 women on the management committees of different societies in Belgium. In Czecho-Slovakia the movement is developing, and attention is being given to women's activities; while in Switzerland consideration has been given to proposed rules for a Co-operative Women's League, of which Zurich is to be the centre.

Australian Woman Delegate.

Mrs. G. E. Dale, of New South Wales, who has been appointed by the Commonwealth Government of Australia as substitute delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations, is a member of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and well known in New South Wales as a keen supporter of the woman movement, having been especially prominent in the fight against the compulsory notification of venereal disease. Her nomination was supported by the progressive women's organisations of Australia.

Iceland's First Woman M.P.

Mme. Ingebjorg Bjarnason has been elected to the Upper House of the Icelandic Alting.

Indian Women's Strike.

Over 300 women employees of the Wellington Jute Mill, Calcutta, struck work recently, after demanding an increase in their wages at the rate of 2 annas per rupee, and the dismissal of an unpopular headman. The strike caused a great impression, as it was the first time that women workers had suspended work.

Woman J.P. for Tottenham.

Mrs. Smellie, Chairman of the North Tottenham Women's Constitutional Union, and a member of the Tottenham Housing Committee, has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for Middlesex. Mrs. Smellie is the first lady magistrate from Tottenham.

WOMEN'S PAY.

Should men and women receive equal pay for equal work? was discussed by Professor F. Y. Edgeworth in his presidential address to the Economic Science and Statistics Section of the British Association's meetings at Hull. He said that by equal work must be understood some clause implying equal freedom in the choice of work, and that this condition should include equal freedom to prepare for work by acquiring skill. This question, he declared, was, almost more than any other economic problem, rendered difficult by the presence of the psychological element, and by the fact that it affected the home of the worker. Unrestricted competition, without any safeguards, would, he thought, probably lead to a breakdown throughout a considerable part of the industry, and to this *débâcle* the competition of women would largely contribute. At present the pressure of male trade unions appeared to be largely responsible for the crowding of women into a comparatively few occupations, which was universally recognised as a main factor in the depression of their wages. Such crowding was, *prima facie*, a flagrant violation of that free competition which resulted in maximum production, and in distribution of the kind defined as equal pay for equal work. The oppressive action of male unions should be counteracted by pressure on the part of women workers acting in concert. He quoted opinions on the comparative efficiency of the sexes, and maintained that, even if all restrictions were removed, the average weekly earnings of men would probably be much higher than those of women. He thought that if the majority of working men supported families, and the bulk of working women did not, it did not seem unreasonable that men should have some advantage in the labour market. Discussing proposed remedies by State action, Professor Edgeworth suggested the raising of funds by associations for the purpose of compensating the male breadwinner for the loss caused by female competition, the money to be distributed among the wives of members in proportion to the size of their families. It is curious how all sections of men seem to unite in their opposition to women securing equal remuneration with men. Deeply imbedded in their brain is the theory that all remunerative work should be the monopoly of men, and that women workers either in the professions or in industry are obstinate intruders. Yet when women are compelled to accept lower wages than men for similar work, these same men are among the first to denounce them as blacklegs. It is all very well to proclaim that women are naturally less efficient than men, and that, therefore, with unrestricted competition, women workers would be worse off than working men. The plain fact is that women have never yet, in the mass, had the opportunity to qualify as equal competitors with men. At present, women with less remuneration very often actually do more work than their men colleagues with much higher remuneration. Women do not ask to have equal money with men when their work is of less value than men's; but what they continue to demand is that, when their work is equal in value, their remuneration should be the same.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1922.

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.

WOMEN AS M.P.s.

Under the above heading in last Saturday's *Daily Telegraph*, Mr. Philip Snowden writes interestingly on the conditions of success of women Parliamentary candidates. He does not think that the hostility to them among the general public is very profound, but that what prejudice does exist is by no means confined to men. He says that "many women still think that 'going to Parliament' is a man's job, and they have not yet quite outgrown the feeling, born of generations of political inferiority, that women do not understand this business." In his opinion, the electoral success of a woman candidate will for some time to come depend much more upon the personal fitness of the candidate than in the case of a man, but that, given a woman with political knowledge and platform ability, she will appeal more strongly to the electors than a man of equal ability and capacity. Mr. Snowden declares that men electors will be doing a great national service by helping the return of a considerable number of women M.P.s, because the well-being of the country is founded upon the condition of its women and children. At the same time, although he believes that women Members of Parliament will always specialise on matters of women's conditions, he thinks it would be fatal for the success of women candidates in large numbers to emphasise too much their claims as women. They must understand and actively promote all the other important reforms which affect the general welfare. The advice he tenders to those who are specially interested in promoting women candidates for Parliament is as follows:—"Do not run them as independent women candidates. Get them adopted officially by the political party to which they belong. Let them stand on a general political programme, emphasising the special needs and claims of women. And, above all else, adopt no woman candidate unless she has more than the average man candidate's political knowledge and platform ability." We agree with a great deal of what Mr. Snowden says on this subject, and think it would apply equally to the success of both men and women Parliamentary candidates. The Women's Freedom League would certainly not think it worth while to give any kind of support to a woman candidate who was not prepared to work for the equality of the sexes if she were returned to Parliament. She must also be thoroughly sincere and definite on any other political views she holds. Definiteness is surely the keystone to success. Electors want to have plain statements about policy, and when they find a candidate who has a clear point of view on a subject which interests them, even when that point of view does not coincide with their own, and she is prepared to argue the question with them, she has a very good chance of securing their votes. Personality, honesty, and good temper are invaluable assets in a Parliamentary candidate, and no one who has come in touch with the Suffrage movement can deny that very many women possess these qualifications. We wish that the various political parties were putting forward more women candidates for the General Election, which is variously predicted for November or next June, because it is doubtless so much easier to win an election when properly backed by a powerful local political organisation. If only women's societies had equally strong local organisations, with equal financial resources, the chances of independent women candidates for Parliament would be very greatly increased.

MARRIED WOMEN'S NATIONALITY.

The right of a woman to retain or change her nationality in the same way as a man, is slowly beginning to find acceptance internationally, as well as at home. In the Reichstag a Bill is being introduced seeking to establish that, since men and women are given equal rights in the new German Constitution, they should logically be equal as regards nationality. This Bill is being sponsored by two women Democrat M.P.s. In France, where there is also a Bill, it is already admitted under the existing law that a woman married to a foreigner can, in certain circumstances, retain her nationality. In the United States the Lower House of Congress has passed a Bill in this sense by a large majority. American women backed this Bill very strongly, and at the last Presidential election, every party found it necessary to make this principle a plank of its programme. The British Bill, promoted by the National Council of Women, and embodying the same principles of equality, is now before our Parliament, and a Select Committee is hearing evidence. The Bill is supported by practically all the nationally organised women's societies, as well as by many in the Dominions. Next year, in Rome, when the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance meets for its Biennial Congress, the Nationality of Married Women is one of the subjects down for special discussion. The best methods of getting the principle of sex equality adopted internationally are now under review, and the Alliance has already drafted an international convention, to which it is hoped the Legislatures of all nations will eventually agree. French jurists now on their way to the international meetings in South America are also putting this matter forward. Concerted effort in all countries ought, before long, to bring the point of dual nationality into legal practice throughout the civilised world.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONGRESSES.

Catholic women's organisations are rapidly increasing both in numbers and strength. At their recent Congress in Rome, delegates from twenty countries attended. All these countries are affiliated to the Union Internationale des Ligues Catholiques Feminines, which, founded only in 1910, has to-day become one of the most powerful women's organisations in the world. After each Congress the bureau or committee is dissolved, and the place of the next meeting is decided by the Pope himself, the President of the Congress being appointed from the country selected. The next Congress is to be held in Holland in 1924, the President of which will be a prominent Dutch lady, Mme. Steinberghe-Veringhe, of Utrecht, who is also President of the Dutch Catholic Women's League. At these Congresses all the special questions of the day affecting women are discussed, such as divorce, the moral influence of the manners and customs of the day, religious liberty and education, and the rights, duties, and liberties of Catholic women generally. Cinema reform is a strong point, and Catholic Women's Leagues in all countries are being asked to keep a watchful eye on doubtful productions, and prevent their appearance, as far as possible. Politics is another important subject, and at this year's Catholic Congress at Rome, the three German delegates who attended were all members of the Reichstag. The chief value of these Conferences is that they influence thought and action throughout the various Catholic organisations of the world, and determine the attitude to be adopted by Catholics in their relations with non-Catholic bodies.

WOMEN LAWYERS IN THE ARGENTINE.

By LUCY E. MENZIES.

Slowly but surely the right of women to take their place in the Professions is being recognised by the authorities of the Argentine Republic, a country where, until recently, the movement in favour of improving women's legal position was still in its nascent stages, chiefly, it is to be feared, because of the lethargic attitude of the bulk of the women themselves, and a certain deficiency of any but a superficial education.

The time for the Argentine woman to take her place beside the man in public life cannot now be far distant, and she is to a great extent naturally endowed with qualities which cannot do otherwise than aid her, showing generally a marked aptitude for study, a quickness of intellect, ready speech, and a natural charm of manner, and needing only to be roused sufficiently to make the effort necessary to strike out a new line.

Argentine women, on the whole, are now being encouraged to graduate in the Schools, all of which are under State supervision, and the number of certificated School Teachers increases annually. The Professions now open to women in the Argentine are Medicine and Law in all their branches, Science, Art, Civil Engineering, and Chartered Accountancy; but so far only a very small number of women have taken advantage of these openings.

The opening up of the legal profession to Argentine women was only fully accomplished in July of this year, and was mainly due to the enterprise of Miss Angela Camperchioli, who, after obtaining her degree of Notary in the University of Buenos Aires, presented herself at the Civil Court to be sworn in, a necessary procedure before being allowed to practise as a Notary. This being the first occasion that a woman Notary had presented herself for recognition, both Civil Chambers

thereupon called a full meeting, to discuss the demand. After much consideration, during which the minority of learned Doctors were in favour of granting the petition presented, provided only the petitioner's Argentine nationality was proved, the majority voted against, for the reason that, in their judgment, women were incapable of discharging the functions of a Public Notary!

A good deal of discussion then followed between the National Procurator, and the National Tribunal, as to whether the Civil Court had a right to invalidate a Title conferred legally by the University, and finally Miss Camperchioli appealed to the higher Chamber against the decree. This Chamber thereupon gave its opinion as follows:—

"Without entering on an examination of the legal position of women in our legislation, as this would only complicate this debate, it must be admitted, however, that whatever restrictions are imposed on women, there are none which authorise the extending or amplifying of our laws to impose further restriction, thus unjustly impairing the primary guarantees of our Constitution, which are, 'equality before the Law,' the right to acquire knowledge, and to work, and not to be deprived of that which the law does not prohibit; therefore, the judicial decision which has, without due cause, invalidated a title conferred, of professional fitness legitimately acquired, is declared to be incompatible with the above guarantees of equality. In view of these precepts, and taking into account the votes given against the measure being accepted, the Court revokes the decision which has been appealed against, and orders a return of the documents involved to the Tribunal concerned."

EQUAL PAY.

By EDITH A. COCKER.

Mrs. Oliver Strachey is making a determined bid for fortune by attacking the dangerous muddle of the present wage system.

Her war-cry is, "Equal pay for equal work for men and women." Already the reactionary camp is rousing to defend its position, so firmly entrenched within the fastnesses of precedent.

But you cannot educate one half of humanity, give them political freedom, and so power to work out their own salvation, and then expect them to keep to the nursery, the kitchen, and the Church, whilst the other departments of their life are in a desperate muddle.

The *Westminster Saturday Gazette* gravely affirms that "much interesting discussion of Mrs. Oliver Strachey's demand for 'equal pay for equal work' would be possible, if it were not that the question is really too academic." If that is indeed so, then it is up to all women to discuss the question, to make the public wake up and discuss the question, until it is brought into the realm of practical politics. To polish the wits of our would-be legislators upon the subject will require some elbow-grease! This Mrs. Strachey may be relied upon to apply with shrewd sense and good humour.

But it is a question so tragically concerning men! The gravest menace to industry is from within—the undercutting by badly paid women workers in those occupations that before the war were mainly reserved for men. Cases of this kind are too frequent to be cited. To instance but one—a skilled mechanic in a large firm of scientific instrument makers, an ex-soldier, with wife and child dependent upon him. His work is now being done by women at fourpence per hour. He has been forced on to the iron rations of his out-of-work pay, and thence, by exhaustion of the fund, on to the street. Repetition work and the use of wonderful machinery—as nearly human as Frankenstein's mon-

ster!—has enabled women to oust their menfolk out of their jobs. Though that is not a fair statement of the women's part in the tragical business! They, too, must work in order to live, and as human beings they have every right to do what they can do well. There is no longer the same sharp division of labour as of old. Whilst employers can get cheap labour, they will continue to employ women whose labour is cheap.

But much labour now done by women is only cheap to the direct employer; it is terribly expensive to the community, and to the woman herself, who gives not only her labour, but her health, in return for her small wage. A woman may work at a machine that requires of her the co-operation of both feet, both hands, and a swaying motion of the body from the waist, which is buckled by a strap to a lever; but no woman can do it and not eventually suffer in health. Her vitality is lowered, her future is jeopardised, her potential value to the nation as a mother is greatly depreciated. Her efficient working life is short.

With equal pay for equal work for men and women alike, as the bedrock of the wages system, the whole complex problem would be greatly simplified. In the first place, women would no longer be employed where cheapness is their only recommendation; work would be for those of either sex most suited to its particular nature. In the second place, it would tend to exclude women from work which is contrary to their nature. There would be no such thing as a destitution wage, as semi-efficient labour would find no market.

There can be no solution to the problem by shutting women out from any industry in order that men may be employed in their place. Whatever women's services are most wanted for, the free play of competition will hold out the strongest inducements to them to undertake. There can be no free competition till men and women are paid an equal wage for equal work.

GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held this year in the Basement Hall at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.

The stalls at present arranged for the League are :-

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Lane, and Miss Vibert.

Mid-London Branch (Half Stall).—Woolies and Children's Clothing.

Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix M. Clark and Members.

Portsmouth Branch.—Household. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner.

South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall and Xmas Tree. Miss White and Members.

Swansea Branch.—General Stall.

Antiques and White Elephants.—General Stall. Mrs. Lloyd.

Overalls and Aprons.—Mrs. Ammon and the Misses Underwood.

Pound Stall.—Miss Munro.

Remnant Stall.—Mrs. A. A. Thompson and Mrs. Harvey James.

Stationery Stall.

Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight.

Literature Stall.—Miss Telling.

White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.

"Vote" Stall.—Miss Reeves, Mrs. Northcroft, and Mrs. Evans.

The entertainments will be numerous and varied, the following members and friends kindly giving their services :- Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Marianne Elias, Miss Jacob, Miss Newman and Mr. Eric Richmond, Miss Thomas, and Mrs. Van Raalte; also Miss Grace Woolacott's pupils will give a dancing display on Saturday, November 11th. Character readings will be given by Mrs. Grace Goodall and Mrs. Russell; also Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons, who was so much in request last year.

Gifts are greatly needed for all the stalls, and especially for the following :- Overalls and Aprons. Pound Stall.—Readers of THE VOTE are urged to ask their grocer to give a pound of goods towards this stall, namely, rice, soap, currants, etc. Remnant Stall.—Messrs. Jones and Higgins, of Peckham, have kindly sent £1 is. towards this stall. Will members who have visited the summer sales, and bought remnants they do not want, send these for the benefit of this stall? Toys are wanted for the Toy Stall, stuffed animals, balls, dolls (large and small), etc. Mrs. Knight will be glad to receive names of those who are willing to dress dolls.

The competitions have been undertaken by Miss Dickeson, and will be amusing, numerous, and varied, and should prove one of the great attractions of the Fair.

Mrs. Legge and Mrs. Hawkins will be in charge of the Information Bureau, which will be placed in the centre of the Hall, and will doubtless be a great help to all visitors at the Fair.

There will be an exhibition of labour-saving appliances, and it is hoped also of lace-making and hand-weaving. The following societies, friends, and firms (for labour-saving appliances) are taking stalls :-

The Friends of Armenia.

The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

The Federation of Women Civil Servants.

The "Crusader."

Miss Basnett.

Miss Burwood.

The Nine Elms Settlement.

Messrs. Benetfinks, Ltd.

Messrs. Beatty Bros., Ltd.

Messrs. Manuel Lloyd and Co.

The Portable Utilities Co., Ltd.

The Staines Kitchen Equipment Co., Ltd.

Tickets, including tax, price 1/3 (9d. after 5 o'clock on the second day), will shortly be on sale at the Offices.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry (Hon. Fair Sec.) at the Office.

BOOK REVIEW.

Michael Field. By Mary Sturgeon. 6s. (The Harrap Library.) (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is a most fascinating study of the two women, Katherine Bradley and Edith Cooper—aunt and niece—who wrote together under the name of Michael Field. As Gordon Bottomley, the poet, phrased it, they were the two friends "who sought perfection, and achieved far more." Their joint work forms one of those intellectual puzzles such as William Sharpe provided in the works of Fiona Macleod, which intrigues and delights the literary mind: one an ardent Greek scholar, the other a finished Latinist; one the more intellectual, the other emotional; writing so perfectly in touch with each other that often it was only by a comparison of handwriting that they themselves could distinguish their own work. These two friends give a most striking refutation by their lives to the old lie that no Damon and Pythias can exist among women! From their young days, when Katherine, herself only sixteen, surrounded the early-orphaned Edith with all a mother's love, onwards through their young life as students at Bristol, to their conversion to Catholicism, till the final scenes when the two poets, both stricken with cancer, weak but still full of poetic strength, worked at their last joint poems, there was never a rift within the lute. Can there be a more wonderful picture of self-denying love than that shown in the last days of "Henry," as Katherine was called by her friend, when "Michael" kept silence as to her own pain and mortal illness and agony from all but Doctor and Confessor, lest her friend should grieve, and nursed her unremittingly till, on the very day of the funeral, in December, 1913, she broke down, and her secret, which "God had kept for her till then," and her attendant priest, was revealed. She did not survive her friend more than a few months, and occupied that time by writing poems dedicated to her memory, dying suddenly on her way to Mass.

In early life, these gifted women were Suffragists, and shared in all the intellectual movements of their time; Katherine was a great anti-vivisectionist, and their attachment to their Chow dog—most beloved and faithful companion—was celebrated in a curious little book called "Whym Chow," privately printed, in whose death they came to realise the supreme power of sacrifice, this passionate conviction leading to their conversion to the Roman Catholic faith.

Michael Field was essentially a "poet's poet," and the two had many friends among living poets, Robert Browning being perhaps the chief, though Ruskin, Meredith, Symons (who celebrated them in verse), Swinburne, Gordon Bottomley, and many others, were of their circle, and the name "Michael" was partly chosen for love of William Michael Rosetti. Some of the extracts given in the book from their correspondence with Browning and others are charming, and make one long for a full edition of the correspondence; Meredith writes telling them to heed no hostility, but to hold to their noble stand for pure poetry.

Their works were lyrical and religious, and some charming lyrics are quoted, but mainly tragical, their first important tragedy, *Calleroë*, being published in 1884, and their last in 1911. Their lyrical facility and dramatic power were both great, although, perhaps, the subjects seemed, like the friends themselves, somewhat remote from daily life, being chiefly classical and historical.

Space fails me, but Miss Sturgeon's book gives an excellent account of their work, and should be read for its clear and loving account of Michael Field and his work. J. M. T.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Monday, September 18th, at 7 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Lucy Bell. Subject: "Public Speaking." Chair: Mrs. Northcroft.

Friday, September 22nd, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Committee, 144 High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, September 23rd at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, September 25th, at 3 p.m.—Hampstead Branch Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W. 3. (By kind permission of Miss Lyndon.)

Wednesday, September 27th, at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Travel as an Education." Chair: Miss Reeves.

Monday, October 2nd, at 3 p.m. at 144, High Holborn, Fair Committee Meeting.

Monday, October 2nd, at 7 p.m.—At Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Edward Cecil, who will open a discussion on "That our Public Schools corrode the character, stultify the intelligence, blunt idealism, and turn out their victims unfitted for the battle of life." Chair: Mrs. Dexter.

Friday, October 6th, 3.30—7.30. Mid-London Branch, Pound Tea, at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). For further particulars, see Branch note.

Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th.—"Green, White and Gold Fair," Central Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 6th, at 7.30 p.m.—Hastings.—A Model Election conducted by Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., will be held at the Chintz Room, Claremont. Candidates drawn from the various political parties will stand for Election. Further particulars later.

Monday, October 9th, at 7.30 p.m.—Bexhill.—A combined Meeting will be held at the Sisterhood. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Chair: Miss Thornton.

Tuesday, October 17th. Ashford. A Meeting will be held at the Women's Adult School. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Chair: Mrs. Banks.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, September 20th, at 8 p.m.—Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Unions. Speaker: Mrs. Neave Hobbs. Subject: "The need for a definite Programme."

BRANCH NOTE.

MID-LONDON.

Will all our London members and friends please keep Friday, October 6, open, as we want them all at our POUND TEA. Dr. Octavia Lewin is kindly lending us her house at 25, Wimpole Street, W., and we are hoping to do even better than we did at our Reception to Dr. Knight last year. All the proceeds will be given to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Will everyone please come and "bring a pound and buy a pound." The pound (or pounds), may be of anything useful, butter, fruit, groceries, household stores of any kind, cake, candies, wool, material or flowers. If anyone will bring a pound (or pounds) which has to be written £ so much the better, it is the most useful kind. There will be short speeches by Mrs. Tanner, Miss Underwood and others, character reading, also music by Mrs. Cunningham and Miss Thomas. Come yourself and bring a friend to help us start our winter work successfully.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss C. M. SPARKMAN, 10 Winchester St., E.16.

In Memoriam.

The deepest sympathy of the Women's Freedom League goes out to our old friend and member, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, on the death, last week, of her husband.

Though, perhaps, not so well known as his wife, Mr. Cobden Sanderson was conspicuous in the publishing world and in artistic circles. He was also a great supporter of the arts and crafts movement. He was an intimate friend of William Morris, and himself published some beautiful books in the Morris style, and produced five editions of Ruskin, Shelley, and Keats.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

More Education Cheeseparing.

A number of children have been removed from the Holmfirth Secondary School, owing to the parents' inability to meet the increased charges. In some cases, where the children were under 14 years of age, they have returned to the Elementary Schools after making good progress at the Secondary School. Protests against the action of the West Riding County Council in raising the fees have been of no avail.

Unemployment.

The number of persons on August 21st recorded on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed was 1,333,700. This was 1,583 more than in the preceding week. The *Labour Press Service* states that the increase in the total number on the register is entirely accounted for by the large number of women and juveniles registered. At this period of the year a great many children reach school-leaving age, and register at the Exchanges for work. In its proposals for dealing with unemployment during the coming winter, the Government has made no suggestion for the provision of work for unemployed women, and the children who can get no employment are apparently to continue to run the streets.

Athletic Girls.

Dr. Sophie Bryant had no patience with the suggestion that modern girls were being injured by excessive devotion to athletics. She declared that her experience was that the girls of the present generation, born of mothers who themselves played games at school, were stronger and more vigorous, both physically and mentally, than those who came under her care at the beginning of her career.

We Wonder!

Viscount Ullswater, speaking at the third anniversary of the Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home at Lowestoft, referred humorously to his experiences as Speaker, and wondered how the job would have suited a woman—to remain silent and listen for twenty-six years to things she did not agree with! Now, the late Speaker was certainly not a supporter of woman suffrage, and we wonder how it would have suited him to keep silent, to have no Parliamentary vote for so many generations, if the voters and the Members of both Houses of Parliament had all been women, and not men!

More Sex Prejudice!

Six months' imprisonment and a fine of £100 was the sentence passed on a young American woman who was found smoking in a public park at Kansas. We wonder how young American men would appreciate similar treatment!

ITALIAN WOMEN OUSTED.

Dr. Margherita Ancona, writing recently in *Jus Suffragi*, points out that Italian women wage-earners are now being subjected to oppression from ex-Service men, such as Englishwomen workers have also endured since the war. After the war, the Italian Government passed a number of laws and decrees intended to help ex-soldiers and disabled men to find work. In every public or private administration, factory, etc., a certain number of places were reserved for ex-soldiers, whilst in every competitive examination the placing of ex-soldiers was made the first consideration. The Associations formed on behalf of ex-Service men, however, went further than this, and demanded that all public and private posts should be reserved for these men, and women should be discharged to make room for them. The men even penetrated the post offices, banks, etc., where numbers of women were employed, and drove them off the premises. This state of things eventually died down, but during the last few months it has revived again, especially in Tuscany. In some cases, as happened recently at Pisa, the women were actually ill-treated, and beaten, but received no help from the police. The women are all the more helpless in these matters, because the ex-Service men are politically strong, and the Government is bound to the political parties, whilst the bureaucracy is anti-feminist. Although the Sacchi Law allows women to teach in every kind of school, a Bill has recently been presented to Parliament relating to some special teachers' fees, to which a short article has been added, in which women are forbidden to teach in High Schools (upper classes of the Middle Schools for boys). Women are now combining to prevent the Bill from passing through Parliament.

To Members and Readers.

The Clyde Campaign, with all its success and all its rain and discomfort, is now over, but the expenses have not yet been made up. Please send your contributions to me as speedily as possible, and show your appreciation of the splendid hard work put in by our Speaker and Hon. Organiser, who have so generously given their time and energy for the good of the League and the furtherance of its ideals. Our General Funds, too, are now low, and require the help of all good members without delay.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treas.
144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 15,
1922.

THE VOTE

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WEEKLY.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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WANTED.—Rent or Purchase—Flats or Houses inclusive rents not exceeding £78.—SAULT, 46, Brockwood Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

CONVINCED Feminist (Practising Midwife) books lecturing engagements.—GATTY, 30 Retreat Place, Hackney

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

LADY seeks post Companion-house-keeper, Children's Home Superintendent or would assist in Café; disengaged Oct. 14.—Apply S., Minerva Publishing Co., 144 High Holborn, W.C.1.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing. House furnishings. Specially good price given for high-class goods.—HÉLÈNE, 361, New King's Road, Fulham, S.W. 6.

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EDUCATIONAL.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 17th, 6.30 p.m., Miss Cicely Ellis. "Prison Reform."

PUBLIC SPEAKING SYTEMATIZED COURSE reopens September 18th. Indispensable to those engaged in Public Work; also specially prepared postal course.—MARION MCCARTHY, 16 Hallam Street, Portland Place, W.1. Langham 1530

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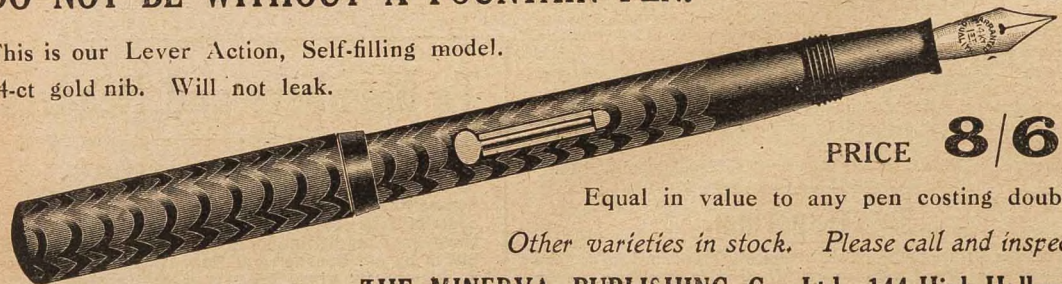
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