

MEN'S VIEWS OF FRANCHISE REFORM.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 853.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1926

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

XIX.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

OUR SPRING SALE.

IN PARLIAMENT. F. A. U.

FOOD COUNCIL'S REPORT.

MIGRATION AND MY MORNING POST.

By M. Chave Collisson.

INCREASE OF PENALTIES BILL.

BOOK REVIEW. J. M. T.

XIX.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

MRS. F. J. SIMPSON, MAYOR OF HIGHAM FERRERS, NORTHAMPTON.

Mrs. F. J. Simpson is a native of Southern California, and so is the first woman of American extraction to become a chief magistrate in this country. During the war she was a demonstrator in the Food Production Department, and afterwards was organising secretary of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Land Army. It was during this time that she met and married her husband, the town clerk of Higham Ferrers, who is

year there will probably be some amusing situations between her and her husband, who will frequently be required to address his wife as "Your Worship."



MRS. F. J. SIMPSON BEING SWORN IN BY HER HUSBAND.

Photo by

Photopress.

shown in the portrait swearing in his wife as Mayor. Mrs. Simpson is also President of the local Women's Unionist Association, and District Commissioner of the Girl Guides. During Mrs. Simpson's mayoral

six years ago, but has now succeeded him in that office. At King's Lynn, Norfolk, too, Mrs. Coxon was Mayoress to her husband, Major Coxon, in 1923-24, and then succeeded him in the mayoral office in 1925.

Equality between the sexes is particularly marked in many mayoral offices this year. As was noted in our issue of Jan. 22nd, the present Mayor of Dunstable, Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, has not only acted as Mayoress to her father, Alderman John T. Dales, when he was elected Mayor

Special issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Nevile, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Smea, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 25th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Judge and Supreme Court's Ruling.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has ruled that because Judge Helen McGill, of the Vancouver Juvenile Court, was never properly appointed, all judgments, convictions, and settlements made by her during the past nine years are illegal. This decision was the basis of an order releasing two men from Oakalla Gaol, where they were serving terms of imprisonment imposed by Judge McGill for contributing to delinquencies of minors. Judge McGill's appointment was made under a section of the Federal Act which does not apply to British Columbia. Federal intervention in the case is expected.

Clever L.C.C. Girl.

Miss May Yardley, of Peckham, an ex-elementary London schoolgirl, has been awarded the Charles Oldham Scholarship of £60 at Oxford University. Miss Yardley's first success was a Junior County Scholarship, gained from the Mina Road L.C.C. Girls' School. This gave her admission to St. Saviour's and St. Olave's Grammar School. There she gained an Intermediate County Scholarship to Lady Margaret Hall at Oxford, where, in her third year, she was placed in the first class honours list in English. According to an L.C.C. official, Miss Yardley is probably the first girl who began her career in a London elementary school to gain a University Scholarship.

Woman in Magisterial Chair.

For the first time in the history of the county a woman presided over the Magisterial Bench during the latter part of the Spalding Petty Sessions. This was Mrs. E. L. Royce, widow of Mr. W. S. Royce, Labour M.P. for the division. Mrs. Royce also has the distinction of having been the first and only woman Chairman of a public body in South Lincs, being for a year Chairman of the Spalding Rural Council.

Frenchwomen Councillors' Election.

Although women are not eligible as municipal councillors in France, two women Communists, who were elected at Bérons last May, are quietly continuing to exercise their municipal functions, although their election has been cancelled by the Council of the Prefecture of Seine-et-Oise. One of them was unanimously elected by the Council as delegate to the Senatorial election at Versailles on February 14th, but she was not allowed to sit.

Women Only.

Tramcars "for women only" after football matches is the latest experiment of Manchester Corporation. The innovation is a sequel to the amazing growth of the popularity of the game among Manchester women, and may be extended if successful.

First Woman Voter.

Mrs. William Murgatroyd, Moorfield House, Yeadon, who has just died, was the first woman voter. Long before the Parliamentary franchise was extended to women, she won national renown as the first woman in the country to register a vote at a Parliamentary election, owing to a clerical error.

Electric Cooking Expert.

A London Science graduate, and a recent pupil of the Department of Household and Social Hygiene of King's College, London, Miss Lamb, is now employed by the General Electric Co. at their research laboratories at Wembley, to experiment in electrical cooking.

Indian Nurse Qualified.

Having completed two years' training with distinction, Nawagzadi Ismat Khanum Maula Banksh, sent over under the auspices of the Countess of Reading's Fund to train as a nurse at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, has returned to India.

Woman President Appointed.

Mrs. Houston-Craufurd, Dunlop House, Dunlop, has been elected president of the Ayrshire Cattle Herd Book Society. This is the first time in the annals of the society that a woman has occupied this important position. Mrs. Houston-Craufurd has done a great deal in recent years to uphold the merits of Ayrshire cattle. She is an enthusiastic worker in the Rural Institute movement, and is deputy chief commissioner of the Girl Guides in Scotland.

A Welcome Innovation.

The "Northamptonshire Men" in London met recently in unusual circumstances. For the first time in the history of these County Associations, a woman, Mrs. Woolgar, was in the Chair.

Conservative Woman Chairman.

Dame Caroline Bridgeman, wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty, is the first woman to be nominated a Chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations. Mrs. Bridgeman is an excellent speaker.

Woman M.P.'s Honour.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., will preside over the domestic hygiene section of the forthcoming Jubilee Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The Congress will be attended by 1,000 delegates from all over the world.

Home Office Women's Appointments.

Miss Wall, Woman Inspector Children's Branch, has been loaned to the League of Nations. Miss Warner has been appointed to be Temporary Inspector, Children's Branch.

OUR SPRING SALE.

Dr. Octavia Lewin will be "At Home" to the members and friends of the Women's Freedom League, on Friday, March 19th, from 3 to 7.30 p.m., for the Annual Spring Sale of the League. An attractive programme of entertainments has been arranged for the afternoon, including songs and recitations by Miss Lettice Newman and Mr. Eric Richmond, Miss Mollie Dutchman, Miss Mary Lyne, Miss Florence Potter, and Miss Stevens. There will also be character reading and numerology.

The Sale will be opened by Lady Buckmaster, and at 5 o'clock Dr. Lewin will give a lecture on "The Hygienic Ladder." Teas will be provided from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. The arrangements for tea have been most kindly undertaken by Mrs. Knight, Miss Lyndon and Mrs. Pierotti; Miss Sadd Brown will also assist. Gifts of cakes, scones, biscuits, butter, tea, sugar, etc. (also gifts of money for the teas), will be most welcome, and will be gratefully received by Mrs. Knight, at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3; or may be addressed to Mrs. Knight, at the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn.

There will be stalls for underclothing and overalls, fancy articles, spring cleaning and kitchen goods, cakes, sweets, and preserves. Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Trafford Williams, Miss Jamieson and Mrs. Lindus have kindly promised to take charge of these stalls. Gifts are much needed for all the stalls. Will members and friends, therefore, be so very kind as to make a special effort to send some contribution to help the Sale? Gifts for the stalls should be sent to the Office not later than March 18th.

E. BERRY, *Hon. Fair Sec.*

A DINNER AND RECEPTION TO WELCOME

MRS. PANKHURST,

at the

HYDE PARK HOTEL, on WEDNESDAY, 3rd MARCH.

Tickets from the Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

DINNER (INCLUDING RECEPTION), £1.1s. RECEPTION ONLY 5/-

Dinner 7.30 for 8.

Reception 9.30.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women Graduates (Franchise).

DR. GRAHAM LITTLE (Ind., London University) asked the Prime Minister if he will consider the advisability of legislation with a view to removing the anomaly whereby graduates of the University of London who are women are debarred from exercising the Parliamentary franchise until they attain the age of 30 years? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS (Home Secretary): I have been asked to reply. This is a matter which can be considered by the Conference proposed to be held on the general question of the franchise of women.

House of Lords (Peeresses).

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lib., Central Hull) asked the Prime Minister whether His Majesty's Government intend to introduce legislation to enable peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in another place? THE PRIME MINISTER: No such proposal is at present before the Government.

Guardianship of Infants Act.

MR. PILCHER (U., Penryn and Falmouth) asked the Attorney-General whether his attention has been drawn to the privileged position accorded to the mother who, under the provisions of the Guardianship of Infants Acts, 1925, can now apply to a Court of summary jurisdiction for a ruling regarding the custody of her children, while her husband retains only his original power of application to the High Court; and whether he proposes to bring about an approximation between the rights of the two parents? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: My right hon. Friend has asked me to answer this question. I have seen reports raising suggestions as to the effect of the Act, but it is too early as yet to come to any decision as to the effect of this Act upon the rights of parents.

A similar question was asked in the House of Lords by Lord Raglan. The Lord Chancellor's reply was substantially the same as that of the Home Secretary.

Employment Exchanges (Women Temporary Clerks).

MR. PALING (Lab., Doncaster) asked the Minister of Labour how many women temporary clerks are employed in the Employment Exchanges; how many have had from 5 to 10 years' service; and whether it is the policy of the Ministry to gradually replace such women by young trainees? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND: The number of temporary women clerks in the Employment Exchange service is at present 756, 246 of whom have had from 5 to 10 years' service. It is the policy of the Department to recruit permanent staff only to the extent likely to be required for the minimum volume of permanent work. I may add that the temporary women staff have had several opportunities of qualifying for permanent posts, and nearly 400 have secured such posts in my Department. MR. PALING: Is it not a fact that a good many of these women have been turned off after years of service, varying from 5 to 10 years, when they have proved themselves efficient and capable, and is it fair that they should be replaced by young trainees, most of whom these very women who have been turned off have had to train? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: Perhaps the hon. Member will put down any detailed question. I can give him an answer on the general policy, which is that temporary work is filled by temporary clerks, but that they are given an opportunity, if they are good enough, of recruiting for the permanent service. MR. T. WILLIAMS (Lab., Don Valley): Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that Exchange officials themselves have declared that with a larger number on the permanent staff their work would be done much more expeditiously and efficiently? (No reply was given.)

Industrial Schools and Reformatories.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester) asked the Home Secretary what is the number of children and young persons resident in industrial schools, reformatories, and other certificated Home Office Schools;

whether he has any estimate of the number of children and young persons in other residential schools and institutions supported, wholly or partly, by voluntary contributions which do not come under any of these categories; and whether he has any intention of obtaining further powers for investigating the conditions and securing the well-being of the children and young persons in these schools and institutions? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: At the end of 1925 there were about 7,000 boys and girls resident in Home Office Schools. I regret I cannot give any definite information in reply to the second part of the question, but a rough estimate would be about 30,000 boys and girls. The reply to the third part of the question is that the whole position is now being reviewed by a committee.

Government Department (Women).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Postmaster-General the number of women staff employed by his Department; the total number of administrative, executive, higher clerical and clerical staff employed in the London secretariat on duties of an establishment or staffing character; how many women are employed on this work in each of the respective grades referred to at the secretariat in London; what are the present avenues of promotion within the secretariat for writing assistants employed in the secretary's registry, and typists employed in the secretary's office, respectively; and what is the number of writing assistants employed in the London telephone service, the money order department, and the typing grades in the secretary's office, respectively, who are at present categorised A, or above average? SIR W. MITCHELL-THOMSON: The answer to the first part of the question is 50,238; to the second, approximately 80; to the third, one woman establishment officer; to the fourth, that there is no avenue of promotion within the Secretary's office for writing assistants, but typists are eligible to become shorthand typists by examination, and to be promoted to superintendent and chief superintendent; to the fifth, 19, 82, and 21, respectively.

Customs and Excise (Women).

MR. GERALD HURST (U., Moss Side) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether the women clerical officers employed in the Board of Customs and Excise are given equal opportunities with their male colleagues for gaining experience on higher clerical duties? MR. R. MCNEILL: The reply to this question is in the affirmative.

Women Police.

Replying to a question by SIR CHARLES CAYZER (U., Chester), the HOME SECRETARY said: Women police are not employed in recording evidence at juvenile courts; this is a matter for the Clerk of the Court. The court duties of women police are restricted to giving evidence in cases in which they are concerned, but whenever a girl appears in a juvenile court in London some other woman—a police matron or temporary matron—is present. The duties of women police are similar to those of constables generally, but they are employed more especially in dealing with young women of immoral character, and young girls who appear to be drifting towards an immoral life, or are homeless or destitute, or in some other way in need of assistance or advice. They are also employed on escort duty and on observation duties in plain clothes, when it is deemed advisable that a woman should be so employed.

Marriage (Legal Age).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE asked the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to raise the legal age of marriage in this country? THE HOME SECRETARY: I have been asked to reply. I have this matter under consideration, but I am not yet able to make a statement.

F. A. U.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 1926.

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.

FOOD COUNCIL'S REPORT.

The Food Council which has just issued its Report on Short Weight and Measure in the Sale of Food-stuffs (H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.) has certainly not failed in industry. In August, 1925, the Board of Trade requested this Council to consider and advise what measures, if any, should be taken for preventing short weight and measure in the retail sale of articles of food and milk. Since that date the Council has issued four Reports of evidence on this subject, in addition to this last Report, which embodies the Council's recommendations. Except as regards coal, bread, and tea, no legislative enactment applicable throughout the United Kingdom exists for the specific purpose of preventing short weight and measure. Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous traders, although they are very definitely in a small minority, and cases of hardship certainly exist of people, mostly of the poorest classes, who suffer in consequence of this lack of legislation. The volumes containing the evidence taken by the Council, as well as the one containing its recommendations, are well worth reading. At the end of the latter is a list of twenty-two recommendations, the first of which reads as follows:—The giving of short weight or measure in the sale of foodstuffs and oral misrepresentation should be made statutory offences. Another recommendation gives a long list of articles, including bacon, butcher's meat, butter, cheese, sugar, flour, jam and marmalade, dried currants, raisins and sultanas, and potatoes, which are to be retailed exclusively by net weight except when sold in quantities less than 2 oz., or in single pennyworths. The Board of Trade has power to add to this list. It is also recommended that butcher's meat, when conveyed for delivery to the purchaser, is to be accompanied by a legible label stating whether the meat has been weighed in the presence of the purchaser or not; and that bread is to be sold in weights of 1 lb., or an even number of lbs. Further, fresh milk, except when sold in single pennyworths or less, should be retailed only by imperial measure, and in quantities of half a pint or multiples of half a pint. The Council also recommends that where the weighing or measuring of any foodstuffs takes place in the presence of the purchaser, the weighing or measuring appliances must be in such a position that the purchaser can read all the indications of weight or measurement; that all figures, letters, and other indications of weight or measure exhibited on foodstuffs offered for sale should be clear and conspicuous, and that no indication of weight or measure which is calculated to deceive should be exhibited. Another recommendation is that powers should be given to inspectors to weigh the contents of packages on the premises of wholesalers, packers, and importers, as well as of retailers; and yet another—that powers of administration of the suggested new Act should be invested in Local Authorities administering the Weights and Measures Acts. The Council quite properly recommends various safeguards for traders. A case for prompt legislation in this matter of short weights and measures has certainly been made out by the Food Council; and we warmly congratulate the Members of this Council, especially its two women members, Mrs. Drapper and Mrs. Wilson, for the energy and industry they have shown in this matter of national importance.

MEN'S VIEWS OF FRANCHISE REFORM.

While members of the Government and men generally conspire for a Hush! Hush! policy in regard to the equal enfranchisement of women with men, some of them loudly proclaim that the people of this country need franchise reform in other directions. Many letters in the Press have appeared lately demanding that limited companies should have municipal votes because "it is a manifest injustice that corporations, generally heavily rated, should have no corporate voice in the imposition of rates"; and the London Municipal Society has drafted a Bill "with a view to remedy this evil." We believe that women have as much right to justice as men; and, although limited companies may groan under their local government disfranchisement, we are much more concerned about the vast numbers of women who have to pay income tax (mostly on earned incomes) and other taxes, both direct and indirect, and yet cannot exercise a Parliamentary vote because they are not 30 years of age, while any man can vote when he has reached the age of 21; and about the increasing number of women who have business premises away from their homes, and, just because they are women, and for no other reason, are only allowed to vote at a General Election for one or the other, while men in a similar position are allowed to vote for both. Then there is the university vote. Women pass the same examinations as their brothers, and receive the same titular degrees, yet no woman graduate can exercise a vote for her university until she is 30 years of age, while a man graduate can do so at 21. It is true that two Labour Members of the House of Commons recently suggested that the university vote and representation should be abolished; but the injustice of the anomaly attaching to this vote apparently left them quite cold. Another set of men are at the present time advocating the abolition of the pauper vote. We have no desire to take the vote away from any sane, law-abiding citizen, least of all from those who are oppressed by poverty; but we do insist that women should have the vote—the chief symbol of citizenship—at the same age and on the same terms as men.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

We congratulate Miss Eunice Murray (and still more her congregation) on securing permission to preach last Sunday evening in Trinity Church, Glasgow. In a striking address, she asked if the Church had ever profited by a narrow policy? Did the Church lose or gain by the exclusion of John Wesley? She insisted that the Spirit would speak to whom it would, regardless of sex, even if it caused annoyance to ministers of the official Church.

Women have been extraordinarily patient in regard to men's monopoly not only of all the chief positions in the Church but, what is more important, of its sphere of usefulness. We are repeatedly told that so many churches throughout the country are almost empty, or only half-filled, and that the churches are failing to attract the young men and the young women of to-day. The plain fact is that the men who are running the churches are receiving a direct challenge not only from women but from the younger generation. The post-war outlook on life is altogether different from the pre-war outlook. What was good enough for our grandparents and parents fails to satisfy their descendants. Many women are convinced that they have a definite message to give to the world *inside* the churches, where the loyalty of women has usually been in excess of the loyalty of men. Who are men to decide that women should be forbidden to give this message? If men continue to place obstacles in the way of women's spiritual usefulness, will it not be so much worse for the churches? As the Rev. H. McClelland said, when introducing Miss Murray to the congregation of Trinity Church, "If women can preach to black men, they can preach to white men."

MIGRATION AND MY MORNING POST.

By M. CHAVE COLLISSON.

This morning I passed over hastily the duller parts of my mail—the receipts, requests for payment, the urgent missionary propaganda which suggested that I could make my office a new and happier place by the exclusive use of Monogrub carbons—and opened with pleasure a letter from Tobago. The mail in the British Commonwealth League Office is like that, full of Overseas surprises. This time I found my correspondent full of an interesting theme, the possibilities and prospects for women of the small fixed income class, in Tobago. Here we are: "I do want to say that a woman with about £150 income a year of her own, who would buy an acre of land, price from £2 10s. to £20, according to spot, and build a small bungalow, say two rooms and a verandah, costing £30 to £50, could lead a pleasant life out here, well within her income, looking after poultry, market gardening, and small stock, and she would have plenty of labour to help her, both inside and out. Small-income women who are not very strong are having a real hard time in the British Isles, and if a couple of women joined together expenses would be much easier."

It does sound good, for a hundred and fifty pounds does not now in England mean very much in the way of comfort or a full life. But, of course, it depends on the woman. For a few moments the office at 17, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, London, within a stone's throw of the old York water-gate, hemmed in by memories of roystering Dukes, Pepys the immortal, and many a figure from history, faded away, and I was back in Australia, washing the dishes for a woman who had just had her second baby . . . such a baby too . . . because she simply could not find the capable, sensible woman she wanted to be a part of her home and household, and she was not fit to be up. I thought of the highly specialised domestic service we find here, and reflected that I well understood why capable women hesitated to leave England and migrate, because Migration of the very happiest kind, for a single woman, is such a very individual matter. My mind moved on, and I thought of the twenty-two unsuitable candidates for secretarial work whom I have interviewed here this

week, unsuitable quite frequently because they really wanted some more workless routine than I could offer, with more variety. I have many ideas and theories about Migration, and some of them I hope to rectify and correct when we hold our big June Conference on the subject.

Would Migration, properly arranged, really *now* help these twenty-two jobless women? Are they not now too fixed in the one scheme of life to make a change possible? And supposing they had, earlier in life, been told clearly and plainly that England is really overstocked with women trained for clerical work, that she has a heritage over the seas waiting for the courageous, the adaptable, and the determined, would they not have been better able to consider the matter? Suppose they had considered it, *where at the training age, fifteen or sixteen, could they have gone to learn what manner of life it might be if attacked the right way?* Family Migration, I thought, is the best, but how expensive. Mothers, I argued, don't want their girls of sixteen to go away overseas; yet mothers and fathers who might go themselves are held back by their children, the cost of transporting them, and the prospect of difficulty in supporting them when there. Suppose girls *could* train, at least partly, here in England, in some place far enough away from the attractions of town, and the pressure of the labour market, *would they?* And suppose then they were ready . . . but then I know they would be looked after by some of the agencies already existing. There must, however, I reflected, be many parents faced with these problems of diminished income and family cares, who hardly yet know where to look for *training* for their girls, however well they may know something of the headquarters for general migration. I have determined to clear my own mind on the training possibilities, and to try and find out whether there *really* is a hopeful outlook for the young woman of two kinds—the girl with a good primary education who wants to be trained; and the girl of good secondary education with a little capital, who thinks in terms rather wider than those of clerical work in an office.

INCREASE OF PENALTIES BILL.

Last Friday, MR. GREAVES-LORD (U., Norwood) secured by 123 votes to 38 a Second Reading for his Criminal Justice (Increase of Penalties) Bill, which provides that "Where a person is convicted on indictment of two or more offences punishable only by imprisonment in respect of which he is liable to be sentenced to terms of imprisonment amounting in the aggregate to a period of not less than three years, the Court may, instead of sentencing him to imprisonment, sentence him to penal servitude for any term not exceeding the aggregate period for which he might have been sentenced to imprisonment."

MR. GREAVES-LORD mentioned the main types of offences which come under this Bill, though he stated that there are several miscellaneous offences which will come within it, as to which very much the same principle applies—sexual offences, and cases of fraud, some under the Bankruptcy Acts, some under other Statutes, which if the offences were isolated probably did not demand serious punishment, but which called for more serious treatment when there was a series of such offences. In seconding the Motion, MR. HAWKE (U., St. Ives) referred to the Hayley Morriss case. He ventured to think that if the Judge had had the opportunity of ordering a sentence of penal servitude, he would have protected the public for the time he thought necessary. SIR HENRY SLESSER (Lab., Leeds, S.E.), although he voted for the Bill, urged that when it got into Committee a limitation of sentence should

be inserted, and that what was really needed was an inquiry into the whole matter of penal servitude and imprisonment. SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS (Home Secretary) said that the question of an increase of penalties had arisen out of a case which came before the Lord Chief Justice, and the Government were bound to take note of the statement of the Lord Chief Justice when he quite definitely said:

"It could only be hoped that before a case of this dimension should come again for trial the legislature would have removed a blemish from penal legislation, and have given a discretion where a multiplicity of offences of a certain kind had been committed, to impose a sentence of penal servitude."

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS said he would advise the Committee not to allow the limit to exceed 10 years' penal servitude, and, if the Committee would like five years' penal servitude for offences tried at Quarter Sessions, he would leave it to them. He urged the House to give the Bill a Second Reading to be amended in Committee. MR. HARNEY (Lib., S. Shields) opposed the Bill. He did not think it right to enlarge the powers of judges to punish. CAPT. O'CONNOR (U., Luton) supported the Bill. He did not think there was any danger of Judges exceeding their discretion, but at present they could not adequately deal with certain classes of offences. He said that the present position of the law was perfectly ridiculous, and this Bill suggested a much-needed revision. MR. RHYS

DAVIES (Lab., Westhoughton) did not vote either for or against the Bill. He objected to increasing penalties of any kind with a view to punish or to attempt to reduce crime. It was not the length of the sentence that mattered; it was the certainty that the law pursued the criminal and brought him to justice. COMMANDER WILLIAMS (U., Torquay) said he thought there ought to be an inquiry into the whole matter, but he would support the Bill because he thought a good case had been made out for it. MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS (U., Reading) said he would vote for the Bill. SIR ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS supported the Bill. When he thought of the horrors perpetrated on women and children who had been mutilated and dishonoured times out of number by brutes in human form, he could only come to the conclusion that flogging was not one whit more than such brutes deserved. They could only reclaim if they deterred, and the only way to deter was to pass sentences which people would think of before they committed a crime, instead of afterwards, and which would stay the hand of the potential criminal. CAPT. FAIRFAX (U., Norwich) supported the Bill. SIR ROBERT HAMILTON (Lib., Orkney and Shetland) opposed the Bill. His experience in the administration of the law in a young colony had taught him that, as a general proposition, corporal punishment, or undue or over-severe punishment, had not the effect of deterring crime. He looked upon any attempt to increase punishment as a retrograde step. MR. BECKETT (Lab., Gateshead) said this was clearly a stunt Bill, and he hoped it would not be carried. The best deterrent to the kind of crime involved in the case under discussion was to find plenty of useful work and not too large an income for so many of the younger men of this country. While you had people living in a privileged position, and the present uneconomic position of a large number of young women in this country, you were bound to get this kind of case arising. He did not think this Bill would have the slightest effect in stopping it. MR. CHARLES EDWARDS (Lab., Bedwely) opposed the Bill. He thought the whole thing ought to be let alone until an inquiry was held, and the sentences for different crimes brought more into line with those crimes than is the case to-day. MR. NAYLOR (Lab., Southwark, S.E.) supported the Bill. He considered that crimes of the Hayley Morriss kind would decrease if the punishment were made more severe, and he thought that applied to every case of misdemeanour and crime. MR. BATEY (Lab., Spennymoor) opposed the Bill. MR. BARKER (Lab., Abertillery) supported it. He thought the Bill was very necessary for the protection of young people. What could humanitarianism do for a man like Havlev Morriss? How could they coax him into virtue? The thing was absolutely absurd. MR. T. JOHNSTON (Lab., Dundee), although assured by Mr. Greaves-Lord to the contrary, said this Bill might cover political offences, and voted against it.

CHILD WITNESSES IN CASES OF INDECENT ASSAULT.

The *Bulletin* (organ of the International Council of Women) reports that the National Council of Women of Norway has been working for some time to get reforms introduced into the present practice of taking the evidence of children in cases of indecent assault; and that they were delighted to learn that at the last meeting of the Cabinet it was decided to lay before the Storting an amendment to the penal code, whereby for purposes of the preliminary inquiry children under 15 years of age will give their evidence before the Judge out of Court, and when the case is heard this evidence will be read. The personal attendance of the child and giving of evidence in Court will only be insisted upon in very exceptional cases, and by special order of the Court. It is confidently expected that this amendment will be carried by the Storting without any opposition.

WOMEN AND WAR MEMORIALS.

Women who served in the Great War are at last beginning to receive public recognition for their services. In spite of the fact that several hundreds of women, during the years 1914-1918, performed valiant services at home and abroad, and endured great peril and hardships, in many cases paying the supreme sacrifice in the same way as men, very little mention has been made of their contribution either on war memorials or in sermons on Armistice Day. With the exception of the Edith Cavell monument, too, no public memorial was erected solely in commemoration of women's war work until last year, when the beautiful Five Windows in York Minster were restored by the women of this country as a memorial to all those women who had given their services and, in many cases, their lives in the Great War. Since then, various practical pieces of work, such as a Nurses' Hostel, in memory of Overseas women, have been devised and executed. Last week, a chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of London in Holy Trinity Church, Gray's Inn Road, in honour of the brave women of the war, living or dead, the dedication service being attended by nurses from the London hospitals, representatives of women's organisations, and women who served in any capacity during the war. The idea of this memorial was first suggested to the Rector of Holy Trinity Church by his wife, Mrs. Arthur Hope-Smith, who mentioned it only four months ago, from which time onwards money began to flow in freely, not only from parishioners, but from total strangers.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Stranger within the Gates. By C. Nina Boyle. (Allen & Unwin.) 7s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

In this book Miss Boyle has given us a careful study of a man who from his schooldays has been burdened with a dual personality—a masculine version, in fact, of W. H. Malloch's "Immortal Soul."

Of these two personalities, one is, as it were, the active, the other the passive form of character. In his original state Watto Southern is dreamy, studious, and unathletic, and he dislikes intensely the swaggering schoolfellow who becomes the villain of the piece, and is humiliated to find that his own father would like him to be even such a one—"more of a man and less of a smug." Thus the subconscious self liberates the very opposite in him, the reckless, adventurous, wild lad, who really lives a life of adventure and reckless daring that his rival in school and love, Ravenshaw, cannot aspire to; he entirely outstrips him. Then comes the love interest, once again entangling the fates of these two men Watto and Ravenshaw, and overwhelming with despair the unfortunate girl, who falls in love with Watto in his bewildering transformation to Lascar Lou. But it is through her love that the unhappy man finds the self-knowledge and confidence which lead at last to peace. Miss Boyle gives us a careful study of Watto's mother, a sympathetic figure throughout, anxious to help her son and his bewildered father, and yet helpless to evade the fate which pursues them.

The interest is so well maintained that any reader who starts the book will find it difficult to lay it down till the whole story is read. It is a little difficult, perhaps, to become much attached to the unfortunate wife "Pet"; she seems rather too undecided and downtrodden, and her family too unpleasant to be quite true to life. However, in the end, she saves the situation, and "in his new strength and happiness and the old love and confidence the shadows dispersed" which had surrounded his life. J. M. T.

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them, mention THE VOTE.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, March 19th at 3-7.30 p.m.
Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin).
Saturday, March 20th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Thursday, March 4th, at 6 p.m.
Mid-London Branch, Members' Meeting at 141, High Holborn, W.C.1, to discuss Conference Resolutions.
Friday, March 5th, at 3 p.m.
Hampstead Branch, Members' Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3.
Thursday, March 11th, at 5.30 p.m.
Political Sub-Committee Meeting, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.
Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.
Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster.
Saturday, July 3rd.
Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Hyde Park Demonstration.

PROVINCES.

Friday, February 26th, at 3 p.m. Ashford Branch. Public Meeting at the Hempstead street Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "What Women are demanding from the present Government." Chair: Mrs. Kithier.
Saturday, March 6th, at 3 p.m.
Portsmouth Branch. Jumble Sale at Long's Memorial Hall (Small Hall).
Friday, March 12th, at 3.15 p.m.
Portsmouth Branch. Public Meeting at Mikado Café, Elm Grove. Speaker: Dr. Mary Scharlieb. Subject: "Conception Control, from a Doctor's point of view."

SCOTLAND.

Friday, March 5th, at 7.45 p.m.
Glasgow Branch. Public Meeting in the Berkeley Hall, St. Andrew's Halls, Kent Street (see Branch Note).
Monday, March 8th, at 3 p.m.
Rothsay Branch. Members' Meeting in the Norman Stewart Institute. Tea. Collection.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, February 26th, at 8 p.m.
National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., LL.D., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Chair: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A.
Saturday, February 27th, at 3 p.m.
Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate on "Ireland." Northern Counties point of view: Mrs. Wyatt. Free State point of view: Mrs. Boyd.
Sunday, February 28th, at 11 a.m.
Hampshire House Educational Association, Hog Lane, King Street, Hammersmith. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P. Subject: "The Tragedies and Humours of the Courts."
Monday, March 1st, at 5.45 p.m.
Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mrs. H. M. Swanwick. Subject: "Civilised International Relations."
Monday, March 1st, at 7 p.m.
Electrical Association for Women. E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau (top floor), 15, Savoy Street. Subject: "Use of Electricity for Cleaning and Labour-Saving."
Tuesday, March 2nd, at 5.30 p.m.
London Society for Women's Service, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster. Speaker: Miss Chave Collisson, M.A. Subject: "The British Commonwealth League Conference, June, 1926."
Tuesday, March 2nd, at 6 p.m.
Central London Y.M.C.A. Buildings, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Barbara Low, B.A. Subject: "Action and Reaction between Teacher and Pupil."
Five-minute Speeches: "A Quotation from my commonplace Book."
Wednesday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m.
Six Point Group. Equal Political Rights. Dinner and Reception, at the Hyde Park Hotel, to welcome Mrs. Pankhurst.
Saturday, March 6th, at 3 p.m.
Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That Prohibition is a necessity for this Country." Opener: Mr. George B. Wilson, B.A. (Political and Literary Secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance). Opposer: Mrs. Whitton (Secretary of the True Temperance Association).

BRANCH NOTES.

WALLASEY.

"The Problems of Unemployment—Some Causes and Cure" was the subject of an address given to this Branch at a meeting in the Town Hall last Monday evening by Mr. F. G. Hanham, an old friend and supporter of the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A., presided. Mr. Hanham pointed out that unemployment was a risk of industry, and insurance minimised its effects. Long periods of unemployment had demoralising results, and there should be some reorganisation

to mitigate them. He emphasised the interdependence of one country on another, and some form of international credit was necessary to stimulate trade. He did not agree that a reduction of wages was the only solution of unemployment. Referring to unemployed juveniles, he pleaded for the raising of the school age to 16, which would help towards the solution of unemployment by preventing the flooding of the market with under-educated and underpaid young people. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the speaker.

GLASGOW.

On Friday, March 5th, a public meeting will be held on "Equal Opportunities" in the Berkeley Hall, St. Andrew's Halls, Kent Street, at 7.45 p.m. Doors open 7.15 p.m. Chair: Miss Melville, J.P., M.A., B.D. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray (President, Glasgow Women's Freedom League), Dr. M. Katherine Chapman, Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., the Rev. Henry S. McClelland, B.A., B.D., Mr. John, and others. (Orig.) LILIAN LENTON.

ROTHESAY.

A Branch meeting will take place in the Norman Stewart Institute on Monday, March 8th, at 3 p.m. Tea. Collection. Speaker to be announced later. (Orig.) LILIAN LENTON.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A Disgruntled Magistrate.

"This is another example of legislation which is all in favour of the woman and disregards the rights of man," said Mr. Bingley, the Marylebone magistrate, when he told a man who asked for a separation from his wife that his only course was to go to the Divorce Court. "The woman's powers have been increased and the man has been left with nothing," he added, referring to the new Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act. "It is always heads I win and tails you lose for the woman nowadays." The professional pessimist is always with us!

Women and Local Government.

During the last week in March the elections will take place for a number of Urban and Rural District Councils and Boards of Guardians. Women should see that good women candidates are at once put forward. Out of 800 Urban District Councils, over 600 consist solely of men members.

Agricultural School for Women.

The Women's International Zionist Association has founded an Agricultural School for Women, the only one of its kind in the Middle East, which will shortly be officially opened in Galilee.

Should a Woman Vote?

A Debate on the above important subject was recently held at the Bradford Junior Conservative Association. One young gentleman said he thought women would be better off without the vote. Asking some women to take an intelligent interest in politics was like asking him to bath a baby. But why should he judge women's intelligence by the low standard of his own?

Oxford Women Actors.

Congratulations to members of Lady Margaret Hall, who last Monday evening so creditably presented Maeterlinck's "The Intruder" and Bernard Shaw's "Androcles and the Lion."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

DESPARD HOUSE, 2, CURRIE STREET, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

We had a very satisfactory "Valentine" party on Monday last. Mrs. Ganley, supported by Mrs. Delbanco, Miss Riggall, Miss Stutchbury, Miss Walford, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Stroud, Mrs. Jeffrey, and others received the very satisfactory "Valentines," which consisted of cheques and postal orders, flowers, fruit, vegetarian specialities, grocery, household goods, etc., to say nothing of clothes for the people around us, which have kept us busy distributing them ever since. For the various gifts we have to thank Florence, Countess of Warwick, Dr. Knight, Mrs. Ganley, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Jeffrey, Mr. and Mrs. Delbanco, Mr. Ives (who has taken a collection box for us permanently), Mrs. Stroud, Mrs. Brown, Miss Greenville and friends, the Misses Stutchbury, Messrs. Mapleton, the Nutona Company, Mrs. Jacoby, Mrs. Nicholls, Mr. Webb, Mrs. de Vere Smith, Icilma Company, Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League, the Mayor of Battersea, Miss Lush, who kindly sent in a set of little knitted frocks for our nursery wardrobe. Supplemented by the contents of two sacks from Miss Turton, which had been sent previously, the room was pretty full of merchandise by the evening, when the neighbouring people came in to buy the jumble goods. Selling went on briskly until most of the goods were cleared out, and our helpers went away feeling that another good thing had happened! We are arranging to give a concert at Nine Elms Baths on Thursday, March 18th, at 7.30 p.m., when we hope to make a good addition to our funds; and the Mayor of Battersea has kindly agreed to become treasurer for a Street Carnival, to be held about the second Sunday in July, to collect funds for our work. We shall need hundreds of collectors on this occasion, and will gladly accept offers of help from anyone interested in the work. (Hon. Sec.) MISS A. M. COLE.

FRIDAY,
FEB. 26,
1926.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name.....

Address.....

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

BOARD RESIDENCE.

LADY requires Paying Guest, very comfortable modern home, Stoke Newington district. Young business or professional lady preferred. 30/- weekly, partial board.—Write Box K.B.A., THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

TO LET.

FURNISHED COTTAGE, in Suffolk, 21/- weekly. Simply Decorated. Oak beams exposed.—Apply HAYLAND, The Peasant Shop, 41, Devonshire Street, Theobald's Road, W.C.1.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

SMART CUT, AND PERFECT
TAILORING.

COSTUMES MADE TO
ORDER FROM 7 GUINEAS

H. Melissen,

Ladies' Tailor,

PERSONAL ATTENTION.

62, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

CLUBS.

ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

PIONEER CLUB, 12, Cavendish Place, Oxford Circus, W.1. Bedrooms. Debates. Concerts. Town Membership, £5 5s.; Professional and Country, £4 4s.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 28th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. Professor Julian S. Huxley, M.A.: "Birth Control." 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "Vocation."

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CHAIRMANSHIP. Classes, Private Lessons and Lectures, also Saturday Speech Club. New term now beginning.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

CORNWALL.—Paying Guest received in modern farmhouse. £2 2s. week. Clotted cream 3/- lb., post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

RYE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

STRESA.—The most delightful spot on Lake Maggiore, Italy, for spending a quiet summer holiday.—MRS. COSTA, Hotel St. Gothard. Terms *en pension* £3 weekly.

SAND BANKS. 3 miles Bournemouth. Board Residence. Winter terms very moderate.—MISS ALLEN, "Cosy Nook," Sand Banks, Dorset.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DANCE PIANIST and Accompanist requests engagements for Pianoforte Lessons or Accompanist.—Apply MRS. SILVESTER SPARROW, 43 Black Lion Lane, W.6.

CORSETS made to measure from 12/6. Patterns and instructions for self-measurement sent on request. Corsets and Belts cleaned and repaired.—ROZE POINTON, 88, Caledonian Road, King's Cross, London, N.1.

Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1;

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.