

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1927

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

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PRINCIPLE OR EXPEDIENCY?

DAME RACHEL CROWDY, D.B.E.

CHIEF OF SOCIAL SECTION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

During the Seventh International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, organised by the National Vigilance Association and the International Bureau for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, held from June 28th to July 1st, in London, the slight, youthful figure of Dame Rachel Crowdy was to the fore. This remarkable woman is a Londoner born and bred, but a Londoner with an international mind. After five years of war-work in France and Belgium, she has now eight years of international peace work at Geneva behind her, only returning to London for brief holidays, or for such Congresses as she attended at the end of June, included in her work. Rachel Crowdy went, as a day boarder, to a school in London, and, on leaving, passed through a period of ill-health. She regards this period of forced inaction as having provided her with a valuable opportunity of reading, deep and wide—an opportunity well employed. With returning health, the active mind looked about for satisfaction. Before Rachel Crowdy was 20, she had visited Africa, Australia, and Canada. Prophetic of her interest in the unfortunates was the choice of nursing as her first work. One year sufficed at Guy's, and bacteriology succeeded, only to be dropped in turn owing to weak eyesight. Then followed chemistry, leading to work in dispensaries in some of London's poorest neighbourhoods. Seeming to change, Dame Rachel's life has been—and it is only commencing—a steadfast search towards the cause of disease and distress, first in London slums, now among the nations of the world.



DAME RACHEL CROWDY, D.B.E.

When the Voluntary Aid Detachments were started, Rachel Crowdy was one of the first members and was the first woman dispenser in a detachment. She also became lecturer to the National Health Society, dealing with social work in the slums of our cities.

In September, 1914, Katherine Furse was sent to France to take charge of the V.A.D.s in France and Belgium, and she took with her Rachel Crowdy. Later, Katherine Furse came to London to put into being the Women's Royal Naval Service, and Rachel Crowdy became Principal Commandant of the Voluntary Aid Detachments in France and Belgium.

The war ended. Before demobilisation released her, Rachel Crowdy was asked to come to the League of Nations to draw up a Constitution for the Health Section. Giving up a fondly-held dream of leave after five years' war work, she only waited for her demobilisation to start at once on the new work. Her job was to draft a Constitution agreed to by all the Health Societies of the member nations. This sounds a huge job, but this quiet, almost fragile, woman achieved it in one year, and was then sent to Poland, one woman with seven men, on the Typhus Commission. Here they found the able Dr. Rajmann, who, the work of the Commission finished, came to Geneva as head of the Health Section, waiting to act with its agreed Constitutions in order. Dame Rachel then became head of the Social Section of the League, originally planned to deal with the traffic in women and children, but now having added to its scope also the traffic in

opium, the suppression of obscene publications, the care of deported women and children in the Near East, and, finally, child welfare. This vast field of work is controlled by Dame Rachel Crowdy with a staff of only 10 persons. Already we may place to the credit of this section a Report, the initiation of which alone would be a laurel wreath for anyone—the Report of the Special Body of Experts on Traffic in Women and Children, for which Dame Rachel acted as secretary—the information collected by the Social Section being a basis. This Report may rightly be called epoch-making, and the publication of its Second Part will give increased impetus to the work of cleansing the world from this evil trade.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS WORKERS.

The Junior Council for Young Professional and Business Women and Students, organised by the London and National Society for Women's Service, has just issued its first annual report. This Council has 175 members, and they include women of such varied occupations as the following:—Meteorologist; house decorator; students at Goldsmith's College, Somerville, Lady Margaret Hall, Newnham, Swanley, School of Economics, Slade School, Bedford College, and many others; solicitor; shop assistant; research in plant pathology; private secretary; hospital almoner; barrister; proprietor of a shop; legal research worker; fruit research worker; house property manager; singer; Civil servant; director of hairdressing establishment; free-lance journalist; schoolmistress; and lecturer.

The Report states that, since its formation, "the Council has held meetings in colleges, at the London School of Medicine for Women, at Newnham College, Cambridge, and at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. These meetings have been addressed by members of the executive committee and by the organising secretary, and they have proved that the Junior Council is needed by students who wish to take up a career. A sub-committee, appointed by the Junior Council, has been compiling a register of the activities of women in London in professional and business life. This is a very complicated task, and, although a basis of work has been secured, it will take considerable time to complete such a register. We hope to gain some approximate idea of the occupations followed by women in London, with a view to ascertaining the local distribution of women's work, and the possibilities of the development of new enterprise. The register promises to become a most useful production. The activities engaged in by women are legion, and the opportunities for development in some branches must exist."

AMERICAN WOMEN FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK.

At the July Convention of the American National Woman's Party, one of the subjects discussed was the possibilities of International Feminist action. The discussion was very keen and enthusiastic, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

Whereas, in no country in the world are women given equal rights with men; and,

Whereas, conditions in every country are increasingly affected by world public opinion and international agreements; and,

Whereas, it is necessary that the views of women should carry their full weight in all international councils; and,

Whereas, the National Women's Party is vitally interested in promoting the equality of rights for women everywhere and anxious to co-operate to that end;

Therefore be it resolved, that we empower our National Council, at such time or times as it shall deem opportune, to take such steps as shall seem to it advisable, through our International Advisory Council or otherwise, to co-operate with feminists of other nations to gain equality of rights for women throughout the world.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Professor of Zoology.

Miss D. L. MacKinnon, lately Lecturer and Reader in Zoology at King's College, London University, has been appointed to the Chair of Zoology in Aberdeen University. Miss MacKinnon did valuable work as protozoologist in military hospitals during the war, and has studied in Cambridge, France, and Germany.

Woman Metallurgist's Success.

One of the only two women members of the Iron and Steel Institute has won the scholarship given by Sir Robert Hadfield to the Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress, opening in Canada on August 22nd. Miss C. F. Elam, D.Sc., is the winner; she is at present employed at the Royal School of Mines.

Women Accountants.

Three women—Mrs. E. M. G. Evans, Miss L. M. Harris, and Miss A. H. Wormald—were among the 264 candidates who were successful in passing the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants held recently. Two hundred and eleven candidates failed to satisfy the examiners.

American Women's Success.

Judge Florence E. Allen and Miss Edna Browning Ruby, the latter a designer and lecturer, have been successful in winning two "trips to Europe," offered by the New York Exhibit of Women's Arts and Industries. Both are members of the American League of Women Voters.

Woman District Attorney's Success.

Great praise is given in the American Press to Miss Mary D. Bailey, who has asked for a move to different work. She has been Chief of the Liquor Injunction Department of Chicago for two years, and has belied the sceptical prophets by successfully enforcing the Volstead Law fearlessly and ruthlessly. She now wants another kind of work to enlarge her experience.

Women in the Ecole Normale.

Last year, one woman created a great sensation in France by passing the entrance examination for the Ecole Normale Supérieure. No woman had ever tried this before, and this year three have followed the same way. Last year, it was almost decided that a woman might not enter the college; this year, there is talk of a special section for women. Some day, efficiency and not sex may be considered.

Women on the Stock Exchange.

An Austrian woman, head of a firm of lead pencil manufacturers, has sent a petition, backed by Viennese industrialists, to be admitted to the Austrian Exchange. If the Chamber of Exchange votes in favour of her admission, a change in the law will be required to ratify.

First Woman Chess Champion.

Miss Vera Menchik, the 21-year-old chess player, after strenuous play last week, won the title of First Woman Chess Champion of the World at the London Congress. Miss Menchik also won the first prize in the Ladies' Tourney. Her mother is English, and her father, who taught her to play chess, is a Czechoslovakian.

Women Workers' International Conference.

The Second International Conference of Women Trade Unionists was held in Paris last week, 50 delegates from various parts of the world meeting to discuss agriculture and women's conditions in industry. One resolution called for greater protection of the woman as a worker and as a woman; and another demanded more rest for the woman worker before and after childbirth, the prohibition of nightwork, and further protection in unhealthy industries. We ourselves do not see how 50 delegates are able to represent the views of all women workers throughout the world, or even of organised women workers.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

In connection with the meetings of the British Association, which begin at Leeds on August 31st, and at which women are expected in equal numbers with men, the *Daily Telegraph* publishes the following most interesting account of the admission of women. When the Association was founded in 1831, and for some years afterwards, women were not admitted to join in the discussions. Now there is no sex bar, and women not only take part in the discussions, but are also equally eligible with men for office.

The secretary gave an account of women's long struggle to obtain from the Association privileges equal to those enjoyed by men. It began, he said, almost immediately after Viscount Milton, who was the first president, addressed the first meeting in 1831 simply as "Gentlemen." By 1832 the matter had become a burning question. Canon William Buckland, the second president, commenting on it, wrote in a letter, dated that year: "Everybody whom I spoke to on the subject agreed that if the meeting is to be of scientific utility, ladies ought not to attend the reading of papers—especially in a place like Oxford—as it would at once turn the thing into a sort of Albemarle-dilettanti movement."

The admission of women to scientific meetings was frowned upon generally by early supporters of the Association. The administration did not, however, altogether practise what it preached as to regulating women's attendances, for, in 1838, it was noted at the Natural History Section by a distinguished scientist: "There were not above 50 people in the room, and almost no ladies—ladies were precluded from attending the section of botany and zoology on account of the nature of some of the papers belonging to the latter division." Sir John Herschel, in a letter to his wife in 1838, wrote: "Sedgwick (the Rev. Adam Sedgwick, of Cambridge), in his talk on Saturday, said that the ladies present were so numerous and so beautiful that it seemed to him as if every sunbeam that had entered the windows in the roof (it is all windows) had deposited there an angel. Babbage, who was sitting by me, began counting the panes, but, his calculation failing, he asked me for an estimate of the number. 'I cannot guess,' was my answer, 'but if what Sedgwick says be true, you will admit that for every little pane there is a great pleasure.'"

Women, added the secretary, were not admitted by purchased ticket until 1843, when a special "ladies' ticket" was introduced, but this was not to the taste of some of the recipients. In 1869, some of the women presented a memorial to the Council, asking that their tickets should be similar to those issued to other members. The memorial also demanded an answer to the question whether women were eligible for election to the sectional committees, the general committee, and other offices. In 1876, the Council adopted a report of a committee, which stated that it does not appear to have been the practice of the Association to admit ladies to election as officers or upon committees, and it does not appear that any case has been made out for altering the practice.

The Council's objection finally disappeared by default. In 1913, Miss Ethel Sargent sat as first sectional president of her sex, and in the following year the Council welcomed Miss E. R. Saunders, of Newnham College, as one of its members. This year, the Duchess of Atholl is president of the education section, and women are reading papers on a variety of subjects, such as psychology, education, botany, zoology, agriculture, anthropology, economics, physiology, and geography.

ANOTHER FRENCH FEMINIST PAPER.

If Frenchwomen are refused the vote, if their methods of attempting to obtain it seem to us perhaps ineffective, they certainly have no lack of opportunity of wordy protest. Another French paper devoted to propaganda in favour of feminism, which we had not before seen, is *Les Forces Nouvelles*, an optimistic title not belied by the contents. This paper is the organ of

the Feminist Propaganda Committee, which recently held a Congress dealing with many aspects of social reform. One section dealt with education of children. Another with equal opportunities for women in training for trades and professions in all State schools, in all civil posts and public functions. Another section dealt with women's work, and passed strong resolutions against differential industrial legislation. A fourth dealt with legal permissions and penalties in connection with parental responsibility, inheritance, nationality of married women, prostitution, and, finally, equal political rights—in brief, the vote.

We have with regret noticed a division of opinion among Frenchwomen as to whether woman's suffrage should or should not be kept separate from electoral reform, now under review in the Legislature. This division is frankly dealt with in *Les Forces Nouvelles*, which, all through the two numbers we have before us, is strongly, soundly, and purely feminist, as we understand the word and its meaning in Britain.

There is need in France, as in other countries, for a concentration of women's energies on feminism and a clearing of their minds as to their meaning in using the word.

WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION WORTH TO GIRLS?

(A reply to the Baroness Clifton, in the *Daily Mail*.)

Lady Clifton writes an article in the *Daily Mail* of August 9th, and gives it the above heading, but nowhere in the article can I find an answer. Written in her lucid and easy style, of which I, for one, am a warm admirer, one reads it with pleasure, but at the end one is still looking for anything to answer the title. Lady Clifton begins by beginning to define the meaning of "higher education," but glances off that to pour scorn upon the lingering prejudices against the education of girls. Here she is at her pungent best, hitting both those who remain prejudiced and the learned, of both sexes she is careful to insist, who are bores and who are insufferably uninteresting. Lady Clifton deplores a certain stodginess apparent among the "highly educated female," and gives as its cause the "too restricted," rather than the "too much" education. Although not herself a university woman, she feels that the restricted education of the public school is often continued in the university. Then follows the greater part of the article, dealing with Lady Clifton's life at St. Leonards. She was there, from her own account, when compulsion in games was at its height and its worst, and under a housemistress who preferred following an existing convention rather than establishing any new ones. As a fellow senior of St. Leonards, I must cry *touché* to much that Lady Clifton gets off her chest about her schooldays, and can cordially agree with her as to two things: one that St. Leonards is the best public school for girls in Britain; the other, with one reservation, that "the principal charm and merit of St. Leonards is that it is in St. Andrews." In the second of these I would say "a" and not "the." Lady Clifton's article ends with an unexpressed opinion as to whether women have a future at the Bar, and where, in all this, do we find an answer to the question, "What is higher education worth to girls?" Having found no answer, I will supply my own. Higher education is worth to girls no more and no less than it is to boys. The higher education of to-day is as different from the first education ever evolved as Gorgonzola cheese is from fresh cream cheese, and yet they are the same. Cheese remains cheese; education remains education. It is in method and in conception of use that generation differs from generation, but always the same idea is behind it—to give to human beings such knowledge as will raise them higher in our human scale of values. Whether current methods and standards fail or succeed, they have their admirers and they have their scorners. Each generation does the best it can, and surely the best must always be worth having, even if in one year or in one hundred years another best has superseded it.

HELEN ARCHDALE.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 12th, 1927.

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.

WOMEN SETTLERS.

During this holiday season, when so many workers have their minds free to meditate upon something other than their daily toil, our newspapers kindly attempt to provide food for the common meditation. The giant fish, with the more ancient giant gooseberry, no longer excites, nor, having excited, satisfies. Topics of more or less general interest are nowadays selected, and, judging by results, a number of names, quite unconnected with the topic except as also having a general interest, are put into a hat and drawn out, and in that order invited and presumably paid to write upon the selected topic. The result is heartbreaking to the intelligent, but evidently there are others. This season, possibly owing to their imminent advance, women, or, as some prefer to say, woman, is the topic. With the numerous lesser fry we do not propose to deal, believing them to be sufficiently suicidal. One topic, on which much has appeared in print, is emigration. The encouragement of systematic plans for migration within the Empire, from the overfull to the underfull, is widespread, and an occasional voice is raised demanding that the claims of women should be considered to share in these otherwise excellent plans.

Many letters have recently appeared, given space in the off-season, dealing with the training of women as settlers. These have pointed out that women are crowded in the Home Country, just as men are crowded; that women are unemployed; that women are untrained; that women are anxious to be up and doing. Articles, mostly very bad, have flooded the lesser weeklies, and, here is where the affair becomes serious, if not dangerous, *The Times* gives a first leader of a column and a quarter to it. With the opening sentence of this latter, none can quarrel. It says: "... how important it is that the provision of facilities for women and girls wishing to settle in the Empire overseas should keep pace with those offered to men." Excellent pronouncement, but when we read further, we find "to settle" really means to be some man settler's wife and the mother of his children. *The Times'* leader goes on to show that to the boy is offered "an outdoor life, with good prospects of independence," and says that "it is plainly true" that the invitation to girls is "a good deal less attractive than the invitation that is extended to their brothers." We are made to realise that, through certain hard domestic labour, girls are offered an uncertain prospect of marriage, and, adds *The Times*, "There is a natural common-sense feeling against crossing the world to scrub floors." After this excellent opening, we are smothered under the sentimentality of the wife-and-mother doctrine. This hard door of entrance to our overseas Dominions, the door of manual labour in and around the house, which is the only one held open for women, is softened by floral fantasies of the good man's wife type. The possible reward, that of dependence, with the added responsibility plus the added labour of motherhood, is similarly camouflaged as "the wide range of activities that marks the happy farmer's wife and the happy wife of the farmer."

Now it is a commonplace that woman has two functions in this world: one is that of an ordinary human being, desiring independence, desiring to use to the full the talents she may possess; the other function is that of motherhood, peculiarly her own. We would urge the frank separation of these two functions. All women do not want to be mothers, all women cannot be mothers; on the other hand, to many life offers

nothing more satisfying. Why cannot we distinguish, in the case of emigration, between these two? Why can we not provide, openly and without hypocritical drapery, for the women who are content and who are eager to be any man's wife, under almost any conditions, and to follow with motherhood. Brave women who know what colonisation means for mothers, who value motherhood first, all else second, let them be helped, in all honour, to realise their desires. But let us also encourage the woman who wishes to achieve, as men have wished to achieve, pioneer women who seek work—work for their hands, work for their brains, women born travellers, born administrators, born discoverers, born doers. Why should these women not be encouraged also, and helped? We know that difficulties almost insuperable are put in the paths of women who wish, in our Dominions overseas, to be "settlers" in the true meaning of the word. We know that only in conjunction with some male can they have the benefits of such facilities as grants of land, assisted passages, etc. The man, on his own, from boyhood upwards, is encouraged towards independence; he has only to show a desire for the settler's life and he is helped in every detail to make a good start to a good life. The woman is encouraged only towards dependence, dangled before her young eyes as helpfulness; the limit of her ambition is placed at making a man happy. Poor girl, how often she is deceived by her own fine instinct of service to narrow her activities into that single channel! Service, which should be service for the whole of humanity, begins so often for girls over the paternal sink, helping mother, it is prettily called, but it is more often washing up after father. This conception of service persists, until at last the woman really sees doing housework for a man as a service all-sufficing.

Let us be clear about it. If this service, housework added to marriage, added to motherhood, is the only service our overseas Dominions require from the women of the Mother Country, let us say so, and encourage women willing to give it. If our overseas Dominions have no present use for women of education, of garnered knowledge and experience, for eager learners full of youth and energy, reaching out, as are their brothers, to what seems a wider, freer life than offers at home, let not those responsible deceive them by pretending that they are wanted, that the cry for "settlers" is directed towards them, for it very definitely seems to be directed to men only. Is there anything to be ashamed of in preferring a life of housework, looking towards marriage and motherhood? Why cannot those people who work for the bettering of conditions of migration place the prospects fairly in front of women? By their present tactics we believe that they do not attract the woman who is of the type eager to accept, and they also fail to disguise the prospect so as to make it acceptable to young women with the faintest glimmerings of independence. They are wrecked between the Scylla of false modesty and the Charybdis of their own reluctance to see women other than attached to a man.

DEEDS AND WORDS.

AN INVIDIOUS DISTINCTION.

On reading this week's front page, our readers will be reminded again that Dame Rachel Crowdy, head of the Social Section of the League of Nations, is termed the "Chief" of this Section, whilst the heads of other Sections of the League are termed "Directors." We take this opportunity of protesting once again against this invidious distinction in name.

In past years, women were only too glad to get the chance of filling responsible positions and giving valuable public service, no matter what the conditions, but now we should insist upon equal recognition for men and women in similar positions. The men responsible for Sections in the League of Nations have the name of Director; then let the same name belong to the person responsible for the Social Section, who happens to be a woman.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN, 1927.

Organiser and Speaker: MISS LILIAN LENTON, "St. Kilda," Mount Stuart Road, Rothesay.
Assisted by Mrs. Nye, Miss Bach, and Miss Burgess.

By the time this VOTE is published, the Clyde Campaign for the year will be over. There will be only four more meetings on the Pier Head at Rothesay, and only once again shall we visit Dunoon, Largs, Millport and Helensburgh. The week through which we have just passed has been successful, although we have been greatly handicapped by bad weather, our various activities being conducted between storms and showers, and sometimes even during these inconvenient manifestations. On Tuesday evening it rained without cessation, so that we had to give up all thought of a meeting, but on Friday it was not so simple. Our opening remarks were made to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning, but the crowd stayed until a soaking downpour followed, when it ran away. We remained seated in the lorry under umbrellas for about half an hour, after which it was fine again, and the people came back, later to be hurriedly dispersed once more by another storm, but luckily not until we were closing the meeting.

It is curious how people confuse the opportunity to do something with the actual performance. When we say that no woman should be refused the opportunity, on account of her sex, of undertaking any job that a man may do, there are always those in the crowd who argue that we are contradicting ourselves when we will not admit that we want women to "work in the mines," "man and fire a cannon," or "put up against Jack Dempsey." It is only the opportunity for which we ask. We may not desire to avail ourselves of it.

Always someone inquires if women are willing to fight, but, last night, the answer "Yes—when men bear the children," elicited much applause, especially from the women.

It is curious, too, how some resent a woman working—for pay, of course—whilst any men are unemployed. One man solemnly suggested that if women were turned out of their posts to make room for the "ex-

Service men," it would go a long way towards solving the unemployment problem! In fact, he wanted to know what steps the Women's Freedom League was taking to bring this about!

We had a rather amusing question at Rothesay one night. Would the speaker approach the "Landladies' Association," and ask that it would prohibit its members from continuing the unfair practice of giving men boarders two poached eggs on toast, but women boarders only one, whilst charging all alike? (Surely no man wants a woman to pay for half his second egg!)

But it must not be thought that we meet with nothing but illogical opposition. The majority of those who listen are with us, as is evidenced by their attention and contributions towards the collection. We are pleased to note how sympathetic the women are. Several have effectively shown their sympathy this week by joining, and, although all don't do that, others express their appreciation in various ways. It was rather amusing last night. After we got down from the lorry, a drunken man persistently made himself a nuisance to the speaker, using strangely unpleasant language, until some indignant young girls violently attacked him and drove him off!

It must not be thought, however, that in this the men adopted any "unchivalrous" attitude. They hovered near, prepared to render assistance if required, but realised that the speaker was capable of dealing with the situation. Nevertheless, she is grateful for the "chivalry" displayed by the girls.

When all women stand by women, as men have stood by men, the need for these campaigns, with their open-air meetings, VOTES and literature sales, and street collections, will be at an end.

But this time has not yet come, so may the four days that still remain to us this season prove, in all branches of our work, more successful than any that have gone before.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The Annual Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain will be held this year in the Town Hall, Bournemouth, from October 11th to October 14th. Miss Anna Munro will again be the Women's Freedom League's representative. We regret to see from the Preliminary Agenda that the following Equality resolution, sent forward by our Committee, does not appear among the definite eight, or even the possible 12, resolutions selected for discussion:—"That the National Council of Women of Great Britain demands equal opportunities, equal conditions, and equal pay for women and men in the professions, in industry, and throughout all branches of our national life. It calls upon all progressive women to unite in preventing the imposition of special restrictions upon the work of women, and to fight side by side for the right of married women to undertake paid work."

We are glad, however, to see that the following Equal Franchise resolution is on the Agenda, although we notice that this is merely to be reaffirmed without discussion: "That the National Council of Women thanks the Prime Minister for his statement that he intends to introduce legislation, next Session, giving the franchise to women on the same terms as men and from the age of 21. In view of the danger which he admitted might arise from an unexpectedly early General Election, this Council asks that the necessary legislation should be introduced at the very beginning of the Session, and passed into law without delay. It calls upon all women's organisations in the various constituencies to do all in their power to show to the Prime Minister, the Press, and both Houses of Parlia-

ment, the warm support women are giving to his pledge."

Other resolutions selected for discussion deal with the Treatment of Young Offenders, Sexual Offences against Young Persons, Inspection of Children's Institutions, Protection for Young Stage Performers, Emigration, the Raising of the Legal Age of Marriage in this Country, and Women Police, while another resolution asks the National Council of Women to agree to concentrate upon one great question of national reform each year, and to make a united effort all over the country to secure its accomplishment. This resolution gives no idea as to how or by whom the proposed particular reform is to be chosen. Can feminists agree among themselves upon the advantages of any proposed social reform outside the equality programme, or the methods by which it can be obtained? We very much doubt it.

The Mayor of Bournemouth will welcome the delegates and give a reception to them, and, in addition to the discussion of resolutions, various public meetings have been arranged. Monday evening, October 10th, there will be a Young People's Meeting, presided over by the Hon. Mrs. Home Peel, when Miss Stewart Parnell, of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, will speak on "What the Vote means to me," and the Rev. Horace Fort, B.D., of U.S.A., will speak on "What the Vote means to the country." Tuesday evening, October 11th, Lady Emmott will preside at a Public Meeting, when "Some Problems of Women who earn their own living" will be discussed, Miss Rosamund Smith, L.C.C., dealing with women employed by municipal authorities; Dr. Louisa Martindale, J.P.,

with medical women; and Miss Eleanor Kelly, Institute of Industrial Welfare Workers, with girls in business. The following afternoon, at another Public Meeting, presided over by Mrs. Keynes, J.P., Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, J.P., will speak on Juvenile Offenders, Probation Officers, and the Need for Women Police, and Mr. Alexander Paterson, a Prison Commissioner, will describe modern methods of prison reform in this and other countries. We certainly hope that someone will remind him of the urgent necessity of including women in our own Prison Commission in this country. At the last Public Meeting, Thursday, October 13th, the President, the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, will be in the Chair and speak on "The Message of the International Council of Women's Meetings at Geneva," and Sir Arthur Salter, director of the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations, will speak on the recent Economic World Conference at Geneva.

THE WOMAN OF THE FUTURE.

Among the many refusals among Churches of different denominations to allow women into other than their subordinate service, it is heartening to read the report in the *Hampshire Telegraph* of the fundamentally feminist address of a member of the Portsmouth Brotherhood. The speaker took as his title, "The Social and Political Future of Women." Among his sayings were the following: "There was no subject more important to the civilised world"; "The present position of women left much to be desired"; "Working men wanted an eight-hour day for themselves, whilst their wives worked 18 hours"; "Woman must be allowed an increasing interest in the affairs of the State and in municipal life"; "She must become the centre of power in things appertaining to the national life"; "If the world was to progress, man had to accord to woman her rightful place in the social and political spheres." Could staunchest of feminists say better?

In Memoriam.

DILKS.—On Wednesday, July 13th, after a long illness, Alice Dilks. Interment in the English Cemetery at Cannes.

Many old members of the Women's Freedom League and Eastbourne friends will join with us in regret at the death of one of our keenest comrades in the early days of our struggle.

Mrs. Dilks was the very able and energetic Hon. Secretary of our Eastbourne Branch during the years of 1908 and 1909, leaving this country when her husband took up a position in America, to settle later on in the South of France.

In a portrait article in the *VOTE* of April 9th, 1910, she writes: "I was made a suffragette at an early age, for I was the only girl, with several brothers, and it was always instilled into my mind that I was 'only a girl.' As I grew to womanhood, I realised the demoralising effect this idea of man's superiority had on my brothers. As a schoolmaster's wife, and having had the care of boys for over 20 years, I have had further experience of this disastrous idea, which is only too prevalent in the minds of boys and men. We scarcely realise how this spirit grows, and how it spreads from boy to boy. In my opinion, this is at the bottom of the terrible social evil which is sapping our nation at the very core, and the only remedy for this is the woman's vote."

"I want the vote primarily because I know the cruel wrongs my sister women have to suffer; wrongs which cannot be righted until women have this weapon in their hands. I am tired of pruning . . . we are now anxious to dig right down to the roots, and do our share towards making the country 'better and happier.'"

To her husband and daughter and all her many friends we offer deep sympathy.

PRINCIPLE OR EXPEDIENCY?

The *Christian Science Monitor* is reporting the ninth Annual Convention of the American National Federation of Business and Professional Women, and it is of interest to learn that this Federation is reconsidering its old assertion that special protection for women was a help to the woman worker, professional or industrial. Strong currents are showing that the Federation is realising that special protection can be a hindrance. This is especially noticeable, according to the speeches reported, in restriction of hours of work, and night-work applicable to women and not to men. "Neither men nor women can hope to hold executive positions without the liberty to work a nine or ten or even a 16-hour day if they like" is a phrase used, followed by the opinion that, so long as women are prevented from working under the same conditions as men, they will be held out of certain profitable lines of employment.

When a report from the Legislative Committee was read, asking for a reinforcement of the six-year-old resolution of the Federation, favouring consideration of individual cases against any blanket equality, such opposition was roused that adjournment of further discussion was voted until the final day of the Conference. On that day, a report was read from a Special Committee on legislative policy, which has been considering the desirability of open discussion in Conference of controversial legislative issues. New York and several New England Federations put forward a resolution, as follows: "The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs holds that women in the professions, in business, and industry shall be free to work and be protected as workers on the same terms as men; that it is opposed to any legislation on a sex basis, on the ground that all legislation and regulations shall be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker." This resolution was lost, and the Federation took refuge in their six-year-old position, in which they refuse support of a blanket amendment and accept local consideration "in the light of the exact nature of the particular Bill and of the industrial and economic condition in the States affected." One gathers from the report of this discussion that the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of America do not yet regard equality as a principle, if agreed with as a right principle, to be invariably demanded and supported; they evidently still regard it as a matter of expediency, to be granted or withheld for a variety of reasons. This is a stage in the developing intelligence of women, which can be welcomed as a stage in their road to freedom from ancient bondages, but which will not be accepted as a decision by the more far-seeing.

In England, this stage has at present held up many of the leaders of the Labour women, but has been successfully passed by the feminists. Mrs. Drake, speaking recently on the same subject, put it in a nutshell. "Industrial women are not prepared to forgo the immediate practical advantages of protective legislation merely for the sake of an abstract sex equality." To feminists, this is a selfish and short-sighted and mistaken view. What may seem a present advantage to an individual is certainly harmful immediately for women as a whole, and in the long run for that individual. Wholesale classification as inferior is harmful to all the classified.

WOMEN IN THE RECORD OFFICE.

Women are not new at the Record Office, but are attracting some attention because of their greater numbers, the greater efficiency with which they make their researches and compile the results, and the greater patience and lack of fluster they show compared with men searchers doing similar work. This work of discovering documentary proof in support of statements, or as material for writing, covers every kind of written word. The most ancient of manuscripts, written in some dead language, has to be studied and its meaning transformed into living words, while masses of historical and genealogical problems are tracked and traced to their solution.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

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

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

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

Minerva Club and Mid-London Branches. "At Home" at the Minerva Club. Tea, 4 o'clock. Members and Friends invited. Songs, Recitations and Games. Further details later.

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

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROVINCES.

Friday, August 12th, at 3.30 p.m.

Ashford. Gift Sale, Hempstead Street Hall.

Friday, October 7th.

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

OTHER SOCIETIES.

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

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

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

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

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

APRONS AND OVERALLS STALL.

The Misses Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss Brewer have again undertaken the Aprons and Overalls Stall for our Green, White and Gold Fair, in November, and they would be grateful to receive materials (from 1½ yards and upwards in length) for making overalls, coats, or aprons, money to buy material, or new overalls, aprons, etc., for the stall. Material received early would be much appreciated, as work could then be begun at once. All gifts in money, material, or goods can now be sent to the Misses Underwood, at the Women's Freedom League Office, or to Mrs. Turriff, 28, King's Avenue, New Malden, Surrey.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS, ETC.

"British Women M.P.s" (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft 4d.
"The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
"Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-al-Hageby 3d.
"Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Fourth Edition) 6d.
"What we have and what we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.
"Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Tucker 3/6

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P. LL.D.
"Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.
"The Police Court and its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.
"The Poor Man's Court of Justice." By Cecil Chapman.
"Life's Fitful Fever." By M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A.
"In Darkest London." By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton.
"Athletics for Women and Girls." By S. C. Elliott Lynn. May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Women Dentists.

From *The Dental Surgeon*, dated August 6th, we learn that one of the three candidates for the post of assistant school dentist, whose applications were before the Northampton Education Committee on July 21st, was a woman, and that it is reported that the Medical Officer of Health opposed her application, firstly, on the ground that women were usurping men's positions, and, secondly, as regards technical skill, he did not think a woman would be equal to a man. Such arguments make us wonder if the particular Medical Officer who used them had not considerably passed the age-limit. The Editors of *The Dental Surgeon* register their opinion that "dentistry is one of the professions which are suitable to women," and that they believe women "to be eminently fitted for school dental appointments."

A Woman Minister Athlete?

The *Liverpool Post and Mercury* tells us that Miss Phyllis Green, of the Olympiads, who broke her own world's record in the High Jump, clearing 5 ft. 2½ in., is a girl with a pigtail dangling down her back, and that she is studying for the ministry.

Enterprising Women.

A writer in the *Liverpool Echo* says she recently heard of a girl in London, who, being unable to meet with such a situation as her education fitted her for, bought a small knife-cleaning machine, and went round the suburbs daily cleaning knives. She found a sufficient number of housewives who were agreeable to pay her 2d. a dozen for cleaning, and soon got together a comfortable little business.

The same writer tells of a Liverpool woman, who travels from door to door with a smart suitcase containing saucepan lids of every shape and size. To have saucepans fitted with lids at one's very door is an inestimable convenience.

Woman in Arctic Circle.

Mrs. Victor Bruce has returned to England after a 6,000-mile trip to the Arctic Circle, averaging 210 miles per day. Although not able to get as far as she wished, she had an otherwise successful trip, being able to map roads and bring back valuable information for future trips to the Far North.

Women Workers' Pay.

The *City Press* reports that, at the recent City of London Board of Guardians meeting, one of the members wanted to know why the scrubbers at Bow Institution were receiving 5s. 8d. a day and those at Thavies Inn only 5s. 6d. a day, and whether the latter could not be raised to the amount paid at Bow? The reply given was that the work at Bow was much harder than that at Thavies Inn. This did not satisfy all members, but they were in a minority.

A Special Committee of the Board recommended the appointment of Miss Hasberry as Registrar of Births and Deaths in the place of Miss Kemm, who had resigned. One member objected because Miss Hasberry already held an appointment under the Board, and he did not believe in paying one person for two offices. The Clerk explained that it was the first time in 30 years that he had ever had a vacancy of that kind to consider. According to Statute, a vacancy occurring in such circumstances had to be filled in 14 days. Otherwise it lapsed. Miss Kemm's resignation was received a fortnight ago, and that was the last day on which the Board could make an appointment. The fees attaching to the office were very small—in fact, scarcely worth considering. Miss Hasberry was a very efficient officer. The Board approved of the appointment, the Board's action being subject to the approval of the Registrar-General.

The Board agreed to the appointment of Mr. Herbert C. Stuttle, Assistant Master at Bow, as Master, at a salary of £275 a year; and of Mrs. Agnes Ewins, Acting Matron, as Matron, at a salary of £270 a year—in each case with emoluments.

An Early Suffragist.

The *Manchester Guardian* recalls both words and deeds of the late Sir Harry Johnston, showing him to have been a convinced suffragist. On one occasion, he refused to speak at a Liberal meeting because "all further reforms and changes in our legislation must be side-tracked" until women were given the power "to make their views felt in all these questions." He was not convinced of the necessity for militancy, but said that if he were convinced he would approve it, and recommended in its stead "a vast and increasing army of bores" who would decline to discuss anything else until the cause was won.

Women Motorists.

The *Northern Echo* comments upon the remarks of a man solicitor and a man magistrate, who, in fining a woman motorist, expressed the view that women motorists drive too fast, and are the victims of speed mania, irrespective of other people on the road. While the *Northern Echo* suggests that the particular motorist in question was, in view of her action, let off lightly, it also expresses the opinion that both the prosecuting solicitor and the presiding magistrate might bear in mind the danger of condemning a whole section of the community for the proved sins of one of their number.

HOLIDAYS.

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

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

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