

VOL. XXIII. No. 643.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, FEB. 17, 1922

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

# PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WHEN I AM M.P. Commandant M. S. Allen. IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U. WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD. FALSE ECONOMY IN EDUCATION.

DELIBERATE BETRAYAL! WOMEN AND MEN UNDER ENGLISH LAW. Mrs. Fawcett's Address. NOTES AND COMMENTS. BOOK REVIEW. E.K.

# WHEN I AM M.P.

COMMANDANT MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., is the prospective Liberal Gandidate for St. George's, Westminster. She is the Commandant for the Women's Auxiliary Service (late Women Police Service), and has spent many years in working for social reforms. She is standing as an Independent Gandidate for North Lambeth in the L.C.C. Elections in March.

such a novelty, that although much is expected, yet opportunities do not always present themselves.

I have very decided views on legislation affecting women and children, and I hope I shall be in a position to voice many of the reforms that I have at heart. I believe that the interests of men and women are so closely related that they should not be considered separately.

I consider that economy, if at the expense of the welfare of women and the education of children, will undoubtedly be disastrous to the whole race, and should be opposed at the outset. have already expressed my adherence to principles of amelioration in the conditions under which women work, and to progressive legislation regarding the rights of parenthood, and affecting Criminal Law.

I have no exaggerated ideas as to what I may be able to accomplish if I am returned to Parliament. The The welfare of mothers and their children has able to accomplish if I am returned to Parliament. The The welfare of mothers and their children has advent of women in the House of Commons is still always been of great interest to me, and this is

proved by the existence of the Damer Dawson Memorial Home at Hythe, Kent-which Home for mothers and their infants I founded in 1920, and for which a grant from the Ministry of Health is received.

The question of Temperance is also an exceedingly important one, and though I am in favour of the liberty of the subject in regard to the procuring of alcohol, am also in favour of restrictions within certain limits.

shall stand as a Liberal without prefix or affix, and shall reserve to myself, if elected, the right to support Liberal or Coalition measures, and to oppose retrograde proposals. I propose, before fighting the St. George's Constituency, to make myself thoroughly acquainted with the inhabitants, and shall very shortly commence visiting right through

I am particularly interested in the question of Housing, as I consider that the bad housing of the present day of vast numbers of our workers is responsible for the men and women face to face that a thorough understanding is arrived at. MARY S. ALLEN.

Other issues of this Series in "The Vote"-Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921; Miss MABEL BILLSON, July 29, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Miss MAY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922.



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# IN PARLIAMENT.

#### Housing.

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In reply to a question by MR. TREVELYAN THOMSON, the Minister of Health (SIR ALFRED MOND) said that the total number of houses completed by local authorities and private builders under schemes of financial assistance up to 1st January was 102,480. In addition, 3,150 other dwellings had been provided by the conversion of houses into flats, or by the conversion of huts and hostels. The number of houses in course of erection was 85,892, and the number not yet started 29,778. The lowest prices approved for houses recently had been £433 for a non-parlour house with three bedrooms, and £500 for a parlour house. MR. W. HALLS asked, whether, in view of the fact that houses were being kept empty indefinitely on offer for sale, the Minister of Health would introduce legislation to compel owners to let the same within a limited time, or to compel the owners to pay rates for the same during the whole period that they were unoccupied. SIR ALFRED MOND replied that he could not undertake to introduce legislation upon this matter. In the Debate on the Address MR. HALLS said there were 180,000 houses which were condemned as unfit for human habitation, and at Ancoats three and four families were living in ordinary cottages, and there were ten or eleven people in one small cottage room.

#### Unemployment.

DR. MACNAMARA, in reply to questions by MR. TREVELYAN THOMSON and MR. L. MALONE, said that the number of persons reported as employed in the week ending 27th January, on works put in hand by the Government and local authorities to relieve unemployment, was 126,000. The number of persons registered as wholly unemployed on the 31st January was 1,904,300. On the 24th January there were 280,000 registered as on short time.

In the Debate on the Address, MR. HAYDAY moved, and MR. NAYLOR seconded, that the following words be added to the King's Speech :--- " but regret that, in view of the disaster to British Trade and of the large number of persons unemployed, there is no indication that the Government are prepared to recognize and deal effectively with the causes of unemployment, or to provide the opportunity for useful productive work for the people of this country; and further, in view of the exhaustion of national funds provided for the assistance of local authorities and the approaching cessation of unemployment insurance benefit, regrets that there is no indication on the part of the Government to grant substantial financial aid to local authorities who cannot be expected to bear a national burden." It is interesting to record that Mrs. Wintringham voted for the addition of these words; but it was lost by 78 votes to 270.

# Maternity and Child Welfare (Grants).

SIR ALFRED MOND, replying to MR. RHYS DAVIES, said that he had received protests against a reduction of grant on Maternity and Child Welfare Service. He hoped that it would be found possible to continue the Exchequer assistance to local authorities so as to enable them to carry on their Maternity and Child Welfare Services unimpaired.

# Women Teachers (Marriage).

LT.-COL. HURST asked the President of the Board of Education whether the Board approved or disapproved of the practice of dismissing women teachers on marriage; and, if it disapproved of such practice, what action he would take to terminate it? MR. FISHER replied that the responsibility for continuing to employ married women teachers properly rested.

with the local education authority, and the Board had refrained from expressing either approval or disapproval of women teachers on marriage. If it became his duty to express any opinion on the subject, he could not do so within the limits of question and answer in the House.

### Nationality Law.

LT.-COL. HURST asked the Home Secretary whether any progress had been made in considering the question of the nationality of British women who marry aliens; and whether he could hold out any hope of legislation on the matter? MR. SHORTT expressed regret that in present circumstances he could make no statement as to legislation on the matter.

## Bills Presented. .

Among the Bills of special interest to women which have been presented in the House of Commons are the following:

Criminal Law Amendment Bill "to amend the Law with respect to offences against persons under the age of sixteen, and with respect to penalties under Section Thirteen of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, and to repeal Section Five of the Punishment of Incest Act, 1908," presented on February 8th by Mr. Shortt: supported by Sir Gordon Hewart and Sir John Baird.

Representation of the People Acts (1918 to 1921) Amendment Bill "to amend the Representation of the People Acts, 1918 to 1921," presented last Friday by Lt.-Col. Archer-Shee; supported by Col. Gretton and Sir James Remnant.

Prevention of Unemployment Bill "to make próvision for the prevention of unemployment, to provide for the proper treatment of unemployed persons, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Griffiths; supported by Mr. Clynes and other Members of the Labour Party.

Trade Union Act (1913) Amendment Bill "to amend . the Trade Union Act, 1913," presented by Lt.-Col. Meysey-Thompson; supported by Sir William Raeburn and other Coalition Unionists.

Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill "to amend the Law relating to the summary jurisdiction of magistrates in reference to married persons," presented by Sir Robert Newman; supported by Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Arthur Henderson, etc.

Children of Unmarried Parents Bill "to amend the Bastardy Laws and to make further and better proviion with regard to children of unmarried parents; and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Sir Francis Blake; supported by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Capt. Bowyer, etc.

Guardianship, etc., of Infants' Bill "to amend the Law relating to the guardianship, maintenance, custody, and marriage of infants," presented by Lt.-Com. Chilcott; supported by Viscountess Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Sir James Agg-Gardner, etc.

Child Murder (Trial) Bill "to provide that a woman charged with the murder of her infant child may, under certain conditions, be convicted of manslaughter," presented by Mr. Arthur Henderson, supported by Mr. Clynes, Sir Harry Brittain, Mr. George Thorne, and others. This Bill would enable the Judge to free himself from the necessity of putting on the black cap and pronouncing the death sentence, well knowing that public opinion would not tolerate its being carried out.

F. A. U.

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# WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD. WOMEN PATROLS & PRISONS ADMINISTRATION

# Women L.C.C. Candidates.

• Twenty-seven Women Candidates have so far been chosen for the London County Council Elections on March 2nd. These include 11 Municipal Reformers, 2 Progressives, 1 Independent, and 7 Labour representatives. The women candidates were entertained to dinner at the Lyceum Club, last week, with members of the Women's Local Government Society.

## Quebec Still Stubborn.

A delegation of 150 of the most representative women of Quebec waited last week on the Premier and other members of the Government to demand a Vote in Provincial affairs, since they had already been granted the franchise for the Dominion. The Premier's own personal opinion is opposed to giving Women the vote.

#### Woman Cathedral Artist.

Miss Emily Maria Eardley Childers, younger daughter of the late Hugh Culling Eardley Childers, Gladstonian Cabinet Minister, who died in London last week, was an artist of rare ability and of a charming personality. She was the last artist to paint the interior of Rheims Cathedral before its destruction, and painted a successful and unique picture of the terrace of the House of Commons.

#### English Women Composers.

A concert of works by English women composers was heard last week at University College, Gower Street, under the auspices of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The names of 11 different women composers were on the programme.

#### Women and Shipping.

Women are becoming quite numerous in the administrative side of the Mercantile Marine. A woman ocean traffic manager has already been appointed by a Liverpool firm, and in Montreal there is a woman shipbroker employed by a Canadian firm.

### Honour to Belgian Woman.

The Comtesse de Noailles has been elected a member of the Belgian Academy. Mme. de Noailles is considered the first of French living poets. The French Academy is now expected, as a natural sequence, to admit her to its membership.

# Women in Charge!

Women recently took entire charge of a Methodist Church in Canada. A woman, Mrs. Ritchie Bell, occupied the pulpit, women ushers seated the congregation, and women selected the hymns. The choir was entirely women. Women took the collection, though men were privileged to contribute !

#### A "One Woman" Show.

Mrs. Laura Knight, who will be remembered as the first English woman to serve on the jury at the Inter-national Art Exhibition, is holding a "one woman" show of her paintings in London during April.

#### Women's Institutes.

The Women's Institute movement continues to go forward with surprising rapidity. In the latest number of their journal members are being urged to play an active part in the coming local elections, both as electors and candidates, and as members of public bodies, overseers, clerks to parish councils, guardians, and Justices of the Peace.

#### Women Dramatists.

Four women dramatists will soon be conspicuous on the London play-bills. Clemence Dane, Gertrude Page, and "George" Paston are already there, and Miss Gertrude Jennings is shortly to have two plays running at the Strand and Aldwych Theatres.

The Geddes Committee state that "We have considered the question of the Employment of the Women Patrols. These Women Patrols, 110 in number, are in addition to the numbers of Police. Their pay is only 10s. a week less than that of the "uniformed" constable. Their powers are very limited, and their utility from a Police point of view is, on the evidence submitted to us, negligible. We do not think that in the present circumstances this expenditure can be justified." The National Council of Women have petitioned the Home Secretary not to disband the Women's Corps. They point out that certain police work now done by the patrols, such as searching and escorting female prisoners would still have to be done by women ; that as the patrols are eligible for pensions the disbanding of the force would cost a considerable sum for which no equivalent in service could be given; and that the taking of statements of children and young persons would then have to be done by men.

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Last Monday it was officially stated at the Home Office that, on the grounds of economy, the following eight prisons will be closed by March 31st, Northampton, Carlisle, Canterbury, Carnarvon, Car-marthen, Usk, Worcester and Northallerton; and that the female wings of the following prisons are to be shut down :- Shrewsbury, Oxford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Swansea, Leeds.

Readers of the VOTE will remember that we have on more than one occasion urged the importance of appointing women as Commissioners of Prisons. Our request has always been ignored by the Home Office, and we now learn that the King, on the recommendation of the Home Secretary, has been pleased to appoint Mr. Alexander Paterson, who is a Principal Clerk at the Ministry of Labour, to be one of the Commissioners of Prisons. Why are women so persistently excluded from any real influence in the working of our Prison System?

CAPTAIN LOSEBY (February 10th) moved an amendment to the address to the King, regretting that the King's Speech contained no reference to "the amelioration of the condition of ex-service men at present confined in lunatic asylums." There were 6,000 of these men, border-line cases, who had lately been forced into asylums under pain of losing their treatment allowances; many of them had served with distinction far above the average; many were suffering from lesions caused by wounds. He knew several who had been wrongly diagnosed and wrongly treated; one died from it, others had been taken out, appropriately treated, and had recovered. If a patient could be admitted into any institution that was efficient he ought not to be forced into an asylum. Places that were not fit for soldiers were not fit for civilians. Our present lunatic asylum was barbaric and antiquated. The recovery rate was under 7 per cent. He recommended Members to read Dr. Lomax's indictment of the system.

CAPTAIN BOWYER seconded the amendment. MAJOR TRYON replied that the Pensions Minister (Mr. Ian Maepherson' watched over these men, both in asylums and outside, and was constantly sending round inspectors to watch them. LORD H. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK asked why, with all this care, the number of soldiers in asylums was so much increased.

MAJOR TYRON replied that inmates who had never left the country had been re-classed as ex-Service men. The amendment was lost.

# BARBARIC & ANTIQUATED.

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

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NOTICE .- Letters should be addressed as follows :-To the Advertising Manager—on advertising. To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

# THE GEDDES REPORT.

Last Friday the first and second Interim Reports of the Committee on National Expenditure were issued. The members of this Committee are Sir Eric Geddes, M.P. (chairman), Lord Inchcape, Lord Faringdon, Sir Joseph Maclay, and Sir Guy Garnet, and the following were the Terms of Reference: "To make recommendations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for effecting forthwith all possible reductions in the National Expenditure on Supply Services, having regard especially to the present and prospective position of the Revenue. In so far as questions of policy are involved in the expenditure under discussion, these will remain for the exclusive consideration of the Cabinet; but it will be open to the Committee to review the expenditure, and to indicate the economies which might be effected, if particular policies were either adopted, abandoned or modified." The Committee recommend substantial savings amounting in all to over £75,000,000. The fighting services (Navy, Army and Air Force) are asked to contribute the largest saving, namely f 46,500,000, or 27 per cent.; but the biggest percentage reduction is in expenditure on Education, which it is proposed to reduce by  $f_{18,000,000}$ , equal to 30 per cent. It is proposed to cut down the Estimates of the Ministry of Health by  $\pounds 2,500,000$ ; and  $\pounds 1,595,000$  is to be saved on our Police and Prisons. No reduction in Old Age Pensions is recommended; nor is any review of ordinary War Pensions proposed until the time already fixed for such review-April, 1923; but a saving of £3,300,000 is suggested in the cost of treatment, parents' pensions, and administration. Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries are asked to save  $\pounds$  855,000, and a reduction of the amount allotted to the Exports Credits Department by £500,000 is also proposed. Savings of £578,000 are suggested in the Board of Trade. The abolition of the Ministry of Transport and the Petroleum Department is recommended, as well as that of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Exchanges. It is further proposed that the duties of the Overseas Trade Department shall be transferred to the Board of Trade, and that the Mines Department shall cease to have a separate existence. Housing finance, under which the average cost of the 176,000 houses erected since the War is put at about  $f_{1,100}$ , comes in for severe criticism by the Committee. It is estimated that the taxpayer will have to subsidise each house at the rate of £55 per annum. The total charge will be £10,000,000 per annum for sixty years, and in order to reduce this burden by  $f_{21}$  10s. per annum on each house, a vigorous policy of sale of these houses is advocated, at a possible average price fifty per cent. below cost.

Women are as keenly interested as men in the economy proposals made in this Report, for they, too, feel the crushing burden of taxation, both direct and indirect, at the present time. We all agree that rigid economy is necessary in all departments of our national life, but in regard to the proposed cuts in education we endorse the opinion of a writer in last Sunday's Observer. that a nation can no more under-nourish its brain and be strong, than an individual can under-nourish his body and be strong. Other nations recognise this. The United States concentrate more and more on education. Germany, in face of tremendous economic pressure, is making no reduction; nor are any reductions being made by France, or Italy, or the Dominions. The proposals with regard to Education under the Geddes Report are drastic. This Report recommends that children shall not be allowed to enter elementary schools under the age of six; that classes shall be enlarged to an average of fifty, General Election?"

and the teachers shall be paid less. The question of the Superannuation of Teachers is also to be examined, and the Committee suggest that a five per cent. contribution on salaries should be paid by teachers. More discrimination is recommended in grants for Secondary Education, which the Committee suggest should be confined to children whose mental calibre justifies it, and whose parents cannot afford to pay for it. The Committee are of opinion that the expenditure on Higher Education generally, and Scholarships, is in excess of the Nation's ability to pay, and must be reduced. In our opinion these proposals, if carried into effect, will undermine the Nation's vitality more surely than the recent War. We would strike out all waste from the Education Department, and we are sure waste can be found in the administration of that Department; but we have to remember that for the next twenty years all nations will have a desperate struggle for existence. Science, applied knowledge, technical skill, and trained intelligence will be absolutely necessary to maintain our commercial power; and we cannot afford to waste the brain and intelligence of the poorest child in this country. These proposals are an attack on the very life of national efficiency, and must be condemned as an intolerable waste of our resources. The dire need of our Country at the present time is for more, not less, facilities for the best possible education to be within the reach of every child in the land who can benefit from it.

# **DELIBERATE BETRAYAL!**

In spite of the grandiloquent assurance given to women by Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George just before the last General Election, that "it will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women, Mr. Lloyd George, in the House of Commons last Monday, in reply to questions asked by Mr. Lunn, Sir Harry Brittain, and Mr. Aneurin Williams as to hether the Government intended to introduce legislation this Session for the purpose of giving the vote to women on the same terms as to men, said "No. I do not think that it would be wise to re-open again, after so short an interval, franchise questions which were settled by general agreement in the last Parlia-ment." Mr. Williams immediately asked the Prime Minister how he reconciled that statement with his previous declaration of equal rights for men and omen? No answer was given. It is now more than our years since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, and more than three years since this New" Government came into existence. Women, so far, have very little for which to thank it. It has failed to enfranchise them on equal terms with men; the Sex Disgualification (Removal) Act has proved a mockery so far as married women and women's position and opportunities in the Civil Service are concerned; British women married to aliens are still automatically deprived of their own nationality; and the Government has failed to give proper support to the Equal Guardianship of Infants' Bill, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, or indeed any other Bill during the ife of the present Parliament, the object of which was to improve the present position of women. The Heads of Government Departments have persistently refused to recognize the right of women to take anything like an equal position with men in the State. The Home Secretary has quite recently over-ridden women's claim that there should be a Woman Governor of a Women's Prison; he has ignored women's right to become Prison Commissioners; the Minister of Health has refused to appoint women on the Investigation Committee appointed the other week to enquire into the charges made by a medical man against the administration in asylums. Moreover, the British Govern-ment has declined to depart from its age-long custom sending men only to represent this country at all international conferences. In all seriousness, we ask : "What reason have women to support this Government or any of its representatives at the coming

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# WOMEN AND MEN UNDER ENGLISH LAW. STANSFELD LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

University College, at the Stansfeld Lecture on "The Position of Women as compared with Men under the Law of England," given by Mr. Arthur Underhill, L.L.D., of Lincoln's Inn. Among those present were Lord Muir Mackenzie, Lady Emmott, Lady Buckmaster, Sir Albert Rollit, Lady Campbell-Williams, Miss Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Moore (Miss Evelyn Underhill), Mr. Justice and Lady Atkin, and Miss Winifred Smith'

## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

We are gathered here to-day to hear a distinguished lawyer address us, and also to bear our testimony to the memory of the Right Hon. Sir James Stansfeld, M.P., one of the leaders and founders of the movement for the equality before the law of men and women.

On his retirement from Parliamentary life in 1896, a presentation was made to him. He declined to receive this for himself (with the exception of a small personal memento), and the first use to which it was put was to secure the services of a Scrutineer, to examine all Bills brought before Parliament, and report when they affected the legal position of women. Lady Busk, wife of Sir E. Busk, lately Vice-Chancellor of this University, was the first Scrutineer. This was continued until 1914, when the war suspended nearly all domestic legislation.

On the welcome return of peace, the trustees considered to what purpose they could most usefully apply the income arising from the fund; and the present lecture is the result of their deliberations. The invitation was originally accepted by Prof. Geldart, Vinerian Professor of Law in the University of Oxford. Ill-health compelled him to seek a warmer winter climate than this country affords, and the invitation was then accepted by the very able and distinguished lawyer who will presently address you. I will risk your displeasure by keeping you waiting a few minutes while I give you a brief resumé of what Sir James Stansfeld did for the public benefit during his career.

He was a Yorkshire man, born near Halifax in 1820, and came of a Unitarian family. Excluded at that date from the ancient universities, he came as a lad of 17 to London, and was a student of this College. and afterwards a graduate of the University of London. He was called to the Bar in 1846, but never practised. His knowledge of the law, however, was of great service to him in his parliamentary work.

Probably the most powerful influence in his life was his friendship with Mazzini, which caused him to become not only an ardent adherent to the cause of Italian Unity and Liberty, but gave him a grasp of great political principles, and of those world movements towards Peace and Freedom, which are now struggling for expression in the League of Nations. He was the impassioned advocate of every movement for the setting free of oppressed nationalities. He entered Parliament in 1859, and sat for his native place, Halifax, continuously for 36 years. During all that time he was the active and courageous defender of every movement for the improvement in the legal and social position of women, never once failing to give them his voice and vote. As he desired to marry, he went into business to provide himself with the means of livelihood, and became a Brewer. The Stansfeld Brewery at Mortlake is still a going concern.

It is interesting, and perhaps amusing, to read in Miss Kilgour's charming little pamphlet, that, in 1863, Mr. Stansfield carried a motion of sympathy in the House of Commons with the Poles in their rising against Russia, and that the Lord Robert Cecil of that day said that he looked "with a feeling approaching consternation at the prospect of being compelled on that occasion to vote with the eloquent and accomplished pupil of Mazzini." I am sure this is an example of how true the present Lord Robert is to the 8 p.m. family type ! Mr. Stansfeld was given minor office under Lord

Palmerston, and afterwards under Mr. Gladstone's

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, L.L.A., presided last week at Government. In 1871 he became the first President of the Local Government Board. He was the first to appoint a woman, Mrs. Nassau Senior, to a high administrative post, with an equal salary with her male colleagues, as a Poor Law inspector. That was almost 50 years ago. She inaugurated a new era for Poor Law children, and greatly stimulated the movement to elect women as Poor Law Guardians. There were no more Oliver Twists from that time onwards! But James Stansfeld's mind was becoming more and more absorbed in the great work of Mrs. Josehine Butler, and when he took Cabinet Office in 1871, it was on the express condition that he should claim perfect liberty of action with regard to the Report of the Royal Commission then sitting on the Acts or the State Regulation of Vice. This marks a very important stage in his Parliamentary career. For he claimed and acted on the freedom he had demanded? there was no more political promotion for him from that hour, but he never hesitated for an instant on that account; just before the Commission reported, he had told his constituents at Halifax that "No balance of material advantage would for one monent weigh in my mind against the question of the moral tendency of such laws as the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1866 and 1868." He laboured incessantly in the House, and in the country, to convince people "that it is a philosophic, a scientific, as well as a religious truth that there cannot be dissonance between the laws of Nature and the laws of God, and that it is therefore inconceivable that the immoral should be also a truly sanitary law." He led the work magnificently in the House of Commons, aided by James Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Henry

to flight the armies of the aliens.

against the party for repeal. He, and others, who fought the battle, won it through the power of the spirit. No wonder that the women to whom these principles were dear sought to honour him. The words of Milton come back to my mind when I ponder these things. O, how orrely it is, and how reviving

Puts invincible might.

# NORTH LAMBETH L.C.C. ELECTION.

Mrs. Lamartine Yates unfortunately, is not able to stand again for North Lambeth in the coming County Council Election, but her place will be very ably filled by Commandant Mary S. Allen, O.B.E., of the Women's Auxiliary Service. Equal Pay for Equal Work" is part of Commandant

Allen's battle-cry.

Street, 8 p.m.

Rooms at 107 Lower Marsh, S.E. Miss Anna Munro is in charge of this Election.

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Wilson of Sheffield, Mr. Benjamin Scott, the City Chamberlain, and many others, and led it to victory. In April 1883, he obtained in the House of Commons a majority of 72 for a motion condemnatory of these Acts, and in 1886 he secured in Parliament their total repeal. The Repeal Party conquered through the power of that faith which subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, stopped the mouths of lions, and turned

always feel that this was one of the most splendid -almost miraculous-victories that the cause of the equal moral standard for men and women ever won. The weight of physical force was so tremendously

To the spirits of just men long oppressed, When God into the hands of their deliverer

Woman Candidate: COMMANDANT MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E.

Both Mrs. Lamartine Yates and Commandant Allen will speak at the following indoor meetings :-Tuesday, Feb. 21st.-St. Andrew's School, Roupell

Wednesday, March 1st .-- Johanna Street Schools,

Helpers are required at the Central Committee

# NOTES AND COMMENTS.

#### Marriage and Medical Certificates.

The *Times* Correspondent reports from Melbourne that the inter-State Conference of Health Authorities called by the Federal Government has recommended legislation requiring each party before marriage to produce a medical certificate showing freedom from venereal disease. The Conference found that there was no definite evidence of an appreciable increase of venereal cases as the result of the discharge of returned soldiers.

### Proportional Representation.

**Proportional Representation.** In a letter to the Press, Mr. J. H. Humphreys asks "why cannot we have a system which enables us to have a real choice at election time, a system which gives us the assurance that the House of Commons will represent and not merely caricature the electors?" He gives the following figures in relation to Votes and Parties at the last General Election, 1918, for Great Britain. The Contested Seats did not include Universities :--

Parties. Coalition Non-Coalition	 Votes. 5,564,318 4.132,912	Seats obtained. 428 81	Seats in pro- portion to Votes 292 217
	 1.431.406	347	.75

Majority ... 1, 51, 700 Str. 17 The second s Representation; and women generally who struggled for their enfranchisement would gladly welcome a change in our present electoral system, which would secure a more truly genuine repretation of the People than we now have.

#### Russian Famine.

In view of the resolution sent to the Prime Minister by the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League in connection with the Russian Familte, our readers will be interested to learn, that according to a report of Dr. Nansen issued on the general situation in the famine area, covering the period up to January 1st, 1922, 9,530.000 inhabitants in that area are being fed. This leaves about 10,000,000 still to be provided for. The report points out that this is only possible if all European countries unite to carry out international relief work. Of those who are now being fed, the Soviet Government is responsible for 2,185,000; the American Mission for 800,000 children; Dr. Nansen for 345,000 children and adults. A further 6,200,000 are being provided for by the Americans.

#### Guardians Forbidden to Smoke.

At a meeting of the Bedford Board of Guardians, last week, Mrs. M. Barber, a member, complained of the guardians smoking whilst administering relief to unemployed at Board meetings. It was not dignified, she said, for members to loll back in their chairs noke while listening to men asking for help. A resolution forbidding smoking was passed

#### Ladies as Freemen.

According to the Surrey Comet, at a Court of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights held recently, a suggestion was made that the wives of the Past Masters and the wife of the present Master should be given the Honorary Freedom of the Company. At a banquet in the Barbers' Hall, Monkwell Street, E.C., given by Councillor Arthur J. Fells, of Kingston, who is the Worshipful Master, the proposal became a reality, and the Honorary Freedom was conferred on the ladies. It is believed to be the first time in the history of the Company that a Master has entertained the members of the Court and their ladies. Mrs. Fells is now in possession of a Certificate which reads: "This is to certify that Mrs. Annie Jean Fells, wife of Arthur John Fells, Esquire, Master of the Company, was this 24th day of January, 1922, admitted to the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights by presentation." According to the Surrey Comet, at a Court of the Worshipful Shipwrights by presentation

#### MEMORIAL TO DR. ELSIE INGLIS.

A memorial tablet to the late Dr. Elsie Inglis is shortly to be unveiled in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. It has been placed there by the Scottish Women's Hospitals, with which Dr. Inglis

three by the Scottish Women's Hospitals, with which Dr. Inglis was closely identified during the war. The memorial, which is placed on the wall at the north-east corner of the Cathedral, is in keeping with the surroundings. It is cut out of a single block of delicate rose-tinted stone of hard, close grain, resembling marble, which was quarried in France. A certain largeness of scale has been obtained in cutting the memorial from one piece, and it has been treated with simplicity in the stone-cutter's art only. The lower part forms a panel with the following inscription:—" To the beloved and honoured memory of Elsie Maud Inglis, surgeon and philanthropist; founder in 1914 of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for service with the Allies in France, Serbia, and Russia; born 1864; died on active service 1917. Mors janua vite." Above are three angelic figures holding emblems of Faith, in the centre, and Hope and Charity, on each side. Mr. F C. Mears, architect, with whom was associated Mr. Pilkington Jackson, designed the memorial.

The tablet is but a small part of a larger memorial scheme, which includes the erection of a hospital.

# BOOK REVIEW.

The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor. By Montagu Lomax, M.R.C.S. (Allen & Unwin). 12/6 net. (Can be obtained at this Office).

When the war broke out, Dr. Lomax, a general practitioner interested in psychology, and only lately retired, cast about for the most suitable opportunity to "do his bit" of national service. Hearing of the great dearth of asylum doctors, he entered a large county asylum as Assistant Medical Officer, and after two months there, served for two years in another similar institution. The effect of inside knowledge thus obtained upon a trained outside mind was striking; its outcome is the present volume.

Dedicated " to all the insane poor, in sympathy with their sufferings, and in hope of alleviating their hard-ships," it gives a vivid picture of the lives and surroundings of our mental sick who are maintained by the rates. It is addressed to the general public. There are over 100,000 persons, men and women mental patients, in the United Kingdom, supported wholly or partly out of the rates, and for the welfare of all of these the general public is directly responsible. Authority for all that concerns a local asylum is vested (in theory) in the local Visiting Committee, which is appointed annually by the local authority, i.e., the Borough or County Council. As ratepayers, therefore, no one of us can escape our direct responsibility for the welfare of this huge population, and it is the duty of every ratepayer to read this plain story, written in simple untechnical language, of the daily routine in one asylum which is, more or less, faithfully reproduced in most of the others.

Charles Reade, a good many years ago, in "Hard Cash," gave the public a picture of the asylum of his day, and public horror banished some of its worst abuses. Galsworthy, by his picture of "Justice," has effected some prison reform. This picture of the public asylum of to-day will, if we insist upon enquiry instead of controversy, change the atmosphere of these institutions, and bring hope to their inmates.

Dr. Lomax goes through the day's routine with its deadly dullness, the horrors of the dark, stuffy, cold and lonely, shut in, single rooms, the miserable "bebind the table" rows of violent or melancholic patients, the workshops, and the disease-breeding "sanitary" arrangements; the food badly cooked and badly served; the violent and injurious drugging; the various officials and their duties, medical, nursing and general, and the need for a new Lunacy Law. We are glad to note that Dr. Lomax highly approves of women nurses for many classes of male inmates, and would make it compulsory for every Visiting Committee to include two women at least, since they "are as a rule more conscientious, and more inquisitive than men, and have not the habit of taking things for granted so readily

Dr. Lomax concludes with a sketch of the "ideal asylum"; not a huge barrack, but a village of cheerful cottages, after the style of Alt Scherbitz, near Leipsic, and Toledo in Ohio, with their "general appearance of happiness and contentment," and arraigns our British system of hide-bound officialism. War-time conditions, it is true, were in existence, but they only aggravated the faults and defects constantly present and inherent in the system. Not until patience, sympathy and imagination are recognised as the most important features of the administration of our asylums, will their recovery rate cease to disprace us.

OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.
"The Work for Women M.Ps.," by Miss Helena
Normanton, B.A. 3d.
"The Need for Women Members of Parliament,"
(Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. 3d.
"Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
"Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie
(Certified Accountant) 3d.
"Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs.
Montofiore

CAMED LIFE SKETCHES. "Dr. Elsie Inglis," by Dr. Aimèe Gibbs "Josephine Butler," by Marion Holmes "Lydia Becker 33

3d.

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99 " Frances Mary Buss,"

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1922.

# THE VOTE

# Women's Freedom League.

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

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

#### LONDON AND SUBURES.

Friday, February 17, at 3 p.m.-Lecture (by

ticket only. Apply to office), Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker : Dr. Lomax. Subject : "What is Wrong with the Administration of our Asylums ?" Dr. Knight in the Chair.

DARE TO Dance.

BE FREE. Monday, February 20, at 6.30.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn. Monday, February 20, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker : Miss Kate Manicom. Subject : "The Working Women's Delegate at Washington." Chair : Councillor Jessie Stephen. Wednesday, February 22, at 3.30 proc. Dublic Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, at 3.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144. High Holborn. Speaker: Councillor Mar-garet Hodge. Subject: "The Spinster of To-day, and of a Hundred Years Ago" Chair: Mrs. Flowers.

Monday, February 27, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: The Rev. C. M. Coltman, M.A., B.D. Subject: "The Priestly Vocation of Women."

Monday, March 6, at 3 p.m.-" Fair " Committee, 144, High Holborn W

Holborn, W.C.
Monday, March 6, at 6.30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject:
"My Experiences as an Election Agent." Salurday, March 18, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.
Friday, April 28, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.-Annual Conference. Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

#### PROVINCES

Monday, February 20, at 8 p.m.—**Southend-on-Sea** and District.—Public Lecture, at Metropolitan Academy of Music, 10, London Road, Southend-on-Sea. Speaker: Dr. Charlotte Shields. Subject: "Maternity Centre and Infant Walkare Wark." Welfare Work.

Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m.—**Portsmouth.** Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "The Training of Children in Personal Hygiene."

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, February 19, at 7.30.—St. Pancras Secular Society. Speaker : Miss K. Kaleigh. Subject : "Words that Deceive." Sunday, February 19, at 8.15 p.m.—St. Mary's Sunday Evening Circle, Kennington Park Road. Speaker : Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject : "Tbe Women's Freedom League." Sunday, March 5th, at 11 a.m.—Ethical Church, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W. Speaker : Mr. Laurence Housman, Subject : "Living Sacraments." 6.30 p.m. "Departmental, Morality." Morality."

Wednesday, February 22nd, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Ottley. Subject: "Is Religion Necessary?"

# BRANCH NOTE.

#### SOUTHEND-ON-SEA AND DISTRICT.

A very enlightening lecture on "the Duties of a Justice of the Peace" was delivered last week by Councillor S. F. Johnson, J.P. Great interest was taken in the section on the "Children's Courts," Great interest was taken in the section on the "Children's Courts," and a discussion arose concerning the effect of the Cinema on child crime, the speaker expressing his firm belief that there was a decided increase of crime as a result of the laxity of parents in allowing their children to attend at nights and to see questionable pictures. There was strong feeling for a local censorship of the pictures exhibited on the films, and the Chairman, the Rev. A. D. Belden, B.D., expressed his belief that if sufficient support was given to a demand for local censorship, this would be possible.

(Hon. Sec.) : MRS. STAFFORD-BAILEY, 48, Argyle Road, Westcliff-on-Sea

# WOMEN TEACHERS' DEMONSTRATION.

The Women Teachers' Demonstration against the Geddes "cuts" in Education, which was to have been held on Saturday, February 18th, at 2.45 p.m., has been unavoidably postponed until Saturday, February 25th, at 2.45 p.m., in Trafalgar Square.

**Family Endowment.** DEAR MADAM. —Those who were not present at the debate between Mrs. E. M. Hubback and Miss Helena Normanton *re* ".Family Endownent" on January 23rd, which resulted (as re-ported in The VOTE) in the loss of the resolution : " That the present system of providing for families from individual wages is unsatisfactory in its social results, and wasteful of national re-sources" would receive the impression that the feeling of the meeting was against the idea. It is because I feel that just the opposite was the case, that I venture to suggest that the reason why so many abstained from voting was that they felt that family endowment, without endowment of motherhood, was making the position of the economically dependent mother even more why so many abstained from voting was that they felt that family endowment, without endowment of motherhood, was making the position of the economically dependent mother even more degrading than it is at the present time. Undoubtedly, the pro-viding for families out of individual wages is wrong and wasteful, as the bachelor is being paid the identical wage of the married man with several people to keep; but surely any endowment of the family by the State must commence with the *mother*, whereas all systems so far devised seem to insist upon a man's wage being based on a sufficiency to keep himself and wife. There seems to be no thought of giving her economic freedom, thus further degrading her as she remains still the mere chattel of her husband, and further becomes the State appointed breeder and nurse of her children, who are not presumably supposed to contribute any of the State subsidy they each receive to support their mother, thus doubly dependent upon their father and themselves. I feel sure that the voting would have gone largely in favour of a resolution including the endowments of *mother* and children ; indeed, it seems to me to be the only solution of the equal pay for equal work demand which women are now making. When equal pay is given to a married man, a bachelor or a woman, for the same work, there will be no waste of national resources, and the mother will be paid her rightful wage for her all-important work of rearing a family, which she will do for the first time in dignity and confort, with the additional endowment for each child, and will be quite independent of the ever-present fear and monstrous situation of herself and children (however worthily she has fulfilled her part of the matrimonial contract) being lefet totally unprovided for cither through describe or with mether

Saturday, February 18, at 4-6 p.m.-Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Tea-Dance. Admission 1/6.

as fulfilled her part of the matrimonial contract) being left otally unprovided for, either through desertion or wilful neglect by her husband, or loss of his post through drunkenness, vice, ill-health or death. Yours, etc., Alice Heale.

DEAR MADAM,—During the discussion following the interesting and instructive lecture delivered by Mr. Edward Cecil on the "Inefficiency of Women," a member said she would not vote for the Labour Party because they were dominated by the Trades Unions. The fact that Trade Unions are in a position to dictate is because they have banded themselves together, and spare no efforts or money to attain their ends. If Labour has beaten Capital to this actuat, it should be an jeasy matter for beaten Capital to this extent, it should be an easy matter for the Women of England to obtain their rights. And yet, I asked for one hundred readers of THE VOTE to fall in with a scheme for one hundred readers of THE VOTE to fall in with a scheme which would cost them one penny per week, and which I am absolutely certain would further the cause in a surprising manner, and up to the present there have been two members with energy enough to take part in the scheme. If Women will not assist their own organisations they must expect to be beaten. To build up a successful business you must advertise, and if any member can think of a better scheme to advertise the League I am quite willing to take part in it. -Vours faithfult. willing to take part in it .- Yours faithfully,

#### OUR OPEN COLUMN

#### (To the Editor of THE VOTE).

#### Family Endowment.

### Advertising the League.

### G. W. GILL.

# Lester Ward's Theory.

DEAR MADAM,—I note the review in THE VOTE of "Taboo and Genetics," and the remark that the book "explodes . . . the gynaecocentric theory of sex, sexual selection by the female as a factor in the race improvement, and the Matriarchate as a period when women possessed political and economic power." I have not yet read the work, though I have put it on my library list to get as soon as possible ; but meanwhile I hold that to "explode" Lester Ward's theory needs more than the uncurrented economic fully. theory needs more than the unsupported assertion of a brief review. Ancient taboos have been much studied of recent years, and much valuable information on the subject has been gathered from existing tribes in Western Australia, proving that taboos do not apply only to women and their special functions, but were, and are, useful to to women and their special functions, but were, and are, useful to prevent inter-marriage in relationships that might otherwise be too close. As to the Matriarchate, many writers, notably Bakounin and Bax, in the last century, threw doubt on its importance as a stage in social evolution, and naturally "political and economic power" did not exist in those days, as we know it now; so I cannot find that any of the writers, and they are many, who have described the Matriarchate, ever thought or wrote of women of that period in the modern stage of possessing "political and economic power." Yours faithfully, D. B. MONTEFIORE

D. B. MONTEFIORE.

MISCELLANEOUS.	EDUCA	TIONAL		MISCELLANEOUS.
BUSY Women requiring Rest will fu comfortable Board Residence MISS TURNER'S, "Sea View." Victoria Ro Brighton, Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 17	at Lines: Large C Sea Bathing; Small given to backward Coaching for advanc MISS RICHARDSON,	n Progress Garden; Cr Classes; and del ed pupils. B.A.	ive Thought icket Field ; Special care icate girls ; Principal ;	64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERI AND HOW TO USE THEJ 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, T Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardi Established 1879.
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