

CAN WOMEN RUN KINEMAS?

THE VOTE

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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.

WHERE WOMEN ARE REALLY EQUAL.

Interview with Mrs. King.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

CHILD WORKERS.

CAN WOMEN RUN KINEMAS?

A DUTCH ELIZABETH FRY.

WOMEN IN THE WESLEYAN MINISTRY.

BOOK REVIEW. J. M. T.

[By M. Ballard Dawson.]

WHERE WOMEN ARE REALLY EQUAL.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. KING.

According to Mrs. King, the pretty young Tibetan wife, who, with her husband, the late British Consul at Kham, Eastern Tibet, has just arrived in England, the sexes are on an absolute equality in Tibet, and always have been. Individual ability, not the mere accident of sex, is the universal touchstone of Tibetan standards. The Government of Tibet is in the hands of district headmen, or local governors, who have superseded the old chieftains of royal birth who once reigned over the country. (Mrs. King is herself the descendant of one of these royal chieftains.) In many cases these headmen are women, who rule over large tracts of country as big as an English county. They handle such intricate matters as taxation, and also deal with all crimes, except murder, in the local court. One district of Eastern Tibet, where the old chieftain traditions still linger, is ruled by a queen.

"Tibet is a country of culture, rather than education in the Western sense of the word," Mrs. King told our representative. "Children of both sexes are trained chiefly by means of oral teaching, which is handed down from each generation. Reading and writing are taught by our lamas or priests, and in wealthy houses by chaplains. We consider poetry, music, art, literature, and the lives of great heroes to

be of greater importance than mere dexterity with the pen or pencil. In addition, Tibetan girls are also taught household lore, for the Tibetan wife and mother

is queen of her household, and even if she commands a whole retinue of servants, is never ashamed to take a broom in her hands. Tibetan servants, too, are friends rather than retainers, and live with the same family for a lifetime.

"There are no professions in the Western sense in Tibet. Medicine is mainly in the hands of the priests and priestesses, who occupy the highest position in society. After these come the great landowners, whilst merchants and farmers make up the rest. Women, however, have equal access with men to all these activities. Life in Tibet is simple and dignified. There are no industrial problems, and I hope there never will be. We have no poor."

Mrs. King was careful to deny with some vigour the erroneous reports frequently made by travellers that polyandry flourished in Tibet. She assured our representative that monogamy was the uniform practice in Eastern Tibet, and she believed it to be so all over the country. She is the first Tibetan woman to set foot on English soil, and is writing a book on Tibet, her husband acting as her secretary and amanuensis.



Photo by

MRS. KING.

[Photopress

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Child Welfare at Geneva.

Lady Aberdeen, President of the International Council of Women, will preside over the section dealing with education and propaganda at the first General Congress of the Child, to be held from August 24-28, in the Electoral Palace, Geneva, under the patronage of the Swiss Federal Council. Delegates from 29 different countries are expected, and it is anticipated that the discussions will have a considerable influence on the activities of the League of Nations in the sphere of the protection of children.

Eastern Women Journalists.

Miss Munira Sabet, a cultured Mohammedan writer on women's, children's, and other social subjects, is the first woman proprietor of a daily newspaper in Cairo, which she issued last month. The paper, in addition to women's news, will cover the usual field of general news. The first woman's paper has also appeared in Turkey, edited by Mme. Nezhie Mouhiddine. China has a woman's daily paper, edited by a native lady, Miss Liu Ching-Yang, whilst Japan is credited with over a dozen women's papers.

American Women in Office.

More women were elected to offices of State and Nation in 1924 than at any previous time in American history. One hundred and twenty-seven candidates were successful in the contests of November, 1924. The United States now has two women Governors, one woman in Congress, nine State Senators, 114 State Representatives, and one Secretary of State.

More Women Candidates.

Miss Naomi Jacob has been adopted as Parliamentary Labour candidate for Sevenoaks. She has recently published "Jacob Ussher," the chief character in the book having been taken from a play by H. V. Esmond. Miss Jacob has had many years' connection with the Stage herself, and it was during her struggles as an actress, touring on ten shillings a week, that her thoughts first turned to Labour.

Danish Woman's Appointment.

Mme. Clara Blach has been appointed by the Danish Ministry for Social Affairs Head of the Social-economic Bureau of the Industrial and Manufacturing Welfare Department. Previously, Mme. Blach acted as an unemployment inspector in Denmark.

Hartlepool Herring Girls.

The herring season at Hartlepool promises to be about the best since the war. Curers are already busy, and more are expected within the next fortnight. Last year, about 120 Scotch girls were engaged in the industry at Hartlepool, but the number of girls will reach 200 this season.

Woman Explorers.

According to Mrs. Rosita Forbes, only three women living can claim the title of explorers. Miss Gertrude Bell, whose journey to Hail, though it had been visited before by Europeans, fixed the position (by sextant survey) of several Arab towns; Mme. David, who visited Lhasa, and whose ten years of travel through China and Tibet have put many new places on the map; and Countess Matmignati, whose trek from Damascus to Medina covered new ground.

A Woman Barrister in Surrey.

For the first time in the history of the Surrey Quarter Sessions, a woman barrister, Miss V. Stephenson, was present last week. She was asked by the Court to represent a woman defendant, who was subsequently discharged.

Woman Opener at Mitcham Fair.

For the first time in its 300 years' existence, Mitcham Fair, last week, was opened by a woman, Mrs. Hilda Hallows, chairman of the local council.

Women's Occupations.

According to recent official statistics issued concerning occupations in England and Wales, women pursuing somewhat unusual trades are catalogued as follows:—Undertakers, 149; chimney sweeps, 23; lighthouse and lighthouse hands, 5; bookmakers, 73; racehorse trainers and jockeys, 11; air-"men," 6; brewers, 19; cellar-"men," 298; farm bailiffs, 217; bargees, 500; "master" stevedores, 5.

Women on Railways.

The same authority quotes 1,784 women engaged on the different railways as station-"masters," yard-"masters," shunters, points-"men," level-crossing workers, porters, and the like. There are also women plumbers, riveters, safe-makers, sand-blasters, and gunsmiths. No fewer than 22,500 are employed as electrical apparatus makers, fitters, and electricians. In agricultural occupations alone, no fewer than 83,052 women and girls are engaged, though of these only 42 are shepherdesses.

Women as Pensions Officers.

Women have proved so remarkably efficient in the Civil Service that the Customs and Excise authorities are contemplating an increase in the number of women pensions officers. They will investigate and report on claims for Old Age Pensions. It is a post which requires considerable tact and judgment, and, as a rule, appointments are confined to women over 30. A high standard of education is expected. It is one of the best-paid posts in the Civil Service open to women.

Chicago Women Barbers.

Women barbers, of whom there are 800 in Chicago, are to be taken into the union of men barbers. Women barbers have been working 14 hours a day, and their pay is half the income from the work they do with no guarantee. The men barbers receive wages of \$30 a week and 60 per cent. of the money they earn exceeding \$42.

Woman Medical Student's Scholarship.

Miss A. E. N. Gilbey, a medical student of The Royal Free Hospital (London School of Medicine), has won the Fifth Travelling Scholarship awarded by the People's League of Health in connection with the recent Sims Woodhead health lectures.

Women Chemists.

At least 50 per cent. of the students of the Pharmaceutical College are women, and of these Miss Margaret Buchanan, F.I.C., is a distinguished member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society.

HOUSE OF COMMONS REFRESHMENT DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.

According to Sir James Agg-Gardner, Chairman of the Kitchen and Refreshment Room Committee of the House of Commons, the number of persons employed by the Kitchen Committee is 69 males and 45 females; of this number, 21 males and 15 females are in receipt of full or half pay during all the recesses. The remaining 78 receive full pay during the Easter and Whitsun Vacations, and their engagement terminates a week after the commencement of the Long Recess, and is almost always renewed when Parliament reassembles. Sir James said that, although they were not in a position to give these employees full pay during the Vacation, which would cost about £1,000, they always saw that they had occupations, and the employees generally succeeded in getting good places at the seaside and other places during the Recess. They did not receive anything under the Unemployment Insurance Act because they were not insurable. The Kitchen Committee did not exist to make a profit out of the Refreshment Rooms and only a very small profit was made, not sufficient to pay full wages to the employees during the Recess. No complaints, however, had been received from any members of their staff in connection with this matter.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser—MISS ALIX M. CLARK. Speaker—MISS LILIAN LENTON.

For the eighteenth time the Women's Freedom League Campaign on the banks of the Clyde has been brought to a successful conclusion.

Although the visitors to Rothesay and the other holiday resorts where we have worked are far less numerous than in past years, 6,000 copies of THE VOTE and over 1,300 pamphlets have been sold. These include "British Women M.P.s," "Cameo Life Sketch of Dr. Elsie Maud Inglis" (which particularly interests Scottish people), the new pamphlet "What We Have and What We Want," and "Women and Income Tax." This last sells well at meetings on the subject of the "Laws that are unfair to men," when we mention the one that makes a man responsible for his wife's Income Tax, although depriving him of her income.

Presumably because there are fewer holiday makers here than previously, some of the meetings this year have not been so large as they were during the 1924 campaign; nevertheless, out of all of these gatherings we have been able to enrol several new members, and obtain new subscribers for THE VOTE.

That the Women's Freedom League is right in not being satisfied with the compromises we have accepted, but continuing to agitate for full equality of opportunity between the sexes, is manifest, not only from the stale old questions at questiontimes, but also from the remarks we meet when selling. Men say "Women's Freedom League, is it? Not for me! I don't believe in women having freedom." These are generally well-dressed and middle-aged. Nice-looking young ones pass on with a supercilious smile. I'm afraid the girls are to blame there. They've spoilt them. Others demand to know if we shall never be satisfied, saying we have too much freedom already, quite failing to

realize, in their male arrogance, that there is no reason why we should be content whilst there are any privileges accorded to men which we do not share. It's not only the men. Says the woman, disapprovingly, "No, thank you, I have no patience with women voters," or, smiling coquettishly up into the face of that representative of the superior sex on whose arm she is hanging, "Oh, no! I don't want to be free, I like things very much as they are!" (Giggles!)

But it must not be thought from all this that we have no encouragement. Far from it. There are more with us than against us, only the fact that these out-of-date people of both sexes do exist, and express their opinions, proves the necessity for continued propaganda if we wish to attain for woman her rightful place in the universe. A very hopeful feature is that several of the new members are quite young girls who resent the undignified position in which the Representation of the People Act (1918) places them, when it denies them a vote until they are 30, whilst giving the franchise to their brothers at 21.

We are getting on. We shall be completely victorious in the end, but it is only by continued agitation and educative effort of all sorts that we shall hasten that end, and bring nearer the time when it is just as advantageous to be born a girl as to be born a boy.

We thank all who have helped make this campaign a success—those who have put money in the collection, those who have bought THE VOTE or literature, all who have attended the meetings, all those who have asked questions, those who have joined the Women's Freedom League, and all those thousands of members of the general public who have received with so much patience our repeated requests that they should buy a VOTE or pamphlet.

WOMEN NEEDED ON THE SLAVERY COMMISSION.

That women are needed on the League of Nations Commissions which deal with the White Slave Traffic and the question of Slavery, is shown by the following questions and answers in the House of Commons. COL. DAY asked the Under-Secretary of State for India (EARL WINTERTON) if he was aware of the fact that representation had been made to the Bombay Government asking that efforts should be made to stop attempts to entice white girls from Bombay to Portuguese India and into other Native States for immoral purposes; and if he would state what steps had been taken, or were contemplated by the Government concerned, with a view to stringent action being taken in this regard, and a general warning being issued pointing out the danger to all European girls? EARL WINTERTON said that the representations referred to in the first part of the question had not been brought to his notice, and there was no reason to suppose that the matter would not be dealt with suitably by the authorities of India; but special inquiry could be made if the hon. member so desired. COL. WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs (MR. L. S. AMERY) how many men were now doing compulsory labour in Kenya Colony; if those included any Indians or Europeans; what was the general period of service; what was the rate of pay; and were they all employed on railway construction, or what other form of compulsory labour was involved? MR. AMERY said that, as shown in the Paper, Cmd. 2464, just published, 1,587 compelled men were at work in May, the latest month for which he had a return. He presumed that the term was 60 days. The rates of pay were shown in the Paper, namely, 14s. a month on the Uasin Gishu and Thika-Nyeri lines and 18s. a month on the main line, with rations in each case. COL. WEDGWOOD asked if the hon. Gentleman would inquire whether a rise in the rate of pay would not obviate the necessity of compulsory labour? Mr. Harris asked if this was not a form of slavery? No reply, however, was given to these two supplementary questions.

CHILD WORKERS.

We are often indignant when we read or hear of the long hours and appalling conditions under which children work in Japan, China and India; but, although in our own country children of tender age are now forbidden to work in our factories, mines, etc., and when they do begin to work in factories, workshops, etc., at fourteen years they are protected as to their hours and conditions, this was not always the case, as will be seen from the following cutting which appeared in *The Times*, last week, and is a reprint from *The Times* Friday, August 12th, 1825, when the price of that paper was 7d.:—

"The public will have read with compassion, not unmingled with indignation, the report contained in yesterday's *Times* of a trial in which a certain Mr. Banks was prosecutor; and in which two miserable children of 12 and 14 years of age were charged by him with a criminal conspiracy to set his house [in Bermondsey] on fire. Merely to record the acquittal of two such prisoners on such an accusation hardly meets the justice of this important case. The facts which came out in the course of the trial are appalling. Here are sixty-five poor infants chained down to the stooping, sickly position of the tambour frame, for twelve whole hours, six days in every week, from half-past five in the morning, winter and summer, when these little creatures many of them not above nine years old, are compelled to leave their beds, until half-past seven in the evening. There is a relaxation from labour of half an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner, and no more!—no holidays. . . . Manufactures are good, no doubt, in their way: so are riches. We do not mean to disparage the enormous produce of human industry, which is annually, nay, hourly, sent forth from the workshops of England, but every artificial benefit may be bought too dear. . . . eight hours a day of sedentary employment ought to be the *maximum* allowed by a considerate legislature for infants under 16 years of age.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st, 1925.

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.

CAN WOMEN RUN KINEMAS?

The above question continues to agitate the Hull Corporation Licensing Committee, who have refused to accept women as manageresses or assistant manageresses of Kinemas, the opinion of the Chief Constable being that this is essentially a man's job. This Chief Constable also objects to women police, believing, no doubt, that the preservation of law and order is also a man's job. Two women members of Hull Corporation do not agree with their Chief Constable, and maintain that women can run Kinemas, and these women are supported by a large body of women in the City, who assert that there is no justification for the exclusion of women from the management of Kinemas. Councillor Mrs. Hatfield says her information is that management by women is more efficient than that by men, and the proprietors affected think there is no ground for discrimination between men and women. The Chief Constable declares it is preferable to have a man as manager to act in an emergency, such as fire or accident; and the women of Hull scornfully ask when women failed to act in an emergency, the two women Councillors challenging a direct vote in the City as to whether or not the people of Hull consider women fit to be manageresses of Kinemas?

It is the same old story, when women wanted to secure the advantages of education for members of their sex, men who ought to have known better urged that if girls were allowed to learn exactly the same subjects as boys our asylums would soon be filled to overflowing with women, and fresh ones would have to be built. A Married Women's Property Act had to be passed to convince men that women were capable of managing their own property and of dealing with their own earnings. Many men opposed women's entry into the medical and legal professions on the ground that women's brains could never stand the same strain as men's brains. We all remember the time when so many men objected to women having the vote—they could see nothing ahead but disaster, should a crisis arise in the country and women have the right to exercise their vote. It would be even worse if women became members of Parliament! More recently we have had some men strenuously opposing women serving on juries, and, still more, acting as magistrates. In their opinion women were not fit to do this kind of work and certainly could not do it properly. There was opposition to women working at the pit mouth, the reasons given by their male competitors against women doing so being that it was dirty work, and the language used by men not fit for women to hear. The women pointed out that, like men, they could wash themselves, and as for the bad language it was unfortunately not only heard at the pit mouth! The law prevents women from working in factories or workshops at night. We consider there should be as little nightwork as possible for all workers, but we do not see why the law should discriminate against women workers in this matter. We urge that all callings, all positions, and all kinds of work should be open equally to women and men. If men or women fail in any of them, let their work be given to someone who can do it. We sincerely hope that the two women Councillors of Hull will succeed in teaching their Chief Constable that his antiquated prejudices against women—whether policewomen or manageresses—must give way to more modern ideas and to the new conditions of present-day life.

NIGHT CLUBS.

Early in the present Session a Bill was prepared by the Home Office to deal with Night Clubs, and it was stated in the Press that "the Bill will provide that the premises of a night club must not be used habitually by loose women." Such a provision would, of course, have met with the most strenuous opposition unless it had been made to apply also to loose men. We cannot imagine that such a fresh discrimination between the sexes would have reached the Statute Book. Just before the Recess, Commander Kenworthy asked the Home Secretary if he had made further investigations into the existence of bogus night clubs in London and other large cities; if he was satisfied with his present powers for dealing with these bogus clubs; and, if not, if he intended to seek further powers to deal with the evil. Sir William Joynson-Hicks replied that he was continuing to keep a close watch on night clubs, but had decided not to attempt legislation on the subject this Session. Since he had taken office he had given great attention to the matter and had had several consultations with the Commissioner of Police about night clubs. A large number of raids had been made; several of the clubs had been shut up; and he thought that the conditions of a good many of the night clubs were improving. He would be able to give the House fuller information when he had exercised his present powers a little longer, but preferred to refrain from deciding whether his powers were adequate until he had had a little longer experience. Capt. Garro-Jones asked if they were not entitled to know why the Bill had been dropped, in view of the expense of preparing the Bill, but the Home Secretary said he thought the expense had been very slight. If the Home Secretary decides at any future date to bring in a Bill to deal with Night Clubs, we hope he will drop any discrimination between men and women, and remember that in any proposed legislation there must be the recognition of an equal moral standard for both sexes.

WANTED—MORE WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

In no part of the country are women being added to the Commission of the Peace in adequate numbers. During the last week four men and one woman have been appointed Justices of the Peace in Bath; and in Southend-on-Sea nine men and one woman. Yet cases are continually coming up in all our Courts in which women or children are involved, sometimes as the victims and sometimes as delinquents. There are still Benches which have no woman magistrate; others like Kingston-on-Thames have only one woman, and others like Southend-on-Sea have only three women. Considering the many thousands of men throughout the country who have already been appointed Justices of the Peace, we consider that the least that can now be done is to include an equal number of women with men in all fresh appointments. We urge all women's organisations, and all women members of political organisations, to press locally for the inclusion of public-spirited women in all nominations sent forward for the Commission of the Peace. There ought in the very near future to be at least a sufficient number of women on every Bench, so that at any rate there can be two women on each rota. It should be urged in every locality that no case in which a woman or child is concerned ought to be tried unless a woman is on the Bench. We hope, one day, to see an equal number of women with men on every magistrate's bench, but in the meantime women can do a great deal in their own districts by pointing out the necessity for more women on Local Benches, and securing nominations of suitable women through any Societies with which they are connected. Nine additional men magistrates to one woman is a most unfair proportion for any locality, and more especially in a place like Southend-on-Sea, which only has three women on the Bench.

A DUTCH ELIZABETH FRY.

At a recent meeting at the London Headquarters of the Women's International League, Madame Kappenberg, of Holland, gave an interesting description of work now being carried on amongst women prisoners at St. Lazare Prison, in Paris, under the auspices of a French Committee, reinforced by members of the Society of Friends, and a few Jewish ladies. This Committee was originally the outcome of a visit, paid to Paris in 1839, by Elizabeth Fry, the English prison reformer, who was impressed by the primitive state of the French prisons.

The prison of St. Lazare is the chief women's prison in France. It is situated close to the big railway station of the same name, and was formerly a lepers' hospital, but has been adapted to its present purpose of a women's prison since the French Revolution. The women prisoners are of all ages, nationalities, classes, and degrees of culture. Those serving comparatively light sentences are herded together in a kind of common room, and permitted ordinary social intercourse with one another. At night they sleep in large dormitories, a dozen or more in a room. The prison administration is peculiar, for though ostensibly under State control St. Lazare is really governed by nursing sisters of the Roman Catholic Order of Ste. Marie and St. Joseph, who are by no means impartial in their treatment of the prisoners. The foreign women prisoners especially fare badly, as the Sisters can only speak French. The food is insufficient, consisting of potato soup and bread for breakfast, and a second meal at three, when a *purée* of either potatoes, lentils, or peas is the only course. For those prisoners who have money, however, a canteen is provided, where meat, wine, cigarettes, chocolate, coffee, biscuits, etc., can be procured. This arrangement naturally causes many difficulties between rich and poor prisoners, or amongst those prisoners who are not favourites with the Sisters.

During the war the proportion of foreign women prisoners at St. Lazare was one-sixth of the whole, but these have since increased to one-quarter of the total inmates, and at the present moment amount to nearly

half. Most of these foreign women come from Catholic countries. Since Mme. Kappenberg first began her visits to St. Lazare in October of last year, some 60 nationalities have come under her care. The ages vary from 18 up to 60 and 70, but are usually between 20 and 25. She noticed that women prisoners from the Southern countries take their punishment philosophically, in some cases even light-heartedly, but Englishwomen and women from Northern countries seem overwhelmed with despair at their position. Scarcely any of these foreign women prisoners can speak or understand French, and in consequence they are not understood either by Judge or Counsel, and frequently receive heavier sentences than the Frenchwomen prisoners. It is part of Mme. Kappenberg's work amongst these prisoners to act as interpreter for these unfortunate women in the Palais de Justice in Paris. Every foreign prisoner is entitled to both Counsel and interpreter, but only if they ask for it, and few of the foreign women are aware that they possess this right, so seldom avail themselves of it.

Another part of Mme. Kappenberg's work lies in helping foreign women after they come out of St. Lazare. Usually the French Government give them four days in which to leave the country, and much work is therefore entailed in getting into touch with Prison Committees in other countries, in providing money for fares, and employment after crossing the frontier. Mme. Kappenberg makes the women free of her little *appartement* when they come out of prison, and they know that in her they have a friend whom they can trust. The officials and magistrates in Paris are interested in her work, and invariably friends. To give the reader an idea of the number of nationalities Mme. Kappenberg comes into contact with, last December 15 women left the prison of St. Lazare, and of these 3 were Poles, 2 Belgians, 2 Italians, 2 Swiss, 2 English, 1 Luxembourgeoise, 1 Dutch, and 1 Hungarian. Mme. Kappenberg is able to obtain the release of foreign women on probation by undertaking to be personally responsible for their good behaviour, or for their leaving France.

EQUAL RIGHTS IN INHERITANCE.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reports that the Yugoslav National Women's Federation is taking energetic action for the equalization of the rights of male and female heirs under civil law, and demands that Parliament shall, at the earliest possible moment, give equal rights of inheritance with male heirs to female dependents, both in towns and villages. A circular has been sent to all social and humanitarian institutions appealing for their support.

The Federation is also asking all its branches and all interested women to collect signatures in all parts of the kingdom, and hopes for a large number of names, which will be appended to the petition and sent to Parliament.

Numbers of lectures are also being given on the subject, Dr. Arandjelovitch, professor of law at Belgrade University, having recently delivered an address which has now been printed as a pamphlet, and is being distributed throughout the country.

It should be explained that an old civil law exists in Serbia by which boys and girls have not the same rights of inheritance. Thus, the boy has the right to the greater part of the inheritance (where the will does not provide otherwise), while the girl has only the right to a "decent marriage settlement," i.e., to a dowry, which is not fixed, and depends on the boy heir. Such a vague legal provision may entail great loss to girl heirs.

It is true, brothers do not usually take advantage of so antiquated and unfair a statute, and either divide the inheritance equally with their sisters, or give them a good share, but there are cases where the male heirs adhere strictly to the law.

The Government long felt that the law ought to be changed for one based on fairer and more modern lines, but nothing was done until Yugoslavian women took the matter in hand.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

An Elected Woman Councillor.

From *Stri Dharma*, the Official Organ of the Women's Indian Association, we learn that a woman has been elected as a member of the Madras Municipal Corporation. This is the first time that a woman has entered the Corporation by election. She is Mrs. Hannen Angelo, who is well known for the good work she has done in the city as a nurse. There is already a woman member of the Corporation, Mrs. Devados, who was nominated by the Government. *Stri Dharma* expresses the hope that, in the near future, there will be more women in the Corporation, for there are very many reforms needed in Madras that are specially in the department of women to look after.

The Age of Consent Bill.

This Bill is to be brought up again by Sir Hari Singh Gour, during the Simla Session of the Legislative Assembly, under the title of the Children Protection Bill. This Bill is an improvement on the Age of Consent Bill, which was defeated in the Assembly last winter. It provides (a) absolute protection to infants below 13; (b) protection against strangers up to the age of 15; (c) protection for the girl wife against her husband's injurious approaches up to the age of 14. The Bill extends the definition of rape to girls not exceeding 13 years of age. Sexual intercourse with a girl between 13 and 15 is made punishable; in the case of strangers, with imprisonment up to two years with or without fine; and sexual intercourse by a husband with a wife between 13 and 14 is punishable with one year's imprisonment with or without fine.

Members of the Women's Indian Association are urged to invite their Member in the Legislative Assembly to get other Members to help, and impress him that they desire him to support the Bill, and get his promise that he will.

WOMEN IN THE WESLEYAN MINISTRY.

BY M. BALLARD DAWSON.

Once more the Wesleyan Conference has discussed the question of admitting women to the ministry, but unfortunately no substantial progress has been made; indeed, had it not been for the loyal leadership of the Rev. W. R. Maltby (proposer of the adoption of last year's Committee's report), ably supported by Dr. Ryder Smith, there might even have been rejection, or at least "hanging up," of this year's report.

The report contained a résumé of the history of the subject and proposals of a practical nature. It reiterated the Committee's belief that the breaking-down of barriers between men and women in many spheres of life should receive a sympathetic response from the Christian Church, and again emphasised the conviction that the Committee was not aware of any function of the ordained ministry for which a woman is in principle disqualified merely on the ground of sex; and that, even if the work of a woman minister should differ from that of a man minister, such difference should not be a bar to ordination.

Those who understand the working of an itinerant ministry, such as that of the Wesleyan Church, are well aware that there are practical difficulties to be faced and problems to be solved before women can be ordained, and they desire that when the great change is introduced it shall be based upon a sure foundation; but what they are amazed to see is that progress in the matter is impeded by those who are still afraid of "an innovation without precedent," or "a revolutionary break with the whole Apostolic order." Some even beg that the Committee be asked also to prepare a statement showing the Biblical ground on which this great departure is based.

So once more the report, partially approved, has been referred back to the Committee, which is to be still further enlarged, and the desired Biblical statement is to be forthcoming next year, when the Rev. W. R. Maltby himself will be in the presidential chair. ("The Bible Doctrine of Womanhood," by Charles Ryder Smith, D.D., published by the Epworth Press, is a useful book on this subject.)

Ordained women ministers are no longer novelties; more than one church has them in their midst, and from time to time we hear of their competent work: the Wesleyan Church is not asked to try an entirely new experiment, but to adapt her extremely versatile organisation to bring about a further development of comradeship and service between men and women, that she may more efficiently meet the growing needs of the present age and of the future.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR, 1925.

The Annual Green, White and Gold Fair will be held this year at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st, and will be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.

Various Stalls are being arranged for both Fancy and Useful Articles, including Toys, Handkerchiefs, Antiques and White Elephants, Sweets, Household Goods, Overalls, Pound, White Stall, and a Shilling Stall. Many gifts are needed for all these Stalls. An excellent programme of Entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Dancing Display by Miss Grace Woollacott's dainty little pupils, also Solo Dancing by little Miss Margery Dunhill (whose dancing was so much admired at the Fair last year). There will be Competitions, Character Readings, Phrenology, and Numerology. Teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served at moderate prices during the evening.

Societies at present taking Stalls are:—

British Commonwealth League.
The Food Education Society.
The International New Thought Alliance.
Needlework and Mending Bureau.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).

All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Home Office. By Sir Edward Troup. (Putnam.) 5s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is the first volume in the Whitehall series of books on the great departments of State, and if they are all as interesting as this one, they will be greatly prized by readers who care to know how their country's institutions arose and developed, and by what administrative methods we are governed. Sir Edward Troup was a permanent Under-Secretary of State in the Home Office from 1902 till 1922, and he gives a good general view, historical as well as up to date, of that great Civil Service Department.

A chapter on the "King's Pleasure," in other words his Prerogative in dealing with Petitions, the Established Church of England, Royal Commissions, etc., is followed by accounts of the Prerogative of Mercy, and how that is exercised, interesting points in regard to women offenders, especially those accused of infanticide, being included.

Then we have a chapter on the "Keeping of the King's Peace," that is, the maintenance of law and order, which deals with duties of magistrates, the appointment of special constables and police, and the calling-in of military, and when required.

Next, administrative matters are dealt with, such as the conduct of civil and criminal courts, police organisation, prisons and Borstal institutions, criminal asylums, probation and schools for young offenders, and the changes in the law which have made these places not for punishment merely, but also for the improvement and redemption of offenders.

Laws which concern industry, the traffic in intoxicants and drugs, the control of immigration and deportation of dangerous aliens, explosives, in fact all matters which concern the safety either of the public as a whole, or of special classes of the people, are treated of in the next group of chapters.

The section which deals with the Home Office in its relation to "public morals and public amenities," has a wide range, covering, as it does, licensing of plays and films, the white slave traffic and vivisection, cremation and betting, advertisements and the conduct of fairs, the use of the streets and open spaces, and, curiously enough, ending with "wild birds and summer time"—these two last being, we suppose, public amenities!

Lastly, Sir Edward gives us the relations of the Home Office with Parliament, with local bodies, and its external jurisdiction over the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Scotland and Ireland; and finally, war and emergency duties, closing this most complete and instructive account with details of the administrative machinery.

The Home Office has a special Industrial Museum in London, and an anthrax disinfection station in Liverpool; it has lunacy experts and medical advisers for toxicological work, it arranges the armistice anniversaries, and registers our baronetage, advising the King on all questions of precedence, and on the appointment of bishops just as efficiently as it establishes bird sanctuaries, or registers trades unions; indeed the reader closes the book feeling as if the Home Secretary and his numerous staff were like the Providence "who is about our path and about our bed, and spieth out all our ways"!—J. M. T.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.

"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. May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

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Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 9th, at 8.15.

London Members' Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.

Chair: Miss Anna Munro. Speakers: Dr. Knight and Miss Underwood. Subject: "What Headquarters has done since the Conference, April, 1925."

Saturday, October 10th, at 10.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Central Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, December 5th, at 10.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

August 8th-22nd.

Save the Children Fund. International Summer School at Geneva.

August 14-28th.

Women's International League. Summer School at Thonon (Haute Savoie), France.

August 24-28th.

First General Congress of the Child, at the Electoral Palace, Geneva.

August 25th—September 8th.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford.

August 26th—September 2nd.

British Association for the Advancement of Science at Southampton.

September 19-27th.

National Council of Women at Birmingham.

WOMEN IN MEDICINE.

The Secretary and Warden of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women announces that the following awards for 1925-26 have been made:—Sarah Holborn Scholarship—Miss Mary Gould, Westclere School, Watford. Dr. Margaret Todd Scholarship—Miss M. M. White, Birkbeck College. School Jubilee Bursary—Miss O. N. Grant, L.S.M.W. Flora Murray Bursary—Miss H. E. Newman, L.S.M.W. Alfred Langton Scholarship—Miss G. V. Smallpiece, L.S.M.W. Mabel Sharman Crawford Scholarship—Miss E. T. Mess, L.S.M.W. Helen Prideaux Post-Graduate Scholarship—Miss Gladys Hill, M.B., B.S. St. Dunstan's Medical Exhibition—Miss E. M. G. Stevenson, Tottenham High School. Mrs. George M. Smith Scholarship—Miss G. B. Castle, St. Michael's, Limpsfield. Isabel Thorne Scholarship—Miss Maureen Evans, St. Paul's School. Scholarships and Bursaries of the value of £1,350 are awarded annually.

WHY RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR WOMEN ONLY.

From the *Burton Daily Mail*, August 12th:—"It is an intolerable state of affairs that girls cannot travel alone on the railway without being subjected to this treatment," said the magistrate at North London Police Court yesterday, when he fined William Humphrey, aged 27, a shunter on the London and North Eastern Railway, £5 for attacking Miss Florence Aldridge, aged 19, in a train. Miss Aldridge said that she entered a train at Hatfield, and during the journey to Finsbury Park Humphrey kissed her twice against her will. It was stated that Humphrey would be discharged from the service of the railway company.

WOMEN J.P.s UP TO DATE.

The following women J.P.s have been appointed:—Mrs. E. Swales, Southend-on-Sea; Miss Helen Corbett, Bath. Mrs. Eliza Swales, of Grange Road, Leigh, formerly of "Plasnewydd," Thorpe Bay, will be the third lady J.P. for Southend. She has been a resident in the borough for 17 years. She is an ex-chairman of the women's section of the Southend Labour Party, and ex-president of the Leigh Women's Co-operative Guild, and at the present time is a member of the main sub-committee of the Southend District Employment Committee, a member of the executive of the Southend Labour Party, hon. secretary of the Leigh branch of the I.L.P., a member of the Southend Co-operative Women's Guild. Mrs. Swales was a delegate to the National Women's Congress at Leeds in 1924. While a resident at Thorpe Bay, she was a candidate for the Council in the Thorpe Ward.

INQUIRY INTO INCIDENCE OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The Secretary of the Women's Freedom League wrote to the Duchess of Atholl (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Education) urging that the results of the proposed investigation decided upon by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education, and to be carried out by an Inspector of the Board of Control, would be more successful if a competent woman or competent women acted jointly with this Inspector; pointing out that mental deficiency among girls should have the special attention of a woman—either a woman Inspector of the Board of Education or a medical woman, and the Duchess was asked, if she agreed with our view, to use her influence in the direction suggested. We immediately received from her a letter promising to make an inquiry into the matter, and afterwards the following letter:—

EASTWOOD,
DUNKELD,
12th August, 1925.

DEAR MADAM,—In further reply to your letter of the 7th inst., I write to say that the inquiry to which you refer is being carried out by an Inspector of the Board of Control under the auspices of a Committee whose names are given on page 139 of the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education for the year 1923. In addition to the two women mentioned as serving on this Committee, the Committee also includes Miss Redfern, head of a large school for mentally defective children in Birmingham. Your Society need, therefore, have no fear that the girls' aspect of the question of mental deficiency will not be included.

Yours truly,
(Signed) K. M. ATHOLL.

We thank the Duchess of Atholl very cordially for so kindly giving us this information, and we are particularly glad to learn that Miss Redfern has been added to the Committee, the other members of which are: Mr. A. H. Wood, Mr. A. S. Tregold, M.D., Mr. N. D. Bosworth Smith, Mr. S. B. Shrubbsall, M.D., Mr. Cyril Burt, D.Sc., Mr. R. H. Crowley, M.D., Miss Evelyn Fox, Mrs. Pinsent, and Mr. S. D. Turner. We still think, however, that if a medical woman acting jointly with the Inspector of the Board of Control carried out this investigation the results would be more successful.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

We have received from Miss Wauchope, the Secretary, a copy of the Fourth Annual Report, 1924-1925, of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations. This Committee consists of representatives of 65 Constituent Societies (the Women's Freedom League being included among them), as well as individual members. It has held nine meetings during the year, and considered a number of different subjects, which include the following: Education, Factory Legislation, Widows' Pensions, Salary and Status of Women Civil Servants, Women Police, Equal Franchise, Employment of Married Women, Women Parliamentary Candidates, Women Doctors, Married Women's Income Tax, Courts of Justice, Lunacy Reform, Payment of Fines for Women Prisoners, Revision of the Marriage Service, Entry of Germany into the League of Nations, Protection of Animals, Auditing of Charitable Funds, Picture of the First Woman Member of Parliament, Unlicensed Refreshment Places at Wembley.

Several Bills before Parliament were discussed, and the following supported by groups of the Member Organisations of the Committee: Bastardy Bill, 1925; Guardianship of Infants Bill, 1925; Legitimacy Bill, 1925; Parliament (Qualification of Peers) Bill, 1925; Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, 1925; Widows, Orphans, and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill, 1925.

The following questions were given special consideration: MONEY LENDING AMONG WOMEN—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby; QUESTIONNAIRES AT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS—Speakers: Sir William Bull, M.P., Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., Mr. W. S. Morrison, Miss Rathbone, Miss Pictou Turbeville, Miss L. F. Nettlefold, and Miss Underwood; ROYAL COMMISSION ON FOOD PRICES—Speaker: Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, D.B.E.; FAMILY ALLOWANCES AS A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE LIVING WAGE—Speaker: Miss Rathbone, J.P.

The Housing Sub-Committee has kept in touch with the housing situation, and those bodies interested in the question. Three members inspected the model houses erected at Wembley, and are preparing a criticism for the Press dealing with the inside arrangements. The pamphlet, "The Housing Problem," published by the Committee, has continued to be in demand at conferences and meetings.

Throughout the year the Consultative Committee has kept in touch with the Women's Joint Congressional Committee in America, and the Minutes of the two Committees have been exchanged.

OVERHEARD BY THE LITTLE BIRD.

In a Club—That the Women's Freedom League have published a pamphlet entitled, "What We Have and What We Want." To have got what women want into a mere pamphlet is a wonderful achievement!
The Gentlewoman.

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 21,
1925.

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NOTICES.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, August 23rd. 7 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "Religion and Science: Human Freedom."

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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