

THE VOTE,  
OCT. 13, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

OUR PREHISTORIC GOVERNMENT!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 13, 1922

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

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## FIFTY YEARS OF CHILD WELFARE.

The fourth Shaftesbury Lecture, reviewing the progress of the Child Welfare Movement in Great Britain during the last half-century, was delivered at Sion College, London, on the 30th ult., by Dr. Kelynack, J.P. The Shaftesbury Lectureship was established in 1917 to commemorate the life and work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. The Shaftesbury Society, under the designation of the Ragged School Union, was founded in 1844, and in two years' time will have completed eighty years of service.

The turning-point in the history of the Shaftesbury Society, said Dr. Kelynack, was the passing and coming into force of the great Education Act of 1870. Infant mortality was high at that era, the death-rate of infants averaging for big towns 263 per thousand. Infectious diseases were extraordinarily prevalent. Small-pox was common, and the fever hospitals were overcrowded. The milk supply was most uncertain. Of 50 samples taken in Somerstow, 40 were reported bad, nine doubtful, and one good. Young criminal offenders were plentiful. Out of 147,000 general offenders, no less than 10,300 were under 16. The majority of criminals could neither read nor write. Drunkenness was common, with one public-house to every 45 adult males. There were no fewer than 10,970 gin palaces or beer shops within 15 miles of Charing Cross. Accommodation was provided in inspected schools for only about half the children of the nation, and little more than half that proportion were in average attendance. Housing was a greater problem in 1870 than now. Whole families lived in one room in houses with no sanitary conveniences.

Among the succession of legislative measures bearing on Child Welfare, the following may be traced as a direct sequence of the Education Act of 1870:—Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 1868; Compulsory Education Act, 1899; the Education Act, 1903; Feeding of Necessitous School Children, 1906; Medical Inspection of School Children, 1907; the Children Act, 1908; Compulsory Notification of Births Act, 1915; Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918; Mr. Fisher's Education Act, 1918, including its Child Labour clauses, ending the half-time system.

There has also been much valuable legislation relat-

ing to the establishment of schools for the mentally defective, epileptic, blind, and other defectives, the opening of Children's Courts, and the development of Homes and Schools and the Probation system for delinquents. These mark the steady provision for the needs of necessitous children. Child life has also been profoundly affected by Public Health and other general legislation relating to Licensing, Criminal-Law Amendment, and the like.

It is interesting to note that, parallel to this growing body of Statutes, there has been a wonderful growth of organised philanthropic and charitable effort. Half a century ago saw the beginning of the Salvation Army, with its ever-growing emphasis upon the care of child life; the establishment of what have afterwards become great orphanages—Barnardo's, the National Children's Home and Orphanage, Quarrier's Homes in Scotland, the Manchester Boys' and Girls' Refuges, Spurgeon's Stockwell Orphanage. A little later came the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, then in 1884 Benjamin Waugh's National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (the inaugural meeting was one of the last that Lord Shaftesbury was able to attend), the Children's Country Holiday Fund, and in 1886 the Invalid Children's Aid Association.

Coming to the twentieth century, we see the amazing growth of Brigades and Scouts and Guides—seizing the interest and training the capacity of boys and girls—and of Infant Welfare Centres, Societies for the Care of Unmarried Mothers and their children, and the development of such movements as Health Week and Baby Week. Such progress was symbolised this year in the opening of Carnegie House, Piccadilly, as a home for the Central Council of Child Welfare and its affiliated Associations.

The Education Act of 1870 compelled Education Authorities everywhere to provide school places for all children. Subsequent Acts made attendance compulsory and abolished fees. The Education Department, by its annual issue of "codes" or rules, gradually stiffened the curriculum, compelled the appointment of trained and certificated teachers, and insisted on better equipment and playgrounds, both in voluntary as well as in the State schools.



Since 1907 an elaborate School Medical Service has been built up, and has accomplished untold benefits for large numbers of children. In recent years there has also been a remarkable development of Pre-Natal Clinics, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and various State and voluntary organisations for various forms of Child Welfare work. In such service there has come into existence a large body of doctors and nurses, visitors and voluntary workers, to protect and help the expectant mother and provide skilled care and direction for both mother and child.

In the study of modern problems relating to Child Welfare, special attention is now being devoted to the investigation of so-called racial poisons. Foremost among these is the toxic agent alcohol, and the biological infections producing venereal disease. The influence of alcoholism and venereal disease on infant and child welfare, and on parental health and domestic hygiene and happiness, as well as on community life, is so far-reaching, disordering, and deadly that it calls not only for the individual study of every patriotic citizen who realises the importance of safeguarding race and nation; but collective action on the part of the community and State. Great Britain is watching with eager attention the working out of that great experiment in America which seeks to secure to the people of the United States a release from the prejudicial action of alcohol and alcoholism.

## WOMEN INVENTORS.

Lady Frances Balfour's recent but mistaken statement that women are not notable as inventors has done good in one way, inasmuch as it has provoked a volley of indignant denial in reply. Practically every civilised country, in addition to Great Britain, has produced women inventors, the greatest number being found in Switzerland, in connection with the watch trade, and in France, in connection with general trade and science. American women, however, are close competitors with these. America has honoured its women inventors by a special U.S. Government publication containing an analysis of women inventors and their inventions in the United States from 1790 to 1888.

Last year, in this country, there were 297 applications for patents, as compared with 238 five years previously. To quote only a few notable inventions by English women during the war, Mrs. Hertha Ayrton's fan for driving back gas and smoke fumes was one of the most successful inventions of the war; the torpedo boat invented in 1916 by Sir John Thornycroft's daughter—a member of the Institution of Naval Architects—was ordered in large numbers by the Admiralty at about the same time; Mrs. Ernest Hart's process for waterproofing fabrics has been adopted by the Admiralty, the War Office, the leading railway companies, and many big business houses; the Pomeroy bullet, invented by a husband and wife; the *papier-maché* surgical appliances for shell-torn limbs, invented by Miss Hallé, and so on. Since the Armistice, English women's inventions have been chiefly in the direction of household articles, and domestic labour-saving devices. Women in this country have not hitherto had the same facilities for taking out or improving upon patents that men inventors have had, which, no doubt, is the chief reason why they are not yet so numerous as men, although a recent writer in the *Westminster Gazette* maintains that the proportion of patents eventually granted is practically equal between the sexes. This year, however, a definite recognition of women inventors has been given by the Institute of Patentees in the proposition to organise a women's branch, whilst the Board of Trade now permits women to qualify as experts in the Patent Office, and to adopt the profession of patent agents. At present, patentees, whether women or men, are not fully organised, but the Institute, numbering some 700 members, is planning to increase its power, so that its influence may force the Government to amend the Patent Laws. For instance, it would extend the life of an English patent to 20 years, as in Europe, and legislate to encourage the inventor.

## WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

### Women and the Church Congress.

Three women are included amongst the list of speakers at the official meetings of the Church Congress at Sheffield this week. They are Mrs. Knight Bruce, Mrs. Hudson Lyall, and Miss Ruth Rouse. The Hon. Mrs. Corfield, Miss Warman, Mrs. Hubert Barclay, and Mrs. Griffiths are also speaking at two public meetings for women arranged by the Congress authorities. The subject of "Women in the Ministry" is evidently to be shelved this year, but that gallant little Society, the League of the Church Militant, intends to keep the flag flying by means of addresses on the subject from Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. E. L. Acres, and Miss Cicely Ellis.

### Women's International Congress.

The ninth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will be held at Rome in the spring of 1923. Preliminary invitations have been sent to the Governments of far-away countries to send a delegate, and Australia is already arranging its delegation from the new Federation of Auxiliaries. At the last Congress in Geneva, in 1920, 22 woman suffrage victories were celebrated. Since then, woman suffrage has been gained in Madras, Bombay, Burma, and several Indian States.

### More Danish Women Police Wanted.

The Danish National Council of Women, and other Danish women's societies, have sent a special petition to the Municipality of Copenhagen, drawing attention to the alarming increase in outrages upon young children in the public parks of Copenhagen, and urging the necessity of more women police to patrol the parks and other open spaces, as well as the streets and alleys of every large town in Denmark. The Municipality, in reply, has pleaded the necessity of "economy," in reducing the numbers of its women police!

### Finnish Women M.P.s.

At the recent elections in Finland, 19 women were elected as members of the Riksdag. Of these, Miss Annie Furuholm, who has been re-elected by the Swedish Party, was the first woman M.P. in the world, when originally elected. Of the other women, one has been elected by the Finnish Party, one by the Finnish Progressive Party, eleven by the Social Democrats, and five by the Communists.

### Miss Booth's Recall.

Much resentment is being felt in Salvation Army circles throughout the United States against the order issued from London recalling Evangeline Booth, who has been for many years past directing the operations of the Army in America. It is estimated that 90 per cent. of the Army's followers in the States are ready to sever the connection with London unless General Bramwell Booth revokes his decision at once.

### Women M.P.s. in Congress.

The twentieth session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Vienna last August, was attended by about 300 Parliamentarians from different countries, and included some women M.P.s. The Viennese women, with Frau Marianne Hainisch at their head, invited the women Members of Parliament to an informal gathering, at which many of them spoke.

### Bequest to Newnham College.

Miss Sarah Emily Rigby, of Southport, Lancs., who left £16,389, gave £1,000 to the Principal and Fellows of Newnham College, Cambridge, for an "Emily Rigby" scholarship for daughters of Congregational Ministers, and £1,000 to Milton Mount College, Crawley, Surrey, for a similar scholarship.

### Woman Medical Officer's Appointment.

Dr. Bessie Goodson, of Manchester, has been appointed Medical Officer at Swansea, at a salary of £500.

### Congregational Woman Pastor.

Miss Norah Thompson was last week "recognised" as the pastor of Sunningdale Congregational Church.

## GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th, in the Basement Hall at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened on Friday, November 10th, at 3 p.m., by the Viscountess Rhondda. The Fair will be open each day from 3 to 9 p.m. The chair will be taken on Friday by Dr. Octavia Lewin, and on Saturday by Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

### STALLS AND STALL-HOLDERS.

The stalls at present arranged for the League are:—  
**Hampstead Branch.**—Handkerchiefs and Odds and Ends. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Lane, and Miss Vibert.  
**Mid-London Branch (Half Stall).**—Woollies and Children's Clothing.  
**Montgomery Boroughs Branch.**—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. and the Misses Elias, the Misses Codd, Mrs. Dixon, and Miss M. Morris.  
**Portsmouth Branch.**—Household. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner.  
**South-Eastern Branches.**—General Stall and Xmas Tree. Miss White and Members.  
**Swansea Branch.**—General Stall. Mrs. Thomas.  
**Antiques and White Elephants.**—Mrs. Harverson, Miss Raleigh.  
**General Stall.**—Mrs. Lloyd.  
**Overalls and Aprons.**—Mrs. Ammon, Mrs. Mustard, and the Misses Underwood.  
**Pound Stall.**—Miss Munro.  
**Remnant Stall.**—Mrs. A. A. Thompson and Mrs. Harvey James.  
**Stationery Stall.**—Mrs. MacMichael.  
**Toy Stall.**—Mrs. Knight.  
**Literature Stall.**—Miss Telling, Miss E. W. Kirby.  
**White Stall.**—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.  
**"Vote" Stall.**—Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Newsome, and Miss Reeves.

### ENTERTAINMENTS.

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

Miss Berry will be glad to receive the names of any members or friends who are willing to give their services and help with the musical programme.

### PLEASE HELP!

Gifts are greatly needed for all the stalls, and especially for the following:—Household: Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner will be grateful for any gifts for this stall, namely, soap, kettles, brushes, pots and pans, dusters, tea cloths, towels, dishcloths, in fact, any gift will be welcome that is useful to the household. All sorts of Woollies are required by Miss Sparkman: ladies' jumpers, bed socks, children's frocks, little coats, vests, leggings, socks, baby shoes, etc. The White Stall is very important, and will be in charge of Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams; every description of underclothing is needed for this stall. Mrs. Mustard, Miss Underwood, and Mrs. Ammon will much appreciate gifts of overalls, aprons, pinafores, etc. All members and readers of THE VOTE are especially asked to remember the Pound Stall, which will be in charge of Miss Munro; goods needed are currants, raisins, rice, tapioca, tea, packets of suet, sweets, etc. Remnants of material, either of cotton, woollen, or silk, also of ribbon, braid, lace, etc., are much needed by Mrs. Thompson for the Remnant Stall. Mrs. Harverson will be glad to receive gifts for the Antique and White Elephant Stall; anything will be welcome, however small. Many toys are wanted—dolls, stuffed animals, boxes of bricks, balls, etc.; Mrs. Knight will gladly accept any article for this stall. Gifts of hand-

kerchiefs will be gratefully received by Miss E. Berry on behalf of the Hampstead Stall. Mrs. MacMichael will much appreciate any contribution towards the Stationery Stall: writing blocks, postcards, boxes of paper, Christmas cards, calendars, pencils, pens, paints, playing cards, table stationery.

The Committee will also be glad to receive the names of those who are willing to dress dolls, make underclothing for the White Stall, children's clothing, overalls and aprons, etc.

### "THE VOTE" STALL.

Will readers of THE VOTE please send something for THE VOTE Stall? We rely very much on the proceeds of this stall to meet the "end of the year" expenses. If every reader would promise a contribution, the stall would be furnished and a great deal of correspondence would be saved. Please show that you do appreciate your paper, and send a postcard saying what you will do for the stall. Saleable articles of every description will be welcomed, also suggestions of novel ways of making extra money!

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will also have a table for the sale of fountain pens, and will take orders for visiting cards, printed Christmas cards, stamped notepaper, and printing of all descriptions. Samples and styles will be there for inspection, so please save up your orders and give them to us at the Fair.

### PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

Prizes will be offered for the best dressed doll, camisole, and made toys (elephants, dogs, cats, etc.), the cost of material not to exceed 2/6 or 3/-. The patterns for same can be obtained at *Fashions for All Paper Pattern Department*, 291A, Oxford Street, London, W.1. All communications relating to these competitions should be sent to Miss Berry.

The competitions have been undertaken by the Golders Green Branch, and are to be on an extensive scale, the part of the Hall reserved for them being decorated to represent Hampstead Heath on a Bank Holiday, with all the delights and wonders that visitors to this well-known spot are accustomed to, and will include hoop-la, dart-throwing, etc. There will also be competitions for Cockneys, and various other attractions. All who know Miss Van Raalte, Miss Dickeson, and Miss Freeman will look forward with anticipation to something striking and unusual in the competitions at the Fair this year.

Mrs. Legge and Mrs. Hawkins will be in charge of the Information Bureau.

### SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

There will be an exhibition of labour-saving appliances and lace-making. The following societies, friends, and firms (for labour-saving appliances and lace-making) are taking stalls:—

- The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
- The "Crusader."
- The Federation of Women Civil Servants.
- The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement.
- Hartfield Hospital Home School.
- The Friends of Armenia.
- The Friends Relief.
- The Russian Shop.
- Miss Basnett.
- Miss Burwood.
- The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.
- Messrs. Benefits, Ltd.
- Messrs. Beatty Bros., Ltd.
- Messrs. Manuel Lloyd and Co.
- The Portable Utilities Co., Ltd.
- The Staines Kitchen Equipment Co., Ltd.

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

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



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1922.

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.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."  
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### OUR PREHISTORIC GOVERNMENT!

Lately a good deal has been said about Early Victorianism. Some people have asserted that women have been returning to it, and others have avowed that all men are Early Victorians. But our present Government cannot claim to be even Early Victorian; it is simply prehistoric in its dealings with, and in its attitude towards, women. Before the last General Election, and before the present Government came into power, the Parliamentary vote was given to women over thirty years of age. On the eve of that General Election, when women over thirty were going to use their votes, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law signed a manifesto declaring that it would be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women. What has this new Government, after nearly four years of power under the Premiership of Mr. Lloyd George, done in that direction? In 1919 it introduced and passed into law the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, a high-sounding title which, unfortunately, does not mean much. This Act does not remove the inequality of the franchise law which still grants the Parliamentary vote to men at twenty-one, whereas women cannot exercise it until they are thirty, and it does not secure for peeresses in their own right a voice and a seat in the House of Lords. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act expressly says that neither sex nor marriage shall be a bar to any appointment; but the Government will not allow any married woman to hold any position in the Home Civil Service, and prohibits the appointment of any woman, married or unmarried, to any office in the Foreign, Colonial, or Indian Civil Service, or in the Diplomatic or Consular Services! It does not remove the inequalities of the law as between married men and married women. In the eyes of the law, a married mother is not the responsible parent of her own children, and the father can still have them educated how and where he likes, without consulting the wishes of their mother. A married woman has not the same rights as her husband has to choose her nationality; her marriage to an alien deprives her of her own nationality, and imposes upon her the nationality of her husband, whether she wants it or not. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act does not remove this disability of women, nor does it remove the inequalities of our Divorce Laws as between the sexes. It does not recognise that there should be an equal moral standard for men and women, or that equal treatment should be meted out to men and women charged with sex offences. Under this Act women are enabled to serve on juries, but the Judge is allowed to use his discretion in regard to their service. This discretionary power of the Judge in reality creates a fresh inequality of the law as regards women. The only solid advantage of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act is that it permits women to qualify for both branches of the legal profession. We sincerely hope that they will obtain in it equal opportunities with men; and, as there are now between sixty and seventy women reading for solicitors, and a number for barristers, they will probably be able to deal with this matter. Not only has the Government's own Act proved abortive, but

this Government has repeatedly shown that it has no intention of treating men and women equally in regard to matters of importance to both sexes. Very serious charges were made last year, and continue to be made, against the administration in our asylums, and, in spite of the facts that more than 50,000 women patients are in these asylums, that a very great number of their nurses and attendants are women, and that the Visiting Committees of the majority of them have no women members, the Government refused to have any woman on the Departmental Committee appointed to investigate these charges. Not long ago the Government appointed a Committee to consider the matter of teachers' salaries. It is well known that there are many more women teachers than men, but only one woman was on the Committee, which included seven men! Other countries have sent accredited women delegates to the Assembly of the League of Nations. After much pressure, our Government decided to send a woman to the Assembly last month—not as a fully accredited delegate, as in the case of the three men who represented us, but only in an advisory capacity; and when the Government had to send a representative to the Commission appointed by the League of Nations, to deal with the Traffic in Women and Children, it sent a man! The women teachers have had a long struggle for equal status and equal pay with men teachers. Notwithstanding its own Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, the Government acquiesces in the constant dismissal of married women teachers by local governing authorities solely on the ground of their marriage, and now it has, through the President of the Board of Education, solidly backed the London County Council in its endeavour to replace properly trained women teachers in our infant schools by untrained "motherly" women. Could the Government think of undermining the status of men teachers by supporting the introduction of untrained "fatherly" men teachers into the boys' schools for their junior classes, or by acquiescing in the dismissal of men teachers solely on the ground of their marriage? But, according to the ideas and practice of this prehistoric Government of ours, what is unthinkable so far as men are concerned is quite feasible in regard to women.

### TO REAFFIRM MORALITY.

Under the above heading the *Christian World* announces that an International Conference on the Reaffirmation of the World's Moral Ideal will be held in London from October 15th to 22nd. The Bishop of Southwark is president, and the Conference is supported by preachers and publicists of various churches and parties. Special sermons are to be preached on the Sunday. Two days are to be devoted to the sessions of the Conference, when the subjects for discussion will include "The Need of Reaffirming the Moral Ideal," "Marriage and Parenthood," "The Relation of the Sexes," "Economic and Social Aspects," "Education, Literature, and the Press." The names of thirteen well-known and distinguished men are mentioned in connection with this Conference, but apparently no woman is to take any part or share in its deliberations. What kind of morality can it be which these worthy gentlemen want to reaffirm, if women are to be kept outside of it? Is it not a little intriguing if "Marriage and Parenthood" and "The Relation of the Sexes" are to be discussed only by men? Is not our present disastrous double standard of morality—one standard for women and an entirely different one for men—at the root of so much of our social evil? We entirely agree that one of the greatest needs of our present-day life is a public reaffirmation of the doctrine of moral duties, a complete uplifting of the moral character, both in private and public life; but, in our view, it is ludicrous for men alone, however distinguished, to undertake this work of national importance. Such work can only be done effectively by the close co-operation of men and women who believe unreservedly in the beauty and power of the moral ideal. Surely it cannot be contended that the moral ideal is the monopoly of men?

## HOUSEWIVES IN REVOLT!

The *Melbourne Age* states that there are many indications that women in Victoria, and in Australia generally, are determined to enter into a wider sphere of public activity than has been the case hitherto. The Victoria State Government is being pressed by women's organisations, represented on the National Council of Women, to remove the restriction upon the entry of women into the State Parliament, and in other States increased attention is being given to the representation of women on Municipal Councils. The whole question was referred to at a meeting of the Council and office-bearers of the Housewives' Association. Mrs. Butler, a Western Australian visitor, in an address, referred to the activities of housewives in her own State, remarking that the Housewives' Association there had achieved much work already. From a political standpoint, woman must take her place in the world, and they could never do this without organisation. Their own homes were a reflex, she considered, of what was needed in Parliament, and women in Western Australia had had the opportunity and advantage of a political education from the men. But one of the first objectives for women, she thought, was to get into the Municipal Councils. In such bodies, women would be of great assistance, for no man knew the needs of the home as a woman did. Mrs. Roberts, J.P., of the Housewives' Association of New South Wales, said that in Sydney they hoped to have women on the Council next year, and a League was now being formed which would help considerably in that direction. Women wanted to be placed in positions where they could deal with matters affecting women and children. Mrs. Glencross referred

to the desire of women in Victoria for representation in the State Parliament, and to a recent deputation that had waited on the Chief Secretary in regard to the eligibility of women for election to the House. She said that the Chief Secretary was not certain as yet whether women were eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly or not, and had referred the question to the Crown Solicitor. If they were not eligible, he was going to make arrangements for the Cabinet to discuss the question. They had been approached by all classes of women to take action on this question, and they were all unanimous in demanding women's representation on Municipal Councils, as well as in Parliament. Women should also be in both Houses of the Federal Parliament. It had been suggested that the Housewives' Association should convene the first Conference of Women's Interests on getting direct representation in Parliament.

Equal determination is shown by the National Association of German Housewives, even if in a somewhat different direction to the deliberations of Australian housewives. At a recent meeting at Magdeburg, reported by *Jus Suffragi*, a resolution was carried unanimously, claiming sufficient provision of potatoes and sugar for the population, and limitation of liquor distilleries, by Government Acts. The Association also demanded representation and the co-operation of all housewives at every official deliberation concerning food questions. These resolutions reflect the opinions of an enormous women's organisation in Germany, and of a most important group of women electors all over the country.

## WOMEN IN THE THIRD ASSEMBLY.

Now that the Third Assembly of the League of Nations has concluded its sessions at Geneva, it is interesting to review the special contributions to its deliberations made by women officials in the League. As is well known, an Englishwoman, Dame Rachel Crowdy, is at the head of the Social Section, where she has the same salary and standing as men in similar positions. In Miss Figgis, Dame Crowdy has an able and devoted assistant in those special women's questions—traffic in women and children, deported women and children in the Near East, the opium trade, etc.—which are the chief concern of the Social Section. Another invaluable woman official, Miss Sophie Sangar, holds a distinguished position in the International Labour Office as Chief of the Labour Legislation Section, which is part of the Research Division.

It should be understood that the really hard work of the League of Nations is done in the Commissions, which, in some cases, sit simultaneously, and, in others, when the Assembly is adjourned. Each country is entitled to representation on each Commission, and, as 44 countries attended the Third Assembly this year, a great part of the work was relegated by consent to Sub-Commissions. It was difficult to get even a bird's-eye view of these Committees, as several sat simultane-

ously, but almost all were open to the public, of whom women formed the greater part.

Six women officials took part in the Third Assembly, and all of these were placed on the Humanitarian Questions Commissions. Frau Bugge-Wicksell, the Swedish woman delegate, sat on the Legal Questions Committee, in addition to the Humanitarian Questions Committee. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, Great Britain's newly appointed substitute delegate, won golden opinions for her practical maiden speech on the opium trade. She also took part in the discussion on Esperanto, in company with Fröken Henni Forchhammer (Denmark), Mademoiselle Vacaresco (Roumania), and Dr. Kristine Bonnevie (Norway), and presented an excellent report on the Traffic in Women and Children. Dr. Bonnevie reported to the Assembly on the question of Opium and Dangerous Drugs, and recommended the system of import and export certificates. Mrs. Dale (Australia) delivered an eloquent address on the White Slave Traffic, which, she mentioned in passing, did not exist in her country, and courageously denounced the *maisons tolérées* of the State-regulation system. Frau Bugge-Wicksell was equally courageous in denunciation of the conduct of affairs in the island of Nauru, and the bombing of Hottentots in South Africa.



## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## Women at Sheffield University.

Although Cambridge still keeps her doors closed to women, we learn from the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* that Sheffield University is more progressive, and that for the first time in its history the Students' Representative Council has a woman president, Miss Olive Dickinson. This year six women have qualified for the M.B., C.H.B., as against three men; but, as the course has a minimum of five years, the war period may have had something to do with this difference.

## The Women's Vote.

The Coalition Liberals and the Coalition Unionists have just had a campaign at Newcastle, and Mr. J. Bratherton, speaking at one of the meetings, said the Representation of the People Act had enfranchised millions of women and placed them on an equal footing with men (!). That was highly satisfactory from the Unionist point of view, as an overwhelming majority of the women of this country were Unionists. The *Newcastle Chronicle* says: "The women's vote still remains more or less a mystery, and each bye-election leaves the party agents uncertain as to the amount of support their candidates have received from women voters. It seems probable that they may be the decisive influence in the next election, but no election expert is bold enough to predict how the balance of their votes will go." The *Southport Guardian* reports that at the Temperance Institute, Mr. C. J. Weld-Blundell, of Ince Blundell Hall, gave his annual address to his tenants, who assembled there in large numbers. Referring to woman suffrage, Mr. Weld-Blundell said he had always been against it, because woman, by her nature, was not fitted to govern, and she herself knew it better than anyone else. There were, it was true, a few women who had equalled or surpassed the best men in talent, skill, energy, and courage, and that these particular women should govern men was reasonable enough, but the mass of women were not qualified to choose the governors of the country. He then proceeded to compare present-day England to a lunatic asylum! At the close of his speech, a Mr. Lovelady proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Weld-Blundell, and said it was a privilege to be the tenants of a gentleman who took such a keen interest in public affairs. Well, one thing is clear—all men do not think alike, even about women's votes!

## Married Lady Teachers.

Writing in the *Surrey Comet*, "W. F. H." says: "Why does the Board of Education tolerate the employment of married lady teachers in our County Council Schools, much to the detriment of single young ladies, many of whom, after having been college trained at considerable expense, find that they are unable to obtain appointments in their immediate locality? In Chertsey there are no fewer than three such ladies employed in our schools, each drawing good salaries, and with husbands holding good positions." We presume that the three women referred to have also been college trained, and, from the point of view of the Education authorities, are thoroughly competent in their work. What has their marriage or the position of their husbands to do with the Board of Education? At any rate, these women are not blacklegs in their profession, and young college-trained women have less to fear from them than from the Board of Education's new protégés, the cheap, untrained "motherly" women in our schools.

## Could Men Solve the Servant Problem?

Under the title, "The Riddle of the Kitchen," Helen Hope, in a sympathetic article appearing in the *Daily News*, last Saturday, asks the above question. We are not at all hopeless about the matter, and we would strongly advise those who are interested in finding an answer to this question to come to the Debate which we have arranged to take place in the Minerva Café on Monday evening, November 20th, between Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser and Mr. Clephan Palmer on "Should Boys be trained in Housecraft and Cookery?" The Chair will be taken by Miss Anna Munro at 7 p.m.

## EXTRACT FROM CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

From the Washington Women's Party, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

"In the copy of THE VOTE on August 25th, on page 270, I notice that you quote from *Equal Rights*, the weekly bulletin of the National Woman's Party, a passage showing the Equal Rights legislation which has been secured by the National Woman's Party in the various States in which it has campaigned during the past year. You refer, however, in your opening sentence, to the 'Equal Rights Society,' instead of to the National Woman's Party, and I feel assured that you would want me to correct you in this matter, because there is no 'Equal Rights Society.'"

"The National Woman's Party was founded in 1913 to secure the passage of the Federal suffrage amendment, and, after the amendment was ratified, the Party was reorganised on a permanent basis to work for the removal of the remaining forms of the subjection of women. Its campaign this year has been for equal legal rights, and it has introduced equal rights legislation in every State Legislature meeting this year."

"During its suffrage activities the Woman's Party published a monthly magazine entitled *The Suffragist*. Though we ultimately contemplate the publication of a real feminist magazine, during this first year since our reorganisation we have not been able to reorganise the magazine, and we have issued only this little weekly bulletin to members, entitled *Equal Rights*."

## THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

In view of the Borough Council Elections in November, the Women's Freedom League has decided that the following questions should be put to all candidates in districts where it has branches and members, with the exception of Nos. 4, 5, 7, and 8, which do not come within the scope of the work of London Borough Councils:—

- (1) Are you in favour of making efficiency instead of sex the test for all workers employed by the municipality?
- (2) Are you prepared to insist that marriage shall be no bar to the employment of any woman by your Council?
- (3) Are you prepared to use every effort to secure that unemployed women shall be included in all schemes devised by your Council for the employment of workless men?
- (4) Are you in favour of raising the school age for girls and boys to 16?
- (5) Are you in favour of equal opportunities in education and training for girls as for boys, and for women as for men?
- (6) Are you prepared to uphold one moral standard for women and men in the eyes of the law, and to resist any proposal to prevent venereal disease by so-called "prophylactic" methods at the expense of the ratepayers?
- (7) Are you in favour of the appointment of women Councillors to serve on the Watch Committee, and of Women Police with the full powers of constables?
- (8) Are you in favour of an alteration of the law so that it shall be compulsory that there shall be women on all Asylum Committees?
- (9) Will you make efforts to secure greater purity of milk supply; full use of powers for maternity and child welfare; the provision of washhouses and of warm baths in urban working-class areas in which these do not exist; and adequate provision for dealing promptly with cases of tuberculosis, and for the supply of accommodation for advanced cases?
- (10) Are you in favour of adapting existing large empty houses for dwellings, and increasing the housing accommodation in the district?
- (11) Are you in favour of the introduction of Proportional Representation in Local Government Elections?

## THE HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD.

Under the above title the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education has just published his annual Report for 1921. It is most satisfactory to learn that Sir George Newman is able to report that there is a striking reduction effected in uncleanness. This is particularly so in London, Manchester, and other cities. The number of "exceptional" children of school age in England is given as 164,000. Of these the blind numbered 5,800, the feeble-minded 31,000, tubercular 20,000, cripples (tubercular) 13,000, and cripples (other than tubercular) 23,000. Of these children there were 83,000 in elementary schools and 36,000 in special schools. In 1920-21 the cost of educating children in the residential and day schools for the blind amounted to £79,000, for the deaf £115,000, for the mental defectives £300,000, for the cripples £217,000, for the delicate and pre-tubercular £144,000, and for epileptic children £11,000. Sir George Newman adds: "Nor is the heavy expense of these schools the only hard fact we have to face. For we must recognise that the positive results of educating some of these defective children cannot be commensurate with the expenditure. Only a proportion of them can be so trained as to be able to maintain themselves in after life. Experience seems to indicate that of the blind, 50 per cent., and of the deaf, 80 per cent., can be equipped for independent wage-earning; of the cripples, 75 per cent.; but of the mentally defective, only some 40 per cent. are able subsequently to support themselves. The high cost of these schools is prejudicial to their development, and it is only by the reduction of that cost that we can hope to achieve an adequate provision for the large number of children whose disabilities can be mitigated by such institutions. We must, therefore, exercise rigid economy, and ineducable children must be excluded." But what is to be done with the ineducable child? Is it to have no training, to be allowed to run the streets, and to become a possible danger to itself and the community? In the long run, would it not be truer economy to make some provision for it in the way of training, even if it cannot ultimately be expected entirely to earn its own living?

With regard to the cost of the school medical service, the average cost of inspection and treatment per child in attendance in public elementary schools is 4s. 3d. for country areas, 5s. for boroughs, and 6s. for urban districts. But in one borough it is as low as 1s. per child, and in one urban district as high as 21s. per child. During 1921-22, 60,676,017 meals were provided by 190 authorities for 502,518 children, the respective figures for 1920-21 being 10,447,596; 137; and 148,082.

## Women's Freedom League Rally of Members and Friends.

Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League are cordially invited to the Rally to be held in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, on Saturday, October 21st, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Impromptu speeches, for which lots will be drawn, with questions from the audience, will be the order of the afternoon. Representatives from London stall-holders will be present to receive gifts for their own particular stalls at our Green, White, and Gold Fair, and Dr. Knight will gladly accept gifts for other stalls. Tea and biscuits will be served at moderate prices, and there will be a collection to cover the expenses of the meeting, which will be a thoroughly enjoyable one. Readers of THE VOTE are specially asked to this Rally.

## Women's Freedom League.

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Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON."

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, October 16th, at 3 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Fair Committee Meeting.

Monday, October 16th, at 7 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Edwy G. Clayton. Subject: "Some Literary Bone-Shakers of the Seventeenth Century." Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

Friday, October 20th.—Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, at 6.30 p.m.

Saturday, October 21st, 3-5 p.m.—Women's Freedom League Rally, at the Minerva Café.

Wednesday, October 25th, at 3 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Jessie March. Subject: "Should there be a Woman's Political Party?"

Friday, October 27th, at 6 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting.

Saturday, October 28th, at 10 a.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. National Executive Committee Meeting.

Monday, October 30th, at 7 p.m.—Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Mr. H. C. Charleton (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for South Leeds). Subject: "The Policy of the Labour Party on Questions that affect all Women." Chair: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.

Thursday, November 2nd, at 7.30 p.m. Prince of Wales Baths, Kentish Town. Cinderella Dance. Particulars later.

Wednesday, November 8th, at 3 p.m., Minerva Café, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Raleigh. Subject: "St. Paul's views on Dress."

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

Monday, November 20th, at 7 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Debate on "Should Boys be Trained in Housecraft and Cookery?" Affirmative, Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser; Negative, Mr. E. Clephan Palmer (of the *Daily News*). Chair: Miss Anna Munro.

## PROVINCES.

Monday, October 16th, at 7 p.m.—Rye.—A Social Evening will be held at the Monastery. Dr. Octavia Lewin will give a Lecture on "Nasal Hygiene," to be followed by an exhibition of Child Dancing by little Miss Margery Dunhill. Silver Collection.

Thursday, October 19th, at 7 p.m.—Hull.—A Whist Tournament and Soirée, in aid of the W.F.L. Relief Fund, will be held in the Owen Hall, Baker Street. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Admission 1/-. Children half-price. Refreshments at moderate charges.

Friday, October 20th, at 7.30 p.m. Middlesbrough. Public Meeting in the Club Room, Suffrage Rooms. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Preventive Diseases in the Home." Chair: Councillor Schofield Coates, J.P.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, October 18th, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Miss Jewson. Subject: "Wages."

Monday, October 23rd, at 8 p.m.—St. Mary's Church Room, Defoe Road, Stoke Newington. Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Women and the Borough Council Elections." A number of local women Candidates will be present.

## CONGRATULATIONS.

We offer our hearty congratulations to our member, Miss Patricia Leahy, and to Mr. Bayard Simmons—the first man to go to prison for Woman's Suffrage—upon their recent marriage.

## LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

The officials of the Literature Department of the Women's Freedom League cordially thank Miss I. Hamilton (Glasgow) and Miss Newsome for valuable present of books for the secondhand book stall at our "Green, White, and Gold Fair." This is all the more appreciated because we have not yet applied for books. We now make this appeal, and parcels of books will be gladly welcomed for sale at our coming "Fair," from members and friends.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## MID-LONDON.

On Friday last we held our Pound Tea at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). A goodly number of our London friends came, bringing a variety of gifts, from a pound in money, groceries, eggs, to salad, fruit, and flowers. During the evening we were able to sell all the goods, so that we shall be able to add a substantial amount to our contribution to the Birthday Fund, and more than double our promised amount. Unfortunately, Miss Cicely Hamilton was indisposed, and not able to speak for us; but we had Miss Underwood and Mrs. Tanner. Miss Underwood thanked her audience for their cordial welcome, and said how glad she was to be back at the office again. Though the work might be hard and difficult, the life of the general secretary of the W.F.L. was anything but dull. In a recent tilt with the Press she had been styled a "fierce and fearless super-female." Miss Underwood then reminded us of the many things which still remained for us to do. The Government in spite of its promises at the last General Election, had not yet given women the franchise on equal terms with men. Although we have on the Statute Book an Act for the removal of sex disqualifications, women are still being penalised with regard to opportunities for training and admission to responsible posts. Mrs. Tanner followed with a series of extracts taken recently from the Press, showing the peculiar light in which many people still regarded women. Our two speakers left us in no doubt that there was still more than sufficient work for us all to do on behalf of women. During the evening, Mrs. Sparrow and Mrs. Cunningham contributed delightful music and songs, and Mrs. Westrup gave interesting delineations by Numerology. A very hearty vote of thanks to our generous and genial hostess ended the proceedings. We also have to thank Mrs. J. R. Knight for presiding at (and contributions to) the dainty tea. Our thanks are also due to many other willing helpers. Will those who were unable to be present, and who so kindly sent contributions, be good enough to accept this as an acknowledgment of, and thanks for, their gifts, and in this way save postage? (Hon. Sec.) C. M. SPARKMAN.

## PORTSMOUTH.

The Portsmouth branch of the Women's Freedom League held its annual meeting on Wednesday afternoon, last week, in the Committee Room, 2, Kent Road, Southsea. There was a good attendance. The report showed that the year had been one of steady effort and considerable progress. Among the many activities the monthly public meetings were the most successful, and perhaps the most appreciated, not only by the members, but by the public. The social side was catered for by whist drives and social evenings, which were also a means of raising funds. Bills affecting women and children in the House of Commons had been carefully watched, and resolutions on these sent to the heads of the Government and to local M.P.s. Interest had also been taken in the local government of Portsmouth. The report showed an increase of membership during the year, and the financial statement revealed a small balance in hand. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Speck were re-elected hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

## HASTINGS.

A very successful meeting was held at the Corner House, Claremont, last Friday evening, when a Model Election was held. The room was filled to overflowing, and this first meeting after the summer holidays was pronounced a great success. Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., of the Proportional Representation Society, Councillor A. Blackman, and Councillor J. Macdougall made excellent speeches in favour of the various political parties. Councillor Blackman secured the most votes, Councillor Macdougall coming second on the list. The Rev. S. H. Wing, who came over from Rye, made an excellent Chairman. Three new members were made, and a very satisfactory collection covered the expenses of the meeting.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. E. C. WALLACE, 81, Southwater Road, St. Leonards.

## IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

Readers of THE VOTE are urged to support the following Public Meetings:—

Thursday, October 19th, 8 p.m., at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to promote the return of suitable women to London Borough Councils. Convened by the Women's Local Government Society. Speakers: The Lady Emmott, J.P., the Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby Dickinson, J.P., Dame Louise Samuel (Chelsea Borough Council), Mrs. La Chard (Lambeth), Miss C. Keeling (Kensington). Chairman: Miss Bertha Mason. Admission free; reserved seats, 1/- and 6d.

Wednesday, November 8th, 8 p.m., at Central Hall, Westminster. Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women. Convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Speakers: Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Daisy Richardson (National Union of General Workers). Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. Admission free; tickets (numbered and reserved), 5/-. 2/6. 1/-. to be obtained at our Office.

## IN SYMPATHY.

Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League offer their deepest sympathy to our old members, Miss Ada and Miss Elsie Mitchell, on the death of their mother, who passed away in her sleep last Sunday morning.



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## EDUCATIONAL.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 15th, 3 15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer.—6 30. Miss Maude Royden.

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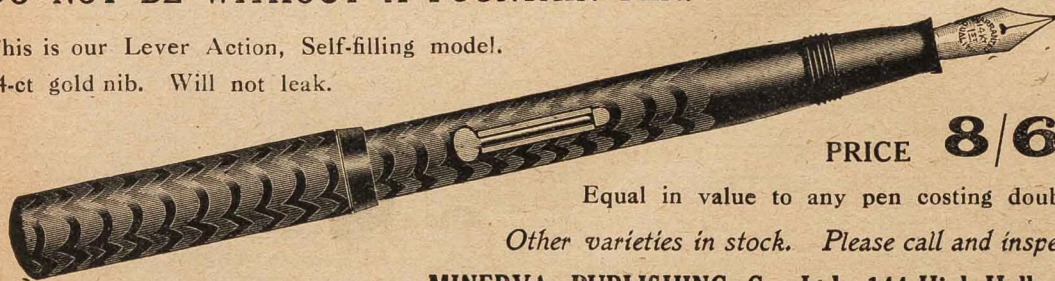
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