

THE VOTE,
MARCH 3, 1922
ONE PENNY.

110 POLICE WOMEN PATROLS=25 MOUNTED MEN!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MAR. 3, 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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POLICE WOMEN PATROLS AND THE GEDDES REPORT.

PROTEST MEETING AGAINST DISBANDMENT.

Representatives of 44 women's societies, including the Women's Freedom League, met in the Women's Institute, Victoria Street, S.W., last week, at a Meeting, convened by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, to protest against the recommendation of the Geddes Committee that the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols should be disbanded. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., was in the Chair.

Letters of regret at inability to attend were read from Lady Astor, M.P., who urged that a great protest campaign should be started all over the country, and from Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., who promised to ventilate the subject, both in the House and on public platforms.

Mrs. George Morgan moved the following resolution:—

"This Meeting, representing 44 Societies, views with dismay the proposal to disband the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols. It urges that, in the interests of true economy, their services should be retained, since statistics incontestably prove that the activities of the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols have materially reduced the number of convictions which come before the Courts, this saving considerable public expense. Were the force sworn in as Constables its greater authority would undoubtedly increase this saving. This Meeting, therefore, urges the retention of the women police as a true economy."

The House of Commons, Mrs. Morgan said, had estimated the cost of the Women Police at £27,000, but a part of this cost would still continue though the women police were disbanded, so that certain deductions were necessary. The Women's Section of the London Training Headquarters would still remain, and would probably be handed over to the men's use, so that heating and lighting expenses would go on as before. Certain offices, such as searching women prisoners, or escorting them on journeys, or tending cases of attempted suicide, would still have to be performed by women, in deference to public

opinion. Such services would require to be paid for at a much higher rate than when they formed part of a police woman's ordinary duties. Last year 322 women prisoners were escorted by police women to various destinations, and 1,089 had been searched. Such offices, therefore, were no sinecure. In addition to these running expenses, the waste of uniforms would also have to be deducted from the estimated £27,000.

The Geddes Committee had reported the utility of the women police as "negligible," in spite of the fact that during the last three years no fewer than 49,813 cases had passed through the hands of the women police. Of these, 2,712 girls and women were placed in voluntary homes, provided by voluntary money, apart from the State, who would otherwise have come upon the rates, or passed in and out of prison; and 6,465 were helped to lead a new life. Such work represented actual saving of money to the nation, and should be reckoned as assets. True economy looked at both sides of a balance sheet, not one only.

The cost of the maintenance of Women Patrols would be largely decreased if they were sworn in in the same way as men Constables, and given full powers of arrest. The arrangements for the women's uniforms, too, should be placed in charge of a responsible woman, not in charge of men, as at present. The disbandment of the Metropolitan women patrols would mean the disappearance of police women in the provinces, for each municipal body would say at once, "If London can do without police women so can we." Such an abolition would be an entirely retrograde step.

Mrs. Carden, who seconded the Resolution, said the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols had now been in existence for over three years, and they had worked everywhere without a hitch, either amongst themselves, or amongst the men police. An ever-increasing volume of good work had been placed to their credit, and Sir John Baird's recent Committee on the Employment of Police Women had publicly testified to their value. Yet the women police were now being condemned entirely unheard. "The evidence submitted," in the words of

the Geddes Report, was men's evidence only; no woman had either been called by, or had appeared, before the Geddes Committee. It was impossible to estimate the value of the preventive work carried out by the women patrols, when dealing with child outrage cases, and observation work in parks and open spaces, which was a great preventive of this particular crime. Women Police were an economy, not only in the present generation, but in the future welfare of the race.

Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, LL.D., D.Sc., in support of the Resolution, said London could not afford to dispense with its women police, as this would result, not only in an increase of offences, but in an increase of inmates in hospitals, workhouses and prisons. The cost of the Metropolitan women patrols was the same as the cost of 25 mounted police, and of these there were between three and four hundred in the Metropolis, so that 25, if not more, could surely be spared. Sir Nevil Macready had promised that women police should be sworn in and given the same powers as constables, and when this came to pass he said he would be quite willing to place the whole question of solicitation in the hands of the women police, which would effect an enormous economy in the personnel of the police force. Most police stations, too, kept a man in reserve, who could equally well be replaced by a woman, especially as she would also be available for the care of women prisoners, thus effecting another economy.

Other speakers in support of the Resolution were Lady Aberdeen, Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C.C., J.P., and Inspector Goldingham (Women's Auxiliary Service). At the close of the Meeting the Resolution was put to the audience and carried unanimously.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Women and Theatre Management.

The only woman stage manager in the West End at present is Miss Poppy Lytton, who is responsible for "Mixed Marriage," now running successfully at the Ambassadors. She is now at work on another production, "The Riders to the Sea." Miss Sara Allgood is the woman producer for the Irish Players. Should an Irish National Theatre be set up eventually in the Irish Free State, it is possible Miss Allgood may be asked to become its stage director and producer.

Woman Wins Ploughing Prize.

The second prize in the plough class at the annual ploughing match, under the auspices of the Bovera and Roe Valley Farming Association, County Derry, was won by a woman, Miss J. Quigley, who handled her brother's team very skilfully. Miss Quigley secured third prize for well-groomed horses, and was presented with a special prize of £1.

Enterprising Burmese Woman.

Dr. Ma Saw Sa is the first Burmese woman to win a fellowship at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Dublin, and the first to be appointed to a Burmese institution, as superintendent of the Dufferin Hospital at Rangoon. Dr. Ma Saw Sa is also the first Burmese woman to take a trip round the world.

An Important Decision.

The Supreme Court has declared the Woman Suffrage (or Nineteenth) Amendment to the Constitution to be constitutional. This decision was given in a case brought by Mr. Lesser, of Maryland, to test the legality of the Amendment.

Mothers' Pensions in Jamaica.

Legislation is to be introduced by the Government of Jamaica this year to provide relief for women with children who are in needy circumstances, and whose male dependents have either died, or have deserted them by taking up their abode in other lands.

Dutchwomen to be Judges.

By 41 votes to 36 the Dutch Second Chamber has passed a Bill enabling women to become Judges in the Dutch Courts.

WOMEN IN THE PRIESTHOOD.

On Monday evening, in the Minerva Café, the Rev. Constance Coltman, B.A., B.D., gave a very interesting address on "Women's Vocation for the Priesthood." Prophets, she said, had always appeared at intervals in the world's history. This was essentially a vocation in which human beings, both men and women, were chosen directly by God. Priests, on the other hand, were men or women who were the chosen representatives of their fellow men. In heathen times women priestesses were probably in existence before men priests, since the Matriarchate extended into religious life, and during the first four centuries of the Christian era women undoubtedly exercised priestly functions as Presbyters. After women were removed from this office all references to their sacramental authority were deliberately effaced from the ecclesiastical records, so that it was difficult to reconstruct their actual position. It was an historical fact that the Presiding Presbyter, or Bishop, was not allowed to administer the Sacrament except with the assistance of the Bench of Elders, which consisted of women as well as men. The increasing paganism of the Church, and certain ceremonial ideas of uncleanness which crept in at that era, was the chief cause for ousting women from priestly functions. The prohibitions subsequently issued, however, conclusively proved that such functions had previously been exercised by women. The Reformation, though a movement in the direction of more liberty, also tended to keep women in subjection, even the women of the Teutonic races, who had always enjoyed more liberty than the women of the Latin countries.

Women were now demanding re-entrance into the Churches. Miss Royden had proved herself a true prophet, for it was her pioneer work which had made articulate this modern demand. The question of women deaconesses was now being actively discussed both in the Russian and Anglican Churches, whilst women preachers were making themselves heard in France, Italy, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and America. This movement, which would have been absolutely unthinkable half a dozen years ago, was the crown and culmination of women's emancipation. Unless women were recognised as the spiritual equals of men, their equality in social or political life would be of little avail. The entrance of women into a fuller religious life would mean a newer and truer interpretation of theology. The prevailing conceptions of God to-day were essentially masculine. Women, however, would need to come forward in much greater numbers before their influence on ecclesiastical matters became a force to be reckoned with. They would need to pour into this final reform all the passion and devotion which they had lavished upon winning the suffrage. Women did not seem to realise that the doors of the Churches were already beginning to open. It was now quite possible for women members of the Anglican Church to earn a living in theology, whilst waiting for wider opportunities to present themselves, whilst in the Free Churches, in theory at any rate, the barriers of admission were down. The Congregational and Baptist theological training colleges admitted women on the same terms as men, and women were now in training there. The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches had also affirmed the principle of equality between the sexes.

Miss Gibson acted most ably as Chairman, and a good discussion followed the speaker's address.

The Feminist League.

MISS ABADAM

will Lecture at the

Upper Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, Regent Street, (Oxford Circus Buses and Tube), at 6.30 p.m. (Music at 6), on Tuesday, Mar. 7. Symbols and their Testimony. Do Artists portray outside their Consciousness?
 14. Secrets of Secret Societies—Exclusion of Women.
 21. Order of Vestal Virgins and Sybils—Reasons of their Power and Knowledge.
 28. Danger of Intellect without Intuition.
 Monday, April 3. Duality. "What was the 'Original Sin'?"
 10. Purity. "Be ye Perfect." Likeness to the Divine.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME. ADMISSION FREE. Collection for Expenses.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise in Palestine.

In reply to an enquiry made by COL. WEDGWOOD in regard to the new Palestinian Constitution, MR. CHURCHILL said that the proposal was to enfranchise all male Palestinians of the age of 25 years and over, unless otherwise disqualified. Assuming that there were 300,000 males of all ages in Palestine, it might perhaps be estimated that about half that number would be entitled to a primary vote. MR. W. THORNE asked if there was any question of giving the women the vote, to which MR. CHURCHILL replied that things must be done gradually in regard to the Holy Land! To a further question by COL. WEDGWOOD as to whether there was any educational test for voters, MR. CHURCHILL replied in the negative.

Money Order Department (Women).

In reply to questions put by VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, MR. KELLAWAY said that the percentage of women employed in the money order department of the General Post Office was rather more than 96 per cent. A new Controller had recently been appointed, who was considered to be the best qualified officer for the post. There was no woman in the Post Office who possessed in full the necessary qualifications, and the absence of Post Office experience would have been a disqualification for women from other departments. The question of extending the scope of employment of women in the higher accounting duties of the Post Office was one which would be borne in mind as opportunities occurred.

Re-grading (Women).

MAJOR HILLS asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the revised re-grading schemes were yet in operation in any Departments employing permanent women above the typist grade; and, if so, in which Departments? SIR ROBERT HORNE replied that the revised re-grading schemes prepared in accordance with the Re-organisation Report were not yet in operation, whether for men or women.

Women (Administrative Rank).

LORD ROBERT CECIL asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether any woman establishment officers of administrative rank had yet been appointed, as indicated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 5th August, 1921; and, if not, whether, seeing that the appointments were required in order to safeguard the position of women under the re-grading schemes which were now under consideration, such appointments would be made without further delay? MR. YOUNG replied that no women establishment officers of administrative rank had yet been appointed; but the Treasury was now in communication with Departments where an appointment was contemplated with a view to the early appointment of such officers, and it would be possible to say shortly how many posts for women would be required. They would be filled either by departmental promotion or by limited competition.

Treatment of Children (Hong Kong).

MR. J. WILSON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he had any information as to whether no money payment of any kind was made to the *mui tsai* of Hong Kong by their masters and mistresses, either by way of weekly wage or a periodical lump sum? MR. CHURCHILL said that, as far as he was aware, no such payments were made.

Women Cleaners.

MR. BRIANT asked the Minister of Labour if his attention had been called to the hardship inflicted on the women cleaners who had been recently discharged from Government offices, by reason of the decision of a court of law that they were not eligible for the unemployment grant; and if, in view of the fact that they and the Government believed that they were covered by the Unemployment Act, he would introduce a Bill to bring them within the benefits of the Act? DR. MACNAMARA said he was aware that as a result of the recent decision of the High Court women cleaners in Government and other offices were not insured against unemployment, and were no longer entitled to unem-

ployment benefit when discharged. Any such person who had paid more in contributions than she had received in benefit might apply for refund of balance. He was not prepared to introduce legislation in this matter. In reply to a further question, DR. MACNAMARA made it clear that school caretakers (men or women), although originally regarded as insurable, were under the same decision held not to be insurable and no benefit was payable in respect of employment in that capacity.

Maintenance Orders (Canada).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether reciprocal arrangements had been made with the Dominion of Canada for the enforcement of maintenance orders under the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920; and, if not, whether steps were being taken to make such reciprocal arrangements? MR. CHURCHILL said it was necessary for reciprocal legislation to be passed in Canada before maintenance orders under the Act referred to could be enforced in any part of the Dominion. He understood that the matter was under the consideration of several of the Provincial Governments, but he was not aware that the necessary legislation had yet been passed in any of the Provinces. MR. MILLS asked if the Right Hon. Gentleman was aware that in every section of the British Empire there were outstanding cases of hardship inflicted on women who had been deserted? No answer was given.

Education (School Age).

MR. FISHER, replying to questions by MR. T. THOMSON and MR. BRIANT, said that the number of children under six years of age on the registers of Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales on 31st March, 1920—the latest date for which figures were available—was 738,148, but owing to the decline in the number of births in 1917, 1918, and 1919, the number of those children might be expected to decline in the ordinary course to 650,000. It was possible that the complete exclusion of that number of children might enable Local Education Authorities to dispense with some 12,000 teachers. On the basis of these figures the Board had estimated that, in respect of a financial year in the whole of which no children under the age of six attended school and in the whole of which the number of teachers was reduced by 12,000, the saving to the Exchequer might amount to £1,938,000, though in the first full year only 90 per cent. of this, or £1,785,000 would be realised. That estimate was naturally conjectural, and it could not be assumed that it would be at all applicable to the year 1922-23 if legislation were introduced to exclude children under six. Any saving from that source in 1922-23 would depend both upon the force of legislation and upon the date on which it became effective.

Elementary School Classes.

MR. FISHER, replying to a question by VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, said that the total number of classes in public elementary schools in England and Wales for the year ended the 31st March, 1920, was 150,559. Of these—

39,039	contained	40-49	pupils.
31,204	"	50-59	"
6,970	"	60 or more	pupils.

F. A. U.

OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

- "The Work for Women M.Ps.," by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. ... 3d.
 - "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. 3d.
 - "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
 - "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
 - "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
- CAMEO LIFE SKETCHES.
- "Dr. Elsie Inglis," by Dr. Aimée Gibbs ... 4d.
 - "Josephine Butler," by Marion Holmes ... 3d.
 - "Lydia Becker," " " ... 3d.
 - "Frances Mary Buss," " " ... 3d.

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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.

WOMEN PATROLS AND ECONOMY.

Last week the Home Secretary stated in the House of Commons that the disbandment of the Metropolitan Women Patrols had been recommended by the Committee on National Expenditure, and the recommendation was one which he felt bound to carry out. It had previously been stated that their cost was approximately £27,000 per annum. In an article appearing in the *Times* last Saturday it was pointed out that Sir Nevil Macready sanctioned a total number of 113 women patrols to form a separate division in 1918, and at present they were 20 under strength. When the Police Pensions' Bill was passed last September the women patrols were included in it, and they immediately paid their rateable deductions and all arrears under the terms of the Bill, which made their service pensionable from date of commencement. All these women, therefore, will be entitled to two-thirds of their salary as pensions since they are not being dismissed for misdemeanor. Their ranks consist of a superintendent, chief inspector, two inspectors, nine sergeants, and usually one hundred rank and file. As the minimum rate of pay for rank and file is £3 a week, for sergeants £4 10s., and for higher ranks *pro rata*, they will retire at an early age on quite a nice annuity. We do not see any national economy or common sense in this arrangement. There is a police rule that women alleged criminals wanted in any particular place, and discovered in another, can only be taken to the place where they are wanted by a male constable chaperoned by a woman, and during the last year women patrols have acted as chaperons in 2,000 such cases. The same rule applies to a constable accompanying a woman alien to the port of embarkation for deportation. When the women patrols are disbanded other women will have to be called in and paid for their services. There are still police stations where there are no police matrons, and when accused women are searched it is the custom for women patrols to do the searching. We presume that other women will now have to be paid to do this work. Women patrols have acted with the C.I.D. in watching the cocaine traffic, and they have been particularly successful in discovering distributors of cocaine and other drugs. The work of women police would certainly be more valuable if they had the power of arrest, and an equal power and status with the ordinary police of all ranks; but even with their very limited powers, which do not include that of arrest, the women patrols have done a great deal of preventive work, and last year they are said to have been responsible for 1,131 young girls being sent to voluntary agencies who might have been sent to work-houses and prisons. Their attention is not limited to young girls; a few words from them have frequently persuaded young men to keep out of further mischief. The Women's Freedom League is convinced of the necessity of women police with full powers of arrest, on a complete equality of status and pay with men police; but in the meantime we recognize the excellent work with limited powers effected by women patrols, and we are of opinion that their dismissal under present circumstances will result in a contribution not to national economy but to our national loss.

PRACTICAL POLITICS.

We keenly appreciate the continued work of our friends in the House of Commons on behalf of the equal franchise of women with men. Mr. G. Barker last week enquired if the Government would bring in a Bill this Session to enable women to vote at the same age, and under the same qualifications as men, but was referred by Mr. Chamberlain to the Prime Minister's previous reply to a similar question, to the effect that it would not be wise to re-open the franchise question at the present time. When the new Constitution for Palestine was referred to, Mr. Will Thorne asked if women would have a vote under it. Was it the wisdom of the serpent which prompted Mr. Churchill to reply that things must be done gradually in the Holy Land? This week Lord Robert Cecil is introducing into the House of Commons a simple franchise measure to extend the suffrage to women on the same terms as to men. We sincerely hope that he may be able to secure a Division on the subject so as to show the Government what support there is for such a measure. Another Bill "to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1918," was introduced early last week by Mr. Walter Smith, and supported by the Labour Party, and is due to have its Second Reading next Monday. The Bill has for its object the conferring of the franchise on women at the age of twenty-one, and also assimilates the parliamentary and local government franchises by abolishing the occupational qualification, and the qualification of women as the wives of local government electors, and places the whole franchise for both sexes (other than University electors) on a similar basis of residence. The Government has the chance either of adopting one of these measures or itself framing a simple franchise Bill to give votes to women at the same age and on the same terms as men, which is now certainly a question of practical politics.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN AND RELIEF.

We are glad to see that the General Council of the Trades Union Congress has arranged a National Conference of Unemployed Women, to be held at the St. George's (Y.M.C.A.) Hall, Tottenham Court Road, Monday, March 6th. Miss Margaret Bondfield will preside, and the speakers will be unemployed women representing all the different trades and professions in which unemployment is prevalent. A deputation will be appointed to place their case before the Prime Minister, and to bring back his reply to the Conference. According to the statement made on behalf of the Government in the House of Commons last week, there are at present in training under the scheme for the training of women in homecrafts and allied subjects established by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, which is assisted by the Government, 2,568 women, the number of courses in operation being 61. On 31st January, 110,628 women, and in addition 11,295 girls were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working. No record is available of women and girls working short time in such a manner as not to entitle them to obtain unemployment benefit. There are no other schemes specially directed to the relief of unemployment among women. 310,368 women and 24,196 girls were drawing benefit in respect of total unemployment on January 31st; but we submit that these figures by no means represent the total number of unemployed women in the country. We have to remember also, that there is a limit to the time during which they are entitled to benefit. Far too little attention has been paid by the Government, the local authorities, the public and the Press to the plight of the hundreds of thousands of workless women in Great Britain, and we sincerely hope that the Conference arranged for next Monday will succeed in making this question one of paramount importance.

THE SPINSTER OF TO-DAY AND A CENTURY AGO.

A large audience of both sexes assembled at the Minerva Café to hear Councillor Margaret Hodge discourse upon this subject on Wednesday of last week. As the speaker was a spinster, a married woman, Mrs. Flowers, took the Chair, so that the views of celibacy enunciated by the lecturer might not be wholly one-sided. Miss Hodge spoke of the extraordinary change that had come over public opinion on the subject of married and unmarried women during the last hundred years, and more especially since the outbreak of the last great war. In the 18th century every unmarried woman was regarded as a failure—unless, indeed, she was a genius—even then, she was supposed to have missed her vocation. Mary Wollstonecraft lamented in her "Rights of Women" the parasitic position of her sisters, who, except in a few cases, had presented to them the choice between starvation, and dependence upon any husband who might offer himself. Wilberforce, during the Napoleonic Wars, which were robbing the nation of so many of its young men, rejoiced to think that the rapidly-growing army of spinsters could find congenial and useful work in district visiting. Preachers openly advertised piety as a road to matrimony, because it improved both face and figure, but their remarks were entirely addressed to the feminine portion of their congregations. Typical examples of that anomalous creature the elderly spinster were cited from the works of Fielding and Smollett, and Dickens and Thackeray were shown to have risen very little superior to the current public opinion of their time. Charlotte Brontë's comprehension of woman's unfair handicap in the world rivalry for wealth and recognition was brought out by quotations from "Shirley," and also the faith of the authoress in the potentialities of her own sex. With improved education, physical, moral and intellectual, woman has begun to take her real place as a world worker. The lecturer attacked the ignorant folly of the past, which utterly underrated the capacity of the single woman to deal with children, and con-

trasted it with the opposite swing of the pendulum of public opinion, which led Councils to prefer spinsters as teachers in their schools, and as medical officers at maternity welfare centres. Indeed, some Councillors had been heard to maintain that many spinsters have more of the motherly instinct than real physical mothers, and that single teachers are more like actual mothers to their pupils than those who have given them birth. Miss Hodge concluded her lecture by taking instances from modern novels, such as those of Mary Cholmondeley, Hugh Walpole, Rose Macaulay and others, showing how, during the last few decades, women had gained independence for themselves by becoming valuable assets among the nation's workers, and how they had learnt also the value of friendship with members of their own sex as one of the best safeguards against the terrors of a lonely life.

In "Red Pottage," the first of these writers plainly shows in the devotion of Rachel for Hester, what happiness can spring from such friendships, and Rose Macaulay in "Dangerous Ages" makes the only member of a neurotic, egotistical family find complete satisfaction in her social work because it is in partnership with a congenial woman friend. In spite of the ridicule of Thackeray, who speaks of girlish friendship as the small change which is squandered by school girls before they arrive at the capital expenditure of the love of their lives—a love of course of a member of the other sex—and the biting contempt of Rhoda Broughton's "Dear Faustina," these friendships have come to stay. In modern times, we can find many feminine counterparts of Damon and Pythias, or Orestes and Pylades.

Women, active in every kind of work, professional, artistic, philanthropic or scientific are rapidly proving to a world, long the slave of epigrams, the absolute falseness of Byron's dictum:—

Man's love is from man's life a thing apart,
'Tis woman's whole existence.

WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS.

The number of fully qualified women accountants is not large at present, partly because the "apprenticeship" and training for such a career is a long one—five years—and partly because it is only comparatively lately that the leading Societies representing this profession have agreed to admit women on the same terms as men.

These Societies are three in number: the Institute of Chartered Accountants, which has one woman member, Miss Harris Smith, well-known as a pioneer amongst women accountants, and the first in public practice, whilst twenty-three women are at present in training for its final Examinations; the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, which possesses four women members—Miss M. E. Moore, Miss Mabel Claridge, Miss May Ricketts, and Miss D. M. Springett; and the London Association of Accountants, with thirty-five members. Mrs. Ayres Purdie, so well known to members of the Women's Freedom League, is a member of this Association, as well as being another pioneer woman accountant of earlier days.

The London Association of Accountants was the first to open its doors to women, which it did as long ago as 1905. The Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors made the change towards the end of 1918, when power was taken by the Society, by resolutions of the Members in General Meeting, to admit women on the same terms and conditions as men, these recommendations being sanctioned by the High Court of Justice and the Board of Trade. This action was taken before the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act was put on the Statute Book.

Admission to this Society is only by examination after a five years' practical training in the Accountancy Profession, either by service under Articles, or under special Bye-laws relating to Accountants' Clerks having specified experience in the profession, but not serving under Articles. The Examinations are three in number: the Preliminary, the subjects for which include English, one foreign language, and Mathematics; the Intermediate, comprising book-keeping, accounts, and general commercial knowledge; and the Final, which deals with advanced accountancy, costing accounts, auditing, and the general duties of Professional Accountants, statistical methods, laws relating to Joint Stock Companies, Bankruptcy, Mercantile Law, and Partnerships, etc., general knowledge in regard to Commerce and Finance, and Elementary Economics. The Institute of Chartered Accountants opened its doors to women in 1920.

Miss M. E. Moore, A.S.A.A., of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, is the only University woman so far who has passed the final Examinations. She occupies a somewhat unique position in the world of accountancy. She shares an office at Alderman's House, Alderman's Walk, Bishopsgate, E.C. 2, with a well-known City firm of Accountants, and co-operates part of her time in the firm's business. In addition, she maintains an entirely private practice of her own. The names of many well-known women's societies are on her books, as well as that of a leading woman's weekly paper, and a successful lady doctor.

MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK.

One of the best debates yet arranged by the St. Albans Debating Society was a recent one on the subject, "Should women cease to be employed when married?" which was discussed, at the Public Library, under the chairmanship of Councillor F. W. Dunham.

The opener in the affirmative was Mr. C. Morris, who stated at the outset that he knew, in taking the stand he did, he would be "treading on corns," but he was old-fashioned to the extent of believing that a married woman's chief concern should be the home. Could a married woman and a mother do justice to her home and her employer as well? He concluded that a woman who left her children all day to the care of others should be ashamed of herself. If the principle that married women should compete with men in the industrial world were accepted, it meant defeat of the real purpose of marriage—the creation of the family and the continuance of the race. It might be argued: Should a woman spend time and money on training for a career, and then throw it away because she married? But what was a career, in any case? Was it more important and greater than motherhood? If so, why marry at all? Did no man give up a career for marriage? Millions had done so for the sake of their families. We condemned the man who neglected the home for gaining wealth and fame. Should we not condemn the woman also? Five million men had risked their lives for this country in the war. Many of these were now besieging the Labour Exchanges. Accepting the principle that the married women must stay in employment, these men must starve, for women could and would work for less than men could accept.

Miss Helena Normanton, of the Women's Freedom League, spoke in the negative. She said married women had always been in industry. It was only when the industrial era of the nineteenth century began, and the sudden access of wealth arrived to the middle classes, that the idle woman was created. She declared that she knew of few definitely unhappy homes caused by the wife going to work, and she knew of many women in professional and business life who were better able to run a home than many women who stayed in their own houses. Was that dear, nice, futile type, of which the opener had spoken, going to help a nation beaten to its knees economically? If half the population were kept at home out of work, would not that decrease the demand for goods, and so lessen the amount of goods made? By forcing half the nation to be idle, they would only add to the national stagnation. She was all for an enormous amount of individual liberty. At present we scarcely knew where we were: there was so much intolerable interference with the liberty of everyone. If women wanted to work, or were obliged to work, it did not necessarily hurt anyone else. If the married woman were to be barred, why not also the man with private means? If the nation wanted prosperity and happiness, it must liberate women so that they led a full life, and not a restricted one.

The discussion that followed was notable for its high standard, and the number of women members and visitors who contributed thoughtful speeches. The negative side won the Debate by 13 votes.

MODEL ELECTION AT EDINBURGH.

A model election was held in the New Gallery, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, recently, under the auspices of the Society for Equal Citizenship and the Women's Freedom League. No stormy scenes marked the contest, in which five ladies took part for three seats, and which was carried through on the Proportional Representation basis. The candidates addressed the electors first, under the chairmanship of Mr. John Stewart, O.B.E., S.S.C., the Executive Officer of Edinburgh Education Authority, who acted as returning officer. Miss Ashley (Labour), who led off, launched her chief attack on the Government on the question of unemployment, with which she said they were tinkering. The party she stood for would tackle the question in a business-like way. Mrs. Bruce (Liberal) followed, and in her enthusiastic advocacy of her principles overstepped the ten minutes' limit imposed. There was quite a touch of the ordinary political warfare in the dissent expressed when she said that the Liberal party had shown itself pre-eminently the party for women. Miss M. G. Cowan (Coalition Unionist) made a lively and vigorous speech, and warned the electors that though she would not call the grey colour of to-day white, it would be black if they returned some of the opposing candidates. She claimed that the Coalition had founded a new atmosphere in international politics, and lauded their record at home. Miss Jacob (Communist), on rising to speak, gave the audience an immediate assurance that she had no bombs in her pockets. The Communists, she said, were opposed to violence in any form. Their position was that the capitalist system was on the decline, and they wanted a change, not by gun and bomb revolution, but through the education of the people. Miss L. Mitchell (Independent) condemned the party system, and pleaded that her return to Westminster would be a nail in its coffin. We were, she said, entering a new age, and they must have new methods. In the election there were 137 voters, the quota was 35, and the result was as follows:—Miss Jacob, 48; Miss Cowan, 39; Miss Mitchell, 38; Mrs. Bruce, 6; and Miss Ashley, 6. There were in the audience many, including representatives of County Authorities, who desired to see "P.R." in operation, but as each of the successful candidates received the quota straightaway, the demonstration was not so informative as was desired. Mr. Stewart explained the system, and suggested that the mock election experiment might be repeated.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Middlesbrough Town Council.

A new Borough Accountant has been appointed in Middlesbrough. Apparently, he prefers all male employees, and the four women clerks now working in the office are to be dismissed. Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., has protested against this, both on the Finance Committee and in the Press; and the matter is to be further discussed by the Council. Mrs. Coates also forced Proportional Representation to a Vote at the General Purposes and Parliamentary Committee, and at the Council meeting; but it was lost each time by only a few votes. We are glad to note that the salary of the matron of the Maternity Hospital has been saved from reduction.

Middlesex Education Committee.

At the monthly meeting of the Middlesex Education Committee held last week, the Higher Education Committee recommended in its report that the extra payment to teachers holding posts of special responsibility should be £25 for men and £20 for women, payment to commence as from September 1st next. The recommendation was agreed to. "To him that hath shall be given," for it is notorious that men teachers of every grade always get higher salaries than women.

Mr. Fisher and Teachers' Salaries.

Speaking at Birmingham last week, Mr. Fisher, Minister of Education, said: "The Government will preserve its engagements with the teachers, for that is a matter of public faith. Nor must we so economise as to destroy the permanent fabric of education, or to preclude a further advance when the hour sounds."

Ladies on Grand Jury.

Mr. Justice Coleridge, in welcoming the Countess of Onslow, Lady Farrer, and Lady Elizabeth Balfour, who were on the grand jury at the Surrey Assizes last week, said: "I am quite satisfied that the administration of justice will not suffer any harm but will be strengthened by ladies on the grand jury."

Economy on Lords' and Commons' Meals.

The first Report from the Select Committee on the House of Lords Offices was issued last week. It is stated that the Treasury propose to discontinue the annual grant of £500 in aid of the refreshment room in the House of Lords, as well as that in aid of the refreshment room in the House of Commons. In view of the general financial situation the Committee decided that no objection could be taken to the action of the Treasury, and referred the whole subject of catering for the House of Lords to their Refreshment Committee, consisting of the Lord Great Chamberlain, Lord Muir Mackenzie, and Lord Lambourne, together with the Clerk of the Parliament. With all this talent available we should think that it ought to be possible for the House of Lords Refreshment Room to pay its way.

Women and Income Tax Queries.

In reply to inquiries made by the Women's Freedom League, Mrs. Ayres Purdie says that by the 1920-21 enactments the allowance made to a widower in respect of a person engaged in looking after his children applies equally to a widow. In either case the person so engaged must be a female relative of the widow or widower; the allowance does not extend to non-relatives so engaged. If, however, the female relative referred to happens to be a married woman the allowance is not given.

What Mr. Lloyd George said.

On the eve of the last General Election a crowded women's meeting was held at Queen's Hall, presided over by Mrs. Fawcett, and addressed by Mr. Lloyd George. Earlier in the year the majority of women over thirty years of age had secured the parliamentary vote. Mr. Lloyd George reminded them that on the votes they gave then would their future depend. He said:—"It is fortunate for women that they have votes for this election—and I will tell you why. No election ever held was so charged with the fate of women as this election. Comfort, sanitation, the plenty of their homes, will be settled at this election. The health and lives of their children will be decided at this election. Their own health and lives, the whole status of the womanhood of this country will be decided largely by the election which takes place within the next few days." We wonder what his message to women will be on the eve of the next General Election?

BELFAST'S WOMAN BARRISTER AT WORK.

Miss Kyle, Belfast's woman barrister, appeared in the Recorder's Court, Dublin, recently, when his Honour Judge Thomson took up the hearing of an ejectment bill on the title brought by Thomas Rea, by power of attorney granted to William Alexander, against William Wallace, to recover possession of a farm of land containing 7a. 2p., situate at Carmavey, in the neighbourhood of Cartmonev.

Mr. W. M. Whitaker, K.C., with whom was Miss Kyle (instructed by Messrs. Peden and Reid) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. Megaw, K.C., M.P., and Mr. G. B. Hanna, M.P. (instructed by Messrs. Bigger & Strahan) represented the defendant.

His Honour welcomed Miss Kyle to his court, and said he hoped he would often have the pleasure of seeing her before him. Captain Lyle, agent to Clarke estate, was examined with reference to the history of the holding by Miss Kyle, and cross-examined by Mr. G. B. Hanna, M.P.

The case was adjourned.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

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

Monday, March 6, at 6.30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "My Experiences as an Election Agent."

Monday, March 13, at 6.30 p.m.—All Women's Freedom League members are invited to a meeting to discuss the Resolutions for our Conference, at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, March 18, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, March 20, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mr. E. Leslie Burgin, LL.D. Subject: "The Interests of Women Electors."

Monday, March 27, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker and Subject to be announced later.

Friday, April 28, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.—Annual Conference.

Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

PROVINCES.

Monday, March 6, at 8 p.m.—Southend-on-Sea and District.—Public Lecture, at Metropolitan Academy of Music, 10, London Road, Southend-on-Sea. Speaker: Councillor A. Bockett. Subject: "Municipal Undertakings."

Wednesday, March 8, at 3.15 p.m.—Portsmouth.—Meeting in the Grand Jury Room, Town Hall. Speaker: Miss C. Smith-Rossie. Subject: "Health." Chair Miss Maynard.

Monday, March 13.—Hastings.—Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn. Subject: "The New Generation."

Monday, March 13, at 7.30.—Bexhill.—At the Sisterhood. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn. Subject: "Mental Hospitals."

Tuesday, March 14.—Hull.—Monthly Meeting in the Metropole Hall, West Street. Speaker: Miss M. Harrison. Subject: "Equality of Work, Opportunities, etc." Refreshments.

Wednesday, March 15, at 7.30 p.m.—Rye.—Member's Meeting. Speech by Mrs. Nevinston, J.P., on "My Experience as a Magistrate."

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

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, March 5th, at 11 a.m.—Ethical Church, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W. Speaker: Mr. Laurence Housman. Subject: "Living Sacraments." 6.30 p.m. "Departmental Morality."

Sunday, March 5, at 11 a.m.—Greville Place, Congregational Church, Maida Vale. Preacher: Rev. Constance Coltman, B.A.B.D.

Friday, March 17, at 6 p.m.—39 Brunswick Place, Brighton. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Nasal Hygiene as an essential factor of Health."

VOTES FOR IRISH WOMEN.

The following Bill was distributed by the Joint Women's Societies, demanding equal suffrage, to the delegates of the Ard Fheis at the Mansion House, Dublin, on February 21st.

Comhthrom dos na Mnáibh.

"The Will of the People." Are Irishwomen under 30 People? British Law says NO! The Republican Proclamation, 1916, says YES! What Does Dail Eireann say? A General Election is at hand. The Will of the Whole Irish Nation MUST be consulted on the Issue. We demand Government by Consent. Women must vote in this Election on same terms as men.

MR. GILL'S SCHEME.

We are delighted to record that eight more members are forwarding their copies of THE VOTE in accordance with the suggestion made by Mr. Gill in the issue of January 13th, 1922.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

A. We offer a prize of a new book for the best original suggestion for a money-making side-show for bazaars, fetes, etc., a special feature being a small outlay.

1.—Suggestions must be accompanied by 6d. in stamps, and THE VOTE Coupon published in the current issue.

2.—Suggestions must be posted to:—Miss J. HARVEY, Combo Croft, Wickford, Essex, on or before March 25th, 1922.

B.

We offer a year's subscription to THE VOTE to the first reader who obtains three new subscribers to THE VOTE for one year. The names and addresses of three new subscribers thus obtained, together with the annual subscriptions, should be forwarded to the Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

COUPON.

March 3, 1922.

"Vote" Prize Competition.

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BRANCH NOTES.

BEXHILL.

A very successful Meeting was held at the Prince's Café, Devonshire Road, on Monday, February 13th. Mr. Holden, in a few well-chosen words, introduced the Speaker—Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.—who (in the words of the local press), gave a very illuminating address on "The Wrecking of Women's Bills." During the last Session of Parliament some of the Bills in which women were interested were passed, but the then most important one had been rejected—the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, and the Bill Concerning the Children of Unmarried Parents.

Miss Morton went on to say that probably part of the trouble was that Members of Parliament were not particularly interested in the Bill. She urged women to see that Members were informed of the views of women electors.

Nine new Members were made, and everyone present said that a very instructive evening had been spent. Miss Elsie Morton is not new to a Bexhill audience. She will be remembered as having spoken on Proportional Representation at the Debate arranged by the Bexhill Debating Society some time ago, when the Society allowed a woman arbitrator to appear on its platform for the first time.

Councillor Edith How Martyn will speak at the Bexhill Sisterhood on Monday, March 13th, at the Victoria Hall, at 7.30. Subject: "Mental Hospitals."

HASTINGS.

Miss Elsie Morton spoke on the Wrecking of Women's Bills at the Club Room, 40, White Rock, on Monday afternoon. Mrs. Strickland presided. After a tea kindly provided by the Committee, the Annual Meeting was held. Miss A. K. Rance presided. The Annual Report was read by Miss White, who also gave a statement of accounts, showing a balance in hand of £5. 3s. 6d. The Committee and Officers were elected as follows: Mrs. Strickland, President; Miss Vicat Cole, Secretary; Miss A. K. Rance, Treasurer. Committee: Miss Helene Osterwen, Mrs. Harman, Mrs. Fordiffe, Mrs. Callow, Mrs. Prelooker, Miss Bentley, Miss Blackman, Mrs. Block Lane, Mrs. Darent Harrison, Miss White, Mrs. Melin and Mrs. O. Connell. The next Meeting will be held at 40, White Rock, when Councillor Edith How Martyn will speak on "The New Generation."

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

LIVERPOOL.

Miss Brimson is working in this district and we are glad to learn that the old interest in the Women's Freedom League is being revived. The Crosby and Waterloo Branch have arranged a meeting at Olive Hall, Waterloo, to emphasise the fact that Women are needed in Parliament! This was to take place yesterday (Thursday) and Mrs. Stewart Brown, the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Division, was to be the chief speaker.

(Organiser: MISS BRIMSON, 4, Rossell Road, Crosby.)

WOMEN PREACHERS.

A series of Special Services will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday evenings during March and April, at the Greville Place Congregational Church, Maida Vale, of which the Revs. Constance and Claud Coltman are joint pastors. Miss Maude Royden will preach at the Service on April 3rd, and the Rev. Constance Coltman, M.A., B.D., on April 10th.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners a la Carte. All particulars Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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MISS GWYNNE HOWELL will give advice upon methods of Saving Labour in household management. Consultations written or personal.—88, Beaufort Mansions, Chelsea, S.W. 3.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, March 5th. Miss Maude Royden. 6.30. "Our Responsibilities"—(IV.) The Empire.

Theosophical Order of Service.

PUBLIC LECTURES ON WEDNESDAYS AT 8.30 P.M.
March 8. "Prison Reform." LEONARD GREEN. (Howard League for Penal Reform).
Chair: MRS. STEVENSON HOWELL.
" 15. "Animals and Evolution."
MRS. BAILLIE-WEAVER.
Chair: MISS F. BONNER.
" 22. "Cinema Reform."
MISS ENID LORIMER.
Chair: MRS. WILLIAMS.
" 29. Modern Racial Movements & Values."
MRS. JOSEPHINE RANSOM.
Chair: H. S. L. POLAK.
April 5. Social: Music, Refreshments. (Members and Friends cordially invited).
" 12. "The Abolition of the Death Sentence."
CAPTAIN A. J. HOUNSFIELD.
Chair: H. B. PRATT.
" 19. "Individual Relationships."
MISS ENID LORIMER.
Chair: MAJOR A. E. POWELL.
" 26. Conference.
Presided over by H. BAILLIE-WEAVER, LL.B.
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64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

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