

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men: to use the powers already obtained to cleat warmen in Barliament of

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 wellbeing of the community.

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A DISTINGUISHED FRENCHWOMAN.

(By L. A. M. PRIESTLEY MCCRACKEN, Author of "The Feminine In Fiction," Etc.).

A happy chance—if there is such a thing as chance led, during my recent holidays, to my meeting with Madame Bérot-Berger, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, who though she is not the only bearer of this coveted and (for women) rare decoration, is one of only three Frenchwomen to possess the Medaille d'or de la Mutualité Maternelle Civile et Militaire.

It was on the deck of the steamer from Newhaven to

steamer from Newhaven to Dieppe that, sitting side by side, Madame and I exchanged a few words, and soon made the mutual discovery that both of us were Feminists. As we watched the white cliffs of England receding from our view, we drifted into various subjects of congenial interest, and I gathered something of the admirable work Madame Bérot-Berger has accomplished in the domain of Child Welfare, and in Social, Hygienic and Educational Movements, as well as her beneficent work in the French Red Cross during the Great War, and in the assistance she has rendered to destitute families in devastated areas.

Presently we were joined by my husband, and a Swiss gentleman, who, speaking English per-

fectly, acted very kindly as MADAME AND H interpreter when Madame and I floundered occasionally in linguistic shoals and difficulties! No little group fleeted more pleasantly the passage of the English Channel that day than we, as we chatted to the accompaniment of the soft lapping of the waves against our ship, whilst it drove through a summer sea, blue and sparkling under the bright sunshine. We travelled together to Paris and parted at San Lazare, with an invitation from Madame for my husband and me to spend the following Tuesday afternoon with her at St. Quentin—thus quickly do mutual interests and kindred sentiments weave the strands of friendly acquaintanceship.

Madame as a fellow traveller had been interesting and

entertaining. Madame as hostess in her own beautiful home in the war-scarred town of St. Quentin was charming and delightful. T shall not soon forget the cordiality of her pretty French welcome, nor her bright, animated, vivacious manner, alternating with a sweet seriousness, as she presided at the tea table, and told us of the work so near to her heart, and to which she devotes so much of her time and talent-the safeguarding of infant life and the care of poor mothers in the devastated warshattered regions of St. Quentin.

In 1892, Madame Bérot-Berger started the work known as *La joie de vivre*, which provides for the adoption of a poor child by one in more affluent circumstances who is responsible for its moral and material well being. This principle of little Marraines, or little godmothers, promoted by Madame

Berger, has been widely recognised and furthered in many of the allied countries since 1900.

A large room in her own house, which, by the way, was totally destroyed by the Germans and rebuilt by Madame at a high post-war cost, has been reserved by Madame Berger as the centre of the Ainse Branch of the *Mutualité* work, of which she is the founder and President.



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Here on Mondays and Tuesdays between two and four o'clock mothers and babies are received for advice, medicine, milk, and such other help or material aid as is needful. Each baby, too, is carefully weighed from week to week. Layettes and a sum of money are provided for expectant mothers. A young doctor (the daughter of St. Quentin's leading physician) and the wife

of a St. Quentin magistrate give their services free on these afternoons. And one of the poor mothers, in gratitude for what she has herself received, and to le bon Dieu for the gift of a baby girl, comes also on these days to give what help she can without payment. There is also a group of ladies who visit regularly at the homes of the mothers.

When I was taken to see the mothers and babies, one of the pauvres Mères handed to me a beautiful bouquet of flowers grown in the gardens of the St. Quentin devastated regions-dahlias, gladiolas, marguerites, and greenery-a gift for Madame's Irish visitor which touched and pleased me not a little. So this beneficent work is carried on literally as a labour of love, all associated with it giving freely their time and services, so that subscriptions sent to Madame Bérot-Berger go directly to the succour and relief of little new lives which the women of France are saving for their country. Many Distinctions.

Among the many honours and distinctions conferred upon Madame Bérot-Berger are the Medaille d'or des epidemics, and Medailles d'or de l'Assistance publique et de l'Hygiene. She has représented her Government as an official delegate at many international Congresses, and presented remarkable reports on social, literary, hygienic and other important questions to do with human welfare and progress. She is the Founder of the first Musée de l'enfance; Vice-president de l'Association Polytechnique; Member of the Societé d'Economic Sociale de Paris ; Member of the Societé International pour l'etude des questions d'assistance; and a Member of Societé des gens de lettres. This list shows something of the extent and versatility of Madame's activities and interests.

On the wall of her drawing room hangs a superb engraving, a war scene, entitled "Verdun," bearing on the margin some warm words of gratitude and commendation signed by Maréchal Foch, and presented by this great soldier to Madame Berger for her heroic and devoted services in the French Red Cross (of which she is the President of the Ainse district). Near by on a small table rests a beautiful statuette entitled "Le Souvenir," a gift from the wounded for whom she cared at Cherbourg, presented to her by General Pétain on behalf of the grateful subscribers.

Writer and Suffragist.

Eighteen vears ago Madame Bérot-Berger founded and edited a journal devoted to the Woman's cause, Les Travailleuses, advocating the redress of women's grievances and the amelioration of their lot. This paper is still in existence. She is the author of many books on social, political, educational, economic and hygienic subjects, as also of books dealing with her beloved work, the Mutualité Maternelle Civile et Militaire. Most of these books have been subscribed for by the Ministre de l'Instruction Publique, and by the Municipal Council of Paris, and placed by their order in the public libraries of France. Madame Berger has also taken an active share in Suffrage propaganda, and has received Mrs. Pankhurst when that leader visited and spoke in Paris.

As I recall the enthusiasm for good works, and the beneficent and valuable services both in War and Peace which Madame Bérot-Berger has so ably, so heroically, and so successfully rendered to her age, her country and her sex, I feel that in presenting her and her work in even this brief imperfect fashion is to aid, in however small a way, that hoped-for consolidation and solidarity of the World's Womanhood. It is by and through their influence and concerted action towards International goodwill and understanding, we look for the dawn of that Glorious Day when the clash of arms shall cease, and when Peace shall reign among the nations of the earth.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Women and Peace.

The Executive Committee of the Women's International League is issuing a call for a Conference to meet at the Hague, December 7th, to consider how the ruin now impending over Europe can be averted by the substitution of a real and practical peace for the present destructive Treaties. The pyschological as well as the political, and financial aspects of the situation will be considered. Miss Jane Addams, the founder of Hull House well known as author and speaker, the President of the League, has been asked by cable to preside.

American Woman Diplomatist.

The distinction of being the first woman to enter the United States Diplomatic Service belongs to Miss Lucille Atcherson, of Columbus, Ohio, who is recommended to the Senate by President Harding for appointment as Secretary of Embassy. Miss Atcherson was engaged in relief work in France for some years. On her return to America recently she entered for the diplomatic service examination, which she passed with flying colours.

Woman Champion Typist.

Miss Millicent Woodward, an English girl, is said to be the official champion typist for Europe. She won the championship last year in Paris with a speed of 3,394 key taps in five minutes, and since then has attained much higher speeds. Her speed for a memorised sentence is 239 words per minute.

Another Barrier Down.

The Royal Colonial Institute is to admit women as Fellows instead of confining their activities to being Associates. Lack of space has hitherto made it impossible to accommodate a number of women Fellows, but the Institute is now being rebuilt and extended, and should soon become a truly representative centre for men and women from every part of the British Commonwealth.

Women in the Advertising World.

In addition to Miss Marian Jean Lyon, the first woman advertising manager of a London paper (Punch), there are now two women directors of London advertising businesses, Mrs. Wilson, of A. J. Wilson and Co., and Miss J. A. Reynolds, of Samson Clark and Co., whilst at least two other women are running advertising agencies on their own.

An end to "Obey"?

There is some probability of a private proposal for the omission of "obey" from the marriage service being brought forward when the Church National Assembly considers the revision of the Prayer Book at its meeting in November. If the proposal materialises it will be interesting to have the views of the forty or so women who are lay members of the Assembly.

IMPORTANT WARNING.

The Directors of the Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., at their last meeting, on September 22nd, passed a resolution forbidding the Westminster Charity Committee. Walter Blackburn, or any person connected with them, to reprint or publish any matter which has appeared in THE VOTE, and demanding the recall of any matter already so printed.

The National Executive Committee of the Women's Ereedom League, at its last meeting, on September 23rd, passed a resolution dissociating itself from the efforts of Walter Blackburn, the Westminster Charity Committee, Miss Richmond, Miss Dyke, or any persons connected with them, forbidding them to claim any connection whatever with the Women's Freedom League, informing them and the public that none of them has any authority from the Women's Freedom League to collect for the Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement, or to use our name when collecting for any object, and demanding the recall of the booklets issued by them which have extracts from THE VOTE.

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INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, which originated in Great Britain in the first year of the war, with a little group of men and women from different classes and churches of the community, numbers to-day many thousands amongst its members, and has branches in every country of the civilised world.

Quite early in the war the movement spread to America, to the British Colonies, and to Holland, but it was not until 1919 that the frontiers were actually crossed, and it became possible for men and women from ten different countries to meet in conference at Bilthoven, Holland.

The second Conference was held, again at Bilthoven, in 1920, drawn from a wider range, bringing the move-ment into touch with the Free Youth Movements of Germany and Switzerland, with inner movements in the Roman Church, and with representatives of Eastern nations.

The third Conference took place at Austria in August of this year, and was attended by members from America, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Burma, Bulgaria, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Ukraine.

Although this movement commits itself to no one theory of social reconstruction, members of the Fellowship are actively engaged all over the world in rebuilding Society on a definitely spiritual basis.

In the industrial world the Fellowship stands for cooperation in commerce and industry, in place of competition. It recognises the value of every human being as an individual personality, and seeks the reconstruction of industry upon such a basis that a man may have the opportunity for choice of work, and the production of commodities for use and not for profit. Industrial Guilds are being set up to further these ideals, and strikes in England and America have already been settled to the satisfaction of both parties.

The Fellowship also works actively for prison reform, stimulated, no doubt, by the numbers of sentences served on its members for refusal of military service during the war. In America, where sentences on conscientious objectors were exceptionally heavy, some members are giving themselves directly to this work, whilst others are taking up the maintenance of civil liberties and the defence of political prisoners. In many countries prison visitation is being carried on, and experiments made in the treatment of juvenile delinquents without coercive measures. Great Britain has sponsored two such experiments with successful results: a co-educational experiment at Riverside; Leicestershire, in 1916, and Fairby Grange School, Kent, a Home for delinquent girls only.

The reorganisation of Education holds a prominent place in the Fellowship Movement. New schools are being started to embody new methods hitherto untried. The People's High School Movements of Denmark and Germany afford a congenial environment for some of these educational ventures, whilst an International Fellowship School has recently been started on co-educational lines near Geneva, Switzerland.

International problems, however, are the special prerogative of Fellowship members. During the war relief work and the befriending of enemy aliens was widely carried on by various members of the movement. Children from the famine-stricken areas of Central Europe were received into families in more prosperous lands, and kept in touch with after their return home by means of After-care Committees. Provision has also been made for children nearer home whose parents were unable to provide for them owing to distress and unemployment. For many months an International unit composed of several nationalities, including German, carried out reconstruction work in the devastated areas, whilst, more recently, the concerted action of Government bodies, transport agencies, and philanthropic societies in Norway, Sweden, and Finland has resulted in much definite relief work being accomplished in Russia and the allied famine-stricken areas.

The lack of housing accommodation becomes more

and more difficult for those who are not in a position to buy a house. No one pretends that the erection of new houses is in proportion to the increase in our population, and it is well known that the housing shortage is responsible for the continued postponement of the marriage of innumerable young couples. Even before the war the squalid dwellings of so many thousands of our people were largely responsible for a great proportion of the C3 population of this country, and since the war the conditions have become much worse. Last week a four-roomed cottage to let at 10s. a week, advertised in a Croydon paper, brought 3,092 applications by letter. The applicants included 64 policemen, 19 postmen, 403 City clerks, and many ex-officers. An ex-postman got the cottage. Last week also, at the Kingston County Bench, before Mr. R. V. Somers Smith (Chairman) and other Magistrates (all men), a man was summoned by the Surbiton District Council for failing to comply with a notice served on him on March 2nd by the Sanitary Inspector, in respect of the ground floor of a house. In February, 1921, attention was drawn to the case by the Health Visitor of the Surrey County Council, and the Sanitary Inspector visited the premises. He found that the room was only 10ft. 11 in. long, 10ft. gin. wide, and 9ft. high. The man and his wife and four children were living in the room, in which there was only one bed. The room was in a very dirty condition, and the overcrowding was certainly such as to be dangerous and injurious to the health of the occupants of the room. The notice served on him had not been complied with, and the Council felt that they were bound at last, in the interests of public health, to bring the case before the Magistrates. The man said he had tried everywhere to find accommodation, but had failed. The Chairman said the Magistrates were of opinion that the defendant had been given ample time to find a fresh place, and he must now do it within 21 days, and pay 4s. costs. We wish there had been a woman on the Kingston County Bench, not because we think that the Magistrates could have acted otherwise, but because we believe she would have felt, and possibly have expressed, some sympathy with the woman who was compelled to live in this room for so many more hours than her husband, who at any rate could go out to work or seek it. We have records of voluminous Parliamentary debates by men M.P.s on the question of housing; the building trade is entirely in the hands of men in this country, and the Councils which consider housing schemes are almost entirely composed of men. Is it any wonder if women, who have to live, move, have their being, and die in these insanitary dwellings have lost all patience with men's manipulation of the housing

problem?

In spite of much effort from the friends of animals, and the appeal (upon Public Health grounds) of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, our reactionary London County Council has refused to adopt the (permissive) Clause 9B of the Model By-Laws relating to Slaughter-houses, put forward by the Health Ministry, which would oblige every butcher, etc., to kill his animals for food only by means of the mechanical humane instruments which have long been employed by the best firms, instead of continuing the many and varied methods now in use, which, in the hands of persons either inexperienced, nervous, careless, or vicious, cause such an immense amount of unnecessary agony to the animals to be slaughtered. A petition to the London County Council, asking them to alter this decision, is now being signed by London medical men and women, and all Londoners should take action on this important matter, and bring it to the notice of our Metropolitan Borough Council candidates.

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

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.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, last Saturday. The members present were Miss Berry, Miss Alix Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Councillor Miss Ballard Dawson (Swanage), Mrs Holmes, Dr. Knight, Miss Morton, M.B.E., Mrs. Mustard, Miss Anna Munro, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Whetton (Portsmouth), and the Secretary.

Mrs. Schofield Coates was appointed to the Chair, and the reports submitted by the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, the Secretary, and the Hon. Heads of the Literature and VOTE Sales Department, together with the political work of the League, were considered, discussed, and adopted. The warmest thanks of the Committee were accorded to Miss Alix Clark and Dr. Lillias Hamilton for the invaluable work they had done during the six weeks of our Clyde Coast campaign. The quantity of our literature and the number of Votes sold there were highly satisfactory.

In view of the Borough Council elections in November, the Committee decided that the following questions should be put to all candidates in districts where we have branches and members, with the exception of Nos. 4, 5, and 7, 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 ratepavers

(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? In deciding upon the work of the Women's Freedom League for the winter, the Committee resolved that our first and chief efforts should be exerted on behalf of the equal enfranchisement of women and men. A resolution was sent from the Committee to the Prime Minister, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Bonar Law, and the leaders of the other political parties, urging the introduction and passage into law of a Government Bill to establish equal franchise for the sexes as soon as Parliament re-assembles. We are sending a representative on the Joint Equal Franchise deputation to the

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Prime Minister which is being arranged by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and we appeal to all our readers to support the Equal Franchise public meeting on November 8th. In addition to our work for equal franchise for men and women, it was decided that we continue to press for the raising of the age of consent to eighteen, and for the early passage into law of the Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill. Further, that we continue to do all in our power to rouse public opinion on behalf of the provision of work for unemployed women as well as for unemployed men, and the removal of the

marriage bar to the employment of women by the Government and by local government authorities. Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., is representing the Women's Freedom League at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, which is being held this week at the Guildhall, Cambridge ; Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Pierotti were appointed to represent us at the Consultative Committee meetings; Dr. Knight at the British Overseas Committee meetings; and Mrs. Mustard on the Committee on the Employment of Married Women.

Our Literature Department is shortly issuing a new pamphlet dealing with the wrongs of married women, by Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., and one by Mr. Laurence Housman, further notice of which will be given in next week's VOTE.

A JUDGE AND MARRIED WOMEN.

Last week at Shoreditch County Court, Judge Cluer refused to allow a mother to sue on behalf of her son-a legal infant, and said :-- "When married women choose have the law altered and put themselves on a level with men as to their debts it will be another matter." Since when, we would ask this learned gentleman, have married women been able to alter the laws of the land, whether for debts or in any other particular? In the case referred to, a boy of fifteen years of age sued a firm for compensation for an injury to one of his legs received while working a lift. The firm paid $\pounds 5$ into court, at the same time denying liability. Judge Cluer said an infant himself might sue for wages, but in an arbitration case he could only do so through his "next friend." He refused to allow the mother to appear for the boy, but on the firm agreeing to waive the objection, he eventually agreed to the boy sueing on his own behalf. The case was decided in favour of the firm, and the $\pounds 5$ was repaid. The Judge may have had the law on his side, but that does not excuse his ignorant presentment of the case of the position of married women. When men choose to remove all the legal disabilities of married women it will be time enough for this Judge to give his further views on the subject of married women's debts. At present a married woman has no claim to any proportion of her husband's income, salary, or wages, and if he does not choose to provide her with sufficient money for the upkeep of her position, what can she do but get into debt? It is very likely that Judge Cluer would object to her earning money, so that the position of a married woman is both unenviable and precarious, especially if she has no means of her own. In the meantime, we certainly think that it would be only common sense so to alter the law that a boy's mother could act as his next friend" in Court proceedings.

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THE VOTE

THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

On November 1st, both in London and in all provincial towns, elections will be held for Borough Councils. These elections concern women closely, and it is important that women who desire good local government administration in their districts should make themselves acquainted with the record of Councillors standing for re-election, and the qualifications of new candidates wishing to enter municipal life. In London, where elections for Borough Councils only take place every three years, it is of special importance that an effort should be made to obtain definite information in regard to candidates; and local associations, if necessary, ought to be able to advise their members as to candidates to be supported:

Owing to the method in London of running all local government elections on party lines, the qualifications of candidates are often overlooked, the desire of the party agent being to make up the "ticket" on sound party lines. This is painfully apparent to any student of local government who has attended the meetings of Borough Councils in our great Metropolis, and listened to the discussions which often take place. No better way of gauging the work of Councillors can be obtained than by regular attendance at the Council meetings, and it should be the method of all local organisations whose work is in any way connected with local government to arrange for a rota of their members to attend these meetings. Voters must always remember that the first qualification for candidates is a high standard of character and public honour, and that it is also important that candidates should have shown some capacity for public work.

The work of a London Borough Council, although limited in scope to that of a provincial town, provides a wide field of usefulness. These Councils are the Health Authorities for their respective areas, and are, therefore, responsible "for health and sanitation, for paving, lighting and cleansing of streets, the removal of refuse and drainage of houses, for maternity and child welfare, the treatment of tuberculosis, the enforcement of laws against the adulteration of food, and the suppression of disorderly houses." They are also responsible for the inspection of workrooms, laundries, bakeries, and dairies. Baths and washhouses, as well as public libraries, may be provided by the Councils,

should be followed in all districts.

which the rate is made.

London Borough Councils have important powers and duties under the Housing Acts, and, in addition to providing new houses, can undertake improvement The housing problem is quite as acute as at chemes. the last elections in 1919, and much of the money spent on public health services is wasted owing to the lack of decent homes for the people. On the other hand, in several instances the local authority is faced with the rapid deterioration of the new municipal property, owing to the habits of tenants who are not accustomed to the equipment of an up-to-date house, and who have often come from a crowded area. The managemen. of municipal house property by women trained on the Octavia Hill system would do much to solve this problem, and would ensure the proper use of the houses, and enable tenants to fit themselves for an improved dwelling. Careful selection and grading of tenants is essential if the experiment of municipal housing is to succeed. In Holland, where all municipal houses are under women managers, great attention is paid to the selection and grading of tenants, and a special area is always kept for "undesirables," where the latter have the opportunity to learn the decencies of life before becoming the occupants of one of the new houses.

At the present time 145 women are members of London Borough Councils, and 187 of provincial Town Councils in England and Wales. It is to be expected that these numbers will be increased at the approaching elections, but it is essential that the women elected shall be "suitable," by which we mean women possessing judgment, courage, intelligence, tact, and sympathy -a large order, readers of THE VOTE will say, but necessary if women are to justify the hopes of the pioneers who made it possible for women to play their part in local government.

CINEMAS AND CENSORSHIP.

A valuable summary of the British regulations pertaining to cinemas, by the Secretary of the London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality, appears in the September issue of the Women's Local Government News. The British Board of Film Censors, an organisation set up by the Cinema Trade, whose President is Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., assisted by four examiners (three men and one woman), is commended for much good work, having already altered or rejected films on over 67 grounds, many of these being from a moral point of view. The London County Council has made a regulation that before every film shown in cinemas (licensed by that Council) must appear a certificate that it has been passed by the Censor. Most of the other County Councils also require this censorship. As to the nature of films, the London County Council provides : " No film to be displayed which is subversive of public morality." Manchester, Cardiff, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Nottingham, amongst others, enlarge on this by prohibiting films which are objectionable or indecent, or likely to be injurious to morality, to encourage crime, or to be offensive to public feeling, or likely to educate the public in the wrong direction. The presence in cinemas of undesirable persons of both

sexes is prohibited in London, Manchester, Cardiff, Bradford, Bristol, and other towns, we are informed, whilst in most districts, provision is made for proper lighting in the auditorium and for ventilation and sanitation. Manchester, Cardiff, Bradford, Brighton, Nottingham, and others also prohibit posters, programmes, or advertisements inside or outside the premises likely to be injurious to morality, or to incite to crime, or to be offensive to public feeling. Bradford does not allow children under fourteen to be present after 9 p.m., unless with parents or guardians. After January, 1923, adult films will not be shown to young persons under the age of 16, in the London area. Many other places, however, fix the age at 12. Bristol has a regulation that where the minimum charge for children is 2d., only films that are suitable for children shall be exhibited. Licensing authorities, in England, are the Council of the County or County Borough, who may, if they wish, delegate their powers to the local Justices. When the place is licensed by the Lord Chamberlain for stage plays, the licence for cinemas is also granted by him. In Scotland they are either the County Council or Borough Magistrates, and in Ireland, the County or Borough Council, or Urban District Council, or Town Commissioners.

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and in connection with the public library many boroughs include a special children's department, a method which

It must not be forgotten that the Borough Councils, with the City Corporation, are the authorities for levying and collecting the rates for all municipal services in London: the rate for the borough services is often but a small part of the sum levied, and the Councils have no control over the expenditure of the bodies for

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GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held this year in the Basement Hall at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.

The stalls at present arranged for the League are :---

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs. 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.

Antiques and White Elephants.-Mrs. Haverson, 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.

Toy Stall.-Mrs. Knight.

Literature Stall.-Miss Telling, Miss E. W. Kirby. White Stall.-Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.

" Vote " Stall.-Miss Reeves, Mrs. Northcroft, and Mrs. Evans. The entertainments will be numerous and varied,

the following members and friends kindly giving their services :- Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Marianne Elias, Miss Jacob, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Newman and 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 Mrs. Grace Goodall and Mrs. Russell; also Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons, who was so much in request last year.

Gifts are greatly needed for all the stalls, and especially for the following :--White Stall, Overalls and Aprons, Pound Stall, Remnant Stall, Antiques and White Elephants. Toys of all sorts are wanted for the Toy Stall. The Committee will be glad to receive the names of those who are willing to dress dolls, make underclothing for the White Stall, or overalls or aprons.

The competitions have been undertaken by Miss Dickeson, and will be amusing, numerous, and varied, and should prove one of the great attractions of the Fair.

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

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

The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement. The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

The "Crusader." The Federation of Women Civil Servants. The Friends of Armenia. Miss Basnett. Miss Burwood. The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.

Messrs, Benetfits, 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 Offices. All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss

Elizabeth Berry (Hon. Fair Sec.) at the Office.

BOOK REVIEW.

Lester F. Ward. A Personal Sketch. By Mrs. E. P. Cape. (Putnam.) 9/-. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This short biography of the late Dr. Lester Ward by a close personal friend, Mrs. Emily Palmer Cape, will be welcomed by all thinkers and students of the many and acute sociological problems of the day, and more especially perhaps by women who are thinking and working along the lines of human progress. Lester Ward was a sociological torch-bearer, who lit up with scientific light many dark and neglected corners and byways of scientific inquiry, and had the courage to place before the world a system of philosophy of life unacceptable in parts to those who are not entirely emancipated thinkers.

Mrs. Cape has done her work sympathetically and well, and has succeeded in placing before us a portrait, not only of the scientific thinker and writer, but also of the highly emotional human being, who, in spite of his total disregard of orthodox theology, was yet, in the best sense of the word, intensely religious. As women are often more conservative than men on this subject of "religion" (by which they often mean theology), it may be of interest to quote from a letter of Dr. Ward on the subject of his teaching the truths of evolution to classes of young students. "I put such interpretations on all the old things that they do not conflict with the truths of science. . . . At the close I usually say something about the future of religion and even of the church, and combat the view that religion will pass away and be merged in ethics. It has a grand mission of its own. As it began in awe and fear of nature, it will end in awe and love of nature."

The author writes thus of Lester Ward's great work, Dynamic Sociology : "Man has been looked upon as a product of nature, and as having developed like other products. Society has been contemplated as an evolution. All this belongs to genetic progress or evolution proper. Lester Ward was the only one who attempted to show from a biologic or psychologic standpoint that in restricting social progress to these passive influences an important factor is left out of view. This factor he maintains is a subjective one not found at any lower stage of development, and exclusively characterising human or social progress. It was chiefly to emphasise this factor that he wrote Dynamic Sociology. His Psychic Factors of Civilisation, which was published in 1893, was a continuation of this subject. Briefly stated, his philosophy on this point was that neither optimism nor pessimism were scientific, as both assume that nature is in an active state towards man. Meliorism is the only dynamic state. "It implies the improvement of the social condition through cold calculation, through the adoption of indirect means." Our readers will not forget that our own thinker and writer, lane Hume Clapperton, in her Scientific Meliorism, interpreted for us the same dynamic principle.

Lester Ward's system of philosophy was essentially synthetic in outlook, and the last book he projected writing was planned with the idea of exposing "the beauty and truth of the great law of Continuity." On September 16th, 1911, he wrote : "I reflect constantly on the title of my next book, and have this morning arrived at the following as the most satisfactory thus far : Monism, the true Quietism, or The Continuity of Nature as the Only Faith that can satisfy the Emancipated Soul." As Mrs. Cape interprets him : "It was the being able to lose all personal life, all the little self in the comprehension of the immortality of achievement, of the being a part of the great Cosmos, that fed the desire to express the ever-present thought of continuity in his last philosophical inspirations."

Unfortunately, Lester Ward's diaries, which he had carefully written up, day by day, till his death in 1913, were, through carelessness, burnt soon after his death, but his work for the race remains in his books, and in the memories of his students, in his own land, in England and on the Continent. ' These pages reveal him, in the words of his biographer, as having : "The mind of a sage, the heart of a woman, and the soul of DORA B. MONTEFIORE. a poet.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1922

Women's Freedom League. Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT, General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.



Monday, October 2nd, at 3 p.m. at 144, High Holborn, Fair Committee Meeting. Monday, October 2nd, at 7 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Edward Cecil, who will are a discussion or Without Dable will open a discussion on "That our Public Schools corrode the character, stultify the intelligence, blunt idealism, and turn out their victims unfitted for the battle of life." Chair :

Friday, October 6th, 3.30-7.30. Mid-London Branch, Pound Tea, at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). For further particulars, see Branch note. Monday, October 9th, at 3 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 9th, at 3 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Political Sub-Committee Meeting. Wednesday, October 11th, at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker : Miss Jeffery. Subject : "House Property Managers (Octavia Hill, Pioneer), A New Career for Women." 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." Friday. October 20th.-Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144,

High Holborn, at 6.30 p.m. 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. Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th.—"Green, White and Gold Fair," Central Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, October 3rd, at 3.15.-Portsmouth.-Annual Meeting, 2, Kent Road, Southsea. Friday, October 6th, at 8 p.m.—Hastings.—A Model Election

conducted by Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., will be held at the Corner House, Claremont. Speakers: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., Rev. S. H. Wing, Councillor A. Blackman, Councillor S.

McDougall and others. Monday, October 9th, at 7.30 p.m.—Bexhill.—A combined Meeting will be held at the Sisterhood. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Thursday, October 12th, at 3 p.m.—Ashford.—A Public Meeting Lewin

will be held at the Friend's Meeting House, Hempsted Street. 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. OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, October 4th, at 8 p.m.—Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Miss Helena Normanton. Subject: "How Laws Affect Women."

BRANCH NOTES.

MID-LONDON

Will all our London members and friends please keep Friday, October 6, open, as we want them all at our POUND TEA. Dr. Octavia Lewin is kindly lending us her house at 25, Wimpole Dr. Octavia Lewin is kindly lending us her house at 25, Wimpole Street, W., and we are hoping to do even better than we did at our Reception to Dr. Knight last year. All the proceeds will be given to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Will everyone please come and "bring a pound and buy a pound." The pound (or pounds), may be of anything useful, butter, fruit, groceries, household stores of any kind, cake, candies, wool, material or flowers. If anyone will bring a pound (or pounds) which has to be written *f* so much the better, it is *the* most useful kind. There will be short speeches by Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Underwood and others, character reading, also music by Mrs. Cunningham and Miss Thomas. Come yourself and bring a friend to help us start our winter work successfully. (Hon. Sec.) Miss C. M. SPARKMAN 10 Winchester St. F. 16

(Hon. Sec.) Miss C. M. SPARKMAN, 10 Winchester St., E.16. PORTSMOUTH.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 3rd, at 3.15, at 2, Kent Road. The branch has promised to help with the Household Stall at the Green, White, and Gold Fair this year, of which Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner are taking charge. Contributions of towels, dusters, dishcloths, soap, brushes, candles, etc., etc., will be gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary. (Hon. Sec.] Mrs. WHETTON 80. Feeting Grove Southees (Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

We are delighted to record that two members of our Swansea Branch, Mrs. Essie Harris and Mrs. William Rosser, have been appointed Justices of the Peace for Swansea,

THE VOTE

A person shall, without distinction of sex, be entitled to be or the requisite residence qualification or the requisite business preualification.

provisions of the existing electoral laws as to residence qualification and as to business premises qualification shall apply to all persons without distinction of sex.3. So much of the existing electoral laws as requires a woman

The motion was introduced by Mr. Ernest Blythe, the Minister for Local Government, who pointed out that the scope of the resolutions was simple. They provided for the immediate com-pilation of a register on which women would be entered on the same terms as men. It did not make any changes in the qualifi-cation except that it removed the special sex disqualification against women. Women would now be entitled to be entered on the register on a residential qualification at the age of 21.

Local Government Finance.

Local Government Finance. Local Government finance is quite beyond us. Mrs. Ayrton Gould, in the Daily News, states that an unemployed woman got behindhand with her rent. The Guardians allowed her 6s. a week in kind. When the landlord threatened to turn her out, she risked for 6s. a week in money as well as the 6s. in kind. This was refused, and in despair she tried to poison herself with a bottle of liniment. She was taken to the Infirmary, put in the observation ward, and recovered almost at once. In spite of the fact that she exhibited no signs of insauity whilst in the Infirmary, she was sent three days later to Claybury Asylum, where the Guardians are paying 29s. 4d. a week for her maintenance. She luardians are paying 29s. 4d. a week for her maintenance s at present perfectly sane, but is not likely to remain so long in her present surroundings.

A Woman Minister of Health?

Dr. Ethel Bentham hopes to get into Parliament, and would like to be Minister of Health. Before the Ministry of Health was established, the Women's Freedom League urged that the first Minister of Health should be a woman. We had little support for this proposal, but we are glad to note that Dr. Bentham has she would make a better Minister of Health than either of the two men who have held that position.

Men to Replace Women.

Men to Replace Women. A deputation from the male employees was heard last week at a meeting of the Middlesbrough Corporation Tramways Com-mittee. The members of the deputation pointed out that six men had been dismissed because of slackness. Four of these were married and ex-Service men. Considerable resentment was felt because eight female conductors were being retained. It was contended that the employment of women was purely a war departure, and that, as soon as the war was over, their services should have been dispensed with. Alderman Bruce remarked that it would be hard to dispense with a woman with people dependent on her. He did not agree with the retention of female labour under any other circumstances. Mr. Rowe said that the circumstances of each woman were considered, and it was decided taobut under any other circumstances. Mr. Rowe said that the circumstances of each woman were considered, and it was decided to discharge six of the eight women and reinstate all the dismissed men. We consider this decision flagrantly unjust, and we hope that our Middlesbrough Branch will approach every candidate at the forthcoming Council Election, and get him or her to state definitely whether sex or efficiency should be the test for employees of the Council.

Boycott of "Motherly Women" Teachers.

At a meeting of London members of the National Union of Women Teachers, held last Monday evening, it was arranged that when the headmistresses of the schools introduced the newcomers who had received an intensive training for teaching the youngest children, the teachers should ask that they be sent back to the Education Committee's offices.

Readers of THE VOTE are urged to support the following Public

Councils. 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 Boldigh Contril, Mrs. Ea Charlet (Eathority, Mrs. C. Reemig (Kensington). Chairman: Miss Bertha Mason. Admission free reserved seats, 1/2 and 6d. Wednesday November 8th, 8 p.m., at Central Hall, Westmin-

Wednesday November 8th, 8 p.m., at Central Hall, Westmin-ster. **Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women**. Speakers: The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Win-tringham, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Maude Royden. Chair-man: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. Admission free; tickets (numbered and reserved), 5/-, 2/6, 1/-, to be obtained at our Office. Office

MORE WOMEN J.P.s.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

BE FREE. Mrs Devter

Friday, October 20th.-Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144,

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Equal Franchise in the Free State.

The Manchester Guardian reports that the Dail has unanimously authorised the preparation of a new electoral register for Ireland, The basis of all elections to Dail Eireann is to be adult suffrage are defined in the following clauses of the motion prewithout distinction of sex.

to possess as a condition precedent to her being entered on the register as a Parliamentary elector any qualification other than the qualification mentioned in Clause r hereof shall not apply. The motion was introduced by Mr. Ernest Blythe, the Minister

IMPORTANT MEETINGS.



Name

Address

IF you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

Join the Women's Freedom League.

Fill in your name and address and send it, with subscription (minimum 1s.) to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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ONVINCED Feminist (Practising Midwife) books lecturing engage-ments.—GATTY, 30 Retreat Place, Hackney

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance pro tem. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

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house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 1st, 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. "Religious Phrases and Modern Thought."

PUBLIC SPEAKING SPECIAL COURSE reopens October 2nd. Indispensable to those engaged in Public Work; also specially prepared postal course .- MARION MCCARTHY. 16 Hallam Street, Portland Place, W.1. Langham 1530

R OSEMARY NURSERY,"The Cause-way, Horsham. Special Education on modern lines for backward and nervous children. Term begins Sept. 26th.-Apply MISS L. ARNOLD

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