

THE VOTE,  
SEPT. 29, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

## THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 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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## 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 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 perfectly, acted very kindly as interpreter when Madame and I floundered occasionally in linguistic shoals and difficulties! No little group fledged 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. I 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 war-shattered 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 Mairaines, 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 Ainsie Branch of the *Mutualité* work, of which she is the founder and President.



MADAME AND HER GRANDCHILD.

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. Layette 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 épidémies*, and *Medailles d'or de l'Assistance publique et de l'Hygiène*. She has represented 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 of the *Association Polytechnique*; Member of the *Société d'Economie Sociale de Paris*; Member of the *Société Internationale pour l'étude des questions d'assistance*; and a Member of *Société 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 years 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 psychological 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 Freedom 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*.

## 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 movement 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.

## HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

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. 9 in. 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?

## OUR FOOD SUPPLY.

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.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, 1922.

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

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

### EDITORIAL.

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

### 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 rate-payers?
- (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 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 to 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 £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 suing on his own behalf. The case was decided in favour of the firm, and the £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.

## 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,

and in connection with the public library many boroughs include a special children's department, a method which should be followed in all districts.

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 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 schemes. The housing problem is quite as acute as at 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 management 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.



FRIDAY,  
SEPT. 29,  
1922.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

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

Name .....

Join the Women's Freedom League.

Address .....

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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**A** MEMBER wishes to let 2 large unfurnished rooms for working gentlewomen. 31/6 and 25/- each. Hyde Park. Superior House. Bath, constant hot water, electric light, telephone.—Write FULLER'S, 99, New Bond Street, W. 1.

**C**ONVINCED Feminist (Practising Midwife) books lecturing engagements.—GATTY, 30 Retreat Place, Hackney

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

### MISCELLANEOUS.

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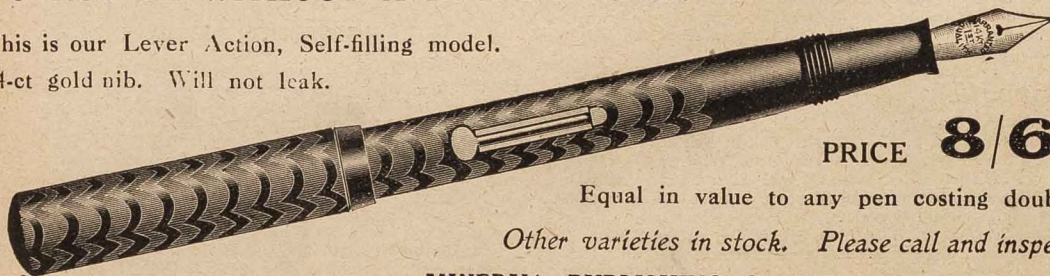
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