

THE VOTE,
AUG. 18, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

GAMES FOR GIRLS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 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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WHEN I AM M.P.

Mrs. Hamilton More-Nisbett, the prospective Independent Candidate for West Edinburgh, is an inspector in the Women's Auxiliary Service (late Women Police Service). In 1919-20 she, with another officer in the W.A.S., worked as a policewoman in Edinburgh, under the auspices of the National Vigilance Association, and was, with her colleague, the means of converting the Chief Constable and the Edinburgh Town Council to the cause of Women Police, two of whom are now permanently employed, and sworn in. Mrs. H. More-Nisbett was also a prominent Suffragist. She has been selected and put forward as a candidate by the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the International Women's League, and a number of individuals, some of whom are representatives from various organisations for the protection of animals. Mrs. H. More-Nisbett is a director of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and a director of the Edinburgh Home for Lost and Starving Cats and Dogs.

"When I am M.P." I shall concentrate upon social and domestic legislation. I support first and foremost the six points of the Parliamentary *questionnaire* of the N.U.S.E.C., viz.:—1. Women in Parliament, and an Equal Moral Standard. 2. Equal Franchise. 3. The League of Nations. 4. Equal Guardianship of Children. 5. Equal Pay for Equal Work. 6. State Pensions for widows with dependent children.

I am also the animals' friend. I am an anti-vivisectionist, an advocate of Humane Slaughtering, an opponent of Performing Animals, and I shall endeavour to get cats taxed equally with dogs, to put an end to the appalling suffering amongst starved, diseased, and strayed cats in all big cities.

Having had a unique experience as a policewoman, in all legislation with so-called prostitutes, I shall endeavour to get such acts as the Vagrancy Acts, Sexual Offences Bill etc., reformed. Legislation dealing with assaults upon children shall have my especial attention.

I am in favour of a compulsory profit-sharing system in industry. I am in favour of the Local Option (Scotland)

Bill of 1913, and I am in favour of Home Rule for Scotland.

I stand outside Party Politics, because I hold that the good of the community would be better served by specialists in Parliament than by blind adherents to party. I believe that a Woman's Party, under a better and less misleading title, should be formed in the House; not, of course, in opposition to our brothers, but as specialists in legislation which makes an especial appeal to women, as outlined above.

If I am returned to Westminster, all those who are helpless to plead their own cause shall find in me a trusty friend, from the degraded prostitute (who by reason of the segregation imposed upon her by law, has little or no chance to reform, owing to the stigma of the title, "common prostitute," bestowed upon her), to the patient, four-footed victim of vivisection; from the little innocent child, diseased in body and soul by the onslaught of man's lust, to the miserable "unwanted" domestic cat. I stand for purity, equality, and fair play all round.

IVEIGH MORE-NISBETT.



OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES ROYAL COMMISSION.

There has just been published by H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, a second Blue-book, the Appendices to the Report of the Royal Commissioners, price 25s. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This second volume contains most interesting appendices to the previous report, one by the late Vice-Chancellor of Oxford on University organisation and finance, evidence as to University constitution and government and proposals for reform. Suggestions are made with a view to widening the area from which the Universities are recruited, through a system of government scholarships, the revision of the present University scholarships and exhibitions, and by a reduction in the cost of living.

It is felt that the University is not at present a properly co-ordinated part of the national system of education—it has not the means of knowing what is needed in the national interest, nor the capacity of adjusting itself continuously to such needs—a striking admission on the part of those sacro-sant people—the dons of Oxford University. It would take too long here to deal with the suggestions for improved finance, or other domestic innovations as they might be called, dealing with lodging and boarding of students, but the criticisms and suggestions which are headed by the statement that “the signatories consider that the University does not sufficiently encourage or afford opportunity for advanced work”—a defect shown in every part of the University—contains much interesting reading, while the memorandum by an Oxford Committee on the needs of research, which enshrines such solemn statements as that “Learning is only too rapidly evanescent,” together with “specimen” statements from individual professors and others engaged in research, is remarkable in many ways, especially to those of us who once burned incense before the altars of our Alma Mater—how are the mighty fallen!

Another division of the report deals with the Universities and the working classes, and “by what further means liaison between the University and the working classes can be promoted.” This follows close on the heels of suggestions for conferences with headmasters and mistresses, and even assistant masters and mistresses, with regard to secondary schools curriculum, and visits of school teachers to the University, and a smaller report on the relation to His Majesty's Forces. The splendid isolation of our two elder Universities is certainly to be a thing of the past, and when we read of proposals for a limited number of selected working class students, *who are likely to take an important share in the administration and organisation of their industries* and in the full life of the working classes generally, and that these students are afterwards to “mould working class opinion and to direct working class policy,” the only comment which seems to exactly fit the case is—priceless! especially as it is expressly stated, that the position of these students is “to be as little abnormal as possible!” It is rarely that so much unconscious humour is concentrated in the close-printed pages of a government Blue-book.

The memorandum of the Labour Party gravely comments on the fact that “many undergraduates are still admitted who are neither capable, nor desirous, of benefiting educationally from a University course” and suggests, among other improvements, an abolition of the old pass examinations at both Universities. Also “the Labour Party feels strongly that the colleges should make much freer use than they appear to make at present of their power to send down unsatisfactory students,” etc., etc., which notes the just indignation of the horny-handed sons of toil at the butterfly existence led by some of our University bloods. Then the Workers' Educational Association benevolently informs the Universities what their principal functions are, and considers that women should share in all the rights attaching to University membership as fully as men. Here, indeed, we get a first mention of the rights of the women's colleges to financial aid and the

need for adequate accommodation for women. The Co-operative Union then takes up the tale, and here, too, women's interests are not forgotten, while the National Union of Teachers lays stress on the recalcitrancy of Cambridge with regard to women and their training as teachers.

Numerous appendices and tables are included in the report on the various moot points, but numbers 11-14 inclusive, which comprise the memoranda of the women's colleges and societies at Oxford and Cambridge, the proposals of the Cambridge syndicate on the relations of women students to the University of Cambridge, their recital of Graces 1 and 11 and other proposals with regard to status, are of great interest, and should be read by all who realise the need for equality of opportunity between men and women. The needs of the various women's colleges are stated as well as those of home students, and the position of women lecturers, who have no adequate pension scheme, the financial difficulties of the colleges, and their need for more lecture, library and laboratory accommodation, are all clearly given. Finally, the new proposals to give membership of the University of Cambridge to women's colleges under certain limitations, and the counter proposition of forming a separate women's university, are dealt with.

The report acknowledges that the women at Girton and Newnham are in a “different position from members of the University,” and as long as women can get degrees at Oxford and not from Cambridge, they will be at a disadvantage,” while still not suggesting that this injustice be removed. All women who realise that the eloquent pleas of our statesmen and scholars for an open way for any citizen's child, from the primary school to the highest honours of the University, mean that when the child, however brilliant intellectually, is of the female sex—the shining path is promptly altered to the semblance of an obstacle race course, should carefully read these pages, 275-295, and convince themselves that organised women need to make their influence felt promptly and powerfully in these councils of the solons (?) of our time. J. M. T.

GEORGIAN WOMEN.

The August number of *Woman's Outlook*, the monthly organ of the Women's Co-operative Guild, has an interesting article on the women of Georgia. Georgia is situated on the extreme south of Russia, and north of Armenia and Persia, being bounded on the east by the Caspian Sea, and on the west by the Black Sea. Georgia became a Republic in 1918, after the Russian Revolution, and immediately the women assumed all the political rights that every Georgian man assumed as a citizen of a free country. Women not only voted on equal terms with men, but were elected to Parliament. To-day there are four women M.P.s in the Georgian Parliament, its Parliamentary Secretary is a woman, and there are several women J.P.s. During the last 30 years, Georgian women have imbibed many of the Western ideas of emancipation, and have entered universities and colleges. There are now some 50 women doctors, several certificated dentists, and teachers in elementary, secondary, and higher education, including a bacteriologist at the National University. The position of Georgian women, however, has always been a high one in the social and intellectual life of the nation. It was a woman—St. Nino—who brought Christianity to the people, and the greatest ruler the country ever had was also a woman—Queen Tamara. The hold these two historic figures have, even now, over the people's imagination may be judged from the numerous children's and popular songs about them, and from the frequency of these two names in daily life. Georgian peasant women receive great consideration at the hands of their male folk. They only go out to work when it is a matter of urgent necessity, and for the most part keep at home, and busy themselves with the very profitable silkworm cultivation—almost exclusively a woman's trade—spinning, and the usual round of household duties.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN, 1922.

Speaker: DR. LILLIAS HAMILTON.

Hon. Organiser: MISS ALIX CLARK.

Last week was fine throughout, till Saturday, when the weather was so cold and wet that no meeting could be held. Otherwise the attendances have been good, both in point of view of numbers and the interest shown. On Wednesday both workers went to Largs and held a meeting in the forenoon—a time always more successful than the afternoon. Miss Clark sold quite a large amount of literature and made a good collection. On Friday she went to Innellan, where much interest in the Women's Freedom League was aroused, and for the size of the place, she disposed of a considerable number of copies of THE VOTE, besides pamphlets on the various subjects with which the League more specially concerns itself.

At the Rothesay meetings Miss Clark dwelt at some length on the social work carried on by the League at Nine Elms, and spoke of the “Guest House” as being unique, in that it received the children of mothers who were laid aside through illness, and were therefore unable to minister to the wants of their little ones. She spoke of Mrs. Despard's birthday party and of her gift to the Battersea Borough Council, of her house in Nine Elms, where she had lived among these very people for some 30 years. This gift had facilitated the enlargement of the work she had started among the women and children of this district. All the workers there were voluntary workers and 400 meals a day were distributed for ¼d. or ½d. to the most needy among the little boys and girls of that crowded locality.

Dr. Hamilton spoke of the various national economies that could be advantageously effected in Great Britain at the present time, rather than the cutting down of the education of the children, who should be given every chance of growing up to be morally, mentally and physically fit to be the successors of the noble sons and daughters of the Empire, whose lives and health had been wrecked in “The Great War.” Asked if she did not think the birth-rate should be regulated, she replied: “In a general way I do not.” There were,

GAMES FOR GIRLS.

Last October the College of Preceptors enterprisingly formed a special committee to consider the effects of physical education on girls. Dr. G. F. Still was chairman, and representatives were appointed by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, British Medical Association, Medical Women's Federation, British Association for Physical Training, Ling Association, National Union of Women Teachers, Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools and the Private Schools.

Over 600 replies to a questionnaire were considered, from doctors, women medical students, head mistresses and teachers.

The general consensus of opinion was that all forms of exercise were of use and benefit to girls, with the proviso that (just as in the case of boys) overstrain should be avoided by a careful preliminary examination and watchful oversight, especially in training for competitions and during times of special mental hard work. Football, that last cherished preserve of the male athlete, came in for its usual reprobation.

As to the effects of exercise upon subsequent maternity, no clear evidence was obtained either way. More investigation on this important and rather involved subject would be of use, and probably would support the opinion that here, as in all other aspects of a child's later life as woman or as man, it is an incalculable advantage to possess a body and mind

however, she thought, reforms, most advisable reforms that would restrict the birth-rate in certain directions. She instanced the laws relating to imbeciles and to the mentally deficient. The present laws allowed the inmates of the institutions, where such persons are cared for, to visit their friends and families at certain regular intervals. The result of these visits led frequently to the birth of a child of most undesirable parentage—a child that the State would in all probability be called upon to support, as the parents would be incapable of so doing, and statistics were not wanting to show that as the unfortunate child would probably inherit the mental defects of its progenitors it, in its turn, would probably find itself an inmate of one of these State-supported institutions. She was quite aware that no inconsiderable number of men and women in this country were opposed to complete segregation of the sexes in such cases, but taking a general survey of the causes of our heavy taxation and consequent crippling of our industries, was it not reasonable to restrict the birth-rate among our undesirables rather than the education of the mentally and physically fit among our children?

Then, again, many of our farmers were resenting the impetus that is at the present time being given to the emigration to our own Colonies of many of the best of our farm hands. This, the speaker felt, was quite a wrong attitude to take up. There is in the British Isles, at the present time, a population of 44 millions, while the state of trade and the present position of agriculture cannot find occupation for more than half that number—unemployment is rampant. Emigration to a land where men, women and children are a blessing, not a burden and source of continual anxiety, must be encouraged, that they may be free to live a full, if arduous life, and develop to the utmost of their capabilities, members still of the British Empire. Such emigration would tend as much as anything to regulate the population to the amount of work these Islands could provide at the present time.

LEGAL PARTNERS.

Mrs. Crofts (whom most suffragists will remember better as Miss Ingram) is one of the three women eligible to take the solicitors' final examination in November next. In 1913 Miss Ingram, with three other plaintiffs in the case of *Bebb v. The Law Society*, brought an action unsuccessfully against that body to compel the admission of duly qualified women to the solicitors' profession. In December, 1919, on the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, Miss Ingram was articulated immediately to a well-known Lincoln's Inn firm of solicitors. She was married last June, and, when qualified, she intends to practise as a solicitor and to join her husband's firm in Liverpool as a partner. The Women's Freedom League sends Mrs. Crofts its very best wishes for every possible success in her future work.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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 To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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 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.

THE END OF THE SESSION.

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS.

The summer part of the present Session is ended, and Parliament stands adjourned until November 14th. Members of Parliament are scattered in all directions, seeking rest from their labours, and possibly weighing up their chances at the next General Election. There are various rumours about an autumn Election, but in Coalition circles this is generally predicted for the coming spring. "How will women vote at the next General Election?" is being asked in all political quarters. No doubt each Party will make a bid for their support and employ every means to direct women's attention to the issues which chiefly interest the Party, rather than to those matters which more directly concern women. Unless women between this time and the General Election are very active in their own interests, it is certain that no Party will consider those interests to be of first-class importance. It is necessary, therefore, that women should put forward a definite programme of the things they want, and which they are determined to secure, and then use every endeavour to get each Party to adopt that programme—not merely to pay lip service to its items, but to find a place for each one of women's demands in the election addresses of the Party candidates. There will be little difficulty about this with women candidates, and the more suitable women candidates there are, the better for the women's cause, and women throughout the country should be roused to give them every possible assistance. If women fail to secure Equal Franchise before the next General Election, they will have a very definite grievance against the present Government, which has quite willingly conceded political power to Burmese women at 18 years of age, and on equal terms with men, but persists in refusing any political power to British women under thirty years of age. Women must be prepared to oppose any candidate who does not give Equal Franchise for Women a prominent place in his election address. Women must also make it quite clear to all candidates that they will not get support, but very determined opposition, from women, unless they are prepared to work in Parliament for equal opportunities and equal pay for equal work for men and women throughout the entire Civil Service. Candidates must also be pledged to secure legislation by which it will be illegal to dismiss a woman from any appointment solely on the ground that she is married. Further, it must be made impossible for any future Government to appoint only men as delegates to any national or international Committee or Commission, and promises must be obtained from candidates that they will urge that equal representation shall be given to women and men on all such Committees and Commissions. From the next Government and from all candidates at the General Election, women must demand that they shall have their full share in the administration of our prisons and lunatic asylums, and that an equal moral standard for men and women shall be fully recognised. These are a few of the subjects which are of vital importance to women's interests, and women themselves must see that they are well ventilated at the next Election.

WOMEN'S WAGES.

Before the War there was a great outcry about the numbers of women in sweated trades. At the present time the cost of living is a great deal higher than in 1914. Hundreds of thousands of women have passed through long periods of unemployment, and the pay they are now being offered in industry, in Government offices, and in other quarters frequently does not amount to a living wage under present conditions. Not long ago a woman lift-attendant at one of the London Employment Exchanges was offered 15s. for a 55-hour week, which shows that the standard of the Ministry of Labour is not very high as far as the remuneration of women is concerned. Mr. Davies recently stated in the House of Commons that there are at the present time many women employed in London cafés at 10s. a week. *The Labour Press Service* gives the following extract from a letter received from a Trade Union leader:—

"A shop steward at a firm where the girls have long been working on broken time tells me that the girls earning 17s. 8d. a week have to pay £1 a week for their board. They pay it, and many of them now augment their earnings—you can guess how! They are quite frank about it. They must not only eat, sleep and work, but have some pleasure."

If women are to be reduced to these conditions of living the country will have a heavy toll to pay in the health of the Nation. The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries have just published a pamphlet on "The Cost of Living for Women Clerical Workers." It sets forth the difficulties of existence of a temporary woman clerk in the Civil Service on her salary of 51s. 8d. a week, which, by the way, is to be still further reduced. When these difficulties were cited in the Press numerous letters were written by all kinds of people to the effect that the girls should consider themselves lucky to get this salary; many men with families had to do with less, etc. Some correspondents, indeed, seemed to think that women, married and unmarried, ought to be able to exist without paid work, at any rate if men cared to take their job! We submit that the interests of men and the interest of women are identical in this matter, that neither men nor women will gain by belittling the value of each other's work. Women are not blacklegs by choice in industry or in the professions. The only solution of the problem which is worth while is the securing of equal opportunities for men and women in all trades and professions and a strict understanding that there shall be equal pay for equal work, irrespective of the sex of the worker.

AGAIN ONE WOMAN!

We are glad to see that Mr. Ammon asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why *one* woman was included among the *twelve* persons invited to serve on the Departmental Committee to consider the School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1918. He also asked for the number of men and women teachers whose pensions came under review. The reply of the representative of the Treasury to the first part of the question was that appointments to the Committee had been made on the ground of personal qualification and without regard to sex. With regard to the latter part, he estimated that the numbers were approximately 52,000 men and 143,500 women. Capt. Benn asked him if he thought it proper that a Committee so much concerned with the interests of women should be without an adequate representation of women? The Treasury representative shirked the issue by stating that that was a question for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister was not present. We wonder what he would have said if he had been obliged to answer this question? and how would Mr. Fisher and Mr. Bonar Law have answered it? These gentlemen have all had a great deal to do with the New Government, whose duty was to remove all existing disabilities of the law as between men and women; yet here is a highly controversial matter affecting the pensions of 52,000 men and 143,500 women, and it is delegated to eleven men and one woman!

WORKING WOMEN AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

(Concluded from page 253.)

Methods of Education.

There are two particular difficulties to be borne in mind in connection with the higher education of working women. One is the difficulty of starting such an education when school life has been left behind at 12 or 14 years of age, and the other is the very obvious one of economic circumstances. The ideal in education is the co-educational method, which has already been adopted at Ruskin College; but until the bulk of working women lose their timidity, the best method is probably classes for women alone outside College life, until they are sufficiently advanced to want classes, when they should then be ready for co-education. The Workers' Educational Association already adopts this method. Short courses are advocated to begin with, as most workers are tired in the evening. History is probably the most important subject for workers of either sex. Most problems have to be approached historically, especially Political Science, because here one gets the historical treatment of human and social relationships in the various Institutions regulating these relationships of individuals to each other for organised life in society. This subject gives a clear perspective, and persons can form their own opinions on such questions as Equal Franchise, and range from that to matters of reform, viz., Divorce Laws, etc. Another important subject is Local Government, or Public Administration. The only time one comes into touch with any of the problems of Local Government is during an election, and then one is only appealed to from a sentimental point of view. Women should understand these problems from a technical standpoint. All women are not Town Councillors, or Members of Parliament, and those in the rank and file must be given the necessary technical knowledge on such subjects as Public Health, Elementary Education, the Milk question, the Housing problem, etc. A third necessary subject is Industrial History, specially needed by women Co-operators and Trade Unionists. This subject embraces the History of Trade Unionism and the Co-operative Movement, and leads on to big public questions, such as the Nationalisation of the Railways. A fourth subject is Economics, for lack of understanding which, so many workers are blind to even moderate reform of any kind. Both Ruskin College and the Central Labour College specialise on economics teaching. There is also great need for a knowledge of Psychology, especially for women Magistrates, and for all who have to do with children's education.

Literature is another subject. Many people regard a poet as one of them called himself, "an idle singer of an empty day," but if his song soothes the weary, cheers the dispirited, and stirs and inspires to great actions, it is surely of tremendous importance. The dramatist and the novelist, too, hold up the mirror to life, and in so doing are rendering struggling humanity a great service, because they enable the race to grapple more effectually with the problems that beset it.

Teachers.

Women teachers are probably the best for working women's classes, as they can get into closer touch with their pupils than men ever could. Sympathy between teacher and taught is, of course, an absolute necessity. A Teacher who is working-class in fact as well as in principle, with practical experience of life and its problems, is the best for working women's higher education. She must have tact, for women who have not done any serious mental work for years are apt to be sensitive, and to get discouraged. Above all, she must be a thinker, and alert and clear in her thoughts, so that she can stimulate thought in class. She must also possess the true democratic spirit, realising that the fact of being able to teach other women does not mean that she is superior and they inferior, but that she has had opportunities which have been denied to them.

Working women's tuition, too, must be elastic, not rigid. The type of class depends upon the requirements of the students. The one, two, or three year class is the most educational, but new students, or people who are rather afraid of the classes, often require only a short course to begin with, and later on, will ask for a longer course and more serious work. Every class should aim at getting good discussion, because if women feel they may ask questions and discuss things, they get a great deal more out of a subject than by just sitting and listening to the lecture. To this end women's organisations should be linked up, not only in the towns, but also in districts, so as to be in a position to have a joint secretary or organiser, who would seek out the best teachers to lead a class. These must be people who understand the working woman. Already a good deal of splendid educational work is being done in this way, where the classes take the form of a short introduction by the leader, followed by ample time for discussion, each member of the class having read up the subject beforehand. Study circles form another useful method of education for working-class women.

[This article is founded on information kindly supplied by Ruskin College.—Ed.]

SUFFRAGE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The recent Pan-American Conference at Baltimore is already bearing fruit, inasmuch as a campaign for woman suffrage is about to be inaugurated in South America. Mrs. Chapman Catt has accepted the Presidency of the Pan-American Association for the Advancement of Women, and will go to South America in person to lead the campaign. Women are still voteless in all the Latin countries, both in Europe and America, and this "drive for the Spanish-speaking countries" has been one of Mrs. Catt's long-cherished ambitions. Two years ago, it will be recollected, preparations were made to hold the bi-annual Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Madrid, the Congress to be followed with a campaign in South America, but opposition on the part of the Catholic Church of Spain caused the transference of the Congress to Geneva instead, whilst the South American project was abandoned for the time being. The recent Conference at Baltimore, however, has now provided the necessary stimulus. The campaign will commence early in September at Rio Janeiro, after which a series of conferences, an intensive campaign of education, and a network of classes for citizenship training will be held throughout South America, at many of which Mrs. Catt will speak. The first Vice-President of the Pan American Association is Donna Bertha Lutz, of Rio Janeiro, Brazil, who, as secretary of the National Museum in Rio Janeiro, holds one of the first political posts opened to women in her country. She is also the leader of the Brazil League for the Emancipation of Women, and one of the most active feminists in South America. An equal suffrage Bill is now pending before the Congress of Brazil, and it is possible this may be passed before the adjournment of the Congress on December 31. Rio Janeiro will, therefore, be used next September as a base of organisation to secure political independence for the women of South America, especially as in the same month Brazil is celebrating her centenary of independence as a republic. Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile are other progressive provinces in South America as regards women's political rights. Suffrage Bills are impending in both Argentine and Uruguay, whilst the provinces of San Juan, La Rioja, and Santa Fé, in the Argentine, have already granted women the municipal vote. Uruguay is fortunate in possessing a Feminist President, Dr. Baltasar Brum. In Central America, the republics of Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica have also given women certain political privileges, short of the actual granting of the vote.

THE LIBERAL SUMMER SCHOOL AT OXFORD.

Just as much frequented seaside resorts enjoy greatly varied programs of entertainments, from the cinema, and the pier band, down to the beach donkey and his rider, even so does Oxford, one of the most beautiful of our old cities, enjoy during the same months of July and August an immense variety of summer schools, congresses and conferences. I have interviewed the Town Clerk, and he sent for a Clerk of Education Authority, to furnish me with a complete list of Summer Schools proceeding at the moment in Oxford; in the end an address was given with Training College in it, where a list might be obtained. *Nous verrons.* Should this meet the eye of the Town Clerk, who is a recent arrival, he will perhaps fall in with the suggestion that, just as a cinema manager changes the programme and advertises it, he will affix a list at the Chief Gateway of Oxford's really magnificent Town Hall, so that we may learn in time what is going on. The people of Oxford are so inured to summer schools, that they don't pay any attention to them, though all know that they have the great point of keeping up prices in vacation.

Still the Liberals *did* receive a little notice, for they numbered 600 strong, and as no College can accommodate such numbers, they had to charter the Town Hall, and streamed in and out of it by the score. It was organised by Col. T. F. Tweed and thoroughly well done. The leaders of the Liberal Party were there in force, Mr. Asquith, Lord Grey of Falldon, Sir M. Bonham-Carter and Lady Bonham-Carter, Rt. Hon. C. F. G. Masterman, Sir John Simon, and innumerable others. We heard addresses, papers and discussions on the League of Nations and Rehabilitation of Europe, on Wages and Labour Organisations, on Agriculture, Free Trade, National Finance, Disarmament, on the Balance of Power, Machinery of Government, the State and Industry, Problem of the Mines, and many other important subjects. I call to mind an old Swiss gentleman I met, who sagely remarked to me: "*J'écoute ma femme.*" I commended the policy and as I also *écoute la femme*, I must correlate two ladies and their papers, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., of Liverpool, on "The Family Wage," and Mrs. Sturge Gretton, J.P., the only woman appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Wages Board for Oxfordshire, "On the Rural Problem of England of 1922." All agreed that both these ladies gave admirable papers and conveyed valuable information on their respective subjects. For myself, owing to the lack of information *re* summer schools proceeding at Oxford, I only heard of the Liberal one when it was half over. I then attended assiduously; at the end of the time my head ached with the vastness and variety of the subjects. One chased the other out of the brain, and stupidity seemed to supervene. I chanced to mention it to a local editor, whose feelings and sufferings coincided with mine, and we came to the conclusion that if we wished to develop neurasthenia, the program of the Liberal Summer School, faithfully followed, was the best possible means to the end. They rested from their labours on Sunday, and during the week enjoyed a garden party at Fritwell Manor given by Sir John and Lady Simon, and a reception at Balliol by Mr. and Mrs. Asquith. There was also a very amusing "rag" of prominent Liberals, aided by a Beauty Chorus of 20 gaily dressed girls towards the end of the program. One of the ladies sang—

"Oh, what intellect,
Liberal Whips select."

The tones of voice of the leaders, their mannerisms and peculiarities, their dress and style were well imitated, and Mr. Asquith declared they had had the refined enjoyment of seeing themselves as others saw them and enjoying a good laugh.

The Liberal School ended on August 9 by an immense public meeting, addressed by Lord Grey of Falldon. I have omitted to mention the Model Election under Proportional Representation, conducted by Mr. J. H. Humphreys, of three British representatives to the League of Nations. Out of 330 voters, 222 voted for Lord Balfour first; Lord Milner was second; the Premier third.

C. S. BREMNER.

BOOK REVIEW.

This Freedom. By A. S. M. Hutchinson. (Hodder & Stoughton.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This book is the most amazing conglomeration of inconsistencies that has ever fallen to our lot to review. We can hardly credit the fact that it emanated from the same brain which conceived and executed "If Winter Comes," and we believe that its effect upon really thoughtful people, especially those of a logical turn of mind, will be thoroughly damaging to the writer's reputation. We regret this all the more because we yield to none in our admiration of Mr. Hutchinson's earlier work, and it is never a pleasing experience to discover the inevitable clay feet in one's own particular idol.

The main contention, as most people have learned from the recent storm of controversy which has raged around this novel, is to the effect that, if married women pursue an occupation outside their homes, it inevitably spells havoc and ruination to all those nearest them. Two women, both of them wives and mothers, are pitted against each other in sharp contrast; the one, Rosalie's mother, who sacrifices an exquisite talent for miniature painting in order to devote her whole time to looking after her invalid father and the failing preparatory school that was his livelihood, and later transfers this sacrificial devotion to the Rev. Harold Aubyn and their six children in a penniless country "living"; the other, Rosalie herself, richly endowed with mental gifts of no mean order, whose intellectual vitality overflows, through sheer abundance, into the outside world, with a corresponding Nemesis within the four walls of her home life. Yet in the implied comparison between these two women, Mr. Hutchinson betrays perhaps the crudest of all the many glaring inconsistencies which flood this volume. All unconsciously he traces a Nemesis for Rosalie's mother as well! Little by little, as her children grow up, she loses mental touch with them. Her own intellectual life has gradually atrophied, through her own misplaced neglect, and she can no longer keep pace with the progress of the very family to whom she has given the best years of her life.

If it were not for the atmosphere of bewildered sincerity which pervades this volume, we could almost have believed that Mr. Hutchinson penned it with his tongue in his cheek. Rosalie's childish impressions of male domination, her essential sanity of outlook as she grows to woman's estate, her vigorous mind, her total absence of pettiness, her maternal pride, each and all contribute their quota to a really skilful delineation of an essentially "new woman"; yet, from the moment she sets out to taste the sweets of independence, until we leave her crouching beneath the ashes of a ruined home, the author behaves as if he were actually jealous of his own creation, and, dogging her heels from start to finish, snarls viciously at her every action.

Far from sharing in the author's obsession that Rosalie's absence from home for a few hours daily produced the terrible cataclysm of events described in the last chapters, we are profoundly concerned that Rosalie should have been saddled with two such uncommonly unpleasant children as her elder son and daughter. Benji, the youngest, although subjected to exactly the same "neglect" as his elder brother and sister, appears, by yet another of the author's amazing inconsistencies, to have been endowed with all the virtues, in spite of his upbringing! Huggo, the eldest boy, is an unmitigated little scamp, who, after dragging the honoured names of both parents in as much mud as possible, is chicken-hearted enough to blame his mother for all his crooked misdemeanours. Doda, the girl, has, unfortunately, her counterpart in too many foolish flappers who have grown to maturity in this post-war period.

We understand that Mr. Hutchinson is not a married man, and this explains a good deal of the very crude reasoning in this book. Nor does he in the least understand the revised outlook of the twentieth century woman. It may be, perhaps, that one day a woman, essentially modern, but with mirthful eyes, will remove the cataract which now dulls his vision, not by denying the world's need of *Sacrifice*, but by revealing it under its newer garb of intelligent *Service* to the community.

D. M. N.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE.

Monday, September 4, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 8th, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Monday, September 18th, at 7 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Lucy Bell. Subject: "Public Speaking."

Friday, September 22nd at 6 p.m.—Organisation Committee, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, September 23rd, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Wednesday, September 27th, at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Travel as an Education."

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

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Woman Doctor for St. Pancras.

Dr. Stella Churchill, who is a widow, has been appointed by the St. Pancras Borough Council to fill the post of assistant medical officer of health.

The vacancy had existed since last October, when Dr. Gladys Miall Smith was dismissed, owing to the Council's decision not to employ married women whose husbands were able to support them.

At one time it was understood the Council would appoint a man to fill the vacancy, and we are glad that in this matter, at least, some deference to the expressed wish of the public has been shown.

Last of Crimean Nurses.

Probably the last of the devoted band of Crimean nurses organised by Florence Nightingale has passed away at Westminster in the person of Miss Elizabeth Bidwell, aged 91.

She volunteered for service in the prime of young womanhood. For some time she served under the famous Dr. Meyer at Smyrna.

For the last 52 years she has been family nurse to the Erskine family.

German Feminist Leader.

The death is announced of Frau Minna Cauer, for many years the leader of the German Feminist Movement. She was in her eightieth year, her birthday on November 1 last having been marked by congratulatory messages from Women's Societies throughout the world.

Frau Cauer lived for many years in Paris, where she earned her living as a teacher. She returned to Germany after the Franco-Prussian war, and, while continuing her work, began to take part in the democratic movement then just beginning to develop.

Higher Posts for Women at Whitehall.

A landmark in Civil Service history will be made by the appointment of at least two women to the administrative class. A competition for appointments has been announced.

Selection will be made from candidates who have served in a Government Department or the W.A.A.C.s, the W.R.E.N.s, the W.R.A.F.s or the V.A.D. general service.

Salaries for women of the Junior administrative grade will be £200, rising by sums of £20 to £400.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Unemployment Returns.

The number of persons on July 31 recorded on the live Registers of the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed was 1,353,000. This was 9,645 less than in the preceding week and 470,733 less than the figure at the beginning of last January. The number working short time and drawing benefit for intervals of unemployment was 70,300 on July 31, as compared with 72,959 on July 24 and 934,786 on July 1, 1921.

A Notable Woman Civil Servant.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Isabel Anne Dickson, O.B.E., who was the first and only woman assistant secretary in the Civil Service. About seventeen years ago she was one of the first women to be appointed an inspector of schools under the Board of Education, and was later on the first woman inspector of training colleges. During the War she was lent to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and received the O.B.E. in recognition of her services. Three years ago she was appointed an assistant secretary at the Board of Education, being the first woman to hold that position.

A Woman Inventor.

According to the *Surrey Comet*, Mrs. M. E. Hammerton, of Twickenham, following on the invention of an aluminium punt pole by her husband, has patented an improvement on it. Her idea comprises a grooved light metal pole which she claims is stronger and lighter than a wooden one. The danger of splinters is obviated, and the groove accelerates the running-off of the water, so removing that old bugbear of the unwary punter, the possibility of getting uncomfortably wet and spoiling gay summer attire. Her husband is frankly enthusiastic about Mrs. Hammerton's invention, and admits that it is an improvement on his own design.

Married Wage Earners.

E. A. Jones, writing last week in the *Daily News*, says that if the idea that married women should not earn money is carried to its logical conclusion, we must consider the cases of any two or more people living together. She and her sister live together, and both earn salaries. Miss Jones asks if one should not give up and be kept by the other? She knows of three women who have joined forces—each earning over £400 a year. Ought they not to be driven out and made to live alone, or two of them denied employment? Miss Jones points out that there are sons and daughters earning money and living with their parents. Should they not give up and let their fathers keep them, or *vice versa*? She also states that there are unmarried men living in batches, and asks if some of them should not be refused work and be supported by the others? Further, what about the wives with large private incomes? Should they not keep their husbands? Perhaps the St. Pancras Borough Council will find time to send a comprehensive reply to these questions.

More Fields to Conquer!

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt (of whom members of the Women's Freedom League have such pleasant memories), during whose presidency of the National American Woman Suffrage Association the women of the United States won federal suffrage, has accepted the presidency of the Pan-American Association for the Advancement of Women, and will shortly go to South America to lead in person the campaign for woman suffrage. Mrs. Chapman Catt has for many years been president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and during that time more than twenty countries have secured the political emancipation of their women. The Women's Freedom League sends its most cordial greetings to Mrs. Catt and every possible good wish for the success of her work.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,

DESPARD HOUSE, 2, CURRIE STREET, S.W. 8.

We have, by kindness from various friends, been able to send two parties of children into the country for a fortnight's holiday each, and, better still, through the kindness of Miss Heathfield, Mrs. Hutchings, Mrs. Isaacs, Miss Greenville, the Misses Harvey, Mrs. Holford, Mrs. Nicholls and Miss Smith, etc., have been able to supplement their somewhat meagre wardrobes. Boots for one, a coat for another, various undergarments for most of them, and in one case when supplies really fell short we had to manufacture slippers ourselves. A number of guest children, and the unemployment of our neighbours will prevent our closing the settlement these holidays, but Miss Kathleen Holmes has promised to take charge for a few days whilst the staff gets a very necessary rest.

We are asked again to take part in the green, white and gold fair in November, and if friends are forthcoming and goods to put on the stall, we shall hope to attend. Our guest house wardrobe is being replenished. A very acceptable parcel of woollies just arrived has gladdened our hearts for the winter. Miss Riggall has given pinafores and overall material that will last us the winter. Miss K. Holmes has made us some overalls and also sent jumble goods, but we still need sheets and towels and house linen generally. So many have helped, perhaps others will come forward.

MISS A. M. COLE
(Hon. Superintendent).

FRIDAY,
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THE VOTE

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EDUCATIONAL.

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.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, August 20th, 7 p.m., Miss Maude Royden, "The Poetry of Christ's Teaching."

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