

THE VOTE,
Nov. 30, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

SEND THE WOMEN TO WESTMINSTER !

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIV. No. 736.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 30, 1923

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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THANK YOU FOR NOTHING !
GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR, 1923.
BOOK REVIEW. J.M.T.
SPECIAL ELECTION LITERATURE.

SPECIAL ELECTION FUND

Now we have our splendid chance to get more women into Parliament, we want speakers, workers, motors and money to help in the fight. All will be over by December 6th, so please send to the office at once. 34 women are standing for election, but we must see that women head the polls.

WE MUST HAVE £500 AT ONCE

for the expenses of our Election Campaign, to take our full share at this critical time when women's help is so badly needed in the Councils of the Nation, and many public-spirited women offer their help.

HOW MUCH ARE WOMEN M.P.s WORTH TO YOU ?

Please decide at once, and forward your donation to :—

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE,

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

E. KNIGHT,

Hon. Treasurer.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Woman Barrister's Triumph.

Miss Ida Duncan, a young barrister of the Oxford Circuit, is the first woman to be admitted to the Hardwicke Society, the forensic Club of the Bar, which, in its ninety or so years of existence, has counted among its members most of the great Advocates and Judges of the period. The Society numbers over 2,000.

Woman Statistician Wins Prize.

At the November meeting of the Royal Statistical Society, the Frances Wood Memorial Prize, of the value of £30, which is offered biennially for the best investigation of any problem dealing with economic or social conditions of the wage-earning classes, was awarded to Miss E. J. M. Haynes, of Oxford, for an essay on human power in the English pottery industry.

French Gift to Mme. Curie.

The Minister of Public Instruction has tabled a Bill providing for an annual pension of 40,000 francs to Mme. Curie, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the discovery of radium. The grant is being made as "a national reward to the discoverer of radium."

Library Bequest to Women.

By the death of Lady Morley, Lord Morley's bequest of some 5,000 volumes from his library to the University of Manchester is released. These books are to be placed in Ashburn Hall for the use of the women students.

Woman Sheriff Appointed.

Mrs. Lucy Green Wells has been appointed first woman Sheriff of the City and County of Canterbury. Women have not been Sheriffs since the Middle Ages.

MR. BALDWIN'S REPLY.

Readers of THE VOTE will remember that we wrote to Mr. Baldwin on November 16th, asking him, if his Party was returned to power, whether he would pledge himself to secure (1) that women shall have equal political voting rights with men; (2) the enforcement of the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, so that marriage shall be no reason, excuse, or justification for the dismissal of women from the Civil Service, from work under local governing bodies, or from private employment? The following is the reply we have received:—

"10, Downing Street,
"Whitehall, S.W.1.
"November 23rd, 1923.

"Dear Madam,

"I am desired by the Prime Minister to refer to your letter of the 16th inst., in which you ask him for a statement of his views on the question of equal franchise for men and women, and the removal of all barriers to the employment of married women.

"In reply, the Prime Minister desires me to say, with reference to the former of these two points, that the Government are in agreement with the view expressed by the late Prime Minister that the discrimination in age between men and women contained in the Franchise Bill of 1918 cannot be permanent. A Bill to alter the existing franchise could only be introduced towards the close of the next Parliament, and the Government, if returned to power, will then be ready to consider with an open mind whether this question should not be reopened.

"In regard to the second point, the procedure in connection with the employment of married women in the Civil Service is governed by rules which were implicitly approved by the House of Commons on the 5th of August, 1921. It would, in the opinion of the Government, be inopportune to attempt to reopen this question at the present time, when so many ex-Service men and unmarried women are out of employment.

"Yours truly,
"(Signed) R. P. W. GOWER."

GOOD LUCK TO THE WOMEN CANDIDATES!

The following women have been nominated by their respective Political Parties, as Parliamentary candidates for the following constituencies. A number of these women have previously stood as candidates, and against these are recorded the number of votes they polled at the last General Election, in 1922.

Unionist:

THE VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (13,924), Plymouth (Sutton).
MRS. HILTON PHILLIPSON (12,000), Berwick.
DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN (8,066), Camberwell (N).
THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, Kinross and West Perth.
MISS PILKINGTON, St. Helens.
MISS VIOLET ROBERTSON, St. Rollox (Glasgow).
MISS RACHEL PARSONS, Ince (Lancashire).

Liberal:

MRS. WINTRINGHAM (11,609), Louth (Lincs).
LADY TERRINGTON (11,154), South Bucks.
MRS. CORBETT ASHBY (5,673), Richmond.
MISS MARY GRANT (9,554), Pontefract.
MISS HELEN FRASER (9,336), Hamilton (Lanark).
MRS. R. CLARKSON, Moseley (Birmingham).
MRS. H. FOLLAND, Gower (Glamorgan).
MRS. MARCUS DIMSDALE, Cambridgeshire.
MISS URSULA WILLIAMS, Consett (Durham).
MRS. GEORGE CADBURY, King's Norton.
MRS. ROWKEY MOODY, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.
MRS. OGILVIE GORDON, Hastings.

Independent:

MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (7,804), Middlesex: Brentford and Chiswick.

Labour:

DR. ETHEL BENTHAM (5,900), Islington (E.).
MISS MARGARET BONFIELD (14,498), Northampton.
MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE (6,747), East Ham (N.).
MRS. BARTON (Co-op., 7,017), King's Norton.
MISS MINNIE PALLISTER, Bournemouth.
MRS. M. A. HAMILTON, Chatham.
THE COUNTESS OF WARWICK, Warwick and Leamington.
MISS DOROTHY JEWSON, Norwich.
MISS E. C. WILKINSON, Ashton-under-Lyne.
MRS. A. CORNER, Farnham (Surrey).
MRS. LOUIE SIMPSON, Dorset (West).
MISS JESSIE STEPHEN, Portsmouth (South).
MRS. E. PALMER, Isle of Wight.
MRS. EDNA PENNY, Berwick-on-Tweed.

UNEMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION.

The London Trades Council, and the London District Council of the N.U.W.C.M., held a great Demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Unemployment, last Sunday, November 25th, at 2.30 p.m.

A Resolution was carried which denounced "as wholly inadequate and belated the programme of winter work produced by the Government, which offers the prospect of employment for only a fraction of the unemployed in a few industries, and in particular gives no hope whatever for women and young persons."

MEMBERS WHO HAVE HELPED US.

We gratefully record our thanks to the following members, who, by their questions, speeches, and votes in the last Parliament, consistently helped forward the causes for which the Women's Freedom League is working:—

The Viscountess Astor, Mr. Ammon, Major Atlee, Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Capt. Wedgwood Benn, Capt. Bowyer, Mr. Frank Briant, Mr. J. Rhys-Davies, Mr. Chuter Ede, Major Entwistle, Mr. Isaac Foot, Mr. W. Graham, Mr. Gerald Hurst, Commander Kenworthy, Mr. Lunn, Mr. Lansbury, Mr. J. Ramsey Montague Butler, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Sir Robert Newman, Mr. Philip Snowden, Mr. D. Somerville, Col. Wedgwood, Mr. Sidney Webb, Mr. Pethick Lawrence (a candidate in Leicester), and Mrs. Wintringham.

INDIAN WOMANHOOD AT THE POLLS.

By MARGARET E. COUSINS.

This week (October 30th to November 5th) has been an historic one in the annals of Eastern womanhood, as it has seen for the first time in history Indian women exercising democratic rights, or, as they would prefer it described, performing patriotic duties at the voting booths. The second election for the Legislative Councils and the Legislative Assembly, since the Reform Bill, is now taking place in the various Provinces in India, not all at the same time, and it happens that the two Provinces which have been the first to enfranchise their women have also been the first to hold their elections. Madras Presidency was the first to confer the suffrage on its women, and it has fallen to its lot to be the first of the Provinces in which women have recorded their Parliamentary vote. Bombay Presidency was the second for the franchise, and is also the second to have held its new elections. The United Provinces have not yet polled. These are the three areas in which the sex disqualification has been removed, and they represent a population of over one hundred million people. The important thing is that Indian legislators have given the vote to women on exactly the same terms as it is given to men; so that Indian women are in a better position than British women, and far ahead of South African women, as far as voting goes. The other remarkable and gratifying fact is the large number of women who came to the polls. In some Divisions of Madras City, 75 per cent. of the qualified women recorded their votes. The Women's Indian Association had a women voters' campaign previous to the Madras election, and ran several successful women voters' meetings, visited the women in their homes

and encouraged them to vote, and acted as unofficial helpers to the voters at the polling stations. The Association had sent out to all the Presidency candidates a questionnaire to secure pledges of support for the passing of a Maternity Benefit Bill, compulsory primary education for girls, larger money grants for Education and Health purposes, the reduction of the Salt Tax, prohibition of intoxicants, and the attainment of Swaraj (Home Rule). A substantial number of replies in the affirmative was received which showed that there were men in each party ready to promote the advancement of women. This made the women's vote a non-party one, and further emphasised the identity of voting as regards the sexes. Although a sad amount of illiteracy was disclosed in the women, the quality of general intelligence was high. The interest in national affairs was undoubted, and it was equalled by the courage that the women showed in undertaking a new experience from which one might naturally have expected them to shrink. In Madras and Bombay Cities no separate arrangements were made for women. In some country towns, women had separate polling stations for themselves. In the big cities, men and women moved side by side, took equal chances, got similar attention in the polling stations. As many as 21 women were in one polling booth at one time. School teachers, doctors, merchants' wives, and widows came in a continuous stream to the poll, all proud of their importance as citizens, all glad to vote for the first time for men of their own nation whose aim was Swaraj (Home Rule).

CHILD ASSAULT.

A crowded meeting on the subject of Child Assault was held, under the auspices of the Six-Point Group, at the Kingsway Hall on Wednesday, November 14th.

Lady Rhondda, who presided, said that child assault must be stamped out somehow. It was not really the law that was at fault, but the administration of the law. At the Lancaster Assizes, the other day, there was a case of a little girl of 13½ who was engaged to look after the small children of a married man, who seduced her for money. She was an orphan, and her aunt, discovering it, took the case into Court last August. It came up for trial a few weeks ago, and was proved up to the hilt, but, in consideration of his previous good character, he was awarded only three months in the Second Division. That, said Lady Rhondda, would have been impossible if public opinion had been more informed and more enlightened.

Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., in tracing the history of Child Welfare legislation back to 1837, reminded her audience that when Queen Victoria came to the Throne, there was not one measure for the welfare of children, but when she died, there were a hundred! The difficulty was that 50 per cent. of the cases never reached the Court, because the mother or other guardian of the child was unwilling to court the publicity and resultant stigma. Likewise, the child victim was often frightened, and could say nothing at all in giving evidence. The shock to the child was not only physical, it was moral and mental. Prison punishment of the offender was no remedy, for he often repeated it when he came out, being either a moral delinquent or a mental deficient. In Birmingham, where 400 similar cases had been medically and psychologically examined during the last four years, only 76 per cent. had ulti-

mately been imprisoned, the others being mainly mental deficients and subjects for institutional treatment. The outcry that legislative reform would be too expensive was not justified, because it was surely much cheaper to prevent the criminal assault and not destroy the prospect of the child's becoming an asset to the State, than to pay for the punishment of the criminal, who would probably go back and do it again. What was wanted was a Committee to examine the question, and see how machinery could be set up to deal with this loathsome offence.

Lady Astor, M.P., suggested that if the Press would take up a few of these questions, and really go for them, they would do far more to help their country than by giving so much space to sordid tragedies.

Staff-Capt. Gill, of the Salvation Army, said he had only one hour before received into the Salvation Army Home three little girls of ten, eight, and seven, of whom the elder and the younger had been outraged in the presence of the eight-year-old child!

Commandant Allen, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, pleaded for the protection of small boys, under 10 or 12, with whom depraved men made friends, and took them away for immoral purposes.

Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., said these assaults on little children were the offence of his own sex, and it was men who should be moved to indignation. There must be more women police, that the women of the neighbourhood might know to whom to go to speak privately on this question.

The proceeds of the meeting were given to three different homes for outraged children—the Salvation Army Home, St. Monica's at Croydon, and St. Winifred's at Wolverhampton.

S. W. M.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1923.

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.

THANK YOU FOR NOTHING!

From our point of view, Mr. Baldwin's reply to the Women's Freedom League questions is thoroughly unsatisfactory. Indeed, it could hardly have been more so. He has never been known to have suffragist sympathies, but apparently now thinks it safe to ally himself with Mr. Bonar Law in the view "that the discrimination in age between men and women contained in the Franchise Bill of 1918 cannot be permanent"! Surely that is obvious to most people! We asked him what he was prepared to do in order to abolish that "discrimination," and he tells us that "a Bill to alter the existing franchise could only be introduced towards the close of the next Parliament, and the Government, if returned to power, will then be ready to consider with an open mind whether this question should not be reopened"! We can only say to Mr. Baldwin, "Thank you for nothing." In our view, the political rights of women are of far more importance to women than any policy of any Party. At the present time there are nearly 12½ million women in this country over 21 years of age, but approximately 4¾ millions of those women are deprived of a vote. There are, on the other hand, just over 10¾ million men over 21 years of age, but only 300,000 of those men cannot at this election exercise a vote. Compare that number with the 4¾ million voteless women over 21 years of age! These voteless women have to pay their taxes, both direct and indirect, in the same way as their fellow-countrymen, and obey the laws of this country. Does Mr. Baldwin think that the questions of Tariffs, Protection and Free Trade are of no interest to those women? Have they not as much right as men to express their opinion through the ballot-box on those questions? If Mr. Baldwin does not think so, why, in the name of common sense, should he expect women to support him or his policy on these questions at the coming Election?

Mr. Baldwin's reply to our question asking him what he is prepared to do, if returned to power, to secure the enforcement of the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, so that marriage shall be no reason, excuse, or justification for the dismissal of women from the Civil Service, from work under local governing bodies, or from private employment, is wholly unintelligible to us. Clause I. of this Act states definitely that a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation. It is true that there is a provision that Orders in Council may be made prescribing the mode of admission of women to the Civil Service, but, in our opinion, these Orders in Council should cease to be issued in regard to women filling posts in the Civil Service; and it is quite time that all posts in the Civil Service, the highest as well as the lowest, should be thrown open equally to men and women, whether married or unmarried. Mr. Baldwin says nothing about our special grievance in regard to the dismissal of women, solely on the ground of marriage, by local governing bodies. If words in

Acts of Parliament have any meaning, the London County Council and London and Provincial Municipal Councils are continually acting in defiance of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act by their rules and regulations requiring women doctors, women teachers, or charwomen to resign their positions on marriage. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act was a measure drafted, introduced into Parliament, and passed through both Houses by the Government of the day; and we want to know why any Government that is in power refuses to enforce its provisions? Is there any law on the Statute Book referring to men's interests which could be set aside with impunity in this manner? There are quite sufficient inequalities of the law as between men and women, without this special differentiation in the application of laws in regard to men's and women's interests. Mr. Baldwin refuses to consider this matter. In these circumstances, can he be surprised if women lack confidence in him or his Government—"if returned to power"?

GOOD LUCK TO THE WOMEN CANDIDATES!

More than fifty men have been returned unopposed to the new Parliament, but every woman candidate has to face fierce opposition. Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, and Mrs. Phillipson are the only women who are contesting seats previously held by their own political Party, and all three are having a stiff fight to retain those seats. All the other women are fighting to wrest the seat from the political Party who secured it at the last Election. To one and all these women we send our heartiest good wishes for their success, and to all men and women in their constituencies who have the women's cause at heart we send the Women's Freedom League message—Send your woman candidate to Westminster! Never were women of all Parties more urgently needed in Parliament than at the present time. The issues before the electorate so obviously concern women, and must not be left to the decision of men alone in the new Parliament. Women, as well as men, must discuss the questions of Tariffs, Protection, and Free Trade. Women as well as men must decide what our foreign policy is to be, and whether or not the League of Nations is to have the full support of this country. No matter what Party women belong to, they will put a different emphasis from men on the questions of housing, the health of the community, the education of the children, the position of women as mothers, wives, and workers; the position of women as voters; the question of child assault; the necessity of women police for the protection of children and young girls; and the enforcement of the recognition of an equal moral standard for both sexes. Not any of these questions will be settled to the satisfaction of women until women themselves deal with them in Parliament. We appeal to all our friends to sink their Party differences for the sake of the cause of women, and, wherever a woman stands for Parliament in this Election, to work for her and to use every means in their power to get her returned to Westminster. We are convinced that getting women into Parliament is the quickest means of securing all the reforms for which women are working, and cannot fail to remove all the inequalities of law and custom as between men and women. We owe a debt of gratitude to every woman who stands for Parliament, and send her our heartiest good wishes for good luck at the poll on December 6th.

MRS. OGILVIE GORDON FOR HASTINGS!

At a meeting held last Tuesday, our Hastings Branch decided to work for the return of Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon for Hastings. Her committee rooms are at 1, Claremont, Hastings, and all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League are urged to report there to Mrs. Felton Smith, and give Mrs. Gordon all the help they can possibly arrange. Speakers, canvassers, clerical workers, and workers of every kind will be cordially welcomed.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR, 1923.

On Friday and Saturday of last week, the spacious rooms of the Central Hall, Westminster, presented a gay sight on the occasion of our annual Green, White, and Gold Fair, the Hall being picturesquely decorated with the League's colours, and also with attractive banners from other women's societies taking stalls. This year we had 17 of our own stalls, besides 19 stalls taken by other societies.

OPENING CEREMONIES.

On Friday, the Fair was opened by The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., presided, and pointed out that, though the Women's Freedom League had been in existence for over 15 years, it was as active an organisation now as in the old days. The sinews of war, however, were not so easy to get nowadays as before the war, but were especially needed at that moment for the forthcoming December Election. Women Parliamentary candidates were handicapped, because they had not got the Party funds that men had, and had to rely upon their own resourcefulness. A number of efficient women, as good as, if not better than, the men, were willing to stand, but were prevented from doing so by financial reasons.

Lady Amherst of Hackney said the crowded hall before her was a symbol of what women would do in public life, once they got the chance. Pessimists challenged the direct influence women had exercised since they had become voters, but she, Lady Amherst, wished to point out to the audience the indirect effects which were already making themselves felt. During the last few years men Members of Parliament were showing a much greater interest, and sense of responsibility, where children were concerned. She also claimed that legislation introduced since women became voters was directly benefiting men, and looked forward to the day when men would publicly express their appreciation that women now had a direct share in public life. Every time the franchise was widened, a larger number of people were brought into the area of politics, and had their minds broadened in the process.

Dr. Knight, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Lady Amherst, made a special appeal for help, either in time or money, for the various women candidates now standing for election. She was seconded by Miss Anna Munro, who afterwards read letters of regret at being unable to be present, from Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Mrs. Hilton Phillipson, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Susan Lawrence, Miss Minnie Pallister, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey, all of whom appealed for offers of help in their respective constituencies.

On Saturday, the Fair was opened by Miss Lilian Barker, C.B.E., J.P., Governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution, Aylesbury. Dr. Octavia Lewin, who presided, paid a cordial tribute to THE VOTE, which brought its readers every week news of what women were doing all over the world. Miss Lilian Barker pointed out that under ordinary circumstances she was not in the habit of opening bazaars and similar fêtes, but she could not refuse the Women's Freedom League, because of the value of its work, past, present, and future. By special request, Miss Barker then briefly reviewed the history of her varied life-work, in a racy and humorous speech which kept her hearers spell-bound, beginning with the first early years of elementary school teaching amongst both sexes, followed by a period of domestic duties at home, and later by work in a L.C.C. Women's Institute. Miss Barker next described how she organised cookery classes in the Women's Legion during the war, and later, with Lady Londonderry, in the camps themselves, then took charge of the welfare work at Woolwich Arsenal, and later helped the late Miss Mary MacArthur in the work of the Central Committee for the Training and Employment of Women, work which she had only relinquished seven months

previously, when asked to take over the Governorship of the Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury.

Mrs. Whetton, in proposing a vote of thanks to Chairman and speaker, described the magical effect of a visit once paid by Miss Barker to Portsmouth, in inducing the girls of that locality to enter for training in domestic service; and Miss Underwood, in seconding it, gave an account of the Election work that was being carried on at Bournemouth on behalf of Miss Minnie Pallister's candidature, where she had been speaking the night before.

ROUND THE STALLS.

The stalls arranged by the Women's Freedom League Branches, and other helpers, presented their usual attractive appearance. The Hampstead Stall was stocked with a splendid assortment of handkerchiefs, and various other interesting items, including a tasteful raffia hat made by an ex-Service man, some specimens of Early Victorian fine woolwork, and a handsome writing-case inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The Montgomery Boroughs Stall, though it sadly missed the vitality and enthusiasm of our invaluable colleague, Miss Alix M. Clark, whom we are grieved to say was prevented by illness from being with us, and from making and collecting her usual splendid assortment of cakes and country produce, made a brave show, with an attractive display of Christmas crackers, raffia baskets, mince-pies, Christmas cakes, and chocolates. The Portsmouth Stall bore a useful load of brushes, floor cloths, dusters, shopping baskets, tea cosies, and thermos flasks. The South-Eastern Stall showed a number of useful gifts contributed by members of the Hastings, Bexhill, and Ashford Branches, including a handsome Hungarian shawl, a fine assortment of toys, and cornelian and Egyptian necklaces. The Scotch Stall was famous for its beautiful display of woollen garments for children and adults, sent by Scotch members from all over the world. The General Stall (1) was conspicuous for its dainty children's clothes, and a number of cosy-looking woollen camisoles knitted in the approved fashion for evening wear, whilst General Stall (2) showed a real Spanish lace scarf, amongst other things, and some dolls' bedroom suites of furniture, carved by an ex-Service man, which quickly sold out. The Overalls and Aprons Stall was brilliant with cretonne creations of vivid hue, and valuable framed copies of Morland prints. The Pound Stall was laden with food specialties from all the best-known vegetarian food firms, and also with home-made sweets. Loaves on this stall made from Artox flour very quickly sold out. The Stationery Stall displayed its usual dainty assortment of notepaper and envelopes at exceedingly moderate prices. The Toy Stall showed some beautifully made Japanese dolls, dressed in the orthodox fashion and sent by a member in Japan, and a large number of dolls, rattles, balls, puzzles, soft animals, and games, presided over by Pip, Squeak, and Wilfred. A tiny gramophone, complete with records, was quite a novelty. The White Stall quickly sold out the beautiful sets of underclothing for which this Stall is justly famous. A special feature were the dainty evening camisoles in silk and lace. Dr. Lewin's Hygiene Stall was a new feature this year, and attracted a good deal of attention, with its portraits from life, sketched by Captain Handley Reid, showing the unpleasing effect of mouth-breathing upon the facial muscles, an assortment of daintily flowered paper handkerchiefs, and bundles of plainer ones. The Literature Stall was gay with handsomely bound Christmas Annuals, and other books, including the recently issued *Woman's Year Book*, about which everyone is talking just now. The VOTE Stall was resplendent with children's frocks and underclothes, Indian lace and lace doyleys, dainty table centres worked in cross-stitch, and dolls in knitted garments which took off and on; and the Women's Freedom League (Nine Elms Settlement), presided over by Miss Cole, did a good trade in garments, fancy goods, and toys.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

The very cordial thanks of the Women's Freedom League are due to the talented artists who provided the delightful concerts at the Fair this year, and also for the thoroughly good-humoured and splendid spirit which they exhibited in displaying their gifts of song and story-telling under obvious difficulties. The audiences, although not large, were extremely appreciative, and the opinion was generally expressed that the entertainment provided was of a very high standard of excellence.

Miss Bessie Bromhall, Mrs. Harvey James, and Mrs. Somers gave recitations and told stories, each in a distinctive and charming manner. The vocal items rendered by Mrs. Walter Coates, Miss Freda Thomas, Mr. F. Legge, and Mr. Frost were very much enjoyed, the bass solos of the two latter proving a welcome addition to the programme each evening. Contributions in lighter vein were made by Messrs. Kelly and Suthers, and Miss Lettice Newman and Mr. Richmond. The former talented young men caused much amusement, and the latter, who are old friends of the Women's Freedom League, were pronounced by many to be "better than ever." Mrs. M. Jenkins and Mr. Hurren proved very efficient accompanists, the former also contributing a brilliantly executed pianoforte solo.

The arrangements were in the hands of Mrs. Mary Legge, whose singing on each evening was warmly applauded.

The Corner of Old Bagdad, superintended by Miss Dickeson and Mr. Clayton, was a great success, as were also the Readings and Recitations by Miss Henrietta Leslie and Mr. Soutter. Excellent Character Readings were given by Mrs. Grace Goodall and Mrs. Spon, and Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons and Mrs. S. W. Marshall.

VERY MANY THANKS.

The Women's Freedom League gives best and warmest thanks to all who helped towards last week's success. In the first place to Miss E. Berry, our untiring and efficient "Fair" Secretary, for her splendid work of organisation, and to the Fair Sub-Committee for steady labours throughout the year. To the stallholders:—Miss Goodliffe, Miss Vibert, and Mrs. Harvey James (Hampstead); Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Elias, Miss Elias, Miss Joan Elias, and Miss Pritchard (Montgomery Boroughs); Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner (Portsmouth); Miss White, Mrs. Kither, Mrs. Prelooker, and the Misses Stone (South-Eastern); Miss Munro, Miss Eva Munro, and Miss Steven (Scotch—Edinburgh and Glasgow); Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Abbott, and Miss Furbank (General); Mrs. Lloyd (General—2); Mrs. Mustard, who we are sorry to know was prevented by illness from being present, The Misses Underwood, Mrs. Bayne, Miss Phyllis Mustard, and Miss Brewer (Overalls and Aprons); Miss Merridith, The Misses Stutchbury, and Mrs. Lawrence (Pound); Mrs. Preece, Miss Arney, Miss Andrews, Miss Thomas and Miss Wilkerson (Stationery); Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Shore, Mrs. Mockford, Mrs. Moccock, Miss Gudbjörg Joelsson, Miss Katie Reeves, Miss Connie Kelly, and Miss Mary Knight (Toy); Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Catmur, and Mrs. Trafford Williams (White); Dr. Octavia Lewin, Dr. Patch, Mrs. Charles Richardson, Miss MacDonell, Miss Welstead, and Miss Raggett (Hygiene); Mrs. Legge (Information Bureau); Miss Telling, Miss Kirby, Miss Branson, and Mrs. Aucott (Literature); Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Evans, and Mrs. Newsome (Vote); also to Messrs. Barker & Co., Shoobred & Co., and D. H. Evans & Co., who kindly sent toys; to the Women's Auxiliary Service, for policing the Hall; to Miss Hunt and Mrs. Crawford (Ticket-selling); Mr. Gill and Mr. Threadgold (Doors); Miss Olive James and Miss Mackenzie-Smith (Posters); to all our generous entertainers and cheery helpers, givers and buyers of goods; and to Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss White, Miss Reeves, Miss M. Pierotti, Mrs. Letts, and Mrs. Abbott, and the Minerva Club and Café for their ever-welcome and daintily served teas and suppers.

BOOK REVIEW.

Feminism in Greek Literature. By F. A. Wright, M.A. (Routledge.) 6s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This little book gives us a clearly reasoned statement as to the chief reason for the decay of Greek civilisation, which, "with all its high ideals and achievements, fell so easily before an altogether inferior culture." The author tells us that the Greek world perished from one main cause, a low ideal of womanhood and a degradation of women, which gave them the position of slaves—nay, worse than slaves, for the slave might at least walk abroad freely. An Athenian woman might not break bread with her husband, or sit at his table; she was not allowed out of the harem, and on her few errands abroad had to go closely veiled. Unlike the Turkish women, she was also a drudge, having to prepare the flour and spin garments from the rough sheepskins her husband brought. Her sole pleasure was in her children, and here, again, the domestic virtues were poisoned at their sources, for infanticide was common, where daughters were concerned, and the sons were brought up to despise their mothers, who, owing to their unnatural manner of life, could not even rear their own children, but had to give them over to the nurse.

The whole of Greek social and political life was arranged to suit men and exclude women. The Greek heroines were those who were either offered up as a sacrifice at the dictates of their own relations—as Antigone—or torn, like Andromache, from their husbands, ending their miserable lives as slaves to their new master's passions, even slain on the grave to provide a companion in the underworld. The earlier poets brutally jeer at women, their gluttony, deceit, and ignorance—the fox and weasel of Æsop's Fables; and, even were this so, who could wonder, when their treatment at the hands of their masters was what it was? The women of the Odyssey, such as Nausicaa, are not quite the distorted characters of later writers; but the Iliad shows us a decline, and from then till the time of Euripides and the Socratic circle we get only the vilest descriptions—which make the book somewhat painful reading.

Euripides' plays and his feministic views are well studied, and so are those of Socrates and Plato; but in the works of the great Aristotle we find again the perpetual insistence on the fact that "women and slaves are inferior by the laws of nature"—woman, in fact, was but an animal, and not a very pleasant one at that!

When "burning Sappho loved and sung"—more sweetly than most of her male contemporaries—and when Aspasia held her own at Pericles' table, they were but considered as anomalies—the poetess declared even not to be a woman at all, while the other was really a foreign woman, one of the "Hetairae," who stood outside the law, having a high standard of culture and intelligence, and a low standard of sexual morality.

And so the Greek nation perished, degraded by the degradation of its women, given over to sexual perversion and infanticide, checking natural increase of population, till it fell before the Macedonian conquerors, Sparta alone having stood for a higher ideal, and even passing on to Juvenal and some of the other Latin writers an anti-feminist tendency, although the position of the Roman matron, honoured as mother of the household, was far higher than that of the miserable Athenian wife.

J. M. T.

SPECIAL ELECTION LITERATURE.

THE NEED FOR WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

By EDITH HOW-MARTYN, B.Sc.
(Parliamentary Candidate for Hendon,
December, 1918.)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.
LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, December 10th, at 3 p.m. "Fair"
Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn,
W.C.1.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, December 14th, at 7.30 p.m.
Glasgow. Branch Meeting in Religious
Institution Rooms, Buchanan Street. Address
by Miss Minto on "The League of Nations."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, December 2nd, at 6.30 p.m.
Kingston Church of Humanity, Orchard Road. Speaker: Mr. William
Platt (author of "The Joy of Education"). Subject: "Simplicity
and Sincerity in Music." Chairman: Miss F. A. Underwood.

1924.

Saturday, April 5th. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's
Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

BRANCH NOTES.

MID-LONDON.

On Wednesday, November 21st, the Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League held a public meeting at the Minerva Café. The subject of the address was "The Present Policy of the Ministry of Health with regard to Infectious Diseases." From the Chair, Miss Steven said that the subject was one of law and politics, affecting women, and as such was a concern of Freedom Leaguers. Miss Loat began by referring to the methods used for combating infectious diseases—(1) sanitary methods, (2) vaccination and inoculation; and of the two, Sir George Newman's Report seemed to stress the last, whereas sanitary measures were of the first importance in the production of health and immunity from infectious diseases. In 1853, vaccination was made compulsory, and when later, in 1871, the Local Government Board was formed, it took up the enforcement of the Act, and a tradition was created of vaccination apart from any other methods for the prevention of smallpox. The L.G.B. inspectors inquired into the carrying out of the Vaccination Act, and not of other Public Health Acts. In the first Compulsory Vaccination Act of 1853, both parents were recognised, so that there could be no escape from prosecution for non-vaccination. When the Act of 1907 was before Parliament, the Commons introduced a clause which made both parents eligible to apply for exemption on conscientious grounds. This the Lords threw out, and it was never put back. However, until July 20th of this year, all magistrates did not convict, though some did, where only the mother had obtained the exemption. Now, by an Order of the Ministry of Health, which has the force of law, the mother is definitely ruled out. Questions and discussion brought out many more interesting facts, and after the speaker's reply, a vote of thanks to Miss Loat brought the meeting to a close.

(Hon. Sec.) C. M. SPARKMAN, 10, Winchester Street, Silvertown,
E.16.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

A special meeting was held at "Agecroft," Linthorpe, on Saturday, November 17th, when members brought their gifts for the Green, White, and Gold Fair to the meeting. It was decided to postpone the meeting fixed for December 3rd until Monday, December 10th, owing to the political situation that has arisen. The President, Mrs. Councillor Schofield Coates, J.P., very kindly entertained the members to tea. Altogether, a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

(Hon. Sec.) H. HUGHES, 35, Kildare Street, Middlesbrough.

GLASGOW.

A further donation to the Fair is acknowledged to Miss Jane Thomson.

(Hon. Sec.) J. H. McLELLAND, 5, Hayburn Crescent.

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES' COMMITTEE ROOMS.

MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE: 534, High Street North, East Ham.
DR. ETHEL BENTHAM: 248, St. Paul's Road, N.5.
MISS MARGARET BONDEFIELD: 66, Abington Street, Northampton.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY: 211, Chiswick High Road. (Station, Turnham Green.)
MRS. CORBETT ASHBY: 15, Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey.
MISS MINNIE PALLISTER: 100, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.
LADY ASTOR: 17, Lockyer Street, Plymouth.
MISS URSULA WILLIAMS: Liberal Club, Middle Street, Consett, Durham.
MRS. WINTRINGHAM: Liberal Club, Louth.
MISS DOROTHY JEWSON: Hardie Memorial Hall, St. Gregory's, Norwich.
MRS. PHILLIPSON: King's Arms Hotel, Berwick-on-Tweed.
MRS. OGILVIE GORDON: 1, Claremont, Hastings.
LADY TERRINGTON, Bardon House, Easton Street, High Wycombe.

DIARIES.

The Women's Freedom League Diaries for 1924 are now ready at our Literature Department, price 2s. 3d., post free 2s. 4d. They are attractively got up in green morocco leather cover, gusset paper pocket at front, and pencil. Please order quickly, as we have only a limited number for sale.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Women Tracers' Committee.

The Times reports that in accordance with a decision of the Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council, a grade committee has been appointed to inquire into and report and make recommendations to the council on the method of recruitment, conditions of service, and rates of pay of women tracers employed by the Admiralty. Mr. W. A. T. Shorto, C.B.E., head of the C.E. Branch (2) will act as chairman, and Mr. H. W. Brookling as secretary. The 12 other members of the committee include three ladies, among them Miss F. Mockford, of Portsmouth, representing the women tracers.

Women Theological Students in China.

The Christian World reports that Women Students have this term been admitted to the Shantung Christian University. On the medical side, the North China Medical College for Women has amalgamated with the University School of Medicine, and students and staff are being transferred from Peking to Tainanfu. At the same time the first women students are being received into the Theological College.

Swanley Students all Successful.

All the eighty students attending the Swanley Horticultural College for Women last year obtained posts at the completion of their training, and several posts were unfilled, as there were no students available.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

2 CURRIE STREET, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W.8.

The Committee thanks most heartily all those friends who so kindly contributed to our stall at the Green, White, and Gold Fair—Mr. and Mrs. Proctor, the Misses Stutchbury, Mrs. Riggall and friends, Mrs. Delbanco, Miss J. Holford, the Misses Haward, Miss T. Harvey, Miss Cole, Miss Winnie Forster, Mrs. Bell Lloyd, Miss M. Lydall, Miss M. E. Oldfield, Miss Greenville, Mrs. Marsh, Dr. Knight, and others. We had a mantilla from Mrs. Despard, and work from her ward. A cake competition, which proved very successful, was kindly arranged by Messrs. Bamberger and Wints, of Grosvenor Street, W., who provided a large parcel of "Bussinks" cakes, a Dutch production, the recipe for which has been handed down since 1593. "Trufood" was represented, and a kind friend sent us parcels of "Glaxo." Work done by some of our young diners created some interest, and other Nine Elms specialities were on sale.

We are arranging an "American" tea, to be presided over by the Mayoress of Battersea and Councillor Mrs. Gawley, J.P., on Monday, December 17th, from 3 to 6.30 p.m., and hope to see a great number of our friends, old and new. The gathering is to try and obtain funds for our Christmas dinner to the children, and some remembrance of the season, if possible, for Mrs. Despard's old pensioners, who feel that lady's absence more keenly than a good many other people. Following that will be a Jumble Sale, and for this, also, we shall be glad to receive cast-offs of any description. Nothing seems to come amiss for this.

Money received for Bazaar Fund: Mrs. Taylor, £1; Miss J. Holford, 2s. 6d.; Miss K. Triplett, 5s.

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

ELECTION MEETING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

A crowded meeting was held at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, last Friday, in support of Miss Minnie Pallister's candidature. Miss Underwood urged all men and women present to send their woman candidate to Parliament, and gave many reasons why women are urgently needed in our House of Commons. Miss Pallister, both on the platform, and in her Election address, stands for the absolute equality of the sexes. Mr. Laurence Housman is also supporting her candidature. The amount of interest shown in this contest by the women of Bournemouth is quite extraordinary. Miss Pallister is getting active assistance from women of all classes and of all ages. An old lady of 78 is among her most ardent canvassers, most of the Ward secretaries are women, and girls of twelve years of age undertake to deliver messages, and find themselves work in support of their woman candidate.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS—AND WOMEN.

The Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations will be held at the Fabian Hall, 25 Tothill Street, S.W., Friday, December 7th, the Morning Session being from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. An Afternoon Meeting will be held at 3 o'clock, when there will be an address by Dame Edith Lyttelton on "The Fourth Assembly of the League of Nations"; the Chair being taken by Miss Helen Ward. Both meetings are open to the public. Admission is free and no tickets are required. All who are interested in women's work in connection with the League of Nations should come to hear Dame Edith Lyttelton next Friday.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, November 25th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Christ Triumphant." VII. Why Christ must Triumph."

MISCELLANEOUS.

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

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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