

THE VOTE,
OCTOBER 1, 1920
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN FOR THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 1920.

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN ITALY.

Interview with Miss Helen Zimmern.

Miss Helen Zimmern's authoritative knowledge on Italian life and letters is well known to English people, not only by her books, "Tripoli and Young Italy" (1912), "Italian Leaders of To-day" (1915), and "New Italy" (the last-named, published in 1918, is already in its fourth edition), but also in her capacity as a foreign correspondent to numerous English, American, German and Italian artistic, political and scientific periodicals. Miss Zimmern has made her home in Florence now for many years past, and our representative, when holiday-making in Italy last month, had the good fortune to make her personal acquaintance, and was kindly afforded an interview upon an ever-important subject to readers of THE VOTE.

"In this country," said Miss Zimmern, "there has never been quite such an insistent demand for women's rights as amongst English and American women. When young, Italian women are singularly irresponsible, and trouble themselves very little about abstract affairs. But when they reach the age of a grandmother an extraordinary change takes place. They suddenly display an astonishing shrewdness and grasp of affairs, and rule everyone with whom they come in contact. I was very much struck with this phenomenon when I attended the fifth quinquennial Conference of the International Council of Women at Rome in 1914. Whenever any special difficulty arose, or a point upon which certain abstruse information was needed it was invariably an Italian woman who solved the problem. These got up at once and gave all the necessary facts, dates and statistics with surprising celerity.

"You realise, of course, that the Italian people are far more gregarious than we are, and family affections are extraordinarily strong. The big houses in which the middle and upper classes dwell remain in the family for countless generations, and the married sons and

daughters continue to dwell under the paternal roof, occupying suites of apartments, or whole floors. These various families usually share one common dining-room, and sometimes one common purse. This last, when in fashion, is administered by the grandmother, sometimes with amusing results. A certain duchess of my acquaintance is constantly in the habit of calling her son—a middle-aged man—to account for unnecessary hiring of cabs, or too many chickens at dinner! The whole family send in their housekeeping accounts to her weekly, and the old lady's scrutiny is no sinecure as you can see.

"In some ways Italian women have not had the same handicaps, or sex antagonism, to contend with as English women have had. At the time when all women in civilised countries were beginning to assert their right to receive a higher education, Italian women applied for admission to the universities of Italy (of which there are eight) on the same terms as men. To their surprise, the doors of these ancient buildings were immediately thrown open, and they were merely told to 'walk in'! Since then many Italian women have qualified themselves as professors in law, science, medicine, and art.

"Married women, however, suffer under many serious grievances. In Italy to-day there is no sort of Divorce Bill whatever, though many attempts have been made to get one passed. The Socialist Party is trying to push one through Parliament during this coming autumn, but it is being violently opposed by the Vatican. Notices, addressed to the women of Italy, imploring them to use their influence to keep the home life inviolate are now being posted up inside the church doors. Italian married women also suffer under economic disabilities which make this absence of a Divorce Bill a still greater hardship. Until last year, when a Married Woman's Property Act was passed

in this country, the husband administered the wife's income, and frequently wasted it, and when a man had no income of his own his wife was bound to support him. I know personally of one particularly hard case in this connection. A man left his wife, and took a mistress, and as he had no money of his own his legal wife was forced by law not only to support her husband and his mistress, but also the children born of the second union! Another grievance amongst married women in this country is that the husband invariably is given custody of the children.

"Is there any measure of equality between the sexes in Italy? Well, I should certainly say so in some things, though not in others. The Italians treat their women kind with greater courtesy, for instance, than the Germans, and they show a marked respect for the older and more intellectual women, but I regret to say there is nothing in the shape of an equal moral standard between the sexes. The men are notoriously lax in this respect, and in many cases the women likewise. Of late, however, I am glad to say there is a tendency to tighten up this state of affairs. Only last week I went to see a new French play recently produced in Florence, when the sin of a woman who sells herself because she is starving was favourably compared to the married woman who keeps lovers at her beck and call. This sentiment was loudly applauded from the stalls to the gallery.

"Italian men, by the way, are extremely domesticated. It is the husband, not the wife, who rises in the night to prepare the pap for the baby, and who will walk it up and down the room until the small hours! Practically every Italian man, too, is a born cook, and quite accustomed to lend a hand in the kitchen on the occasion of making some special dish. When dining out, too, the man makes it his business to go behind the scenes to inspect the ingredients for the dinner he has ordered, and he will reject any that are not up to the required standard. They are also exceedingly fond of children, and make excellent fathers.

"The war, as in most countries, has provided an enormous impetus to the woman's movement in Italy. The Labour Party women and the women of the middle classes have always been keen on obtaining the franchise equally with men, and now the women of the upper classes are also beginning to bestir themselves. The municipal vote was obtained by the Italian women just previous to the outbreak of war, but so far they have not had occasion to exercise it. The parliamentary franchise has now also been won. It was pending for a long time previous to the war. Provided their names can be got upon the register in time, Italian women will now vote at the next General Election in November."

"The nomination of Sig. Giolitti to the Presidency of the Italian Council, however, has been very serious for the Suffragists, and many obstacles may intervene before November to prevent women voting. Sig. Giolitti has always been an enemy to the emancipation of women. He recently declared in a session of the Parliamentary Committee for the revision of the electoral law that if they should give the women the vote it would be impossible to hold the elections before 1922. Worse still, the Socialists also do not want the women to have the vote in the next election, and are demanding that the elections should not be postponed, which means that they are really demanding the postponement of the Suffragist Law. This temporary setback, of course, is no more than women in other countries have had to contend with, and no doubt it will help to put Italian suffragists upon their mettle and make them still keener for the future."

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

CHILEAN WOMEN.

An interesting article in a recent number of *The Woman Citizen* draws attention to the fact that Central and South America are about the only parts of the civilised world where women are still debarred from voting. For some time past there has been an active suffrage movement in Argentina and Uruguay, and this is now extending to Chile. Two remarkable Chilean women have been pioneers of higher education in their own country. These are Mercedes Marin del Solar and Rosario Orrego de Uribe, and it was through their efforts that the University of Chile was opened to women in 1886. Senora Mercedes, on one occasion, secured the pardon of forty-nine political prisoners, by appearing in person before the Chilean Congress and delivering an eloquent speech. Her colleague, Senora Rosario, was an able writer and poet of merit, and for many years edited the *Revista de Valparaiso*, besides writing for many of the leading papers. In the early 'sixties she took part in the struggle for the opening of education not only to women but to the common people. Education is now open freely and without charge to everyone, from the lowest grade up through the University. Boys and girls of poor parents, if they show remarkable gifts, may even be sent abroad, at Government expense, to receive still further education. One of the most distinguished women physicians in Chile to-day, Dr. Ernestina Perez, was the daughter of a poor washerwoman.

Chilean women are noted for their philanthropy. Senora Juana Ross de Edwards was remarkable in this direction. Both her own grandfather and her husband's were English, and fought for the independence of Chile. Senora Juana built schools, churches, asylums, hospitals, and improved tenements for the poor. She also built and maintained in Valparaiso one of the finest maternity hospitals in the world. She dispensed large sums of money in private charities, sometimes giving away a quarter of a million dollars at a time. Another great woman philanthropist, Antonia Salas de Errazuriz, did magnificent work in the hospitals and prison camps during the war of independence from 1812 to 1818. She turned her beautiful suburban home into a hospital, nursed the sick and wounded with her own hands, paying the entire cost out of her own pocket.

A lecture in favour of woman suffrage was lately given before the Club de Senoras (Woman's Club) of Santiago, Chile, by Ricardo Salas Edwards, lawyer, publicist, professor of law, former member of Congress and Minister of Education. He is described as a descendant, on his mother's side, of the "well-known Chilean family of Edwards." His lecture is published in full in the August issue of *Inter-America*. He mentioned that in Chile, in the first years of the Republic, only one and a half per cent. of the population had votes, but now, in the main part of it, most of the men of legal age are enfranchised. The tendency to broaden the suffrage, he said, might well be extended to include women, whose influence would be for peace, and against alcoholism and vice.

OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

Women and Income Tax. By Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant). 3d.

The only Pamphlet published on this subject.

Women's Right to Work. By L. Lind-af-Hageby. 3d.

Showing the attitude of the Government and of Ministers to Women's Work in the Labour Market during and immediately after the War.

Elsie Maud Inglis. By Dr. Aimée Gibbs. 4d.

"There should be an enormous demand for the charming little 'cameo life sketch' of the late Dr. Elsie Inglis, written by Dr. Aimée Gibbs, and published at the modest price of fourpence by the Women's Freedom League. Dr. Inglis' magnificent war service should be held in everlasting remembrance by all British women. Her singularly loving and inspiring personality will ever be remembered by those who had the privilege of her friendship."
National News.

Is Woman the Race? By Mrs. D. B. Montefiore, 6d.

The Theory of Professor Lester Ward.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Fighter for Women's Freedom.

The death of Mr. Arthur Sidgwick, the distinguished Greek scholar and for a long time leader of the Liberal Party at Oxford, removes one of the half-dozen people to whom the success of women's education in Oxford is due. His whole family was of great intellectual distinction, the best known of many distinguished brothers being the late Professor Henry Sidgwick, of Cambridge, whose widow, a sister of Mr. Arthur Balfour, was Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, from 1892 to 1910. He was a great teacher, and seemed to possess by instinct the supreme art of drawing the best out of his pupils, and if it were possible to communicate this art either by precept or example he might well have been the founder of a great school of teaching. It is impossible to overestimate the debt that women owe to Arthur Sidgwick and the members of his family, whose self-sacrifice and long years of dogged work in the cause of the higher education of women made possible the improved position, political and social, economic and moral, to which we have already attained.

A Women's Luncheon.

Nearly a hundred representative women have now arranged to attend the luncheon at the Fishmongers' Hall on October 19th, when the campaign to raise funds for the London School of Medicine for Women is to be inaugurated. Princess Louise will represent secondary education for girls, as she was first president of the Girls' Public Day School Trust. Mrs. Lloyd George will represent the Government, and the Lady Mayoress London city women. Miss May Sinclair will be one of the women writers, and Dame Clara Butt represents women musicians, Miss Lena Ashwell and Miss Lilian Braithwaite the stage, and among women artists there will be Laura Knight and Mrs. Swynnerton. Lady Rhondda will represent business women, and the several women of the Civil Service will include Miss Lilian Barber and Miss Hopwood, who played such an important part in organising London's milk supply during the railway strike last year. Miss Mary MacArthur is the Labour representative.

Woman Air Pilot's Death.

Miss Isolda Trafford, who has come to so tragic an end in the recent aeroplane smash at Hayes, Middlesex, was aged 27, and was known as "the flying genius." She was the first woman in the United Kingdom to attempt to qualify for the Air Ministry's "A" licence. She only took up flying in April of this year, and soon gained her pilot's certificate. She underwent her training at the central Aircraft Co.'s aerodrome at Northolt. Her instructor declared her to be his best pupil out of 300 that had gone through his hands. She used to do all the air "stunts"—looping the loop, spiral nose-dives, and side-slips—the onlookers marvelling greatly at her skill and daring.

Austrian University Women.

At the Vienna University there is now a great rush of girl students. The last barriers have fallen, and women to-day are entering upon the study of the law. A large number of daughters of solicitors and barristers have availed themselves of this opportunity to be able to carry on their fathers' business, and the university is swarming also with other ambitious would-be Portias. This year they are also to be admitted to the Academy of Art, and may officially study painting and sculpture. Men and women in Austria, of course, have equal political rights, and vote from the age of 20.

An Important Recommendation.

The Public Health and Housing Committee of the Devon County Council have again recommended to the Council the establishment of a branch of the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease in the county, to undertake, in co-operation with the county medical officer, educational propaganda for equal morality. Torquay Town Council has decided to erect a hut where venereal diseases and tuberculosis will be treated on alternate days.

An Important Enterprise.

Women engineers are leading the way in enterprise. A company called Atalanta Ltd. is being formed, with a factory in the Midlands. This will shortly be opened with a staff composed entirely of women, from the works manager downwards. Lady Parsons is chairman of the company, and the directors include engineers of both sexes. The works manager is an educated girl, who, during the war, was in charge of a machine shop in the British Thomson Houston Works, and has served a three years' apprenticeship as a mechanical engineer. The secretary to the company, another clever woman engineer, acted as technical supervisor in a factory during the war. It is hoped that the factory will start work in a few weeks' time with a small staff of qualified women engineers.

Manchester Women Police.

At its meeting last week the Manchester Watch Committee authorised the Chief Constable (Sir Robert Peacock) to employ women for the discharge of police duty or for any other police force work which he considered likely to prove of public utility. This action was taken on the recommendation of the recent report of the Home Office Committee on Women's Police Service, and it means the extension of a present system rather than the introduction of a new one. For a long time Manchester has possessed two women police, whose distinctive uniform is a familiar feature of the city streets.

The Woman Poultry Farmer.

One of the pioneer women to take up poultry-keeping is retiring. This is Miss Edwards, who is giving up her farm at Coaley. She began twenty-six years ago with half an acre of land and a score of hens. In eleven years she had taken fifty-six times as much land owing to the growth of her business. She exported the first Buff Orpingtons to America, and had a considerable export trade up to the time war broke out. She also had classes for women taking up poultry work.

Housekeeping and Politics.

At Ilford bye-election last Saturday women were combining the visit to the polling stations with the usual week-end shopping. After the 20,000 season-ticket holders had gone up to the city, their wives set forth with bags and baskets prepared to serve house and State in the same expedition. So much for the "Anti" prophecy of some years back that it was a physical impossibility for the hand which "rocked the cradle" to also pop a paper into the ballot-box at the polls!

More Women Magistrates.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has appointed the following women magistrates: Mrs. Marianne Arbuthnot, Mrs. Mabel Astley-Bell, Mrs. Emmeline Davies, Mrs. Amy Agnes Dugdale, Mrs. Jane Dunbar, Mrs. Amy Emmett, Mrs. Evelyn Mary Gillott, Mrs. Beatrice Mary Hutchings, and Mrs. Mary Edith Walton.

More Women J.P.'s Sworn In.

At Middlesex Sessions last Saturday, Mrs. Anderson (Miss Mary MacArthur), Mrs. Creighton (the widow of Dr. Creighton), Mrs. Chard (of Southall), and Mrs. Hood (of Enfield) were sworn in as Justices of the Peace.

THE AGONY OF A RE-BIRTH, INDIA 1910-20.

(Under the auspices of the Indian Section of the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.)

MR. A. YUSUF ALI will give a Lecture on the "Present Position in India," (As he has just returned from a Tour in that Country) IN THE

CAXTON HALL, on Thursday, Oct. 7, at 8 p.m.

To be followed by Questions and Discussion.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Admission Free. Reserved Seats 2/6.

for which Tickets can be obtained from Hon. Sec., COUNCILLOR MARGARET HODGE, 13 Temple Fortune Court, N.W. 4.

All interested in India are cordially invited to attend.

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EDITORIAL.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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WOMEN & PUBLIC OFFICES.

Although women in the United States of America have secured their enfranchisement on equal terms with men, it appears that special legislation is required to permit them also to hold office. It is held that the right to hold the offices created by the Constitution can only be conferred upon women by a constitutional amendment; but the right to hold offices created by the Legislature can be conferred upon women by statute. The Maine Legislature has recently held a special session, in which an Act was passed to permit women to hold office. Now that women have votes in America it will not be long before other Legislatures have similar Acts upon their statute books; and if another amendment to the Constitution is deemed to be necessary, that amendment will find adequate support. Theoretically, by the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, all public offices are open to British women; and, in time, with pressure from women's organisations, women will have equal facilities with men in securing appointment to them. Political power is an enormous factor in doing away with men's monopoly of all kinds of offices; and when the women of all civilised countries hold equal political power with men, women not only will fill high offices in their own countries, but will have important posts abroad in the diplomatic service. Quite recently Lady Geddes, wife of the British Ambassador in Washington, and Lady Astor expressed themselves in favour of women being diplomats, and Lady Astor is reported to have said that she hoped to see a woman attaché at Washington and another at the Embassy in London. The interests of all countries, and, indeed, the peace of the world, can not be better served than by having capable women in the diplomatic service of every country, and it ought not to be long before all Governments open this service equally to men and women, with equal facilities for training to members of both sexes. The time will come when women, equally with men, will stand a chance of being appointed as Governors of our Colonies. There is not the slightest doubt that some women are eminently fitted for brilliant diplomatic careers, and the world would be all the richer for the service they could render. Meanwhile, women must concentrate on securing equal political power with men, the only door which leads to equality in all other branches of our national life. Wherever there is a suitable woman fitted by training and experience to fill any public office in any locality, or any office under Government, either at home or abroad, or any international appointment, organised women should at once seize the opportunity to press that woman's claims and qualifications, and to organise public opinion for their consideration. Women who believe in the equality of the sexes must make use of every opportunity to testify to the world the faith that is in them. When a few women have had a chance of proving their efficiency in the highest offices, the whole status of womanhood will be raised, and the path leading to the full equality of the sexes will be made easy for all women.

MONEY-GRUBBERS.

It is very hard for some men to move with the times. For countless generations they have believed, without questioning the foundations of their belief, that woman's place was the home. Although it is a recognised fact that very many girls and women would have no home if they did not go out to earn the money to provide one, there are still men who repeat to themselves with wearisome reiteration, "Woman's place is the home," adding perhaps at more lucid intervals, "or it ought to be!" So we have Mr. Arnold Bennett writing a book, which he calls "Our Women," and devoting a chapter of that book to "Salary-earning Girls." He says:—

"Of course, the salary-earning girl is that terrible thing, a money-grubber. She wants money either for herself or for others, but usually for herself, and she plunges into the ignoble world in order to get it."

Why shouldn't she? In what way is a salary-earning girl essentially more of a money-grubber than a salary-earning boy, or man? In any case it is not salary-earning women who have recently taken part in turf frauds with the object of securing money.

Calling salary-earning girls names comes ill from a member of the sex which insists that women should be paid lower salaries than men, not because they do less work or inferior work, but simply and solely because they are women; which insists equally upon retaining all the higher paid positions for men, and turning out working women from the more remunerative jobs in industry so that working men shall not suffer from their competition! "Money-grubber," indeed! If it is true that she has to plunge into the "ignoble" world to get money, who made the world "ignoble"?

MENIAL WORK.

Writing last week in the *Daily News* on "The Cheapness of the Unorganised," Sir Leo Chiozza Money complained of a newspaper advertisement offering 15s. a week to a man for doing "general housework" in a high-class preparatory school in the country, and stated that he "would willingly give 15s. to know whether that small pittance was accepted by any man, and, if so, what circumstances of life compelled him to undertake menial work at such a price."

We wonder if Sir Leo would have expressed his indignation in print if an advertisement had appeared for a woman to do "general housework" for this wage? And, if not, why not? Housework has to be done; and we cannot see why it should be described as "menial" work either for men or for women. If 15s. is not considered sufficient for a man who undertakes to do this work, why should it be supposed that this amount is good enough for a woman? We do not think it wise on the part of Sir Leo, or anyone else, to belittle the value of domestic work. Up till quite recent times it is true that domestic work was practically the only work which women were allowed to do, and that is no doubt the reason why it has been so badly paid. We do not see that any very great hardship is involved in the fact that some men are asked (for payment) to take some share in it. Some women like earning their living by doing domestic work; why should it be supposed that some men may not prefer it to many other kinds of work? With good pay and under good conditions a domestic career might hold many attractions for members of both sexes. We would insist, however, that the rates of pay for men and women domestic workers should be equal. Would Sir Leo Chiozza Money agree to this?

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them mention the 'VOTE.'

ANN AND ELLEN.

By L. A. M. PRIESTLEY McCracken. AUTHOR OF "THE FEMINE IN FICTION."

A few days ago I shut the covers of a book by a modern writer. It ends on a note of weeping and sorrow this "Children of the Dead End." And the figure of "Gourock Ellen," ministering to the dying girl, recalls involuntarily to my mind that of Ann whom De Quincey sketched so many years ago in his "Confessions of an Opium Eater." The fact that outcast women are universally held in deepest abhorrence, and regarded as, wholly and irreclaimably bad gives an added interest to the portraits of these two women by two English authors—the one a writer of classic prose, the other a war-writer who has "arrived."

In both instances the conventional disgust is absent, and behind the depraved conditions, and the debasing nature of their trade there are shown the redeeming qualities of a warm human heart, the generosity and courage, the self-sacrifice and devotion, which, despite the degradation and shame of their lives, burn like a purifying flame in the midst of evil. There is a quixotic touch, an unusual and chivalrous quality, a certain fair-mindedness and sense of proportion displayed in the treatment of these two woman characters which is noteworthy in these days, when the modern Feminist pleads not only for an equal moral standard, but for justice for these poor victims of man's depravity and vice. In Ann and in Ellen we have heartening proof that sin, even of the grossest kind, cannot destroy altogether the deep founts of womanly love and compassion and tenderness in the female breast, and where these abide is there not hope for reclamation and ultimate forgiveness?

Let me briefly refresh my reader's recollection by quoting in part De Quincey's warm tribute to the hapless Ann. Himself a homeless wanderer on the London streets (having run away from school), he thus introduces his subject: "I feel no shame, nor have any reason to feel it that I was then on familiar and friendly terms with many women in that unfortunate condition. These unhappy women, to me, were simply sisters in calamity; and sisters amongst whom, in as large measure as amongst any other equal number of persons commanding more of the world's respect, were to be found humanity, disinterested generosity, courage that would not falter in defence of the helpless, and fidelity that would have scorned to take bribes for betraying. . . . But one amongst them . . . yet no. Let me not class thee, O noble-minded Ann—with that order of women; let me find, if it be possible, some gentler name to designate the condition of her to whose bounty and compassion, ministering to my necessities when all the world stood aloof from me, I owe it that I am at this time alive."

"For many weeks I had walked at nights with this poor friendless girl up and down Oxford Street or rested with her on steps and under the shelter of porticos. She could not be so old as myself; she told me, indeed, she had not completed her sixteenth year. . . . One night when we were pacing along Oxford Street, and after a day when I had felt unusually ill and faint, I requested her to turn off with me to Soho Square. . . . We sat down on the steps of a house, which to this hour I never pass without a pang of grief, and an inner act of homage to the spirit of that unhappy girl, in memory of the noble act she there performed. Suddenly as we sat there I grew much worse. . . . From the sensations I then had I felt an inner conviction of the liveliest kind that without some powerful and reviving stimulus I should either have died on the spot, or should at least have sunk to a point of exhaustion from which all re-ascend under my friendless circumstances would soon have become hopeless. Then it was, at this crisis of my fate, that my poor orphan companion, who had herself met with little but injuries in this world, stretched out a saving hand to me. Uttering a cry of terror, but without a moment of delay, she ran off into Oxford Street, and in less time

than could be imagined returned to me with a glass of port wine and spices, that acted upon my empty stomach (which at that time would have rejected all solid food) with an instantaneous power of restoration; and for this glass the generous girl, without a murmur, paid out of her own humble purse at a time, be it remembered, when she had scarcely wherewithal to purchase the bare necessities of life, and when she could have no reason to expect that I should ever be able to reimburse her."

This fine outburst of gratitude is followed by one of the most affecting episodes in English literature—De Quincey's failure to find Ann after a short absence out of London: a compact to await each other at a certain street had been made at their parting, but though he came to this spot again and again he never saw Ann. All search and all enquiry was fruitless, and the poignancy of his regret and disappointment is told in a rhapsody of mournful eloquence.

Not so attractive, nor young, nor endearing in youthful beauty and pathos is Patrick Magill's "Gourock Ellen." Nevertheless, hidden behind that coarse and wrinkled visage, and the rough and vulgar speech, under the sordid and hateful depravity of her life, there lies a fund of tenderness and of courage to rescue and befriend a sister woman—the young girl, Norah, who had been betrayed and deserted.

The hero had sought long and vainly for his lost love, and it is in Ellen's house—whom he had loathed and despised—that at last he finds her when she is drawing near to death.

"Gourock Ellen found Norah lying on the streets hurtled, because some hooligans treated her shameful," said Joe, in a low and almost inaudible voice. "For the last six weeks she has watched over your girl day and night, when there was not another friend to help her in all the world. And now Norah Ryan is for death. She'll not live another twenty-four hours."

Later, Dermot stands by the bedside of his dying sweetheart and tells the closing scenes in his own words:—

"I placed my hand on Norah's forehead, which was cold as marble, . . . and at that moment somebody entered the room . . . came forward, and bent tenderly over the bed, and softly brushed the stray tresses back from Norah's brow. It was the woman Gourock Ellen. At that moment I felt myself an intruder, one who was looking on things too sacred for his eyes."

"Norah, are you asleep?" Ellen asked, and there was no answer.

"Norah, Norah." The woman of the streets bent closer to the girl in the bed and pressed her hand to Norah's heart.

"Have ye come back, Ellen?" Norah asked in a gentle voice without opening her eyes. "I was dreaming in the same old way. He was standin' be me bed, and he was very kind, like he always was."

"He's here, little lass," answered Ellen; then to me, 'speak to her, man. She's been wearin' her heart awa' thinkin' of you, for a lang, lang weary while. Speak to her, and we'll save her yet. She's just wanderin' a bit in her head."

But Norah dies:—

"Norah lay peacefully in the Great Sleep. I could neither think nor pray. My eyes here riveted on the dead woman."

"The candle made a final splutter and went out. Inside the room there was complete darkness. Joe hardly breathed, and not knowing a prayer, he was silent. From time to time I could hear loud sobs, the words of a great prayer—the heart-prayer of a stricken woman. Gourock Ellen was weeping."

FIVE lady Justices of the Peace were sworn in at the London Sessions last Tuesday—the Dowager Countess of Jersey, C.B.E., Dr. Scharlieb, C.B.E., Dr. Ethel Bentham, Lady Byles, and Miss Sara Margery Fry.

Our NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN ESTHONIA.

A meeting of our National Executive Committee was held at the Women's Freedom League office last Saturday, the members present being Miss A. M. Clark, Dr. Knight, Mrs. Mustard, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss Normanton, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Whetton, and the Secretary—Mrs. Schofield Coates being appointed to the chair. The Committee expressed the hope that readers of THE VOTE will do their utmost to secure signatures to our Petition to the Prime Minister, which can be signed at the Women's Freedom League office, and which runs as follows:—

"In view of the large share young women are taking in the domestic, industrial, commercial and professional work of the country, and in order to secure equal opportunities for women with men in all these spheres, we, the undersigned women of over twenty-one and under thirty years of age, urge you, the Prime Minister, to ensure that His Majesty's Government introduce into the House of Commons without delay a Reform Bill, the effect of which will be the political enfranchisement of women on equal terms with men."

We are urging the Government to foreshadow such a Bill in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament; we shall hold a Public Meeting in London this month to press the claim of women to equal enfranchisement with men, and we rely upon our branches to hold similar meetings with the same object in their own districts. The Committee decided to continue to press in the coming session of Parliament for the deletion of the word "women" from the Women, Young Persons and Children (Employment) Bill, urging that men should impose no restriction upon women's labour which they would refuse to accept for themselves. The Committee considered questions drafted by the Political Sub-Committee to be put to women candidates for Parliament. Every woman standing for Parliament will be given an opportunity to express her full agreement with the Women's Freedom League's demand for equal opportunities, equal rewards and equal responsibilities for women and men throughout all branches of our national life. The Committee also considered plans for running in the next few months a Morals campaign throughout the country, in which we shall insist that the only genuine safeguard against venereal diseases is clean living on the part of both men and women.

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested to learn that Mrs. Tanner has again kindly consented to act as our delegate at the National Council of Women's Annual Meeting to be held at Bristol from October 11th to October 15th, and that she will propose the following resolution sent by our Committee for the agenda:—

"That the National Council of Women shall devote a considerable part of its energies to securing the election of women to Parliament as the best means of obtaining the reforms which women generally desire."

The Committee resolved to give consideration to the question of the unemployment of women, and to press that unemployed women, as well as unemployed men, should receive benefit from any schemes drafted by the Government to deal with the problem of unemployment in the coming winter.

Miss A. M. Clark gave a report of the recent Welsh coast campaign, at which Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P., had been the principal speaker, and which had been carried through under difficulty owing to continuous inclement weather. An encouraging report was received from Miss White, our organiser in the South-East district, of work undertaken by the Women's Freedom League in Ashford, Bexhill and Rye; and the Committee endorsed the appointment of Miss Kirby to take charge of propaganda in London. A list of the meetings arranged by Miss Kirby appears in our Forthcoming Events, and the Committee hopes that all readers of THE VOTE resident or staying in London will do their best to attend them. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

The current number of *Jus Suffragi* gives an interesting account of the present position of women in Esthonia, which, since the war, has been made an independent Baltic State. Esthonia is a very ancient country, and was an organised State as long ago as the eleventh century, possessing commercial and political relations with Russia and Scandinavia. Its women, from the earliest times, have always held an honoured place, one, that in public life, has been very nearly equal with that of the men, whilst in home life the woman's position has preponderated. The Esthonians are great agriculturists, and frequently the woman assumes the hardest tasks, in order to leave the man free to earn money in the towns, or in other directions.

Since the recent independence of Esthonia, women have been given an equal share with men in the political and administrative life of the nation. At the first election to the Esthonian Parliament in June, 1917, women had the same rights as other citizens, and were eligible to that assembly. Several women were elected to local administrative councils. After the German occupation women's work increased in importance. They replaced the men who were fighting, were active in giving material and medical help to the sick and wounded by means of an Association run on similar lines to that of the Red Cross Society. Some even took up arms and sacrificed their lives for their country.

Women took an active part in the elections of 1919. Each sex now votes at the age of 20. In some cases women's votes represented half of the number cast, and several women were elected Members of the Constituent Assembly. These are of all parties except the extreme Left and extreme Right. The present Assembly, which consists of 120 Members, has seven women sitting, four belonging to the Moderate Social-Democratic Party, two to the Labour Party, and one to the National-Democratic Party.

NEW MEMBERS' TEA PARTY.

On the kind invitation of Dr. Knight all new members have been asked to tea in the office on Friday, October 8th, between 3—5 or 6—8 p.m., so that we shall all get to know each other, and feel that we have a real interest in the work of the League. Every member will want to do something to help the work, and we shall also be delighted to see any members of older standing and make plans with them to help the League, if they can come at the same time and talk things over. We want help in all sorts of ways:—

Stewarding at meetings.
Bill distributing.
VOTE selling.
Clerical help in the office.
A definite promise of a stated monthly contribution to the funds of the League (even a small regular sum is a great help).

NOVEMBER 26 & NOVEMBER 27.

Make a note of these dates at once, and remember that then we shall have

"All the Fun of the Fair."

There will be many new attractions at the Green, White and Gold Fair, as well as Palmistry, Music, Dancing, etc.

WE WANT YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

Send them along at once and do your bit to ensure success.

Women's Freedom League.

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Literature Department—
Hon. Heads: Miss H. NORMANTON, B.A. (Literary);
Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).
General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Subject: "What Place, if any, has the Father in the Home?"
Chairman: Dr. Patch.

Wednesday, October 20.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Subject: "The League of Nations." Chairman: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. Miss Lind-af-Hageby.

Saturday, October 30.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee. 10 a.m.

Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, October 7.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting at 7.30 p.m., at 44, George IV. Bridge. Discussion: "Child Outrage and its Remedies." G. H. Jacob, Hon. Sec.

Friday, October 15.—Edinburgh. Public Meeting in Usher Hall, organised by Women's Organisations, on "Child Outrage," to protest against the inadequacy of the sentences on offenders, and to demand a revision of the law on the subject. Speakers: Commissioner Cox, of Salvation Army; Lady Rhondda, William Graham, Esq., M.P., J. M. Hogge, Esq., M.P., and others. Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Millar. Admission free.

WALES.

Saturday, October 16.—Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs. Gigantic Jumble Sale. Proceeds towards Branch and Headquarters Fund: Congregational Schoolroom. 2 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, October 4.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Opening Social, at 7.30 p.m., at Crowstone Congregational Hall, King's Road. Tickets 1s. 6d.

Monday, October 11.—Westcliff-on-Sea. At Purcell House School of Music, London Road. 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "Women on Municipal Councils." Chairman: Mrs. Elvin.

Monday, October 25.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House School of Music, London Road. Speaker: Mrs. Cattell, on "Citizenship and its Responsibilities." Chairman: Mrs. Newberry.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, October 6.—Central London Parliament will meet at Holy Trinity Hall, Kingsway, W.C. (adjoining Holborn Restaurant) at 7.30 p.m., and every Wednesday.

Monday, November 1.—Bethnal Green Women Citizens' Association, 33, Blythe Street, E. Speaker: Miss Kirby. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." 8 p.m.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

BRANCH NOTE.

PORTSMOUTH.

The first members' meeting of the season was held at 2, Kent Road on Wednesday afternoon, September 22nd. Mrs. Jago was elected chairman for the afternoon. The work for the winter was discussed, and it was decided to hold monthly public meetings on up-to-date topics. Fortnightly sewing meetings were arranged, the articles made to be sent to the Green, White and Gold Fair. Mrs. Bilney kindly offered her room for the meeting on Thursday, September 30th, from 3 to 7. A resolution favouring the humane slaughtering of animals was unanimously passed, and has been sent to the Mayor and Town Council.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

A.

We offer a year's subscription to THE VOTE for the best description of "How to Run a Woman Candidate at a Parliamentary Election."

1.—Articles must be typed or written on one side only of the paper, with THE VOTE coupon attached.

2.—They must not exceed 1,000 words in length.

3.—They must be addressed to The Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C., and must reach this office not later than October 30th, 1920.

SEPTEMBER COMPETITION.

Prize-winner: Miss MARIAN HOLMES, SELBANNUK, London Road, Braintree, Essex.

B.

We offer a prize of a new book to the first reader who obtains six new subscribers to THE VOTE for one year. The names and addresses of six new subscribers thus obtained, together with the annual subscriptions, should be forwarded to the Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. These will be offered a choice of three books from which to select their prize.

COUPON.

"Vote" Prize Competition.

Name

Address

CENTRAL LONDON PARLIAMENT.

The new Session will open at Holy Trinity Hall (next to Holborn Restaurant), Kingsway, W.C., on October 6th, at 7.30 p.m., and Debates will continue on ensuing Wednesdays until March. This Parliament is conducted as far as possible in accordance with House of Commons procedure, and the following patrons have been secured: The Rt. Hon. Wm. Adamson, M.P., the Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P., and Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P. Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. V. Lucas, 106, Alexandra Park, Road, Muswell Hill, N. 10.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE RALLY.

A most interesting Members' Meeting was held in the Minerva Café last Friday evening, when members of the National Executive Committee gave their views on what should be the work of the Women's Freedom League during the coming autumn and winter months. Mrs. Mustard presided. Miss Normanton considered that we should do everything in our power to secure the return of women to Parliament at the next election; Mrs. Whetton that we should make the Petition for votes for women on equal terms as men as widely known as possible and arouse interest among the young women of the country for this reform; Mrs. Schofield Coates that we should get women returned to the local Councils at the coming municipal elections, and work for proportional representation as the best means of getting women elected; Dr. Knight that we should secure the very greatest possible amount of support for our Green, White and Gold Fair in November, the proceeds of which would carry on the active work of the Women's Freedom League throughout the winter; and Miss M. I. Neal that we should give special attention to arousing public opinion on the necessity of recognising an equal moral standard for men and women. Plans of work for the branches to carry through were discussed. A good collection was taken, and new members were enrolled.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE DANCE!!

The coming Dance at Caxton Hall, on Saturday, October 2nd, has been advertised for so long that we anticipate an overwhelming demand for tickets and would advise members to apply without a moment's delay.

Although prizes will be given for the best Fancy Dresses, members and friends are not obliged to appear in costume.

Refreshments will be provided by the Minerva Café.

Tickets (including refreshments) will be 4/- and can be obtained from:—

Miss LILIAN PIEROTTI,

Women's Freedom League Office,
144, High Holborn, W.C.

Send for Tickets NOW.

FRIDAY,
OCT. 1,
1920.

THE VOTE

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