

THE VOTE,
NOV. 28, 1924.

"GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR" TO-DAY!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1924

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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X.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

MISS C. MAUDE EVE, J.P., MAYOR OF STOKE NEWINGTON.

Miss Maude Eve has lived in Albion Road, Stoke Newington, since she was 5 years old, but was born in Hackney, where her father was Chairman of the Hackney General Purposes Committee for 14 years, until Stoke Newington was made a Metropolitan Borough, when Mr. Eve was elected on to it, and became its second mayor, from 1901-2, the year of King Edward VII's Coronation. Mr. Eve was an alderman of the council until his death in 1916, and was particularly interested in the Public Library.

In 1896, Miss Eve trained in hospital nursing, and spent ten years in that occupation—at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street; at the Royal Infirmary, Derby; and as matron at the Hospital, Wycombe Abbey School. She also acted for many years as a Voluntary Health Visitor under the Medical Officer of Health, Stoke Newington. In 1917, she was elected on to the Borough Council, Stoke Newington, and in 1919 was elected in Church Ward, and again in 1922, when she was head of the poll by one vote! Miss Eve is at present the only woman on this Council, which has no Party politics, and is "Independent." Stoke Newington was the first Borough Council in London to sign a Petition for

the Woman Suffrage Bill. There is also a Women Citizens' Association in the Borough—a successor to the Women's Suffrage Society—of which Miss Eve is president. It held a very successful meeting re

Women Police last year, and this year on Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Miss Eve has served on the Public Health and Maternity, and Child Welfare Committees, of both of which she was Chairman, and also on the Public Libraries, General Purposes, and Staff Sub-Committees. During the war she worked daily for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and later in the war served on the Pensions and Red Cross Committees, of which Committees she is still a member. She has also been a school manager, and served on Care Committees for many years.

Miss Eve is on the Executive Committee of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child. She was made a J.P. for the County of London in March, 1922, and, since 1923, has been attached to the Finsbury and Clerkenwell Children's Court. As a recreation, she is fond of bicycling and gardening, and has built six bungalows and cottages in Surrey, one of which she keeps for herself, and generally stays there for



Photo by

MISS C. MAUDE EVE, J.P.

[Martin Sander.]

Other issues of this series in "The Vote"—IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924. VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

week-ends, and at holiday seasons. She has been a churchwarden for three years, thus following her father and grandfather, the latter of whom was churchwarden for 70 years of Silsop, a village in Bedfordshire, and the former, churchwarden for 34 years of St. Mary's, Stoke Newington.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

More Women Solicitors.

Thirteen women were successful at the recent Examinations of the Law Society, held early this month. In the Legal Portion of the Intermediate Examination, Miss Lilian M. Richards was successful, and in the Trust Accounts and Book-keeping portion, Miss Barbara E. Tutin (B.A. Oxon.) was successful. Eleven women were successful in the Final Examination: the Misses Karathine E. Chambers (LL.B. Lond.), Annie D. Downey, Nora Fearnley (M.Sc. Manch.), Hilda Ford, Dorothy C. Johnson (LL.B. Lond.), Elsie E. Martin, Dorothy M. W. Morgan, Dora M. Rowe, Irene Stoney, Sybil T. Twist, and Phyllis M. Wooliscroft. Of these, the Misses Chambers, Fearnley, Ford, and Twist attained the required standard of proficiency to enable them to compete for honours.

A Famous Forewoman.

Flags flew at half-mast last week on the 62 branches of the H. J. Heinz Company in the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, and Spain, on the receipt of a cablegram from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, announcing the death of Mrs. Agatha Dunn, the firm's chief forewoman. Mrs. Dunn, who was generally known as Aunt Aggie, entered the firm's employ 51 years ago as a jam stirrer, and later became laundry matron and unofficial "mother" to the women of the staff. All the firm's branches in England were closed on the occasion of the funeral, which took place in Pittsburg. At the same time all the other houses of the firm were closed.

Ex-Service Woman Barrister.

Miss Venetia Stephenson, who was recently called to the Bar at Gray's Inn, is the first ex-Service woman barrister. She was an officer in the "Wrens" during the war, and worked in the Intelligence Department of the Admiralty. She did a great deal of work in connection with the development of Trade Boards. Miss Stephenson will probably practise on the South Wales Circuit.

Women Electrical Engineers.

The Institute of Electrical Engineers, which 30 years ago elected Mrs. Hertha Ayrton as its first woman member, now has ten women members, two of whom—Miss Entwistle and Miss Nott—being fully qualified members, and the others in the graduate or student stage. A leading Manchester firm employs a dozen women on the electrical side of its work, including a girl with a university degree who is qualifying for administrative work.

Mrs. Wintringham's Appointment.

Mrs. Wintringham has been elected President of the National Council for Domestic Studies in the place of Sir Cooper Perry, who has resigned. The Council has recently held its Annual Meeting, when a discussion took place of the present facilities for the teaching of domestic subjects, and the extent to which they were utilised.

Women and Theology.

St. Hilda's House, Victoria Park, Manchester, trains women for the Manchester B.D. degree and the Lambeth Diploma in Theology, but the Annual Report states there is a lack of suitable candidates, so that the usefulness of the training centre is being seriously hampered. May not the severely restricted field of activity, which is all the Church of England has to offer to its women candidates, have something to do with the lack of applicants?

Lady Aberdeen and the French President.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen, president of the International Council of Women, has been received at the Elysée by M. Doumergue, President of the Republic. Lady Aberdeen was presented by Madame Avril de St. Croix, president of the National Council of Frenchwomen. The President of the Republic congratulated Lady Aberdeen on the magnificent work accomplished by her during so many years in the social domain, and also on the activity she has displayed in the improvement in the status of women.

Italian Women and Suffrage.

The Woman Suffrage Bill now before the Italian Parliament, and mentioned in last week's VOTE, is merely a measure granting certain restricted categories of women the right to vote in municipal elections. Only women over 25, possessing certain educational requirements—about three millions in all—will be eligible as voters, but the intention is gradually to widen the categories admitted to vote, keeping pace with the political education of women till universal woman's suffrage in political elections is also reached.

Woman Managing Director.

Miss Walker, managing director of the Kinder Garage & Haulage Co., Ltd., Blaby, Leicestershire, claims to be the first woman in the Midlands to sell motor cars. She has been in the business for five years, and when she first started the company had only one small garage and one haulage truck. To-day they have two garages, and a number of motor cars and haulage vehicles. Miss Walker drove four-ton lorries during the war.

Woman Appointed to Trade Board.

The *Draper* reports that Miss L. Ingram, hon. secretary of the Portsmouth and District Dressmaker Employers' Association, has been appointed by the Minister of Labour to be a representative of the employers on the Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales). Miss Ingram, who is also a member of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, is the first representative from Portsmouth to be appointed upon this trade board.

Women Justices of the Peace.

Mrs. Patton, wife of the Rev. Andrew Patton, Cloughwater Manse, Ballymena, was sworn-in as a Justice of the Peace for the County of Antrim at Killagan petty sessions last week. Mrs. Annie Ingham, who has for a number of years taken a very active part in public affairs, took her seat on the Magisterial Bench at Oldham Police Court for the first time, last week, and was warmly welcomed by the Chairman (Alderman Houghton), Mr. Clayton (on behalf of the Members of the Bar practising at the Court), and by the Chief Constable (Mr. A. K. Mayall).

Woman Race-horse Owner.

Miss Nancy Paull, who is 23 years old, and has owned race-horses since she was 17, is probably the youngest woman owner of race-horses in this country. It is her plan to buy young horses and school them herself in a large field at Babington.

Women Chemists.

The London University has established a new Degree of Pharmacy which is expected to prove attractive to women students. To-day there are over 800 qualified women chemists in this country. Some are running their own business, and some of the large firms of dispensing chemists employ only women assistants. Many are also working in hospitals and public institutions.

A New Calling.

The Hon. Mrs. John Fortescue, famous as a dress designer, is now a "Consultative Specialist in Calloplistics," which means that she helps women to make the best of themselves by wise advice on the choice of clothes.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.—on Friday, November 28th, by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, November 29th, by Miss Susan Lawrence. The Fair will remain open each evening until 9 p.m., and will be open on Saturday, November 29th, from 11 a.m.

The Chair will be taken on Friday by Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P., and on Saturday by Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

The Stalls arranged for the League are:—

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Soap, Scent, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Vibert, and Miss Elsie Armstrong.
Letchworth Branch.—Lavender Stall. Mrs. Lynn, Miss Ironside, Mrs. Muncoster, Miss Perry, and Miss Sugden.
Middlesbrough Branch.—Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Crowther, and Mrs. Hotham.
Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix Clark and Friends.
Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Brading, and Miss Mottershall.
South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall. Miss White, Mrs. Asser, Mrs. Kither, and Miss Margery Dunhill.
Children's Clothing, Overalls, and Aprons (supported by the Thames Valley Branch).—Miss A. Underwood, Mrs. Brewer, Miss Brewer, Miss Double, Mrs. Foster Lumb, Mrs. Nicholls, Miss Stone, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss Warriner.
Shilling Stall (supported by the Minerva Club Branch).—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Armev, Miss Atkinson, and Mrs. Jacoby.
Scotch Stall.—Cushions, Tea-cosies, and Haberdashery.—Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Lindus, Mrs. Rose, Miss Spriggs, Miss D. Sidley, and Miss Steven.
Grocery Stall.—Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Charles Sutherland, Mrs. Padfield, and Mrs. Watts.
Hygiene Stall & Pottery.—Dr. Octavia Lewin and Friends.
Literature Stall.—Miss Harverson, Miss Elsie Morton, and Miss M. Pierotti.
Sweet Stall.—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.
Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight and Friends.
White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.
"Vote" Stall.—Toilet and Chemists' Goods.—Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Clifford Jones, Mrs. Newsome, Mrs. Northcroft, and Miss Sutherland.

COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.

Mrs. Preece will be in charge of the competitions and games, and will be assisted by Mr. Clayton, and little Miss Margaret and Master Donald Munro.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Madame C. M. Carr's String Orchestra will play at intervals, from 3.45 until 8.30 p.m., on both days of the Fair. On Friday evening, at 6.30 p.m., and on Saturday at 4.30 p.m., little Miss Margery Dunhill (semi-finalist All-England Classical Dancing Competition, 1924) will give a Dancing Display. On Saturday evening, Miss Grace Woollacott's little pupils will give two Dancing Displays at 6 and 7.30 p.m.

A THE CHANTANT will be held each day from 4 to 6 p.m.; the following have kindly promised to assist—Miss Lucy D. Bell, Miss Beryl Brown, Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Barbara Davy, Miss Howells, Miss Lettice Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, Miss Muriel Mollison, Mrs. Sparrow, and Mrs. Morris-Wood. There will be Character Readings by Miss Geddes and Mrs. Spon. Numerology by Miss Fitzsimmons. Phrenology by Mr. Sons.

TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Mrs. Fisher is arranging the teas and refreshments, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Café and members of the Minerva Club. The teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and refreshments will be served at moderate prices after 7 p.m. Mrs. Harvey James will be in charge of the Tea Room.

The Bureau for the sale of tickets for Refreshments, Character-Reading, Phrenology, etc., will be in charge of Mrs. Pierotti.

SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

Council for International Service.
 St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
 The British Esperanto Association.
 The Food Education Society.
 The International New Thought Alliance.
 The London Association for the Blind.
 The Montessori Society.
 The New Education Fellowship.
 The League of the Church Militant.
 The Nine Elms Settlement.
 Miss Burwood (Beads).
 Miss E. Ellin Carter (Decorative Leatherwork).
 Miss Maud F. Edwards (Handweaving).
 Miss Nettleton (Association for the Deaf and Dumb).
 Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).
 Dr. Jessie White (Auto-Education Institute).
 Henry Farmer (Hand-made Pottery).

Tickets—(including Tax) 2s. 6d. the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1s. 2d. (including Tax)—are now on sale at the Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

All communication should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

CARRIAGES RESERVED FOR WOMEN.

We have received the following letter, dated November 18th, from the Ministry of Transport:—

MADAM,—With reference to your letter of the 13th November suggesting the promotion of legislation to compel railway companies to reserve for women one or two compartments on all trains, I am directed by the Minister of Transport to state that he cannot, at present, add to the letter addressed to you from this Ministry on the 17th April last on the subject.

I am Madam, your obedient Servant,
 (Signed) E. W. ROWNTREE.

The letter dated April 17th from this Ministry was as follows:—

MADAM.—With reference to your letter of the 7th April suggesting that carriages for "ladies only" should be provided on all trains, I am directed by the Minister of Transport to state that it is not proposed, at present, to introduce further legislation for the regulation of railways, but that if your League have any special cases in mind in which it is considered that the railway companies have declined to meet reasonable demands for the provision of compartments to be reserved exclusively for ladies and will furnish particulars, the Minister will bring them to notice of the railway companies concerned.

I am, your obedient Servant,
 (Signed) T. A. E. MUIR.

Our point is, that as smoking carriages for all classes of compartments are compulsory on all trains, carriages reserved for women should also be compulsory. Week after week we have reported in THE VOTE cases of women and girls being assaulted or annoyed by men or youths in railway carriages, and as women and girls nowadays form so large a part of the travelling public, we consider that their comfort and freedom from the risk of assault or annoyance should be as much a reason for legal protection as the comfort of men smokers was considered to be in 1868, when railway companies were compelled by law to provide smoking carriages for all classes of compartments on all their trains. On many lines there are no carriages reserved for women. We do not think women and girl passengers should have to ask for them; most frequently they would not have time to do so, and the arrangement would be difficult to make for passengers joining the train at intermediate stations. The only sensible thing to do in this matter is to amend the present Railways Act that carriages reserved for women as well as smoking carriages should be compulsory on all trains.

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1924.

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.

A ROYAL COMMISSION ON FOOD PRICES.

The idea prevailing amongst the general public is that Royal Commissions are appointed to delay matters, and the Government has been strongly criticised in some quarters for appointing a Royal Commission instead of a Departmental Committee to inquire into the present high prices of food. We hope, however, that Mr. Baldwin and his Government intend to act vigorously in this matter which is of urgent national importance. The continuous high prices of all the ordinary necessities of life—bread, tea, sugar, milk, butter, currants, raisins, meat, vegetables, fruit, etc.—are a perpetual anxiety to the housewives of this country. It is difficult for the average woman who lives outside the towns to understand why it is, when fruit and vegetables are grown in quantities in her neighbourhood, that their prices are almost prohibitive; and it is amazing to women living in either town or country, when they learn of meat and other foodstuffs being shipped from Argentine and other distant ports at a few pence per lb., that they cannot be sold in our markets for less than 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d. per lb. Housewives also want to know why tea and sugar remain at their present high prices. It has been stated in some sections of the Press that supplies abroad have been deliberately restricted—a canny policy which is so much condemned by many people in other directions! The prices also of bread and milk are disgracefully high. Unemployment and under-employment are rife in this country. How are working women—the great majority of women in this country—to secure sufficient bread to keep their families from hunger, and sufficient milk to keep their children in health? From a national economy point of view, it is the Government's obvious duty to bring down the cost of living. When it is impossible for the breadwinner to provide necessary food for the family, that family must come upon the rates, and the people responsible for keeping up the prices are thereby subsidised by the rates; it is they, and not their poorer brothers and sisters, who ought to have the stigma of pauperism attached to them. The high prices of food necessitate high wages, which often create unemployment. We have a right to expect that the Government will thoroughly investigate the sources of this evil, and use drastic measures to bring down the whole cost of living. This is a matter to be dealt with not by men alone, for it cannot be denied that women who have to do the catering for their families are even more directly concerned than men with this question of food prices. We have therefore asked Mr. Baldwin to include an adequate number of competent women on this Commission, and we have suggested that Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P., the President of the Kent Housewives Union, should be asked to be on it. Mrs. Juson Kerr succeeded in bringing the prices of food down in her own locality, and we think she might be given an opportunity to suggest some means of effecting a reduction nationally. We see from the Press that Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Bondfield, and Miss Susan Lawrence have also been suggested as members of this Commission. We should welcome them all, together with Lady Astor, and we trust that the Government will be sufficiently far-seeing to make use of the services of these five women.

BACK TO WESTMINSTER.

The House of Commons meets for the election of a Speaker next Tuesday, and the following day the swearing-in of Members will begin. The State Opening of Parliament, with the King's Speech, will take place on Tuesday, December 9th. The King's Speech, outlining the policy and projects of H.M. Government, will be looked forward to by all sections of the community, by women's organisations, as keenly as any other body. Will it contain any reference to the equal enfranchisement of women with men? That is the chief interest of the Women's Freedom League. The last Parliament was prorogued on October 9th, and on October 10th the Women's Freedom League held a Public Meeting at Essex Hall, which was attended by representatives of 24 organisations in London, consisting wholly or mainly of women, and at which a resolution was passed unanimously in favour of equal voting rights for women and men. Since women were partially enfranchised in 1918, four General Elections, and many more By-Elections, have taken place, at which practically every man who had reached the age of twenty-one could exercise a vote, but no woman under thirty years of age could claim a vote, nor even any woman over thirty, unless she had a university degree, or could prove that she owned the furniture in the room in which she lived. It has been computed that, if women had the Parliamentary vote at the same age and on the same terms as men, there would probably be half a million more women voters than men voters; but these would be distributed throughout the constituencies of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland; whereas, at present, there are nearly five million voteless women in these constituencies over the age of twenty-one. Women have a right to expect that the Government will remove this injustice before another General Election takes place. We have urged Mr. Baldwin to include a simple equal franchise measure in the King's Speech. There are also many other reforms that we wish to see carried through by the present Government, and we are grateful to our Mid-London and Minerva Club Branches for arranging a Rally of members and friends of the Women's Freedom League next Sunday afternoon, at the Minerva Club, when plans of work for the immediate future are to be discussed by members of our National Executive Committee, and by Branch members. We hope that all who are interested in this matter will be at the Minerva Club at 4 o'clock this coming Sunday, and give us the benefit of their suggestions and support.

WOMEN AND THE MAGISTRACY.

The question of women magistrates is exercising the minds of public-spirited citizens in Kingston-on-Thames. There is no woman on Kingston Borough Bench, and only one woman on the County Bench for the Kingston Petty Sessional Division. Commenting on this subject, the *Surrey Comet* says:—"The County Bench includes a lady who, in essential respects, as far as it is possible to judge by outside observation, makes a model magistrate—quiet, observant, diligent, matronly, and possessed of a wide knowledge of human nature. These are the qualities which fit a woman for the difficult and not always pleasant task of judging her fellows—men as well as women. The appointment of one woman magistrate for the Borough—one in whom everybody would have confidence, and who is in close touch with the social conditions in the town—might be sufficient for the time and occasion." But surely this is altogether too patronising and fussy on the part of the *Surrey Comet*! We do not think the qualifications necessary for a woman magistrate are different from those needed by a man magistrate. We should like to see an equal number of women with men serving on all magistrates' benches; but we very strongly urge that there should be a sufficient number of women on every bench to enable at least one woman to be present at every sitting of the Court.

THE DOMESTIC PIVOT.

By E. A. ALLEN.

In Australia, servants become more and more difficult to get every year. In cities or in professional houses, where three or four maids are kept, there are not quite the same inconveniences as in smaller houses or in those that are far out in the country. For it is in small houses, especially, also where there is a young mother with two or three tiny children, that the need is most acute. It is here, with considerate management, that a maid may feel how essentially she is valued.

Besides the ordinary maids needed in an Australian household, there are those required upon the stations. A "station" is generally the homestead of a big estate where sheep and cattle are bred, and where various branches of farming may also be carried on according to the position and latitude of the place. In these stations good domestic workers command good wages, and a considerable amount of consideration. For instance, in some places, a woman will have the right to the use of a horse and perhaps a trap, when she needs to drive to the nearest store or township. The chief disadvantage is the isolation of the station itself. In order to do well in such a place, anyone needs to be able to support a certain kind of loneliness. The station itself need not be lonely. There will always be a certain amount going on. And in shearing time the station is full of men, and there are concerts and other kinds of entertainments. But, apart from all this, there is generally a good deal of isolation in the sense that there is no town and few neighbours. Both women and men who go to Australia to seek their fortune need to make up their mind to the possibility of this type of isolation. Nevertheless, though there is unemployment, and fluctuation in the cities, women or men who are prepared to face this kind of lonely position, and who at the same time are staunch workers, need never be afraid of being unemployed in that country.

ALBANIAN WOMEN.

Throughout the ages, the Albanian woman has shared the vicissitudes of her man. They live to-day in a land whose troubles are exclusively external, and whose frontiers are ill-defined.

The greatest tribute to the glory of the Albanian is the survival of an Albanian language and the actual existence of the State. The language of Albania has been excommunicated, and alien priests have told that it was useless to pray to Christ in Albanian.

Perhaps the sufferings of a people have contributed to a sense of comradeship between its men and its women unique in character. In other countries, women have by various means secured for themselves rights in law which the woman of Albania has long enjoyed on the ground of national custom. A woman's movement, as it is understood elsewhere, would impress an Albanian as a reflection on his manhood. It does not occur to the Albanian that he is doing anything very drastic by permitting his wife to co-operate with him in achievement of a national ideal. The Albanian is the least effeminate man in the world. He may even be characterised as primitive, but his conduct towards women is worthy of study. He is not conscious of any sense of obligation when he treats his wife with honour and respect. It is her due, and his happiness, to pay that homage.

The laws of Albania, as they relate to women, are more in the nature of a gesture of veneration than measures of freedom passed after protest, and with an ill grace. The women of Albania accept their position as a matter of course, and the question of sex equality does not arise. There is a mutual respect. Renowned for their virtue and beauty, the women are supreme. Even outlaws will refrain from attacking a man if he is accompanied by a woman. There is no authentic record of the murder of a woman in Albania, and immorality is practically unknown.

MALCOLM MACKENZIE.

The comfort and security of a home depend to a larger extent than is often realised upon those who cook and serve the food, and keep the house clean and comfortable. Speaking as an Australian, the writer has always been struck by the way in which all these things were taken for granted in English novels. An occasional reference to perfectly trained servants—a correctly named hierarchy, from the butler down—is all the notice that is given in the average story. One has, of course, to remember that novels fulfil the function of "fantasy," as well as draw a picture of "real" life, so that the effortless meals, the shining condition of the brass and furniture of an imaginary household, may be compensation for the fatigue and unsuccess of these very things in many a real one. But, allowing for all that, is it not true that there is still too sharp a line drawn between the duties and responsibilities of nurses, teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc., and maids, cooks, waiters, and charwomen?

The essential requirement seems to me to be "recognition." The schemes for training, regular hours, better wages, better status, are all good. These, however, cannot be made universal all at once, but if there were a general recognition of the invaluable work performed by those responsible for its lowliest offices, there would be less danger of these being ignored and unconsidered.

Societies, clubs, conferences, and all kinds of associations of women should do all in their power to give the needed due to domestic workers. The thing to avoid is patronage. What is needed is a correct estimate of the importance of house management, without which no other industries can be effectual. For as the wheels of a machine cannot go round without a properly centred hub, so, in domestic affairs, upon the maid's work depends all the rest. In this sense, she is the "domestic pivot."

AMERICAN WOMEN CLERGY.

In view of the recent controversy in the *Church Times* on the subject of "Women in the Priesthood," in which our contemporary—the League of the Church Militant—played so sturdy and gallant a part, it is interesting to learn from the *Christian Science Monitor* that the International Association of Women Preachers has just concluded its Sixth Annual Assembly at Chicago. This Association, which was founded in St. Louis in 1919, now has 250 women members, all of whom are actively engaged in preaching, and many of whom are ordained ministers. Some of the opinions put forward by these women ministers, in conversation with the *Monitor's* representative, form an interesting comparison with the articles and correspondence in the *Church Times*, already alluded to. The importance of Church Ministry as a vocation, not a profession, was stressed by the Rev. Madeline Southard, President of the Association. The Rev. Stella Irvine, Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Association, pointed out the importance of the step taken by the Methodist Episcopal Church at its last general conference, in permitting women to become ordained—a victory which she ascribed largely to the work of the Association. She affirmed that it was only a question of time before every religious denomination would open its doors to women ministers. Dr. Anna Starr drew attention to a fact already known to enlightened students, viz.: the faulty translation of many Bible passages, unconsciously coloured by custom and prejudice, and therefore weighted against women. Dr. Starr will shortly publish the results of her extensive researches in the Hebrew and Greek texts in book form. The practical importance of pure Bible teaching, as opposed to ecclesiastical dogmas and doctrines, was the keynote of the President's opening address at the Chicago Conference.

BOOK REVIEW.

Selected Poems of Emily Dickenson. Edited by Conrad Aiken. (Jonathan Cape.) 6s. (Can be obtained at this office.)

Many years ago, the writer came across two small books of verse, not then to be found in England, to which the introduction ran as follows:—

"This is my letter to the world
That never wrote to me—
The simple news that nature told
With tender majesty.
Her message is committed
To hands I cannot see—
For love of her sweet countrymen,
Judge tenderly of me!"

And how exactly that line described these short poems—"the simple news that nature told"; and yet how much more was there besides—a mysticism which found in nature everywhere the garment of God and His message, a message which spoke of grief to be conquered by companionship both of birds and angels, of failure redeemed by a future to which each simplest soul is heir, when once the dark portals of death are past.

Although the morbidity of one who was a recluse by "temperament and habit" is to be recognised, and the strange cryptic use of words often almost repels, still there is a unique quality, "a burning simplicity," a Blake-like imagery, as the writer of the preface to the present selections says, which places Emily Dickenson in a class by herself. A contemporary of our own Christina Rossetti, and, like her, passing through an almost eventless life, she wrote for her own satisfaction; very few of her poems were published during her lifetime, and she was far removed from the literary movements of her time—she "charged within her bosom, the cavalry of woe," and wrote:—

"How excellent the Heaven, when earth cannot be had,
How hospitable then the face of our old neighbour
God."

The four lines—

"The pedigree of honey
Does not concern the bee;
A clover, any time, to him
Is aristocracy,"

and the sarcastic—

"I'm nobody! who are you?
Are you nobody too?
Then there's a pair of us—don't tell,
They'd banish us, you know.
How dreary to be somebody!
How public! like a frog,
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog,"

show us that she was not without humour. The definition of "Presentiment—that long shadow on the lawn indicative that suns go down"; of the sea, as "an everywhere of silver, with ropes of sand to keep it from effacing the track called land"; or again, "Exultation is the going of an inland soul to sea," are surely touched with genius. "The Chariot" is a poem, longer than most, which etches with a Rethel-like tool a picture of man's last journey—

"Because I could not stop for death,
He kindly stopped for me;
The carriage held but just ourselves
And Immortality,"

and finishes with the words—

"Since then 'tis centuries; but each
Feels shorter than the day
I first surmised the horses' heads
Were toward Eternity."

It is difficult to cease quoting, but the poems called "The Wife," "If I shouldn't be alive," and "I shall know why" tempt one sorely, and when, turning the pages, "Resurgam" is found, it seems impossible

to pass it by. The lines run as follows—

"At last to be identified!
At last, the lamps upon thy side,
The rest of life to see!
Past midnight, past the morning star!
Past sunrise! Ah! what leagues there are
Between our feet and day!"

Like Vaughan and Crashaw, Emily Dickenson is not every man's poet, but she will have some firm admirers and still more of those who treasure her delicate yet ruthless lyrics. Those who are sleepless will repeat—

"When night is almost done,
And sunrise grows so near
That we can touch the spaces,
It's time to smooth the hair
And get the dimples ready,
And wonder we could care
For that old faded midnight
That frightened but an hour!"

"Aftermath" is a poem for the mourner, and "Alter? when the hills do" for the protestant lover. But let me close with her own words, when she says of the last "Door"—

"We never know we go—when we are going
We jest and shut the door;
Fate following behind us bolts it,
And we accost no more."

The present book of selections—the first to be published in England—we may hope will be added to later, when a public is found for Emily Dickenson in England. J. M. T.

LETTER FROM THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

Readers of THE VOTE will be pleased to see the following letter from the Duchess of Atholl in reply to one sent to her by the Women's Freedom League:—

Board of Education,
Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.
November 18th, 1924.

DEAR MADAM,—Very many thanks for your congratulations on my appointment, which you have sent me in the name of the Women's Freedom League.

I feel it a tremendous responsibility to hold the Office of Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, but I feel it a great help that it takes me back into a sphere of work which I found very congenial in Scotland, and it will be of very great interest to me to be able to take part in promoting the work of education in England and Wales: a work which is not only of great national importance, but is one in which women so obviously have a large share and interest.

Thanking you very much for your kind letter,
I am, yours very truly,
(Signed) K. M. ATHOLL.

In Memoriam.

COLLEY.—On November 20th, in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of pneumonia, after only four days' illness, Beatrice Mary Colley, aged 34.

We are exceedingly sorry to have to announce the sudden death of our old member and colleague, one of the original members of our Central London (Mid-London) Branch. Miss Colley entered the office in November, 1909, and as one of the keenest of our energetic staff, had much to do with establishing the Women's Freedom League upon a firm basis. In 1912, Miss Colley left for Australia to take up a business position there, and on her return to London became hon. treasurer of her Branch, and an active member of the League, her pleasant comradeship and activity of mind being valued by us all, and her ready help in emergencies greatly appreciated.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th, Central Hall, Westminster. Green, White, and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3 p.m., by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, at 3 p.m., by Miss Susan Lawrence.

Saturday, November 29th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Sunday, November 30th, at 4 p.m., at Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Rally of members and friends. Tea. Short speeches. Discussion.

DARE TO BE FREE.

SCOTLAND.
Saturday, November 29th, at 3 p.m. Glasgow. Public Meeting in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, December 1st, at 5 p.m. Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street. Speaker: Miss Alison Neilans. Subject: "The Solicitation Laws."

Wednesday, December 3rd, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Miss E. Margery Fry. Subject: "Penal Reform."

BRANCH NOTES.

MINERVA CLUB.

The last Whist Drive, held on November 7th, was so enjoyable that those who were present, like Oliver Twist, are asking for more. To our consternation, Miss Katie Reeves, who won the 1st prize at the October Drive, again came out top; she was presented with a pearl-handled penknife, and threatened with a handicap at the next Drive. Miss Adams won the 1st Gentlemen's prize, and her sister, the hidden number prize. The lady who won the booby, declared that she would try for it every time. Dr. Knight gave the prizes, but we were sorry that she could not be with us to present them. Look out for the announcement of the next Drive, and do not fail to secure a ticket early.

(Hon. Sec.) HILDA M. BAKER, Minerva Club, Brunswick Sq.

GLASGOW.

Arrangements have now been completed for the Public Meeting and Entertainment which is to take place on Saturday, November 29th, in the McLellan Galleries. Lady Wilson, the wife of Sir Thomas Wilson, the ex-M.P., has very kindly consented to preside, Miss Mary Dixon's well-known ladies' choir will sing Scotch songs, and Miss Isabel Hamilton and Mrs. Hunter will be the speakers. Tea will be provided, the local members having kindly undertaken to provide the food. No charge will be made for admission, but a collection will be taken. It is hoped, at this meeting, to enrol many new members in the Women's Freedom League.

(Organiser) LILLIAN LEXTON, 59, Waverley Gardens, Crossmyloof.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

On Monday, November 17th, the members attended a special meeting at "Agecroft," by kind invitation of their president, Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, when they brought their final donations to the stall for the Green, White, and Gold Fair. All gifts were on view and presented a fine display. The business of the meeting consisted of appointing representatives to attend the Fair, and Mrs. Crowther and Mrs. Hotham kindly volunteered to attend at the stall. Mrs. Crowther (VOTE secretary) reported the sale of 180 VOTES during the Election Campaign, which resulted in Miss Ellen Wilkinson being returned at the top of the poll for East Middlesbrough. The next meeting is fixed for Monday, November 24th, at 2.30, and the Annual Meeting on Monday, January 12th, 1925—time and place to be fixed at next meeting. A very pleasant evening was spent, and our very best thanks are due to our President for her hospitality.

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

HASTINGS.

An excellent meeting was held at the Grand Hotel last Monday, when a large audience listened to an instructive address from Miss Anna Munro on the subject of "The Political Situation." Mrs. Darent Harrison, president of the branch, presided. Miss Munro pointed out how very unsatisfactory the attitude of the last Government had been with regard to the various Bills affecting women and children, and she assured her hearers that the Women's Freedom League would "ginger up" the present Government to act in a different way. Nearly all the members stayed to have tea after the meeting, and it was pronounced one of the most successful gatherings ever held by the League. New members were made, a good collection was taken, and a new subscriber to THE VOTE gained.

(Organiser) Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens.

BEXHILL.

A successful meeting was held at Glyn Hall Hotel last Monday. Mrs. Leslie Cooke presided in the absence of Mrs. Meads, who was prevented from attending owing to her Council duties. Miss Anna Munro spoke on the subject of "The Political Situation." Two new members were made, and the collection with the members' subscriptions realised over £1.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I am interested to read of the representations made to Lt.-Col. Wilfrid Ashley, M.P., urging legislation whereby railway companies shall be compelled to reserve for women one or two compartments on all trains. Possibly, cases of annoyance to young women when travelling are more frequent than one might suppose from published reports, as publicity heightens the trouble for sensitive minds. I suggest that a better demand would be for corridor carriages on all railways, and the doing away, for ordinary passenger traffic, with the unhealthy and antiquated single, shut-in compartment. We cannot overlook the fact that most of the white slave decoys are women. The compartment reserved for women only might give such a better chance of exercising their evil ways.

Yours faithfully, (Mrs.) MABEL THOMPSON.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Unemployed and Under Employed Women.

The Unemployment Returns recently issued reveal the fact that, although the number of people at work in Great Britain has increased, there are 53,000 more women and girls registered as unemployed than there were at the end of July. Much of the increase in women's unemployment is in the seasonal trades—in the dress trade an increase of more than 2,000 unemployed since the end of July; in blouse and shirtmaking, the increase is over 3,000; in the tailoring trade, it is over 11,000; and in hotel and other services, it is over 14,000. In the tailoring trade, many firms have adopted the system of three days' work and three days' "play," and the women draw the dole for the days they do not go to the factories. In Leeds, the Central Committee on Women's Training and Unemployment are arranging courses of instruction in home training, and in certain circumstances in midwifery, nursery nursing, cookery, institutional house-keeping, and shorthand and typewriting. The "refresher" course of shorthand and typewriting is for girl shorthand typists who have had good clerical experience, but, having been out of work for some considerable time, have lost their skill and speed. Twenty-four Leeds girls have taken advantage of this opportunity. By the fourth week some of them were able to go out to a new job, having recovered their confidence as well as their speed. Others take the full thirteen weeks' course.

International Prison Congress.

Next year the International Prison Congress will take place in London. The last Congress was held at Washington in 1910. Another Congress was planned to be held in London in 1915, but the war made this impossible. The last London Congress was in 1886. At the forthcoming Congress all the Dominions, the United States of America, most European countries, as well as China, Japan, and several of the South American States will be represented. We earnestly hope that women as well as men will be included among the delegates. The President of the International Prison Congress is Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, who retired last year from the Chairmanship of the Prison Commission for England and Wales.

Higher Wages for Farm Women.

The Daily Chronicle reports that women farm servants secured £10 more than cow-men, and an equivalent to the wages of unmarried ostlers last week at Aberystwyth. £40 a year was the amount offered to women between 20 and 30 years of age, as compared with £50 for married, and £40 for unmarried ostlers. We can be quite sure that the work done by these women farm servants will equal the amount done by men ostlers.

International Feminist Club.

A number of women, representing the chief women's organisations in Sweden, have established an International Feminist Club at Stockholm. Its object is to provide a place of reunion for women of all nationalities, where they can get to know each other better, and discuss questions of special interest to women.

THE DRAFT PROTOCOL.

The women's International League have arranged four lectures on the Draft Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of Disputes. These lectures are being given at Essex Hall, on Thursdays, at 8 p.m. Yesterday, Mrs. Swanwick spoke on the "Peaceful Settlement of Disputes." Next Thursday, December 4th, Mr. W. Arnold-Foster will speak on "Economic and Military Sanctions." On December 11th, Mr. Philip Baker will deal with "Reduction of Armaments," and on December 18th, Mr. Delisle Burns will speak on the "Further Development of International Relations."

RALLY OF MEMBERS.

Our London Branches, Minerva Club and Mid-London, are arranging a Rally for members and friends at the Minerva Club, on Sunday afternoon, November 30th, Tea 4 p.m. Some members of the Executive Committee are expected to remain in town, and there will be short speeches by Branch and Committee members. All members and friends are cordially invited to come to this Rally, and to take part in an important discussion on the work to be done in the immediate future by the Women's Freedom League.

FRIDAY,
NOV. 28,
1924.

THE VOTE

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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult H. M. BAKER, the woman Income Tax Expert, 275, High Holborn. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 30th. 3.30. Music Lecture. The Hon. Oliver Stanley, M.P. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.