

THE EMPIRE MOURNS.

THE VOTE

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

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the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1925

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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A PIONEER AUSTRIAN WOMAN LAWYER.

DR. MARIANNE BETH.

Austrian women, like women in so many other countries, had a hard fight, extending over several years, to gain admission to the Law. In 1897, Austrian women were admitted to the study of philosophy, and in 1900, the medical profession was opened to them, but the legal profession still remained obdurate. It was not until the revolution at the end of the war, and the downfall of the Monarchy, when Austrian women were granted the franchise, that all doors were at last thrown open to them, including the legal profession.

One of the first women in Austria to make use of the new opening was Marianne Beth, the subject of this little article. In 1912, when only 22 years old, she took the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and later married one of her tutors, Professor Dr. Karl Beth, and became the mother of two small children. She had also written a treatise dealing with Property Rights in Jewish and Babylonian laws, and had read very extensively in law, theology, and Oriental psychology and culture. After studying law for two years, Dr. Marianne Beth was allowed to practise in the Vienna Law Courts, and was the first woman to be included in the Counsel List. She has still another two years' study of the law to pursue before becoming a full

advocate or barrister. Dr. Marianne Beth is before all things a mother, with a mother's thoughts and feelings, and it is her great desire, when fully qualified, to take charge of law cases in which women and children are chiefly concerned. Marriage laws and national economy are two of her chief interests,

and she is also a convinced pacifist, with a wide understanding of foreign politics. She conforms essentially to the highest type of modern womanhood, which no longer confines the mother-heart within four walls, but brings it to bear on the solution of social and industrial problems in the great outside world.

Another interesting Austrian woman is Frau Scheue-Reisz, a well-known educationist with a strong international viewpoint who as a young girl visited England, and became very much enamoured with the late Mr. Stead's "Books for the Bairns." The war provided her with a supreme opportunity, and she became the promoter of an international series of children's twopenny



DR. MARIANNE BETH.

classics, which now includes over a hundred volumes, representing the collected literature of 14 nations. Frau Scheue-Reisz is now completing a second series, named the Sesame Books, after John Ruskin. Several of these books have been illustrated by a group of child artists under Professor Cizek.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Noted Trio.

Miss Millicent Lawrence, whose recent death is reported, was one of a famous trio of sisters who founded the famous Roedean School for girls at Brighton, and acted as joint headmistresses from 1885-1924. The other sisters were Miss Penelope and Miss Dorothy Lawrence. A fourth sister, Miss Theresa Lawrence, founded a second Roedean in South Africa.

Policewoman's Presentation.

Miss Margaret Sutton Sharpe, who recently resigned from the Oxford City Police, of which she had been a member for nearly two years, in order to enter the Unitarian Ministry, was recently the recipient of an inscribed gold watch and a handbag from her colleagues at Oxford. The Chief Constable, who made the presentation, referred to the great popularity Miss Sharpe had gained in the Force.

Women Engineers.

The Council and Officers of the Women's Engineering Society were entertained by the President and officers of the Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition at Olympia last Tuesday. After a luncheon, the guests, together with members of the Society, were conducted round the exhibition, and were later entertained to tea.

Women in the Colonial Medical Service.

Miss M. J. Farrell, M.D., B.Ch., M.A.O., D.P.H., has recently been appointed as medical officer, Nigeria. Women doctors in West and East Africa are mainly engaged in welfare work in the schools, and in connection with the diseases of women and children. The power of the witch-doctor is passing in West Africa, and native women now prefer treatment by a medical woman.

Woman Candidate's Lecture Tour.

Miss Irene Ward, who opposed Mr. Robert Smillie in the Morpeth Division of Northumberland at the last General Election, and has done excellent service for the Conservative cause in Newcastle and the district, has sailed for Canada, where she is to give some lectures on the general industrial situation for the National Council of Education for Canada.

Business University Women.

The inaugural meeting of a newly-formed committee, known as the Business University Women's Committee, was held recently. The object of the committee is to form a link between industry and commerce and the Universities in the interest of women. Miss C. Haslett, secretary of the Women's Engineering Society, is the hon. secretary.

Women Surgeons.

On Thursday of last week the Annual Meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons approved the Council's proposal to grant to women M.R.C.S.s and F.R.C.S.s the same rights as to men, and a petition with this object will be presented to the Privy Council. This will affect over 800 women surgeons.

Our Champion in 1927.

Gemma Harrison will make her next attempt to swim the English Channel in 1927. It has been decided to let a year elapse, so that she will be better able to accustom herself to the English climate. Gemma, who is now in a Swedish Institute in London, will employ the time in learning Swedish massage.

Swedish Women Workers.

The number of women working for the State has almost doubled since 1923. The Swedish Government's Civil Service list showed 17,777 women employees last year, forming one-sixth of the Government officials.

French Woman Lawyer's Appointment.

Mme. Maria Verone, the pioneer French woman lawyer, has been elected member of the Consultative Committee of the Supreme Housing and Billeting Council in France.

WOMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Women Mayors Honoured.

Mrs. F. A. Coxon, the first Mayor of King's Lynn, received the following telegram from Princess Victoria:—"My best congratulations to you on your term of office.—Victoria."

Stoke Newington Council has elected Miss C. M. Eve, the retiring Mayor, its first woman alderman. During her year of office, Miss Eve attended 520 meetings. She was entertained at a complimentary banquet at the Connaught Rooms last week, and presented with a framed and beautifully illuminated address recording appreciation of her work and esteem of her colleagues on the Council and its Committees.

Mrs. Mercer, the retiring Mayor of Birkenhead, was again returned head of the poll in her ward for the Town Council. At a meeting of the new Council, tributes were paid to the excellence of her work as Mayor, and it was agreed that she had won not only the respect of every class, but also their affection.

Colchester Division Conservative and Unionist Women Workers' League held a social meeting at Colchester last week, and presented Dame Catherine Hunt with a handsome autograph album to celebrate her successful year of office as Mayor of the Borough.

Woman Relieving Officer.

In Kingston-on-Thames, Miss Dykes has served as relieving officer to the Board of Guardians. She recently received numerous congratulations from the Board and the various relief committees on receiving an appointment under the Ministry of Health in another part of the country. The Chairman, in giving his testimony to her services, said that she had been a most excellent officer, and had carried out her work in the best possible manner.

Wallasey Women Councillors.

Nurse McFall, an original member of our Wallasey Branch is the first woman to be appointed Chairman of a Committee of the Council—the Distress Committee—and she automatically becomes a member of the Council's Finance Committee. Mrs. Siddall, the other woman councillor, has been re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

No Woman on the Watch Committee.

Mrs. Andain, hon. secretary of our Wallasey Branch, has written to the local press protesting that again no woman has been appointed to serve on the Watch Committee.

A Good Example.

The Local Education Authority of the Montgomery County Council has rescinded its resolution prohibiting married women teachers from being employed under the Council. We hope other local governing bodies will follow this example.

Woman Typist Alderman.

Among the five new aldermen appointed by the Bermondsey Borough Council is Miss Groves, employed as a typist in the City. She was first elected to the Council only a fortnight ago. We send our congratulations to Miss Groves and our best wishes for the success of her work.

Mother and Son on Council.

Mrs. Murray and her son, Mr. W. A. D. Murray, solicitor, are both members of Haddington Town Council.

SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER

will lecture on

"Tales of a Traveller,"

At the SIX POINT GROUP, 92, VICTORIA STREET.

On THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10th, at 5 p.m.

CHAIR: MISS EVA MOORE.

Tickets 2/6.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise Conference.

MAJOR CRAWFORD (Lib., Walthamstow, W.) asked the Prime Minister when the Government Conference on the Franchise would be called together? The PRIME MINISTER replied that he could make no statement on the subject at present. Major Crawford then inquired if the right hon. Gentleman could hold out any hope of making a statement before the end of the year? MR. BALDWIN said he thought that was extremely doubtful.

Compulsory Voting.

MR. CADOGAN (U., Finchley) asked the Prime Minister if it was his intention to introduce legislation making voting at Parliamentary elections compulsory? MR. GODFREY LOCKER-LAMPSON (Under-Secretary, Home Office) said he had been asked to reply. The Government were not contemplating any measure of the kind.

Contributory Pensions (Appointments).

MR. G. HURST (U., Moss Side) asked the Minister of Health what was the number of men and women respectively, appointed or promoted to posts carrying a salary of £400 or over in connection with the Widows', Orphans and Old Age Pensions Act? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health) replied that three men and three women had been appointed or promoted to posts with a substantive salary of £400 or over, for work in connection with the Pensions Act.

MR. SHORT (Lab., Wednesbury) asked the number of new staff employed in connection with the administration of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, and the salaries thereof? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied that the number of new staff employed in connection with the administration of the Pensions Act was 548, of whom 192 had been engaged on a temporary basis. The grades and substantive salaries of the new staff were as follows:—Assistant Inspectors (men), £100-£400; Assistant Inspectors (women), £100-£300; Clerical Officers (women), £60-£180; Writing Assistants, 18s. to 36s. a week; Temporary Male Clerks, 52s. 11d. to 69s. 10d. a week.

Ex-Temporary Women Clerks.

SIR HENRY JACKSON (U., Wandsworth Central) asked the Minister of Health if any efforts had been made by his Department to utilise the services of trained ex-temporary women civil servants, some of whom had actual experience on pensions administration, to cope with the extra work involved in connection with the administration of the new pensions scheme? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied that he regretted he had not been able to utilise the services of any ex-temporary women clerks. Having regard to the large number of temporary ex-service men clerks whose services in other Departments had become redundant, he had thought it right to recruit the additional staff required for pensions work from that source.

Legitimacy Bill.

CAPT. BOWYER (U., Buckingham) asked the Prime Minister if it was the intention of the Government to pass the Legitimacy Bill into law before Christmas?

The PRIME MINISTER replied that he hoped that might be possible.

Married Women (Nationality Law).

MAJOR HARVEY (U., Totnes) asked the Home Secretary if he had received from the Dominions any replies to the communications, which he indicated he would send them, on the subject of British women who marry aliens; and, if so, what was the nature of such replies? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that the Government of the self-governing Dominions had been invited to express their views as to the proposal on this subject in the Resolution moved by the hon. and

gallant Member, February 18th last. He was informed that no reply had yet been received from any of the Dominions except the Irish Free State. He thought it would be better not to make any statement as to the nature of any of the replies until they were complete. SIR GEOFFREY BUTLER (U., Cambridge University) asked the Home Secretary if the views of the Dominions had now been received on the question of an amendment of the British Nationality Act to provide that a British woman shall not lose her British status by marriage until, by the law of her husband's country, she has acquired his nationality? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS replied that he was informed that replies on this question had now been received from the self-governing Dominions with the exception of the Dominion of Canada.

Smoke Abatement.

SIR WALTER DE FRECE (U., Blackpool) asked the Minister of Health if he proposed to introduce a Bill dealing with smoke abatement; and, if so, if he could indicate when that would be? MR. N. CHAMBERLAIN replied that he hoped to introduce a Bill on that subject next Session.

Civil Service (Equal Pay).

MAJOR HORE-BELISHA (Lib., Devonport) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if the present Government proposed to give effect to the principle already approved of by the House of Commons, of equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service? MR. RONALD McNEILL referred the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to Major Clifton Brown on 5th March last, that answer being:—"This question has been reviewed both by the late and by the present Government, with the result that it has been decided that the state of the country's finances does not admit of the increase of expenditure involved in the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women by the Civil Service."

Fighting Services (Pay).

MAJOR HORE-BELISHA asked the Prime Minister if the Government proposed to take steps to remove the grievances caused by the paying for identical work different rates of pay to men serving in His Majesty's forces side by side? MR. McNEILL replied that His Majesty's Government had decided that the difficulties inherent in the situation must be faced. Otherwise, either reductions must be applied to all men serving in the forces, whatever their contracts, or no reductions could ever be made however strong the case for making them.

Juvenile Unemployment.

Replying to MR. WESTWOOD (Lab., Peebles), SIR JOHN GILMOUR (Secretary for Scotland) stated that the names of the Committee to inquire into the question of Juvenile Unemployment and its co-relation to education in Scotland were as follows:—The Rt. Hon. Lord Salvason (Chairman), Mr. R. S. Allan, LL.D., Professor T. Hudson Beare, Mrs. Charles Douglas, of Auchloch, Mr. James Elder, of Athelstone Ford, Mr. William Lorrimer, J.P., General Secretary of the Society of Associated Blacksmiths and Ironworkers, and Mr. D. J. Macdonald, of Dundee. MR. WESTWOOD said there was grave dissatisfaction because of the unrepresentative character of the Committee, and that there was not a representative of the educational administrators, nor of those interested in juvenile employment. We note that there is only one woman to six men on this Committee, and we complain that this is not a fair proportion of women to men where the interests and future of girls as well as boys are concerned. The problem of girls' employment should receive equal consideration with that of boys' employment from our Government.

THE EMPIRE MOURNS.

To-day the British Empire mourns the loss of our beloved Queen-Mother, Alexandra, the tender-hearted, who for over half a century has been to British people the ideal of never-failing graciousness, kindness, and compassion. Simple and sincere, she exacted no homage, and the nation brought her love and devotion and enshrined her in its heart. The beautiful and charming young Danish Princess who came to our shores so long ago was enthusiastically welcomed, and the never-failing sympathy with suffering of the Princess of Wales especially endeared her to British women.

Sixty years ago, when first she reached this Island, the position of women was very different from what it is now. Yet Queen Alexandra was never a reactionary. When few women had degrees she consented to receive an honorary degree in music, and another honorary degree at a Welsh University. Her interest in nurses and the efficiency of nursing was very keen. Before the War Office decided to send out nurses for the wounded soldiers during the Boer War, Queen Alexandra had a number of nurses equipped for South Africa. All through the Great War she did her utmost to encourage and to assist the Nursing Service, and always, in peace time, her unflagging interest and help were at the service of the nursing profession. Education, the uplifting of the unfortunate, the welfare of children and of animals, all received the constant sympathy of Queen Alexandra and her unflinching personal support.

WOMEN POLICE.

A Bill, entitled the Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1925, making provision for Women Police, has been drafted by the Six Point Group, and will be introduced in the House of Commons, under the Ten Minutes Rule, by Miss Wilkinson, Tuesday, December 8th. The Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, enacts that the Watch Committee of a Borough Council shall from time to time appoint a sufficient number of fit men as constables. Clause I of the new Bill reads as follows:—"The Watch Committee of a Borough Council shall from time to time appoint a sufficient number of fit men and a sufficient number of fit women to be borough constables."

This Bill has the enthusiastic support of the Women's Freedom League. We are convinced that women police are absolutely necessary, and that they should have the same status and the same power of arrest as the men members of the police force. Everyone desires an improvement in the state of our streets. Would not a number of well-trained women police effect a speedy improvement there as well as in our parks and open spaces? Not only are women police needed to keep order; they are also needed to protect children from assault and young people from the pitfalls of our streets. Quite recently, the Home Office circularised Borough Councils asking them to increase their police force, so that the present time is particularly opportune to establish women police throughout the country. Boroughs already have the power to appoint women police, and women's organisations in many of those boroughs have urged their necessity; but the majority of chief constables have apparently influenced the Watch Committees against the appointment of women constables. Unfortunately, it very rarely happens that a woman is allowed to serve on any Watch Committee, so that under present conditions it is extremely difficult to secure women police in our boroughs, and all kinds of excuses are made for their non-appointment. So long ago as July, after great pressure, it was decided to appoint two policewomen to patrol the park in Middlesbrough. Last week, the local Parks Committee asked for a Report on the matter. The Town Clerk merely explained that none of the applicants was suitable, and extra plain clothes men had been appointed who had done excellent work! Surely, after a decision had been arrived at, it was the business of the authorities to find suitable women applicants! All women's organisations are convinced of the necessity for women police—chiefly for the sake of the children and young people in the district—and since chief constables and watch committees continue to remain obstinate in regard to the appointment of women, it is high time that legislation should compel them, in the interests of the public, to do that which their prejudice alone prevents being done.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

The Court of Appeal—the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Warrington and Sargant—delivered judgment last Friday allowing the appeal of the Borough of Poole from the decision of Mr. Justice Romer that the Corporation, as the local education authority, was not justified in dismissing from their service Mrs. Short, a married woman teacher. It will be remembered that the Town Clerk of Poole wrote to the managers of the local schools stating that the Education Committee (1) considered that the duty of a married woman was primarily to look after her domestic affairs, and they regarded it as impossible to do so and effectively and satisfactorily to act as teacher; (2) it was unfair to the large number of young, unmarried teachers who are at present seeking situations that the positions should be occupied by married women who had, presumably, husbands capable of maintaining them. Mr. Justice Romer, on August 1st last, decided that these grounds for Mrs. Short's dismissal were not in the best interests of education in the district or of the efficiency of the school, but were from "motives alien and irrelevant" to the exercise of the statutory duties of the Education authority; and he declared that Mrs. Short's dismissal was invalid. The Court of Appeal has now reversed that decision, and holds that the Corporation acted in good faith, and that their Lordships could not inquire into the wisdom or unwisdom of discontinuing the employment of married women teachers. That, it was held, was a matter entirely for the electorate. The Master of the Rolls in giving judgment, as above, said there was no question that Mrs. Short had performed her duties satisfactorily, and was an efficient teacher while employed as assistant mistress. Notwithstanding that statement, the Court maintained that there was nothing to show that the authority had acted on other than educational grounds; the appeal being allowed and the action dismissed with costs. Yet there is on the Statute Book the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, Clause I. of which states:—"A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation." Women have every reason to be thoroughly dissatisfied with this Court of Appeal judgment. It accentuates the fact that a married woman is the chattel of her husband, but takes no notice of the fact that a married woman has no legal claim to any portion of her husband's earnings or income. It is the last word in impertinence on the part of local governing bodies to dictate to any class of adult women how they shall spend their time, and we trust that women will not rest until they have secured for married women the same right to remunerative work which married and single men, and single women enjoy.

ADMINISTRATION OF WIDOWS' PENSIONS

For months past the London Society for Women's Service has been pressing the Government to give a fair share of the administrative appointments in regard to Widows' Pensions to women. The Society rightly pointed out that male civil servants could not justly claim that their expectations of promotion were disappointed if women were appointed to the higher positions in the new branch. Yet the only Indoor Staff higher post, that of Deputy Controller, has been given to a man. In the higher grades of the Outdoor Staff the new appointments of men and women bring the totals to 57 men Inspectors and 18 women; 13 men Divisional Inspectors and no woman; one male and one female Deputy Chief and Chief Inspector. The permanent appointments have not yet been made; but, as the London Society points out, it is only reasonable to suppose that they will be made from the officials who are now carrying out the work; and that it is clear that women will have practically no share in the responsible administration of widows' and orphans' pensions, and will take no part in the interpretation of policy. We strongly protest against this.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR, 1925.

On Friday and Saturday of last week we held our annual Green, White and Gold Fair, at the Central Hall, Westminster. The Women's Freedom League provided 17 of the prettily decorated stalls which occupied the centre of the Hall, whilst 20 others were furnished by outside societies and individuals. The Hall itself was gay with the flags and banners of our own and kindred women's organisations.

OPENING CEREMONIES.

On Friday, the Fair was opened by Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D. Miss Anna Munro, who presided, expressed her great pleasure in welcoming Dame Millicent that afternoon, and reminded the audience how at one time the Women's Freedom League had been considered the young and impetuous section of the suffrage movement, which could not understand how it was the older women of the country had not become enfranchised long before. Their object partly achieved, the League was now working hard to surmount the obstacles to women's equality step by step. Next year, however, might see a monster gathering of all the progressive women's societies, which she, the speaker, hoped would join together to demand the suffrage for women at 21. She hoped this gathering would take the form of a giant procession which would eclipse all previous suffrage demonstrations, and secure its object without any further delay.

Dame Millicent Fawcett, who was most warmly received, was the recipient of a little horseshoe of white heather, which she held out to the audience, to the "Fair," and to the success of the Cause. She confessed that in the past she had not always seen eye to eye with the extreme section of the suffragists, but maintained that diversity of opinion was not only inevitable but even necessary. She agreed with Rudyard Kipling that "There are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays, and every single one of them is right." Women of all shades of opinion must stand by one another until the full programme of sex-equality had been achieved. Women had every reason to be satisfied with the great progress they had made. A beginning was made in 1918, when two important Bills were carried through both Houses of Parliament, one granting women the vote at thirty years of age, and the other their eligibility to Parliament. Further progress could best be illustrated by the fact that a leaflet, entitled "What the Vote has won," issued in 1919, and printed on one side of a single sheet, had now expanded to a six-page pamphlet, and still needed addition. Dame Millicent also referred to the success of three women in the recently opened higher branches of the Civil Service Examinations, two of whom had obtained very important Government positions, and the third a place in the Record Office.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and Dame Millicent was then proposed by Dr. Knight, and seconded by Miss Lyndon, of our Hampstead Branch.

On Saturday, the Fair was opened by Miss Lind-af-Hageby, who was accompanied by the Duchess of Hamilton. Dr. Knight presided, and spoke of the work women still had to do. The Government had promised a conference next year to ascertain what changes were really needed in the franchise. This conference was quite unnecessary, women knew exactly what they wanted, and by a great campaign must show the Government and the country that this was so.

Miss Lind-af-Hageby, in opening the Fair, referred briefly to the fact that we were that day mourning one who was greatly beloved, not because she was a queen, but as a woman—one who had always taken a keen and never-failing interest in the lives of others.

She, Miss Lind-af-Hageby, felt honoured in being asked to open the Fair; she had always been a great admirer of the Women's Freedom League, and liked

the pluck, spirit, and thoroughness of the League. Women had won freedom to some extent, but much remained to be done, the franchise was still unequal, and every woman should resent this denial of simple justice. Parents were still treated unequally, the pay of women teachers and civil servants, for instance, was still less than that of the men, there was still inequality of opportunity, and women were often dismissed on marriage. One found a great deal of sympathy for women's demands, but very little action. In regard to the franchise, there had been many promises of equality, but nothing but delay in granting it. She was particularly disappointed that the Labour Party, when in office, had always been too busy with more "pressing matters" to redeem its election promises made to women.

Women must trust themselves; everything gained up to the present had been due to women's own efforts, and they must continue to press forward. Men seemed to have an "inferiority complex" or "blind spot" with regard to women, and the idea that women were inferior to men was still active. The speaker had a "public memory," which was rather unfortunate in one way, for it was apt to make one lose faith. She had been turning up a leading article in *The Times* of 1912, in which the writer had prophesied a whole string of calamities if women ever got the vote. The labour market, said the article, would be overrun by women workers of all kinds, all apparently doing bad work. This bias against women was everywhere, and must be combated.

There were also those who protested that women were too fragile and delicate to be bothered with the business of life. She was disappointed with the meek way women had taken these taunts. The Women's Freedom League was an exception. She believed in the individuality of women, and in the rise of the feminine side of humanity. Women's share in the management of affairs should be equal with men's, and even preponderating where the home and children were concerned.

She had great pleasure in declaring the Fair open, and exhorted everyone to remember the Cause and empty their pockets.

In proposing a vote of thanks, Mrs. Whetton recalled Miss Lind-af-Hageby's visit to Portsmouth in the early days of the suffrage movement. She thought it was rather unfair of the Government, this year, to leave us without the excitement of our usual General Election at the time of the Fair. Mrs. Mustard, in seconding, spoke of the occasion, 14 or 15 years ago, when there had been a debate at the Queen's Hall, between the suffragists and the anti-suffragists. Miss Lind-af-Hageby put the suffrage case admirably, but the "antis" had not turned up.

ROUND THE STALLS.

The 17 Stalls of the Women's Freedom League presented an almost bewildering display of varied articles, both useful and ornamental. The Hampstead Stall showed some charming powder puffs in beaver fur, picturesque toilet tidies in coloured raffia, an Early Victorian tea-set in real Davenport china, and its usual excellent assortment of linen and fancy handkerchiefs. Montgomery Boroughs had two large Stalls—one devoted to needlework, embroidered cloths from Madeira, handkerchiefs, Shantung jumper suits, children's woollies and dressing gowns, and embroidered "Bonzo" frocks and overalls; the other to Welsh farmhouse produce—cakes, jam, pickles, mince pies, and apples. The Portsmouth Stall was resplendent with shining aluminium ware, household rubbers and cloths of every description, and gaily coloured raffia shopping baskets. The South-Eastern Branches had a General Stall for all kinds of articles. The Overalls and Aprons Stall showed its usual splendid assortment of these ever necessary articles. Mrs. Lloyd's Stall

was, as usual, laden with the curious and interesting treasures she so successfully collects. The Literature Stall made a brave and essentially seasonable display of Christmas Annuals, new novels, children's books, and Women's Freedom League Diaries for 1926. The Pound Stall held its usual assortment of useful purchases. The Shilling Stall, supported by the Minerva Club Branch, displayed a varied assortment of china and other fancy articles, stationery and embroidered goods. The Scottish Stall had some charming Fair Isle pullovers knitted in delicate hues, and hailing direct from Shetland, also a quantity of picturesque Czecho-Slovakian glassware, children's woollies, and dainty pincushions! The Sweet Stall was particularly seductive with its toothsome dainties of chocolate and home-made sweets, and pretty boxes of goodies. The Toy Stall displayed some lovely dressed baby dolls, and a varied assortment of jazz bands, games, dolls' tea-sets, and other gay and alluring articles. The White Stall had some really lovely silken underwear for sale, dainty camisoles, and children's clothing. THE VOTE Stall proved an attractive chemist's shop, where soap, scent, sponges, and toothbrushes jostled each other merrily. The Nine Elms Stall groaned under an assortment of vegetarian food products, many fancy knicknacks, and children's clothing.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Our cordial thanks are due to the talented artistes who helped so materially to make this year's Fair a success. The Dancing Displays of clever little Margery Dunhill, and Miss Grace Woollacott's dainty little pupils, were enormously appreciated. Songs, pianoforte solos, and recitations were also warmly applauded from the following:—Mrs. Cunningham, Miss C. O'Brien, Miss Mollie Dutchman, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Mary Lyne, Miss Potter, Miss M. Pre-looker, Miss Margery Potts, Mrs. Morris-Wood, and Mrs. Sparrow.

The corner for competitions and games, presided over most capably by Mrs. Preece and her helpers, Mrs. Beardsley and Mrs. Blake, was well patronised, and the services of those in charge much appreciated. A continuous stream of clients visited Mme. Malmberg and Miss Wall for Character Reading, Mr. Sons for Phrenology, and Miss Fitzsimmons and Miss Glasgow for Numerology.

OUR BEST THANKS.

The Women's Freedom League gives its most cordial thanks to all who helped towards last week's success, especially to Miss E. Berry, our very efficient and untiring "Fair" Secretary. This year we showed our appreciation of Miss Berry's efforts for so many years past by presenting her, through Miss Anna Munro, on the last day of the Fair, with a hand-bag and little mascot as a mark of gratitude. We also desire to thank the "Fair" Sub-Committee for its faithful attendance and work throughout the year.

Thanks are also due to the Stall-holders:—Miss Goodlife, Miss Lyndon, Miss Vibert, Miss Trotter (Hampstead); Miss Alix Clark, Mrs. Richard Jones, the Misses Codd, Mrs. Benge, Miss Freda Jones, and friends (Montgomery Boroughs); Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Brading (Portsmouth); Miss White, Mrs. Dunhill (South-Eastern); Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Brewer, Miss Charles, Miss Cole, Miss A. Golding, Mrs. Nicholls, Miss Stone, Mrs. Turriff (Overalls and Aprons); Mrs. Lloyd (General); Mrs. and Miss Mustard, Miss Armstrong, Miss Lilian Pierotti, Miss Elsie Armstrong (Literature); Mrs. and the Misses Potter (Pound); Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Arney, Mrs. Greveson, Miss Gibson (Shilling); Miss Munro, Mrs. Rose, Miss Sidley, Miss Steven (Scottish); Miss Mary Knight and Miss Dorothy Dix (Sweet); Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Shore, Miss Hoare, Miss Scott (Toy); Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Newsome, Miss Quorn (VOTE); Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Lindus (White); Miss Hunt (Ticket-selling); Mr. Bacon, Mr. Gill, Mr. Threadgold (Doors); Mrs. Preece, for much valuable

help in arranging the Hall; the Women's Auxiliary Service for policing the Hall; Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Bell, Miss Reeves, Miss White, Miss Haugh, and other members of the Minerva Café and Minerva Club, who so kindly helped with the teas and refreshments; and all who sent and bought the contents of the stalls.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Health of the School Child. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education for the year 1924. Price 1s. 9d. (His Majesty's Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.)

For twenty years a systematic medical inspection of school-children has been part of every education committee's duty, and the school doctor is concerned also with the sanitation of school premises and the education of the child in hygiene. These annual reports make most interesting reading—comparison of the health of the school-children in London and rural areas, discussions on nursing schools, physical fitness and juvenile employment, community hygiene, defective schools—all these subjects, which are so full of interest to all of us who care for the nation's fitness, and also so full of debatable points, are reported or discussed by the Chief Medical Officer (Sir George Newman).

A special section deals with the prevention of dental disease, and the effects of diet on the teeth, cleanliness, early treatment, and other preventive measures, and the doctor notes the general willingness of the parents to co-operate with the school authorities in these matters, while the education of the people on the whole as to the advantage of good teeth is progressing wonderfully.

A section on rheumatic infection in children, chiefly between the ages of five and ten, leading as it does to heart troubles, chorea, tonsillitis, skin diseases and other troubles, tells us of efforts to instruct both teachers and parents of the significance of the disease, providing them with means for guarding children from conditions likely to predispose them to contract it.

Provision of meals takes place in 132 areas; playing-fields, equipment and organisation for special games—such as football, netball, jumping, etc., evening play centres, swimming and school camps, both for Christmas and summer holidays, are all given space in the report; the value of all these aids to all-round physical development is recognised, and the way in which local education authorities are using all means at their disposal.

Tables of the incidence of various infectious diseases are given.

The progress of school medical treatment, and the work of children's care committees and nurses, which extends to the child's life outside school, may well be considered an achievement, and Sir George adds that never before "has so much enlightened and organised effort been made on behalf of child welfare, and it promises well for the future of our race in life and capacity."

J. M. T.

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Women's Freedom League.

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Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.
General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, December 5th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, December 7th, at 3 p.m.
"Fair" Sub-Committee, at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.
Books and Presents Sale at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, 3.30—8 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.
Portsmouth Branch. Public Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Miss E. F. Maynard.
Subject: "The Commonwealth of India Bill."

SCOTLAND.

Wednesday, December 9th, at 7.45 p.m.
Glasgow Branch. Public Meeting in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S. Choir-singing, solos, etc., arranged by Miss Mary Dixon. Admission free. (See Branch Note.)

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, November 28th, at 3 p.m.
Saturday Speech Club, at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Symposium: Five-minute speeches on "A favourite quotation from my commonplace Book."
Monday, November 30th, 2.30—7.
Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Christmas Sale. Opened by Mrs. Kendal.
Monday, November 30th, at 4.15 p.m. (Business Session 2.30.) Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Annual Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster. Speaker: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. Chair: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc. Admission free. Tea 9d.
Wednesday, December 2nd, at 4 p.m.
Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss A. Helen A. Boyle, M.D.Lond. Subject: "The Attainment of Nervous and Mental Health." Chair: The Lady Emmott, J.P.
Wednesday, December 2nd, at 8 p.m.
St. Albans Debating Society, Public Library, St. Albans. Debate: "Is Motherhood the First Duty of Woman?" Affirm.: Dr. Beatrice Galsworthy. Neg.: Miss Anna Munro (President, Women's Freedom League).
Thursday, December 3rd, at 3 p.m.
National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Christmas Sale of Work at The Church House, Gt. Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Opener: Lady Frances Balfour.
Friday, December 4th, at 5 p.m.
Society for Women's Service, Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mrs. Hodson, F.L.S. Subject: "Hereditry: In Current Political Problems."
Friday, December 4th, at 8 p.m.
Henry George Club, 11, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Speaker: Miss Sadie Bourne, J.P. Subject: "Social Conditions and Political Work in the Potteries."

Saturday, December 5th, at 3 p.m.
Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, S.W. "The Question of the Mines." Speakers: Miss Stella Johnson (Conservative), Mrs. Boyd (Labour), Miss Reeves (Liberal).
Thursday, December 10th, at 5 p.m.
Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Speaker: Sir John Foster Fraser. Subject: "Tales of a Traveller." Chair: Miss Eva Moore.
Thursday, December 10th, at 8 p.m.
The Drama Study Circle. Public Lecture at Keat's House, Keat's Grove, Hampstead. Speaker: Miss Emma Goldman. Subject: Anton Chekhov: II: "Uncle Vanya," "Three Sisters," "The Cherry Orchard," etc.
Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th, 11—7.
Society for Women's Service, Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W. Christmas Sale.
Saturday, December 12th, at 5 p.m.
Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Bourchier. Subject: "Charles and Mary Lamb."

MINERVA CLUB DISPLAY.

On Monday, December 7th, there will be a little show of attractive new books for grown-ups and children, and a display of garments, toys, fancy and useful goods, etc., all suitable for Christmas presents, at the Minerva Club. All members and friends, and especially those who were unavoidably prevented from being with us at the "Fair," are strongly advised to be present. 3.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The first public event this season was held on Thursday evening, November 19th, at the "Goblin Market," Palmerston Road. It took the form of a social evening, with an address on R. L. Stevenson by Mrs. F. S. Hart. There was a large gathering of members and friends, and while coffee was being served, Mrs. Knight sang "Sing, Joyous Bird." Mrs. Hart then delighted the audience with an exhaustive account of "R. L. S."—his youthful days, his early manhood, his great literary genius, and his retirement to the South Sea Islands, where he died at Samoa. The lecture was made doubly interesting and attractive by the musical illustrations rendered at intervals by Miss Elsie Jocelyn. She sang to perfection the simple "Childhood's Poems," written by Stevenson. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Hart, Miss Jocelyn, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs. Holdaway, the accompanist. On Thursday, December 17th, Miss Maynard will speak on "The Commonwealth of India Bill," at 2, Kent Road, at 3 o'clock. Will members please remember the Jumble Sale early in the New Year? (Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

WALLASEY.

An interesting and instructive address on "Citizenship" was given at a meeting of the Women's Freedom League at the Town Hall last week, Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A., presiding. "Another expression for citizenship is membership," said Councillor Larsen, "membership of a state, or any community gathered together for the purpose of organised living." People must not think that because women had the vote that they were equal with men in the State; they were not. They had yet to overcome a psychology centuries old. It crept out in public life, and it would not alter until women came into public life—into citizenship. Looking back through history, every man or woman who was worth anything was worth it as a citizen. A woman who helped forward the suffrage movement, or a man who propounded certain political ideas, would live much longer in history than a man who made a fortune in soap or any other commercial enterprise. The greatest possibilities of the human brain were shown in citizenship, and not in money-making. The people responsible for a bad state of affairs were the indifferent people, and women were more apathetic than men. This was due to ignorance. There were three reasons why women should be citizens. The first was that if we were to have democracy it was illogical to leave half or a large proportion of the population out of the governing force. Secondly, women had a distinct point of view. Thirdly, the only way to develop women was by citizenship. To suggest that women had not brains capable of development to the same extent as men was absurd. A vote of thanks to Councillor Larsen was heartily accorded.

GLASGOW.

On December 9th, a Public Meeting will be held in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, at 7.45 p.m. (Doors open 7.15.) We are very pleased to be able to say that Miss Eunice Murray will speak, and that Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., will preside. We have also been extremely lucky in once more getting Miss Mary Dixon to provide musical items. There will be choir singing, solos, etc. Admission free. Reserved seats 1s. each, from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Fiskien, 2, Stirling Avenue, Westerton, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss I. McLelland, 5, Hayburn Crescent, Partick.

(Org.) Miss LENTON.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"Women and Income Tax."

MADAM,—I heartily concur with the suggestion contained in your leading article of November 6th that the unearned income of a widow, who has children to bring up and continues her work in the home, should be treated by our financial authorities as earned income, which means that one-sixth of the amount would be exempt from taxation. The Finance Act, 1925, provides, *inter alia*, that if a person over 65 years of age is in receipt of an unearned income not exceeding £500 per annum, such income shall be considered as earned, the idea being that people at that time of life are usually no longer able to take an active part in business. This principle can be applied with equal justice in the case of a widow with a similar income. If she does the housework and looks after the welfare of the children, she is obviously prevented from taking up a profession, and it is only fair that she should enjoy the same advantages as other people who, though for different reasons, find themselves in the same position. I believe that if sufficient pressure is used by the Women's Freedom League and other women's societies, a fair measure of success may be expected. The case appears to me to be unanswerable, and the strain on the Treasury would hardly be big enough to justify any sustained opposition.

Yours faithfully,
HILDA M. BAKER.

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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 29th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture, R. Smillie, Esq., M.P. 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden, "The Beauty of Christ."

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