

THE VOTE,  
Oct. 29, 1920  
ONE PENNY.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

MARIAN BERRY.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 29, 1920.

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

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF EUROPE.

Interview with Frau Schreiber Krieger, M.P.

THE BURNHAM REPORT. A. G. Hewitt L.L.A.

IN PARLIAMENT. F. A. U.

CHILD OUTRAGE. Protest Meeting in Edinburgh.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. Marian Berry.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH. E. Louie Acres.

## HEALING THE WOUNDS OF EUROPE.

*Interview with Frau Schreiber Krieger, M.P.*

One of the most interesting features of the recent International Economic Conference, convened by the Fight the Famine Council at Caxton Hall, Westminster, was the attendance of large numbers of women delegates from the famine-stricken areas. These delegates came from Italy, Austria, Germany, and France. The majority spoke in fluent English, and each one showed herself possessed not only of a vast amount of knowledge upon economic questions, but of a clear grasp of the financial situation in their respective countries—subjects which women at one time were assumed to be incapable of assimilating!

In spite of many pressing engagements, one of these delegates, Frau Schreiber Krieger, who is also a

### Member of the German Reichstag,

found time to give our representative a few reminiscences of her Parliamentary life.

"I hear that the English women are considerably astonished at the recent progress German women have been making in politics," said Frau Krieger, her eyes twinkling merrily. "But perhaps after all we were not so behindhand as was generally supposed! Neither are we so advanced *now* as some people would like to think. Before the war very few German women took an active part in the Suffrage question, and if it had not been for the war we should have probably remained quiescent for some considerable time. But the Revolution appeared, and with it came the breaking down of the whole of Germany, and its subsequent reconstruction. Thirty-nine women were elected to the first National Assembly created to provide the Constitution for the new Republic. To-day we number thirty-two, and we do not consider this nearly enough.

"We are not elected personally, but by means of printed lists issued by the various political parties. Neither need a woman be particularly distinguished to

get elected in Germany, though she *must* belong to a party. I was chosen to represent the province of Lower Silesia, though I do not live there. It is not compulsory in Germany to live in one's constituency. All political parties in my country are compelled nowadays to put women candidates on their lists, even if they are violent 'Antis.' You will be amused to hear that many of our anti-suffragist women allowed their names to be placed on the Members' lists, and some of these have been elected. I recollect one very laughable incident when I was attending a big Women's Conference at Weimar. Here I met another woman M.P. whom I had known in the past as an uncompromising 'Anti.' 'Why,' I said, in great surprise, 'I thought you were against women entering Parliament, and here I find you a woman M.P. yourself.' 'Yes,' she replied, 'that is so,' then, lowering her voice, 'and you may be surprised to hear that I am *still* against it!'

"We have tried to form a

### Women's Party,

but so far it has not been effective. We think, therefore, that women ought to work in and for their respective parties, but that there should also be a number of questions upon which women of widely differing political views can meet on common ground. In our Reichstag women are equal with men in every department. At present the President is a man, but both the Secretaries are women, one of whom is a Socialist, and the other an Independent Socialist. These three sit together, the man in the middle, and a woman on each side, and to my mind this looks a very pleasing arrangement! Women are admitted on perfectly equal terms with men to all Committees, even to those dealing with the most abstruse subjects, such as foreign affairs and finance. No Committee is ever formed without the presence of one or more women upon it. I myself have been elected



Chairman of a Committee dealing with the question of the Birth Rate. It is not an easy task, for many reactionary views are held upon this question by the less progressive members.

"The great work of the present Reichstag is the reform of our civil and penal codes. We are to-day confronted with a very strange situation. We possess a new Constitution partly constructed by women. It is an excellent Constitution, but it cannot act really effectively because our obsolete civil and penal codes obstruct the way. We women mean to make these up-to-date. They can no longer remain man-made as before.

"Already women have helped to bring in some new measures. One is a new law connected with the penalties for procuring abortion. Another has to do with the welfare of the children of illegitimate parents, and ensures that such children shall have the same chances of development as children born in wedlock. In the past a child born out of wedlock was not allowed to share its father's estate or inheritance. In spite, however, of what may seem to some people to be an important position, we women members of Parliament often feel that all we can do is to try and get progressive measures passed. But we have great difficulties on account of our economic position. We are filled with a desire to make the whole world better, only to be faced with the fact of no money!

"Our Budget is such that we can bring none of these reforms about. We very much hope that the recent Economic Conference will help our future work in the Reichstag. For Germany is starving! Her intellectual life is suffering intensely, and it may be that our Universities are in danger of closing. Our children are famine-stricken. If it had not been for your Relief Missions, and the Relief Missions from America, Holland and Sweden, we should not be here to-day to tell the tale.

"I feel very strongly that no woman should throw in her lot with any political party that does not stand for brotherhood and freedom. We still have women with us who believe in war, and if such as these have not been converted by this last war, I doubt if we shall ever get them to understand our hopes for the future. There is not a single woman to-day in the Socialist Party in Germany who would give a halfpenny to the cause of war. We Socialists cannot understand any woman pledging herself to the cause of destruction. We all stand shoulder to shoulder doing what lies within us to heal the wounds of Europe."

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

On Wednesday afternoon, in the Minerva Café, Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., gave a most interesting address on the League of Nations. She said the war through which we had just passed, having been the most terrible and devastating war ever known owing to the fact that everyone engaged in it had lost all decency in war, what with poison gas and submarines, there was great need of something to prevent any even worse war coming. Therefore, President Wilson had thought of a scheme which should include all nations; even Germany and Austria must be included.

At the present time there was still secret diplomacy. Belgium and France were supposed to have made a secret Treaty; and there were rumours of one between Hungary and France. Secret diplomacy was to blame for war, and the best thing in the Covenant of the League of Nations was that there was to be no secret diplomacy. There was to be a Court of International Arbitration, and every case was to be judged on its own merits. We did not fight duels now; they were abolished by law 100 years ago. Wars ought to be abolished in the same way, and every kind of dispute settled by arbitration. The real Pacifists of the present day were the young men who had tasted war and know the worst of it.

## THE BURNHAM REPORT.

The Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries (generally known by the name of its Chairman, as the "Burnham" Committee) is detrimental to the interests of women, and, being so, is strenuously opposed by the National Union of Women Teachers.

A year ago there was much discontent in the teaching world, owing to the general inadequacy of salaries. Mr. Fisher, hoping to provide for the "peaceful and progressive solution" of the whole salaries question, called the Joint Committee into being. The constitution of this Committee was the first affront to women teachers. Whilst the 22 representatives of the Education Authorities were drawn from four separate organisations, the 22 teacher members were all drawn from one organisation, the National Union of Teachers. As the more progressive women teachers had left the N.U.T., they applied for separate representation through the N.U.W.T., but without avail. The result was that, on a body of 44 people appointed to deal with the salaries of a profession the majority of whom are women, there were only 5 women members. These five women were, moreover, representatives of the N.U.T., which, though pledged to a policy of "Equal Pay," has a very black record in this matter with regard to translating its principles into practice. No wonder women feared the worst from the "findings" of a Committee so constituted.

The Reports of the Burnham Committee standardise the maximum salaries of women teachers at four-fifths of those of men teachers doing precisely the same work. Previous to these Reports, though women teachers invariably received less than their men colleagues, yet the difference varied under different authorities. More important still, in many localities, as a result of persistent effort, "Equal Pay" was within measurable distance of achievement.

Thus the official pronouncement of the Burnham Committee is indeed a setback. With the "Removal of Sex Disabilities" Act on the Statute Book, and the House of Commons shown by its vote last spring to be overwhelmingly in favour of Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities, women ask how such things can be.

On November 6th the N.U.W.T. are organising a procession and demonstration in Trafalgar Square against the Burnham Report, and in favour of Equal Pay. Women Teachers are glad to know that they will have the active support on that day of other organisations of women. The standardisation of the inferior economic position of women teachers affects the status of all women workers, and Saturday week will witness the solidarity of women against this degradation.

A. G. HEWITT, L.L.A.,

President, National Union of Women Teachers.

## OUR HALLOWEEN PARTY.

On Monday, November 1st, we are holding a Social Evening, in the form of a Halloween Party. We expect all our Scotch and Irish friends to turn up in full force, and we hope our English friends will come and see what it is like. There will be "dookin" for apples, Halloween games, champers to eat, fortunes to find, and all sorts of fun. As the *Daily Sketch* says: "I don't in the least know what a 'champer' is, but I'm going to eat one." The charge for admission is only one shilling, and the fun starts at 7 o'clock in the Minerva Café.

FOUR POPULAR LECTURE CLASSES on "THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY," specially designed for School Teachers, Social Workers, and the General Public by MISS VIOLET M. FIRTH at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, (corner of Bury Street), on Tuesday at 8 p.m.  
Nov. 2. I.—"The Organisation of the Mind." The conscious and subconscious minds and the barrier between them. Memory and forgetting. The two kinds of thinking. Dreams. Nov. 9. II.—"The Libido or Life Urge." The Instincts of Self-Preservation. Reproduction. The Herd or Social Instinct. Phases of Mental Development. Nov. 16th. "Mental Difficulties and Diseases." Maladaptation to Environment. Conflict. Repression. Dissociation. Conversion and Symbolism. Nov. 23rd. "Psycho-therapy." The Reconstruction of the Individual. Psycho-analysis. Hypnosis. Suggestion. Re-education. Psycho-synthesis and adaptation to environment.  
Tickets: Single Lectures, 2s. Course of four 6s. 6d. From Miss Violet M. Firth, 144 Finchley Road, N.W. Arrangements made for special group tutorial classes, private tuition, courses in remedial psychology.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

Parliament re-assembled on October 19th, and, in spite of the gravity of the problems with which Members were confronted, almost every day attention has been called to the fact that there was an exceedingly small attendance of our representatives. This was the case in the discussion on the Miners' Strike, on Unemployment, and on the Government of Ireland Bill. To the ordinary citizen, whether man or woman, these three matters appear to be of outstanding importance; and Parliament cannot claim to be in close touch with the life of the nation if the Members keep aloof from these pressing problems which are so vital to our national interests. The following matters were dealt with at question time:—

### Women Police.

Replying to a question by MR. LYLE as to the exact intentions of the authorities with respect to the appointment of women police, the HOME SECRETARY stated that he had circulated to the Police Authorities the Report of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, but he was not yet in a position to say how far all the recommendations in the Report could be carried out. The question of arrest by women police required further consideration. There was no reason to think the men police were inadequate to discharge their duties, but there were certain branches of their work in which the women police could give them valuable assistance.

### Post Office Temporary Women Clerks.

Replying to a question by MR. FOREMAN in regard to substituting temporary women Civil Servants by ex-Service men, the POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that an instruction had recently been issued to the clerical department of the Post Office that temporary women clerks not dependent on their earnings must be discharged to make way for ex-Service men, enquiries first being made into the circumstances of all these women employees. He, however, made no reply to the question of MR. ANEURIN WILLIAMS asking if men who were not dependent on their earnings were also being discharged from the Post Office staff to make way for ex-Service men.

### Matrimonial Causes Bill.

In reply to a question by MAJOR ENTWISTLE as to whether it was the intention of the Government to afford facilities for the Divorce Bill which had passed the House of Lords, MR. BONAR LAW said that as the Government proposed to take the whole time of the Session, he saw no prospect of this Bill being further advanced.

### Houses!

In reply to a question by MR. KILEY as to the number of houses completed and in the course of erection, DR. ADDISON stated that on October 1st the number of houses completed was 10,042. Of these 7,448 were provided by local authorities and public utility societies under the Housing Act; the remaining 2,594 were built by private persons under the subsidy scheme of that Act. Further, 1,238 Army huts had been converted into dwelling houses by local authorities. In addition to those completed houses, there were under construction on October 1st 59,520 houses. Of those, 39,898 were being built by local authorities and public utility societies. The remaining 19,622 were houses for which preliminary certificates had been issued by local authorities to private builders under the subsidy scheme.

### Women in the Civil Service.

SIR D. MACLEAN called attention in the House of Commons to the general opinion expressed by over 100 members in the form of a request for a debate before November 12th on the subject of the Orders in Council which had been laid on the table relative to the admission of women into the Civil Service. He asked whether the Government would give facilities for discussion some day before eleven o'clock. MR. BONAR LAW said that facilities would be given.

F. A. U.

## CHILD OUTRAGE.

### Protest Meeting in Edinburgh.

On Friday, October 15th, a public meeting was held in the Usher Hall in order to call attention to the alarming increase of crimes against little children and the inadequate sentences passed on the criminals. Councillor Mrs. T. J. Millar was in the chair. The speakers were Viscountess Rhondda, Commissioner Adelaide Cox, Sub-Inspector (Mrs.) More Nisbett, Mr. William Graham, M.P. for Central Edinburgh, and Lady Nott Bower.

Commissioner Adelaide Cox moved the audience profoundly by the cases she detailed of children admitted to the Salvation Army Homes, victims of assaults by men of their own family. Lady Nott Bower, too, gave expression to the urgent need for women to look into the matter, and urged the appointment of women magistrates, women police, and women's attendance in police courts.

Mrs. More-Nisbett, a well-known local woman, gave a most stirring address, and carried the audience to a high pitch of indignation by her recital of her personal experiences of police court procedure and lenient treatment of men convicted of disgraceful conduct to children and girls.

Mr. W. Graham, in moving the resolution, gave his complete assent to the various clauses in it embodying a constructive policy to which women intend to adhere.

The resolutions, which were unanimously carried, included a protest against the light sentences passed in the courts on persons convicted of child-outrage, and urged the stricter administration of the laws dealing with these cases; the raising of the age of consent under common law was advocated; and the amendment of the law so as to make the transmission of venereal disease an aggravation of the crime in cases of assault tried under statutory law. The Government was urged to provide the necessary facilities under the Mental Deficiency Act for dealing with all types of moral defectives other than congenital, and the Crown Authority to appoint a woman doctor as assistant to the Crown Medical Officer so that she could conduct medical examinations in cases of child-assault. It was urged that juries dealing with this class of case should be composed equally of men and women, and that as a preventive measure the Town Council should restore the full lighting of the City. It was further recommended that women police should be appointed to safeguard children in the streets and prepare and attend to cases of child-outrage throughout.

It was also decided to retain the Committee organised to carry out the above meeting, composed of delegates from 28 local societies, including the Women's Freedom League, to continue the work so successfully begun.

A deputation of these delegates was received on the day following the meeting by the Lord Advocate (Mr. T. B. Morison, K.C., M.P.) at the Crown Office, Edinburgh. Miss Rosaline Masson introduced the deputation, pointing out that it represented many thousands of women of all spheres of life, of all kinds of organised activities, with widely different interests, widely different outlooks, but all at one in their conviction that the maintenance of a higher moral standard in social matters was needed in the interests of the nation.

The Lord Advocate, in replying, said he recognised the importance of the deputation, and assured the delegates that in that office offences against women and young girls had always been regarded as belonging to the most serious class of crime. This particular class of crime was practically unknown in the Highland counties, and was also very rare in the country districts of Scotland. It was chiefly committed in the more crowded industrial centres. Now that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill was passed, he hoped women would play an important part in all branches of the administration of the law. He was convinced that within six months from now women would be sitting on the juries, both in the High Court and the Sheriff Court.



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### UNEMPLOYMENT.

It is curious to record, notwithstanding the fact that the country is seething with industrial unrest, that we are in the midst of the most disastrous industrial dispute in our history which is adding daily thousands of our people to the lists of the unemployed, and that before the coal strike began unemployment was increasing rapidly, that during the whole course of the Debate on Unemployment which took place in the House of Commons last week there were not present at any time more than forty or fifty Members out of a membership of well over six hundred. Since it was known that this Debate had to do with the homes of nearly half a million people, women may perhaps be forgiven if they say frankly that they do not understand men's ideas of politics which allow them to treat with such apathy the things which really matter. We cannot gather that any single Member of any of the great political parties contributed anything which was of vital importance to that Debate. The Government's proposals for dealing with unemployment are certainly not very novel, nor very numerous. They consist of a scheme for building arterial roads in North London, coupled with a suggestion that the London County Council should prepare schemes for the Metropolis, and that as many unemployed as possible should be drafted into the building industry. It is true that Dr. Macnamara reminded the House that under the Insurance Act the unemployment benefit for men is 15s., and for women 12s. a week. It does not seem to us that these proposals will go very far in the direction of solving the unemployment problem in the coming winter, and we are bound to say that the Government had very little in the way of helpful suggestions from any side of the House for the solution of this pressing problem. There are many thousands of women unemployed, and they comprise women of all classes. The only proposal the Government can make, as far as women are concerned, is that they shall be turned out of all the jobs which men can undertake, and that their employment shall be still further restricted under the Women, Young People and Children (Employment) Bill, which the Home Secretary says the Government hopes to pass this Session. It did not occur to any Member present to suggest that women might easily be employed under the Government Housing Scheme in the making of fittings for houses. They did more arduous and more intricate work than this during the war. We wish, also, that a woman Member had been present to propose that in the event of a long spell of unemployment, National Kitchens, controlled and staffed by women, should be established throughout the country. Our legislators have, apparently, little time or thought to give to unemployed women, or, indeed, any other women; and we can only repeat that if the interests of women are to be properly looked after in the House of Commons, that House must be strengthened by many more women Members.

### "MISPLACED CHIVALRY."

Some men are getting very considerate of women's feelings at certain times and in certain places! At Walsall, counsel suggested that women "might not like" to try an unpleasant case, concerning a child of four years of age, in company with men, but the Recorder took the sensible view that he could not engraft any new principle on the law as now framed, and the case was argued before a mixed jury. In contrast to this, in a case at Hastings, of indecent assault by an old man on a child of 13, counsel asked that women "should be excused" jury service because of the disagreeable character of the case, and this Recorder granted the request, so this little girl had to appeal for justice to the sympathy and understanding of an all-man jury.

Public opinion, the opinion of every thinking man and woman in the country, must make itself heard. Women are now upon the jury list so that justice shall be more exactly administered in our Courts, because the same facts often take on a different aspect in the minds of men and of women, and it is particularly in these cases of a child or woman upon one side, and a man upon the other, that Justice demands that the facts shall be weighed by the minds of women as well as of men.

Women are getting to understand their importance in the State, and that it is not fair for them to refuse to give their brothers their aid in the administration of the law. They do not object to these cases, even with all their revolting details, if their presence makes it easier for the truth to be established, and it is very officious of any man to get up and pretend to ask for favours on behalf of women on the jury list; of course, the real meaning of the counsel for the man is that he thinks his client will come down more heavily at the hands of a mixed jury than if he appears before a jury of men. Recorders and Judges will, no doubt, when they get more used to seeing women in the jury box, fall in with the spirit of the times and refuse these applications. Meanwhile we are looking out for the women jurors who will rise and confront their self-constituted champions, and speak for themselves to disclaim the modest violet attributes so peculiarly unseemly in our Courts when outraged children and girls appear and plead for Justice.

### PEERESSES AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

We are delighted to see that Lady Rhondda has decided to test the question of her right as a peeress to a seat in the House of Lords. Lady Rhondda succeeded to her father's title in 1918 by special remainder. At that time the question of her right to a seat in the House of Lords was raised, but she did not press her claim. Lady Rhondda, like all other peers, can only take her seat in the Upper House after receiving a summons from the King. She has now sent a petition to the King asking that a writ may be issued summoning her to the House of Lords. The King's advisers have now no ground for recommending that the summons should be withheld. We hope, therefore, that not only Lady Rhondda, but also the other English and Scottish peeresses in their own right, will receive an early summons to the House of Lords and take their share with its men Members in the conduct of our national affairs. So long as we have two Houses of Parliament our aim is to see an increasing number of women in each of them. In petitioning the King thus, Lady Rhondda is merely asking for an old right to be restored to British women. In Henry IV.'s reign it was established by law that a Dame might be a "Peer of the Realm and entitled to all the privileges of such." Peeresses, as well as peers, were summoned to Parliament in the reign of Edward III. Women often sent men proxies; but men also were allowed to do this, notably a Bishop of Bath and Wells because of his age and infirmity.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Need for More Women Councillors.

On November 1st, in all provincial towns, there will be elections for the Town Council. Unlike Metropolitan Boroughs, these towns have elections each year, when a third of the councillors are elected. This is a better plan than the method of triennial elections, as it ensures continuity of action and enables the electors to keep in closer touch with their representatives.

In many places women candidates are standing, but no Town Council should be without women members. At present, in England and Wales 75 women are serving on 40 County Borough Councils and 66 on 47 non-County Borough Councils; it must, however, be remembered that there are 82 County Borough Councils and 244 non-County Borough Councils in the country. In Scotland the women's position is far less satisfactory, as there are only twelve women serving on Town Councils.

The work of the Town Council intimately affects the lives of the residents within its area, and the

### Co-Operation of Women

is essential for good local government. In addition to the administration of Public Health for which all Town Councils are responsible, County Borough Councils have all the powers of a County Council, and work on such a body is of absorbing interest. Town Councils administer the laws made by Parliament, and also make and enforce their own by-laws. They are responsible for the development and good planning of the district, and provide for the maintenance of the streets, bridges, parks, open spaces, markets, cemeteries, libraries, etc. Many Town Councils supply water, lighting and tramways, and such enterprises, if properly managed, may be a source of income to the town and reduce the rates. If, however, business methods are not applied and the management is unsatisfactory, the Town Council that indulges in trading may incur a heavy loss.

Recent legislation has placed on local authorities the duty of preparing schemes for Housing and Town Planning, Maternity and Child Welfare, the Treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases, and the care of the Mentally Deficient. Schemes for Maternity and Child Welfare are progressing in all parts of the country; the number of centres has increased, and it is largely due to the work done that the infant mortality rate for the year 1919-20 was the lowest on record, viz., 89 per 1,000 births. In 1912 the rate was 95, and in 1916, 91. Town Councils can establish Maternity Hospitals, Bradford having established the first in 1915. Since then "forty-five maternity homes and hospitals have been started, the majority by local authorities and the remainder by voluntary bodies working in co-operation with local authorities carrying out Maternity and Child Welfare schemes."

### Home Helps

are employed by 25 local authorities, and 16 other bodies are considering the matter. The Home Help can be of real assistance in the home where there is illness. In Bournemouth, where the Health and Mothers' Aid Association is working under the supervision and in close co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health, Home Helps are provided to carry on the household work of recent mothers. A small payment, usually about 5s. a week, is made by the mothers for the services of the Home Help, whose assistance is much appreciated. The same Association also provides two day nurseries, including a residential home for babies and young children who are orphans, or whose parents are unable to look after them; a small charge is made, and the Home has proved of great value to many. It is interesting to note that the infant mortality rate for Bournemouth in 1918 was 57.2 per thousand births, the lowest ever recorded for the town.

In Hull the system of Home Helps is working very

satisfactorily. The Health Committee of that town has recently decided to keep a register of homes where children may be boarded out for a short time during the mother's confinement. Every home is carefully inspected before being placed on the list, and a flat rate of 10s. per child will be paid. An excellent dinner is served to nursing and expectant mothers at the nominal charge of 2d. The dietary table, which has been drawn up on scientific lines by the Medical Officer of Health, is of a varied character. At one centre during the year 21,000 dinners were served; at another 14,000; at a third 7,000; the total for the whole of the city reaching nearly 50,000 dinners.

County Borough Councils are responsible for all branches of education (elementary, secondary and higher) within their areas, and the Act of 1918 has given all Education Authorities

### Additional Powers.

They can establish Nursery Schools, and must provide Continuation Schools. Special provision has to be made for children who are unfitted, mentally or physically, from attending the ordinary schools. Arrangements have also to be made for the Medical Inspection of school children, and when needed, for their feeding. By the Education Act of 1918, Education Authorities must provide not only medical inspection, but "adequate and suitable arrangements for attending to the health and physical conditions" of school children. This is a matter for congratulation, as for many years past the Annual Reports of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education have drawn attention to the amount of suffering and physical inefficiency among these children. The Report of 1916 stated that out of the six million children attending school, at least a million were "so physically or mentally defective or diseased as to be unable to derive reasonable benefit from the education which the State provides." In another respect the Act will alleviate suffering, as it restricts child labour. No child under 12 can now be employed, and none over that age during school hours. The Act, however, still allows a child to be employed for 14 hours during the holidays, and it is to be hoped that every local authority will make by-laws restricting these hours. In Portsmouth, when the Education Committee were framing new by-laws in connection with the employment of school children, it was found that 574 children were employed from ten to twenty hours a week; 123 from twenty to thirty hours, and 26 from forty to fifty hours. The Committee were much concerned, and decided to take

### Legal Proceedings.

against employers who had broken the by-laws relating to the employment of school children. The Croydon Council has set an example which might well be followed by other bodies. It is compulsory for any milkman or newsagent employing a child of school age to provide him or her with a mackintosh and strong boots. In adopting the regulation, the Council hoped that the present high prices of such articles would tend to lessen the employment of children.

If municipal affairs are to be administered well, it is essential to secure men and women councillors who desire to promote the well-being of the community and not that of any particular party or section. Women local government electors in many places form more than half the electorate, and it is their urgent duty to make enquiries in regard to the candidates seeking their suffrage, and to support only those who have high ideals, integrity of purpose, and broad outlook. Work on a Town Council can be of real value to the country, and, as the late Canon Barnett wrote many years ago, "the future of our cities—and that means the future of our country—the health, happiness and holiness of the people depends on local government."

MARIAN BERRY.



## BRANCH NOTES.

## EDINBURGH.

Branch Meeting, Thursday, November 4th, 7.30 p.m., 44, Geo. IV. Bridge. "The Work of Women on Public Bodies." Members urgently needed to help in getting women into the Town Council, and are requested to send their names to 21, South Castle Street.

## WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.

On Monday, October 25th, a meeting of the above Branch was held at Purcell House, London Road, when Mrs. Cattell gave a very interesting address on "Citizenship and its Responsibilities," showing the evolution of citizenship from the time of the Romans to the present day. Mrs. Cattell dealt with the subject from the municipal and from the national standpoint, pointing out the need for each one to do their share in the local work of their particular town, and to remember that their responsibilities were great and vital, and not to feel that the work would be "done by someone else." At the close Mrs. Stafford Bailey gave some of her experiences in connection with the forthcoming municipal election, to which she has given so much valuable time and energy.

G. M. TELLING, Hon. Treasurer.

## BEXHILL.

An excellent Meeting was held at the National Kitchen, St. Leonards Road, last Wednesday. Councillor Christina Meads, in her opening remarks as chairman, referred to the coming Town Council election. As the only woman candidate she expected to have a stiff fight, and she hoped to have the support of the women voters. Councillor Edith How Martyn, who had been advertised to speak on "Why We Need Women in Parliament," gave an admirable speech on the subject. She mentioned the colossal task that Lady Astor, as the only woman M.P., must have in fighting for her sex in all the questions affecting women and children. She strongly advocated women coming forward as candidates at bye-elections. At the close of her speech she appealed for a discussion, and met with a good response. Several new members were made, a good collection was taken, which amply covered the expenses of the meeting, and some new subscribers to THE VOTE were made. The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17th, at the National Kitchen, at 3.30 p.m. The President of the local branch of the Women's Freedom League, Councillor Meads, will preside. "The League of Nations" will be the subject of the speech. Name of speaker to be announced later.

## HASTINGS.

Our special thanks are due to Mrs. Mellis and Mrs. O. Connor for so kindly lending their room for the Meeting last Wednesday evening. Mr. Prelooker presided at very short notice. He mentioned that he had been a great champion, not only to the Women's Freedom League since its formation, but also to the women's cause for 40 years. He was sure that all those present would welcome such an able speaker as Mrs. How Martyn, and that they would listen attentively to what she had to say on the subject of "Votes for Women Under 30." Mrs. How Martyn clearly stated why young women should have the vote. They were out in the professional and industrial world just the same as young men—the intelligence and enthusiasm of our young women were as great, if not greater, than the intelligence and enthusiasm of our young men. In the reconstruction of the world the young women must have economic freedom. The speaker also mentioned that in other countries where women were enfranchised they got the vote at 21. A collection was taken, and new members were made.

## KENSINGTON.

Will members please make a very special effort to attend the Branch Meeting at Miss Raleigh's on Monday, at 5 p.m.? There is important business to discuss, and the meeting is arranged early in order to give members time to go on to the Halloween Party at the Minerva Café at 7 o'clock.

M. REEVES, Secretary.

## MID-LONDON.

All members of the Mid-London Branch are urged to be present at the Meeting to be held in the Minerva Café on Friday, November 12th, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Ayres Purdie has kindly promised to give a short address on "The Relation of Feminism and Labour," and then the meeting will be open, and it is to be hoped there will be a vigorous discussion.

## CLAPHAM.

A Jumble Sale is being arranged to take place at Morris Hall, 112, North Street, Saturday, November 13th, at 3 p.m. Donations of all kinds of cast-off clothing, boots, furniture, books, ornaments, etc., are urgently requested, and may be sent to the Hall on the morning of the Sale, or beforehand to 80, Larkhall Rise (by the kind permission of Mrs. Heighway). The proceeds of this sale are for the funds of the Women's Freedom League.

Members and friends are also requested to remember the *Handkerchief Stall* at our Green, White and Gold Fair, which will be in charge of Miss Elizabeth Berry and Miss Underwood, either of whom will be most grateful to receive any dainty, saleable, useful articles for this stall, which can be addressed beforehand to our office at 144, High Holborn, W.C., or taken to the Fair when it is held at Caxton Hall, November 26th and 27th.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

## Proportional Respresentaion.

Madam,—I have just read the article in the current VOTE on the "transferable vote." Perhaps other women are in the same position as myself in not seeing the idea clearly. If three candidates are standing for election to a seat, either municipal or parliamentary, one a Liberal, one a Conservative, and one for Labour, I should be glad to know how, say, a Conservative woman is to use her vote? One candidate alone of the three can represent her views—the other two represent the very antithesis of these. The same dilemma confronts a Liberal and a Labour woman. Of course, if two of each party were standing it is easy for any voter to vote for the second person of that party to represent his or her views in the event of the first failing to be elected, but I gather this is hardly what is meant. I should welcome enlightenment.

G. H. JACOB.

## Women Councillors in Bombay.

Dear Madam,—I am glad to inform you that the Corporation of the City of Bombay, after a two hours debate, at the end of September, by a majority of twelve, decided that women could henceforth be elected as municipal councillors in the city of Bombay, thus removing the sex bar which had up to now been put against them.—Yours truly,

(MRS.) HERABAI A. TATA.

## Impartial Justice?

Dear Editor,—More than a week ago a woman was summoned and fined for smoking in a non-smoking first-class railway compartment. I wish that the railway companies would pay some attention to the men who persist in smoking in third-class compartments, the class by which most of us travel. On most suburban trains it will be seen that there are about eight smoking to every one of two non-smoking carriages; but, with increasing frequency, men and youths persist in smoking a pipe or a cigarette in these non-smokers, to the great annoyance of women, especially when the carriage is crowded. In the Tube lift, too, there are notices to the effect that a penalty of 40s. will be imposed for smoking. Yet men often smoke their pipes in a crowded lift, and I have seen no case in which they have been fined for so doing. I should have a greater respect for the railway companies if they proceeded against men and women, first-class and third-class passengers, impartially for infringing regulations.—Yours faithfully,

A THIRD-CLASS WOMAN PASSENGER.

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26 and 27 NOVEMBER,

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There will be Music, Dancing, Psychic Delineation  
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All our friends are helping. The Women's Freedom  
League; Nine Elms Settlement; League of the Church  
Militant; Catholic Women's Suffrage Society; Friends  
of Armenia; London Vegetarian Society; Misses Perry  
and Davis; and the Peasant Shop, are all having stalls.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

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

Monday, November 1.—Kensington Branch Meeting at 14, St. Quintin Avenue, W. 10 (by kind permission of Miss Raleigh). Important business. 5 p.m.

Monday, November 1.—Halloween Party, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 7 p.m. Admission 1s.

Wednesday, November 3.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Councillor Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Popular Fallacies." Chair: Miss Kirby.

Wednesday, November 3.—Working Party for the "Fair," 5 p.m. "Fair" Committee, 6 p.m. Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, November 6.—Procession to and Mass Meeting in Trafalgar Square of Women's Organisations to demand Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Wednesday, November 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh. Subject: "What St. Paul Really Said to Women." Chairman: Mrs. Northcroft.

Friday, November 12.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Ayres Purdie. Subject: "The Relation of Feminism and Labour."

Saturday, November 13.—Clapham Jumble Sale, at Morris Hall, Clapham. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. 3 p.m. Speaker: Sub-Inspector More-Nisbett, W.P.S. Subject: "Why and How We Need Policewomen."

Wednesday, November 24.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Russell. Subject: "Education among the High-Caste Women and Girls in India."

Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 3 p.m.

## PROVINCES.

Monday, November 1.—Manchester. Meeting at Milton Hall. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Subject: "Ireland." 7.15 p.m.

Monday, November 8.—7.30 p.m. Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. Speaker: Dr. Maude Kerslake. Subject: "General Health." Chairman: Miss Burnes.

Monday, November 22.—7.30 p.m. Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. Speaker: Mrs. Hutchings. Subject: "My Work on the Board of Guardians." Chair: Mrs. Gunn.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, November 3.—Central London Parliament will meet at Holy Trinity Hall, Kingsway, W.C. (adjoining Holborn Restaurant) at 7.30 p.m., and every Wednesday.

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

Thursday, November 11, at 3 p.m.—Women's Co-operative Guild, Lea Bridge Branch. Public Meeting at Emmanuel Church, Lea Bridge Road, E. Speaker: Councillor Margaret Hodge.

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

## TO EVERY MEMBER!

We have just a month longer to prepare for the "Fair." Will you come and help to stock the "White" Stall? Every Wednesday a sewing party is conducted by Mrs. Holmes at 5 p.m., and your help is urgently wanted. Garments are ready cut out, and all directions given; there are jobs for everybody. You can take your garments home and finish it and bring it back the following week. Come to the Wednesday "At Home" if you can; have tea in the café, and stay to the sewing party—and if you cannot anyhow come to sew, please help Mrs. Holmes with material or money to buy it. The League depends upon the success of the "Fair" for its winter's work, and the "White" Stall depends for its success upon you.

E. KNIGHT.

## Report of the Church Congress.

If the Church Congress, held last week at Southend, did nothing else it helped to break down effectively among church people one of the many generalisations that have been accepted in the past without question, that all men were born orators with voices that could be heard perfectly in public speaking, while few women could make themselves heard in a hall larger than the average parish room. But it did much more. It proved again and again that women, with ever-growing force, are making their contribution in the reconstruction of the world on its spiritual side.

Among the women speakers on the official programme were Dr. Eleanor Read, Miss Fanny Street, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Mrs. Cyril Bailey, Miss Sybil Thorndike, Miss Underhill (Mrs. Stuart Moore), Miss Picton-Turbervill, and Miss Royden.

One can mention but few of the speeches. Miss Royden pleaded for sincerity, intellectual honesty, and an adaptation to modern needs in the teaching of the Church to-day; and Miss Sybil Thorndike—apart from the matter of her speech, which was excellent—gave to the audience a lesson in elocution and diction which the Bishop of Colchester pointed out was sorely needed by many of the clergy.

Miss Picton-Turbervill made out an excellent case for progress in her paper on "Woman and the Church," while the Rev. Canon Goudge seemed to many to bring forward archaic arguments that were thought to be given decent burial years ago.

The Bishop of Barking, who took the chair at the session on "Christ and Womanhood," showed a sympathetic insight into the desire of women for further service in the Church, while Miss Gertrude Tuckwell spoke especially on women in Industry and the State, and in her closing remarks attacked the statement that had been made that women were clinging to jobs that were intended for men while the heroes they had ousted walked the streets in despair. Mrs. Cyril Bailey, who read a paper on "Woman and the Home," pleaded for a right proportion between the claims of home and of professional and industrial life.

An important and interesting "non-official" meeting, although held in the official hall at the Kursaal, was that on Friday, the 22nd inst., arranged by the League of the Church Militant, with the Rector of Southchurch in the chair. The hall was crowded to hear Miss Royden speak on the Lambeth Conference Report on the Position of Women in the Councils and Ministrations of the Church. While welcoming the resolutions, the speaker criticised certain sections of the Report, speaking openly and fearlessly of the ancient sex taboos that still influence the minds of some to the exclusion of Christian principle. Miss Picton-Turbervill spoke of the noble women in the past who had won freedom for succeeding generations in other spheres of activity. A number of the audience took part in the discussion, speakers coming forward to express views for and against any extension of the sphere of women's work in the Church. A live meeting which reached a new public is not often available for education on this and allied subjects.

E. LOUIE ACRES.

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