

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXX. No. 1,044. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1929

OBJECTS: To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

EQUAL PAY.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

A BARBAROUS RELIC GONE.

MUI TSAI IN HONG KONG.

THE PENSIONS BILL.

CAN WOMEN FRATERNISE? By Florence K. Rutter.

OUR BOOK REVIEW: "Halcyon, or the Future of Monogamy." By Vera Brittain. Reviewed by H. S. Skeffington.

WOMEN AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COMMITTEES.

THE WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Their Difficulties and Determination.

Miss Jenner, Honorary Secretary of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa and Editor of *The Flashlight*, gave a most interesting address at the Minerva Club last week, on the position of women in South Africa. She said that Mrs. Corbett Ashby had described South Africa as a black spot in the British Empire so far as women's votes were concerned, and although she herself did not like hearing her country so described, she was about to explain why it was a black spot.

The life and work of Olive Schreiner illustrated some of the difficulties with which the women of South Africa had to contend. The isolation of the farms and the entire dependence on themselves of those who lived there, meant a very hard time for women. These hardships had produced capable women of good ability but limited outlook. In many farms the Bible was the only literature. Olive Schreiner was not content with this life, and revealed much of its bitterness in "The Story of an African Farm."

Olive Schreiner felt nothing more deeply than the subjection of woman. In "Three Dreams in a Desert," she sees Woman lying motionless upon the ground, a great burden on her back, and the sand heaped around her:

"And I looked and saw in her eyes the terrible patience of the centuries; the ground was wet with her tears—"

The thought comes to her, "Might I not rise?" There is no one to help her: *she must help herself*. Woman endures great agony in her effort to break her chains, and Olive Schreiner continues:

"I heard a sound of something cracking, and I looked, and I saw the band that bound the burden on to her back broken asunder; and the burden rolled on to the ground."

To-day the women of South Africa hold a position of full equality in the Universities. On one occasion, when Olive Schreiner was watching the girl students go up for examination, she said to a friend: "What would we not have given for that education?"

The first Women's Franchise Union in South Africa was formed at Durban, and the second at Cape Town,

with Olive Schreiner as President. In 1911 Mrs. Chapman Catt visited South Africa, and in 1919 the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa was formed, with Mrs. Macintosh as first President. The militants in England had aroused much hostility in Africa, but had put the movement forward by increasing the enthusiasm of suffragists.

From about 1910 onwards, South African suffragists had worked through Parliament. Judge Feetham was the first to introduce a measure to extend the franchise to women. Many of the opponents based their arguments on Biblical grounds. Mr. Merriman was the bitterest of their antagonists.

During the last debate on General Byron's Bill only one feeble joke was made, and that was not appreciated. "Angry women" had shown that their demand for enfranchisement was not to be treated as an annual farce, and the question had now become a definitely political one.

General Smuts has publicly declared himself a supporter of women's enfranchisement, and has promised a Government measure should he be returned to power. The movement for enfranchisement, which began as an English one, is now being taken up by the Dutch women, who are in the majority. A great step forward has thus been gained.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Hertzog, who is regarded with much affection in South Africa, had promised to bring in a measure for women's enfranchisement, but would not say whether a private or a Government one. The Conservative section, who quote the Bible, are against any such measure, and its success or failure will depend on the South African Party. If South African women can gain the support of this party, the Bill will succeed. The Labour Party, which is very small, had let women down more than any other party. When the Nationalist Party was in power with the help of Labour, their leader shelved the whole question.

Miss Jenner made it clear that it is only on the question of woman's suffrage that South Africa is so behind. Women enter the professions and enjoy equal educational opportunities.

EQUAL PAY.

The National Union of Women Teachers had a crowded hall for their Equal Pay Meeting last Friday evening, when the President, Miss A. A. Kenyon, took the chair. The hall was decorated with the Union's beautiful banners and with a number of green and yellow pennants, bearing equal pay slogans which, together with community singing of songs specially written for the occasion, helped to arouse a high degree of enthusiasm in the audience. The meeting was supported by twenty-seven societies, many of whom, including the Women's Freedom League, had sent representatives.

The following resolution, which was moved from the chair, was carried unanimously at the end of the meeting:—

"This Public Meeting, convened by the National Union of Women Teachers, and supported by twenty-seven societies, calls attention to Article 427, Clause 7, of the Peace Treaty, 'that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value.'

It deprecates the custom of paying a double standard of salaries to men and women teachers, and, in view of their equal professional training and duties, calls upon the Government, the local education authorities, and the Burnham Committee to establish the principle of equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status, without further delay.

Believing that the State should set an example of rectitude to other employers, this meeting further calls upon the Government to put into force the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the Civil Service, as has been approved by large majorities in the House of Commons on two occasions."

Mr. E. F. Wise, M.P., the first speaker, said that he had been endeavouring to find some justification for paying different rates to men and women performing equal work; but he had come to the conclusion that the custom merely persists because it had been bequeathed, like the Albert Memorial and the House of Lords, and no one has had the courage or strength of will to change it. In the past, the custom of paying women lower rates than men was based upon the fact that men had family responsibilities; but this should

not operate to-day since the number of women with dependents on their earnings is nearly as large as the number of men, while nearly 50 per cent. of the men in industry have no dependents.

A delightful speech was made by Miss Winifred Holtby, who dealt with the question from the point of view of the general public. She referred to the argument that higher salaries should be given to men in the teaching profession, as it is exceedingly important, and increasingly difficult, to attract the right type of man to the schools. While agreeing that it is necessary to have the best men in the schools, Miss Holtby questioned whether this would be effected by maintaining a large body of cheap labour; and she suggested that the sounder method would be to raise the prestige of the whole profession. People were very ready to call upon women to put aside their claims for equal pay, as so much money is required for health services, education, housing, and so forth. It is, she said, a curious thing that people are always anxious to call upon the public spirit of others, but she doubted if the country would be any healthier if women ceased their agitation, as the question of equality affects not only the economic, but the moral values of civilisation.

Mr. J. F. Horrabin, M.P., deplored the fact that, in 1929, women teachers had to address to the Government an appeal in terms identical with the one issued to the former Labour Government in 1924, and he promised to do anything in his power to support the resolution in fact as well as in words, for he believed that it would only be possible to proceed with the broader ideals when equality had been established in the concrete.

The meeting concluded with a rousing speech from Miss Froud, who urged the importance of women organising within their own union. Under the present arrangements, she said, women are giving nine weeks' work in the year—free; and, although this may be very generous, it is wrong. It must be remembered that the fight is not only for equal pay for men and women teachers, but for all men and all women, and some of these are receiving appallingly low wages because women's labour is cheap.

A. M. PIEROTTI.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

New Women Vice-Presidents of the League of Nations Union.

Lady Aberdeen and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc., Ph.D., were elected Vice-Presidents of the League of Nations Union at its tenth Annual Meeting, held at Brighton this summer.

All in the Day's Work.

According to the *Daily News*, Dr. Norah Steel, of Hamilton, who was summoned to the Cadzow Mine, Lanarkshire, recently, when five men were gassed, three fatally, descended the shaft without changing her clothes and rendered first aid to the men before they were taken above. Dr. Steel, who some time ago saved several miners in similar circumstances, received several bruises and much damage to her clothing. Miners spoke highly of her courage and skill while working at the pit bottom, and at their next business meeting passed a special vote of thanks to her for what she alluded to as "only her duty."

Another Woman Councillor.

An election took place last week in South Kensington to fill a vacancy on the London County Council, caused by the death of Mr. F. E. Williams. Both candidates were women, Miss C. Keeling (Municipal Reformer) being elected by a majority of 4,873 over Mrs. M. L. Piercy (Labour).

New Appointment for a Woman.

Middlesex County Council has appointed a woman horticultural instructor.

Woman Councillor's Record.

The *Leicester Daily Mercury* reports that, for the third year in succession, Councillor Miss Fortey, a representative for St. Margaret's Ward, has attended more meetings of the Leicester City Council, committees and sub-committees, than any other member. Miss Fortey, according to the official return just issued, made 252 attendances; these included 169 sub-committees. The only other member to attend more than 200 meetings was Councillor Richard Hallam, Belgrave Ward.

Woman Company Chief.

Mr. Peter Bond Burgoyne, late head of the London wine firm bearing his name, has, under his will, appointed his widow chairman and governing director of the Bond Investment Company, at a salary of £8,000 a year.

Woman Foreman of the Jury.

A woman was the foreman of the jury at the Old Bailey on Tuesday, October 15th, in a case in which a woman was charged with bigamy.

Woman College President.

Dr. Katherine Blunt, formerly chairman of the Department of Home Economics at the University of Chicago, is the first woman to have been appointed President of the Connecticut College for Women at New London, Connecticut, U.S.A.

GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th and 15th.

THE CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

3 to 9 p.m.

TO BE FORMALLY OPENED

On THURSDAY, at 3 p.m., by DR. ETHEL BENTHAM, J.P., M.P.

On FRIDAY, at 4 p.m., by MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C., M.P.

RECITAL OF ELIZABETHAN ROMANTIC AND MODERN POETRY

each day at 6.30 p.m.

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT, NOVEMBER 15th, at 8 p.m.

CONCERTS.

COMPETITIONS.

CHARACTER READING.

All kinds of Household Goods, China, Lingerie, Handkerchiefs, Toys, Sweets, Overalls, Aprons, Christmas decorations, Baskets, Home-made Jam, Country Produce, Cakes, etc., will be on Sale.

Tickets (including tax) 1/10, the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on Friday, 1/2 (including tax).

On sale at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or at the doors.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

In the regrettable absence of Miss Anna Munro through the illness of her sister, Miss M. I. Neal, another member of our National Executive Committee, most kindly represented the Women's Freedom League at the annual meetings of the National Council of Women, held last week at Manchester.

Over 700 women attended these meetings. Lady Emmott, in her presidential address, strongly appealed to women to come forward as candidates at the coming local elections. She said it was so easy for women to work for the State during the war, but women who were ready to serve then should realise that the problems of peace call even more pressing for volunteers. She specially urged all women who had done poor law work to stand as candidates for the borough and county councils.

Upon the presentation of the report of the Secretary (Miss Norah Green), Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Neal, and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon urged that the Government be asked to receive a deputation from the Council on the question of the nationality of married women, and that a woman as technical adviser should be a member of the Government delegation to the Hague on the Codification of International Law. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon said they claimed that a woman, whether married or unmarried, should have the same right as a man has to retain or change her nationality. This proposition was agreed to.

The Council agreed that the number of women police throughout the country is wholly inadequate and must be increased. Many speakers took part in the discussion on this subject, Miss Margaret Beavan, Deputy Lord Mayor of Liverpool, stated that the recent Royal Commission on the Police were satisfied that where women had been given a fair trial, they had fully justified their appointment. She reminded the audience that the recommendations of the Report of that Commission would remain a dead letter unless they individually did their best to get them carried out. Lady Astor contended that women should press for a woman at the Home Office, to make it compulsory

for local authorities to have women police. Everybody knew that the local authorities never wanted men police, but they got them, and they will get women police!

Among the resolutions passed was one urging the importance of the Octavia Hill system of house property management in dealing with "slums" and reconditioned houses; another asking for the provision of further facilities for legal aid for poor prisoners; and another expressing the desire that the principle incorporated in the Married Women's Property Acts be applied also to the taxation of the incomes of married persons, so that the incomes of married women be assessed and taxed separately from those of their husbands.

An invitation from Portsmouth to hold the next Conference in that town was accepted. Mrs. Keynes, the acting Vice-President, was elected President of the National Council of Women, and Miss Cecile Matheson was elected Vice-President.

THE EDUCATION OF INDIAN WOMEN.

At a meeting held in the Mansion House last Monday to promote a fund for extending the education of women, Lord Meston stated that Kinnaird College, in Lahore, the only one in the Punjab that qualified women for degrees, had to turn away many students for lack of room. St. Christopher's Training College in Madras, which was training the teachers India so urgently needed, was hampered by lack of funds, as was also the Women's Christian College in Madras. The Women's Medical College in Bellare, established eleven years ago, was seriously handicapped for lack of an endowment fund. Ninety-five women doctors had qualified from this college, and it now had eighty-three Indian students.

Lord Lytton said that in India women were dominant in the home, and their influence was greater than that of their own countrymen, who had been educated in the West. Hence, if India was to advance, it was essential that her women should be educated as her men had been for 150 years.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 1929.

EDITORIAL.

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

A BARBAROUS RELIC GONE.

BRAVO CANADA!

Our most cordial congratulations to the plucky and pertinacious Canadian women who, from a judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada that the word "persons" did not include female persons and that women were not eligible to be summoned to the Senate, appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, who, last week, through the Lord Chancellor, announced that the word "person" in Section 24 of the British North America Act, 1867, included members of both sexes, and that women were eligible to be summoned to and become members of the Senate of Canada!

The appellants were Henrietta Muir Edwards, Vice-President for the Province of Alberta of the National Council of Women for Canada; Nellie L. McClung and Louise C. McKinney, for several years members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta; Emily F. Murphy, a police magistrate for Alberta; and Irene Parlby, a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and a member of its Executive Council. In August, 1927, the appellants petitioned the Governor-General in Council to refer to the Supreme Court questions touching the powers of the Governor-General to summon female persons to the Senate, and the same year the Governor-General referred to the Supreme Court the question whether the word "persons" in Section 24 of the British North America Act, 1867, included female persons.

Section 24 of the British North America Act, 1867, reads: "The Governor-General shall, from time to time, in the Queen's name, by instrument under the Great Seal of Canada, summon qualified persons to the Senate; and, subject to the provisions of this Act, every person so summoned shall become and be a member of the Senate."

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Sankey), in delivering judgment, said that the question at issue was whether the words "qualified persons" in this section included a woman, and consequently whether women were eligible to be summoned to, and become members of, the Senate of Canada. He enumerated the qualifications of a Senator, set out in Section 23 of the Act. There was not one which a woman could not and did not actually fulfil. Lord Sankey said that the exclusion of women from all public offices was a relic of days more barbarous than ours, and the conclusion arrived at by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was that the question propounded by the Governor-General must be answered in the affirmative, and women were eligible to be summoned to and become members of the Senate of Canada.

At present there are five vacancies in the Senate of Canada, and it is very much hoped that the Government will appoint a woman member. This victory of the Canadian women ought to be of assistance in securing membership of the House of Lords for peeresses in their own right in Great Britain.

In 1922, Lady Rhondda put up a very gallant fight for the right of such peeresses to be summoned to the Upper House. Lord Birkenhead led the opposition on the ground that membership of the Upper House was not an office within the meaning of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, and it was ruled that women were not entitled to sit in the House of Lords. The Constitution of this country, however, is a great deal wider than the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, and

we cannot but hope that this decision of the Privy Council in favour of the eligibility of women to the Senate of Canada will lead, at no distant date, to a further decision in favour of the eligibility of qualified women to membership of our own House of Lords, and that we, too, may in this country discard another of our own "barbarous relics."

MUI TSAI IN HONG KONG.

Parliament will reassemble next Tuesday, and the Colonial Office will at once be asked what steps it proposes to take for the immediate abolition of child-slavery in the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. A little girl, aged eight years, was sold as a mui tsai in Hong Kong, on the 1st of July, 1929, to the wife of a Chinese merchant, for the alleged sum of 96 dollars. Owing to the intervention of the Anti-Mui Tsai Society there, the purchaser was fined ten dollars (approximately £1) by the police magistrate, and the purchaser was cautioned with regard to another mui tsai, aged twelve, who was found in her house. This is a striking example of the buying and selling of girls which continues in this Crown Colony, and of the leniency of the sentences imposed by the Courts. The following is a copy of the letter from the Secretary for Chinese Affairs to the Secretary of the Anti-Mui Tsai Society in regard to the case above quoted:—

FROM SECRETARIAT FOR CHINESE AFFAIRS, TO ANTI-MUI TSAI SOCIETY.

Hong Kong.

17th August, 1929.

Sir,—With reference to your letter, dated 27th July, 1929, regarding the daughter of Ching Ngai Shi, sold on 1/7/29 as mui tsai to Wong Lo Shi, of 367, Queen's Road West, I have the honour to inform you that Wong Lo Shi was yesterday fined ten dollars by the second police magistrate for taking into her employment a mui tsai contrary to Section 4 of Ord. No. 1 of 1923.

She was cautioned in respect of a second charge regarding another mui tsai (age twelve) found in her house. Ching Ngai Shi's daughter has been returned to her on her applying at this office. The other girl has been sent to the Po Leung Kuk.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

THE PENSIONS BILL.

The first big measure to be introduced by the new Government is the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill, which will be in charge of Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Minister of Health. It is hoped to pass this Bill into law in about three weeks. Under it, another 372,500 persons are expected to benefit, as follows:—295,000 widows, aged 55-70, of men of the insured class; 24,000 wives, aged 65-70, of insured men over 70 on January 2nd, 1928; 20,000 persons benefiting by relaxation of conditions as to contributions in certain cases; 18,000 "pre-Act" widows with children; 5,500 inmates of lunatic asylums; and 10,000 persons benefiting by grant of full allowances to children in workmen's compensation cases. The estimated cost of the scheme for the first nine months is £4,600,000, and for the period from July 1st, 1930, to March 31st, 1935, £47,600,000. Pensioners, under this Bill, will be able to go to the Dominions without sacrificing their pensions; and children's pensions will be payable to step-parents, and not merely to natural parents, as now. It is estimated that the extended scheme will cover about nine-tenths of the working-class population of the country, the total number of people insured being about seventeen millions. The Government's view is that this Bill may be regarded somewhat as a "first instalment." At the present time the Government is engaged in a general survey of the whole field of social insurance, and when the present Bill is passed into law, there may be a further Bill.

CAN WOMEN FRATERNISE ?

BY FLORENCE K. RUTTER.

A strong movement is growing up in our midst amongst the women in professions and business to co-operate in forming clubs on the lines of Rotary. The movement began in Bristol some nine years ago, when the first Venture Club was formed. One year later the first Soroptomist Club was formed in California. Both of these movements have Rotarian principles as their basis of working, therefore their aims and objects are identical.

Both clubs are spreading fairly rapidly. The Venture Clubs are now established in nine centres, with a governing board of directors, an association of Venture Clubs having been formed in 1927. The Venture Club movement has not yet spread beyond our own land, but the aim is to become international. They are consolidating their forces, and extension work is being carried on all the time with this object in view.

When the first Venture Club was formed there was much shaking of heads on the part of both men and women as to whether it would ever develop into a really strong movement, there being a feeling that women could not fraternise like men.

The Bristol Club showed great wisdom in consolidating their own forces before attempting to extend further afield. They knew they were being closely watched, and therefore they went warily. It was three years later before the second Venture Club was formed in Bath, and another two years before the first London club was formed. Since that date, however, the movement has spread rapidly. There are now three clubs in London, three in the north, and three in the west of England, with a total membership of over 450. There are several more clubs being formed at the moment.

Practically every Venture Club in existence owes its being to Rotary! The movement has had the support of Rotary in every instance of a new club being formed. Rotarians have certainly shown a brotherly interest and been of the greatest help.

The Venture Club motto is "Looking Further," and the aims and objects are:—

1. To encourage high ethical standards in business and professions.
2. To increase the efficiency of each member by the exchange of ideas and business methods.
3. To stimulate the desire of each member to be of service to her fellows.
4. To quicken the interest of each member in the public welfare and to co-operate with others in civic, social, and industrial development.

The Venture Clubs of Great Britain and Ireland have the honour of being the first to form a Women's Business Club on Rotarian lines in England.

Membership of a Venture Club is limited to one representative from any profession or business, so that it is held of paramount importance that the best woman to represent her classification be elected as a member. It is also important that the classification be filled by the highest-placed profession or business of

its kind. Another rule is that the business or profession represented must be situated in the area covered by the club.

These clubs are really classification clubs, as the professions or businesses represented are of more importance than the individual representing them. Membership qualification entails being at the very top of one's own particular profession or business; one member only being eligible to each club, she must be the best in that area. Membership being for life (that is, business life), it is important that the classification should be worthily represented.

The Venture Clubs are allowed an associate membership of 25 per cent. These members can be of the same classification as full members, but cannot hold office, nor have they a vote. In addition to professional and business women, the Venture Club movement includes social and civic workers, providing they give a definite number of hours per week to these duties. This addition to the Rotary classifications was added to our membership qualifications at their request, Rotarians having realised that women could be a great help to them along these particular lines. Much valuable work is being done by women who do not come under any business or professional classification, hence the addition of honorary workers.

The Venture Clubs are not social clubs, but clubs with a very definite aim. Members meet regularly, either for tea or dinner, and, like Rotary, always have a speaker. Regular attendance at meetings is a rule strictly enforced. Like Rotarians, members can visit any of the clubs at any time they happen to be in their neighbourhood. They have a classification roster, containing different professions and businesses that can, and are, being carried on by women. It is wonderful to think of the strides made by women in the last twenty years—fresh fields are being opened to them every year! These classification clubs are drawing them together. This exchange of views as between one profession and another, and one business and another, is bound to be of value ultimately to the country. These clubs are proving that women can co-operate and fraternise even as men do—and why not?

Not only do the members of the Venture Club fraternise with each other, but they are also on good terms with the Soroptomist Clubs. This movement, which began a year later than Venture and was founded in California, is now quite a strong force in Great Britain also. They have as members many of England's finest business women. Their aims are practically identical with those of Venture.

There are two similar movements in America, known as the Zonta Clubs and the Quota Clubs.

VENTURE CLUBS.	
Central London.	Bath.
South-West London.	Coventry.
Croydon.	Halifax.
Bristol.	Sheffield.
	Bradford.

Tea and Politics

at the **Minerva Club**, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS at 4.30 (Tea at 4 o'clock).

OCT. 31st.	Speaker: MRS. BIGLAND. Subject: Part I. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: MISS MARIAN REEVES.
NOV. 7th.	Speaker: MRS. ARCHDALE (Chairman, Woman Peers Committee). Subject: "Women and the Upper House." Chair: MRS. DORE.
NOV. 21st.	Speaker: MRS. POLLARD. Subject: "Women in the Ministry." Chair: MISS F. A. UNDERWOOD.
NOV. 28th.	Speaker: MRS. BIGLAND. Subject: Part II. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: MRS. MUSTARD.
DEC. 5th.	Speaker: MISS NINA BOYLE. Subject: "Slavery Convention of the League of Nations." Chair: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
DEC. 12th.	Speaker: MISS MORGAN GIBBON. Subject: "My Election Experiences." Chair: MRS. FLOWERS. PLEASE BOOK THESE DATES. Collection.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

Halcyon, or the Future of Monogamy. By Vera Brittain. Published by Kegan Paul. Price 2s. 6d. (Can be obtained from our Office.)

In this volume, in the stimulating and versatile "To-day and To-morrow Series," the author, a well-known feminist, deals with marriage, and by means of a dream-fantasy, cleverly and tellingly worked out, shows how, after many vicissitudes, the institution monogamy will eventually triumph. But first she arraigns marriage as we know it, finding it guilty of much of our present misery and muddle. Within the convenient framework of a dream, Vera Brittain manages to work off many daring and original suggestions—much is permitted as long as one shifts one's ground some centuries ahead.

Victorian and Georgian pruderies, taboos, inhibitions, shibboleths, come in for deserved satire—our silly euphuisms, our indirect "polite" terminology—how funny they are made to seem to this Professor Minerva Huxterwin of the 21st century. How many words are still avoided by cumbrous circumlocutions, even in this 20th century. I recall a personal experience when first women were appointed on Dublin's City Council—a colleague, not daring to refer, even indirectly, to venereal disease (though a grant to a city hospital for treatment was on our agenda) found a way out by asking us to turn our downcast eyes to the "fourth word of the second-last line on page 21."

The instruction of the young in sex-knowledge, companionate marriages, censorship in Dublin, Tennessee, and Westminster are among the topics touched upon, while the ban upon married women working at their professions is rightly censured as a factor tending to discredit marriage. The victory of monogamy finally came when all such restrictions went. The period 1930-1975 is covered in Chapter II, which deals with various sexual reforms. The servility of assuming a man's name and nationality automatically with his marriage-ring, "with full panoply of veil and vegetable decorations," the archaic imposition of the word "obey" in the marriage service, and the general failure of 19th and 20th century marriage to live up to its monogamistic professions—all these points are touched upon. Television, easy travel, broadcasting, and the "talkies" are represented as strengthening monogamy because they help to break into the monotony of the home.

It is impossible to summarise adequately this little volume, packed with explosives as it is. It is challenging and provocative, and essentially sane and sound. And, as it is all a dream, no one can really feel offended, for who can control dream-vagaries? The next time I have something startling to say, I think I'll dream it. Meanwhile, I shall seek out everything Vera Brittain publishes, and I advise all feminists to do the same.

H. S. SKEFFINGTON.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Last week, *The Christian World* gave the following extract from its issue of October 17th, 1879:—

That vexed question, the employment of women, has been discussed during the past few days in the columns of the leading journal without, however, any practical suggestions being thrown out. To show how overstocked is the female market, a West End physician mentions that he recently advertised for a "gentlewoman as lady housekeeper," and received 1,100 letters in reply. Another medical man suggests that women might be employed in chemists' shops, and a clergyman urges them to become dentists. During the past few years females have struck out into many new spheres of labour; still to-day the supply is out of all proportion to the demand.

WOMEN AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COMMITTEES.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, it was decided to write to the Minister of Health, pointing out the necessity for women to be co-opted to the Public Assistance Committees under the new Local Government Act; and in view of the fact that certain local governing authorities had already refused to co-opt women to these Committees, asking him to issue a Circular to local authorities, stressing the great advisability of co-opting women, or in any other way bringing pressure to bear in order to secure their co-option. Below is a copy of the letter received by the Secretary from the Ministry of Health. It certainly does not disclose any great desire on the part of the Minister to help in this matter:—

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

18th October, 1929.

Dear Madam,
I am desired by Mr. Greenwood to refer to your letter of the 14th October, regarding the co-option of women to Public Assistance Committees, and to say that he appreciates the assistance which women will be able to give on such Committees. The position under the Act is, however, that it is for the local authority to determine whether their administrative scheme, which provides for the constitution of the Public Assistance Committees, should provide for the inclusion of co-opted members, and it is not possible for the Minister to interfere with the discretion of local authorities on this point.

Yours faithfully,
A. NEILL RUCKER,
Private Secretary.

MEDICAL WOMEN IN U.S.A.

In America, as in this country, women in the medical profession find special difficulties to impede their progress. According to *The Woman's Journal*, Dr. Ellen C. Potter, of Trenton, New Jersey, who was recently elected the new president of the Medical Women's National Association at its fifteenth Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, said that to-day there are 7,219 women practising medicine in the United States, and there are, in proportion to the population, relatively fewer opportunities for women of suitable age and education to study medicine than there were twenty-five years ago.

THE INDO-BRITISH MUTUAL WELFARE LEAGUE.

A very interesting meeting was held at the Minerva Club, under the auspices of this League, on Wednesday afternoon, October 16th. Mr. Sorabji was in the chair. There was an open debate led by Lady Emily Lutyens and Mrs. Rama Rao—in which many present took part—on the relative advantages of the Eastern and Western ideas of marriage.

The League's next meeting will be held at the Minerva Club, on Sunday afternoon, November 10th, when Professor Ernest Wood, author of "An Englishman Defends Mother India," will be the speaker.

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AT 8.15 P.M.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 25th, at 4.45 p.m.

Thames Valley District. Conference at Pitt's Restaurant, Kew Green, on the "Need for the appointment of more Women Police." Speakers: Inspector Campbell, and others. Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Wednesday, October 30th, at 8 p.m.

Barnsbury and District. Branch Meeting at 15, Richmond Crescent, N 1 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Potter).

Thursday, October 31st, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Bigland. Subject: Part I. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: Miss Marian Reeves.

Tuesday, November 5th, at 3 p.m.

Minerva Club. Branch Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1 (postponed from October 31st).

Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, 3 to 9 p.m.,

Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, November 16th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 25th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford. Meeting at the Bowling Green Club Room. Speaker: Captain Gascoyne. Subject: "The Local Government Board." Chair: Mrs. Miles.

Friday, October 25th, at 7.30 p.m.

Gateshead. Branch Meeting at 7, Denmark Street. Business: Winter Programme.

Tuesday, October 29th at 7 p.m.

Middlesbrough. Whist Drive at the Grey House, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.). Tickets 2/- each (in aid of Branch Funds).

Thursday, October 31st, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill. Branch Meeting in the Albany Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill on "What we expect from the present Government." Chair: Alderman Mrs. Meads.

Monday, November 4th, at 7.45 p.m.

Leeds. Public Meeting in the Church Institute, Albion Place. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill, supported by Councillor Blanche Leigh. Chair: Dr. Marion MacKenzie.

Tuesday, November 5th, at 7.45 p.m.

Bradford. Public Meeting in Church House, Darley Street. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill.

Thursday, November 7th, at 7.45 p.m.

Darlington. Public Meeting in Temperance Institute, Gladstone Street. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill.

Friday, November 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

Gateshead. Public Meeting in the Bewick Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill. Chair: Miss Tooke, J.P.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, October 26th, 3—6 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch. Cake and Candy Sale in aid of the Green, White and Gold Fair, at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills, Edinburgh. Donations in money and all kinds of articles, cakes, sweets, fruits, jams, toilet requisites, antiques, fancy goods and woollens for the Scottish Stall will be gratefully received by Mrs. MacLeod Easson.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, October 26th, at 3 p.m.

The Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That real happiness has nothing to do with external conditions." Proposer: Mrs. Hilliard. Opposer: Mrs. Whiton.

Tuesday, October 29th, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2. Speaker: Commandant Allen on "The Work of the Women Police."

Tuesday, October 29th, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group. Public Meeting at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Miss Vera Brittain on "Feminism in Marriage." Chairman: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Wednesday, October 30th to Saturday, November 2nd.

National Council for Mental Hygiene. Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, on "Mental Health."

Saturday, November 2nd, at 8.30 p.m.

West London Mission Girls' Club, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Auld.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

"GRANDMA'S STORE CUPBOARD."

It is a generally accepted fact that home-made preserves are greatly appreciated and find a ready sale. Finchley and Golders Green Branch appeal for home-made jam or marmalade, mince-meat, chutney, pickles, dried herbs, or separate pounds of any groceries for "Grandma's Store Cupboard" Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair.

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APRONS AND OVERALLS STALL.

The Misses Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss Brewer warmly thank the following members and friends of the Women's Freedom League for their very kind gifts to the above Stall:—Mrs. Mumford, Miss Newsome, and Mrs. E. M. Moore for parcels of overalls and aprons; Mrs. A. A. Thomson for donation, £1; Miss Janet Gibson, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Heighway, 10s.; Miss A. J. MacGregor, 10s.; Miss L. Charles, 5s.; Miss M. E. Cather, 5s.; and Mrs. Pierotti, 2s. 6d. Further gifts from other members and friends, in money or in kind, will be gratefully acknowledged by the holders of this Stall.

We regret the omission of the photographer's name, The Warszawski Studios, Ltd. (St. Leonards-on-Sea), under the portrait of Mrs. Strickland, J.P., which appeared in our issue of October 4th, and was so greatly appreciated by readers.

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

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OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Dear Madam,

I note that some correspondence has appeared in your paper in regard to "The Women of the Gospel," by A. Christitch. May I suggest that, even if Miss Christitch had previous knowledge of the existence of Miss Tucker's book on this subject, there is no reason why she should not have written a book on the same subject. A book of this type must necessarily depend very largely upon the personality of the writer, and Miss Christitch treats the subject from a Catholic point of view.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY JONES.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 27th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. S. R. K. Glanville, M.A. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "The Silence of God."

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

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