

THE VOTE,  
AUG. 4, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

## EDUCATION CHEESEPARINGS.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1922

**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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## THE FIGHT FOR NO MORE WAR!

### HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION, JULY 29th, 1922.

The Women's Freedom League was well represented last Saturday in the great No More War Demonstration in Hyde Park. A strong contingent of members and friends, assembling at 3 p.m. at York Gate, Baker Street, formed Section 5 of the Regent's Park procession, and marched, with banners and pennons flying, to the Marble Arch entrance of Hyde Park. Here, on the big green space usually allotted to such gatherings, eleven platforms were arranged, horseshoe fashion, with a band and massed choirs stationed on a lorry in the centre. Platform I., where our member, Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., was speaking, was speedily appropriated by the League, and decorated with the banners and pennons recently carried whilst marching.

Five processions in all marched to Hyde Park on this occasion, starting respectively from the east and west ends of the Embankment, Regent's Park, Brompton Road, and Notting Hill Gate. The West Embankment contingent was chiefly made up of women's organisations, including the National Council of Women, the Women's International League, several sections of the Women's Co-operative Guild, etc. As this procession passed the Cenotaph, in Whitehall, women and men marchers stepped out of the ranks and laid flowers upon the stone steps, tributes "to those who died to liberate the world from war." A banner was also displayed, bearing the words: "Salutation to the Fallen. Never again."

It was an imposing sight, as each procession wended its way through the Park with bands playing, and banners flying, and took up its stand before the various platforms, Labour, the Unemployed, the Women's organisations, the Churches, the League of Nations Union, and 29 foreign Countries all being represented.

Women speakers were well in evidence. Mrs. Nevinson referred to the great war as a big insanity which had been thrust upon the world, in which ten millions of the flower of our manhood, and two millions of civilians had perished. What, she asked, had been

gained by the war? Nothing but allotments, and those we had now lost. We had been told, that the world would be purified, but on all hands there was increasing lawlessness and crime, class hatred, famine, unemployment, and a loosening of the marriage tie. That day's Demonstration, however, augured well. The true peace-lovers were the men who had been through the war, and knew what it meant, and the women who had waited and suffered at home.

Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., said, if the League of Nations was to be really effective, it must be a League of the peoples, not merely of Governments, and must be backed by the people. More women were needed in the Governments of the different countries. Men of themselves had made a sorry mess of things. The sexes must co-operate if really good work was to be done in the future. To-day, in the House of Commons, there were some 600 men, against only two women members.

Dr. Helen Stocker (Germany) said, as it had been found possible to live nationally without fighting, so it was possible to live internationally. Europe would never recover whilst nations allowed their statesmen to plunge them into war. It was the duty of the living to demand the disarmament of all nations.

Miss Maude Royden contended that it was not enough to say we wanted peace, but to show we wanted it, as in to-day's Demonstration. Just as in the past the world had been organised for war, now we should organise for peace. There were two methods by which this could be brought about. (1) Believe that peace was possible. (2) Make it possible. Those people who talked about the next war were helping to make peace impossible.

At each platform the resolution printed on the front page of last week's VOTE was carried enthusiastically, and the proceedings closed with the singing of "When wilt Thou save the people?" led by the various bands and massed choirs.

## THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN, 1922.

Speaker: DR. LILLIAS HAMILTON.  
Hon. Organiser: MISS ALIX CLARK.

The Women's Freedom League started the campaign at Rothesay on Monday, July 24th, at 7.30 p.m. It was a beautiful day, and, though Rothesay, with other seaside resorts, is not nearly as full as usual, owing to the general financial depression throughout the country, a fairly large and very interested audience soon gathered round the wagonette from which the two women spoke.

Miss Alix Clark opened the meeting by announcing that this was the twelfth time that the flag of the Women's Freedom League had been planted on the Rothesay Pier, and that women had come to tell the inhabitants of Rothesay and their visitors of the work being done by the League. It was originally formed, she said, to secure to women the right of responsible citizenship—the right to a vote that they might be represented in Parliament on the same terms as men.

Years had come and gone, and great changes had come about. A certain number of women had been enfranchised, and changes had been effected, but not all the changes the women required. Miss Clark, in the name of the Women's Freedom League, demanded Votes for Women on equal terms with men. There were only two women in Westminster Hall to-day. She looked forward to the time when men and women would be equally represented in our House of Representatives. She spoke of the great importance of the admission of women to the Bar. Women can now consult a member of their own sex on legal matters, and, while receiving a sympathetic hearing, can be made aware of their exact legal position, which is not always what they expect. There is a wide breach between law and equity. She explained the necessity for women magistrates, to deal more especially with cases relating to young women and children—child outrage, and the urgent necessity for having the severity of the sentences increased, as, surely, no sentence could be too severe for a man who wilfully and deliberately ruined a child's whole outlook on life, and through that warped, misshapen outlook, blasted her entire career as a worthy citizen. She had pamphlets on these subjects, as also on the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which, after introducing Dr. Lillias Hamilton, she went down and sold among the audience and passers-by.

Dr. Hamilton spoke on the present general national poverty, due to the after-effects of the Great War. The terrific cost of that war to the country—the waste, not only of the best and most promising lives, but of both private and national property. On the debt the nation had incurred—a debt the nation was now obliged to pay to those who had supplied it with war materials—the consequent heavy payments we had to make, both in rates and taxes, while we were in want of every penny we could get to restore our homes, our businesses, our hospitals, to pre-war conditions. Our great industries were so crippled that it seemed impossible to provide ourselves with the necessities of life, still less to restore our export trade. Where was the vast sum required to come from?

A Committee, under the leadership of Sir Eric Geddes, had been formed to cut down national expenditure. It had cut down to the extent of £250,000,000 a year—a sum so great that it was almost impossible for most of us to grasp what it meant; but on whom had these cuts been carried out? On our Army—the soldiers who had saved the country for us; on our sailors, who had not only fought for us, but had transported the soldiers to and from the fighting areas, both far and near, our sick and wounded, our munitions, our food. All the national services had been cut down, as also our civic institutions. And what about education? Something had to go, and education

had been a very heavy sufferer. That we might be able, in some measure, to build up later.

But all these were economies *within* the country. Were there no economies we could practice that would save the flowing of our national resources out of the country? What about the £1,100,000,000 that were sent out of these impoverished Islands to provide food for man and beast in 1920? Could none of this have been saved to the country? Dr. Hamilton then went on to say how economies could be effected. The audience listened with the greatest attention, and many interesting and searching questions were asked. An account of these will be given in our next issue.

### LEGITIMATION BILL.

The Home Secretary has introduced a Bill into the House of Commons for the legitimisation of illegitimate persons by the subsequent marriage of their parents. The Bill provides that where the parents of an illegitimate person, whether born before or after the passing of the measure, marry one another after it becomes law, the marriage shall, "if the father of the illegitimate person is at the date of the marriage domiciled in England or Wales, render that person, as from the date of the marriage, legitimate for all purposes." Special provisions are made regarding the right of inheritance, and the interests of children by a former marriage of either of the parents are safeguarded. The Registrar-General, on production of satisfactory evidence, is given power to authorise at any time the re-registration of the birth of any person made legitimate by the subsequent marriage of the parents. The Government has long promised to bring in this Bill, and we can only regret that it was not introduced earlier in the Session, so that it might have had a chance of becoming law before Parliament rose. Further discussion of it has now been postponed until the Autumn Session. In most countries, children become legitimised on the subsequent marriage of their parents, and the passing of this Bill is necessary to bring us into line with the common sense and practice prevailing in these countries.

## THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN

### ROTHESAY.

**Our Clyde Campaign started on July 24, Miss Alix Clark (Hon. Organiser), and Dr. Lillias Hamilton (Speaker), both busy people with their own work, will be giving up their summer holidays and working very hard to spread the ideas of the Women's Freedom League among the thousands of men and women who disport themselves at Rothesay during the summer. The expense is very large, so please remember to send me your contribution to help while you are enjoying your own rest and recreation.**

E. KNIGHT,

144, High Holborn,  
London, W.C. 1.

Hon. Treas.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### League of Nations.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Prime Minister whether the Government intended to appoint a woman as delegate, alternative delegate, or technical adviser to the Assembly of the League of Nations? The PRIME MINISTER replied that the Government had decided to appoint the Lord President of the Council (Lord Balfour) and the Minister of Education (Mr. Fisher) to represent them at the next meeting of the League of Nations. He was not yet in a position to make any announcement as to the third representative, but the suggestion in the question would be considered among others.

### Lunacy (Visiting Committee) Bill.

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN asked the Lord Privy Seal whether, in view of the fact that County Councils cannot co-opt persons outside their body on Visiting Committees of their Lunatic Asylums, and that about 50 per cent. of these Councils have no women members, and as no women are on these Committees, though thousands of the patients detained in these institutions are of that sex, the Government would grant facilities for the passing of the Lunacy (Visiting Committees) Bill or some similar short measure, provided the measure was treated as non-controversial? MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he would be making a statement the next day as to the business for the rest of the Session. Mr. Chamberlain's statement, however, while postponing some of the Government Bills until next Session, held out no hope for any private Members' Bills, such as the Lunacy (Visiting Committees) Bill, being proceeded with this Session.

### Asylums (Departmental Committee).

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN asked the Minister of Health if the Departmental Committee set up to inquire into the charges made by Dr. Montagu Lomax in his book, "Experiences of an Asylum Doctor," had finished its work of inquiry; and, if so, had it published a Report of its findings? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that he had received the Report, and that he hoped to issue it before the House rose.

### Poor Law Schools (Inspection).

MR. GILBERT asked the Minister of Health whether any women inspectors of his Department were employed in visiting private schools in various parts of the country; if so, would he state what were the duties of such inspectors on such school visits; how many of his inspectors were employed on this work; what was the approximate yearly cost; and whether those inspections were made under any arrangements with the Board of Education? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that the only private schools inspected by six women inspectors of his Department were schools which received children chargeable to the Poor Law authorities. There were 217 schools certified under the Poor Law Certified Schools Act, 1862, for that purpose. They were usually in the nature of small orphanages. The inspection was directed to the administration of the schools and the general well-being of the children. The educational side of the work was inspected by officers of the Board of Education. He regretted that it was not possible to give the approximate annual cost of that part of the work of the officers in question.

### Old Age Pensions.

COL. NEWMAN asked the Minister of Health whether he was aware that the Pensions Officers in several districts were recommending for total discontinuance, or for drastic reduction, the old-age pensions of distressed gentlewomen who were ending their days in homes, and giving to the home their old-age pension, plus a contribution from a relative or friend; was he aware that the effect of such action meant that the aged gentlewomen would have to go to the workhouse and become a charge on the ratepayers; and would he consent to receive a deputation on the subject? MR. HILTON YOUNG asked for particulars of the cases he had in mind, and he would have an inquiry made. COL.

NEWMAN said he had given full particulars to the Minister of Health. Could not the Treasury obtain them, and save him a little trouble? MR. HILTON YOUNG, on behalf of the Treasury, assured Col. Newman that this did not concern the Ministry of Health.

### Milk (Adulteration).

SIR ALFRED MOND, replying to Mr. MYERS, said he regretted that he had no figures available as to the number of prosecutions in England and Wales in respect to the adulteration of milk. In 1921, the number of samples of milk certified as adulterated or not up to standard was 5,290 out of 61,439 samples taken, compared with 5,533 out of 52,304 in 1913. He was unable to give separate figures for the different forms of adulteration.

### Unemployment (Women and Girls).

MR. HURD asked the Minister of Labour how many of the 22,540 women and girls drawing benefit or on the gap in the Greater London area, upon the latest computation, had themselves contributed their proper quota under the Unemployment Insurance scheme; and when he proposed to relieve the scarcity of domestic servants in good houses, where good wages were offered, by making a rule that in future no benefit should be paid to non-contributors unless exceptional circumstances were shown? DR. MACNAMARA replied that it was not possible to indicate how many of the women and girls now drawing benefit had not contributed at all to the Unemployment Fund. Such number, however, must be very small, having regard to the conditions for the receipt of uncovenanted benefit, namely, that the applicant must show that she was normally in insurable employment, and genuinely seeking full-time employment. Applicants who were suitable for and refused domestic service would not be granted unemployment benefit. Other special conditions were imposed on the payment of uncovenanted benefit; payment was limited to cases where the title and necessities were proved beyond doubt.

### Canal Boats and Caravans (Children).

MR. BRIANT asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to the conditions of life of children living on canal boats and in caravans; if he was aware that probably more than half received no education whatever, and the remainder only the most intermittent education; and if legislation could be introduced which would prevent the continuation of a mode of life which was inimical to the health, education, and general well-being of those who at present had no permanent dwelling except in canal boats and caravans. MR. SHORTT replied that the matter had been engaging the attention of the Government, but it was not practicable to propose legislation at the present time.

### Traffic in Old Horses.

The House of Lords has given a Second Reading to the Exportation of Horses Bill. The objects of this Bill are to restrict the exportation of aged and worn-out horses by making the fee payable to the veterinary inspector for examination of the horse the sum of £20, and to insure that all horses rejected by the veterinary inspectors as unfit for shipment are mercifully destroyed.

### Work of the Session.

According to Mr. Chamberlain's statement last week, Parliament is to rise to-day (August 4th), and will remain adjourned until Tuesday, November 14th. Readers will be interested to learn that the Government proposes to allow to stand over for consideration in the Autumn Session the Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, Legitimation Bill, and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Bill. The Government expects to dispose of the following before it rises:—The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Bill, the Lunacy Bill, the National Health Insurance Bill, and the School Teachers (Superannuation) Bill.

F. A. U.

## THE VOTE.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

### EDUCATION CHEESEPARINGS.

The Association of Education Committees of England and Wales have recently protested against the staffing of infants' departments by untrained and unqualified persons with a status lower than that of an uncertificated teacher; but the London County Council, apparently with the full approval of the President of the Board of Education, has decided, as an experiment, to employ 100 persons with lower academic qualifications than certificated or uncertificated teachers to teach children under six years of age. The candidates for these Sairey Gamps of the teaching profession are to be between 18 and 30 years of age, and they are to undergo a six months' special training course. They are, when employed, to receive a minimum salary of £112, rising to £155. The Education Committee of the London County Council, reporting on the provision of employment for teachers displaced by the closing of the day continuation schools, states that arrangements have been made for the transfer of approximately 224 of the teachers to the permanent "floating" staff, without causing the authorised staff to be exceeded. There are, however, about fifty other teachers whom it will not be able to absorb within the authorised staff, but it is hoped to make arrangements to employ them in a supernumerary capacity! At the same time, from 18 of the principal training colleges in England and Wales, 808 students are leaving at the end of July, and out of this number 143 ex-Service and 192 other students are unplaced. It is stated that, all together, there are over 2,000 students leaving the colleges in the country this month for whom no places have been found. When questioned concerning this matter, Mr. Fisher said that he had received representations from various quarters which showed that students leaving the training colleges this summer were finding greater difficulty in obtaining appointments than had been the case in recent years, and he admitted that the number of vacancies occurring this year was likely to be smaller than usual, owing to the reduction of the teaching staffs which was now being effected by local education authorities, in view of the present need for economy. On the other hand, he argued, many authorities were taking steps to substitute young teachers for married women who were not dependent on teaching for a livelihood; and he hoped that many students who had not yet obtained promises of appointments would succeed in obtaining employment in the course of the autumn. He was sure that local education authorities would do all that was possible, in existing circumstances, to find employment for the students in question. When asked by Mr. Myers what was the justification for appointing 100 untrained teachers, when there was a large number who had been trained and could not find situations, Mr. Fisher replied, "The justification is the justification of economy." Mr. Fisher has certainly curious views on the subject of economy, and we should hesitate to believe that they are shared by the majority of people in this country. These cheese-parings on the part of the Board of Education and the local authorities are obviously not national economy, but an unwarrantable waste of our national resources.

### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

After an all-night sitting, at which both our women M.P.s were present and took part in the Debate, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill passed its Third Reading last week. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Macquisten providing that the age of consent for males should be the same as for females. Mr. Macquisten argued that many adolescent youths were initiated into vice by females much older than themselves, and that, unless they were prevented, such boys would prey upon young girls, with the result that the purpose of the Bill would be defeated. Mr. Shortt asked the House not to jeopardise the rest of the Bill for the sake of this proposal. He agreed that it was perfectly logical to protect the boy as well as the girl, but he did not think anyone would suggest that young boys ran anything like the danger from vicious women that young girls ran from vicious men. This amendment was lost by 191 votes to 81. The following amendment, moved by Mr. Rawlinson, was also negated by 177 votes to 78:—"Nothing in this Act shall apply to a case where it is shown that the young person under the age of 16 has been leading the life of a prostitute." He said it was well known that many girls under 16 were prostitutes. Mr. Shortt said that under this Bill they were considering also the protection of the bad girls from themselves, and trying to make something better of them, and to prevent others from falling into prostitution. He hoped the House would not weaken this Bill by passing the amendment. They could only stop child prostitution by stopping the *clientèle*, and they could only stop the *clientèle* by making it so dangerous to go with the child that any man addicted to these things would take care that he confined himself to mature women. We greatly regret that the Government accepted the addition to Clause 2 of a provision that, in the case of a man of twenty-three years or under, "the presence of reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over the age of sixteen years shall be a valid defence on the first occasion on which he is charged with an offence under this Section." We can see no justification for this protection of men of twenty-three, who in every other relationship are recognised as responsible adults, and it practically denies protection to girls of under sixteen.

### WOMEN AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

According to the *Daily Telegraph*, there is to be a competition of women, the first of its kind in the history of the Civil Service, for situations in the Administrative Class. Candidates must have attained the age of 22 on January 1st, 1921, and must be unmarried or widows. Every candidate must have served for not less than one year, in a permanent or temporary clerical or administrative capacity, in a Government Department or Departments, or in the national factories, stores, bonds, depôts, etc., where the services were remunerated direct from public funds, or as enrolled members in Q.M.A.A.C., W.R.N.S., W.R.A.F., or the V.A.D. general service. Candidates who pass the qualifying examination will be summoned to an interview before a Selection Board appointed by the Commissioners from a panel approved by the Treasury. Women are to form a majority of any such Selection Board. The Commissioners will hold one or more competitions, and at each competition the Selection Board will prepare a list of candidates, in order of merit, sufficient in number to fill such vacancies as have been reported or may be reported within a period to be fixed by the Commissioners. The decision of the Selection Board will be final. A competition of women for situations other than those of the administrative class, but superior to those of the junior grade of the clerical class, is also announced. The number of appointments to be filled will not be less than fifteen. We are glad that more opportunities for women are being contemplated in the Home Civil Service; but what we want to see is that all appointments in the Home, the Foreign, and the Indian Civil Service are thrown open equally to men and women.

## CONFERENCE ON MENTAL WELFARE.

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, JULY 26 and 27.

The Central Association for Mental Welfare (formerly known as the Central Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective) held its fourth Conference last week, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, when many matters of interest and importance were discussed.

The first day was devoted largely to the consideration of Mental Deficiency in relation to Crime. With Sir Leslie Scott, the Solicitor-General and the Chairman of the Association, in the Chair, papers were submitted at the morning session by Sir Bryan Donkin, Member of the Prisons Board, and late H.M. Commissioner of Prisons, and by Dr. W. Norwood East, Senior Medical Officer of H.M. Prison, Brixton.

SIR BRYAN DONKIN, whilst emphasising the prevalence of all forms of mental defect and disorder amongst criminals, and the need for thorough investigation into the question of "responsibility" in such cases, nevertheless expressed himself as strongly opposed to any decision based on medical evidence alone, and considered that certain incurable defectives or insane persons (he deprecates the present technical distinction between the two), who are also dangerous criminals, should be held, after full inquiry, legally responsible for crimes committed by them, even including the crime of murder.

DR. EAST, in his paper on "Some Reflections of a Prison Medical Officer," stressed the vital importance of correctly estimating and diagnosing the mental condition of prisoners brought before the Courts, and noted with satisfaction the ever-increasing number of Justices who concern themselves with this aspect of the problem of crime. From every point of view, the detention of the criminal defective in an Institution rather than in prison is desirable, and if the first offender is to be prevented from forming the "criminal habit," it can be by institutional care alone. As an instance of the futility of punishment in such cases he cited a man of 29, with a mental age of 8-9, who in six years had been convicted 16 times. The provision of treatment clinics for early cases of mental defect and disorder would go far to prevent crime such as this, and their establishment he considered to be an urgent need.

SIR LESLIE SCOTT, in opening the discussion, pleaded for a closer and more exhaustive study of the whole problem under consideration, in the light of modern psychology, and especially for an enlightened public opinion, which, whilst insisting upon the provision of "early treatment," will condemn the sense of shame which is at present too often attached to mental abnormality, and which leads to its concealment.

MR. HAROLD COX raised the question of the sterilisation of defectives, and the need of active measures to prevent their propagation.

MISS EVELYN FOX, Hon. Secretary of the C.A.M.W., referring to his remarks, informed the Conference that the whole question had been referred to the Association's Medical Committee, who would give it their close consideration.

At the afternoon session, when Dr. Potts, Medical Advisor to the Birmingham Justices, was in the Chair, MR. STUART DEACON, the Stipendiary Magistrate of Liverpool, submitted a paper on "The Need for Correlation between the Courts, the Prison Departments, and the Mental Deficiency Act Committees," based upon his 12 years' experience in Liverpool. In his opinion, the Mental Deficiency Act is one of the greatest boons ever conferred upon the nation, and where it is fully taken advantage of, it has in a large number of cases solved for the magistrate a problem that under previous laws was insoluble. In Liverpool there is the most complete co-operation between the authorities concerned, and every offender before the Courts whose condition suggests mental defect is remanded for inquiries to be made. Such action should especially be taken in cases of offenders between 16 and 21, for cure, and not punishment, was the spirit of the Mental Deficiency Act, as it should also be of the Police Courts.

MRS. PATRICK GREEN, J.P., Colchester, gave a very

clear and concise paper on the duties of Magistrates and Visiting Justices in connection with mental defectives, and the earnestness and enthusiasm with which she urged the importance of women magistrates equipping themselves adequately for their duties was much appreciated both by the audience and by subsequent male speakers.

The second day of the Conference was chiefly concerned with problems connected with the education of the mentally defective child, and the Chair was taken by the President of the Association of Education Committees, Lieut.-Col. Alderman W. E. Raley.

MR. H. A. L. FISHER, the President of the Board of Education, gave the opening address on the subject of the paper which had previously been submitted by Dr. H. B. Brackenbury, Chairman of the Education Committee of the C.A.M.W., on "Economic Difficulties which prohibit the development of Special Schools, and some alternative methods of education for certain grades of Mentally Defective Children." Although repudiating the suggestion that the Board were considering the abolition of Special Schools, or the lowering of the leaving age from 16 to 14, Mr. Fisher said that a reduction in their cost was imperative, and had somehow to be effected. As a result, all hope of providing education for the 31,000 feeble-minded children still without it was temporarily at an end, as to do so would involve an expenditure of £977,000, in addition to the £436,000 already being spent. He was inclined to think that the truest economy would lie along the lines of transferring more of the lower-grade children to the Board of Control under the Mental Deficiency Act, and in this way making room for additional high-grade cases. He also suggested the possibility of utilising Occupation Centres in some instances.

This suggestion that Occupation Centres could be in any way regarded as effective substitutes for Special Schools was, however, repudiated by several speakers during the discussion, and Miss Evelyn Fox, the Hon. Secretary of the C.A.M.W., stated that they felt it important that it should be realised that Centres were primarily intended for defectives excluded from Special Schools.

The Chair at the afternoon session was taken by Sir Courtauld Thompson, the Chairman of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, (in the absence of Sir Frederick Willis, Chairman of the Board of Control), and the subject of Occupation Centres was continued, papers being given by Mrs. Anderson, Case Secretary of the C.A.M.W., Miss Elfrida Rathbone (London), Miss Brayn (Portsmouth), and Mrs. J. Cooke-Hurle (Somerset) on the work of the Centres with which they were connected.

During the last half of the afternoon, Miss RUTH DARWIN, Commissioner of the Board of Control, submitted an interesting and suggestive paper on "Working Hostels and other Non-Institutional Methods of Dealing with Defectives," her theme being the contention (whose validity has been proved by experience in the United States) that "there is a class of adult defectives for whom permanent institutional treatment is unnecessary, uneconomical, and in some cases not conducive to happiness," and that what is needed for them is, after the necessary training has been provided, "a half-way house between unrestricted liberty and the wholly restricted life of an Institution." Describing the American experiments in this direction, she pleaded for serious consideration to be given to them in England, a plea which was endorsed by a colleague on the Board, Dr. Hubert Bond. Unfortunately, time did not allow of discussion at all proportionate to the importance of the subject.

A full report of the Conference, containing both the papers submitted and the discussions which followed them, is in course of preparation, and can now be ordered from the offices of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, 24, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1, or from this office, price 3/-.

## NATIONALITY OF WIVES.

Last week the Court of Appeal upheld the ruling of Mr. Justice Russell that an Englishwoman who married a German between the cessation of hostilities in November, 1918, and the coming into force of the Peace Treaty in January, 1920, must be regarded as an alien. The woman in question had brought an action against the Crown for a declaration that certain shares were not subject to a charge under the Treaty, and she appealed against Mr. Justice Russell's adverse judgement. The Master of the Rolls, in dismissing the appeal with costs, said that in the events which had happened, she must be regarded as a German national, and her property was subject to the charge. At the present time a Select Committee of the House of Commons is considering the problems which have to be dealt with in regard to the British Nationality (Married Women) Bill, which has been introduced into the House of Commons by Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Lord Robert Cecil, and others. By the common law of England, the nationality of a woman was not affected by her marriage. If a British woman married an alien, she remained British. If an alien woman married a British subject, she remained an alien. In 1844 an Act was passed by which an alien woman, on marrying a British subject, became a British subject. In 1870 another Act was passed, by which a British woman, for the first time in our history, lost her British nationality on marriage with an alien, and became an alien. In 1914, in spite of strenuous efforts made by Sir Willoughby Dickinson, and others, to get these provisions altered, they were confirmed. The present Bill proposes to restore to British women the right lost by them in 1870, and provides that women who have lost their British nationality by marriage shall regain it, unless they make a declaration that they do not wish to do so. It also provides that an alien woman shall not acquire British nationality by marriage with a British subject, and requires her, if she desires to obtain British nationality, to satisfy the same conditions as to residence, oath of allegiance, etc., as are required before an alien man is naturalised. The position of alien women who have already been recognised as British on their marriage is safeguarded. As the law now stands, there are two cases in which a wife can be of a different nationality from that of the husband. If a husband who was a British subject ceases to be a British subject, the wife can, by making a declaration, remain a British subject. If a naturalised British subject becomes denaturalised, the wife, in the absence of express denaturalisation, continues to be a British subject. In France, a Frenchwoman on marriage with a foreigner takes the nationality of her husband, unless marriage did not confer this upon her, in which case she remains a Frenchwoman. In other European countries the nationality of the husband becomes the nationality of the wife. In America a Bill is being considered by the Legislature, the provisions of which are on similar lines to the Bill recently introduced into the House of Commons. The assistant legal adviser to the Home Office pointed out to the Select Committee that if this Bill becomes law, the wife of a British subject might, according to the law of her own country, be a British subject, while the English law would regard her as an alien, and neither country would regard her as under its protection. An Englishwoman who married an alien might also be claimed as a subject of her husband's country and as a British subject. It was therefore, he argued, necessary to give the whole subject further consideration before proceeding with the Bill. We can only say that women of all countries are pressing for the same right as men to retain or change their nationality, and that women should not automatically lose their own nationality on marriage with a foreigner. This question of the nationality of married women is very vital to all women who are working for the equality of the sexes. Surely a married woman has a right to her own property and her own nationality! To deny this is to assert that a married woman is merely her husband's chattel.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Theodore Savage.* By Cicely Hamilton. (Leonard Parsons.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Cicely Hamilton, as a prophetess of the future, certainly does not deserve any particular credit in her own, or in any other country, for the morbid and unconvincing picture presented in "Theodore Savage." The authoress seems to have overtaxed her imagination in endeavouring to present a picture of the downfall and destruction of society and civilisation, and has certainly somewhat strained our powers of belief in the theory that it was all brought about by man eating of the forbidden fruit of Knowledge—scientific knowledge especially. This destruction of society and civilisation has, according to the theory presented, happened before, and, presumably, if the world lasts long enough, will happen again. A highly civilised state, an ungodly accumulation of knowledge, and, behold, for punishment, knowledge turns and destroys itself. Then, back to the dawn of a new civilisation; back to the rebirth of society, with its fear-created religion; the bondage of women and the renunciation of dangerous knowledge.

The obscure State of Karthina, backed secretly by powerful members of the League, commences the trouble, and sooth the whole world has scientifically bombed, burnt, and poisoned itself to destruction. We seem to have read this all before, but presented with deeper knowledge, thought, and conviction. For instance, the collapse of civilisation and order—surely an immense and tragic happening—betrays something of the dwarf assuming the mantle of the giant in the manner of its treatment.

Theodore Savage, a very ordinary civil servant, becomes engaged to Phillida Rathbone just before the war, and separates to go to the North on its outbreak, for the carrying out of his vague Distribution Office duties. So much for Phillida Rathbone. Then, when men are become semi-animals, fighting for food and life, comes Ada. With her, also, comes some justification for the book. Ignoring the publishers' explanatory note on the jacket, we find it hard to discover any real interest in the book save that of the creation of Ada, and the condemnation of the ignorant and vulgar factory type, and more especially of the society which creates it.

F. SPEAK.

*Escape.* By Jeffery E. Jeffery. (Leonard Parsons.) 7s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This book is a record of Progress. The teaching of Emily's father on "the moral value of revolt" bears fruit, and Emily decides to risk it. She has lived all her life in subjection to someone—first her mother, and then her husband—and she feels that when her father (whom she dearly loved) and her husband (whom she never really loved) are dead, the time has come for her to assert herself. She has been left a small income, barely enough to support her and her little son; so she decides that, for his sake, as well as her own, she ought to make money. But how? She burns all her boats behind her, and becomes a partner in a new concern, which, besides being a financial success, aims at uplifting those millions of middle-class women who have so few ideas beyond their home and servants. "They need interests," she says, "real interests, not luxuries or extravagances, but experiences in life." She is soon disillusioned; she finds that it is impossible to do anything with the apathy she finds among them. "These people have got a chance to live; they've got the money to do things—but they don't do them. They just—vegetate. It is the apathy that is so tragic." She finds herself in her work, her own interests broaden out, she meets interesting people, and the incentive, the real purpose that called forth the effort, gives her happiness for the time. "Money is the way to everything," she had once said; she lived to realise that it may not be so. Happiness is what counts, and she found happiness in the end, but not in the way she expected. Altogether a book worth reading, full of interest from start to finish.

E. W. K.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 4, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 8th, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 22nd, at 3.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch "Pound Tea" at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Full particulars later.

Saturday, September 23rd, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th.—"Green, White and Gold Fair," Central Hall, Westminster.

DARE TO BE FREE.

SWANSEA.

Will members please notice that the date of the Green, White and Gold Fair has been altered to **November 10th and 11th?** The Swansea Branch has made itself responsible for a General Stall this year, and members of the Committee will be very pleased to receive contributions of all kinds.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS C. M. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

## BRANCH NOTE.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

According to the third annual report recently issued by the Ministry of Health, notifications of tuberculosis in England and Wales in 1921 were much lower than during the preceding six years. The number of deaths was slightly larger than in 1920, but substantially lower than during the preceding five years. There has been a large diminution in the number of new cases of venereal disease in the year. The figures are:—In 1920, 99,000; in 1921, 79,000. It is stated that these figures suggest a declining incidence; also that patients are more and more appreciating the importance of prolonged treatment. The number of treatment centres in England open on March 31 was 185 compared with 184 on the corresponding date of 1920. The grants in aid of venereal disease schemes amounted to £467,783, including £34,396 paid to Boards of Guardians, and £11,700 to the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. With regard to schemes for maternity and child welfare carried out by local authorities, ninety-three have one or more medical officers. The number of persons engaged in health visiting work was increased during the year by 163, and the total number of women so acting on March 31 was 3,378, of whom 74 per cent. (including practically all the district nurses) were trained midwives, and about 67 per cent. were fully-trained nurses. There are at present about 1,870 maternity and infant welfare centres in England, of which some 690 are maintained by voluntary agencies, and there are 135 day nurseries.

## TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION.

SIR ROBERT HORNE, replying to SIR PHILLIP MAGNUS, said that the following had been invited, and had consented, to serve on the Committee to consider the School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1918, in accordance with the terms of reference which had been announced:—"Lord Emmott (Chairman), Lord Kenyon, Sir Albert Hobson, Sir Michael Sadler, Sir J. Struthers, Sir A. W. Watson, Miss S. E. Fry, Mr. Duncan Fraser, Mr. W. L. Hiches, Mr. Hugh R. Rathbone, Mr. H. J. Simmonds, and Mr. G. C. Upcott. He did not think that any of the members were officials at the Board of Education; but why, we ask, is there only one woman on this Committee?"

## MRS. NEVINSON'S NEW BOOK.

Four years ago Messrs. Allen and Unwin published a volume of "Workhouse Characters and other Sketches of Life of the Poor," by our member, Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson J.P. LL.A., largely based on her experiences of public work on the Hampstead Board of Guardians, and elsewhere. By way of contrast she has now completed a new book of short tales of a different character. A thread of humour runs through most of them, and some have a mystic and religious bent. Messrs. Allen and Unwin will publish the volume in the autumn under the title, "Fragments of Life."

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## University Reform.

Mr. Fisher has introduced into the House of Commons a Bill to carry into effect certain of the recommendations of the Royal Commission appointed in November, 1919, to consider the applications made by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for financial assistance from the State. It will be remembered that the Cambridge Committee of the Royal Commission recommended that women be entitled to be admitted on the same conditions as men to membership of the University, subject to various limitations. This question will, therefore, have to be considered when the Bill is being dealt with.

## Unemployment Returns.

The number of persons on July 17th recorded on the live register of the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed was 1,369,309. This was 2,234 less than in the preceding week, and 454,433 less than the figure recorded at the beginning of last January. The number working short time and drawing benefit for intervals of unemployment was 85,300 on July 17th, as compared with 91,935 on July 10th, and 934,786 on July 1st, 1921. The prospects for the coming winter are not very bright, and the Cabinet Committee for Unemployment are considering an extensive emigration scheme as one of the proposals for dealing with unemployment in this country. Whether women as well as men are to come into this scheme is not yet stated; but women, so far, have come into no scheme devised by the Government for finding work for those who are unemployed.

## Women Doctors at Glasgow.

The effects of alcohol were discussed at the meetings of the British Medical Association, held in Glasgow, last week. Professor Louise McLroy, of London University, said it was utterly impossible for an alcoholic woman to have a healthy child. Mrs. Jane Suttie (Glasgow) said that parents, even in 1922, did not value girl children as wholly as boys. Girls in mixed families were aware of the disparagement. The sense of inferiority that was inculcated in their childhood embittered and discouraged them to such an extent that in later life their feelings might be diverted to masculinity. Mothers, and perhaps even ardent feminists among them, were guilty of this preference towards boys. Throughout her education her femininity was actually a burden to the average girl. Two different things were expected of her—the strictly girlish virtues implied service and submission, and these had to be developed concurrently with the aggressiveness demanded in economic competition.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to call the attention of the Women's Freedom League to Sec. 18 of the Government's Economy Bill, which has already passed its Second Reading. By this Section, a prisoner on remand—even, therefore, unconvicted persons—"may" be detained fourteen days, instead of the present four, in a police cell. What does such a police cell contain? A board and a few blankets for all bedding, used by prisoners in turn, with no preparatory cleansing process of people or coverings, as is usual in prisons; a primitive sanitary convenience, flushed from without at no regular times; very inadequate facilities for washing, and none for exercise. Meals have to be brought in from outside, and sometimes gratuities are demanded for this service. There is neither visiting doctor, magistrate, chaplain, or governor who can hear complaints. The staff is composed of the police (often the future accusers of the prisoner), a policeman's wife (not always a trained police matron), or a cell cleaner; and these women officials are frequently not on duty at night. Think of a woman thus remanded, who may be at any time of the day or night liable to a man's inspection! What can be also suspected of possibilities of pressure to extract evidence which may be used against the prisoner, and to what a nervous and miserable condition may not an already probably confused and disheartened accused person be reduced? Is not this a matter in which organised women should take action?—Yours, etc., J. M. T.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

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We have to thank very heartily Miss Forrest for a parcel of pretty pinafores; Miss K. Holme for jumble goods, pinafores and chocolate; Miss Greenville for butter and eggs; Miss M. Cole, a basket of apples and flowers; anonymously, a very nice rug; Mrs. Lloyd, materials for overalls and clothing; Miss Shepherd, Miss Cole, and per Miss Greenville, much-needed boots for the children. We are still needing, as much as ever, a self-denying lover of children to come along and relieve a much-overworked Superintendent, if only for an evening or a week-end. The work is now increasing to such an extent that something must be done soon if we are to go on with it. Various kind offers of general assistance have been made, especially with suggestions as to raising funds, and if only a few more would help us in the same fashion as Miss Rachel Wells, who with a concert brought in £12 15s., much more might be accomplished, for already our house is not large enough.

(Hon. Superintendent) MISS A. M. COLE.

FRIDAY,  
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