

THE VOTE.
SEPT. 4, 1925.

A WIVES' TRADE UNION?

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVI. No. 828.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1925

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

AN EDUCATIONAL ENTHUSIAST.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
A PIONEER WOMAN JOURNALIST.
GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

MAJOR SHEPPARD'S VICTORY.
JUBILEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST
FEDERATION.
WAGE-EARNING WIVES. W. M. S.
BOOK REVIEWS. D. M. N.

AN EDUCATIONAL ENTHUSIAST.

Helen Gladstone was the fourth and youngest daughter of the celebrated statesman, William Ewart Gladstone, and Catherine Gladstone, inheriting her distinguished father's administrative ability and her mother's social gifts and love of social service.

Born in August, 1849, and educated at home, she enjoyed some years of busy and happy home life, was a student of Newnham College from 1877 to 1880, studying chiefly English, Political Economy, and Logic, and returned to Cambridge as Secretary to Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, the newly appointed Vice-President and head of the second (Sidgwick) Hall of the College.

Two years later, she succeeded Mrs. Sidgwick as Vice-Principal, and continued to carry out the duties of this office till in 1896 her father's ill-health called her back to Hawarden to tend the parents to whom she was devotedly attached; in two years Mr. Gladstone died, two years later Mrs. Gladstone followed him.

The following year, Miss Gladstone started a new life at the Women's University Settlement, Southwark, the social centre founded by the Cambridge women's Colleges, being Warden till 1906, and after that living in the near neighbourhood till, in 1910, she settled again at Hawarden, her old home, building herself a delightful retreat, "The Sundial," and surrounding it

with one of the charming gardens she loved. There followed many years of cheerful usefulness in educational and other local work, as Chairman of the Flintshire Higher Education Committee, and Governor of

Bangor College, and of several intermediate and secondary schools, and here, on August 19th, after a few weeks' illness, she passed away, mourned by a large circle of relations and friends, by the villagers among whom she lived, by fellow-workers and colleagues, and humble dwellers in mean London streets, and by many thousands of Cambridge women scattered in many lands.

Helen Gladstone was a very remarkable woman, of vivid, outstanding personality, tall and spare, abounding in vitality, and absolute health of mind and body, distinguished in appearance, with strongly marked mobile features and humorous mouth, full of interest in life and people, with an unflinching fund of racy stories, always cheery and genial, and quick to show the funny side of little discomforts, and to give an amusing description of accidents. An educational enthusiast, as Vice-Principal her devo-

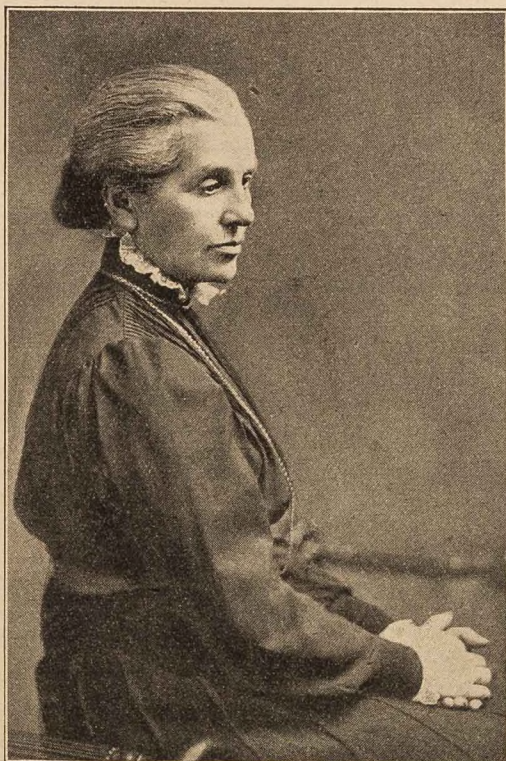


Photo by

MISS HELEN GLADSTONE.

[Elliott & Fry

courage, and business capacity were invaluable to the College, and her presence raised its prestige at a difficult period of its progress, whilst her sincerity, cordiality, genuine kindness, spontaneous high spirits

and fun drew warm affection and admiration from the many generations of Cambridge students over whom she presided.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Senator at Washington?

It is expected that Mrs. Ladd, widow of the late Senator from North Dakota (U.S.A.), will be appointed to fill the unexpired Senate term which ends in March, 1927. If elected, Mrs. Ladd will be the first woman in the United States to exercise the duties of a Senator. She will not be the first to be appointed, however, as Mrs. Rebecca Felton, of Georgia, received a recess appointment and held it for two days, until the regularly elected Senator took his seat.

Women and Prisons.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of California has sent a formal letter to the Governor of California asking him to appoint a woman on the State Board of Prison Directors. The letter points out that there are 60 women inmates of the State prison, whose interests will be furthered by having a woman representative on the State Board.

New York Women's Exhibition.

The fourth annual exposition of women's arts and industries will be held at the Hotel Commodore, New York, U.S.A., September 21st to 26th, when the progress of women in the arts and industry will be shown. Mrs. Oliver Harriman, who is in Europe, has cabled her acceptance of the general chairmanship of the Exhibition committee.

Belgian Woman Burgomaster.

The Woman's Cause is progressing in Belgium in spite of its recent defeat in Parliament. Mme. de Brown de Tiege is now Burgomaster of Waillet, a parish in the neighbourhood of Dinant. She is the first Belgian woman to hold such a position.

A Woman's Protest.

Mrs. Hornibrook (who is a member of our Hampstead Branch) protested at the Globe Theatre last week against the play "Fallen Angels." At the close of the second act, she stood up and declared, "This play should not go unchallenged. It is a demoralizing play," and then left her box.

Woman Attorney's Vacation.

Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, Assistant Attorney-General in charge of prohibition prosecutions in the United States, is spending her vacation of three weeks on a Chautauqua tour of four New England states, speaking on "Courts, Crooks, and the Constitution."

Women Police at Cologne.

The British women police at Cologne, whose work consisted of the prevention of "undesirable women" from associating with British soldiers, have been withdrawn, and the six members of the force left for England this week.

Mothers Attend School.

Fourteen Portland mothers attended summer school in Portland, U.S.A., this summer, conducted by the University of Oregon extension division. Several studied journalism and short story writing.

Women Journalists' Progress.

At the recent conference of the Institute of Journalists at Cambridge, Mr. Peaker, the President, said that more women than men were taking the London University Course in Journalism.

Miss Bondfield's Appointment.

The Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs has appointed Miss Margaret G. Bondfield, J.P., to be a member of the Oversea Settlement Committee.

Woman Scientist's Quest.

Miss D. M. A. Bate, who is one of a little group of women doing valuable scientific work at their own expense, has left London for Palestine to make investigations on behalf of the British Museum. The object of the visit is to investigate recent discoveries, and to help to determine the remains of fossil mammals of the Pleistocene (Glacial) epoch—the earliest geological period authentically associated with human remains. Miss Bate has been engaged in similar work in Cyprus, Crete, and other Mediterranean islands. She expects to be away about two months.

An Octogenarian Actress.

Miss Rose Edouin, one of the oldest actresses in England, died at Harrogate, last week, at the age of 80. Born at Brighton, she made her first appearance when seven years old at Marylebone Theatre. At 19 she married the late Mr. G. B. Lewis, theatrical manager, at Shanghai.

Woman's Running Record.

Running under the direction of the Toronto Women's Athletic Club, Fanny Rosenfeldt covered 220 yards in 26sec., which is claimed to be two-fifths of a second better than the previous women's world record. The runner collapsed at the tape.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

In an interview with the Viscountess Rhondda, appearing in August 22nd number of *Equal Rights* (the official organ of the National Woman's Party of America), Lady Rhondda is reported as saying, in reference to the Peeresses Bill:—

"The question as to whether twenty-six peeresses shall or shall not sit in the House of Lords is in itself a comparatively small matter. The fact that matters is the public decision that women otherwise qualified are debarred from the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords on account of their sex. It affects not only those special women, but also the status of every woman in the country. It marks the implied inferiority of every woman. And it is status that matters. Status is not merely a question of a slightly more or less patronizing crowd-opinion, which the wise can afford to ignore. Status is at the root of most things. Status affects wages, salaries, opportunities and conditions. It is because the status of woman is not the same as that of man that it seems natural to give unequal pay for equal work; that it seems natural to dismiss married women whose husbands are in a position to keep them, although it does not seem natural to dismiss married men whose wives are in a position to keep them; that it seems natural to treat men and women differently in the Civil Service; that it seems natural to dismiss married women teachers and married women Civil Servants; and that it seems natural to reserve all the plums in practically all the professions for men. All these things are governed largely, mainly, by status. And the refusal to admit women to the House of Lords just slightly lowers the status of all women, so that it is just a little more unlikely that any professional or working woman will get a fair chance unguided by the accident of her sex. That is why it matters."

THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL OF SPEECH TRAINING.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR WOMEN.

Many women realise to-day that there are great opportunities for those who think logically and speak clearly.

A Class is conducted by Miss LOUIE BAGLEY on Thursday afternoons, at 3 o'clock, at 15, Langham Place, W.1, in which the subjects dealt with include Voice Training, Vocal Expression, Nerve Control, Methods of Preparation and Construction of Speeches, Delivery, Control of an Audience, etc.

FEE for Course of 24 weeks £3 0 0

FEE for Course of 12 weeks £1 12 6

An Evening Class followed by a Debate is held on Mondays at 6.30.

Full particulars free on application to the Director of Education, The Polytechnic, 309, Regent Street, W. 1.

A PIONEER WOMAN JOURNALIST.

We deeply regret to record the death last week of Miss Mary Frances Billington, a distinguished member of the staff of the *Daily Telegraph*, and a pioneer of women's journalism. Miss Billington, who was the daughter of the Rev. G. H. Billington, Vicar of Chalbury, Dorsetshire, received her first appointment from Passmore Edwards on his evening paper, the *Echo*, in days when a woman reporter was a practically unknown proposition. She joined the *Daily Telegraph* in 1897, when the Diamond Jubilee afforded her a great opportunity with her pen, and as she speedily displayed great tactfulness in dealing with Royal matters she gradually secured almost a monopoly of such engagements. She was one of the journalists who went with Queen Victoria on her last visit to Dublin, and in London she was scarcely ever absent from any ceremony in which our present Queen took part. Queen Mary sent many inquiries and gifts of flowers during Miss Billington's last illness.

Miss Billington went to India twice, her investigations on the position of women in that country affording the material for her book, "Women in India." She also attended the Delhi Durbar professionally in 1911. She had an intimate knowledge of Russia, and during the Great War she crossed to the front in France, turning her experiences to account in two books, "The Red Cross in War," and "The Roll-Call of Serving Women." She was deeply interested in the nursing profession. In the cause of women journalists she also played an important part by helping to found the Society of Women Journalists, of which she was President from 1913-1921. She was always ready to extend a helping hand to the younger members of the profession, as the writer of this paragraph can testify from personal experience many years ago. She was, however, in spite of her desire to forward women's interests in every direction, an opponent of woman suffrage.

In 1920, she was selected by the Society of Women Journalists to attend the Imperial Press Conference in Canada, and would probably have gone to Australia on the present Empire Press Union tour had her health permitted.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

The Stalls at present arranged for the League are:—
Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, and Miss Vibert.
Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix Clark and Friends.
Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton and Members.
Overalls and Aprons.—
General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.
Hygiene Stall.—Dr. Lewin and Friends.
Literature Stall.—
Pound Stall.—
Shilling Stall.—
Sweet Stall.—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.
Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight and Friends.
"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Flowers and Mrs. Northcroft.
White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes.

PLEASE HELP.

Many gifts are needed for all these Stalls—will members and friends who are away on their holidays remember the Fair, and bring some article home with them for one or other of the Stalls? No gift will be too large or too small. The time is now arriving for the housewives' annual autumn turning-out; will they make a point of sending all the little things they no longer want to the Fair? Readers of THE VOTE and members and friends of the League are asked to give up a little of their time each week to make some gift

for one or other of the Stalls, and thus help to make the 1925 Fair an even greater success than those of past years.

COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.

The competitions will, as usual, be one of the chief attractions of the Fair, and will include a "Hidden Treasure Hunt," and various other novelties.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

An excellent programme of entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Dancing Display on Saturday, November 21st, by Miss Grace Woollacott's dainty little pupils. Solo Dancing on Friday, November 20th, by little Miss Margery Dunhill (semi-finalist All-England Classical Dancing Competition, 1924). The following have kindly promised to assist:—Miss Lettice Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, Mrs. Van Raalte, and Mrs. Sparrow. There will be Character Readings by Mrs. Spon, also Phrenology and Numerology.

TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and refreshments will be served at moderate prices after 7 p.m.

SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

British Commonwealth League.
Council for International Service.
The International New Thought Alliance.
The Food Education Society.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).
Miss A. M. Sworder (Needlework and Mending Bureau).

All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

MATRONS FOR WOMEN PRISONERS.

According to *The Times*, the Home Secretary has been making inquiries about the arrangements at the Metropolitan police stations for the attendance of matrons when women are detained in police cells. At the busy stations there are matrons in constant attendance, but at others the matrons who attend are not on duty the whole time. In order to prevent any possibility of women prisoners at such stations being left temporarily under the charge of male officers, an order has been issued by the Commissioner that immediately a female prisoner is brought to a station and detained a matron must be called, and there must be a matron in constant attendance until such prisoner is admitted to bail or taken to Court.

THE NEW SCALA THEATRE, CHARLOTTE STREET, W. 1.

Proprietor, A. E. ABRAHAM. Licensee, D. A. ABRAHAM.

A New Play by ROSALINE ROSSOMER

Entitled

"Fires Divine"

Music by JOHN FOULDS.

Production, Scenery and Costumes by BENRIMO.

FOR THREE WEEKS ONLY

First Performance TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, at 8.30.

First Matinee FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, at 2.30.

Subsequently Evenings at 8.30, Matinees on THURSDAY and FRIDAY at 2.30

A PLAY WITH A MESSAGE.

Those of us who know the paramount importance of right thinking, must have wished frequently for a higher standard of spiritual thought in the dramatic entertainment offered to our people.

The producers hope that this play may be one step towards the desired goal.
"Dramatic action is worth more in bringing out doubts, half-lights, audacities, followed by recoils, flights of fancy, than any abstract discussion."
"The last word in modern philosophy will be in a drama."—RENAN.

Application for seats should be made to—
Box Office, Scala Theatre, Charlotte Street, W. 1. Phone: Museum 6010.
Prices of Seats including Entertainment Tax—
Reserved—Box £4 16 0, Stalls 12/- and 8/6. Dress Circle 12/- and 8/6. Upper Circle 5/9 and 4/9. Unreserved—Pit 3/-, Gallery 1/2.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, 1925.

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.

MAJOR SHEPPARD'S VICTORY.

The British public owes a debt of gratitude to Major Sheppard for bringing to the notice of the authorities his treatment at the hands of the police, when he was arrested on a charge which was afterwards acknowledged by the person who preferred it to be entirely mistaken, and proved to be absolutely false. Many men and women would have been only too glad to let the matter drop when they had established their case; but Major Sheppard did a public service when he protested against the methods employed by the police when a person rightfully or wrongfully arrested was brought before them. The Report of the Inquiry undertaken by Mr. J. F. P. Rawlinson, K.C., M.P., at the request of the Home Secretary, was a damaging review of police methods, and we are relieved to know that the Home Secretary's findings on this Report are likely to result in drastic changes in these methods. A clause is to be introduced in the Criminal Justice Bill to empower the police, when satisfied with the identity of an accused person, to admit that person to bail, no matter where the offence was committed, pending the result of their preliminary investigation. Mr. Rawlinson described the identification ceremony in Major Sheppard's case as "little more than a farce," and, in future, when anyone is arrested he will be informed that he is entitled to have a solicitor or friend at the identification parade. Moreover, it is emphasised that persons in custody are to be given every facility to communicate with their friends and, if they have no money and are desirous of being bailed, the necessary expenses of sending for bail will be allowed by the Commissioner. With regard to the taking of a detained person's finger-prints prior to his appearance before a magistrate, instructions will be issued that, before a person's finger-prints are taken by the police, he will be informed of his right to object, and notices to that effect will also be displayed in police stations. Rules are laid down in regard to the questioning of persons in custody, and they are not to be questioned without the usual caution being administered. Indeed, the Home Secretary agrees with Mr. Rawlinson that accused persons have rights, and has issued instructions that these are to be interpreted in the sense most favourable to the person detained. Further, printed details of accused's rights are to be posted in all police stations. We think it was high time that such an inquiry should have been made, and the powers and duties of the police more clearly defined; and the new Regulations will assuredly be welcomed by the police as well as by the public. We warmly congratulate Major Sheppard for having been the instrument by which these changes in police methods have been brought about. He has certainly been more successful than women who have been wrongfully charged by the police for soliciting in our streets. In Major Sheppard's case, the person who had been robbed gave her own evidence, and subsequently admitted she had made a mistake; but the women who are taken up on charges of solicitation are charged and convicted on police evidence only, and in those cases when women have been able to pay for legal defence and established their innocence, no acknowledgment of a mistake has been made by the police. We do not suppose that when in custody such women were treated better than Major Sheppard—probably worse. We therefore hope that

if any woman is again wrongfully accused by the police of this offence she will benefit by the new Regulations proposed by the Home Secretary, and, if she has any cause for complaint, that she will have the courage to bring it to the notice of the public and the authorities. We remember that when Miss Boyle, and another member of the Women's Freedom League, were arrested in pre-suffrage days in connection with a protest against the disfranchisement of women, they were conveyed to Holloway prison in a "Black Maria" van under conditions which were unfit for any person to travel in. The very morning these members came out of prison they went to the Court at which they were sentenced, and complained of those conditions to the magistrate who had sentenced them. We believe that those conditions were at any rate temporarily improved, but we are not so sure that they were permanently so. It was rumoured that the "Black Maria" method of conveyance was to give way to something more modern—but the "Black Maria" remains with us, although it is now a motor vehicle and not drawn by horses. Public opinion has allowed the matter to lapse. Unless public opinion is more vigilant in regard to these new Police Regulations—they also, in time, may lapse.

A WIVES' TRADE UNION?

Trade Unions for work outside the home are very popular with men, who have found them of inestimable value in regulating wages and hours. We wonder if a Wives' Trade Union would be equally popular with them? Last week a wife's application for a separation on the grounds that her husband failed to provide reasonable maintenance for herself and their five children, because out of a wage of 50s. he allowed her only 35s. housekeeping allowance, was dismissed by the Bath Bench of magistrates. The magistrates' clerk said that "a lot of people can manage on that," when the woman explained that the allowance had to cover food for seven people, boots, clothing and rent. Would that clerk, or any other man, like to take on that woman's job for the amount she gets out of it? Her husband is apparently quite content that she shall pinch and scrape, work and worry every waking hour in the stupendous effort to make both ends meet, and that she shall have nothing for herself when the week's work is finished, although the husband, who should be equally responsible for the family, has 15s. pocket-money; and the magistrates and the law of the land support him in the view he takes. The law also allows a husband to will every penny away from his wife on his death, although after next January, if he is an insured person, the widow will get 10s. a week from the State. There is no trade union to support a wife in a claim to an adequate proportion of her husband's wages, salary, or income. Yet the Government and local governing bodies do everything in their power to prevent a married woman taking outside paid employment! Alderman Ben Turner, a trade union leader, recently told a representative of *The Leeds Mercury* that "no married woman should be employed in textile factories unless there is a legitimate reason—for instance, a sick or out-of-work husband." We think the expression of such a view is sheer impertinence on the part of any man. Alderman Turner goes on to say that he wants an eight-hour day for the housewife, and that he does not think it good enough for a man to expect his wife to work eight hours in the mill and three or four hours at home in addition. Our view is that if a wife worked eight hours in a mill, the husband should certainly take an equal share with her in the work at home. But Alderman Turner has nothing to say about an eight-hour work-day for a woman in the home who has five children and a husband to look after on 35s. a week, in spite of the fact that she is expected to be skilled in catering, cooking, washing, ironing, cleaning, mending, nursing, household management, etc., etc.

JUBILEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION.

The International Abolitionist Federation, founded by Josephine Butler in 1875, meets at Geneva this week to celebrate its Jubilee. The celebration will take the form of a Conference, when the work of the past 50 years will be reviewed and the present outlook will be considered. The list of speakers includes the names of men and women, well known for their work against state regulation of vice, some of whom were Mrs. Butler's fellow workers. Among them are Dr. Helen Wilson (England), Mme. Avril de Sainte Croix and M. Yves Guyot (France), Dr. von Düring (Germany), M. A. de Graaf (Holland), M. de Meuron (Switzerland).

In 1875, in addition to her work against the C.D. Acts in England, Mrs. Butler undertook a campaign on the Continent, and she returned keenly impressed by the necessity for international efforts against the state regulation of vice.

"Efforts abroad," she said, "have been isolated, interrupted. For the most part they have lacked publicity; they have embraced no public co-operation of women with men, and they have in no case had a national, much less an international character. The lacking elements, will, I hope, begin from this time to be supplied. Publicity will now be courted, not shunned. Organisation has already commenced; pamphlets are already being circulated by thousands, committees are being formed, and the newspapers in several cities have begun to discuss the subject. That which the foul institution most dreads—light and speech—have at last been granted; darkness and silence are passing away. . . . We must join hands with our fellow abolitionists on the Continent."

Probably neither she nor her fellow workers anticipated that fifty years later there would still be need for this organisation. Has the Federation then failed in its task? By no means. During the past fifty years, regulation has been abolished in Great Britain, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Holland, Latvia, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Switzerland. In Belgium it has

been suspended, whilst in Austria, Germany, Italy, and Poland it is totally discredited and will certainly soon disappear. When Mrs. Butler flung out the challenging statement, "That which is morally wrong cannot be hygienically right," almost all medical opinion was ranged against her. To-day, medical science supports the abolitionist. This, briefly, is the report of half a century's work which M. de Meuron will give to the Conference. It is an inspiring report—it is also a triumphant one.

Lest abolitionists should feel that they may rest on their oars, the President of the Federation, M. de Graaf, has chosen for his subject, "The Federation in 1925, and what it stands for." This is a pertinent question. Regulation has disappeared to a great extent, but the regulationist spirit has not vanished. Again and again it appears in subtle ways in fair-sounding schemes for dealing with disease, or prostitution, or in plans for so-called rescue work. "The evil we are combating," said Mrs. Butler, "has its root in a deep scepticism as to the possibility of virtue and in the denial of eternal principles." She knew that "there is nothing more desirable nor more scientific than justice." This conviction is not peculiar to abolitionists, but it was their firm grip of this truth which enabled the founders of the Abolitionist Federation to steer such an unswerving course.

"The International Abolitionist Federation has for its object the abolition of prostitution specially regarded as a legal or tolerated institution." That is what the Federation stands for to-day as in 1875, and now, as then, it brings all schemes for dealing with prostitution to the touchstone of Justice. "Of all things in this world," said a former President of the Federation, the late Prof. James Stuart, "there is nothing which is so desirable as justice. It is more difficult to act justly than to act mercifully or benevolently, and more good is done in the long run by justice than by anything else. The poorer and meaner any group of people the more necessary it is that they should be treated justly."

WAGE-EARNING WIVES.

(This interesting article by our Edinburgh member, Miss Spriggs, has been reprinted from the *Scotsman*.)

The old, old controversy as to whether wives should work for money or not—nobody minds their working for love!—has come to the front again by reason of the decision of Mr. Justice Romer that a woman teacher employed by the Poole Corporation was wrongfully dismissed on her marriage. The lady brought an action against her former employers, and judgment, with costs, was entered in her favour.

This is rightly regarded as an important case, and its result may have some effect in restraining public authorities from summarily dismissing women employees on marriage. There have been many cases of this kind, ranging from women doctors holding important positions in hospitals to charwomen employed by the London County Council. Possibly the said authorities will retaliate by inserting a clause in their contracts to the effect that a woman employee must resign her post on marriage. This is really illegal since the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, but, unfortunately, that measure is practically a dead-letter.

The prejudice against wage-earning wives is an old one, and it dies hard. It seems to be based on two ancient fallacies—(1) that the profession of wife is in itself a lucrative one (many wives would disagree!), and therefore a married woman should have no other calling; and (2) that if a man and his wife are both employed professionally there will be less work and remuneration for other people.

Fallacy No. 1 hardly needs refuting, for in these days many wives find great difficulty in meeting household expenses out of the sums allowed them, and have practically no money at all for themselves. Fallacy No. 2 is not quite so obvious, for it used to

be thought that the wealth of the country was a fixed quantity, and that if one individual or family had more, others had less. But it is now recognised that wealth is a relative term, and that if several members of a family are earning money, instead of only one, they will spend more, and so give employment to others.

For instance, a woman doctor earning £500 a year will probably employ several persons to look after her house and her children, and the benefit to the community will be greater than if her husband was the sole breadwinner of the family.

But there is another side to the question besides the financial one. What about the value of a highly-skilled person to the community? Surely it is better that a woman doctor or teacher should continue to practise her profession after marriage than that she should give it up and turn her attention to cooking or housekeeping, which probably others can do better than she.

This point of view is generally accepted with regard to the artistic professions. For instance, people who care about the Russian Ballet are inquiring anxiously if Mlle. Lopokova is going to give up the stage because she married Mr. J. M. Keynes the other day. And no one suggests that Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith ought to give up writing her wonderful novels because she is now the wife of a clergyman.

So let us have fair-play all round, please, for wage-earning wives—for doctors as well as dancers, for charladies as well as clerks! Some day, perhaps, it will be admitted that a woman's marriage, like a man's, is her own private affair.

W. M. S.

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGES AT OXFORD.

We have received the preliminary announcement of a dance to be organised on behalf of the four Oxford Women's Colleges, at the Hyde Park Hotel, on Wednesday, November 9th.

The four women's Colleges at Oxford were founded a few years later than those at Cambridge.

But, at present, and for some time past, these Colleges have been attempting an almost impossible task.

A sum of £185,000 is therefore being appealed for, not only to cover the building debt aforementioned, but to provide scholarships and fellowships, libraries and new buildings.

In June of last year it was decided to make a special push. A paid organiser was secured, with headquarters in London.

In the Report (1922) of the Royal Commission on the finances of Oxford and Cambridge, there was a recommendation to spend £8,000 a year for ten years on the women's Colleges both at Oxford and Cambridge.

BOOK REVIEWS.

The Psychology of the Servant Problem. By Violet M. Firth. (C. W. Daniel.) 3s. 6d.

In spite of manifold discussion and much spilling of ink, arguments tossed shuttlecock fashion from every class of society, and even the appointment of a Government Committee upon the question, the servant problem, like the poor, is still with us.

Miss Firth, who is a trained psychologist, was made to realise the servant's point of view when she worked in the war for three years as a lady gardener. Her experiences during this period, apparently not always enviable ones, have placed her unreservedly on the side of the servants.

The solutions offered by the writer are not new, but much to be commended. There must be a fundamental alteration, an abolition of class relation of employer and employed.

Miss Mills, who, by the way, dedicates her book "To my kind and helpful maids," traces the history of domestic service down through the ages.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1. President—Miss ANNA MUNRO. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, September 9th, at 3.30. Fair Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Saturday, October 10th, at 10. National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Monday, September 7th, at 7.

Middlesbrough Branch. Meeting at "Agecroft," Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.).

OTHER SOCIETIES.

August 25th—September 8th.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford.

September 19-27th.

National Council of Women at Birmingham.

WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR EVERY BY-ELECTION.

We are always pleased to give space to our readers' views on various subjects, and it gives us special pleasure to print the following from a very old and staunch supporter of the women's cause.

DEAR EDITOR,—I regard the fact that only four women were returned to the present Parliament, and that the House of Lords rejected the claim of peeresses in their own right to sit in that house, as severe setbacks to the claim of women to equality.

To oppose the efforts of the reactionary party I suggest that the Women's Freedom League, either alone or in conjunction with other bodies, provide candidates for every by-election.

I believe that there are sufficient earnest supporters of the Women's Cause to make the finding of the funds to contest each by-election an easy matter.

Remember that a great enemy is the unwillingness of the male elector to grant justice to women, but a much greater enemy is the appalling ignorance of the public (male and female) of the merits of the case.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A. "What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.

OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged October, 1907, to December, 1924, £42,034 13s. 7d.

Previously acknowledged £ s. d. £ s. d. 289 2 8

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes Mrs. Angold 4 0, Verbatim Report 10 4 0, Mrs. Jusun Kerr, J.P. 13 15 6.

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes Mrs. Buchanan 10 0, Miss J. E. Carlile 10 0, Mrs. B. Gilbert 10 0.

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes Mrs. King 1 6, Miss Pain 1 6, Miss R. Ambler 1 0.

Table with columns for categories and amounts. Includes Sundries 21 16 0, per Literature Department 9 0 0, Goods sold 10 0 0.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Women as Pension Officers.

DEAR MADAM,—I cannot allow the statement in your issue of the 21st inst., with regard to the pay of Women Pension Officers, to pass uncorrected.

Instead of being, as you say, one of the best-paid posts in the Civil Service, all fair-minded people must admit that a basic salary of £100, rising to a maximum of £250, is a most miserable remuneration for the skilled work which these women are required to do.

[We much regret the misstatement pointed out by Miss Davies, and thank her for pointing it out.—Ed.]

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 4,
1925.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name

Address

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

CLUBS.

ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

PIONEER CLUB, 12, Cavendish Place, Oxford Circus, W.1. Bedrooms. Debates. Concerts. Town Membership, £5 5s.; Professional and Country, £4 4s.

TO LET.

FURNISHED COTTAGE, in Suffolk, 21/- weekly. Simply Decorated. Oak beams exposed.—Apply HAYLAND, The Peasant Shop, 41, Devonshire Street, Theobald's Road, W.C.1.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: Miss TURNER.

CCORNWALL.—Paying Guest received in modern farmhouse. £2 2s. week. Clotted cream 3/- lb., post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

RYE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

STRESA.—The most delightful spot on Lake Maggiore, Italy, for spending a quiet summer holiday.—MRS. COSTA, Hotel St. Gothard. Terms *en pension* £3 weekly.

PYRENEES TOURING CLUB.—Fortnightly conducted Tours to the Pyrenees, by lady artist. Seven long Spanish and French excursions. £25 from September 5th. Price includes Hotel, 2nd Class Rail and Boat.—Apply by letter to SECRETARY, 14, Park Lane, London, N.16.

NOTICES.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 6th. 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "Psychology and Sin."

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

SMART CUT, AND :: COSTUMES MADE
PERFECT TAILORING TO ORDER FROM
AT MODERATE :: :: 7 GUINEAS. :: ::
PRICES. :: :: ::

H. Melissen,

Ladies' Tailor,

PERSONAL ATTENTION.

62, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words.	Once.		Three Times.		Six Times.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
20	1	6	4	0	7	6
30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

Displayed Advertisements

8/- per inch.

Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1;

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name

Address

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.