

THE VOTE,
NOVEMBER 21, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

COME TO THE FAIR!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XVIII. No. 526.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 1919.

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

THE CASE OF THE SHORTHAND TYPIST. E. Crohn.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
CHILDREN'S INSTITUTES. L. H. Yates.
GEORGE ELIOT. M. W. Nevinston.

IN MEMORIAM—MR. W. A. COOTE.
GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.
WHY WOMEN NEED WOMEN LAWYERS.
THE ANTI-SUFFRAGIST MIND.

Come and rally round your Flag next week at our

GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR,
FRIDAY and SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28th and 29th,

At 3 p.m., at

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

MRS. BESANT will open the Fair on Friday, November 28th, and
LADY BUCKMASTER on Saturday, November 29th.

Chairman each day: MRS. DESPARD.

COME AND BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

The Women's Freedom League calls for your help. We cannot spare a single friend or member. You will be missed if you are not with us.

Model Parliamentary Election On SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 29th,
at 4.30 p.m. **Votes for all over 21.**

(The Proportional Representation Society are providing the ballot papers and taking the count.)

COME AND VOTE.

Concerts and Dramatic Recitals. Russian and Spanish Dancing. Psychic Delineations of Madame Lmke and Mrs. Thomson-Price. Demonstrations in Head Reading by Mr. D'Arcy Denny. The Old Lady with a Hundred Pockets. Refreshments at Moderate Prices. List of Stalls, see page 405.

Other Societies taking Stalls: Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement, League of the Church Militant, Free Church League, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Independent W.S.P.U., Women's International League, Friends of Armenia, Handicrafts, Divorce Law Reform Union, and London Vegetarian Association.

Tickets, 2/6 from 3-6 Friday, 1/3 after 6 and on Saturday, from 144 High Holborn, from the Societies taking Stalls, and at the Door.

The Case of the Shorthand-Typist.

A Plea for a Clear Policy.

It is twelve months now since the urgent call for women workers ceased to be heard, and it should be possible to form some kind of view of the position of women workers a year after the end of the war.

To a certain extent their position is perhaps somewhat better than the pessimistic had prophesied. Women and girls employed on munitions have been, or are being, successfully drafted into other trades in urgent need of workers. Official labour reports show that employment among industrial workers is improving steadily.

Among educated clerical women workers the position is, however, far less promising, partly because it is so very obscure. Shorthand-typists and all classes of clerical workers are almost entirely unorganised, so that it is impossible to obtain any reliable estimate of unemployment, as in the case of the organised industrial workers. Facts, however, show us just as plainly as figures could that the position is most unsatisfactory.

While eighteen months ago an advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph* brought in barely twenty replies, a similar advertisement inserted the other day brought in

one hundred answers.

It is interesting to note that many had high qualifications and many years of experience to their credit. Nine out of ten were disengaged, and could keep an appointment "at any time of the day." Registry offices also have many applicants on their books eager to find work.

In the case of the replies to the advertisement, it was surprising to find how few of the applicants were from Government offices; enquiry showed that, while many have had to leave their posts through the return of demobilised soldiers whose places they took, a large number have had to leave in favour of discharged soldiers, under the new scheme for the employment of disabled men. In one newspaper office a very large percentage of the girls—many of whom are first-rate workers and have been there for years—have been told that their places are to be filled by men invalided from the Army. In another case, a Government office proposes to dismiss their women accountants, although it is admitted that there will be much expense and trouble incurred before the men are properly acquainted with the work, which is of a highly-skilled character.

No one, of course, will hesitate for a moment in saying that every man whose post has been kept open for him should be able to return to it at the earliest possible moment; nor will anyone hesitate in saying that the disabled man should not lack a job through his disability. At the same time, however, one cannot help feeling that there must be a way out without

dismissing hundreds of women,

many of whom are dependent on their earnings. Surely a scheme which dismisses competent workers from their posts is not being carried out in the right spirit. And have we not been told again and again that the country needs all its workers? In the meantime, hundreds of women are losing their posts or are in daily fear of so doing.

Yet while this is going on, we have young girls straight from their training schools—inexperienced, and often inefficient—trying to find their first post. The clerical world will be overstaffed for years, yet no effort is made to divert this stream of labour to other channels. Office work is popular because in its lower branches it needs little or no training. One wonders, however, if more could not be done to popularise other openings. Many girls are by no means

fitted for office work. It should surely not be impossible for them, if they were encouraged at school, to take up some trade and leave clerical work for those better suited to it. Office work may perhaps "sound well," but there are openings for girls in many skilled trades where, if properly trained, they can earn good wages under good conditions.

Would it not be possible for the girl worker of to-morrow to have her attention drawn to other fields of labour? Otherwise it seems inevitable that the shorthand-typist will be even more severely handicapped than she is to-day, which means, of course, that salaries will fall, and with them the general status of the educated woman worker.

EDITH CROHN.

[This is an interesting article on an important subject, but the writer hardly differentiates enough between the skilled and unskilled clerk. While thousands of the latter are being demobilised from the big War Departments and unable to find employment, the shorthand typist or secretary typist can still expect to hold her own.—Ed.]

Elsie Smith Not Yet Released!

The Prime Minister has not yet consented to receive our deputation of members of the Women's Freedom League, bearing a petition of close upon ten thousand signatures for Elsie Smith's release. A letter expressing regret at the delay has been sent to Mr. Lloyd George, with an intimation that a deputation of members of the Women's Freedom League will go to Downing Street on Thursday morning, November 20th, at 12 o'clock, and wait until they are received by the Prime Minister.

BRITISH WIVES OF ALIENS.

During the war the British wives of aliens have been in an unenviable position because, by the present law of the land, British women automatically lose their rights of nationality when they marry a foreigner. The British wives of alien enemies whose husbands have been interned or repatriated have, during the last few years, received a meagre sum from the Treasury to provide for themselves and their children who are being brought up here as British subjects. This sum was often inadequate for their needs, but hitherto it has been free from the taint of pauperism. The Ministry of Health, however, now that we have signed the Peace Treaty with our late enemies, has decided to bring these British wives of our former enemies under the Poor Law; and some of the Poor Law Guardians are protesting against this new order. Mrs. Nevinson is moving the following resolution at Hampstead this week:—

"That the Hampstead Board of Guardians protests against the recent order of the Ministry of Health, whereby the relief of the British-born wives of aliens is placed upon the Poor Law, as both unfair to the ratepayers and insulting to these loyal British women who refused 'repatriation,' preferring to remain in their own country and bring up their children as British subjects."

The Government has separated these women from their husbands. They remain loyal British women, in spite of the fact that the law of the land deprives them of their right to British nationality. We submit that the inalienable right of a woman to her own nationality, no matter whom she marries, should be firmly established in this country. Our law must recognise that a woman is not the chattel of her husband, but an independent human being with rights and responsibilities of her own.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Tolstoy's Widow.

The death is announced, at Yasnaya Polyana, on the 4th of this month, of Countess Sophie Andreievna Tolstoy, widow of the great Russian author and social reformer. Their marriage took place in 1862, in the Court church of the Kremlin at Moscow, the bridegroom being 34, and the bride 18 years of age. For many years they led a quiet, happy country life at Yasnaya Polyana, the Countess busying herself in teaching her own children and those of the peasants on the estate. Her husband allowed nothing to be done without her advice and approval, for the Countess, in spite of the claims of thirteen children, acted as Tolstoy's amanuensis and man of business. The Count was a devoted husband, with one exception—his ever-increasing obsession regarding wealth—but here the Countess stood firm, and demanded that the property should be made over to herself and her children. After Tolstoy's death in 1910, and during the Revolution, the Countess lived on the yearly grant allowed her, and, up to last year, confirmed by the Petrograd Council.

Women Conductors of Opera.

Mr. Albert Coates, who has recently undertaken the direction of the operatic class at the Royal College of Music, is busy training a special class of students as conductors, five of whom are women. Each member of the class has to take in hand an act of an opera and prepare it from beginning to end, coach the singers, take stage rehearsals, prepare the orchestra, and conduct. Mr. Coates believes it is the want of such trained teachers that has hampered the progress of English opera so long. Some well-known composers are amongst the pupils.

A Rice Queen.

American women occupy far more important positions in the trade world than is usual in this country. One of these business women, Mrs. M. A. Hayes, is now in London on an important mission from the rice-farmers of America. She has come to Europe at the request of the Southern Rice Growers' Association, which has a surplus of 500,000 tons of rice that it wishes to sell. She will also visit Germany, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Sweden with the same object. Mrs. Hayes began life as a commercial traveller, selling groceries, but is now an important person in the rice world, upon which she has concentrated for the last 16 years.

Australian Woman Aviator.

After only a month's training, Miss McMaugh, an Australian woman, has successfully passed her tests at the Central Aircrafts Co.'s Aerodrome, Northolt, Middlesex, and received the Royal Aero Club's pilot certificate. She is claimed to be the first Australian woman to take a pilot's certificate, and the first woman in the country to pass since the Armistice. Miss McMaugh has been working as a Red Cross nurse in France attached to the A.I.F.

An Unusual Experiment.

The Women's Forage Corps, which is being rapidly demobilised, is yet another instance of the successful performance by women of unusual work during the war. It may not be generally known that with Army forage work 25 different kinds of bags are used, ranging from flour sacks to charcoal containers, and in its busiest days the Corps handled three million bags of various contents every month.

Manx Women Voters.

In the newly-elected House of Keys of the Isle of Man, women over 21 are now voters for the first time. The members number 24, of whom 9 are Conservatives, 11 Liberal, and 4 Labour. This is also the first time Labour has been represented.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTES.

In some country districts the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements flourish with great strength; in others, because there is no capable scout-master or guide-mistress, there is room for some organisation which does for the young people what the Institute membership does for their elders. The sympathy of the mothers is almost a foregone conclusion whenever the formation of a Junior Group is mooted at any Institute meeting, and where a children's branch is affiliated to an elder association its progress becomes a matter of the keenest interest.

The first Junior Institute

was founded at Anstye, a small village in Sussex, really as a war memorial, the idea of which was that the children might learn true patriotism, the enthusiasm for home and country that made heroes of the common men of farm and mine and workshop. That the right chord was struck was shown by the children choosing for their motto "For England," two words aptly summing up what their society stood for. They formed their own committee with an equal number of girls and boys, and chose two secretaries, one of each sex. The hardest spirits were given the responsibility of bearing office.

Talks, followed by discussions and debates, are popular, but the subjects are qualities and types of character, rather than the practical topics which their elders usually favour. Any teaching given has to be indirect rather than direct, yet it may be effective for all that. What the boys and girls also appear to need is more

games training

that young people who go to public schools acquire as part of their education—that kind of training which, we like to think, gives the groundwork to our national character. An opportunity of learning what is meant by "playing the game" seldom comes to those whose education is considered finished when the seventh standard is reached. The Games Committee and Games Leaders are, therefore, important features to be considered when forming Children's Institutes.

The keenness of the children assured success at the outset to this movement in the village where it was first tried, and there is no reason to fear that the same spirit will not be in evidence elsewhere. Too much stress should not be laid on the definitely educative side, on forming classes for instruction, for example. The indirect method of teaching, of imparting knowledge or giving inspiration, is much more readily assimilated, while the chance of governing themselves is much appreciated. The opportunity of making their group or association the very life and soul of the village is one the children may be trusted not to neglect; if it becomes the cynosure of all eyes so much the better. Their love of performing in public may be turned to excellent account, and the learning of plays, and the

dramatisation of local history and legend,

are desirable. Folk-songs and glee-singing, Morris dancing—methods of making merry in olden time—should all be revived wherever a junior group is allied to a senior Institute.

We have to remember that there will be no wide-spread revival of agriculture until the villages become centres of life and interest for those who must work on the land. If we would stay the drift to the towns we must have attractions at home that foster a love of home and pride of place. Moreover, comradeship in play makes the best foundation for comradeship in work, and the strengthening of home associations will surely make for a purer future home life.

L. H. YATES.

Borstal boys and girls are no hardened and scheming villains; generally it is lack of discipline and thoughtlessness that have brought them to Borstal.—The Institution's annual report for 1919.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st. 1919.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... Post free, 6/6 per annum.

GEORGE ELIOT.

We are keeping this week the centenary of the birth of George Eliot, who (to quote an old biographer, writing shortly after her death) "will always be remembered as the most distinguished among women in the history of English literature."

Marian Evans (afterwards Mrs. Cross) was born November 22nd, 1819, in the parish of Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire, where her father was steward to Sir Roger Newdigate. Later she removed with her family to Foleshill, near Coventry, where she found facilities for the study of Greek, Latin, Hebrew, French and German. Her first published work was a translation of Strauss's "Leben Jesu." Later, in 1851, she came to London as assistant editor to the *Westminster Review*. Here she met George Henry Lewes, a follower of Auguste Comte, the Positivist, and a disciple of the trinity at Newton Hall, Fetter Lane—Congreve, Frederic Harrison and Beesley—of whose worship it was said that "there were three persons and no God."

She and Lewes (a married man with a family) lived together till 1878, and on his death that year she was married shortly afterwards to Mr. J. W. Cross, their union lasting only a few months, being cut short by her death in 1880. The human contradiction of George Eliot's *liaison* is summed up by Mrs. Carlyle's sharp tongue. "Fancy her an improper female. So dull."

Her first stories were published in *Blackwood's Magazine* and collected in 1858 under the title of "Scenes from Clerical Life," but the publication of "Adam Bede" in the following year brought the writer at once fame and popularity, and after reading it even Mrs. Carlyle "found herself in charity with the whole human race."

After this novels followed each other in quick succession—"The Mill on the Floss" (1860); "Silas Marner" (1861); "Romola" (1863); "Felix Holt" (1865); "Middlemarch" (1872); "Daniel Deronda" (1876); "Impression of Theophrastus Such" (1878). George Eliot wrote also a certain amount of poetry—"The Spanish Gipsy" (1868), and "The Legend of Jubal" (1874). Her lines: "Oh let me join the Choir Invisible" have become part of the English language, and are inscribed upon her gravestone in Highgate Cemetery.

George Eliot's early work is now generally recognised as her best. She knew thoroughly the rural life of the Midland village, and the characters of Mrs. Poyser, Mr. Tulliver, Dinah Morris, Aunt Glegg, and Aunt Pullet, mostly studies of her relations, will live for ever in their shrewd humour and pathos. Her later work was more laboured and deeply philosophical; she became too didactic, and so lost much of the artistic perfection of her first novels.

The sprightly Miss Savage, the friend of Samuel Butler, summed up the difficulties of the ordinary fiction-reader when she wrote to him in 1878: "There are many hard words in your book; but I don't mind them, for I have a dictionary which I bought two years ago, as I wished to read 'Daniel Deronda' in the original."

It seems doubtful whether George Eliot will keep the high position in literature she held in her lifetime. The younger generation read her little, if at all; her books stand on the shelves of public libraries, and are rarely asked for. The present generation is too impatient, too neurotic, to read the slow-moving romances written so carefully in the leisured days of the spacious Victorian era. Even to an older generation her writing seems out of date; she is too learned, too blatantly psychological—too much the pedagogue. She does not move us as do the daughters of the Yorkshire rectory. Few people make their pilgrimage to Foleshill, whilst multitudes still journey to Haworth. That wonderful trio have the true fire of genius which burns bright and clear in spite of time, but which, with all her learning, all her talent, all her power, George Eliot never quite possesses.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

IN MEMORIAM.

MR. W. A. COOTE, O.B.E.

Mr. Coote's death on October 26th was not unexpected. He had been in failing health for several months, but his interest in the work which had claimed his energies for over thirty years never slackened, and his disappointment was acute that he was no longer physically able to share in the long deferred reconstruction of the International Work for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic.

The marvellous work which he accomplished as secretary of the National Vigilance Association since its formation in 1885 was due to the magnetic personality and never-failing faith which were Mr. Coote's strongest attributes. As one said who had worked with him for many years: "There was a fire about him; it was a quiet flame, but it was always burning." He was never daunted, however black the outlook, and however apparently hopeless the difficulties to be overcome. To all social workers of every kind he proved himself a tremendous asset, laying at all times his large and varied experience generously at their disposal, despite the increasing claims of the years.

The Bishop of Winchester, in this month's *Vigilance Record*, draws attention to the fact that Mr. Coote's death a few years earlier would have been nothing short of a catastrophe, when the movement which he so gallantly championed had not yet gained sufficiently in strength and volume to be independent of individuals. Half a century ago the cause of national purity, never a popular one, incurred far greater odium even than nowadays. The evils which it attacked, though far more blatant, were more deeply buried from the public cognisance, not only by an accepted silence, but by sheer ignorance of certain physical facts. The individual in those days who dared to challenge these iniquities of evil was called upon to suffer every possible form of abuse and misunderstanding that distorted consciences could create.

"I quite remember the time," says the Bishop, "when the National Vigilance Association was a name the sound of which made even good people uneasy. It was meddlesome and spying; it was hardly decent; it was a foolish attempt at the impossible. Only a few recognised the truth that here . . . was a real crusade . . . fighting against the strongest of the enemies that not only defile life, but trample down in cruelty innocence and weakness."

REMEMBER!

OUR
GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR,
AT
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,
Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th,
A WEEK TO-DAY!

Opened at 3 p.m. by Mrs. Besant, on Friday.
Lady Buckmaster, on Saturday.

Chairman each day: MRS. DESPARD.

Admission:

FRIDAY: 2/6 from 3-6 p.m.; 1/3 after 6 p.m.

SATURDAY: 1/3 all day.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

General Stall.—Useful and fancy articles of every description and Christmas presents.—Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tanner.

White Stall.—Hand-made, hand-embroidered lingerie, by members of the League, Ladies and Children's underclothing, tea-cloths, d'oyleys, household linen, etc.—Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Holmes and Miss Mustard.

Variety Stall (kindly provided by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes).—Fine pictures. Choice pieces of china and glass.—Miss Raleigh, Mrs. and Miss Presbury and Miss Freda Maunder.

Handkerchief Stall.—Handkerchiefs of various kinds; useful, saleable articles of all descriptions; Christmas presents.—Miss A. Underwood, Miss Marian Reeves, and Miss A. C. White.

Toy Stall.—Doils and toys of every kind.—The Misses Stutchery and Miss Avila.

Montgomery Boroughs Stall.—General Stall (1): Knitted goods, warm woollen clothing, under-garments, fancy articles, Welsh costume dolls, toys. Home-made and farmhouse produce Stalls (2 and 3): Christmas puddings, mincemeat, cakes of all kinds, groceries, preserves, fruit. Alix M. Clark, assisted by Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Earengy, Mrs. and Miss Elias, Mrs. Dixon, Misses Codd, Miss Felix Jones and Miss Alice Kirkham.

Manchester Stall.—Splendid selection of attractive goods.—Miss M. I. Neal, Miss Anna Munro, and Miss Sackur.

South-Eastern Branches Stall.—Charming variety of fancy and useful articles.—Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Kither, Mrs. Taylor Sabin, Mrs. and Miss Perry, Mrs. Brock Lane, and Miss White.

Penny Stall.—An entertaining novelty for all.—Miss White.

Literature Stall.—All kinds of books, calendars, diaries, writing pads, varieties of cigarettes as Christmas presents, etc.—Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Bergman, Miss B. Woods, and Councillor Ada Broughton.

Vote Stall (in memory of Mrs. Snow, kindly provided by Mr. Snow).—Blouses, dressing gowns, fancy drapery, tea-cloths, lace, etc.—Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, Mrs. Newsome, Mrs. Northcroft and Miss Jacob.

Miss Pierotti as the Old Lady of a Hundred Pockets, with wonderful presents for sixpenny dips.

Other stalls at this Fair have been taken by: The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement; League of the Church Militant; Free Church League; Catholic Women's Suffrage Society; Women's International League; the Independent W.S.P.U.; the Friends of Armenia; the Handicrafts; Divorce Law Reform Union; and the London Vegetarian Association.

Send us Goods for Christmas Presents, and Buy your Christmas Presents from us.

What are you doing for the Fair?

DO IT NOW!

The Fair Secretary wishes to thank all those who have so generously sent gifts and offers of help in response to her letter. Many more helpers are, of course, needed, and a large number of articles for the stalls are still required. Every gift, great or small, in money or in kind, counts and helps, and should reach Headquarters, 144, High Holborn, by Thursday, November 27th.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

The Fair Committee have arranged a most interesting and varied programme. There will be Concerts and Costume Dancing, Music, etc., a Children's Costume, Irish Jig, Dramatic Recitals, and Songs. All members will be glad to know that Mrs. Thomson-Price has most kindly consented to give Psychic Delineations on Saturday, and the services of Madame Luke have also been secured on both days for similar Delineations. Mr. D'Arcy Denny, the well-known Psycho-Dietist, has kindly offered to give public and private demonstrations in head reading. Parents will welcome this opportunity of obtaining valuable information. Refreshments served at moderate prices.

A MODEL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

On Saturday afternoon, at 4.30, a Model Parliamentary Election will be held. The six women candidates will each give an election address of five minute length, after which each candidate will be exposed to five minutes heckling. Then polling will take place.

THE CANDIDATES.

Miss Nina Boyle (Conservative).
Miss Froud (Women Teachers' Candidate).
Councillor Beatrice Kent (Nurses' Candidate).
Miss Anna Munro (Independent).
Mrs. Keevil Rickford (Labour).
Miss F. A. Underwood (Ind. Liberal).

The Chairman will be Miss Janet Gibson.

The Proportional Representation Society are providing the ballot papers, and taking the count. A short explanation of the system will be given, and the voting will provide a practical demonstration of the working of this method. All over 21 are urged to vote.

COME TO THE POLLING BOOTH.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

Contributions are specially needed for:—

(1) SPECIAL INJUSTICES FUND.

To get Elsie Smith out of Prison, and for immediate action when similar cases occur.

(2) GREEN, WHITE, & GOLD FUND.

The only satisfactory way to conduct a money-making enterprise is to have all the expenses guaranteed before the opening.

Hall, printing, advertising and postage are each and all heavy items and I look to all readers of the "Vote" to send me enough money to cover them before the end of next week.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

WHY WOMEN NEED WOMEN LAWYERS!

In her lecture to the Women's Freedom League last Wednesday afternoon Miss M. I. Ingram (Law Tripos Cantab.) stated that the demand for opening the legal profession to women was not of recent date. In the 18-seventies Miss Beatrice Orme had tried to get into the solicitors' profession, and had worked as an unofficial legal assistant, but afterwards became a political agent. In 1903 Miss Bertha Cave approached the Benchers and asked to be admitted to one of the Inns of Court. On their refusal she took the matter to the Judges, who upheld the Benchers' decision. Miss Normanton recently experienced similar treatment. In 1913 four University women (Miss Ingram among them) applied for entry to the preliminary examination of the Law Society for Solicitors. Their fees, however, were returned with a note to the effect that if they presented themselves for the examination they would not be admitted. The women brought an action against the Law Society, but the Judge held (and his decision was confirmed by the Court of appeal) that under the existing law women were not eligible to become solicitors. Twice recently a private Bill

to open the legal profession to women

has passed the House of Lords, but not the Commons. Last summer the Law Society passed a resolution that it would not oppose any Bill enabling women to become solicitors. Now there was every hope that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill introduced by the Government in July in the House of Lords would soon become law, and that women would be able to enter either branch of the legal profession by the end of the year.

Miss Ingram ably dealt with some of the objections advanced by the opponents of women's entry into the legal profession. It had been contended that this was a profession which had to deal with cases of great delicacy, and therefore it was not suitable for women. But women, and often children, were immediately concerned in the majority of such cases which came into the Courts. How could it be unsuitable that women should be employed there as solicitors? Had these opponents ever protested against women being employed in rescue work? It had also been said that the Law Courts was no place for really nice women. But were not women there already, as witnesses, prisoners, plaintiffs and defendants? How could it be unsuitable that women should be employed in dealing with divorce cases, or separation or affiliation orders?

From her experience as a lecturer on Industrial Law to audiences of working men and women, it had frequently been brought home to Miss Ingram that while Parliament made laws it evidently appeared to be

nobody's business

to explain those laws to the people. She hoped that in future there would be legal firms composed of men and women—with women as well as men partners. In family affairs it would sometimes be of great advantage to be able to call in the advice and assistance of a woman lawyer. Where the interests of children were concerned there could be no two views about the helpfulness of a woman lawyer. Miss Ingram maintained that with the ever-growing numbers of women taking part in industry and commerce women lawyers were very necessary. For women's unions, too, women's colleges, and women's societies generally, it would be extremely useful to be able to employ women lawyers; and the speaker considered that nothing but good could come from having women lawyers in Parliament.

The proposed extension of Bedford College will cost something like £250,000. The number of students has increased from 300 to 550, of whom 180 are resident.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Ploughshare and Pruning-Hook. By Laurence Housman. (Swarthmore Press.) Price 6s. net. (Can be obtained from this office.)

This book by Mr. Housman consists of ten essays, originally given as lectures between the years of 1911 and 1918, on social subjects. The author states that they make no pretence to the solution of the social and political problems with which they are concerned. They are, however, a direct challenge to many of our institutions, to the self-complacent hypocrisies of society, and to some of our cherished beliefs. Mr. Housman is an honest thinker and a critical observer of life. No one can read the second of these essays on "Crime and Punishment" and be satisfied with our social system which so largely manufactures criminals. "What is Womanly," will probably be the favourite essay of our readers, who will certainly agree with the statement, "You must give to women, as you give to men, the right to experiment, the right to make their own successes and their own failures." Freedom Leaguers will remember the politician who is dealt with in the chapter entitled "Discreditable Conduct," and will be glad that at least one of our opponents secured his deserts in the political world. In "Use and Ornament," as well as in "Art and Citizenship," Mr. Housman pleads for good craftsmanship in all life's work; revels in the unspoiled tradition of beauty which still exists in the cottage gardens of England and the revival of folk-songs and Morris dances; and because he believes in the Joy of Life asserts that "All art is profoundly useful," in opposition to Oscar Wilde, who maintained that "All art is entirely useless." Mr. Housman is primarily an artist, which enhances his value as a critic, and readers will find passages of singular beauty in the last essay on "Conscious and Unconscious Immortality." The title of this book is well chosen, for the author, sometimes ruthlessly, turns up the ground of our ideas, traditions and prejudices, shakes them to their foundations, and cuts off, without ceremony, the hindrances which impede the growth of new ideas and ideals.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

(To the Editor of THE VOTE.)

Dear Madam,—I note with deep regret the passing from our midst of Mr. W. A. Coote. More than once I appealed to him for help in special cases of danger to girls, and always found him deeply and practically interested and helpful. During the active Suffrage campaign I became involved in a rather acrid correspondence in a religious weekly anent an assertion of mine that votes for women would help to end the white slave traffic. I went to Mr. Coote for facts. He was disappointingly non-committal. "My committee is made up of Suffrage pros and antis, and it would never do for me to take a side." But he finished our talk, as he saw me into the lift, thus: "Best wishes for the triumph of your cause. When you get votes I shall soon lose my job—but don't you tell anybody I said so."—Yours truly,

ANNIE L. WHEATLEY.

THE WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

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On TUESDAY, 9th DECEMBER, at 7 p.m. followed by a LECTURE at 8 p.m.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, November 22.—Sewing Meeting for the Fair (Handkerchief Stall), at the Maze Parlour, Hampton Court Road. Tea at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, November 26.—Public Meeting Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Subject: "Come, and She Cometh; Go, and She Goeth."

Friday, November 28.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Central Hall, Westminster. Opening Ceremony 3 p.m., Mrs. Besant.

Saturday, November 29.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Central Hall, Westminster. Opening Ceremony 3 p.m., Lady Buckmaster.

Wednesday, December 3.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss M. A. Tata, B.A. (Hons.); Representative Bombay Women's Association and 45 Indian Women's Associations. Subject: "Indian Women and the Vote."

Monday, December 8.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café 6 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Health Through Sneezing."

Wednesday, December 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. G. S. P. Haynes. Subject: "The Divorce Law as it Affects Women."

Saturday, December 13.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 a.m.

PROVINCES.

Friday, November 21.—Rye. Members' Meeting, 4, High Street (by kind permission of Mrs. Wells).

Tuesday, November 25.—Ashford. Women's Club Meeting at the South Ashford Adult School at 2.30. Speaker: Miss Newsome. Subject: "Why We Need Women Magistrates."

Monday, December 1.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend-on-Sea, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Alexander. Subject: "State Endowment of Motherhood."

Monday, December 1.—Bexhill. Public Meeting, Room over Kahveh Café, 3 p.m.

Monday, December 7.—Middlesbrough. Social Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, Linthorpe Road, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, December 8.—Middlesbrough. Jumble Sale, All Saints' Schoolroom, at 3 p.m.

Monday, December 8.—Middlesbrough. Branch Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, at 8 p.m.

Monday, December 15.—Middlesbrough. Social Evening, Suffrage Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, 7.30 p.m. Silver collection. Miss W. M. Jones will read a play written by herself entitled, "Gains and Losses."

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, December 4.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting at 44, George IV. Bridge, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Aimée Gibbs. Subject: Miss M. P. Willcock's "New Horizons."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, December 9.—Women's Co-operative Guild, Bloxhall, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton. Speaker: Miss Newsome. Subject: "Women as Magistrates."

Thursday, December 11.—London Women's Question Group. Meeting at 72, Burleigh Road, S.W. (by kind permission of Miss Fryer). Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Magistrates." 8 p.m.

WOMEN PREACHERS.

Miss Maude Royden will preach at the City Temple on Sunday, November 23rd, at 6.30. Subject: "The Revelation of Man." Miss E. Picton-Turbervill will preach at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Thursday, November 20th, at 1.15. Subject: Series of addresses—"What is the Kingdom of God?"

On November 11th the House of Lords, in discussing the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill as amended by the House of Commons, rejected the amendment by which peeresses would be eligible to sit and vote in the Upper House. The following extracts from the debate in that House may be of interest to our readers in showing the extraordinary workings of the anti-suffragist mind:—

The Lord Chancellor (our old friend F. E. Smith, a comparatively newly-begged peer): For centuries the constitution of the House has been arranged on a masculine basis. It is now proposed that it should be so altered that peeresses in their own right should become eligible for membership. . . . If we are to be abolished, I think I would rather perish in the exclusive company of members of my own sex.

Viscount Chaplin: As I opposed woman suffrage in the other House of Parliament, I venture to intrude for a few moments in the debate which has just commenced. . . . No one can deny that the question of admitting peeresses to sit and vote in their own right in this House ought to be one that should come under the consideration of whatever Government has to undertake the passing through Parliament of a Bill for the reform of your Lordships' House. In those circumstances I am afraid that I am quite impenitent on the subject of women taking an active part in either House of Parliament. I hope that the day may be long distant when it will be the practice of women to sit in as large a number as possible in Parliament. That, I think, is also the opinion of the great majority of the women of this country, as is shown by the fact that, although women have a large majority of votes at present, only a single woman was returned at the last General Election, and she is a lady who I suppose must be called a rebel, and has never attempted in consequence to take her seat in the House of Commons, of which by law she is at present a member.

The Marquess of Crewe: I confess that when I saw that this amendment had been moved in another place I conceived that it had been done in an almost jocular spirit—almost as jocular as if the National Debt had been the subject of the discussion there; and that it was done with a view, perhaps, to place your Lordships' House in a somewhat absurd and anomalous position. I am entirely in agreement with the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack that so long, at any rate, as there is any prospect of the reform of your Lordships' House, we ought not to attempt to alter the existing constitution of the House in this way.

Viscount Finlay: I suppose no one who has thought about the subject at all can doubt that a change of an important character in the constitution of this House may be contemplated, but is it not inopportune to rush a broad principle of this sort into this Statute, and that, instead of leaving it, as in the natural course of things it would be left, to this House itself to initiate a proposal with regard to its own constitution, it should appear as an amendment to a Bill which has gone down from this House to the Commons and been sent back by them to us? As a matter of courtesy between the two Houses, I think that the initiation of this matter ought to be allowed to rest with your Lordships.

The Earl of Jersey: If any innovation such as this is to be brought about, are we not entitled to claim that it should originate in this House? I am sure I shall be exonerated from any intention of discourtesy to those ladies who are desirous of gracing this House with their presence, if any such there be, when I appeal to your Lordships, whatever your views may be on the particular question, to decline to accept the amendment sent down to this House from another place.

It was not, of course, in any way difficult for our friends, Lord Haldane and the Earl of Kimberley, to deal with our opponents' arguments; but their speeches did not prevent the House of Lords from formally disagreeing with the Commons' amendment.

The Bill is not expected to return to the House of Commons this week; but we hope that our friends in the Commons will use every effort to secure that the Bill as it stands—even without the amendment regarding the peeresses—shall become law *this session*. It is a very small instalment towards the removal of all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women, so glibly promised by the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law last December; but it is an instalment, and we want to see it on the Statute Book without further delay.

DRAWING ROOM MEETING.

By the kind permission of Miss E. M. Baker, a drawing-room meeting was held at 4, Flanders Road, Bedford Park, on Friday, November 14th. Owing to the inclement weather the audience was small, but those who were present much enjoyed Miss Raleigh's speech on "The Tyranny of Custom," and all took part in the interesting discussion. The various aspects of the work of the Women's Freedom League were touched upon, and several copies of THE VOTE were sold at the end of the meeting.

FRIDAY,
NOV. 21,
1919.

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BRANCH NOTES.

MANCHESTER.

On Monday, November 10th, the fourth meeting of our Study Circle was held, when Miss M. E. Powell, lecturer in economics at the Manchester University, introduced the subject of "Married Women in Industry." The discussion which followed proved intensely interesting, and was only cut short by the lateness of the hour. As many of us are very ignorant on the subject of the land, we have decided to have a discussion at our next meeting, November 24th, on "The Land Question."

At these meetings our members knit or sew, and we are hoping to see the results of their labours at the Fair. We are arranging a dance for Wednesday, November 26th, to be held at the Women's University Union, Lime Grove (Oxford Road), from 7 to 10.30 p.m.

May I appeal to our Southport readers to help me to form a branch of the League in Southport? There must be many women, I know, waiting to attach themselves to our movement. We are only just starting the work of educating women. All communications with regard to the formation of a branch of the League in Southport should be addressed to—

M. SACKUR, 149, Plymouth Grove, Manchester.

SWANSEA.

The Jumble Sale held on November 8th was quite a success, and the proceeds amounted to over six guineas. We are very grateful to all those who kindly sent parcels and gave their assistance at the actual sale.

MRS. JELLEY (Hon. Sec.), 14, Carlton Terrace.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Will members please come forward with offers of help for the Jumble Sale on December 8th? All parcels to be sent to Suffrage Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road. At the social evening, on December 15th, other items will be arranged in addition to Miss W. M. Jones's play, and light refreshments will be provided.

MISS D. BARRS (Hon. Sec.), 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road.

ASHFORD.

The Women's Club meeting will be held this winter at the South Ashford Adult School (by kind invitation of the Women's Adult School). Miss Newsome is coming on the last Tuesday in this month. The meeting will open at 2.30. Penny tea tickets can be obtained of Mrs. Goldsmith, 159, Godinton Road, and Mrs. Ware, 3, Sturges Road.

RYE.

A members' meeting will be held at 4, High Street (by kind permission of Mrs. Wells), on Friday, November 21st, at 6.30 p.m. We hope to elect a secretary and treasurer, and make all arrangements for Mrs. Despard's visit on December 17th; and also plan a campaign for the winter at this meeting. We expect great things of this very new branch. We have only had two meetings, but already have 20 members.

BEXHILL.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1st, in the room over the Kahveh Café, at 3 p.m. We are also trying to send a speaker to the Bexhill Sisterhood that day at 7.30 p.m.

MISS WHITE (Organiser), Magazine House, Winchelsea.

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