

THE VOTE,
JAN. 5, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

THE UNIVERSAL DUSTBIN!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 1923

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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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE LEAGUE AND THE VOTE.

MRS. DESPARD'S MESSAGE.

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW MEMBERS,

Though absent from you in body, and separated in work, my thoughts are often with you, and I rejoice in the opportunity given to me by your gallant little organ, *THE VOTE*, to send you a New Year's Message.

"Peace and goodwill!" Alas! our world is so shattered—such terrible deeds are being done—such misery is being endured—that in our dark moments the very words seem a mockery. And yet, always, and specially at this season, they fall from our lips. It is to the growth in numbers, wisdom, and power of the Woman's Movement all over the world that I look for their fulfilment. Woman, Labour, and Religion in its broadest aspect—these are the forces through which Society is to be redeemed.

Therefore, my message to the dear League over which I presided so long, is, "Let us not relax in our efforts, for 'in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.'"

I draw hope and confidence from the fact that young women—children when the League began its labours—are now active workers. To them, as to the stalwart workers and fighters of the brave old days, I send a message of love and of hope.

Your next step must be what we already have in Ireland—"adult suffrage."

We, in this distracted land, are gathering ourselves together to achieve the Peace we have not yet. That is—that must be—women's work, always. And, when Peace has come, the building up of a world-order, in and through which, all things beautiful and fair, beginning with the children, may have room to grow.

With love, and in the spirit of comradeship,

Your friend and fellow-worker,

C. DESPARD.

Miss Elizabeth Berry.

To all members of the League, and readers of *THE VOTE*, I send the best of good wishes for a really happy and successful New Year. I sincerely trust that one and all, throughout the year, will remember our next Green, White, and Gold Fair, which will be held on November 23rd and 24th, at the Central Hall. All who read *THE VOTE* must be interested in the work of the League; will they, therefore, devote some of their spare time each week to work for the Fair, and so help to provide the ammunition for the League to fight the Cause of Women in 1923?

Mrs. Schofield Coates.

The world cannot be set right until women are free. So, for the sake of humanity, whatever our position or age, let us strive our utmost to bring about the complete emancipation of women. There is no better cause to which we can devote our efforts in 1923.

Councillor Ballard Dawson.

May the year 1923 bring to the Women's Freedom League renewed vision and strength, and may her high endeavour be crowned with mighty achievement!

Dr. Knight.

1923 must be the date of Women's Political Equality. This is *our* work. In twelve months we can do it, and we are all determined that it shall be done. After next December, no woman over 21 must be without the Parliamentary vote, and no questions must be asked her about her furniture, or where she eats her breakfast; she must come under exactly the same rules as her brother. *We can do this, and it is most worth doing of all.*

We must close up our ranks, and offer a firm, compact front. Success depends on the work of every member. Each one of us must bring in others to the League, and work heartily in its support. An increased income is a necessity, and we look to every member to work hard in the preparations for the Spring Sale and "Fair," and other efforts to make money through the year. *Think out other ways, and let us know.*

United pressure and persistence will, in the end, bring us victory, with, it may be, an unexpected collapse of the opposition now so stubbornly confronting us.

Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E.

In wishing THE VOTE a very successful, as well as a happy year, I should like to plead with all the members to do even more work for THE VOTE and the Women's Freedom League. Surely a good resolve for all of us would be to get, every month, one more reader for THE VOTE—one more member for the League. Only so can women's freedom be really won.

Miss Anna Munro.

Anything worth having is worth working for. Posterity will owe a great deal to the Women's Freedom League if we work as hard in the future as we have done in the past—and we will!

Miss C. Neal.

When thinking of a greeting for the year about to commence, one's thoughts inevitably travel backwards over the year that is ended, with a view to noting to what extent one's wishes for it have been fruitful. In spite of women's lower status in the industrial world through unemployment, and the age-old belief that, in such circumstances, the man must suffer last, considerable progress has been made in other directions. Eleven women have been admitted to the Bar, and two of them have conducted cases in the Courts; four women have become solicitors; the number of women architects and accountants is increasing; one woman has sailed the seas as a ship's engineer; and one woman has become a fully certificated veterinary surgeon. During the coming year, may there always be found women ready to take advantage of every opportunity that offers; may they wisely use their position and power so as to help to wear down sex-prejudice, and so make the path of women's progress still wider and easier for the feet of those that come after them.

Miss M. I. Neal.

A Happy New Year to all our readers! For women the prospect is depressing. Politicians (as usual) have played us false. The Sex Disqualifications (Removal) Act has been proved a sham; attacks on our recently won, and still only partial, freedom are being made on all sides. But the dark outlook will be a blessing in disguise if it brings women once more together to defend their position, as the cry, "Votes for Women," brought them together to claim it. Let our motto for 1923 be, "United we stand," and happiness will be found in work for our League and our Cause.

Mrs. Pierotti.

My New Year Greeting to THE VOTE is that it may succeed in all it undertakes.

Mrs. Whetton.

A better New Year to the readers of THE VOTE and members of the Women's Freedom League. The most serious problem of 1922 was unemployment. May 1923 see every unemployed woman and man earning a decent and honourable living!

A NEW YEAR APPEAL.

DEAR READERS,

This is my first appearance in 1923. I am a sturdy little plant, and have survived the war, and I know that I can grow far bigger and stronger. But if I am to go forward in the New Year,

YOU MUST RALLY TO MY ASSISTANCE!

Some of you write; send me live stories and articles on burning questions of the day. Others read: I am always grateful for reviews of new books of feminist interest. Others are in the arena, fighting shoulder to shoulder in the age-long struggle for women's freedom. Every time you meet success, send me the latest record of any particular achievement, and I shall be proud to give it a prominent place. Some of you live abroad, and come across very varying

WOMEN & GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

Both Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham have done yeoman service, in the House of Commons, on behalf of women in Government offices. On one of the last days of the Session, Mrs. Wintringham asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he was aware that, under the Lytton Report for the employment of ex-Service men in the Civil Service, fit home-service men were being substituted for women temporary clerks who served in Government Departments during the war, and who were thereby precluded from volunteering for war service; and if, in the interests of economy in the Civil Service, the Government would consider the discretion of not permitting further substitution in Departments like the Taxes Branch of the Inland Revenue, where the replacement of experienced technical clerks by men not so qualified was likely to impede the efficiency of the Department? Mr. Baldwin replied that it was the accepted policy of His Majesty's Government to accord preference in the matter of employment in the Civil Service to ex-Service men. At the present time the number of men who served overseas, or who were disabled, was normally more than sufficient to fill such vacancies as existed, or could be effected by substitution. Where this was not the case, ex-Service men who were not sent overseas were accorded preference over temporary women clerks taken on during the war. The question of the further substitution of temporary women clerks by ex-Service men in the Department of Inland Revenue was at present under consideration, and in arriving at a decision, full regard would be had to the need for the maintenance of the efficiency of the Department.

Replying next day to a question by Lady Astor, Major Barnston (Comptroller of the Household) acknowledged that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had received a deputation from the Association of Ex-Service Civil Servants with reference to the further substitution of women in Government offices, and that temporary ex-Service personnel in Government Departments would continue to be substituted, wherever possible, by ex-Service men. Lady Astor then asked if any women's organisations concerned had been consulted in the matter? He could give no reply to that question, but promised to send representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lady Astor insisted that this was a very important matter.

WANTED—MORE WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

Strong representations are being made to the Advisory Committee, urging the appointment of more women Justices of the Peace, and we understand that there is a prospect of the early appointment of additional women magistrates. The Women's Freedom League has always urged that there should be an equal number of women with men on every magistrates' bench throughout the country.

phases of the Women's Movement. Send me special news of any interesting happening in your particular part.

DO SOMETHING, HOWEVER SMALL!

Make suggestions! Make objections! My back is broad! I do not mind how you pull me to pieces, provided you have a practical suggestion to improve me. Write me letters for "Our Open Column." Improve my circulation by talking about me to your friends. Advertise with me, and support my advertisers. Be ambitious on my behalf.

I GO FORWARD OR GO BACKWARD,

according to the way in which you help me in the coming year. My grateful thanks to those who have helped to make me so readable in 1922.

Your faithful servant, THE VOTE.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Equality in the States.

At the recent meeting of the National Council of Women in the United States, a declaration of principles was adopted, the Council undertaking to attack every inequality between the sexes in government, education, and all professions, in salaries, nationality, marriage and divorce, rights of guardianship, etc., and to strive for the establishment of equality in the moral standard.

Doctor Honoris Causa.

Fraülein Hélène Simon, the author of a large number of scientific works touching on social problems, has received from the University of Heidelberg the title of Doctor honoris causa. Fraülein Simon has interested herself particularly in the condition of the workers, and the protection of children.

Frenchwomen and Universities.

A law is now before the French parliament which proposes to give teachers in all grades of secondary and higher education for women the right to be represented upon the same terms as are their men colleagues on educational assemblies and university councils. At present they have no representation on the higher and academic councils, and no woman is consulted when decisions are made concerning the education of girls.

Belgian Women's Progress.

Mlle. Clervens, a doctor at Ghent, has gone to the Congo to direct the Bureau of Hygiene at Stanleyville. The Belgian Union of the League of Nations, under the presidency of M. Paul Hymans, has elected four women on to its committee of 24, Mlle. Marguerite van de Wiele (Neuter), Mme. Spaak (Socialist), Mme. Carton de Wiart (Catholic), and Mme. Jane Brigode (Liberal).

Dutch Women Colonists.

At the Hague a preparatory school has been instituted for women and girls going to the Dutch colonies. They will follow a course in child-culture, native languages, religion, and customs, so that when they become mistresses of houses they shall understand their native servants. A model of a native room has been erected at the school, with servants from Java.

Danish Women Engineers.

Thirty-four women have completed their engineering studies at the Polytechnic College at Copenhagen. Countess Bille-Brahe Selby is a sailor on board the *Selandia*. She is apprenticed as electrical engineer.

Roumanian Women's Petition.

The Central League of Bucarest, under the Chairmanship of Mme. Lucia Teodorescu Nichifer, has presented a petition signed by 4,000 women, demanding that the pensions for war widows shall be the same as those for war invalids.

Women Rabbis.

After a debate lasting two days, the American Congress of Rabbis, at the request of the daughter of a professor at Cincinnati, who has completed her studies, decided to admit women to ordination. The Jewish College of Cincinnati will henceforth admit women, who will now be able to become Rabbis.

Women Printers and Equal Pay.

Equal pay for equal work has just been made the rule in the Government Printing Office in Washington. Increases of from 10 to 20 cents an hour have been given to 215 women, at least a part of the increase being gained by decreasing the salaries of about 200 men.

Women Veterinary Students.

Other women are following Miss Cust's example, and preparing themselves as qualified veterinary surgeons. One is Miss Edith Knight, who has only to pass the final examination to be qualified to practise as a veterinary surgeon. Another woman student is preparing to be a veterinary surgeon at Liverpool, and three more at the Dublin Veterinary College.

Women in the Ministry.

The first woman elder in the Durham Presbytery and in the North of England has been elected at Tow Law Presbyterian Church. She is Miss Samuel, a sister of two former ministers of Tow Law, and is the second woman to be elected an elder in the Presbyterian Church of England. In the Willington (Durham) Methodist Circuit, two women preachers have been accepted.

Adventurous Woman Pioneer.

Lady Dorothy Mills, daughter of the Earl of Orford, left Liverpool last week for West Africa. This time she is going to venture as far as Timbuctoo. She is alone, and will be away until April. Last year, Lady Dorothy spent six days amongst cavemen in the Tripolitan Mountains.

A Progressive Turkish Woman.

Dr. Adrian Bey, ex-Vice President of the Angora Assembly, has become Governor of Constantinople. His wife is a sergeant in the Turkish Army, and holds advanced views on the emancipation of women. She is known as the Turkish Joan of Arc.

A Y.W.C.A. Survey.

Miss Mary Dingman, who heads the international industrial work of the World's Committee of the Y.W.C.A., has just returned to America from England, where she has been inaugurating an industrial school, to which students came from 16 countries. Miss Dingman is now on her way to conduct a two-years' industrial survey of the Far East, and will visit China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

American Woman Auctioneer.

Miss Lilian G. Lagonarsino, of Woodhaven, Long Island, is reported to be the first American woman to receive an auctioneer's licence. She has already conducted her first sale of household effects.

German Woman Solicitor.

Miss Maria Otto, LL.D., is Germany's first woman solicitor. She has been working in a solicitor's office in Munich for the last four years, and has now been sworn in at the Munich Law Courts.

Woman Barrister's Speech.

In a recent test case in Huntingdon, the case for the appellant, Mr. George Wheeler, solicitor, of St. Ives, was argued in a speech lasting over an hour by his daughter, Miss E. M. Wheeler, one of the recently admitted women barristers.

SWISS WOMEN & PROGRESS.

The Suffrage Movement has made very little progress in Switzerland since the last Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, at Geneva, in 1920. The Grand Council at Geneva pronounced in favour of Women's Suffrage in September, 1921, but a month later the principle was rejected by a public referendum, 14,169 votes against 6,634. Women's Suffrage has also been rejected by the Grand Council of Vaud, and by the Landesgemeinde of Glarus (1921), also at Tessin and St. Gall.

Some little progress, however, is recorded in women's position in Church affairs. At Basle, in November, 1920, the electors (men and women) of the National Reformed Protestant Church of the town of Basle declared women eligible for the offices of the church, such as synods, church councils, parish councils, etc. This is the first time that women have voted on the extension of their own rights. At Zurich, the Grand Council has voted, by 98 votes to 85, in favour of giving women the vote, and eligibility for election in matters scholastic and ecclesiastical (except as priests), as guardians, and in the management of public charity (May, 1922). This law, however, has yet to be passed by the people. In Thurgau, the Commons have yet to give their decision on granting the ecclesiastical suffrage to women.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1923.

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

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.

THE UNIVERSAL DUSTBIN

Unemployment amongst women is increasing every day in this country. Not only are working women, in common with working men, the victims of trade depression, but, in consequence of the continued unemployment amongst men, employers of labour, following the example of the Government, show an increasing reluctance to give any kind of remunerative work to women. "Men and boys first!" is the acknowledged rule in the present distress and chaos of our industrial system. There are now nearly 200,000 women registered at the employment exchanges as out of work, but this figure is very far below the total workless women, a very great many of whom, for a variety of reasons, do not register at these exchanges. It must not be forgotten that numbers of these women, from the early days of the war, enthusiastically obeyed their country's call, and plunged into munition work, engineering, and every other kind of work, which they did remarkably well, but which entirely unfitted them for what has been euphemistically called "women's natural work," "the oldest form of women's work"—domestic service. As soon as the war was over, these same women, owing to a bargain previously made between men trade unionists, men employers, and the Government (consisting entirely of men), were thrown out of work, and a systematic dismissal of all women taken into Government offices during the war was immediately begun. Many women now unemployed have been workless for two years. Several Members of Parliament, and various men and women writers to the daily Press, are clamouring for the absorption of all these women into the homes of unfortunate mistresses who find it difficult to secure servants, regardless of the facts that the unemployed women are not all young, and that they are totally untrained for work in such homes, many of them having been accustomed all their lives to live in one room, in which they have slept, cooked, done their washing and their work, and some of them have no notion of laying a table, or even using a tablecloth! They may have been engaged in tailoring, brush making, doll dressing, tin-box making, chain making, canteens, engineering trades, fish curing, lace making, brick making, in factories, or in countless other ways—it doesn't in the least matter to these zealous advocates of compulsory domestic service for women, who say openly that no unmarried woman, no matter what her previous occupation, training, or experience, should receive any assistance whatever when unemployed, if she cannot or does not at once find a job in domestic service. If all unemployed women took these thoughtless, would-be arrangers of women's destiny at their word, would not the plight of the women who rule our homes be infinitely worse than it is at present? Could these women, wholly untrained in domestic work, be of any use in a well-organised household? Not only do men want to see workless women disappear into other people's homes in this country, but a well-known cleric is supporting, in the daily Press, an effort to promote the emigration of educated British women to Australia. Such women are promised immediate employment as home companions! The home as the only suitable sphere for women continues to be the obsession of all kinds and

all classes of men. Schemes of employment can be devised for workless men, but for women of all classes, of every variety of capacity, training, and experience, there is one universal dustbin—domestic service. These zealots in the cause of domestic service for women will not even allow it to be raised to the level of a skilled trade; they openly grudge the money spent by the Central Committee on Women's Employment for the training of women in domestic service. At very little expense to the Government, over ten thousand women have been trained by the efforts of this Committee, and nearly 70 per cent. have been successfully absorbed in households throughout the country, although at first there was no undertaking given to enter domestic service at the end of such training. Five thousand other women are now being trained under this scheme, but the training will have to cease on March 31st, unless the Minister of Labour can see his way to make a further grant to the Committee. It is stated that there are thousands of young unemployed women eager to be trained for this work, and we certainly think, if this is the case, that municipalities might share with the Government the cost of such training for girls and women who would benefit by it; but we emphatically protest against domestic service being the only outlet for unemployed women's activities. Many women, too, cannot leave home to go into domestic service; they have members of the family either wholly or partially dependent upon them, often an invalid to attend to; others are widows, who, besides having to earn their own living, must also provide for, and look after, their children. We think that a thoroughly representative deputation of workless women to the Prime Minister might serve to enlighten public opinion on this matter. There are already men Members of the House of Commons who have received out-of-work pay; we fervently wish there were a few women Members there who could speak from their own experience of the misery and needs of workless women!

It is a relief to turn from men's views of women's work in this country to America's newest Year Book, "Women in 1923," which tells of all the jolly things that women can do, and have done, in that country. In the *Times* quotations from this book, we read that there may now be seen women "stevedores, dock labourers, sailors, and deck-hands. Women are now successfully doing the work of blacksmiths, machinists, carpenters, wood choppers, and freight agents. They are also driving delivery trucks, keeping livery stables, cobbling shoes, and washing out boilers. As for the higher professions, there are now 1,738 women lawyers, judges, and magistrates in America, 1,787 clergywomen, 14,617 artists, 7,219 women physicians, 1,829 women dentists, 1,117 architects, and 41 engineers; and of the total of 678 occupations under review, only 33 do not yet boast women recruits.

We cannot imagine women mistresses of households in America clamouring for the removal of most of that country's female population into the general dustbin of domestic service.

HONOURS FOR WOMEN?

The New Year Honours List, though shorn for the present of the usual "Political Honours" (pending the consideration of the just-published official Report of the Honours Commission), resemble their predecessors in giving all the chief honours to men. Every year we have to draw public attention to this glaring instance of unfair sex discrimination. We do not think it is a fact that women have any particular craving to receive these "Honours," and recent revelations have lessened their attraction in the eyes of many persons, both women and men, but it is bad for the State to slight its women citizens as a body, and to infer that women's services to the State cannot be of sufficient value to merit recognition. It is for this reason that we shall continue to declare that no Honours List is just and right, unless it includes women equally with men.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S PROGRESS.

In the current number of *The Woman Citizen* (U.S.A.), attention is drawn to a new pamphlet issued by the Publication Committee of the American National League of Women Voters, compiled by Mrs. Warrington, Attorney-at-Law, of Indiana.

Summaries of new laws, all of them passed in 1921 or 1922, are grouped under eleven sections, with a statement of the League principle each set of law embodies quoted at the beginning of each section. Independent citizenship for married women, as the "most distinctive achievement, and the most significant in the national field since the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment," is treated first with a clear and concise digest of this epoch-making enactment.

Specific legislation carried out to remedy specific injustices in common law disabilities comes next. In Georgia, women, by the 1921 law, are now eligible to hold civil office, and to perform civil functions, precisely as men are, except that they cannot be called upon for military, jury, patrol, or road duty. In Illinois, married women are now as free to make contracts as unmarried women. Rhode Island has set about giving women equal rights with men, by the appointment of a committee to report to the General Assembly of 1923 on the extent to which citizens' rights are abridged, on account of sex, and on the statutory amendments necessary to remedy the situation. Virginia has abolished injustice in regard to rights of inheritance, and West Virginia in 1921 decreed that a husband shall have only such rights in his wife's estate as a widow is entitled to in the estate of her deceased husband.

Equal Guardianship laws have been passed in Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Arkansas stipulates that the welfare of the child must be the first consideration in cases where the parents are living apart. In Mississippi the new law expressly states that the liability of the mother to support, maintain, and educate her children shall not be increased by the Act of 1922. New Jersey will no longer permit a father, separated or about to be separated from the mother, forcibly to remove their child from her.

In regard to jury service, Kentucky provides in its

1922 law that juries consisting of both men and women shall be permitted to separate during the trial, each sex being kept together in charge of an officer of like sex, as if two separate juries. Minnesota has removed sex discriminations by providing that grand and petty juries shall be composed of men or women, or of both. New Jersey restricts jury service not to one sex, but to citizens of the State between the ages of 21 and 65. All citizens in North Dakota, with some restrictions applying equally to men and women, are compelled to serve on juries, though a woman, who files a proper application five days before the court is called, is exempted. South Carolina exempts women electors from jury service, and Wisconsin's law is the same as in North Dakota.

Marriage with a woman under 18, without consent of parent or guardian, is rendered void by part of the 1921 law of New Jersey. Florida and Kentucky, since 1921, have raised the age of consent to 18, and Iowa, South Carolina, and West Virginia to 16, with provision for hearing testimony in mitigation of the charge if the complainant is over 16, and the defendant under 21.

With reference to Mothers' Pensions, these now obtain in Delaware, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Removals of legal disabilities, summarised in Section 9, include the abolition of all bars to holding office in Arkansas and Kentucky, with provision in the latter State for women members of the Board of the State University. Massachusetts throws elective and appointive offices open to women, but reserves to departmental heads, and to the Civil Service Commission, the right to select male employees when "special qualifications of sex are required." Missouri, in giving women the right to hold office, exempts them from the provision that an office-holder shall have been a qualified voter for a certain number of years. New Jersey's 1921 laws allow women to serve as overseers of the poor, and as members of the State Board of Education. In West Virginia, an unmarried woman, acting as a personal representative, does not give that right to her husband when she marries, nor does her marriage alter her public position.

CAMP FIRE GIRLS.

The Camp Fire Girls Movement was founded in America, in 1911, by Dr. Luther Gulick, a leading educationalist, and his wife, and to-day has a membership in the States of over 130,000. From America, the movement spread rapidly to Canada, South America, Spain, Holland, Turkey, Japan, South Africa, the West Indies, etc., and is now penetrating all over the British Isles. Over 80 British groups have been, or are being, inaugurated, and already the membership in this country is close upon a thousand. Branches have been started in various districts of London, and in most of the larger provincial cities, also in Scotland and Ireland. The organisation has aroused great interest among educationalists, and in churches of all denominations. John Oxenham, the well-known writer, was a cordial admirer of the movement. It has recently been affiliated with the National Organisation of Girls' Clubs, and is eminently calculated to foster a friendly Anglo-American spirit between the younger women of the two countries.

The keynote of the Camp Fire Movement is Service, which is summed up in the Camp's watchword, "Wohelo," a symbol comprising the first two letters of the three words, Work, Health, Love. Camp Fire Girls make considerable use of symbols. A crossed log and flame is their central device, indicating the hearth as the chief seat of women's interests. Camp Fire Girls' dress is also symbolic. The ceremonial garment, worn by the older members, and which they make themselves, is shaped after the fashion of a dress worn by an Indian squaw, and becomes gradually decorated with

a collection of beads and badges, representing various acts of service to the community.

Camp Fire Girls pass through three ranks or stages of progress during their membership. The first is that of Wood Gatherer, when the girls learn the value of team work, and a ring is worn, bearing the emblem of a bundle of faggots, the symbol of unity. The second rank is that of Firemaker, in which the girls learn everything connected with home life and household duties. The last rank is that of Torchbearer, and can only be attained by girls who have shown a definite capacity for leadership, and are 18 years of age. Baby-craft forms an important section of the training of a Torchbearer, and American Camp Fire Girls, at this stage, take a leading part in Baby and Child Welfare Weeks. Whilst passing through these various ranks, Camp Fire Girls must make themselves proficient in seven different "crafts" or achievements. These include homecraft, care of the health, camping out, nature lore, handcraft, commercial work, and citizenship. In all these crafts, "honours," usually in the form of coloured beads, are awarded for proficiency.

Girls of every sort and kind, from 12 years onwards, are welcomed in the Camp Fire Movement. Each girl chooses her own symbolic name, which she may work into her smock, ceremonial dress, scarf, or hatband, and so develop her individuality. The movement, in all countries, is self-supporting, for everything is paid for out of membership fees. It in no way copies boys' activities, but encourages and develops those simple and fundamental interests which are a part of the life of every girl and woman, whatever her nationality.

MORE ECONOMY AT THE EXPENSE OF WOMEN!

On grounds of economy the post of Woman Inspector of His Majesty's Prisons has not been filled since Dr. Mary Gordon's retirement. During the year 1921-22 the daily average female prison population in Great Britain was 1,388. The Home Secretary recently stated in the House of Commons that the number had now decreased to 1,164. When it is remembered that the Governor and the Deputy Governor of women's prisons are men, that the Chaplain is a man, that all or most of the prison doctors are men, and that the entire administration in women's prisons is in the hands of men, surely it is culpably mean on the part of the Government to deprive these women prisoners of a woman inspector to inquire into the conditions of the life of women in prison!

Dr. Mary Gordon made an admirable inspector, and those who have read her book on the subject will recognise the necessity for medical investigation work in prisons, and more especially in women's prisons. Most people will agree that such investigation in the latter case can be carried out better by a woman than by a man.

The Home Secretary also stated in the House of Commons that the women who are constantly reconvicted are almost entirely of the drunken and prostitute class. Under our present prison system this will always be the case; the conditions of prison life do not help these classes at all, and it is only women in an official capacity who can alter those conditions. So long ago as 1895 a Departmental Committee appointed by the Home Office recommended the appointment of a Woman Inspector of Women's Prisons, but the Police Commissioners objected to it, and the appointment was only made in 1907-08. To refuse to fill that post now is a very retrograde decision. The salary of the woman inspector was £400, the salaries of the three men inspectors were from £600 to £800. It is no economy to save this £400 when it is at the expense of the health and well-being of women—even when those women are prisoners, for they, too, are a part of the State, and must be reckoned with.

We look forward to this matter being brought up again in the House of Commons at an early date next Session, and we then hope that our friends will press not only for women inspectors of prisons, but for women governors of all women's prisons or women's sections of prisons, and women doctors to attend on women prisoners. There can be no real reform of our present archaic, and often barbaric, prison system until the entire charge and control of women prisoners is in the hands of women.

WOMEN BANKERS.

Women in the Banking world are quite numerous in the United States. In New York, Miss Mina Bruère is manager of the women's department at the Central Union Trust Co., and there are four women assistant secretaries in the same city, Miss Virginia Farman, of the Columbia Trust Co., Mrs. Key Cammack, of the New York Trust Co., Mrs. William Laimbeer, of the United States Mortgage and Trust Co., and Miss Clara Porter of the Guaranty Trust, the latter being engaged in the selling of bonds for the company. Nearly every large bank in America now has a woman's department, and this opens a special field for women. Another opportunity is afforded to women by savings banks. American women, who are contemplating the profession of banking, take their work very seriously. Many avail themselves of the courses in bank practice, book-keeping, business English, etc., offered by the American Institute of Banking, in co-operation with Columbia University, at evening sessions. A knowledge of languages is necessary to the girl who would succeed in commercial banking. Spanish is indispensable, and French, Italian, and German are desirable. The First-Second National Bank of Akron, Ohio, employs about 30 women, out of a force of 70. There are several women bank tellers in the Far West, and women cashiers and assistant cashiers in the small and newer towns.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Awakening of Asian Womanhood. By Margaret E. Cousins, B.Mus. (Ganesh & Co., Madras.) 2 rupees.

The writer of this book is well known, both in this country and in India, as one of the chief pioneers of the Suffrage Movement in India, Joint Secretary of the Women's Indian Association, and occasional Editor of its monthly organ, "Stri Dharma." Some of the chapters have already appeared as articles in "The Times of India," "New India," "Stri Dharma," and "Britain and India."

An eloquent description of the awakening of Eastern women occupies the earlier part of the book: "From Palestine to Japan it displays itself. It whispers its presence amongst the Moslem women; it shouts of itself along the streets of Canton; and it wins its victory in South India. Everywhere there is a shaking off of shackles—and everywhere it is from within that the effort comes to get rid of them." Proofs of the progress of Eastern women are abundantly quoted. The Republic of Armenia has been the first to appoint a woman as Consul, to Japan. In Afghanistan, a Women's University for the study of medicine has been built in Kabul, with 500 women students in attendance. The women in Palestine have started a Jewish Women's Equal Rights Association to combat the subjection of women to the authority of the Rabbinical Courts. In Burma, the whole retail trade of the country is efficiently carried on by the women. In Bhopal State a battalion of women warriors still acts as bodyguard to the Begum. In China, last year, over a thousand militant suffragists held a meeting in Canton to discuss methods for securing equality between the sexes, and later invaded the Canton Provincial Assembly, 700 strong. In Japan, women are not only forming political societies and attending political meetings, but are concentrating on disarmament, industrial organisation of women workers, and international affairs generally.

The unequal development of various portions of the Indian Empire are noted, a fact which is not so well known as it should be. The women of Baroda, Travancore, Cochin, and Mysore, for instance, are far in advance of those in British India. The Malabar people live under the patriarchal system; women choose their own husbands, child-marriage is unknown, and the degree of literacy among women is the highest in India. In the Provinces of Behar and Orissa, and also in the Punjab, on the other hand, only four women out of every thousand are literate. According to the writer, child-marriage and inefficient education for girls are the chief handicaps to Indian women's progress. Over ten million girls, she tells us, are married in India between the ages of 10 and 15 each year, and only one girl out of every hundred gets any education. For Northern women and for all Mahomedan women the purdah system prevents progress, and in the South the early-marriage system, with its underlying principle of wifely subordination, is the chief drawback. There are seven million more men than women in India, and for this reason both marriage and motherhood are deeply revered. The status of the widow, however, is very lamentable, as she is practically an outcast from social life. Remarriage has recently been legalised in India, but the Hindu religion does not as yet approve of this innovation. It is estimated that in India to-day there are at least 17,000 baby widows under five years of age, and 350,000 under 15 years old.

A considerable portion of this book describes the Suffrage Debates in Madras and Poona, in July of last year, and the struggle for enfranchisement now proceeding in India. The latter part is devoted to short character sketches of prominent Indian women of the day, Mrs. Ramabai Ranade, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, well known and beloved by the Women's Freedom League, Lady Bose, Miss Cornelia Sorabji, etc. D. M. N.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, January 17th, at 3 p.m., Hampstead Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W. 3.

Tuesday, January 23rd. Social, 7.30 to 10 p.m., at the Isis Club, Rockeslea, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, N.W. 3. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speech, 8 p.m., by Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., on "The Experiences of a Suffrage Speaker." Coffee.

Friday, February 2nd, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, February 2nd, at 8 p.m. Reception to the Hon. Officials of the Women's Freedom League, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1. The Reception will be preceded by a Dinner at the Club at 7 p.m. (see paragraph on opposite side of page).

Saturday, February 3rd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, March 9th, from 3.30 p.m. Women's Freedom League Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Lecture by Dr. Lewin in the early evening, "Shut your mouth and save your life."

Friday, March 9th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, April 27th. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, January 16th, at 3.15 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting. The Lecture Hall, 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Mrs. Seaton Tiedeman. Subject: "Divorce Law Reform."

Tuesday, January 23rd, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Matthews, B.A. Subject: "Lunacy."

The CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated, held its last meeting for last year in December. Early in the proceedings it was agreed to appoint a special Sub-Committee to inquire into the advisability of holding a public Conference on Housing.

An emergency resolution was passed calling on the Government to set up, in view of the grave effects of juvenile unemployment, occupational or other educational centres throughout the country, the cost of which should be borne by the Treasury.

Other resolutions were passed dealing with the admission of women to membership of Cambridge University, the Guardianship, Maintenance, Custody, and Marriage of Infants Bill, and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill.

Several women Parliamentary candidates, including Lady Astor and Mrs. Winttingham, reviewed some of the special difficulties with which they had had to contend during the General Election. The speakers deprecated the attempts which had been made to attribute the defeat of thirty women candidates to sex prejudice, since all but one or two had stood for constituencies which had to be won from another Party. Some stated that they had not experienced any sex antagonism, others had found it very strong. Several speakers emphasised the special hostility from the Liquor Trade and allied bodies. It was generally felt that if women are to obtain more consideration in the allotment of seats, they must devote more time and energy to stir up the women inside the Parties.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Another long list of New Year Honours has appeared for men—including two baronetcies, thirty knighthoods (in which no name of a woman appears), and any number of distinguished Orders. Out of the list, filling six columns of *The Times*, we can only find the following names of women:—Miss GLADYS POTT (of anti-suffragist fame), who has received the O.B.E. (Civil Division), for services on the Executive of the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women; Miss VIOLET NAPIER BELL, who has been awarded the M.B.E. (Civil Division), Member of the Foreign Office Section at the Washington Conference; Miss HELEN LOUISE ILES, Acting Matron, New General Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq, who has received the M.B.E. (Civil Division); and the following, who have been awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal of the First Class for Public Service in India:—Sister ANNIE BLANCHE, Sister in charge of Nursing, Presidency General Hospital, Bengal; Mrs. JESSIE HOPKINS, United Provinces; Mrs. ISABEL KERR, Lady Doctor in charge of the Leper Home at Dichpalli, Hyderabad (Deccan). Compare the above number with that of about 390 men who received Honours this New Year. No one can contend that there is yet anything like an equal distribution of Honours as between men and women!

RECEPTION TO OUR HONORARY OFFICIALS.

We call the special attention of readers of THE VOTE, and members of the Women's Freedom League, to the Reception which is being arranged at the MINERVA CLUB, BRUNSWICK SQUARE, W.C. (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets, nearest Tube station Russell Square), on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, at 8 p.m., to our Honorary Officials—Dr. Knight (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Hon. Organising Secretary), Miss Alix M. Clark (Hon. Head, VOTE Sales Department), and Mrs. Pierotti (Hon. Head, Literature Department).

We are sure that our members and friends will welcome this opportunity of showing their appreciation of the invaluable work done for the Women's Freedom League during so many strenuous years by these officials, and we expect to see quite a crowd at the Minerva Club on February 2nd.

The Reception itself will be preceded by a dinner at the Club at 7 p.m., at which it is hoped that several women candidates in the recent Parliamentary Election will also be present.

Tickets for the dinner (including the Reception), 3s. 6d. each, from Miss Marian Reeves, at this office; for the Reception only, 1s. each, from Mrs. Northcroft, also from this office. All tickets should be obtained beforehand.

FOREIGN POLITICS.

The Women's Freedom League is arranging a series of Lectures on Foreign Politics, to be held on alternate Monday evenings, beginning January 29th, in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. The object of these lectures is to give women, especially the members of women's organisations, the opportunity of listening to well-informed views on our relations with countries abroad, and of discussing those views with the lecturer. We are convinced that women are interested in this matter, from the success of the lecture, given early last month by Frau Schreiber-Krieger, on Germany's views of the League of Nations, and of what her relations should be with this country, America, France, and the rest of Europe. Arrangements are not yet complete, but we propose that the series shall be as follows:—

Monday, January 29th, at 6 p.m.: "The League of Nations."

Monday, February 12th, at 6 p.m.: "The Relations of this Country with America."

Monday, February 26th, at 6 p.m.: "The Relations of this Country with France."

Monday, March 12th, at 6 p.m.: "The Relations of this Country with Russia."

Monday, March 26th, at 6 p.m.: "The Relations of this Country with Central Europe."

The speakers will be announced in next week's VOTE. Admission to the lectures will be free; reserved seats 1s. each, or 4s. for the course; tickets from this office.

PROCEDURE RULES IN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

It has often been contended that the Procedure Rules in the House of Commons seriously hamper business. One of the Members, Mr. Robert Murray (Renfrew) recently asked the Prime Minister if he would promote inquiry into the Forms, Procedure, and Rules of the House, with a view to simplifying them, and making a more economical use of the time of the House? Mr. Bonar Law replied that he did not see the necessity at present of adopting that proposal.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, January 7th, 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30. Rev. C. Emmet.

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