

THE VOTE,  
Oct. 6, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

## UNQUALIFIED PERSONS IN THE SCHOOLS

By AGNES DAWSON.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 6, 1922

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

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## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AT CAMBRIDGE.

By COUNCILLOR MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

Some six to seven hundred delegates assembled at Cambridge last week, for the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women. The meetings were held in the Guildhall, and centred round the idea of Women and International Life. The first meeting, which was for young people, had for its subject "The Nations and the New Age"; at later public meetings, specialists dealt with "The Treatment of Mental Defect and Crime," "Recent Experiments in Social Legislation," and "The Moral and Economic Interdependence of States."

On the Tuesday morning, Miss Maude Royden preached the sermon at the special service for women at Holy Trinity Church. The Church was crowded to hear the message, which was to the effect that the true mission of women was the substitution of moral power for material force in the government of the world.

The Lady Frances Balfour presided at the sessions of the Conference, and, in her Presidential Address, traced in both a serious and amusing way the emancipation of women. Throughout the Conference her brilliant sallies and witty remarks enlivened the proceedings.

Twenty-two resolutions were on the Agenda, but thirteen only were discussed and passed. They dealt with the Promotion of Peace, the Teaching of the Interdependence of Nations, Women Police, Exclusion of Women from Cambridge University, Sale of Alcohol to Young Persons, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, Age of Marriage, Housing, Women on International Emi-

gration Commissions, Children of Unmarried Parents, Hours of Work, Venereal Disease, Guardianship, Maintenance, Custody, and Marriage of Infants Bill.

Of these the most hotly debated was the one on Venereal Disease. Councillor Caroline Herford, of Manchester, moved an amendment, omitting the part referring to the provision of Ablution Centres, as she considered, in the interests of science, these experiments ought to be made, and she considered the Manchester Town Council had made an unfortunate decision in yielding to popular clamour, and closing their Ablution Centres. The amendment was lost, as were other delaying amendments, and the resolution was carried as printed on the Agenda.

It was very disappointing that time did not permit of other most important resolutions being dealt with, and it is understood that in future fewer resolutions will be put down for discussion.

Owing to the war clouds, an emergency resolution was passed, asking for the utilisation of the machinery of the League of Nations in settlement of the present dispute.

There were various social functions arranged for the delegates, including a garden party at Christ's College, given by the Mayor and Mayoress. Unfortunately, the weather was not favourable. On other days there were excursions to Girton, Ely, and Papworth, and every day there were visits to the colleges and other treasures of Cambridge—those colleges of which six were founded or endowed by women!



## THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

At the Minerva Café, on Monday evening, Mr. Edward Cecil opened a discussion on the Public School system, contending that it "corroded the character, stultified the intelligence, blunted idealism, and turned out its victims unfitted for the battle of life!" Mrs. Dexter presided.

Mr. Cecil claimed that the prevailing prejudice against women was almost entirely due to the Public School system. This system, too, was reflected in certain of our national characteristics, *viz.*, snobbishness, and indolence. We were a nation of snobs, and we lacked those habits of thrift and hard work which characterised many of the smaller nations. It was a mistake to believe that Public Schools were altering. Except for certain improvements in hygiene, the system itself remained absolutely unchanged.

According to Public School authorities, only a school where boys were boarded away from home could justly claim to be called a Public School. This segregation of one sex in an atmosphere of semi-monasticism was the worst feature of the Public School system. It placed the boys in an unnatural environment, robbed them of feminine influence, and taught them to look down upon their girl and women associates in the home and in the world. Co-education was the ideal method of education, though it did not necessarily mean identical methods of education for both boys and girls. Again, the "hardening process" in the Public School system was bad, not because it incidentally taught courage, which was good, but because it tended to crush tenderness and idealism, and encouraged methods of brutality. No boy was ever the worse for showing kindness and consideration to his sisters, or for looking upon his mother as the equal of his father. Neither was he any the worse for learning something of the beauty of life by means of poetry, or some other media in which women excel. The founder of Christianity expressed his virility mainly by means of so-called feminine characteristics, and in teaching boys to suppress these finer qualities we were acting entirely contrary to the tenets of our religion. A special contention of the Public School was that it taught certain qualities, *viz.*, good manners and leadership, which could only be learnt in these particular establishments. A good manner at bottom, however, was the outward expression of a sympathetic heart, and was a moral quality which was not confined to any particular class of the community, whilst leadership was an inborn characteristic, like brains, and was no one's monopoly, because it could not be taught. Finally, the system of Education in vogue in Public Schools unfitted boys for earning their living in the battle of life, as could be seen to-day by the numbers of Public School boys tramping the streets in search of work, but unable to offer any definite contribution towards the welfare of society.

A valuable discussion followed Mr. Cecil's speech, during which many varying aspects of the problem were debated. One speaker was of the opinion that leadership was best learned in the battle of life, and, therefore, could be practised by all classes of the community. Another contended that "loafing" during the holidays was almost entirely attributable to the Public School system, because it divorced a boy from his natural home interests, and failed to develop initiative and resource outside school life. A third deplored that the same tendencies which prevailed in boys' Public Schools were now beginning to prevail in girls' Public Schools, especially as regarded the over-emphasis on athletics. Two other speakers, one from China, and one from India, made some grave charges against the young English Public School men, newly arrived in those countries, to take up positions of responsibility; one describing their ready acquiescence in the mediocre standard of morality which prevailed in the district, and the other deploring their lack of courtesy, not only to the native races, but even to people of their own blood. In conclusion, the Chairman, Mrs. Dexter, urged the audience to *work*, and not only talk, against the continuance of the Public School system, however many enemies they might make in the process.

## WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

### Traffic in Women and Children.

Mrs. Coombe Tennant, Great Britain's woman alternate delegate to the League of Nations, read the report of the Fifth Commission on the question of the traffic in women and children, at the Third Assembly at Geneva, last week, and was loudly applauded on rising. Mrs. Dale, Australia's woman delegate, pointed out in a short statement later that there was no traffic in women and children in Australia.

### The Woman behind Kemal.

Halid Edib Hanum, the Turkish woman novelist, who escaped from Constantinople in 1920, and reached Angora, the Turkish Nationalist capital in Asia Minor, has been described as "the woman behind Kemal." From her arrival in Kemal's capital she worked for the emancipation of her sex in that part of Asia Minor. Kemal made her an officer in his Army, and then Minister of Education in his Government, and has promised her a post in the first Nationalist Cabinet which may be formed at Constantinople.

### Belgarian Woman Diplomat.

Mlle. Stancioff, who proceeds to Washington at the end of the year, to take up her duties as Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation there, is a strong believer in the League of Nations, the more so as she herself has a Bulgarian father, a French mother, an Italian grandmother, and an Albanian ancestor.

### Women in the Labour Party.

In 1920 the women's sections working for Labour numbered about 425. Last year there were 620; to-day there are over 800 sections. The individual membership has increased, and it now amounts to about 100,000. There are six prospective women Parliamentary candidates in the Labour Party.

### Women Oppose Farmers.

The farmers at Hepworth, Yorkshire, having notified their intention of advancing milk prices, the women have met, and decided to leave the milk alone for a month. They point out that, while the wages of their husbands—most of whom are employed in factories—are being reduced, in accordance with official cost-of-living figures, milk is costing about three times the price paid immediately before the war.

### One-Room Babies.

The infant mortality rate is still 83 per 1,000, and 1,400 more district nursing associations are needed for a complete service of trained midwives in rural districts. Recent statistics, prepared by the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for Scotland, state that "boys in one-roomed houses in Glasgow are 11.7 lbs. lighter, and 4.7 inches shorter, on an average, than boys from four-roomed houses."

### Indian Woman Editor.

Miss Lina Ray, of Calcutta, has undertaken the editorship and management of the weekly journal, *The Indian World*, which ceased publication during the war. This journal was formerly under the editorship of her father, Mr. Prithivis Chandra Ray.

### Belgian Women Lawyers.

Belgium's first women lawyers are Mlle. Marcella Renson, and Mlle. Paule Lamy, who have recently taken the oath of the First Chamber of the Court of Appeal.

### American Law Schools.

Four more Law Schools, open to women, have been reported. They are Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia; Union University, Albany, N.Y.; Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.; and School of Law, Loyola University, Chicago.

### Woman Fencing Champion.

Miss Millicent Hall, woman Fencing Champion of Great Britain, who is getting married this week, first won the championship of Great Britain in 1907, and repeated her success in the following year.

## GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th, in the Basement Hall at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened on Friday, November 10th, at 3 p.m., by the Viscountess Rhondda. The Fair will be open each day from 3 to 9 p.m.

The stalls at present arranged for the League are:—

**Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs and Odds and Ends.**

**Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Lane, and Miss Vibert.**

**Mid-London Branch (Half Stall).—Woollies and Children's Clothing.**

**Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls.**

**Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. and the Misses Elias, the Misses Codd, Mrs. Dixon, and Miss M. Morris.**

**Portsmouth Branch.—Household.**

**Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner.**

**South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall and Xmas Tree.**

**Miss White and Members.**

**Swansea Branch.—General Stall.**

**Mrs. Thomas.**

**Antiques and White Elephants.—Mrs. Harverson, Miss Raleigh.**

**General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.**

**Overalls and Aprons.—Mrs. Ammon, Mrs. Mustard, and the Misses Underwood.**

**Pound Stall.—Miss Munro.**

**Remnant Stall.—Mrs. A. A. Thompson and Mrs. Harvey James.**

**Stationery Stall.—Mrs. MacMichael.**

**Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight.**

**Literature Stall.—Miss Telling, Miss E. W. Kirby.**

**White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.**

**"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Newsome, and Miss Reeves.**

The entertainments will be numerous and varied, the following members and friends kindly giving their services:—Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Marianne Elias, Miss Jacob, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Newman and Mr. Eric Richmond, Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Thomas, and Mrs. Van Raalte; also Miss Grace Woollacott's pupils will give a dancing display on Saturday, November 11th. Character readings will be given by Mrs. Grace Goodall and Mrs. Russell; also Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons, who was so much in request last year.

Gifts are greatly needed for all the stalls, and especially for the following:—Household, Woollies, and Children's Clothing, White Stall, Overalls and Aprons, Pound Stall, Remnant Stall, Antiques and White Elephants. Toys of all sorts are wanted for the Toy Stall. The Committee will be glad to receive the names of those who are willing to dress dolls, make underclothing for the White Stall, children's clothing, overalls, and aprons.

The competitions have been undertaken by Miss Dickeson, and will be amusing, numerous, and varied, and should prove one of the great attractions of the Fair.

Mrs. Legge and Mrs. Hawkins will be in charge of the Information Bureau.

There will be an exhibition of labour-saving appliances, lace-making, and, it is hoped also, hand-weaving. The following societies, friends, and firms (for labour-saving appliances) are taking stalls:—

**The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.**

**The "Crusader."**

**The Federation of Women Civil Servants.**

**The Friends of Armenia.**

**The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement.**

**Miss Basnett.**

**Miss Burwood.**

**The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.**

**Messrs. Benetfits, Ltd.**

**Messrs. Beatty Bros., Ltd.**

**Messrs. Manuel Lloyd and Co.**

**The Portable Utillities Co., Ltd.**

**The Staines Kitchen Equipment Co., Ltd.**

Tickets, including tax, price 1/3 (9d. after 5 o'clock on the second day), will shortly be on sale at the Offices.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry (Hon. Fair Sec.) at the Office.

## A STEP FORWARD FOR WOMEN IN BEHAR & ORISSA.

A Reformed Municipal Act has just been passed in the Behar and Orissa Legislative Council. In the Bill as originally framed, women were altogether excluded from the Municipal Franchise, but with great difficulty, in its Select Committee stage, a clause was incorporated whereby women having certain educational qualifications (*e.g.*, Matriculation, Sanskrit, or Arabic title examinations) were recommended to be granted the franchise. This clause gave rise to a very animated discussion when it came up for ratification by the Legislative Council. An old Muhammadan member moved its deletion. His motion was, to the great relief and satisfaction of our supporters, defeated by a majority of 31 votes to 19. Then a plucky attempt was made to extend the franchise to women on the same terms as men, *i.e.*, on the purely property qualification. This was moved by those constant supporters of women's rights in Behar, Babu Devaki Prasad Sinha and Rao Baha dur Purnendranath Sinha, but it was defeated by a considerable majority. An attempt to grant the opportunity of voting to European and Indian Christian women only was justly defeated, and then, after an eloquent speech by the Hon. M. S. Das in support of the Select Committee's recommendation, the motion was put to the vote and carried by 40 to 21. It was very satisfactory to find that eight Orissa members, who last November voted against women getting the Provincial Council suffrage, this time voted for this reform. On general principles it is not desirable that women should be allowed into citizenship on unequal and more stringent terms than men, and for that reason one is glad that the equal terms amendment was brought forward, and that it put on record that a substantial number of members desire more than what has been given. Behar is, however, a Province where such exceptionally strict *purdah* prevails, and where women's education is so backward, that one must be glad that a first step, even though so limited, has been taken, as it is the earnest of further extension in the future. It will be remembered that the Women's Indian Association had an organiser working in Behar for two months last year. Patna Branch of the Association was then started, of which the President was Miss S. B. Das, whose father may be said to have won this victory for the Behar women. All these things helped to bring about a change on which Behar is to be congratulated. It has given a lead to the elder Province, Bengal, whose Council will soon be tested on its own Calcutta Municipal Bill on this same question. M. E. COUSINS.

## EQUAL FRANCHISE.

At its last meeting the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League sent the following resolution to the Prime Minister, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, and Mr. Bonar Law, and copies of it to the heads of the various political parties:—

"This Committee urges you to secure the introduction of a Government Bill to grant the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men, and to carry this Bill through all its stages into law at the earliest possible date after the reassembling of Parliament. The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League considers that a grave injustice will be done to the women of this country if every woman under thirty years of age is excluded from voting for candidates at the next General Election, and that British women will keenly resent having less representation in the Government of their country than the women of the Irish Free State, or than the women in those of our Colonies and Dependencies where women are enfranchised on the same terms as men. This Committee would call the attention of the Government to the fact that Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law signed a manifesto just before the last General Election, which stated that it would be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women, and considers that the time has come to fulfil this pledge by so altering the law that British women shall vote on equal terms and at the same age as men."



## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 1922.

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.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### 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.

## HOSPITALS.

To-day (Friday) a special Flag Day will be held throughout the whole of London in support of the Hospitals of London Combined Appeal for half a million pounds by the end of the year. Some thirty thousand flag-sellers, mostly women, will be busy in the streets, and we can confidently predict that much of the money collected by them will be contributed by women who know only too well the great necessity for supporting these splendid institutions, and liberating them from the financial embarrassment from which they have for so long been suffering. No more deservedly popular appeal can be made to the man and the woman in the street than for assistance to the great hospitals of which London is so justly proud, and women, we know, will generously respond to this appeal. Roughly speaking, about half the patients treated in London's hospitals are women. Many thousands of children also are treated in our general hospitals, and in children's hospitals. The curious thing is that there are so very few women on the management committees of these hospitals. The nurses are, of course, women, but the organisation, control, and management of these institutions, as well as the treatment prescribed for the patients—men, women, and children—are practically solely in the hands of men. We do not think this is as it should be, nor do we believe that the general public will long be content with such a one-sided arrangement. The art of healing is not, and never has been, the monopoly of men. In our opinion, the confidence of both men and women would be strengthened in the immense value of these hospitals if women, as well as men, were on all their management committees, and had an equal voice with men in the appointments on their staffs. At the present time, there are hospitals exclusively for women, and hospitals for children, which have no women on their management committees. Surely this is not in accord with the modern view of things! Women doctors are a necessity of present-day life. The public demand them, and they certainly should have equal chances with men to the staff appointments of our general hospitals. This is not at present the case, and comparatively few women who desire to become general practitioners have the opportunities for the wider experience which a staff appointment affords. The public, therefore, who desire to have women doctors for themselves and their children, are not being treated quite fairly, and in the interests of the public, as well as in those of medical women, we put forward the plea that, now that our great London hospitals are likely soon to be freed from their pressing financial difficulties, through the voluntary contributions made by so large a number of London's men and women, these hospitals should see to it that their management committees are comprised of an equal number of women and men, and that their staff appointments should be open to efficient women as well as to efficient men.

## WHY NOT PUNISH THE MEN?

Last week the Swansea magistrates had before them a young woman of twenty-one who had been discovered on a vessel with a seaman at 1.30 a.m. This was her eighth appearance for loitering at the docks. The Chairman of the Swansea Bench is reported to have said: "I wish women's organisations would take this up and shout until they make Parliament hear. We want some place to which we can send these girls compulsorily. They will not reform." It is said that the present penalty—a maximum fine of £5—is not sufficient to deter "undesirable women" from gaining access to the docks and boarding the ships at many of the South Wales ports. The police can only board the vessels for the purpose of arresting these women by invitation of the ship's officers, and it is stated that officers—at any rate, in the case of foreign vessels—are as anxious as the crew to smuggle these women aboard. This being the case, why should the Chairman of the Swansea Magistrates' Bench seek to punish only the women? Clearly, if there was no demand for these "undesirable women," there could be no supply. We agree that a penalty of £5 on the women will not stamp out this evil. We also think that detaining some of the women compulsorily for a time would not stop it. The monetary penalties can easily be met by the clients of these women, who, perhaps being generally used to poverty and to miserable surroundings, have little to lose, compared with their gains, by spending some of their time in prison. They have also no reputation to lose; but the men who make it worth their while to ply their miserable trade are in a different position. The publicity which Court proceedings would give to men charged with having these women on board, and the imprisonment which ought to follow conviction upon such a charge, would, we are convinced, do more than any amount of fines and compulsory detention imposed on unfortunate women to check this deplorable state of affairs at our docks. This is the answer of the Women's Freedom League to the Chairman of the Swansea Magistrates.

## WOMEN SOLICITORS.

Mr. Copson Peake's heart-searchings as to the wisdom of women becoming solicitors, which he communicated to the Law Society Conference at Leeds last week, are somewhat belated, seeing that there are between 60 and 70 women articled clerks now studying to become solicitors. Many of these are the daughters of country solicitors who have no sons, or else have lost them in the war, and who have articled their girls instead, so as to keep the practice in the family. In two of these cases the women have been acting as clerks in solicitors' offices for at least ten years, in which case a certain remission will be granted of the usual five years' training. The first women solicitors in the country are expected to materialise at the close of this year, when for the first time in the history of the Law Society, four women will sit as candidates in the Final Examinations in November. They are Miss Carrie Morrison, Mrs. Crofts, better known as the Miss Ingram who took part in the famous test case of *Bebb v. The Law Society*, in 1913, Miss Sykes, of Huddersfield, and Mrs. Pickup, of Birmingham. They cannot become full-fledged solicitors, however, until the completion of their articles. Miss Morrison completes hers first, owing to the deduction of a year's training for war service, but Mrs. Crofts is a close competitor, as she completes her articles only a fortnight later, just before the close of the year.

## UNQUALIFIED PERSONS IN THE SCHOOLS.

By AGNES DAWSON (Past President, N.U.W.T.).

During the war, when the shortage of teachers was acute, the L.C.C. introduced unqualified persons into the schools for the purpose of minding the youngest children. In view of a very definite pledge given by the L.C.C. that this was purely a war measure, and would end with the war, qualified teachers made the best of a bad situation, and helped these girls, both as regards the short and necessarily inadequate preparation which they received, and later in regard to their duties in the schools.

At the same time, the authorities began appealing to young people in secondary schools to enter the teaching profession, assuring them that they would have no difficulty in obtaining posts on completion of their college training. Hundreds of the young people responded to this appeal, but in the meantime the Geddes Axe has been wielded so effectually, at the instigation of the same authorities who called upon these young people to become teachers, that there are no posts for them, no gaps in the ranks which they can fill. In addition to these girls, there are at least six hundred experienced and qualified teachers in London alone who are without work.

At this juncture the L.C.C. proposes to break the pledge given to women teachers' representatives during the war by reintroducing the unqualified person.

Women teachers have made their attitude plain to the authorities right from the beginning. On May 16th a deputation from the National Union of Women Teachers waited on the Elementary Education Subcommittee of the Council, and made strong objections to the scheme, both as regards the educational and professional issues. Two days later a mass meeting of women teachers, hastily summoned but enthusiastically responsive, was acquainted with the facts of the proposal, and agreed unanimously to support the Women's Union in resisting this measure. The executives of the Union, national and local, got to work immediately. Memoranda *ad nauseam* were submitted to the authorities. Parents' Unions, acting in co-operation with the N.U.W.T., held meetings and sent resolutions to the L.C.C., protesting against the proposed employment of unqualified persons in the schools.

In July, despite these protests, the L.C.C. decided to employ one hundred unqualified persons, and began

to approach various teachers with a request that they should assist in giving the selected candidates a short intensive course of instruction. The teachers concerned (with the age-old minority of one or two persons) indignantly refused, and the great body of London women teachers endorsed that refusal by pledging themselves neither to assist in preparing the candidates, nor in discharging their duties for them if and when they should enter the schools as assistants.

The Education Officer was informed of this decision, but on Friday, September 22nd, a notice was received in certain schools, stating that unqualified persons would appear for training in these schools on the following Tuesday. Steps had to be taken immediately, in order that the policy of the women teachers should be upheld. A meeting was held in Kingsway Hall on Monday, September 25th, and the Head Mistresses concerned were asked to send back the candidates next morning with a letter to the Education Officer, stating that, as it would be impossible for them to assist in giving the girls an intensive course, no useful purpose could be served by permitting them to remain on the school buildings. Eight Head Mistresses followed this advice, and the officers of the London unit waited on the Education Officer. After much deliberation it was agreed that, in order to make it clear that the women were not opposing the Education Officer in the carrying out of his instructions, the officers of the N.U.W.T. were prepared to advise the Head Teachers to receive the girls back into the schools. This was conditional on the Education Officer's promise to inform the Head Mistresses that the reception of the girls was pending the calling together of the L.C.C. to consider further representations from the N.U.W.T. In the meantime, the N.U.W.T. policy stands in its entirety. The girls are on the school premises, but are receiving no instruction. It need hardly be stated that they are treated with courtesy.

A large demonstration of women teachers congregated outside the New County Hall on the afternoon of the same memorable Tuesday. They came to support the action of the eight Head Mistresses, and to lend substance to the request that the L.C.C. should be summoned to deal with the situation. The officers of the London Unit are now engaged in preparing the case for the teachers.

## TRAVEL AS A FACTOR IN EDUCATION.

On Wednesday, September 27th, Miss Margaret Hodge gave a lecture at the Minerva Café on Travel as a means of Education. Mrs. Mustard presided.

Although she opened with a quotation from Shakespeare, "Home-keeping youths have mostly homely wits," Miss Hodge demurred at the almost universal acceptance of the idea that travel was of necessity educative. What we gain from a country depends upon what we bring to it, and the unintelligent and uninformed traveller only confirms his prejudices, and increases his ignorance, by the confusion of mind incident upon the bewildering nature of his strange surroundings. The "grand tour," so essential a part of the education of a gentleman, from Elizabeth's time onwards, was not of necessity a very helpful factor in the training of youth. Ascham's comments upon its effects, although severe, do not touch upon the real cause of the failure of travel to widen the mind of the youth of his day—the excessive class consciousness of the youthful tourist, and the careful limitations of his experiences by his watchful bear leader. Goldsmith, though inferior in literary acumen and in the historic

sense to Gibbon, saw more of the true state of the people, among whom he mixed as an equal, than did that historian who declared one year before the French Revolution, "That the power of the King, the nobles, and the Church were founded upon a rock, and would last for ever," or words to that effect. Arthur Young, travelling through France on his blind nag in 1787, and chatting with all sorts and conditions of men, had a much truer sense of the real state of affairs, and predicted the coming storm. Gibbon, however, mixed only with the aristocrats, and saw only their point of view. His historical sense was smothered in class prejudice. Various anecdotes of past and contemporary travellers enlivened the lecture, and the speaker concluded with a few useful suggestions as a preparation for travel so that we may derive all possible benefit from our journey, and neither be confirmed in our British prejudices, as Mr. Podsnap would have been, nor be so caught and attracted by external and superficial characteristics, as to be practically transformed into a walking advertisement of the countries through which we have travelled, as was Shakespeare's Faulconbridge.



## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

## Argentine Women.

MADAM,—Your article, "Women Lawyers in the Argentine," in your issue of September 15th, gives us an interesting account of the latest step forward of women in that country; but the assumption or "fears" in the first paragraph might lead your readers to incorrect conclusions.

Be it remembered that the total population of that vast country is about one quarter of the total population of Great Britain, and is scattered over a vast area; that the women marry, usually, before they are twenty years of age; that economic conditions in a country where men outnumber the women lead to a completely different angle of vision with regard to women's position on the part of both women and men, and that economic questions were not as acute before 1914 as they are now.

Women's education, on even terms with men, has been amply provided for ever since 1870, when the great and far-seeing monk-President, Sarmiento, was giving the matter close attention. In 1872, Miss Armstrong, followed by three colleagues, came from the United States of America in response to his appeal to organise the whole Department of Public Instruction for the Argentine Republic. She was met in that year in Montevideo, Uruguay, on her passage through to Buenos Aires, by a British educationist, Miss Edye, a woman who had pioneered from 1865 for the secondary education of women in Uruguay, after studying in the Luisenstiftung, Berlin, and who subsequently obtained Honours certificates in the Women's Higher Local Examinations of the University of Cambridge and University College, London, 1874 and 1875. Both women have left their mark on public instruction in Argentina and Uruguay, through the women taught by them.

Few countries have enjoyed the uninterrupted protection and co-ordination that this well-organised Department of Public Instruction for primary and secondary and University education has received from the Government of Argentina. At the Paris Exhibition, 1878, a school desk designed by Senor van Gelderen was exhibited in the Argentine Section.

All private schools of every nationality in Buenos Aires, for thirty years past, have been controlled by the Department, their Heads having to make returns of cubic feet of air space, and all statistics concerning their establishments, four times a year.

Argentina's delegate to the International Council of Women in 1899 was Doctora Ana Grierson, the first Argentine woman to study medicine and receive her degree from the University of Buenos Aires some years previously.

The University of Cordoba, in Argentina, dates from the sixteenth century, and that there were women of liberal education a hundred years ago is proved by the fact that Bernardino Rivadavia, in 1823, formally appointed thirteen of the leading women (descendants of the old Spanish families associated with the Viceroy previous to 1810) corporately to take over from the State the entire control and management of the existing Orphan Asylum (dating from 1699), the Foundling Asylum, the Women's Lunatic Asylum, and other institutions, and to organise all benevolent work affecting the welfare of women and children in Buenos Aires. This "Sociedad de las Damas de Beneficencia de la Capital" has nobly responded to the trust committed to it by President Rivadavia. The Reports of all the institutions under its control fill a large volume published in 1904.

Continuity of control is assured by the fact that any "Dama" chosen for this honour is a member of the Society for life. The remarkable woman who last year celebrated the 50-year jubilee of her connection with the "Sociedad," and for many years its President, is 92, in full possession of her faculties, and venerated by all Buenos Aires, Senora Dolores Lavalle de Lavalle. This veteran Society played a leading part in 1896, when the Women of Argentina appealed to the Women of Chile, on the eve of war over the boundary dispute between their two Governments. No one who lived through that crisis in the city of Buenos Aires can forget the relief that followed the awful tension when war was imminent and the news came that the women had prevailed with wiser counsel; the dispute was to be referred to arbitration. The women, not consenting to a fratricidal war, had stayed the hands of their Governments.

The great statue on the Andes boundary, commemorating this, is an everlasting witness to the power of good women when organised for right, and truth, and peace. In the Palace of Peace at the Hague is a replica in miniature of this statue, the contribution of Argentina to its adornment, and a constant reminder that Argentina stands for arbitration in all circumstances.

When the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair appealed to the "Damas de Beneficencia" to send a delegate to London in 1899, to the International Progress of Women, she met with immediate response from this organised body of women. The N.C.W., Argentina, was formed and affiliated to the I.C.W. in the same year as France and Switzerland, 1899, and has been represented at every International gathering since that year.

The Argentine "Consejo Nacional de Mujeres" has been consulted on various occasions by the Government of Argentina, and acts as an Advisory Council to the Government when laws affecting women's and children's interests are under consideration.

From 1899 to 1917, Senora Alvina van Prat de Sala controlled the destinies of the "C. N. de M." as President, a woman remarkable for her breadth of vision and her international sympathies, a good linguist, and an eloquent speaker.

Had the women of England received the same consideration from their Government of one hundred years ago, "militancy" would never have come into being, and the long-drawn battle or fight for the suffrage would not have been waged.

Yours obediently, MAGDALEN BARTON,

Delegada Permanente, Consejo Nacional de Mujeres Argentino.

(Owing to pressure on our space, this letter was unavoidably held over from last week.)

EXTRACTS FROM LADY FRANCES BALFOUR'S  
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT CAMBRIDGE.

## Cambridge and Women.

"Cambridge must ever be a place of interest to women. It is one of the centres where they were given the key of the gates of knowledge, and the portals rolled back as they turned that key, not without toil of head and hand. With hearts braced, and the conflict against preconceived ideas and prejudices slow to die, did the pioneers labour and spend long years, ere they saw the fruits of their labours—victories, unstained by blood or by warfaring—and they who remember those who passed over, and those still amongst them, take courage and are certain that the day will come when Cambridge will open her gates to women, even as her sister University has done, and women will be granted the degrees they have won. . . . We greet the future with a cheer, and look back at the barriers surmounted, and feel that those before us are very small objectives to be captured."

## Women's Achievements.

"As we look round us to-day, what signs we see of enlightened progress! Women entering every profession, overcoming all obstacles, and appearing, modestly, first in so many lists. Whenever I take up the paper, I see the unexpected in women. . . . First in butter-making in Devonshire, first prizes for breeding dogs, first in sheep trials, and calves and hacks, first in allotments—everywhere the woman and her enterprise."

## Equality of the Sexes.

"Florence Nightingale saw the absurdity of separating the sexes in public work. 'I think it is a pity,' she wrote, 'that women should always look upon themselves (as men look upon them) as a great curiosity—a peculiar, strange race, like the Aztecs, or, rather, like Dr. Home's idiots, whom, after the unremitting exertions of two years, he actually taught to eat with a spoon.' That phase has not entirely passed, but it is passing. We see it passing in the accounts of juries, of whom so many are women; of electorates, of whom so many are women; of Members of Parliament, of whom two are women. . . . Christianity is the sheet-anchor of the cause of women. The freedom of women may be a new thought, but it is incorporated in our religion."

## Women's Freedom League Rally of Members and Friends.

—Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League are cordially invited to the Rally to be held in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, on Saturday, October 21st, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Impromptu speeches, for which lots will be drawn, with questions from the audience, will be the order of the afternoon. Representatives from London stall-holders will be present to receive gifts for their own particular stalls at our Green, White, and Gold Fair, and Dr. Knight will gladly accept gifts for other stalls. Tea and biscuits will be served at moderate prices, and there will be a collection to cover the expenses of the meeting, which will be a thoroughly enjoyable one. Readers of THE VOTE are specially asked to this Rally.

## IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

Readers of THE VOTE are urged to support the following Public Meetings:—

**Thursday, October 19th, 8 p.m.,** at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to promote the return of suitable women to London Borough Councils. Speakers: The Lady Emmott, J.P., the Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby Dickinson, J.P., Dame Louise Samuel (Chelsea Borough Council), Mrs. La Chard (Lambeth), Miss C. Keeling (Kensington). Chairman: Miss Bertha Mason. Admission free; reserved seats, 1/- and 6d.

**Wednesday, November 8th, 8 p.m.,** at Central Hall, Westminster. Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women. Speakers: The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Maude Royden. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. Admission free; tickets (numbered and reserved), 5/-, 2/6, 1/-, to be obtained at our Office.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

**Friday, October 6th, 3.30—7.30. Mid-London Branch Pound Tea,** at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Speakers: Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Underwood. Music, Dainty Teas. **Monday, October 9th,** at 3 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Political Sub-Committee Meeting.

**Wednesday, October 11th,** at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Jeffery. Subject: "House Property Managers (Octavia Hill, Pioneer), A New Career for Women."

**Monday, October 16th,** at 3 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Fair Committee Meeting.

**Monday, October 16th,** at 7 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Edwy G. Clayton. Subject: "Some Literary Bone-Shakers of the Seventeenth Century."

**Friday, October 20th.**—Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, at 6.30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 21st, at 3 p.m.**—Women's Freedom League Rally, at the Minerva Café.

**Wednesday, October 25th,** at 3 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Jessie March. Subject: "Should there be a Woman's Political Party?"

**Friday, October 27th,** at 6 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting.

**Saturday, October 28th,** at 10 a.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. National Executive Committee Meeting.

**Monday, October 30th,** at 7 p.m.—Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Mr. H. C. Charleton (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for South Leeds). Subject: "The Policy of the Labour Party on Questions that affect all Women."

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

## PROVINCES.

**Friday, October 6th,** at 8 p.m.—Hastings.—A Model Election conducted by Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., will be held at the Corner House, Claremont. Speakers: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., Rev. S. H. Wing, Councillor A. Blackman, Councillor S. McDougall and others.

**Monday, October 9th,** at 7.30 p.m.—Bexhill.—A combined Meeting will be held at the Sisterhood. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Chair: Miss Thornton.

**Wednesday, October 11th,** at 7.30 p.m.—Crosby & Waterloo.—Public Meeting at Congregational Church Hall, Blundellsands. Speakers: Mr. Ambrose (President, Local Branch, N.U.T.) and Mr. Lumby (Member, Executive Committee of N.U.T.). Subject: "The Educational Set-back." Chair: Mr. W. K. Curtis.

**Thursday, October 12th,** at 3 p.m.—Ashford.—A Public Meeting will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, Hempstead Street. Speaker: Miss E. W. Kirby. Subject: "Domestic Politics and Women."

**Monday, October 16th,** at 7 p.m.—Rye.—A Social Evening will be held at the Monastery. Dr. Octavia Lewin will give a Lecture on "Nasal Hygiene," to be followed by an exhibition of Child Dancing by little Miss Margery Dunhill. Silver Collection.

**Thursday, October 19th,** at 7 p.m.—Hull.—A Whist Tournament and Soirée will be held in the Owen Hall, Baker Street. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Admission 1/-.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

**Wednesday, October 11th,** at 8 p.m.—Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Mr. A. J. Pike (Organiser, Garden Cities and Town Planning Association). Subject: "The Abolition of Slums."

**Monday, October 23rd,** at 8 p.m.—St. Mary's Church Room, Defoe Road, Stoke Newington. Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Women and the Borough Council Elections."

## CONGRATULATIONS.

We are delighted to learn that Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., has been elected a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## Married Women Teachers Wanted!

Cannock (Staffs) Education Committee, which dispensed with the services of a number of married women teachers a few weeks ago, now finds itself so short of teachers that it has had to ask some of the dismissed teachers to return to duty.

## Married Women Teachers.

The *Evening Standard* reports that 64 married women teachers are in revolt against notices tendered to them by the Rhondda Urban District Council. The marriage ban has been introduced, in view of the widespread unemployment in the teaching profession, into which 3,000 young people are waiting to enter after passing through college. It is contended, however, that the Rhondda authority bound itself by contract in 1920 to permit all married teachers to continue in service until such time as they qualify for pensions, and that the tendering of notices is now tantamount to a breach of contract. It is understood that the National Union of Teachers has taken legal advice, and has recommended the Rhondda Association not to proceed to test the legality of their dismissal. Not satisfied with this adverse opinion, some of the married women sought legal advice elsewhere, and this, they contend, is favourable to them.

## An Educationist and Borstal Lads.

The *Sunday Times* reports that "a daring experiment has just been made of taking seventy lads out of a Borstal institution to a holiday camp at Deal. Ten years ago the idea of allowing seventy potential convicts to be at large would have been regarded as revolutionary. This summer the experiment was made with complete success. The man responsible was Mr. Alexander Paterson, the newly appointed Prison Commissioner. 'Alec,' as he is known to many of his old Oxford friends, has spent years in boys' clubs in South London. He worked at one time as an assistant teacher in an elementary Council school, and has been a tenement dweller. His knowledge of lads is deep, and this helped him to carry through the Borstal camp so happily." This, we think, confirms us in our view that young offenders should be dealt with by the education authorities, and not by the police authorities.

## Infant Mortality.

The *Leeds Mercury* reports that Dr. Jervis (the Medical Officer of Health), commenting, in his annual report, on the illegitimate death rate for Leeds in 1921, says:—"Out of a total of 565 illegitimate births, 120 (or 21.2 per cent.) died before reaching the age of one year, as compared with 631 births and 160 deaths (or 25.4 per cent.) in 1920. The illegitimate death-rate per 1,000 births was 212, a decrease of 42 on the figures for last year. Whilst there is some encouragement to be derived from the fact that the rate has fallen, one cannot but feel that the wastage of life is still far above what it ought to be. That there should be such a marked difference between the death-rate of illegitimate children (212) and legitimate (92) is a reflection alike on the social and public health system of this country. Even the illegitimate child, unwanted though it be, has, nevertheless, as much right to life as the legitimate, and it is the duty of society to see that it is not deprived of that right." We cordially agree with the views of Dr. Jervis on this subject. Both the illegitimate children and their mothers have a right to more protection than they now obtain. The death-rate among the mothers of illegitimate children is very much higher than that among the mothers of children born in wedlock, and we can well understand that it would be so, when we remember that the mother can claim no assistance from the father until after the birth of the child. Before the child is born, she is frequently incapacitated from earning, and it is then that she ought to have some claim for support from the father, in the interests both of her own health and of her child's. The Women's Freedom League has always demanded that the father should share with the mother full responsibility for the welfare of the child both before and after its birth. If this were the law of the land, there would be a great decrease in the death-rate of both illegitimate children and of their mothers when these children are born.

## BRANCH NOTE.

## HAMPSTEAD.

By kind permission of Miss Lyndon, a meeting of the branch was held at 53, Willow Road, on Monday, September 25th. Arrangements for autumn meetings were made, Mrs. Harverson kindly offering to have one at her house. It was decided to include odds and ends with the handkerchiefs for the branch Stall at the Green, White, and Gold Fair, at the Central Hall, Westminster, on November 10th and 11th, and a fund was started to provide the Stall with handkerchiefs. Miss Lyndon kindly entertained those present to tea. Promises of gifts for the Stall have been received from Miss Lane and Mrs. Moscheles. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss E. Berry, 10s.; Miss Goodliffe, £2; Mrs. James, 2s. 6d.; Dr. Knight, £1; Miss Lyndon, £1; Miss Vibert, £1. (Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road.



FRIDAY,  
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# THE VOTE

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**T**HE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

## EDUCATIONAL.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, October 8th, 3 15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer.—6 30. Miss Maude Royden. "The Four Gospels."

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