

THE VOTE,  
AUGUST 13, 1920.  
ONE PENNY.

## THE DIVINE FEMININE.

By The Hon. Sir JOHN COCKBURN, K.C.M.G., M.D.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1920

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

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF WOMEN.

### IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS.

The last year, 1919-1920, has been a record one in the way of important gatherings of women of diverse nations in different parts of the world, all of which, though representing different phases of activity, have had one common purpose—the advancement of women.

The first was the International Conference of Women Physicians, held in New York during the autumn of last year, which dealt with the health of women in industry, the health of the child, moral codes and personality, adaptation of the individual to life, and conservation of the health of women in marriage.

The second was the International Congress of Working Women held in Washington, D.C., last autumn. Thirteen countries were represented—Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Great Britain, India, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and the United States. Additional countries represented were Cuba, Denmark, Japan, the Netherlands, Serbia, Spain, and Switzerland. This Congress was originally called by the National Women's Trade Union League at the suggestion of British and French working women, and is to be perpetuated as a permanent organisation. The President of the League, Mrs. Raymond Robins, was nominated President of the Congress, and another member of the League, Mrs. Maud Swartz, was appointed secretary. Resolutions adopted by the Congress included: For all workers a maximum eight-hour day and a forty-four-hour week; that the weekly rest period shall have an uninterrupted duration of at least one day and a half; that in continuous industries a minimum rest period of one-half hour shall be accorded in each eight-hour shift; that no child shall be permitted to work unless he is 16 years of age; that the legal workday for persons between 16 and 18 shall be shorter than the day for adults; that no minor shall be employed at night work; prohibition of employment of

minors in hazardous occupations; relief of women from work six weeks before and six weeks subsequent to childbirth; free medical care for women during maternity; creation of a bureau in the League of Nations to collect information on the best methods of maternity and infant care; adequate monetary allowance for women workers during maternity; prohibition of all night work for women, and for men in so far as possible.

The third Conference was that of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance held at Geneva in June, when the United States, every country in Europe except Belgium and Russia, and Egypt, China and Turkey were represented. At this Congress a significant resolution was passed asking that women should have a part in the League of Nations, and that a conference of women should be called annually to consider the status and welfare of women, and that the expenses of this conference should be paid by the League of Nations.

The congress adopted a comprehensive woman's programme demanding full political equality; full personal and civil rights for married women; equality in marriage and guardianship; nationality rights; equal opportunities in general and special education; equal opportunities for entering industries, professions, civil service, administrative and judicial functions; and equal pay for equal work. The convention's sentiment for a single standard of morality was embodied in a resolution which affirmed the belief that "laws which strike at women without touching men are ineffective and unjust." The programme demands for illegitimate children the same right of maintenance and education as for legitimate children.

The fourth Conference was convened by the Young Women's Christian Association at Geneva this year.

The fifth Conference was the first inauguration of the

## IN PARLIAMENT.

International Federation of University Women in London in July, of which the underlying purpose is to unite the sympathies of University women of all nations in the hope of establishing lasting peace. Its immediate aims are the promotion of an international interchange of women students; the interchange of professors among the institutions of different countries, and the establishment of social clubs for University women in foreign countries.

Several hundred guests attended the evening reception at Bedford College at the opening meeting, and listened to speeches on the ideals and the programme of the Federation by Lord Grey of Fallodon, Professor Caroline Spurgeon (Bedford College), Dean Virginia Gildersleeve (Barnard College, New York), and Professor Winifred Cullis (London School of Medicine for Women). On the following day an open meeting of University women was held to consider suggestions for a constitution for the Federation and to hear a series of informal reports on the higher education of women in the various countries represented. These countries included France, Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, India, the Overseas Dominions and the United States. Federations or associations of university women do not yet exist in all these countries, as they do in America, Canada, Spain, Holland and Great Britain, but the representatives who attended the meetings spoke enthusiastically of the probability that organisations would be formed very soon in the other countries. The outstanding feature of this meeting, as of the others which followed it, was the expression, on the part of all the national representatives, of a real understanding of the ideals of other nations and an ardent determination to co-operate in the work of the Federation in every possible way.

An interesting discussion on "Next Steps for University Women" was organised, on the Tuesday afternoon, by President M. Carey Thomas, of Bryn Mawr College. President Thomas is a vigorous believer in the power of the Federation "to anticipate by several centuries the progress of university women" by co-operation. She initiated a series of suggestive debates on "Co-education," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Marriage and Work," and "The Reward of Efficiency." The chief speakers were President Thomas herself, Dean Ada Comstock, of Smith College, Professor Jessica Peixotto, of the University of California, Dr. Ida Smedley MacLean, who spoke as a married woman who is carrying on her chemical research work at the same time, and Miss Mary Leal Harkness, President of the Federation of Southern Women's Colleges of America.

The sixth Conference will be the Convention of the International Council of Women which meets in Christiania in September of this year. This Council has very much the same aims as the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance. It is the older society of the two, having been formed at Washington, U.S.A., in 1888, and whilst the Alliance represents the suffrage interest primarily, the International Council represents all lines of women's activities, whether educational, industrial, or social. Its President is the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. Twenty-five countries and about seven million women will be represented when the Council meets at Christiania next September.

The resolutions to be considered include the endorsement of the League of Nations; the training of school girls in citizenship; the formation of an international committee on child welfare to co-operate with the League of Nations; the right of women to retain their own nationality in marriage; the endowment of motherhood; the appointment of women judges in juvenile courts; the legal right of married women to a just proportion of the husband's income; the consideration of an international language; equal moral standards; censorship of motion-picture films, and the institution of a common international standard of weights, measures, and money values.

D. M. N.

## Women Justices.

Replying to a question asked by Mr. T. THOMSON, SIR GORDON HEWART said that women justices would be appointed for those counties and towns to which no such appointments had hitherto been made, as well as for those for which some such appointments had already been made, as and when opportunity offered, and recommendations were received through the local advisory committee and would be considered by the Lord Chancellor.

## Women in Government Departments.

Replying to a question asked by Mr. GILBERT of the Minister of Pensions, MR. MACPHERSON stated that the total number of women clerks employed on July 1st, 1920, in his Department was 8,848, allotted as follows:

Secretariat and other Headquarters offices	673
Pension Issue office	5,524
Award Branches	2,051
Medical Services Division	84
Regions	516

In reply to a question asked by SIR SAMUEL HOARE, MR. BALDWIN said that in the Department of the Public Trustee there were 210 officers in receipt of emoluments of £300 a year and over, inclusive of war bonus. Of these 21 were women. SIR SAMUEL HOARE further asked the Postmaster-General how many administrative posts at a salary of £300 a year and over were there in his Department, and what number of these were held by women? MR. ILLINGWORTH replied that in the absence of a definition of the term "administrative," he regretted he could not give a precise answer to that question. There were about 20 posts for women in the Post Office on scales of salary rising to £300 a year or above, exclusive of war bonus, and some of the work proper to those posts might be described as administrative. Our readers will notice that Mr. Illingworth omitted to give any idea of the number of men employed by the Post Office and receiving £300 a year and over.

## Juvenile Courts.

Replying to a question asked by Mr. HASLAM, the HOME SECRETARY stated that the number of children under 14 and young persons between 14 and 16 who were brought before Juvenile Courts in England and Wales during the year 1919 was 22,045 and 18,428 respectively.

## Widows' Pensions.

MR. TYSON WILSON asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that Boards of Guardians throughout the country were passing resolutions in favour of a scheme for widows' pensions in order to provide for the maintenance of fatherless children; and whether he could state the proposals of the Government on this matter. DR. ADDISON acknowledged that he had received a certain number of resolutions on the subject, but the Government did not feel able to introduce a scheme. He added that it was estimated that the scheme would cost £50,000,000.

## Civil Service Examinations.

SIR PHILIP LLOYD-GRAEME asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether women legally separated from their husbands would be excluded from the forthcoming examinations for temporary Civil Servants. MR. BALDWIN replied that the answer was in the affirmative. We are curious enough to want to know if men separated from their wives would also be excluded from these examinations.

## Women Police.

SIR J. D. REES asked the Home Secretary if the women police were to be retained throughout the Recess, or if the Committee had reported and action would be taken before the House rose? MR. SHORTT said that there was no question of discontinuing the employment of policewomen in the Metropolitan Police District, and he had no reason to doubt that police authorities would retain them in other districts. The Committee had reported, but it would not be possible to take any action before the House rose. F. A. U.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Woman Adviser in Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture have appointed Dame Meriel Talbot to be their woman adviser. Dame Talbot has been connected with the Ministry for several years, as Director of the Women's Branch of the Food Production Department, and as a member of the Government Overseas Settlement Committee. In her new post she will be responsible for the recommendation of suitable women to serve on the Councils and Committees of Agriculture for England and Wales, and for the work of Women's Institutes throughout the country. Part of her work will be to co-operate with the Director of Rural Industries in any measures that can be taken to enlist the help of women for the betterment of village life.

## More Women Jurors.

The Clerk of the Peace for Wigan is empanelling a mixed jury of men and women for the forthcoming Borough Quarter Sessions which will be held during the present week. There is only one criminal case for trial, to be followed by a licensing appeal. A curious anomaly which we hope will correct itself in time is that at present the qualification for jurors is based upon the rateable value of property held by burgesses, or the rateable value of dwelling-houses occupied by citizens—both male and female—between the ages of 21 and 65, so that a woman householder who complies with the property regulations is qualified and liable to serve on a special jury at the age of 21 years, although she is not qualified to vote until she is 30!

## A Strenuous Anti.

The death of Lady Wantage removes a strenuous opponent of the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women. She was one of the great women landowners of England, and was keenly interested in all that concerned her tenantry on her Berkshire and Northamptonshire estates. The system of profit-sharing introduced by her husband was also maintained by her. Although a Vice-President of the "Anti" Society, Lady Wantage, nevertheless, took a leading part in public movements and administrative work, such as serving on Education Committees and Boards of Guardians, and she also worked hard for the amelioration of the position of working women.

## Business Women in Japan.

Japanese firms are employing English girls fairly freely in their offices. Stenographers and accountants are specially in demand. Office work in the East is infinitely more leisurely and less fatiguing than in London. The average hours are from 9 to 5, and during the summer months from 8.30 to 4, with about two hours off in the middle of the day. The salaries paid are, on the whole, good, ranging from 300 to 500 yen per month. This is equivalent to £450 and £750 per annum. On the other hand, the cost of living is reckoned at 200 to 250 yen per month, whilst hotel life costs still more.

## Lady Aberdeen to Retire.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen is retiring from the Presidency of the International Council of Women, after serving for four quinquennial terms in succession. She only allowed herself to be re-nominated in 1914 for the current term at the wish of the Executive Council, for she feels that it would be in the interests of the Association to have a president of another nationality.

## Mrs. Philip Snowden's Mission.

It is stated that Mrs. Philip Snowden, who is at present attending the International Socialist Congress at Geneva, has been appointed to serve upon an international commission to visit the Caucasus and inquire into the political, economic, and educational conditions in that region. She will leave London on September 1st.

## Woman Botanist to Preside.

Miss E. R. Saunders, a member of the British Association Council, and director of the natural science studies at Newnham College, Oxford, will preside over the Botanical Section at the 88th annual meeting of the British Association, which opens at Cardiff on August 24th.

## Women Police in Ireland.

Women Police have been imported into Ireland from England during the last three weeks. They are stationed in different towns, and in the West of Ireland are to be seen patrolling the streets. Their chief duty appears to be that of searching women during military raids.

## Women at Louvain University.

The re-constituted University of Louvain has at last opened its doors to women undergraduates. A convent has already organised quarters for 50 girls, but a larger hostel under lay management is badly needed for older students.

## Belgian Cinema Laws.

A new law recently passed in Belgium ordains that all cinemas that desire to open their doors to young people under sixteen must submit to a certain measure of supervision and control of the films shown. They are, however, to be quite free to cater only for adults should they prefer to do so.

## THE DIVINE FEMININE.

By The Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., M.D.

Now that woman has come into her own again on earth her restoration to the Hierarchy of Heaven will follow as a natural consequence. Thus we shall at last witness a reversal of the wrong to the sex perpetrated by the Semitic race centuries before the Christian era. Professor Sayce, in the Hibbert Lectures, 1887, states that among the Accadians, or Proto Chaldeans, whose civilisation preceded that of the Assyrians, "it was the mother, and not the father, who stood at the head of the family; and in the bilingual texts we find that in the Accadian original the female is always mentioned before the male, while the Semitic translator is careful to reverse the order. Woman in Accad occupied a higher position than she did, or does, among the Semites. The Goddesses of Accad, accordingly, were independent beings, like the gods whose equals they were."

Following the degradation of women the goddess appeared merely as a pale reflection of the Masculine Deity, until ultimately, as the patriarchal régime culminated to its fall, the Divine Feminine was entirely eliminated. The fact that the Roman Catholic faith still retains its devotion to Our Lady largely accounts for its perennial vitality.

In the early Middle Ages the worship of the Virgin, known as Mariolatry, was the prevailing cult of Christianity. The idea of a purely masculine Godhead is comparatively recent. There is no trace of it in antiquity. The spirit of wisdom, especially in the writings of Solomon, is feminine. In an old homily two bells were prescribed as the death-knell of a woman, "as the second person of the Trinity," which originally consisted of the natural group of Father, Mother and Son. Recognising the evil effects of ignoring the Divine Feminine, some of the more advanced ministers of religion have directed attention to the subject. The late Rev. Hugh Price Hughes discoursed on "The Motherhood of God," and from time to time glimmerings of the dawn of readjustment may be discerned. Doubtless a much-needed renaissance of religion will ensue when the fruits of the spirit which are feminine rank on earth as in heaven, more highly than the works of the flesh.

## THE VOTE.

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## WAR OR PEACE?

During the early part of the week war clouds darkened the political horizon and threatened to burst into storm at any moment. No one, after the recent five years' experience of war, can maintain that this question of War and Peace is one which is of no concern to women, and we were not at all surprised to see that protests against any war with Russia at the present time were issued by the Women's Co-operative Guild, representing 44,000 working class wives and mothers, and by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, representing a million working women in the labour, trade union and co-operative movements. Such action is a sign of the times. Women have won a new political responsibility, and whatever their class or party complexion, they know the horrors of war and the sacrifices it imposes on their loved ones, as well as on themselves. They know the appalling waste of life and resources which war entails, the devastation of territory and the poverty and suffering which it inflicts upon generations of men and women; and, because they realise this, women are determined to use their political power to prevent war whenever possible. The world is sick of war; and women cannot believe that the British Government will declare war with Russia or any other country until every avenue of Peace has first been explored. They cannot think that there is no avenue leading to Peace. Upon our Government and upon our representatives in Parliament rests an immense responsibility. They cannot afford, the world cannot afford, to blunder or to be brow-beaten into another war at the present time; and we can confidently assure the Government that the full support of British women will be behind them in every effort that they make for a lasting Peace, not only with Russia, but throughout the world. Every problem of the future is subsidiary to the problem of permanent peace. Women fervently desire the solution of this great problem, and have shown themselves as willing to contribute their share of work in its solution, as they previously showed themselves willing and able to work for their country in its crisis. Since the war, women of all nations have met together in world congresses, and have returned to their own countries with enlightened views and understanding of the people of other lands. They have passionately proclaimed their faith in the ideal of the League of Nations, and have determined to make that ideal a practical reality. They recognise that the common interests of men and women of all nations are much more numerous, and vastly more important than their antagonisms, and that the resources of this planet can be explored more effectively by the forces of co-operation than by disintegrating competition. They are convinced that no war should be embarked upon until every means of averting it has been exhausted, and surely civilisation is not so bankrupt in endeavour as to prevent an understanding and a workable arrangement between the Russians, the Poles, and the Allies!

## MEN AND MANNERS!

Men have still a curious idea, rooted in the depths of their consciousness, that they have a divine right to all the good things of this world as well as to all well-paid jobs, and that women should only have a share in any of them when men have taken all that they want. Readers of THE VOTE will remember that when men wanted the jobs at the pit mouth for older men and lads, they ruthlessly attempted to turn the pit brow girls out of these jobs. With sickening monotony Members in the House of Commons, week in, week out, get up and ask some Head of Department how many women are in the employ of that Department, and when they will be substituted by men, no matter whether the work can or cannot be done by the substitutes. The Bristol Tramways Company have been forced to give way to men's clamour that all women employed by the Company shall be dismissed. Last week about 2,000 Liverpool ex-Service men endeavoured to browbeat the Committee of the Liverpool Brewers' and Spirit Merchants' Association into dismissing all barmaids in hotels and public houses in that city and giving their jobs to men. They, naturally, made no suggestion as to where these barmaids might find other employment. Then we have Mr. Macquisten, after a statement by the Minister of Education in regard to the number of male and female students at evening classes, asking in the House of Commons if the right hon. gentleman did not think that young girls would be better at home assisting their mothers? It did not seem to occur to him to consider whether it would be an advantage to young boys to be given similar occupation. Women have long since ceased to expect any chivalry on the part of men; but they keenly resent being treated as a subject race by them, and claim for themselves the same right of way as regards opportunities and rewards in education, industry and professions as men enjoy. Women of all classes must make a determined effort to secure and guard this right of way, and the best sentinels they can put along its route are women Members of Parliament. A hundred women M.P.s would also make a wonderful difference in the manners of some men—both inside and outside the House of Commons.

## WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.

We learn that the Home Secretary has appointed his Departmental Committee on "Women's Employment in Industry, with Special Reference to the Two-Shift System," the Chairman being Mr. Inskip, K.C., and other members being Mr. Mallalieu, Mr. W. A. Appleton, Sir Malcolm Delevigne, of the Home Office, and Mrs. Dora Coleman. One would have thought that in a matter so vitally concerning women workers direct representation would have been given to them. Mrs. Dora Coleman may be in every other way entirely admirable, but so far as we can gather she has had no connection with women in industry. We should hardly think that Mr. Appleton has any special claim to represent working women. It was stated that Mrs. Sidney Webb would probably be a member of this Committee, but she is said to be in Geneva at the present time, and already committee meetings have been held. How long will women workers be content to have their conditions of livelihood settled over their heads by their employers and men competitors without being consulted? We understand that the further stages of this Bill will be taken in the Autumn, as Parliament adjourns this week for the recess.

### OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them mention the 'VOTE'

## WOMEN IN MEDIÆVAL ENGLISH GILDS.

### Sex Equality in the Middle Ages.

The importance of Gild life in the middle ages, not only in Great Britain, but all over the Continent and in most of the civilised countries of Europe, has hardly hitherto received the recognition it deserves. The earliest reference to Gilds is found in English laws as far back as the days of King Ina (A.D. 688-725), and in consequence England has been christened the birthplace of Gilds, and London their cradle. Their actual origin is obscure, but the reason of their existence quite evident. They arose in days when the family was no longer able of itself to protect its rapidly increasing descendants, and the State was not sufficiently established to offer artificial aid. The early English gild, therefore, was really an institution of local self-help, called into being before Poor Laws were invented. Nevertheless the Family was the type upon which the gild was originally founded. Women, as well as men, took an equal share, alike in the privileges as well as the duties of their particular Society. So long as this principle of family life was observed in these outside institutions all went well. In later days, however, when political theories began to conceive of the State as an organisation of individual men, rather than a

### Commonwealth of Families,

women's influence declined, the gilds lost their original meaning, and the world became dominated by patriarchal principles.

Gilds at the outset were of two kinds, social (sometimes called religious) and craft gilds. Though both were essentially lay bodies, and existed for lay purposes, a strong religious tendency characterised both, especially in the era prior to the Reformation. Practically all the earlier gilds were named after some popular saint, one day in each year being specially set apart by the gild members as a commemoration of their patron. Religious rites, whether many or few, formed an essential part of the various ordinances by which a gild governed itself, and the wealthier societies paid the salary of a chaplain.

Certain tangible benefits were secured to members by their subscription or *gild* (*gield*, *geld*, *gyld*, a word of Saxon origin denoting a rateable payment). These included a weekly pension and frequently an almshouse in poverty or old age, special pecuniary assistance in cases of robbery or fire, help when travelling or on pilgrimage, and loans to set up young people of either sex in business for themselves. Decent burial, sometimes accompanied by no little ceremony and solemn requiem masses, was accorded each brother or sister as a matter of course.

### Social Amenities

were observed by special feast days three or four times a year, either at members' houses, or in the gild's own hall.

In 1388 Parliament ordered that a return should be made, by all the Sheriffs to the King's Council in Chancery, of all details as to the foundation, statutes, and property of all gilds in their shires, and it is from such of these Returns as have been resuscitated of recent years that the actual everyday occurrences of mediæval gild life have been reconstructed afresh, whilst a rich mine of unworked material still lies hidden in numerous archives up and down the country.

The ideal of the Family is readily observed in the Returns as the ruling principle for centuries. The great proportion of the statutes mention "brethren and sistren" (or the still older form of *sustren*) without distinction. Out of five hundred Returns unearthed by the late Professor Toulmin Smith from the Record

Office, only five societies exclude women as members, and most of these hail from Cambridge! (The Cambridge Syndicate of to-day which is to finally pronounce upon the fate of University women during the coming autumn should make a note of this!) Women are equally mentioned with men in both types of gilds, social or craft. The tailors, carpenters, saddlers, fullers, bakers, etc., all speak of sisters in conjunction with brothers. Women, equally with men, are mentioned as Founders of Gilds. The Gild of St. Edmund, at Bishop's Lynn, had twenty-two founders, which included six married women and four single. The Guild of the Blessed Virgin at Kingston-upon-Hull, founded in 1357, had twenty-three founders, of whom ten were married women, and three were single. The Gild of Corpus Christi, of the same place, had forty-three founders, eighteen of whom were women. The majority of women members of gilds in the Middle Ages were wives, for, as Miss Alice Clark reminds us in that fascinating record, "The Working Life of Women in the Seventeenth Century" (Routledge, 10s. 6d.), single women were rare exceptions in early days. Women took their full share in all the

### Essential Business

of their gild, and voted equally with men in the election of the various officials. They were also equally eligible with men to take office if necessary. The Gild of Killingholm, Lancashire, enjoined in its ordinances "that if any brother or sister is chosen Provost for a year by the four Provosts of the past year and will not serve," certain penalties were to be paid. That women were apparently not elected in great numbers to these higher offices is readily understandable in an age when, as Miss Clark reminds us, women's domestic occupations included brewing, dairy work, the care of poultry and pigs, the production of fruit and vegetables, spinning flax and wool, nursing and doctoring, in addition to ordinary cooking and the care of a house, whilst both sexes played an important part in industrial and professional life.

Women walked in front of the men at the solemn processions of the gild, and wore the same habit or livery which usually distinguished the crafts. Young women were frequently dowered by the gilds either for marriage or convent life, and single women, equally with single men, were helped in their apprenticeship, or enabled to set up business by a grant from the gild, accompanied by extraordinarily easy terms for returning the money. Women in every case, too, shared the

### Responsibility of Gild Life

equally with the men. Only very occasionally do we come across any mention of favours because of sex. Sometimes, it is true, women were let off with the provision of only a halfpenny loaf on the death of a member, whereas the men gave a penny one, and sometimes their candles on saints days were not always as big as those carried by the opposite sex. But these exceptions were rare in the ordinances, and a gild sister as a general rule was expected to foot the bill on all occasions "as a brother doth."

Unfortunately, the importance of women members gradually diminished when the gilds finally crystallised into definite trade organisations, or else were swept away by the Reformation. Marriage to a member of a gild, however, still had the potency of conferring upon a woman her husband's rights and privileges, and in the event of his death the widow became possessed of all his trade privileges, including the right to maintain apprentices. D. M. NORTHGROFT.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Out of the Frying-Pan.* By C. Nina Boyle. (Allen & Unwin.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This book, so we are informed, is the writer's first novel. However this may be there must certainly have been considerable pen practice in other ways, for the story is written by no 'prentice hand. Marked descriptive power, skilful characterisation, ingenious plot-building, and the knack of imparting a great deal of somewhat unusual information without in the least appearing to do so, compose its chief features and conspire to produce a really original narrative. The subject, however, is somewhat unsavoury. Third-rate Continental episodes, with an entourage of loose women, gambling dens, card-sharps, and gaol-birds are hardly worthy material for so clever a pen. We look forward to a second attempt based on a more whole-some perspective of living. Maisie, the heroine, keeps her purity throughout in a really wonderful way, considering that she is not a mere plaster image, but a girl with youth and bounding pulses. The men characters in the story are mostly depicted as unerringly wicked or else deplorably weak. Except Anthony Rookwood, who is too impeccable. We confess, however, to a secret sympathy with that black sheep, Jim Sefton, which we half suspect is also shared by the author, or she could not have drawn his personality with so much vigour. It is easy to understand the hold he obtained over Maisie, even in the accidental encounter after her marriage, which finally led to his death. Lord Johnny is a delightful conception, and we wonder if he has been borrowed from a well-known "Meddlesome Matty" connected with the Yellow Press. The Vaults, presided over by the Boss, and the scene of some eventful episodes, is apparently a faithful representation of an up-to-date Thieves' Kitchen. The descriptions throughout, however, are all realistic, and betray much close observation on the part of the author. We still reiterate, however, that we would like the next canvas to be spread on more homely lines, and with a shade less melodrama.

*Poor Dear Theodora.* By Florence Irwin. (Putnam's Sons.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This is a very readable book. The story is simple, and simply told, but it has the knack—a no inconsiderable one—of holding the reader to the end. Theodora wins her way from first to last by a generous heart, sheer sincerity and splendid common-sense. Her adventures in the world, once she breaks away from the New England traditions which hampered her girlhood, and were threatening her whole existence, form excellent reading, whether as companion-secretary to that great lady, Mrs. Delafield Stuyvesant, mother's help in a colony of "simple life" cranks, who minimise housekeeping to the point of sheer discomfort, and allow their offspring to run hopelessly wild, or as switch-board girl in a New York office. Of course there is a hero, but he happens to be Mrs. Stuyvesant's nephew, and this causes an eventual breach with Theodora's first employer. A still more formidable barrier is an apparent engagement between the hero and an old friend of his childhood, which is constantly referred to but never actually explained. Theodora engages herself, though with subconscious hesitation, to Gerald Wyatt, the son of a newly-rich family near Theodora's home, but after shrewd diagnosis of his real character, frees herself a little later. Needless to relate, both hero and heroine are eventually linked together after many vicissitudes created by the war. There is a decided suffrage element running through the story, and though the author has sufficient sense of humour to show up any ill-balanced exponents of sex equality, such as Mrs. Felton and Blanche Beekman, it is easy to see that her sympathies are entirely with the genuine reformer as symbolised in the breezy broad-mindedness of Mrs. Neilson, who wakes up the sleepy inhabitants of Waverley, not only to their political responsibilities, but to the seriousness of the war.

## BRUTAL LAWS!

We have from time to time paid special attention to Marlborough Street Police Court, where Mr. Mead reigns supreme. Mr. Mead is the stipendiary magistrate who announced during the war that he would like to imprison all women who sold flowers in the streets, because it was a waste of time and they ought to be in domestic service! Women, especially the poor and friendless, have little chance of justice when brought before this despotic person who is supposed to be the servant of the people.

Our attention has just been drawn to the case of Mrs. Ellen Wright, aged 61, an "invalid nurse" for the last ten years. On September 4th, 1919, Mrs. Wright states that she was speaking at a meeting in Hyde Park, and twenty minutes after closing the meeting she was violently arrested by a police inspector and eight other policemen, taken off her feet across the park to the station, flung across the charge room, then flung into a police cell and shut up for some hours before released. The next day she appeared at Marlborough Street Police Court and was again treated with violence. To one of her witnesses who protested against the violence, Mr. Mead made the extraordinary remark that he had no jurisdiction as to how the police treated their prisoners. After a week's remand she reappeared; this time a fresh charge under D.O.R.A. was made against her, and the inspector treated her with increased brutality. Flung to the back of the Court with other prisoners, she was indignantly protected by an Australian soldier. In the Court she had no time to consult her solicitor, and her six witnesses were not called. The charge was dismissed, but she was remanded to Holloway Prison for enquiry into her mental condition. In the prison she was forbidden to see her own doctor, and on September 20th in the Court a medical certificate was put in that she was of unsound mind. She was then sent to St. George's Infirmary Observation Ward, Fulham, but discharged on September 26th. After being very ill all through the winter, on March 12th this year (within the legal limit of six months) she went to Marlborough Street Police Court to ask for a summons against Inspector White for assault and perjury in the previous September. She was not admitted into the Court, but was thrown out into the road.

Mrs. Wright, as far as we can gather, seems to have political opinions which are obnoxious to the official mind, but asylums must not be used as places of detention in which to shut up out of one's way one's political opponents. The strength of a vigorous young man used against a frail elderly woman must inevitably cause brutality, and there seems no justification for the refusal of a summons. Fortunately, we are nearing the day when no woman prisoner will be handled by a man, and the time is not so very distant for a woman stipendiary magistrate to preside even in the fastness of Marlborough Street.

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## WELSH CAMPAIGN, ABERYSTWYTH.

Hon. Organiser—ALIX M. CLARK.

Speaker—Mrs. WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P.

The Welsh Campaign opened on July 30th at Aberystwyth. In spite of our wet summer the rain held off, and a large and attentive audience on the Promenade listened to Mrs. Nevinson's speech on the League of Nations with full orchestral accompaniment of breakers and rain. Miss Alix Clark had previously chalked the promenade as in the old days, and the novelty of "J.P." after a woman's name attracted a good deal of attention and interest. The audience were very sympathetic, and there was no hostile militarism. One felt everyone was weary of war and death and hatred, and willing to build up the New World, of which we have heard so much and seen so little, by the forces of good will and trust. It was decided that the League of Nations should be the subject for the week-end meetings, as the best message for the vast crowds assembled for the Bank Holiday from all parts of our Island. Miss Clark is forbidden to take a collection by order of the Town Council of Aberystwyth, but with national skill evades the law by inviting the audience to fill her four pockets with their offerings. This was willingly done, and sums of over 10s. have been taken each night. The audience were quick to see Mrs. Nevinson's point that no League could be built up except with the support of every individual conscience of the nations. If only war could become "bad form," as duelling has now become antiquated and ridiculous; if only public opinion could turn from anything so cruel and filthy and useless as the Great War, Peace might become the fashion once again. One of the fatal things about war is that profiteers grow rich on the blood of the young men. That also must be made "bad form," as shrewd observers have already noticed.

Last week the weather has twice stopped our meetings, once by pouring rain and the following evening by wind and heavy breakers and a high tide which invaded our pitch on the beach and threatened to float off the soap-box of oratory. Mrs. Nevinson has spoken on the question of "Equal Pay for Equal Work," on "Equal Standard of Morality Between the Sexes," and on "The League of Nations." The audiences are very sympathetic and orderly, an orderliness which would have seemed incredible in the "wild scenes" of a few years ago, but "times are changed." They are, however, very shy of asking questions, which used to add so much to the interest of meetings. Miss Clark is still forbidden by the Aberystwyth Town Council to take collections at the meetings, and as money is necessary for the work all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League are asked to forward donations (both great and small) to Alix M. Clark.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, August 18.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 25.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park. 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday, October 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Vida Goldstein. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Lind-af-Hageby. 3 p.m.

Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

## PROVINCES.

Monday, September 6.—Hastings. Whist Drive. Metropole Hotel, Robertson Terrace. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Boxhill. Business Meeting. 19, Marine Mansions. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. 3.30 p.m.

## WALES.

From July 29 and throughout August.—Aberystwyth. Meetings at the Bandstand every night. 8 p.m. Subjects: "League of Nations," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Why Women Should Use the Vote," "The Need for Women in Parliament," etc. Speakers: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Chairman: Alix M. Clark.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, November 1.—Bethnal Green Women Citizens' Association, 33, Blythe Street, E. Speaker: Miss Kirby. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." 8 p.m.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

## BRANCH NOTES.

## NOTTINGHAM.

Subscriptions to the Nottingham Women's Police Court Association:—

Lucas, Mr., 2s. 6d.; Ashbourne, Mrs., 10s.; Saxton, Mr., 5s.; Armitage, Mrs. I. L., 5s.; Butterworth, Mrs., 2s. 6d.; Frettingham, Mrs., 2s. 6d.; Gunston, Miss, 5s.; De Hersant, Misses, 7s. 6d.; Linday, Miss, 2s.; Lees, Mrs., 10s.; Radley, Mrs., 2s. 6d.; Massey, Miss, 1s.; Payne, Miss, 2s. 6d.; Shaw, Mrs., 3s.; Buxton, Mrs., 2s. 6d.; Watkins, Mrs., 2s. 6d.; Surion, Mrs., 5s.; Wilkinson, Mrs., 2s. 6d.; Woolley, Miss, 2s.; Chambers, Mrs., 5s.; Corke, Miss, 2s. 6d.; Archer, Mrs., 2s.; Grundy, Miss, 10s.; Richardson, Mrs., 5s.; Hutchinson, Mrs., 10s.; Armitage, Miss, 2s. 6d.; Burgis, Miss, 10s.; Bulleid, Mrs., 2s. 6d.; Wallis, Miss, 5s.; total, £6 10s.

As only £5 was needed for this fund the surplus was—in accordance with the wishes of the donors—handed over to the Despard Birthday Fund. M. W. W. P.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society took advantage of the National Catholic Congress at Liverpool to hold a sectional meeting on Widows' Pensions, and a resolution was carried unanimously and sent to the local M.P.'s, urging the Government to establish a system of Widows' Pensions. The Co-operative Wholesale Society also held a public meeting at Liverpool on July 31st, on the need for women in Parliament. A resolution urging the political parties to adopt a fair proportion of women candidates at the next election was carried unanimously. The two prospective candidates for Liverpool constituencies, Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Independent) and Mrs. Egerton Stewart Browne (Liberal) being present in the audience, the Chairman, Miss de Alberti, begged everyone present to work hard to ensure their return to Parliament.

## THE "ENGLISHWOMAN" FOR AUGUST.

Miss Cicely Hamilton, in an article on "The Women's Congress and the Peace Problem," expresses disappointment that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, when it met in June at Geneva, discussed the prevention of war from the standpoint of abstract philanthropy instead of dealing with fundamentals and discovering the actual causes of bloodshed and the best method of preventing these from taking effect. She believes, as most of us do, that women's influence in politics will no doubt on the whole be cast against actual bloodshed, and thinks that the granting of political enfranchisement to women was unconsciously prompted by the race instinct for self-preservation. But she contends that this attitude in itself is not sufficient to prevent future outbreaks, and that women must create a definite and skilled policy to counteract the fighting instinct in man. Mrs. E. M. Bell writes interestingly of her experiences amongst the Sikh community at Amritsar three months before the rising broke out. Stephen Gwynn proffers some hitherto unpublished reminiscences of Mary Kingsley, who, it may not be generally known, went to West Africa in the first place as an ordinary trader, the better to get in touch with the natives and acquire information firsthand. The real purpose of her travels was to finish a book on Africa which her father left uncompleted at his death. Miss M. Lowndes writes charmingly of a recent tour in Normandy, and M. Lane, in "A Cause Célèbre of the Sixteenth Century," narrates the touching history of the three ill-fated daughters of the Duke of Suffolk, the Ladies Jane, Catherine and Mary Grey. In the section known as "Echoes" there is a clever paragraph comparing the recent recommendations of the Washington Labour Conference to prohibit women from night work with Esop's fable of the Fox and the Stork. Also a severe indictment upon the kind of committee procedure in the House of Commons which finally strangled the Plumage Bill after the large majority it obtained on the second reading.

## LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

The offices of "The League of the Church Militant" have been transferred from 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, to The Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

FRIDAY,  
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