

THE VOTE,
NOVEMBER 7, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN AND THEOLOGICAL DEGREES.
EVELYN W. HIPPISEY, S.Th.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 7, 1919.

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

LONDON AND COUNTRY ELECTION RESULTS.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
ELLA WHEELER WILCOX, D.M.N.
WOMEN MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES.

WOMEN AND THEOLOGICAL DEGREES.
G. W. Hippisley.
WOMEN AND THE LAY MINISTRY. E. L. A.
WHY DID THE CHILD OFFEND? F. A. U.

121 WOMEN CANDIDATES. LONDON ELECTIONS RESULTS.

BATTERSEA.

MRS. HOCKLEY (Lab.), MRS. DIERDERICKS-DUVAL (Lab.), MRS. GANLEY (Lab.).

BERMONDSEY.

MISS NELLIE BAKER (P.), MISS ADA BROUGHTON (Lab.), MISS MARGARET GAMBLE (Lab.), MISS EMILY GLEDHILL (Lab.).

BETHNAL GREEN.

MISS MARY JAMES (P.).

CAMBERWELL.

MISS EMILY RICKETTS (Lab.), MRS. BRACEY WRIGHT (Lab.), MISS ELIZABETH SWALES (Lab.), MISS ELIZABETH MORRIS (M.R.).

CHELSEA.

MRS. WALTON (Lab.), MISS CROWLEY (Lab.), MRS. SMITH (Lab.), MISS LEMSCOMBE (Lab.), MRS. WALTER (M.R.), LADY PHIPPS (Lab.), MRS. CURTOIS (Lab.), MISS BRAN (M.R.), MRS. HEWITT (M.R.), MRS. SAMUEL (M.R.).

CROYDON.

MRS. HARRIS (Lab.), MRS. SQUIRE (Ind.).

DEPTFORD.

MRS. WHITE (M.R.), MRS. CHARLTON (P.), MRS. DRAPER (Lab.), MISS JACOB (Ind.), MISS WARCUP (Ind.).

FINSBURY.

MRS. DICKER (P.).

FULHAM.

MISS ALICE GILLIATT (Lab.), MRS. LINEHAM (Lab.).

GREENWICH.

MISS SHERMAN (M.R.), MRS. KELLY (Lab.), MRS. CUNIS (Lab.), MRS. EDWARDS (M.R.).

HACKNEY.

MRS. MUIRHEAD (P.), MRS. BENWELL (M.R.).

HAMMERSMITH.

MRS. PICKETT (P.).

HAMPSTEAD.

MRS. DOW (M.R.), MRS. FISHER (Ind.), MRS. MONRO (M.R.), MISS FAWCETT (M.R.), MRS. ARNOLZ (M.R.), MISS BALKWILL (P.).

HOLBORN.

MISS EMILY DIBDIN (M.R.), LADY SMITH (M.R.), MISS NORAH MARCH (M.R.).

ISLINGTON.

MRS. SHARP (M.R.), MISS PRICE (Lab.), MRS. WILKS (Lab.), MISS JOHNSON (Lab.), MISS SARAH TRAFFORD (Lab.).

WOMEN CANDIDATES.LONDON ELECTIONS RESULTS.—*continued.***KENSINGTON.**MISS FULLER (M.R.), MISS HAYNES (M.R.),
MRS. BURTONS (M.R.), DR. ETHEL
BENTHAM (Lab.)**LAMBETH.**MRS. EVANS (P.), MISS POWELL (P.), MISS
REISS (P.), MRS. WHEELER (M.R.), MISS
THERESA LACHERD (Lab.), MRS. DUKES
(Lab.), MRS. WYATT (M.R.)**LEWISHAM.**MRS. COCKERTON (Lab.), MRS. MADGWICK
(Lab.), MRS. ALLEN (Ind.), MISS HELEN
SHELDON (M.R.), MRS. EASTLAKE (M.R.)**PADDINGTON.**MISS JULIET MYLNE (M.R.), MISS MABEL
SCOTT (M.R.), MISS NORA McSWINEY
(M.R.), MISS ETHEL McSWINEY (M.R.),
MISS GERTRUDE KEMP-WELCH (M.R.),
MISS MATILDA DRURY (Lab.)**POPLAR.**MRS. MACKAY (Lab.), MRS. SCURR (Lab.),
MRS. CRESSALL (Lab.)**RICHMOND.**

MRS. EDWARDS (M.R.)

SHOREDITCH.MISS HENRIETTA GIRLING (Lab.), MISS
BLANCHE LEARS (Lab.), MISS AGNES LEARS
(Lab.)**SOUTHWARK.**MRS. E. FRANKLYN (Lab.), MISS MAW (Lab.),
MISS SUSY ASHE (Lab.), MRS. WANT (P.),
MRS. BARBER (Lab.), MISS REEVE (P.)**STOKE NEWINGTON.**

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(M.R.), MABEL HENRIQUES (M.R.), DR.
ADELINE ROBERTS, MARY PARDOE (M.R.),
ALICE SIMSON (M.R.), VIRGINIA CRANFORD
(M.R.), RUBY ALBERY (Lab.)**ST. PANCRAS.**EDITH M. VANCE (Lab.), MISS KENT (M.R.),
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LIVAN (M.R.), MRS. DUNN (M.R.), MISS
GASCOIGNE (M.R.), MISS HUGHES (M.R.)**WEST HAM.**

MISS KERRISON (Lab.)

WIMBLEDON.MISS RICHARDSON - EVANS (Ind.), MRS.
CHALKLEY (Lab.)**WOOLWICH.**MISS GERTRUDE WALTERS (Lab.), MISS
SUSANNAH TURNBULL (Lab.), MISS MABEL
CROUT (Lab.)**WOMEN CANDIDATES.****COUNTRY ELECTIONS**

(Results so far received before going to press.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Both woman candidates returned.

CANTERBURY.

All three women candidates returned.

COLCHESTER.In one ward a woman headed the poll by
nearly 400.**HASTINGS.**

One woman candidate returned.

HULL.

The only woman candidate was returned.

MIDDLESBROUGH.MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES (Lab.) returned with
1,153 votes. Member of the National
Executive Committee of W.F.L. The
first woman councillor to be elected in
Middlesbrough.**OXFORD.**MISS THACKERAY, a first cousin of the
novelist, headed the poll in the North
Ward.**PORTSMOUTH.**The Co-operative Society's woman candidate
returned.**SCARBOROUGH.**

One woman returned.

STOCKPORT.

One gain by a Co-operative woman candidate.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.MISS FARMER was returned unopposed for
Longton as the first lady member of the
Council.**YORK.**MRS. CRICHTON (Ind.) and MRS. FAWCETT
(Lab.) returned.**WOMEN AT HOME AND
ABROAD.****Woman Plenipotentiary.**

An Assyrian woman, Lady Surma Di Mar Shimum, is now in our midst. She has been specially selected by the Assyrian Christians of Persia and Asia Minor to plead their cause before the Allied Powers, and was the chief guest at an "Assyrian dinner" at the Lyceum Club last Monday night. She wore national costume, a crimson velvet robe trimmed with silver and fine embroideries, and what is perhaps the most old-fashioned head-dress in the world, the fez-shaped cap with folded veil worn by the Assyrian bull in the old Scriptures as a sign of royalty. Nearly half her people have perished during the war. The remnant have been collected into Britain's camps for the refugees, and Lady Surma's mission to England is to present a prayer that her people may continue under British protection, and, if possible, be restored to their beloved mountains.

A Champion of Purity.

The death of Mr. W. A. Coote, at the ripe age of 77 years, removes from our midst a sincere and stalwart antagonist of the social evil. Originally a compositor, Mr. Coote became secretary of the National Vigilance Association and International Bureau for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic from its first inception in 1885. His special work was the safeguarding of girls for whom the white slave traffickers were lying in wait, and his intimate knowledge of the laws concerning immorality was of great value to social workers. He gave invaluable help to the "Pass the Bill" Committee formed to secure the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and his refusal to quote any story until he had satisfied himself of its accuracy gave great weight to his reports on appalling conditions.

Women Profiteering Inspector.

The Profiteering Act, so hastily rushed through Parliament by the Government to divert attention from the profiteering whale by an exciting chase after the scoundrel minnow is proving a failure. Members of the general public are neglecting to send in complaints of overcharging, so the Bermondsey Committee has hit upon the bright idea of advertising for a woman profiteering inspector at £4 a week to perambulate the Borough and collect some complaints. The legality of paying an official to carry out an Act, whose essence lay in keeping the public busy is doubtful, but if the Committee does not possess the authority it will apply for it.

A Notable Hospital.

The closing down of Endell Street Military Hospital marks the end of a notable period in hospital administration. It contained 17 wards, with 570 beds, and during the 4½ years of its existence, as many as 7,000 operations were performed, under Dr. Garrett Anderson, as chief surgeon, and Dr. Flora Murray, as chief administrator, aided by a staff of over a dozen eminent women doctors and specialists. Not only has much valuable remedial work been achieved, but an enormous impulse been given to the woman's movement at home and abroad.

Woman Referee.

Mrs. Butler, who is on the teaching staff of Ryde House School, acted as referee in a recent football match at Ripley, near Weybridge. Mrs. Butler is an enthusiastic motor cyclist and a keen sportswoman generally. She teaches swimming to the boys under her charge, and helps largely in other directions in their athletic education.

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

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

Members of the Women's Freedom League will learn with deep regret of the recent death, at Shortbeach (Conn.), of this well-known American poetess. They will no doubt recall the reception at Caxton Hall, arranged by the League, to do her honour, when the Suffrage agitation in this country was at its height; and those stirring verses known as "The Awakening" which Mrs. Wilcox wrote specially for the Women's Cause, and which were set to music by Teresa del Riego, and sung by Marta Cunningham.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox is undoubtedly the most widely-read of contemporary poets, and her works are bought by tens of thousands on both sides of the Atlantic. The reason is not far to seek. Optimism, Faith, and Love were the chief ingredients of her life's philosophy, and she passed them on in generous meed to the hungry world about her.

"Laugh and the world laughs with you" embodied a cheerful serenity which she perpetually practised for herself.

"So many gods, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind;
While just the art of being kind
Is all the sad world needs"

voiced the faith and sympathy which she consistently meted out to her fellow human beings, and it is not surprising to find passionate love one of the chief themes of her poetry when it is well known that her married life of some thirty years was one of ideal happiness.

What have YOU done for the fair?

We are holding our annual Green, White and Gold Fair at the Central Hall, Westminster, this year on Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th, and we are *urgently* in need of both workers and materials.

More than a dozen orders have been received this week for garments, yet we have not even half that number of needleworkers.

We think every member and sympathiser can send at least one small gift, even if it is only a few yards of cambric or casement cloth, an oddment of insertion, lace edging or lingerie ribbon. Anything will be most gratefully received.

Please send such gifts to Mrs. Holmes, 97, Upper Clapton Road, E. 5, and all gifts ready for sale should be sent direct to this office.

We also require hundreds of small articles suitable for "The Lady with the Hundred Pockets." We want enough to last her two days.

Can any member give or lend some white pierrotte dresses or dresses that can be adapted to such? We want as many as ever we can get, and we want them soon!

As yet Mrs. Pierotti has had no offers of help with the refreshments, and the Women's Freedom League *must* keep up their reputation in that respect. We need at least 30 waitresses, so that they can work in shifts and not be over-tired. Who will volunteer? Who will volunteer? A most fascinating costume has been arranged for them, if they care to wear it!

We want our Fair to be as successful as other years, if not more so, but unless members volunteer to help in some way **THIS WEEK**, we have grave fears of its success.

Send your **MONEY, GIFTS or SUGGESTIONS THIS WEEK!!**

NORAH C. MUSTARD

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1919.

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

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EDITORIAL

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

WOMEN MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES.

We warmly congratulate all those women—our own members most of all—who secured seats on the London and Provincial Borough Councils at the elections last Saturday, and we no less cordially congratulate the unsuccessful women upon the gallant fight they made to secure victory. Women have learned a great deal during these contests. In canvassing, both in London and the country, many have come across the most appalling housing conditions under which the so-called common people live. In these cases it was almost impossible to arouse any interest in the elections. "You're all alike; no matter who gets in, we shan't be any better off!" was a frequent remark, and this was usually followed by a flat refusal on the part of these electors to turn out and vote last Saturday. They could not be persuaded that a woman, any more than a man, would be able to improve their surroundings; nor even that she would try to do so! All this points to the fact that women who intend to become Borough Councillors must at once begin to organise in their locality for the next Council elections. They must make themselves personally known to their constituents, find opportunities of meeting them, and, above all, arrange that more and more of these electors attend the local Borough Council meetings, and discuss with each other and the prospective woman candidate what takes place at them. If public-spirited women will collect around them a body of other women pledged to work steadily upon these lines, we are convinced that the results, so far as women are concerned, will be very different in three years' time than those which were published last week-end.

Women candidates have also realised how little known they are in their locality compared with the men candidates. Through their profession, their business, their club, their public work, and their political party, the latter have at election times an immense advantage over women, and women will find it very difficult to compete with them on this ground. One successful candidate, when returning thanks for his election last Saturday, after defeating an admirable woman, proudly exclaimed: "The people of my ward have shown clearly they wanted a *Man*, not a woman, to represent them!" In that particular borough some of the housing accommodation is unspeakable, and health is impossible to the men, women and children who exist in its hovels, which are a disgrace to civilisation. We do not think that these people will in any way be represented by that successful candidate; had they troubled to vote for his woman opponent we are convinced that their interests would have been her first care. It is the special business of the women candidates of the future to educate the electors in the direction in which their true interests lie, and to persuade them that those interests will be safe in the hands of women. We confidently rely on those women who are now Borough Councillors to convince the public of the value of women's work on local governing bodies.

WOMEN & UNEMPLOYMENT.

Parliament, the Press, and the public are still agitated because women in some places are acting as conductors on 'buses, as ticket collectors on railways, and as clerks in Government offices while at the same time there are demobilised soldiers and sailors wanting work. We agree that, with the ever-rising prices of milk, bread, sugar, meat and all ordinary foodstuffs, the problem of unemployment is becoming more and more acute. This problem, however, is a national one, and cannot be solved by the simple plan of turning out every woman who has a job, no matter how well she does it, and filling her place by any man who happens at the time to be out of work, no matter how unfitted he is for her job. Mr. Glanville, M.P., wants the Government immediately to terminate the appointments of all married women engaged in any department of the Ministry of Food, and Sir Frederick Hall, M.P., has asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to see that all the work which is now given to women on our railways shall be transferred to men. According to Mr. Chamberlain's statement on October 1st of this year, the total number of women and girls employed in all civil departments (including local offices throughout the country and temporary as well as permanent staff) was 155,000; the number of demobilised soldiers and sailors at present unemployed was approximately 300,000, of whom, however, only 15,000 have had any experience of clerical work, and only 6,000 are regarded by the Minister of Labour as suitable for Government service. It is clear then that even if all women and girls were instantly dismissed from clerical work under Government the problem of present unemployment for demobilised soldiers and sailors would not be solved; nor would these dismissals add to the efficiency of our civil departments. The unemployment of men and women is a national danger, especially when the crying need of the country is production and still more production; and we would earnestly advise those Members of Parliament who have apparently only one remedy for half this problem to turn their attention and that of the Government to the whole problem, when they should be able together to find some better solution than that of throwing all women out of work.

DESERTED WIVES.

If a woman, with or without dependent children, is deserted by a husband who has left the country to reside beyond the seas in some other portion of his Majesty's Dominions, there is no legal power for obtaining and enforcing a maintenance order. Very many such women have had to find their way to the workhouse; and the Poor Law Guardians in different parts of the country are pressing upon the Home Office and the Colonial Office the urgent necessity of legislation to deal with this scandal. The Government is considering the matter; but the Under-Secretary for the Colonies (Colonel Amery) informed the House of Commons last Monday that, although he hoped a Bill would be proceeded with in Parliament in the near future, it would first be necessary to secure that there should be reciprocal legislation in other parts of the Empire. We have been informed that a married woman cannot secure her passage abroad if the passport authorities do not receive a written permission from her husband for her to travel, the reason advanced being that occasionally a woman has been known to go abroad with a man who was not her husband. In face of the ever-increasing number of deserted wives who come upon the parish, and of others who have such a bitter struggle for the existence of themselves and their children, we want to know why the authorities do not insist upon receiving a written permission from the wife of a married man who desires to travel in order to shirk his responsibility. What is sauce for the goose should surely also be sauce for the gander in such cases as these!

WOMEN AND THEOLOGICAL DEGREES.

Training for the Future.

The question has been raised, of what use are theological degrees to women, with their present limited opportunities of work in the Church? The object of this article is to answer that question, and to show that, even in present circumstances, there is a wide field of usefulness for women who are trained in theology.

Perhaps it would be as well first to point out

The Theological Examinations

both for degrees and diplomas, open to women.

(1) The University of London Certificate in Religious Knowledge, a simple examination requiring a good knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, and one other subject.

(2) The Cambridge Higher Local Examination, Group R., for which the subjects are Old and New Testament, a period of Church history, and Prayer Book.

(3) A certificate granted by Trinity College, Dublin.

(4) The Oxford Diploma in Theology, the subjects for which are Old and New Testament, Christian Doctrine and one other subject.

(5) The Archbishop's Diploma in Theology (S.Th.), for which Old and New Testament, Greek Testament, Christian Doctrine, and one or more other subjects must be offered.

(6) The Theological Tripos at Cambridge.

(7) The Honours School of Theology at Oxford.

(8) The University of London Examination for the B.D. These examinations vary considerably in standard, 1—4 being easier than 5—8; they are all open to women of any denomination.

The Gain to the Religious Life of England

would be great if more women read and thought seriously on this greatest of all subjects. How can we have "a reason for the faith that is in us"; how can we help those who are face to face with modern doubts and difficulties unless we have been trained to read and think out the problems for ourselves? And desultory, undirected reading is unsatisfactory: a vague mass of information is accumulated, but it is often ill-digested. It is far better mental discipline to follow a regular course, and to work under skilled direction.

To pass from the general to the particular, how can women use such specialised training? To begin with, there is an increasing demand in secondary schools for mistresses who are qualified to teach Scripture, in the same way as they are qualified to teach classics, or mathematics, or literature. Such specialists are beginning to be welcomed by headmistresses: they plan the syllabus for the whole school, and teach several if not all the forms. A secondary subject, such as classics, is often also required. There are openings in Church training colleges for lecturers who have specialised in theology. Such work as this is of

Fundamental Importance

to the religious education of the next generation. In the case of the secretaryship of some Church societies, particularly where editorial work is involved, it is considered an advantage for the secretary to have had a theological training. A wide field of usefulness is connected with modern Sunday School requirements, and as lecturers in colleges which train workers, or as diocesan inspectors of Sunday Schools and instructors of teachers there are openings for trained women.

So much for professional paid work in connection

with theology. In regard to voluntary and partly-paid work, there is also much that may be done. Missionaries and deaconesses are finding specialised theological training of great value to their work, both abroad and at home. A considerable proportion of the women who have taken the Archbishop's Diploma in Theology are working in India, Japan and Africa as missionaries. Where they come in contact with people of ancient civilisation and keen intellect such training is easily seen to be valuable. Then, as leaders of study circles on theological or missionary subjects, as writers of circle guides, and text-books, as speakers and writers for the Christian Evidence Society, as lecturers for Church Tutorial Classes, as organisers of study schools, as women messengers; there are opportunities of usefulness to the Church which can only be fully used by properly trained and qualified women. Moreover, for the real scholar there is literary work which can be done, such as research in connection with the preparation of commentaries, with Church history, with ancient liturgies—all useful, and adding to the general sum of knowledge.

Enough has perhaps been said to show that already there is much definite work, whether paid or voluntary, that may be undertaken by women with theological degrees or diplomas. With the possibility that soon

Women may be Allowed to Preach

it is very necessary that they shall be trained. Vocation is, of course, the first desideratum, but training comes next: we all desire to see a high standard maintained. Already some women are beginning to prepare for these wider opportunities by working for one or other of the more difficult examinations mentioned above. And I would earnestly ask those women who are anxious and willing to do what they can to help the religious life of this generation to consider seriously whether they are not called upon to qualify themselves for some such work as is referred to in this article.

EVELYN W. HIPPLEY, S.Th.,

Tutor and Lecturer at King's College, London.

REMEMBER!

OUR

GREEN, WHITE, & GOLD FAIR

AT

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

Friday & Saturday, November 28th & 29th.

SEND us Goods for Christmas Presents, and BUY your Christmas Presents from us.

General Stall ...	Mrs. Tanner & Mrs. Mustard
Handkerchief Stall ...	Miss A. Underwood, Miss Marian Reeves and Miss A. C. White
Toy Stall ...	The Misses Stutchbury and Miss Avila
White Stall ...	Mrs. Lloyd & Mrs. Holmes
Literature Stall ...	Mrs. Metge & Mrs. Pierotti
South Eastern Branches Stall ...	Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Kither and Miss White.
Variety Stall ...	Mrs. & Miss Presbury.
	(Kindly provided by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes).
Penny Stall ...	Miss White
Vote Stall ...	Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Evans and Miss Jacob.
	(In Memory of Mrs. Snow, kindly provided by Mr. Snow).
Montgomery Boroughs Stalls—	
(1) General ...	Miss A. M. Clark
(2) Produce ...	

The Friends of Armenia, the Independent W.S.P.U., the Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement, League of the Church Militant, Women's International League, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Divorce Law Reform Union, and Free Church League will also have Stalls at this Fair.

Women and the Lay Ministry.

On October 29th, at a meeting organised by the League of the Church Militant, in the Church House, Westminster, Miss A. Maude Royden moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting records its emphatic protest against the prolonged delay on the part of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England in formulating a judgment respecting the manner in which they propose to accept the services of women in the lay ministries of the Church; declares itself as wholeheartedly desirous that women should be placed on precisely the same footing as men in this matter, and pledges itself to do all in its power to secure signatures to the petition, a copy of which is hereto annexed."

In an interesting speech, sparkling with humour, Miss Royden contrasted the prolonged delay of the authorities with the "undue haste" with which the promoters of the meeting had been charged by certain critics. She said that the Committee's report on the

"Ministry of Women"

was antiquarian in character; that while it contained much that was of great interest it seemed more to the point to know what part women were to take in the life of the church to-day rather than to enter into a long discussion as to what they did in the fourth century in some obscure village in Asia Minor. She put up a powerful plea for the coming generation of women, for those now in the Universities, and showed how beneficial their enthusiasm and inspiration might be to the life of the Church.

The Chairman, the Rev. W. C. Roberts, in his opening remarks, said that this was a question affecting the whole of the laity, and at present there was not much apparent evidence of a great demand. If those present thought this ministry was needed then they must support the societies that were pressing the claim. The League of the Church Militant needed financial support to carry on.

The Rev. F. M. Green, B.D., in seconding the resolution, suggested that the apathy referred to by the Chairman was largely the outcome of despair. We were here asking the Church to recognise and regularise what already had been done in practice. Women already taught the faithful of both sexes, at home and in the mission field. Tradition had already broken down. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Green asked the meeting for greater financial support. The opportunity for work was before them, but funds were needed to carry out adequate plans.

Miss Picton Turbervill, O.B.E., in support, said that although members of the episcopal bench had expressed their individual sympathy with the

aspirations of women

for more opportunities of service within the Church, we needed actions not words. Only one had acted. The late Bishop of Lincoln, formerly president of the League, had had the courage to give permission to a woman to speak at statutory services in his diocese. Whence was this sudden desire for unity and uniformity on the bench of bishops? In other matters the bishops did not wait for corporate action.

Copies of the petition were at the end of the hall, and a number of signatures of communicant members of the Church of England were obtained.

This claim for equality within the Church is of vital interest to conformists and nonconformists alike, for until this spiritual equality is recognised in the religious sphere, justice and equity will tarry in political and social life.

E. L. A.

WHY DID THE CHILD OFFEND?

Speaking at a meeting of the Women's Freedom League last Wednesday afternoon, Miss Penrose Philp (of the State Children's Association) said it was a very easy matter for children to step over the bounds of the law and to find themselves in a police court, or a children's court. In dealing with these children in the past, the desire to punish had been expressed as well as the desire to get the disturbing element out of the way as soon as possible. But now we studied the

causes of delinquency,

the reasons of children's offences, and we had to come to the conclusion that society, not the children, should be punished for them. There were more boy than girl offenders in our courts, not because girls were inherently more moral than boys, explained Miss Philp, but because girls had so much less time on their hands than boys. Boys were charged with playing football in the street, with trespassing, or allocating Borough Council lamps to aid them in their game of Dick Turpin. The boys were eager to play a game well; but the magistrate who had to deal with them often appeared to be playing the game very badly. More playgrounds were wanted for these children. Their home conditions were often far from satisfactory, and the streets were often their only playground. Miss Philp related a story told by Judge Lindsey. Twenty boys were brought before him charged with "indecent behaviour"—for bathing without bathing garments on a hot summer's day in a pool in the public view. The Judge told the boys he was sorry they had no proper place to bathe in, and gave them permission to bathe in the Court grounds every day. In a short time that city erected seven public baths! This Judge also insisted on looking at the teeth of young delinquents, his theory being that bad teeth meant bad health and bad temper, which led to delinquency. Miss Philp emphasised the fact that delinquency was frequently the

hysterical expression of a virtue.

A boy addicted to "wandering" might become a great explorer. He certainly should not have his "wandering" repressed by imprisonment, for no one who goes into prison in the ordinary way comes out better or stronger.

Miss Philp advocated that Juvenile Courts should be established everywhere in connection with ordinary law courts, and there should be women magistrates in conjunction with men magistrates on every Bench; that young people should not be sent to prison for short sentences; or to institutions if this could possibly be avoided; and that there should be a different attitude of mind and thought on the part of the public and the Courts towards the child offender. The important thing was not the punishment of the child but the real causes of his offence. It was the duty of citizens to remove those causes.

The chair was taken by Dr. Knight, who stated that the Women's Freedom League had for long advocated organised games, excursions, and more playgrounds for children. She warmly thanked Miss Philp for her delightful and instructive address.

F. A. U.

VOTES FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

PUBLIC MEETING QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, W.

(Sole Lessees—Messrs. CHAPPELL & Co., Ltd.)

Friday, November 14th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers:

MRS. ANNIE BESANT. MR. JAMNADAS DWARKADAS.
MISS M. A. TATA.

Chair: MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

Reserved and Numbered Seats (Sofa Stalls, Grand Circle Front), 2s. Unreserved, (Grand Circle, Stalls, Area), 1s. Balcony and Orchestra free. Tickets from the Organiser. Tel. Holb. 5498. Women's International League 14 Bedford Row, W.1.

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Hon. Heads: Miss H. NORMANTON, B.A. (Literary);

Mrs. METGE, and Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

12 p.m.

Friday, November 14.—Drawing-room Meeting at 4, Flanders Road, Bedford Park (by kind permission of Miss Baker). Speaker: Miss Raleigh. Subject: "The Tyranny of Custom."

Wednesday, November 19.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Keevil Rickford. Subject: "The Problems Immediately Confronting Women."

Wednesday, November 10.—Dance arranged by Golder's Green Branch. Tickets 3s. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, 59, Ashbourne Avenue, N.W. 4.

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

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

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

PROVINCES.

Friday, November 7.—Bexhill. Public Meeting, Kahveh Café, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Women and Municipal Work."

Friday, November 7.—Hastings. Public Meeting to demand the release of Elsie Smith, Wellington Square Lecture Hall, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Monday, November 10.—Jumble Sale, Middlesbrough. All Saints, Schoolroom, 3 p.m. Parcels to be sent to 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road.

Wednesday, November 19.—Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Marie Grigsby. Subject: "Sex Hygiene."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, November 11.—Kingston Church of Humanity, Bishops' Hall, Thames Street, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. Subject: "Why Women Must Sit in the House of Commons."

Thursday, November 13.—Clapham Women's Question Group, 72, Thurlough Road, Clapham Common (by kind permission of Miss Fryer), 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Morton. Subject: "Proportional Representation."

SEW FOR THE "FAIR!"

Mrs. Holmes hopes that as many members as possible will offer to help make up the many garments already cut out. They are all easily made, and will be sent (with instructions if necessary) to members who apply to her for them. Her address is 97, Upper Clapton Road, N.E.

Speaking on Wednesday, October 22nd, to an audience of the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Café, on "The Food of the Future," Mr. William Aird said that food is the one thing that counts in our existence, and we can do nothing without it. Our only source of supply was from vegetables. Scientists agreed that we could not live on minerals. Food, when heated, went back to mineral conditions, and we could not properly live on it. The food of the future must be different from the food of to-day; it should not be cooked, and should consist of fruits, salads and vegetables. In Mr. Aird's view people ate too much to be healthy; they would be better on 95 per cent. less than the amount they usually took. If they transferred their diet to uncooked food, walking, working and thinking would become a pleasure and not, as it so often now is, an unpleasant effort. Mr. Aird himself had for fifteen years lived entirely on uncooked food, and last summer camped out with a party of friends for three months. All lived on uncooked food, and each one was independent of the others in his food preparations. They had a most enjoyable time. The thing that counted most in life was health. No one could give health to another, but everyone could secure health for himself or herself. But health in most cases meant a change of habits.

Mr. Aird stated that tea and coffee contained a considerable amount of poison, theine and caffeine, and because this poison was more insidious and less apparent in its effects it was often more dangerous than alcohol. Tea and meat were largely responsible for the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis. He also declared that if people would consent to live on the raw products of the earth there was enough land in England to supply ten times our present population—one rod of land could keep a man for a year! In Mr. Aird's opinion pain and disease were at present necessary, and even desirable—they were the efforts of the body to get well. But if people would only take the trouble to find out the laws of food in connection with their individual requirements, and obey those laws, there need be no pain and disease amongst us.

At the close of this address Mr. Aird was rather severely heckled by members of the audience, but others who had derived benefit from uncooked diet warmly supported his theories.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Ball when she handed 25s. to the Treasurer for the Local Election Fund. This was the result of a very enjoyable whist drive held at Mrs. Ball's house on Wednesday, October 20th. The monthly public meeting will be held on November 19th, at 3.15 p.m., at 2, Kent Road. Dr. Marie Grigsby will speak on "Sex Hygiene," and members are urged to make this meeting widely known. A short business meeting will be held after tea.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. WHEATON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

MANCHESTER.

A Committee has been formed for co-operation of sympathetic organisations in arranging a series of meetings on Regulated Vice in India, early next year. The Branch will join heartily in this campaign. We are supporting the Women Citizens' candidate in the municipal election. Our study circles are well attended by a regular and interested audience, and they also attract new members. The endowment of motherhood has already furnished three discussions, and Mrs. Forrester will deal with the economic aspect next time.

Organiser—Miss SACKUR, 149, Plymouth Grove, C. on M.

RYE.

Last Monday evening the Rev. A. C. Wing presided over a well-attended meeting at the Monastery, when Miss F. A. Underwood spoke on the case of Elsie Smith and proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting considers the imprisonment of Elsie Smith a serious miscarriage of justice, and requests the Prime Minister to advise the Home Office to effect her immediate release." This was seconded by Mrs. Wells (formerly a member of our Glasgow Branch), and carried unanimously. Seven new members were made, all copies of THE VOTE sold out, and a good collection was taken. Members and friends in the district are greatly looking forward to Mrs. Despard's visit, when Mr. Wing has again most kindly promised to take the chair.

Organiser, S.E. Dist.—Miss WHITE, Magazine House, Winchelsea.

FRIDAY,
November 7
1919.

THE VOTE

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PENNY
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HELP FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

We are pleased to learn that our old friend, Miss Vance, who was recently elected to the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, and has now been returned as Borough Councillor there as well, was some time ago spokeswoman of a deputation from that body to the local Borough Council. She urged the Council to consider the putting into operation of those sections of the L.G.B. Act, 1918, affecting maternity and child welfare, and giving astonishing powers to municipal authorities. As Guardians, they had no opportunity to help the mothers who came before them, other than through the system of poor relief, and they asked the Council to enable them to find homes for expectant or nursing mothers, by applying to the Ministry of Health for a grant and placing it at the disposal of the Guardians. "To us," declared the speaker, "children are children, whether born in wedlock or outside it." (Hear, hear.) After this widening of the original statement of the purpose for which the deputation had attended there was a brief discussion, and the Council then decided that the Health Committee, which is now considering the matter, shall confer with representatives of the Guardians.

Mrs. SPROSON WINS.

Last May the confirming authority for the Borough of Wolverhampton made an order sanctioning the removal of the licence from the Queen Victoria Inn, Ablon Street, Wolverhampton, and its transference to proposed new licensing premises at the corner of Court Road, Wolverhampton. Mrs. Sproson, of the I.L.P., and a member of the Women's Freedom League, who resided at and was the owner of freehold property within 20 yards of the proposed site, objected, since the neighbourhood was entirely residential, and there were already five licensed houses within 500 yards of the site. Mrs. Sproson also presented a petition signed by 78 people against the application. Of the ten justices adjudicating, five voted for the grant, and five against, and the Chairman gave a casting vote in favour of the grant. In October, however, a Divisional Court in the King's Bench Division made absolute a rule nisi for certiorari, declaring that the order was void and contrary to law, because it had been decided upon as a consequence of the casting vote of the chairman of the confirming authority.

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The Women's Freedom League Settlement,
93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

We shall be glad to see anyone who will come to the Settlement on Thursday, November 6th, at 3 p.m., and help with needlework for our bazaar stall. We are glad to acknowledge an anonymous sack of toys, and gratefully thank Mr. P. Miller for a sack of apples. A very welcome parcel of children's underclothing has come from Miss Smith, who intimates her intention to send another. Miss Isobel Harvey, in sending a neck-chain which will go to bazaar, sent also a delightful reminder of the country in the form of autumn leaves and berries to decorate the rooms of the residents. We shall be glad to receive orders for pots of Royal Chutney, which we intend having on our stall at bazaar, and will gratefully receive any goods for said stall, to be sent in by Wednesday, November 26th.

A. M. COLE.

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Petition for the Release of Elsie Smith.

The following petition form appeared in *Lloyd's News* one Sunday, with the result that we received by Tuesday morning about three thousand signatures sent by post. Hundreds are pouring in by every post. If any of our readers have not yet signed any petition for Elsie Smith's release, and would like to do so, will they please put their signatures to this form and return it by Monday's post to 144, High Holborn, W.C.?

To the Home Secretary,

THE RT. HON. EDWARD SHORTT, K.C., M.P.

I, the undersigned, petition for the immediate release of Elsie Kathleen Smith.

(Name)

(Address)