

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.  
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1927

**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.**

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN MOTOR CYCLISTS' VICTORY.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE SIMPLIFICATION OF GRAMMAR. By E. Ayrton Zangwill.

A GREAT CHAMPION OF EQUALITY.

THE MATRIARCHAL THEORY AGAIN. By Dora B. Montefiore.

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS. By Marian Berry.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS. Miss Jeppe's Report.

## WOMEN MOTOR CYCLISTS' VICTORY.

Ambleside formed the centre of the recent Motor Cycle International Six Days' Trial, and the various courses radiated from that centre. In the International Vase contest, Germany, Sweden, Britain, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, and Australia were represented, Britain having a woman's team as well as a man's team—Mrs. McLean riding a Douglas, Miss Foley riding a Triumph, and Miss Cottle riding a Raleigh.

The riding of these women was remarkable, not one member of the team losing a single mark until the sixth day, when Miss Cottle's foot touched the ground and she shot into the ditch, thus losing the 5 marks, the total loss to the team. Miss Foley was nearly unseated

All the courses, on each day of the trial, saw many disasters, great and small, and that any team came through five days of it without a single lost mark is a triumph, and a greater triumph in that it was the only woman's team competing. Comparing the British women's loss of 5 marks with the German team's loss of 350 marks, while four other teams came between, will give some idea of the possibilities which the competitors faced. The final results in the International Vase were:—1st, British women; 2nd, Denmark; 3rd, British men; 4th, Sweden; 5th, Holland; 6th, Germany. Each member of the women's team also won a gold medal.



MRS. MCLEAN, MISS FOLEY AND MISS COTTLE

on the last day by the zigzagging of a German competitor in difficulties on a steep bit of hill, but she kept her head, told him what she felt about his conduct, and got clear away without loss of a mark.

Competitors and spectators alike are unanimous in praise of the riding of the winning women's team under weather conditions of the worst. Day after day over roads to try the physical strength of the strongest, the nerves of the most robust, these three women forming the British women's team kept steadily cheerful. Even the rain, which persisted during the whole six days of the trial and which made bad roads worse, driving more difficult, failed to upset these dauntless three.

Mrs. McLean, formerly well known as the rider Miss Ball, is a native of Birmingham, and has ridden since she was 14. She weighs now only 7½ stone, and when she began riding could not touch ground with both feet when on her machine. As Miss Ball, she has taken part in all the important motor-cycling trials in Great Britain, and she this year capped a long and unbroken series of successes by completing three Six Days' Trials without the loss of a single mark. Mrs. McLean finds herself very happy in her hobby of motor-cycling, and has no difficulty, although of such slight physique, in handling the 350 c.c. Douglas which she is now riding.



Miss Cottle, an amateur, riding for the joy of it, also began very young and has put in nearly ten years. She is another example proving that motor-cycling does not require peculiar physical strength, and that it does not destroy or exclude a charm and daintiness of person. All weathers, all conditions, are enjoyed, and Miss Cottle handles her Raleigh, the only machine she will ride, with ease and confidence, being known in the motor-cycling world as one of the hardest riders.

Miss Foley shares with her team colleagues the joy of motor-cycling, and shared in this latest Trial the admiration of all for clever, cool, skilled, and plucky riding.

This victory of a national team composed of three women should do something to eliminate the restrictions still placed upon their riding in certain events by some motor-cycling associations, such restrictions giving rise to a general assumption on the part of the public that women are much handicapped in this direction. It is frequently asserted that many restrictions are placed upon women entering for motor-cycle races and trials, but Major Dickson Spain, Assistant Secretary of the A.C.U., assures us that the only trial for which his Union bars no women entrants is the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy. As to the recent Six Days' Trials, the A.C.U. had the selection of the team to represent Britain in the Trophy, and chose a team of men who triumphantly recaptured the Trophy for their country. In the Vase, the A.C.U. entered three national teams—two of men, one of women—and the women triumphed, their riding all through being noticeable and much commented on by experts and spectators alike. The A.C.U. has only praise, and that unstinted, for the work of this team.

At the same time, we hold strongly the opinion that no sex bar should exist in such contests or trials. Women have proved themselves perfectly capable of motor-cycling, and if individual women like to take the risks which are considered inevitable in the testing of machines, they should be permitted to do so under the same restrictions only as are applied to men riders.

#### WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.

In *The Outspan* for July, there appeared an article on "South African Women in Public Life," the whole of which applies as well to women in public life in any country of the world.

The writer, anonymous, first defines what, in South Africa, public life for women can include. "By public life here is meant any sphere of public activity where the basis of entry is the same for the woman as the man. In this country at the moment such public life can only mean service on municipal councils, because the municipal franchise is the only form of franchise enjoyed by South African women; municipal work, the only public work into which they are received on exactly the same basis as men.

This definition of public life could not include, therefore, the "Toe H" movement, into which men are received on quite different terms from those on which women are allowed into the "Toe Emma" auxiliary. . . . The same criticism applies to the men's and women's political Parties, where the right of entry is on quite a separate basis. . . . In the Sons of England and Sons of South Africa movements, the women's auxiliaries are just what their name implies—helps to the men's organisations, not societies into which men and women are admitted on a ground of perfect equality. And in various churches also these women's auxiliaries exist and do splendid work.

. . . So long as women are content to belong to such helping bodies . . . all goes well and peacefully. . . . Yes, to look nice, to be nice, to think him nice—that is the sum total of the average man's demands from his womenfolk."

After such a bitterly truthful survey of the position of women, a description applicable, in greater or less degree, to all countries of the world, the writer then discusses what happens when a cultivated, able, and

competent woman desires to enter real public life on a basis of equality with men, and to the exclusion of all sex differentiation. The writer takes three demands which must be made of woman, and which must be satisfied by her if she is to be successful in public life. The first of these is physical fitness, which the writer finds to be a matter of habit. If accustomed to the work and free to give all her energies to it, the writer sees no bar here. "But," she adds, "there are few women with the necessary reserve of tirelessness to face this round of public tasks as well as the 'daily round, the common task' of running a home."

The second demand is mental fitness. The writer considers that, "to be able to hold her own in an assembly of men on an equal footing, a woman must have had training over and above a general education, whether it be business or professional training of any kind. She will fall sadly behind unless her mind has been trained to collect, arrange, and adjudge facts. . . . The woman who has had the grind and discipline of a business or professional training is the woman whose mentality is well developed, who has learnt to shoulder burdens and conquer difficulties by herself. . . . She is the type that makes good in public life. . . ."

The third demand is for spiritual fitness, and here the writer concludes that the best of physical, added to the best of mental fitness, is vain without spiritual fitness, "unless there is ever a silver thread of purity running clear through all her designs."

The writer is of opinion that, up to now at any rate, women have entered public life with a clearer ideal of self-sacrifice for their country's welfare than is felt by a great many men, who tend to enter public life in a more professional spirit. "It is this capacity for self-sacrifice that makes women invaluable to the nation, a capacity on which homes have been built up and maintained from time immemorial, on which family life depends and has always depended."

The writer does not find women are on an absolute equality with men, "whilst women's physical strength may be less, whilst her mental ability is still in the shaping, her spiritual power is greater and wider and deeper than a man's, and it is that very characteristic that places her a tiny shade ahead of him in permanent influence on her country's welfare." Then follow regrets that this delicate spirituality should so often have been crushed and thwarted by the struggles endured by pioneer women, a crushing which men have hated to watch, but the watching of which has tended to intensify their objection to women in public life rather than to encourage their entrance there. "The first pioneers, especially, who brave prejudice and derogation, run the risk of having their finer natures crushed and blunted by the disappointment, intrigue, and subterfuge they are bound to encounter. The only way for any woman is to step right over it. . . ."

The article then touches upon the difficulties which face modern woman. "For many a long year in this country, where women have been cared for and protected and sheltered, the fearless pioneer who sheds that protection for herself will have a lonely, difficult part to play." Here a feminist may feel that Mussolini, whom the writer quotes, rather gave away the true character of our old position when he said: "Women left in their proper relation to men are all that is delicious, adorable, sensuous. When they overstep their bounds and try to push men aside, they must be put back ruthlessly in their places." Here feminists will all too clearly see the snare so often disguised as "protection."

However, whatever the old position of women was, the new position she is now striving to attain and to fill is one of independence, devotion, and high tradition, and the writer of this thoughtful, perhaps rather crude, but none the less straightforward and radical article, ends thus: "Therefore women are fitted for public life. . . . They are not only fitted, but truly needed. . . . and whenever they are found fulfilling their ideals, there will be found a higher level of public service, a better tone, a finer spirit, a greater achievement, because of their presence. . . ."

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Woman Professor of Zoology.

King's College, London University, has appointed Dr. Doris MacKinnon to the Chair of Zoology. This is the first time a woman has occupied this Chair. Dr. MacKinnon succeeds Professor Julian Huxley.

### Woman Harbour Commissioner.

Poole has a Bill in draft which contains a clause to remove the sex ban placed upon Harbour Commissioners. At present, the law runs that "any male person of full age" is eligible. It is now proposed to delete the word "male."

### A Hostel for Women Closes.

The National Council of Women announce the closing of their Hostel for women in Hull. This Hostel was founded in 1914, and has apparently outlived its necessity.

### Openings for Trained University Women.

The London University Commerce Degree Bureau and Appointments Board report a considerable increase in both the numbers of University women applying for commercial openings and commercial firms applying for University trained women.

### Miss Megan Lloyd George.

Miss Megan Lloyd George received an invitation to stand in the Liberal interest for Pontypridd, but has declined.

### Woman L.C.C. Candidate.

Poplar invited Miss Ishbel MacDonald as Labour candidate at the next L.C.C. election, but she declined.

### Woman Composer's Fine Reception.

Last Saturday, at the Queen's Hall Promenade Concert, Dame Ethel Smyth had a well-deserved and cordial reception from a crowded audience. She conducted her own Concerto, in which the horn is an outstanding feature. The playing by the soloist, Mr. Aubrey Brain, did full justice to the unusual composition.

### Woman Minister.

During this week, at Factory Street Mission, Barton Hill, Bristol, there has been preaching the Rev. Mabel R. Manning, herself a native of Bristol, and formerly a cigar hand, now in charge of a church in the United States.

### Woman Registrar.

Mrs. Smith has been appointed Registrar of Births and Deaths for Finchley and Friern Barnet. She succeeds her late husband in this post.

### Girl Naturalists.

Miss Gwen Dorrien Smith and Miss Cynthia Longfield have just returned from a five-months' tour in the interior of Brazil. They have had great success, and have secured most valuable plants for the Herbarium at Kew, and butterflies, moths, and dragon-flies for the British Museum and the Hill Museum.

### Candidates for Judgeship.

Judge Desha, Honolulu judge of the territorial domestic and juvenile Court, has resigned, and among those in the running for succession is Miss Marguerite Ashford, at present first Deputy Attorney-General of the territory.

### Kentucky Women's Good Start.

Three women entered the Kentucky primaries in July, and all three have won. Mrs. Emma Guy Cromwell, Secretary of State, Frankfort, won the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer; Mrs. Ella Lewis won the Democratic, and Mrs. F. D. Quisenberry the Republican nomination for Secretary of State.

### Woman Owner, Editor and Staff.

There is in Nebraska a capable and energetic young woman who owns, manages, edits and prints a weekly newspaper.

### Woman Referee in Compensation.

The State Industrial Commissioner has appointed Miss Anna B. O'Boyle to be Referee in Compensation. Miss O'Boyle has been executive secretary for five years in the office at Syracuse.

### Women on U.S. Railways.

A comparison has been made of the numbers of women employed now on the No. 1 railways of the United States with the numbers of seven years ago, and it is found that their total has increased 50 per cent., while the scope of their employment has increased proportionately.

### Honour for Danish Woman.

The Copenhagen University has awarded to Miss Karen Johnson the gold medal for a legal treatise dealing with the equal rights over property of husband and wife. Miss Johnson is *candidatus juris* of the University and Secretary to a Court of Justice.

### Norwegian Woman Master.

Norway now has a woman, only 19, who holds her master's certificate, qualifying her for command of vessels up to 250 tons. She is at present pilot on a Norwegian coasting line, waiting to obtain her own command.

### Austrian Woman Lawyer.

Dr. Marianne Beth, now practising as a lawyer in Austria, is finding plenty of work. She took her Doctorate of Law and also of Philosophy, and was the first woman lawyer to qualify in Austria.

### Italian Bishop Expels Women.

Following on many ecclesiastical pronouncements concerning the dress of women, the Bishop of Piacenza has actually, in the Cathedral in Milan, during a Confirmation service, interrupted the service to point to several women in the congregation, and to order their expulsion—because of their style of dress.

### Turkish Woman Delegate.

Turkey has sent a woman delegate, Madame Safie Hussein Bey, to the United States, to attend the Anti-Alcohol Convention at Winona. Madame Safie Hussein Bey is, in addition to being a prohibitionist, an ardent feminist.

## GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR

TO BE HELD THIS YEAR ON

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 23RD AND 24TH,

AT

THE CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER.



## THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
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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 stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### THE SIMPLIFICATION OF GRAMMAR.

By E. AYRTON ZANGWILL.

It may be urged that there is no need to simplify English grammar. Compared with the grammar of most other European languages, it is already simple. We are told, for instance, that, in English, gender is not assigned to nouns having no inherent gender. The statement is erroneous. Certainly we do not, like our friends across the Channel, speak of a village as "him," or of a town as "her." There are, however, many other substantives which we make masculine or feminine in an equally illogical fashion. Let me give a few examples. Until recently, the noun "vote" was masculine, or, rather, "Parliamentary vote" was masculine, while "municipal vote" belonged to either gender. Now both are usually common to either sex, but there are still puzzling exceptions. In order to be of common gender, the compound substantive "Parliamentary vote" must carry with it a sense of the duration of time and also of the possession of certain objects; in all other cases it remains masculine.

Again, the noun "appointment" has a masculine or feminine gender varying with the context. The rule is complicated, but may be summarised as follows: "Appointment," in the sense of bearing a salary above a certain figure, is of masculine gender. "Appointment," in the sense of bearing a salary below this figure is of feminine gender. The need here of simplification seems obvious.

Further, we have the series of substantives denoting offices or callings, to which a fictitious gender has been assigned. We may quote such words as judge, chancellor, minister (Cabinet or of religion), governor, and many others, all of which are masculine. (This list used to be considerably more extensive, but during the last half-century many nouns, which formerly came under this heading, were transferred to the common gender. Examples: doctor, barrister, dentist, engineer, etc.) Again, there are substantives denoting offices and callings which are usually feminine, as slavey, typist, governess, etc. NOTE.—These two series of nouns can readily be distinguished by the fact that the offices or callings of the masculine gender are of high social status, and the offices or callings of the feminine gender are of low social status.

There is a further group of masculine and feminine substantives also denoting offices or callings, which must, however, be kept distinct from the foregoing. For in this group the gender is not arbitrarily assigned, but is a concomitant of the office or calling. Under this heading are found such words as "father," "husband," etc., which are always masculine, and "mother," "wife," etc., which are always feminine. It seems doubtful whether any change in the gender of these nouns will take place. Other substantives belonging to this class are "coal-heaver," "navy" (masculine); "midwife," "child's nurse" (feminine).

In addition to nouns denoting offices or callings, a gender is also assigned to many nouns denoting abstract qualities. For instance: Enterprise, lucidity, valour, logicity, temerity, are masculine; chastity, obedience, spite, affectation, timorousness, are feminine.

The rule in this case governing the gender is that virtues are masculine, as the word implies, while vices, or virtues of a very passive character, are feminine.

Again, in words denoting clothing, gender is introduced, although, curiously enough, a word denoting the same object may have a different gender in different languages. For instance, in English, trousers are invariably masculine and petticoats invariably feminine, while in Turkish these genders are frequently reversed. Probably assigning a gender to articles of attire has a certain practical value, in that it tends to harmony in married life.

This, however, is a special case. As a general rule, it is hard to see how anything but good could come from discarding unnecessary gender, both in the grammar of language and in the grammar of life. For carrying sex into matters which have no sex is the foundation of all those disabilities of which women complain. Naturally in this world we cannot do away with sex. In a certain sense, sex is the most important thing in life, for on it depends the continuance of life. But sex is not the whole of life. Sex is an attribute of humanity; humanity is not an attribute of sex. Like nationality, sex has been raised out of its proper place. If this planet were to be invaded by Martians, nationality would be forgotten, for all races would be united against these non-Earthians. And if, further, these Martians were tentacled creatures, such as Wells described them, sex would be forgotten, for both men and women would be united against these non-humans. But, even without a Martian invasion, we can take a rational view of sex. When we have dissociated sex from the things that do not concern it, men and women alike will be set free to play their full part as human beings.

### A GREAT CHAMPION OF EQUALITY.

Viscount Cecil's resignation of his seat in the Cabinet as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, his place being taken by the Earl of Onslow, comes as a shock to all feminists.

It is to this eminent statesman of outstanding courage, sincerity, and idealism that we owe the women's great charter in the League of Nations, the important clause, Art. 7, inserted in the final Covenant, which declares that:—

"All positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women."

Theoretical equality, it is true, is vastly different from the real equality for which we strive, but the existence of Art. 7 provides us with a citadel within which to shelter, and whence we have sallied forth whenever opportunity offered to press forward the claims of women, encouraged by the knowledge that, in any way possible, Viscount Cecil, both as President of the League of Nations Union and as one of our British delegates to the League of Nations Assembly, would stand for the true equality of women with men in this great section of world politics.

### SAUCE FOR THE GANDER.

An engineer was charged, at Bow Street Police Court last week, with insulting behaviour to two women in succession at midnight. One of the women was asked to attend the Court, but refused.

The case was dismissed, the magistrate saying that, without making any reflection on the police, he could not convict for insulting behaviour in the absence of the women.

We entirely agree that it is not justice to convict a person on unsupported police evidence consisting of personal suspicion and opinion, but why this care for justice in the case of a man and not in the case of the scores of women convicted of solicitation and annoyance every week on police evidence only. A good sauce for the gander should also be served with the goose.

## THE MATRIARCHAL THEORY AGAIN (continued).

By DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

Since writing the first part of my notice of Robert Briffault's book, "The Mothers," I have read in a daily paper an article by the Hon. Bertrand Russell, in which he "surveys the tendencies of our present-day civilisation." It is the most depressing screed I have ever read on the subject, and night and day I have turned it over in my mind, because what Mr. Russell thinks and writes is of importance among the general stock of advanced thinkings and writings. He prophesies that, in the near future (if the capitalist system still prevails), "there will be profound division between the proletarians, who will virtually have neither parents nor children (because the State will shoulder parental and filial responsibilities), and the well-to-do, who will preserve the family system with inheritance of property." He further prophesies that: "If infant life comes to be safe, apart from the protection of parents, family life will gradually disappear. This will make profound changes in men's emotional life, and a great divorce from the art and literature of all previous ages." I quote these passages in order to bring home to women that now is the time when they must be up and doing if they wish to preserve and increase their influence in the family and in the State.

Briffault writes of "the masculine herd" and "the maternal family": Are the women of the twentieth century going to allow the "masculine herd," with its false philosophy of placing the value of property above the value of life, to prevail? Do they intend complacently to bear children, who will meet horrible deaths from bombs thrown from the air, from clouds of poison gas, or from slow destruction in the ghastly mud and blood of trench warfare? Or will the real "maternal family" prevail, in which maternal life-values in all that is necessary for growing and developing young life are to be found in abundance—not only the material values, but the intellectual and spiritual

as well? "The patriarchal family, in the form in which it exists to-day, is a juridic institution," writes Briffault. It is up to the modern woman to make of it a human institution; as Briffault finely puts it: "It is in the maternal, not in the sexual, association that the growth of the so-called social instincts takes place."

Are these merely dreams of the influence women really might have? Our author gives us chapter and verse from the writings of scientific observers to prove that in some countries mother-right is still exercised, and women take a leading part in the intellectual life of the nation. In the *Revue des deux mondes*, Duveyrier writes: "The culture of the Tauregs (a race of the Sahara) is almost exclusively confined to the women. The men are utterly illiterate, but the women have artistic and literary tastes, and it is in their hands alone that is preserved the knowledge of the ancient Lybian tongue, and of the script which is identical with that of the most ancient inscriptions of North Africa and presents a striking affinity to that of the Minoan, Krete, and the as yet undeciphered inscriptions of the Ægean."

Women were the primitive traders; they were the herb gatherers and the doctors. They were, in fact, the protectors, not the wasters and destroyers of life, as are men too often under the existing patriarchal form of society. We women, whose task it is to give and nurture life, need a new orientation of ideals—ideals not based on men's political and militaristic adventures, but on the desire for a fair share of life, culture, and happiness for all, and absolute equality of opportunity between the sexes.

Briffault writes: "No study is better calculated than that of social anthropology to inculcate tolerance towards the imbecilities of the human mind"; and surely one of these imbecilities is to assume that one sex is to determine for all time the conditions under which the other sex is to live and function.

## NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

In France a married woman must have her husband's consent in order to obtain a passport, and writing in *La Française* Maurice Vollaëys condemns the requirement as a violation of French law. He states that "the power to move about freely was one of the victories won by the French revolution, but this freedom did not last long. Passports were re-established in 1792, owing to the necessity of keeping men where they might be called to the defence of the Republic. There was, however, no mention of any restriction upon women." The regulations relating to passports became stricter under the régime of the Restoration of May, 1816, and "the consent of their parents, tutor, or master" was necessary to the obtaining of a passport by "a minor, student, married woman, or domestic servant." These regulations were confirmed by the Minister of the Interior in 1828, prefects being forbidden to give passports to certain individuals, namely, "minors without the consent of their parents or tutors, and married women under the control of their husbands, without the consent of their spouses."

M. Vollaëys shows that the Order of 1828 has been handed down "by the virtue of administrative tradition." On May 30th, 1916, the Prefect of Police issued an Order reaffirming that a passport may be refused to a married woman who has not her husband's consent. Some sections of the Police Order of 1816 have been quietly annulled, but the ones relating to women and minors are still in force. "To Albert Sarraut," he concludes, "falls the agreeable task of re-establishing respect for law by abrogating purely, simply, and definitely the illegal administrative measure imposed upon married women by his predecessor of the Restoration."

In April, 1926, a law was passed in Finland, which made women eligible to all Government and other official posts. On the day on which this law came into force, the Government issued an Order which allocated definitely certain posts either to men or to women, and the Order is much less favourable to women than the framers of the Act had intended. All important positions in the Civil and Diplomatic Service are reserved for men. No woman can represent Finland in a foreign country, or can become a consul. Only men can be heads of Departments in the Foreign Office, and "all higher administrative positions under the central or local authorities, as well as in the police service, are reserved for men. Women are entirely debarred from all higher legal positions; they are not allowed to be either magistrates or judges." The following positions are reserved for women:—Inspectors of domestic subjects and of gymnastic and hygienic teaching to girls, and the teaching of these subjects in girls' schools. Certain posts in women's prisons can also be occupied by women.

The organ of the Greek Women's Movement—*The Woman's Fight*—gives some interesting statistics in regard to the unequal rates of wages paid to men and women in their country. In the textile industry, for example, the women employees receive 20 to 40 drachmen daily, while young men apprentices, who are only engaged in packing the goods, are paid a wage of 30 to 50 drachmen. Again, in some branches of the soap industry, the women receive 19 to 20 drachmen and the men from 30 to 35. In provision factories, the weekly wage for a woman varies from 150 to 200 drachmen; the man's from 300 to 450—more than double that of the woman's.



## A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.

MISS JEPPE'S REPORT.

This year's Assembly of the League of Nations will consider the last Report of the Commission for the Protection of Women and Children in the Near East. This Report deals both with the year to June 30th, 1927, and also, being the final Report, includes a review of the whole task from its beginning six years ago in the rescue of the thousands of women and children deported from Armenia by the Arabs in 1915.

Miss Karen Jeppe gives an account of a most successful past year, with hearty support from the French Government, no resistance from the native population, increased interest, and increased funds. Over £6,000 was received, chiefly from British societies, the number of the rescued was 325, the highest number reached in any year, and many very difficult rescues, impossible at an earlier date, were achieved. She believes that, as far as Syrian territory is concerned, practically all the deported women and children, detained against their will among the Moslems, will have had the chance to return to their own people before next December, when the stations will be finally closed. Those who remain have chosen to stay. They are mostly women with young children. The north-eastern corner of Syria around Nissibin is an exception. No station has been opened there; it was impossible till the more settled conditions of this year, and was not thought worth attempting for one year only.

On the face of it, there seems to be a need for help just here that should be met, and we hope it will be discussed in the Assembly.

The Preliminary Commission of Inquiry started in 1921, and in March, 1922, Miss Jeppe was asked to join it, and rescue work began.

In all 1,600 persons have been rescued, at an average cost of £11 5s., including the stations, rescue home, etc.

In 1922, it was already seven years since the deportations took place; many of the poor women and young people were already resigned to their fate, but many were detained by force in helplessness, and the aim was to rescue as many as possible of these sufferers.

A network of stations, to spread the news of the work among remote villages and Bedouin tribes, was instituted, and a rescue home, a haven of security for those who escaped.

The persons rescued had the responsibility of themselves escaping from the house that detained them; once outside, the French authorities protected and helped them.

The success of the whole work has been due to the gratitude of the rescued, the justice of the cause, the atmosphere of confidence soon created, the absolute trust of the sufferers, and, as the years passed, a growing conviction in the minds of the leading Arab chiefs that their captives had a right to return to their families and a right to freedom.

Many women and children who had received kindness had become a part of the family and had no wish to leave. Only the unhappy ones were rescued.

## Group of the Rescued.

Of the rescued, 13 per cent. were, in 1915, girls and young women, almost always violated on capture, many left during the British occupation, others from the remoter parts were rescued, and many had their Armenian children with them after searching for years for them and were finally helped to escape.

Seventeen per cent. were, in 1915, girls of 6 to 11 years. These were mostly well treated by the Moslems as children of the house, but were later, according to the custom of the country, sold in marriage. Many tried to escape before marriage, but usually in vain. Some ran away when rescue reached them, others were prevented by love for their own Arab children.

Thirty-seven per cent. were, in 1915, boys of 6 to 12 years (over 12-year boys were usually killed with the men). These were usually slaves, with very hard work for only scanty food. All were eager for freedom, but

some were kept back by a rooted idea which had been instilled into their minds that they would be killed if they returned to their faith. Many of these, after a short stay, returned to the Arabs, the desert and the wandering life drawing them back from the civilised Armenian learning, thought and toil. Though at first a source of despair to the workers, it was soon found that always after a year or two the boys, unable to forget their people, faith and birthright, came back and settled down at home.

Fifteen per cent. were, in 1915, boys of 4 to 6 years, too small to remember clearly, but with a dim alien idea, and needing to be sought out and helped. Many lost children were restored to their families.

The rest were deported as little children, had no memories of the past, and were brought back by a mother, sister, brother, or neighbour. Some were forcibly removed on request, by the French authorities, from immoral surroundings.

## Education and Settlement.

Of the whole number, three-quarters have got into touch with their relatives, 400 have become self-supporting, taught a trade, or found work, many supporting their mothers or other relations.

Thirty children have been adopted by foster-parents and 45 placed in institutions. Including over 100 inmates of the home in Aleppo and 45 boys being trained as peasants in the village home, there are still some 400 people to be restored to normal life in their own world before the task is entirely finished. They must be restored to health, given to their relations, or educated and made self-supporting.

Miss Jeppe concludes with confidence in her friends at home, and by asking the League of Nations to leave in her possession, until the work is definitely brought to an end, the funds, etc., she has acquired for this purpose.

"It has been a light in the darkness and a source of happiness to many people who have suffered terribly from those evils which it is the special aim of the League of Nations to root out, or at least to mitigate."

## WOMEN AND THE CHANNEL SWIM.

During this week, four women have started to swim across the Channel. Of these, Miss Edith Jansen, a Danish woman, gave up after 4½ hours, owing to stomach cramp; Miss Harding, an Englishwoman from Hove, covered 10½ miles in 6 hours and 16 minutes, well within Miss Ederle's last year's time, but, owing to a rising wind, she gave up after 7½ hours in the water; Miss Ivy Hawke, swimming instructress under the L.C.C. at Surbiton, was the next starter, and made a plucky effort, returning after 7 hours in the water. The last to start was Miss Mona McLellan, whose real name is Dr. Dorothy Christine Logan, of Harley Street. She swam for 14 hours, in spite of rising winds, and only gave up within seven miles of the English coast, when the weather conditions became so much worse that her trainer persuaded her to stop.

## BRITISH WOMEN AT FOREST HILLS.

After an unbroken progress into the third round of the American Women's Championship at Forest Hills, the British women entrants thinned out to Miss Betty Nuthall, who played consistently good tennis all through. She astonished America by beating Mrs. Chapin, one of their foremost players, in the semi-finals, and in the final, when she was matched against the famous Helen Wills, lost a good game. In the first set, which she lost 6-1, Miss Wills had her running. In the second, which she lost 6-4, she adapted her strokes in a masterly way to combat Miss Wills' skill, who, however, is too experienced and cool a player to allow herself to be rattled, and who won by sheer skill with some tremendous strokes. A great game, and, in spite of defeat, a credit to Miss Nuthall to take as many as four games in one set from such a fine player as Miss Wills.

## Women's Freedom League.

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## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 5th, at 3 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, September 15th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Highbury Corner. Open-air Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Ewen.

Saturday, September 24th, at 3.45 p.m.

Minerva Club and Mid-London Branches.

"At Home" at the Minerva Club. Tea, 4 o'clock. Members and Friends invited. Songs, Recitations and Games. Further details later.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, October 7th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, October 7th, at 8.30 p.m.

Vote-Sellers' Supper and Autumn Rally. Dr. Knight, Miss Rodgers.

Saturday, October 8th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 p.m.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea and Politics up-to-date.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

## PROVINCES.

Friday, October 7th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford. Public Meeting in Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Mrs. Miles.

Friday, October 7th, at 8 p.m.

Rye. Public Meeting at Old Hope Anchor Inn. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Miss Ballhouse.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, September 16th, at 8 p.m.

The Women's Engineering Society. Dinner at the Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, to "Women Aviators and Motorists."

Saturday, September 17th, at 2.15 p.m.

The Women's Engineering Society, at Crosby Hall. Miss Iris Cummin, B.E., B.Sc., on "Water Power and the Electrification of the Irish Free State."

Monday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.

Bexley Heath Congregational Guild Lecture Hall. Debate on "Equal Franchise." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marian Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Mine va Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

## OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P. LL.D.

"Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.

"The Police Court and its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.

"The Poor Man's Court of Justice." By Cecil Chapman.

"Life's Fitful Fever." By M. W. Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A.

"In Darkest London." By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton.

"Athletics for Women and Girls." By S. C. Elliott Lynn.

May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

## W.F.L. PAMPHLETS, ETC.

"British Women M.P.s" (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft ... .. 4d.

"The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.

"Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d

"Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Fourth Edition) ... .. 6d.

"What we have and What we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.

"Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Toker ... .. 3/6

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## Women Dentists.

The Dental Surgeon has the following, under the signature of the Editors:—

"One of the three candidates for the post of assistant school dentist, whose applications were before the Northampton Education Committee, on July 21st, was a woman, and it is reported that the Medical Officer of Health opposed her application, firstly, on the ground that women were usurping men's positions, and, secondly, as regards technical skill, he did not think a woman would be equal to a man. Probably in an ideal State the men would be the bread-winners and the women would be their wives (!) but the economic conditions under which life is carried on at present are not quite ideal, and women have in many cases to practise professions and earn money. This being so, we consider that dentistry is one of the professions which are suitable for women, and there are in the profession of dentistry many women whose technical skill deserves the success which they have attained. Above all, we believe them to be eminently fitted for school dental appointments."

## Suffragist Campaign.

The Glasgow Herald has the following:—

"The suffragist societies and organisations for the promotion of Equal Franchise for women are planning a great autumn campaign all over the country, with the object of stimulating the Government to introduce without delay the promised legislation for the extension of the franchise to women of 21. Without exception, all these bodies are opposed to any compromise on the basis that the proposed Bill should fix the minimum age at 25 years, and they also disapprove of any suggestion that the measure might be left to a free vote when it comes before Parliament. So far they are not satisfied that they have the support of the majority of M.P.s. to their claim for the full grant of the franchise. In anticipation of this campaign in public hall and park during the coming autumn and winter by the feminists, a small but vigorous opposition movement has just been inaugurated by a young Glasgow man. The movement is known as the Fifty-Fifty League, which has the high-sounding object of 'The readjustment of relations between men and women in all public spheres.' A branch of the League is contemplated for Glasgow."

## Home Science in New Zealand.

The Melbourne Argus describes the development of the study of home science in New Zealand. For over 12 years, Dunedin University has had a school of home science. This began under the charge of women who were more scientists than domestic experts, but who, nevertheless, set themselves to correlate the two matters, and gradually the course was developed to include the whole sphere of household science, and economics, practical and theoretical. There is a three years' certificate course, in which the science subjects are taken in the home science school, and a four years' degree course, in which the science subjects are taken in the medical school. About 120 students are at present attending these two courses. A new position is opening to these students as dieticians in hospitals and institutions. Reading this enthusiastic article, one can see the old despised housework, relegated to the untrained, becoming one of the most important of sciences.

## Woman's Secret.

The Daily News has the following:—

"A young woman research worker's invention, which, it is located, may lead to changes in the construction of railway locomotives, will be one of the important subjects for discussion at the Annual Conference of the Women's Engineering Society, at Olympia next month.

"The details are a closely-guarded secret, and the inventor has retired into the security of the Highlands to escape the publicity which her discovery is bound to provoke. Those who are aware of her identity have been sworn not to divulge it."

## Women Magistrates.

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph puts in a plea for a wider representation upon its Magisterial Bench. It points out that there are 113 city magistrates, only about 100 of whom are in a position to attend regularly; also that the number of Courts throws a heavy burden of attendances upon the magistrates. The Sheffield Daily Telegraph then pleads for an increase of Labour representation, and ends with the following gentle plea for greater representation of women: "We should rather like, too, to see a few more women magistrates appointed. Those we have already have certainly been a conspicuous success. And there, again, one or two women representatives of Labour would be a distinct gain."

The above is certainly an improvement to opposition to any women at all, and we are proportionately grateful.

## HOLIDAYS.

Readers of THE VOTE who are going away for the holidays, and are not postal subscribers, are asked to send a postcard to THE VOTE Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, giving their holiday address, to which THE VOTE can be sent.



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**HUMANITARIAN HOLIDAY CENTRE,** from July 30th to September 3rd. Southbourne-on-Sea, Hants. Large mansion, several acres beautiful grounds. New Health diet; tennis; croquet; dancing; boating; lectures.—Illustrated prospectus from Mr. F. SUMMERS, 32, Sackville Street, W.1.

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