

THE VOTE,
MAY 10, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

Removing the Shackles.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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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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AN INSIDIOUS PLOT! : "40 D" AND THE TWO BILLS

Of the three measures for preventing venereal disease with which we are now supplied by the men who rule us, each has its special iniquity.

40 D has the worst fault of all, in that it is already in full operation in all its one-sided injustice; its one merit, if it can be called such, is that it makes none of the cynical pretence at equality which misleads so many well-intentioned persons and openly attacks the woman only for transmitting disease. For this reason it has very few to speak a good word for it; it could not have been passed through Parliament, but being now the law of the land it is independent of support, and all its foes must combine for the strong fight which will bring its withdrawal.

Armed with 40 D we behold the Government still uneasy in its mind; it has not yet quite discarded the notion that it is more in order to govern by law than by regulations, and that in controversial matters the "will of the people" should occasionally be invoked, hence we have Lord Beauchamp's Sexual Offences Bill now proceeding in the House of Lords.

This Bill, with its compulsory medical examination of any girl convicted of loitering or solicitation, its harrying of prostitutes and its secret Courts and Trials, we can only look upon as a bogey Bill not intended to pass, but to scare the unwary and to prepare a friendly reception for the Government

measure which now makes its appearance, also in the Lords to begin with, Lord Sandhurst's Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1918. This is our real enemy and the one we have to vanquish.

The central fact of all three measures is the introduction of the entirely new principle of penalisation of transmission of venereal diseases; the last Bill contains this fault in the same degree as Lord Beauchamp's outrageous measure. The very moderation of this last Bill is its greatest danger; it will disarm the opposition of many unsuspecting persons honestly desiring the good of the community. On the face of it Clause V. is to be equal in its treatment of men and women—in practice our political experience makes us certain that it will not be equally administered, and it is impossible, even if the attempt were seriously made, to punish men equally with women for the transmission of these diseases.

This penalisation would have, for almost its sole result, the temporary removal from the life of the community of a certain number of immoral infected women and girls—i.e., vice would presumably be "safer." Over and over again it has been demonstrated that all attempts to make vice "safe" increase the amount of disease because they increase the amount of immorality.

But if the Government considers this critical time a suitable opportunity for going over the ground

IF you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men

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Fill in your name and address and send it to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

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again, its business is to take the straightforward course of reintroducing the Contagious Diseases Acts openly to outrage public opinion, and to court the inevitable disaster.
E. KNIGHT.

Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1912. (Introduced in House of Lords, April 24th.)

PROVISIONS.

Clause I.—Raises age of consent in indecent assault to sixteen.

Clause II.—Removes "reasonable cause" proviso in criminal assault on girls under sixteen, and extends limit of time for starting prosecutions to twelve months after commission of offence.

Clause III.—A common prostitute convicted of loitering or soliciting or of vagrancy or wandering and being riotous or indecent or any girl convicted of any offence under this Act, may, if under eighteen, be at the discretion of the Court, shut up until she is eighteen in an institution or home approved by the Home Secretary.

Every case is to be reported on by a probation officer or by a special committee appointed for the purpose and including two women as to her mode of life and associations, before being dealt with.

A girl under eighteen may be shut up in an approved institution or home while under remand or waiting trial.

Clause IV.—Increases penalties against brothel keepers.

Clause V.—Forbids sexual intercourse or solicitation to any man or woman suffering from infectious venereal disease. Penalty, imprisonment with or without hard labour, on summary conviction up to six months, or on indictment up to two years.

Reasonable ground for believing himself non-infectious is a sufficient defence.

The evidence of a single witness must be corroborated in some material particular by evidence implicating the accused. The prisoner shall be informed of "his" right to remand for not less than a week for medical examination by "his" own or by the prison doctor.

Clause VII.—Forbids exhibition, postage, publishing, or distributing of indecent literature or pictures, forbids advertisements of remedies for venereal diseases or of advice for miscarriage or abortion, or of suggestions of immoral places. Penalty, fine up to £100 or imprisonment up to three months' hard labour.

Strong Protest Meeting at Croydon.

On April 29 a crowded meeting was held at the Small Public Hall to protest against the new D.O.R.A. Regulation 40 D. In able speeches Dr. V. H. Rutherford and Miss Alison Neilans treated the medical and moral grounds of protest, and severely condemned the unjust and useless measure. They explained clearly and fully their reasons for opposing this reintroduction of the spirit and dangerous deception of the Contagious Diseases Acts, against which Josephine Butler fought so long before she secured their repeal in 1886. The meeting was convened by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Women's Freedom League. The Rev. A. Pringle, who presided, made a fine speech, in which he emphasized the urgency of the protest, and the encouragement of Josephine Butler's great work. The strong resolution of protest was carried unanimously.

Juvenile Offenders.

Recently Colonel Lord HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK asked the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that a boy under twelve years of age named Herbert Collett was, while under remand, kept from Wednesday, January 23, to Monday, January 28, in solitary confinement, in a dark, unwarmed, and ill-smelling tramp cell in Hitchin Workhouse, being deprived of his clothes and made to sleep in a hammock with only two blankets, and that during the night tramps were admitted into the adjoining cells, where their conversation was plainly audible; whether he will state the number of workhouses which are authorised to be used as places of remand and detention for child offenders; and whether he will take immediate steps to secure that the accommodation provided by them is of a suitable character?

Mr. HAYES FISHER: I am inquiring into the case mentioned in the first part of this question, and will inform my noble friend of the result of my inquiries. Sixty-seven poor law institutions are at present authorised to be used for the reception of remand children. Authority is only given subject to there being proper accommodation and sufficient classification, and to the guardians undertaking to provide proper supervision.

We should like to know why juvenile offenders cannot come under the Education Authorities instead of under the Local Government Board.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, May 10.—CROYDON. Branch Meeting at 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 5.30 p.m.

Saturday, May 11.—Kensington Branch Members' meeting at 3 p.m. "At Home" to members and friends, 4 p.m., at 94, Cambridge-gardens, N. Kensington, W. 10.

Wednesday, May 15.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Miss K. D. Courtney, on "The National Endowment of Families." Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café if required, 6a. Working Party, 5.30-7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22.—Working Party, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 5.30-7 p.m.

Friday, May 24.—John Stuart Mill Commemoration Meeting in Roadway near John Stuart Mill's Statue in Temple Gardens, 6 p.m. If wet, this meeting will be held in the Minerva Café.

PROVINCES.

Friday, May 10.—NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. Public Meeting, Kinnard Hall, Saville-place, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard on "40 D."

Tuesday, May 14.—BOURNEMOUTH. Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, West Cliff Gardens. Meeting to protest against 40 D, D.O.R.A. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Tea, if desired, 3.15 to 3.45 p.m., 6d. each. The chair will be taken at 3.45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15.—READING. Council of Women Meeting.

Friday, May 24.—BATH. Meeting at Grosvenor College (by kind permission of Miss Lock and Miss Parsons). Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Mrs. Whetton.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, May 27.—Uxbridge Women's Suffrage Society. Miss F. A. Underwood on "Women and Police Courts."

We call special attention to—

Wednesday, May 15.—Miss K. D. Courtney's lecture on "The National Endowment of Families," in the Minerva Café, 3 p.m.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO READERS:

The British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union stands for a great ideal, and the announcement of the third biennial conference, to be held at the Caxton Hall on June 4, 5, and 6, will be of special interest to our readers. The Conference will afford an excellent opportunity for friends to rally round Miss Harriet Newcomb and Miss Margaret Lodge, founders of the Union, and to testify their appreciation of the splendid service they have rendered to the Woman's Cause throughout the Empire. On page 243 will be found the attractive list of subjects and speakers and other information concerning the Conference, which promises to be a splendid success.

Congratulations to Mrs. Haslam.

One of the most interesting among the celebrations of the Woman Suffrage Victory took place in Dublin on the occasion of the eighty-ninth birthday of Mrs. Anna Haslam. Irish suffragists gathered in force to present an address congratulating the veteran and honoured worker on the victory achieved after more than fifty years of struggle, in which she and her husband played so noble a part. Mrs. Haslam's many friends on this side of the Irish Sea join in the congratulations, and rejoice that she is still on active service.

The Despard Arms.

123, Hampstead Road, N.W. 1.

Our grateful thanks to friends who have sent us flowers. We are Oliver Twists in asking for "More!" In addition to articles of household furniture, such as tables, easy chairs, rugs, linoleum, chests of drawers, and looking-glasses we shall be glad if friends can supply a special need—a carpet square, about 12ft. by 12ft. "The sooner, the quicker!"

THEY SUPPORT US!

MUNICIPAL POLITICS AND EXPENDITURE.

By Councillor J. T. Mustard.

"All were for THE party,
None were for the State."

Party strife is said to have been scotched, and now lies quiescent both in national and municipal Councils. I believe this was so at the outbreak of the war, when the shock was so sudden and alarming that country was put first. But as the danger seemed to fade the old monsters raised their heads, and the machines got to work again only in a more underground manner, so as to throw dust in the eyes of the gullible public.

Hilaire Belloc's strictures on the collusion between the Front Benches in Parliament are true at the present day of too many local bodies; party leaders confer, whips are in evidence, and efficiency is a secondary consideration. Should a vacancy occur they do not trouble to find out the most suitable person to fill it, but ask, "What colour is he?" If "Blue," no matter how true, he will not have a ghost of a chance if it is a "Red" seat. The same system is applied in filling vacancies on committees. For example, a chairman resigns, and there may be a most excellent vice-chairman or member of committee capable and ready to fill the vacancy, but if the retiring chairman was a "Blue" the two other gentlemen are barred out should they be "Reds."

Are we at war or are we not? Is not organised efficiency thundering at our very gates?

Then in the name of common-sense, if not for our country's sake, is it not imperative that we still stand shoulder to shoulder, and really wake up to the fact that it is only organised efficiency, coupled with a determined purpose, that will win us through? This is as true of local matters as of national. In fact, it is sometimes most important that our local administration should be efficient and far-seeing, because it reacts on the national inefficiency?

In my previous article I pointed out that local bodies were merely collectors, and that other people spent the money. I may add that there are other National organisations in, say, a Metropolitan borough's area, spending large sums of money of which not one per cent. of the ratepayers know anything. How many of my readers can tell me anything of the activities of, and the sums of money disbursed by (1) The Old Age Pensions Committee; (2) The War Pensions Committee; (3) The Labour Exchanges; (4) The Care Committees; (5) etc., etc.? Are we too much crushed down by rates and taxes that we have not time to look up and around with intelligent interest, and ask what all these are doing, and demand how much money they are spending, and where it goes? In fact, we ought to ask: How many of them are really doing any useful work in a practical way?

Our obvious duty, as citizens of no mean Empire, is to become alive and vigilant towards all our local bodies, and see that efficiency and sound administration are the keystones of their work, and that party shall be relegated to its proper sphere. But how are we to know that the party spirit is alive in municipal politics to the detriment of efficiency and economical administration? You can readily answer the question by spending a few evenings in the public gallery of your borough Council chamber. How many of you have done so? Go and do it before you grumble. If you have a sense of humour, and if it were not war-time, you would enjoy it. You will be reminded of the Mayor in a recent play, who, at a social function, when asked a question by the hostess, replied that he was sorry he could not give an answer as his Town Clerk had not come with him. It must be amusing to an onlooker in

the gallery, should he be present when some members are putting questions to chairmen of committees, to see clerks bobbing here and there behind seats to get to the heckled chairman to prompt him in time to answer the question. You go away and think, and rightly become indignant. At another time you find some member moving that Mr. So-and-So's salary should be raised by £x, or that a gratuity be granted to X. If you know something of the matter, and have the Agenda and cash paper handy, you ask why? A friend whispers in your ear. "See? They are pals at—Club." Oh, yes, log-rolling is not confined to the United States. There is more of it in England than the average ratepayer dreams.

"Let there be light, and there was light." We need light, and still more light on our public bodies and their administration; we must rear and educate a race of intelligent citizens, who will cease to pay rates and taxes without making enquiries as to what becomes of the money. We get the government we deserve. But once you have the burden strapped on your back it is difficult to throw it off. Yet it is worth doing. Come and help to do it. London needs a municipal spring cleaning very badly.

THE "OLD VIC'S" VICTORY.

Everyone who has enjoyed the admirable performances of Shakespeare's plays—five every week—at the "Old Vic," from September to May, will rejoice in the crowning success of crowded houses during the special Shakespeare Festival of four weeks, which ended on May 3. No praise is too great for the magnificent work of a woman, Miss Lilian Baylis, who faces difficulties with so brave a heart, so resourceful a mind, and so undaunted an outlook. She is ably supported by Mr. Ben Greet and the all-round clever company, every one of whom well deserved the ovation they received at the conclusion of "A Winter's Tale" last Friday. The "Old Vic" has proved the strong appeal which Shakespeare makes to the people in war time, and has great plans in preparation for next season. To music-lovers the "Old Vic" is a boon and a blessing, and the opera company has well earned the demonstration of appreciation of last Saturday. To help to restore the huts which have had to be abandoned at the Front in consequence of the German offensive, "Elijah," as oratorio in action, will be repeated at the "Old Vic" on Sundays, May 12 and 26, at 3 p.m. No music-lover should miss it. The "Old Vic" is in the Waterloo-road, one minute's walk from Waterloo Station.

A PAGEANT OF FREEDOM!

When Madame Clara Butt and Mr. L. N. Parker combine forces to produce a "Pageant of Freedom," an inspiring result is certain, which will appeal to Freedom Leaguers. The Pageant is in aid of the Red Cross, and is being given daily at the Queen's Hall from May 7 to 13 (except Sunday).

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION. THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 5th, 6th, 1912.

Subjects: Equal Suffrage; Equal Pay for Equal Work and Endowment of Motherhood; Equal Parental Rights and Status for Illegitimate Child; Nationality of Married Women; Prostitution and an Equal Moral Standard; Divorce; Women Police; Women in the Crown Colonies; Women in relation to the Press and to Political Parties, etc.

SPEAKERS: Miss K. D. Courtney, Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, Miss Damer Dawson, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss C. Macmillan, Miss March, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Royden, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Sheepshanks, Dr. E. Beadon Turner, Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Watt, Mr. Leonard Woolf, and others.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd.—SERMON, MISS MAUDE ROYDEN.
THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 6th, INDIA.

Tickets, Three Days, 5s. and 2s. 6d.; One Day, 2s. and 1s.; India, 1s. Apply Miss Newcomb, Hon. Sec., B.D.W.S.U., c/o International Woman Suffrage Society, 11, Adam-street, Strand, W.C. 2.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 248.

THE VOTE.

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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.

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REMOVING THE SHACKLES.

In the old pre-war days, owing to their limited opportunities, the capacity of women was unrecognised. The war has added opportunity to their capacity, and, not infrequently, public utterances seem to sound a chord formed of regret and determination—regret that the great discovery of woman was not made long ago, and determination that, in future, the nation shall benefit to the utmost by the new found vein of wealth, brought to the light of common day in the brains and character of the women of the country. The protagonists of women no longer demand mere abstract justice for them. They ask now that every impediment be removed which shackles the use of their powers and capacities in the service of the community.

We are able this week to bring to the notice of our readers two hopeful signs of the times with regard to equality of the sexes in education, clearly set forth by our able contributors E. M. N. C. and Miss C. S. Bremner. Both efforts are "unofficial"; private and corporate enterprise is showing the Government "the only way" to proceed in education if the old futile and wilful waste of woman power is to be transmuted into efficient service of the community.

An important and representative committee has been formed in Manchester for the purpose of finding funds—£10,000 is the sum aimed at—to provide more university scholarships for women. At the inaugural meeting, held at the Manchester Town Hall on April 29, the Lord Mayor, who presided, "drew attention to the ability and power displayed by women in taking the places of men during the war." He insisted on the need for "giving every possible opportunity for training girls to the highest pitch of perfection in order to fit them for important duties in the future." Lord Rochdale considered that "women had shown the most extraordinary elasticity of mind and resourcefulness." He declared that they ought to be more employed in the future "in the higher administrative services of business life." Miss Reta Oldham, President of the Association of Headmistresses, drew attention to the disparity of the opportunities for a university career offered to boys and girls. The small number of scholarships for girls was a source of bitter disappointment to teachers and pupils. There were far more girls anxious to enter the universities than were able to go owing to the lack of scholarships. In the older universities, the proportion of scholarships for girls and boys was in the proportion of 1 to 12. So keen was the competition that many girls broke down through overwork. Dr. Phoebe Sherwyn said that, a few years ago, out of 464 scholarships awarded by local authorities, only 71 went to girls. The demand

for women in the medical and teaching professions was a rapidly increasing one. Women were needed also "in work of superintendence, organisation, and administration." Sir Henry Miers, Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, thought that the financial difficulties of the scheme "ought not to be allowed to stand in the way." Postgraduate scholarships were necessary to keep the more promising students at the universities after their normal course was over. "Women," he said, "should be given equal opportunities with men."

The belated recognition of truths which they have voiced for two generations is grateful in the ears of suffragists, who rejoice that the feet of the girls of to-day are set in a larger room than were those of their mothers and aunts. Much service is expected from them, which they will gladly render, and for themselves, as Mr. C. P. Scott (of the *Manchester Guardian*), whose late wife was one of the foremost workers for the higher education of women in the North of England, so aptly reminded the meeting, the gain lies in an "enlarged horizon, the opening out of a whole new world of interest and capacity."

It has been said that what Lancashire thinks to-day England thinks to-morrow. Manchester has set an example, which London and other great towns all over the country might well be proud to follow.

Long ago John Stuart Mill observed that England needs nothing so much as a greater degree of justice infusing into her social conditions. It is a truth that the members of the Women's Freedom League have fully realised, and large numbers of them have worked for its attainment.

The war came, and where formerly tens grasped the importance of Mill's observation and the necessity for striving towards its attainment, thousands give in their adherence to-day. Their actions speak even louder than words. A few days ago the *Yorkshire Post* announced a magnificent gift for the purpose of university education. Mr. Norman Rae, a well-known Bradford manufacturer, has presented £10,000 to provide leaving scholarships from the secondary schools of three towns; the income from £4,000 to the Bradford Municipal Secondary Schools for Girls; that from £3,000 to the Harrogate Secondary School, and the income from £3,000 to be divided equally between the Batley Boys' Grammar School and the Batley Girls' Secondary School. Mr. Rae gives solid reasons for the better education of girls, and for the higher education of both sexes. That nation which fails to give the fullest opportunity for the educational development of its gifted children cannot long remain in the front rank of nations. Mr. Rae points out how many brilliant students have been sacrificed to the Moloch of war, and argues that scholarships are as urgently needed for girls as for boys, in order to enable them to qualify for positions in medicine, chemistry, and other branches of natural science.

Those who know a little of the history of educational endowments have most reason to admire Mr. Rae's sound common sense and his spirit of justice. We may claim that he is a disciple of Mill, to whom his country, and especially women, must ever be deeply indebted. The endowment of Christ's Hospital was assured to "the poore and silly (blessed) members of Christ." But it ended as a monopoly of the rich, and principally for boys; that which was left as the share of the girls was little more than nominal. When the Charity Commissioners reformed the foundation, it was a very partial reformation indeed; equality limped a long way behind, for the simple reason that men do not gather figs of thistles. For thistles read *solely male com-*

missioners. Of such thistles we have a tremendous crop. For another example of a foundation which has been diverted from the founder's intention we may take Jesus' College, Cambridge, erected on the site of St. Radegund's Priory, the well-known nunnery which, at the time of the Reformation, carried on the education of girls and women; it was wrested from the Sisters, and the priory and its endowments handed over to the education of men. Now that the college is more than half empty it might be becoming for its governing body to restore it to the sex to which it properly belongs, and thus carry out an act of belated justice.

The day the announcement of Mr. Rae's generous gift appeared in *The Yorkshire Post* there was published an important Government White Paper on the position of Modern Languages in the educational system of Great Britain. Here again the committee advocate equality of opportunity for both sexes, a better and fuller use in the public service of women trained in foreign languages. To give the training, and fail to use it, spells folly and waste. We hope to return to this subject. In such matters women must be on the social conning-tower, and THE VOTE will tell what is observed.

INDIAN WOMEN'S DEMAND FOR EQUALITY.

An event of special significance was the deputation of representative women of India which, at Madras, waited upon the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, and the Secretary of State for India, Mr. E. S. Montagu, who is visiting India preparatory to the launching of a reform scheme to give Indians greater power in the administration of their own country. That Indian women are making themselves effectively heard in this connection will be welcomed as an important and historic fact in the world-wide progress of the Woman's Movement. The reception of this deputation was applied for by the following women members of the Senate of the Indian Women's University:—Mrs. Saraladevi Chaudhuri, B.A., Mrs. Margaret Cousins, Mus. Bac., Mrs. Saralabai Naik, M.A., Mrs. Vidya R. Nilakanta, B.A., Mrs. Srirangamma, B.A. Among the additional representative women supporting the deputation were Lady Bose, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Mazarul-Haque, Mrs. Besant, Mrs. Nehru, Mrs. Chandrasekhra Aiyar, Dr. (Miss) Joshi, Mrs. Sanjiva Rao, Mrs. Jinarajadasa, Mrs. H. Tata, Mrs. Lazarus, and Miss Gokhale, Mrs. Shamlal Nehru, and Mrs. Hasrat Mohani.

The following points were brought forward by the deputation:—

1. The present awakening of Indian women to an intelligent interest in public affairs.
2. Their widely expressed approval of the Schemes of Reform drawn up by the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League, and also the Non-Official Memorandum of the Nineteen Members of the Legislative Council.
3. The inclusion of women in the new franchises asked for in these schemes and in Local Self-Government measures.
4. The fundamental need for Free and Compulsory Primary Education for all boys and girls as the keystone to all successful political reform.
5. Educational facilities equal to those of boys immediately to be given to girls, thus removing the present differentiation in educational policy, which is giving schooling to ten times as many boys as girls.
6. An increased number of Training Colleges and Widows' Homes, well supplemented by scholarships necessary for the training of teachers to meet the educational demands for reform.
7. Increase in the number of Women's Medical Colleges and the establishment of short Maternity Courses in connection with local hospitals, in order to diminish the high death-rate of young married women and the disastrously high rate of Infant Mortality, thus improving the physique of the nation.

The *Mahratta*, an old-established paper, owned and edited by Indians, commenting on the deputation, points out that under the ancient village panchayet system [a system of local self-government,

which has fallen out of use under British rule] women were not excluded from the franchise on the grounds of sex. Looking forward, the *Mahratta* expresses the hope that statesmen, whose main concern is with human welfare, have learned by now that woman is as good as man in almost every department of public life. Given other necessary qualifications for any service, the mere fact of being a woman ought no longer to be an insuperable obstacle in service to the nation. After the expression of such excellent convictions, which are the basis of the Woman's Movement in all countries, we look forward to seeing the *Mahratta* and other newspapers in India strong supporters of the advance of Indian women to a position of equality with Indian men.

Indian Women's Association.

A further significant item of news from India is the formation of an Indian Women's Association. Its president is Mrs. Annie Besant; secretary, Mrs. D. Jinarajadasa; treasurer, Mrs. Mahadeva Sastri. According to the *Stri-Dharma*, the official organ of the Association, its objects are:

To present to women their responsibility as daughters of India, to help them to realise that the future of India lies largely in their hands, for as wives and mothers they have the task of training and guiding and forming the character of the future rulers of India; to band women into groups for the purpose of self-development and education, and for the definite service of others.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Equality in the Cinema Trade.

Miss Irene Miller, a member of the Women's Freedom League since its foundation, is the first woman in this country to fill the position of scenario-editor to a film-producing company. Speaking a few days ago to the Stoll Picture Theatre Club, on "Women and Films," she said that women have not had to fight their way into the cinema trade; they have been welcomed as a matter of course, they receive equal wages for equal work, and occupy positions of importance in every branch of the business. She considered that the woman of the American picture play, possessing intellect, energy, daring, resource, coolness of nerve, as well as "gentler graces," had widened the ideas of the average audience in other countries concerning women's scope and capacities, and had made easier the banishment of hampering skirts for women doing many kinds of national service. She advocated the training of women to fill the responsible, not merely the subordinate, posts in industrial enterprises.

Women's Work in Music.

The current issue (May) of the *Music Student* (Montague House, Russell Square, W.C. 1, 6d.) is of special interest, as it deals with the part played by British women in music, and is written almost entirely by members of the Society of Women Musicians (92, Victoria-street, London, S.W. 1). The issue shows how important is the contribution of women to music, and amongst the contributors and their contributions are the following:—

"The Creative Spirit in Women's Music," by Kathleen Eggar; "Women as Teachers: A Symposium of Aims and Views by well-known teachers;" "The Woman Solo-singer," by Lucie Johnstone ("Lewis Carey"); "Notable English Women Pianists," by A. C. Ströde; "The English Pianist: A Frenchwoman's Appreciation," by Adine O'Neill (Mrs. Norman O'Neill); "Women as Instrumentalists and Conductors," by Marion M. Scott; "Women as Organists and Choir-trainers," by Mrs. Mary Layton, F.R.C.O.; "The Competitive Festival: A Woman's Inspiration," by Cecilia Hill; "Cecilia, Music's Patron Saint," by "I. E. E."; "The Literary Aspect of Women's Musical Work," by Annie T. Weston; and "Miss Kathleen Schlesinger's Recent Discoveries," by Elsie Hamilton.

Copies can be obtained from the W. F. L. Literature Dept.

"40 D" IN ACTION.

The Soldier or Sailor Does Not Appear.

Mr. Lees-Smith asked on April 21 whether, when a woman was charged under 40 D, the man alleged to have been solicited or infected would be called upon to give evidence before she was convicted.

Mr. Macpherson could not say what course the magistrate would follow, but doubted whether any magistrate would convict without his evidence being available, and careful cross-examination possible. A defendant would have the usual right to secure the attendance of any witness whose evidence was likely to be material in her behalf.

Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck asked how many women and girls had been brought up under 40 D, and how they had been dealt with.

Sir George Cave could not say. He believed they must be very few, but they were not reported to the Home Office. He had no report of the case of a young girl of seventeen, sentenced at Manchester to six months' imprisonment. He promised Mr. King to get a report of this case, "which had excited considerable comment and indignation."

The Home Secretary stated on April 30, in answer to questions from Mr. Lees-Smith and Mr. King, that a young girl of seventeen was on April 19, at the City Police Court, Manchester, sentenced to two months' imprisonment under the above Regulation. "The girl herself stated that she was suffering from venereal disease, and the prison doctor confirmed this. The attendance of the soldiers whom she solicited was not, therefore, required."

Mr. King asked whether the Home Secretary could not intervene to reduce the term of punishment.

Sir G. Cave: "It is too soon to consider that."

Mr. Lees-Smith asked whether instructions would be issued to the chief constable in each district to tell these women on each occasion of their right to summon the soldier or sailor concerned to give evidence.

Sir G. Cave: "The persons charged are always told that they are entitled to summon witnesses, and the soldier or sailor would be usually called as a witness for the prosecution."

The following replies have been received to the letters to Ministers published in last week's VOTE:—

War Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1. May 1, 1918.

DEAR MADAM,—The Secretary of State has given careful consideration to your letter of April 25, but, in view of the discussion which has taken place in the House of Commons, he feels that no good purpose would be served by receiving a deputation from the Society on whose behalf you write, as their views on the subject of Regulation 40 D, Defence of the Realm Act, were known to His Majesty's Government when it was decided to take power to introduce the Regulation in question.—Yours faithfully,
Miss F. A. Underwood. H. J. CREEDY.

Home Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1. May 2, 1918.

MADAM,—With reference to your letter of April 25, I am desired by the Home Secretary to say that the Sexual Offences Bill to which you refer was introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Beauchamp. The Government Bill, which is a different Bill, has been introduced by Lord Sandhurst, and it is anticipated that the second reading will be taken next week. It is proposed that both Bills should be referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, and the Committee will no doubt be willing to receive evidence from representatives of organised women's societies. In these circumstances, Sir George Cave does not feel able to receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League at the present time, but if and when the Bill comes to the House of Commons, he will consider the question of receiving a deputation if desired.—Yours faithfully,
S. W. HARRIS.

WANTED!—A copy of "Diana of Dobson's," by Cicely Hamilton. If any reader has a copy to dispose of, a member of the Women's Freedom League will be very glad to purchase it. Please reply to the Secretary, Minerva Publishing Co., 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

40 D. THE REGULATION OF VICE.

Another urgent and important Campaign is upon us. Foiled in the attempt to revive the iniquitous provisions of the detested Contagious Diseases Acts by means of the late innocent-seeming Criminal Law Amendment Bill of unhappy memory, the men who rule us have now—by Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act—reintroduced the State Regulation of Vice in this country.

Long years ago the Women's Freedom League had its mind made up to oppose to the bitter end any such action.

Our machinery for agitation stands ready to be set in motion—money must come in freely for this renewal of the fight.

As the matter is urgent the expenses will be heavy. Delay is dangerous. We must have this shameful blot upon the Statute Book, this death-knell to the moral life of Britain—as the great pioneer, Josephine Butler, termed it—withdrawn at once.

Friends and fellow-workers, we must stand together shoulder to shoulder. Send your cheques, and notes and postal orders as quickly as you can, and make them as large as possible.

E. KNIGHT.

144, High Holborn,
W.C. 1.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

That a Ministry of Health is imperatively needed was clearly proved by Mrs. Boyd Dawson on May 1. In an enlightening and amusing way she showed the appalling overlapping of authorities now dealing with health by giving a list of them as experienced in the life of a typical working woman. They included the Privy Council, the Local Government Board, the Home Office, the Board of Education, the Board of Agriculture, Borough Councils, and the Metropolitan Asylums Board, but when the woman reaches the stage of a working-man's wife no authority undertakes any responsibility for her health. Mrs. Dawson protested strongly against the gap which leaves girls and boys without medical attendance between the ages of 14 and 16—a most critical period of their lives. The school care ends at fourteen, and the National Insurance does not begin till sixteen. She admitted the difficulty of bringing everything under one Ministry, for the question of national health includes such subjects as sweated labour, the food supply, industrial conditions, and housing. As a solution she proposed that the Ministry of Health should be responsible for medical care of children, for midwives, for hospitals, and other matters directly concerned with individual health, with powers to step in if other Ministries took action which would be injurious to national health. Mrs. Mustard, who presided, and thanked Mrs. Dawson for her interesting address, pointed out that the health of the family is in women's hands, and the national health requires women's help; the best way to ensure it would be to put a woman at the head of the new Ministry.

"The Garden of Experience."

A message of comfort and hope is specially welcome in these days of stress and anxiety, and in "The Garden of Experience" Mrs. Thomson-Price has expressed such a message in a few telling and uplifting words. They have been beautifully illuminated within a decorative border of flowers, surmounted by an alluring garden scene, by Miss M. C. Bowerley. Admirable reproductions in colour are now to be obtained from the Literature Department, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, for 1s. 4d.; a suitable frame can also be supplied at a very moderate cost. Readers will be glad to know of this unique and artistic production, which, as a birthday or unbirth-day present, will bring courage and comfort to many homes.

THEY SUPPORT US!

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

*** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

Women and the Law: Necessary Reforms.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—While so much is being said as to the necessity for maternal endowment and allowances for the duration of the war and a limited period beyond, little is being said as to the importance of revising the laws of heredity, of inheritance, and of intestacy, which do so much to create the spirit and set the example which make for inferiority of treatment as applied to the feminine. Mr. Cecil Chapman is almost the only one of our sympathisers who has consistently drawn attention to this anomaly, as well as to the unequal treatment of the sexes in our marriage and divorce laws, from the point of view, before the law, of sex equality. Women will make a grievous fundamental blunder if they ignore the existence and continuance of this root injustice.

If it is contended that woman is at a disadvantage in the struggle for existence on account of her racial function, that should of itself be a sufficient reason, if there is to be a difference, for preferential treatment of the feminine, not the masculine. Certainly it is not a reason for inferiority of treatment of the feminine; and to offer maternity endowment in lieu of equality of inheritance and equal pay seems to me like adding insult to injury.

At one time we are told that women can, at the expense of their capacity for efficient maternity, live upon less than men, and therefore must not receive equal pay for equal or better work; and at another time we are told that women must always be economically at a disadvantage for functional reasons, and that man must be better paid because he is expected to support her. So the argument is always made to work out to the advantage of the man.

It is of the utmost importance that women should be well paid, that they may maintain their strength and save for marriage and maternity, and not be at the entire financial mercy of any man. A woman who has savings can make terms with her prospective husband—or could do so but for the meddlesome and muddlesome interferences of law. The proper function of the law should be limited to the legalising, by stamp or otherwise, of the arrangements made by the conjoints themselves.

One essential point is that the law should not, as it so often does, deprive the woman of the power of self-protection. What is called *protection* by the law should often really be spelt *persecution*.

Again, it is far too constantly insisted upon that man is the breadwinner of the household. The conjoints are both responsible, and it depends entirely upon the circumstances of each individual case in what way they use their special capacities for the joint benefit of the family. These circumstances are constantly varying, especially since women have had a freer hand and better opportunities. But, apart from that, men are not free from the chances of accident, failure in business, or illness. When either of these befalls, the woman has to, and does, take up the double burden, and it is marvellous how frequently they have met misfortunes with a brave face and a staunch heart, and have come out winners. It is not privilege that women need; it is fair play and equality of opportunity.

One word more. Let women beware of too many laws. We have far too many already. New laws should be made only for limited experimental periods. Often it is only a suggestion of a change in outlook that is needed, after which the law might often be allowed to lapse and become a dead letter, instead of remaining to cumber the statute book and helping to de-humanise and demoralise the legal mind.—Yours, etc.,
(DR.) ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY.

"Too Much Money."

I kept the First of May—the real celebration following later—by paying a visit with some young friends to the Ambassadors' Theatre, where daily matinees at 2.30 p.m. and evening performances on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., are being given of Mr. Zangwill's latest play, "Too Much Money." I would recommend those who want a little rest from the perpetual strain of body and mind entailed upon us by the present political and military situation to follow our example.

The play is delightful—no word of war from beginning to end, and not a dull moment. Most of us who have had the privilege of hearing Mr. Zangwill's suffrage addresses have enjoyed his pungent wit and clever aphorisms. The play bristles with these. But to those who can read below the surface there is a deeper meaning. "Too Much Money," the disastrous results of which are brought into evidence in the first and third acts of the play, has been Europe's disease. It has permeated the governing caste; it has thrown its false glamour over the whole of society. It has developed not the natural but the unnatural elements

of human life, and the inevitable result has followed.

The effect of too much money and its temporary withdrawal are admirably portrayed in Annabel Broadley, wife of a weak man, the owner of so much money that it grows of itself. She is, or thinks herself, a "daughter of the gods." A fine rendering of this character is given by Miss Lillah Macarthy. The airs and graces, the sentimentalism and affectation of a fine lady posing as an idealist, professing to despise money and to yearn after the simple life, are, in the first scene—"A Drawing-room in Mayfair"—depicted with great skill. Advised by the shrewd Scotch self-made man, Sir Robert M'Carbel, well rendered by M. R. Marand, Annabel's husband feigns bankruptcy, and the curtain falls after the first scene on brokers sweeping the drawing-room of its contents and Annabel, in an agony of passion and revolt, crouched in the empty room. In the next scene, a garret—somewhat glorified, we must confess—in Poplar, Annabel is herself, the true woman, accepting the situation, making the best of it, and grieving only for her husband, who is out looking for work, which he is not able to find.

How it all works out I leave the readers of THE VOTE to discover for themselves. Let me add that, in my opinion, Mr. Zangwill is right in bringing such a play as this, so full of good fun, before the public at the present moment. We need to work; we need to think; but we need relaxation also. I returned to my work with greater alacrity after the pleasant May-day change.
C. DESPARD.

BRANCH NOTES.

Bournemouth.

A meeting will be held (by kind permission of Mrs. Hume) at Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, West Cliff Gardens, Tuesday, May 14, to protest against Regulation 40 D. The chair will be taken at 3.45 p.m., and the speaker will be Miss F. A. Underwood. All members and friends are urged to rally to this meeting. Members are reminded that their annual subscriptions are due, and should be sent direct to the hon. treasurer, Mrs. R. P. Underwood, 1, Pearson-terrace, Ashley-road, Upper Parkstone, who would also be glad to receive donations from members and friends towards the expenses of this meeting.

Croydon.

The report of the Croydon meeting on April 29, protesting against 40 D, appears in another column. All members are urged to attend the branch meeting at the Office on Friday, May 10, at 5.30 p.m.

Glasgow.

A branch meeting was held in our offices on May 2, and Miss Bunten reported on the Conference of Women's Societies for the formation of a Glasgow Women Citizens' Association; other business was considered. Miss Dorothy Evans suggested several schemes of work to be carried out during her campaign in Glasgow which is just beginning. The meeting considered the formation of a joint Equal Pay for Equal Work Council, such as Nottingham has set up. Support was expected especially from clerks and teachers. It was decided to approach meetings of women in connection with churches and chapels, and also Women's Co-operative Guilds, asking them to consider the question of 40 D, also to discuss the Women's Freedom League programme for women voters, and suggesting that they should receive a speaker on these subjects. A meeting is in process of arrangement for Miss Anna Munro about May 13. Will members, where possible, call at the office for details?

Newcastle.

Miss Dorothy Evans addressed a number of meetings in Newcastle during last week, and resolutions protesting

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FRIDAY,
MAY 10,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

against 40 D have gone forward from the following meetings:—Gosforth Men's Adult School, public meeting of Independent Labour Party, public meeting of Women's Freedom League, Society of Friends, Women's Adult School, and the women's group of the Labour Party. Members are urged to make Mrs. Despard's visit as widely known as possible. She will address a protest meeting against 40 D in the Kinnaid Hall, Saville-place, on Friday, May 10, at 7.30 p.m. Chair: Angus Watson, Esq.

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms-lane, S.W. 8.

We are grateful to Miss Katherine Raleigh for again coming down to tell fairy tales to our children. Twenty-four of them had tea here on May Day, provided by their very good friend, Mr. Snow, and listened afterwards to the many adventures of the Twelve Princes and The Swineherd. Rosie, Patty, and Gemma Harrison made a flower festival

of the dinner-hour one day by their gift of cowslips; each child carried away a big bunch, and one little girl asked for a second "to put in front of daddy's picture, who's at the war." Flowers were also sent by Miss Holmes, of Braintree, Mrs. P. H. Miller, and Miss D. M. Holmes. They gave a great deal of pleasure, and we should be glad of more, if anyone has time to gather them. Miss Wells's concert at Hampton realised the sum of two guineas for the Guest House, and the children who took part are warmly thanked. On Saturday, May 25, Miss Margaret Hodge will give an address on "The Home of Anzacs," illustrated by lantern slides, at Mrs. Despard's house, and Mr. Andrew Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, will open a cot in the Guest House, supported by Mrs. Walpole and other friends in Tasmania. All readers of THE VOTE are invited to take this opportunity of visiting the Settlement; time, 4-6.30 p.m.

THE COMPETITION FOR THE TURQUOISE NECKLACE, so kindly given to the League by Mrs. Julia Wood, has been won by Miss Nora Mahony, 35, Albert-terrace, Middlesbrough.

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